

1 March 1948, Monday.

It's a cold, but crisp and bright, day out, almost like the start of a simulated Spring. Yuriko is finished with her concert season so that for the next couple of weeks we may be able to get back to normalcy. The days insist upon flying by so quickly that it will be time for her to go to Europe before we realize it. The ship strike has been settled so that it is rather definite that they will sail for Europe on the 24th of this month, and Yuriko is already starting to concentrate on what to take with her and to find out from Doris, if possible, how things are over there. She is also arranging the budget so that I will not make a mess out of our financial affairs! Since she has been handling this business right along, I have little idea of what to do about rent payments and things like that. Yuriko is not quite sure if she can trust me with these responsibilities yet because I always proclaim helplessness in such matters! She is making out a set of directions for me on what to do when I go to the bank and getting my name on the checking account so that I will be able to pay bills, etc. She doesn't want me to run short and go hungry. Yuriko says she just doesn't know how I managed to handle Kikuchi family finances with my present day vague attitudes about budgets, etc. When we were first married, Yuriko was the one who had no conception of budgets but she has come a long way since then. She says it gives us more of a sense of security with a growing bank account no matter how small it may accumulate and she just does not know how she minimized the importance of such things before marriage. I think that both of us are pretty good at making the other think he is the most important person in working out these decisions about things, and there has been an acceptance of the mutual nature of the marital adjustments. I think that even our small minor differences of opinion has been on a constructive level and neither of us try to dominate the other as that does not create respect. I'll probably think a lot of how we have been building our marriage during the time I miss her when she

1 March 1948, Monday.

goes to Europe.

The last word I heard last night from Doug was that the company may only be gone for six weeks as the chances for a commercial season outside of Germany does not look so bright right now due to financial difficulties and many other barriers. The company has returned to a calmer basis with the end of the concert season, although a couple of the members are a bit peeved at Paul for forcing the issue so much. The thing they don't realize is that what he said had validity and it gave them the push to insist upon calling a company meeting even though they disliked the way in which he brought things up. They feel that Paul does not understand the soul of a dancer and his pressure made them very uncomfortable as it sounded as if he were accusing them of being a bunch of babes in the woods and their ego insists that they will be looked upon as mature individuals. Helen was telling me all these things when we went to dinner with her as if I were one of the company members and I had a right to say things but no outsiders did!

Five of us went to dinner last night. Yuriko didn't care to go with Paul and Ethel since Paul is starting all over again about the Europe trip. She feels that it is his business if he doesn't want Ethel to go but he should not try to put the pressure on everybody else now that they did have a company meeting and got many points straightened out with Doug. We went with Helen, Joan, and Sasha. The entire time was spent in discussing the Trip, and Sasha's theories of the modern dance. They felt very good that a request has gone in to the army asking for performances before DP's since that justifies to some extent the nature of the mission. Sasha said that it could be successful in cultural terms since it might show the Germans that America has a native culture too, but he does not hope that it is going to change any of their deep rooted beliefs. He pointed out that when he was in Germany with the Army, even an American Indian with a

1 March 1948, Monday.

large nose was taken as a Jew and that this deep prejudice was not going to change. Helen wondered if it developed during the 15 years of the Hitler regime or if it went back over many decades. Sasha said he had no personal misgivings about the trip even though he was Jewish as he felt that the thing to do was not to make an issue of it but just go as an American. He believed that Pearl was much too sensitive about such things. He could understand Natanya better since she is an ardent Zionist. I thought that Sasha was more secure about this matter since he has already been in Germany, and that a male individual often has to grapple with these problems before a female because of the economic situation. Sasha said the presence of Yuriko in the company would be of immense propaganda value since the Germans could see for themselves that Americans came from all different backgrounds and that they would be accepted or rejected primarily because they are the Graham company and not individually. Helen and Joan did not know whether the Germans would have a cultural appreciation for Martha's art, but Sasha thought that there would be no question about that because the Germans have along history in cultural arts and the acceptance might even more ready than if they went to perform in a lot of the mid-western states here.

The rest of the time, Sasha had a debate on how he was going to dance a role. The three girls felt that he should bring certain movements to it which Martha had visualized because the part called for it, but Sasha boldly announced that he was going to do it his own way even though nobody cared for it. Sasha has a terrific need to bolster his ego and he likes to startle people, and the girls fell for it so they were trying to change his mind, which is exactly what he wanted so that he could show off his ability to verbalize. Finally, I got tired of it so I suggested that perhaps they wait to see what Sasha does since there was no basis for comparison and nobody meant to say that he should imitate anyway as they recognized that one's feelings went into the creation of any role. Sasha just

1 March 1948, Monday.

eats up praise as his ego is so starved for reinforcement so I gave him a very large dose of it during the rest of the dinner by telling him how good he was this season. Sasha's face just glowed as he ate his steak dinner, and he couldn't get enough of this praise so he kept fishing for it the rest of the evening, everytime I saw him. Since it didn't cost me any effort, I practically said that he was more promising than Nijinsky at his age and that his dramatic gestures in "Night Journey" was the most powerful thing I have ever seen, that he jumped up in the air so effortlessly that it seemed he was on springs and so on. Sasha probably would have given me \$10.00 if he had it! He said that the reason why he was so dramatic in Night Journey was because he thought of hating Eric as the crucial moment and this gave him the right expression every time. Eric is the chief barrier to Sasha's further progress in the company so Sasha makes death wishes against him while they are dancing on the stage. The easiest way to make friends with the fellows in the company is to tell them that they are "terrific" and then they think you are the most objective critic in existance! This seeking of flattery seems to be in direct proportion to their security in the dance world--the more insecure they are, the more ego support they need. They don't get it much from their friends who are primarily dancers and in direct competition with them, so that when a person like me who comes along and gives them a good dose of it when it serves a purpose, they think it is wonderful to have such an objective evaluation from a layman who is sensitive to the beauty of modern dance! If Yuriko ever fished like that, I would go make her stick her head in the toilet bowl for five minutes. It is cruel of me to do that to the fellows of the company, but I cannot resist the temptation and maybe it does give them more self confidence. The bigger the lie, the better it goes over certainly does apply in this situation. And I tell it all with such a straight face; pretty soon I am going to start believing that

1 March 1948, Monday.

I really am a good critic of the modern dance!! Backstage I hear so many people coming back to say "terrific" that it is a shopworn cliché and I have to have something else to say in self defense. No wonder Yuriko feels silly when she gets these excessive compliments although she is not going to run away from it as she says it is music to her ego too. However, she has enough sense to separate the chaff from the wheat.

For the final performance last night, the theater was packed. More than 250 were turned away from even SRO tickets at \$2.40. I just strolled in nonchalantly as if I belonged there, and Zelda the manager of the theater even came up to me and apologized because I didn't have a seat! She told Yuriko that we could come to see "Skipper Next to God" with John Garfield for free when it moves to that theater this week. The performance last night was exceptionally well received and Yuriko got another terrific hand for her part in "Case." She said that she is practicing dramatic emotions on her face in that part. I stood in the back with Marjorie. She is now separated from Woodie Guthrie and this time she says that it is final. Marjorie is a very mature and sweet person. She was 10 years with the company but just teaches at the school now when the group is on tour. She invited me over to dinner when Yuriko goes to Europe. BJ and Rose also have issued invitations. All in all, it was a successful Broadway season, and Yuriko got a lot of satisfaction out of it. She got a lot of good notices so she feels that she has definitely advanced in her career. Ethel is leaving for her mid-west tour this morning and she looks pretty well run down in comparison to Yuriko. It seems to me that Yuriko is gaining weight.

After the performance we had to gather up all the things and bring them home, but we got in at a fairly early hour as we did not go out to eat as

1 March 1948, Monday.

usual. Yuriko has to make some plans for her mother before she goes but this will depend upon what the doctor says about her condition. We still have not heard from Douglas regarding the payment of the cleaning shop so we may have to pay an uninvited visit upon him as he apparently is thinking of not paying at all if he can get away with it. We don't want any further dealings with him in the same proportion and he can end the whole financial settlement at once if he would pay up.

Field work was very mild today and I was not too busy. In my closing weeks here, I just have to wind up a few of my cases and I am not taking any new ones on. I found out from Miss Coppins that the work week in civil service is 40 hours so I guess I work from 8:30 to 5:00 when I start at the V.A.

2 March 1948, Tuesday.

I was rather busy this morning with staff meeting and this afternoon I had an interview and lots of paper work. The winding up of my case load at the agency will not be too difficult because many of the cases are just about ready for closing. The most difficult ones will be those which need to be transferred to other workers. In our staff meeting, the workers were very much interested in the German boy case and we discussed how social work could be useful in helping such an individual make adequate adjustments to this country. It was pretty well recognized that his background cultural conditioning played an important role in his present adjustment process and the workers did not feel that it was entirely due to psychological complexes developed from childhood. This was very encouraging to me. The staff got so interested in the case that we will continue discussion at the next meeting and for the following one we will discuss my case of Cyril, the Jamaican and compare it with the German boy.

In my interview with Mrs. Weich today, I helped her fill out her naturalization papers. She has been afraid to do this for 23 years. At first I thought that it might be due to her feelings about being a German but I found out that this had very little to do with it. Mrs. W. has a 21 year old daughter who works in a bank and so I asked her why she didn't have her daughter fill out the application for first papers for her. Then Mrs. W. told me the real reasons for her hesitancy. She said that she was born out of wedlock and she was so afraid that her daughter would find out. I asked her if her daughter had any suspicions and Mrs. W. thought that she did. So I discussed with her why and how it might be better if her daughter would be told the whole thing and then there would no longer be any doubts in Mrs. W's mind as to how her daughter might feel; as she would know for sure. Mrs. W. said that she never thought of it in this way and she is going to think it over. When she left she told Jean that Mr. K. is such a "nice young man" and I bet he has all of the girls in this

2 March 1948, Tuesday.

office. Jean thought that this was rather offensive and she came up to tell me so I had to explain that this was Mrs. W's way of saying that one's conduct does not necessarily blacken one's personality and character. Jean did not get the point very well and I did not explain. But she did say that she was going to tell Siebold about all the nice remarks my clients make about me so that I would get a good final evaluation from this place.

I have been reading in the papers about all the V.A. local offices being closed up due to the current retrenchment of the organization and this makes me a bit worried that my job might be cut out from under me even before I get up there to start working. I hope that this does not happen. Apparently there are many uncertainties in civil service too. I have not received any word about the details of my job yet so I am still pretty much up in the air about the whole thing. It would be a blow if that job were eliminated at the last minute and I had to look for another position. I don't think that it is going to happen but it may be a possibility. I was told that the VA was not cutting down on the professional staff, but expanding so that I did not have to be too concerned and I am hoping that things have not changed since then. The V.A. is dropping about 200000 employees all over the country.

Yuriko has gone back to teaching classes at the studio already, but she is taking tomorrow off so that we can go to a movie or something. She got interviewed by some reporter for a Japanese newspaper. There was a notice in the P.C. about her being on the staff of the dance faculty at Connecticut College this summer. So far no publicity has been given out about the trip to Europe as it is still vague in many spots. Yuriko had to go talk to an FBI agent today to get cleared to go to Europe and she said that he just couldn't understand why she was in a concentration camp here. She had to show him her permit to come into the Eastern Defense Command even though that restriction was eliminated

2 March 1948, Tuesday.

a couple of years ago. However, the agent told her that there would not be any difficulty in getting to Europe now. There may be problems in getting into England if they go there but it is not likely.

The company had a group meeting with Martha today. Paul had instructed Yuriko to vote "no" to the Europe trip for Ethel if it came to a vote, but Yuriko did not think that she could take such a responsibility in her hands. Ethel had told Paul that she was going to leave it up to him to decide for her. It seems to be characteristic of Ethel to be unable to make her own decisions in important things in her life and that is a weakness. In this respect, maybe it is good that Paul is so decisive about things and makes up his mind, whether it is right or wrong. However, there may be difficulties if they get married and Ethel does make up her mind to decide things for herself. The pattern should be set before marriage. Ethel got so upset over the short tour she left on that she forgot to take one of her dance costumes and the secretary in the studio had to fly it up by plane. However, the report came back with the secretary that Ethel outshone Eric in the first performance up in Saratoga, and Yuriko thinks that it will be this way for the entire tour and that it is really an opportunity for her.

Paul came over to dinner to hear about the decisions of the company meeting and he told us the real reasons why he was so upset about Ethel taking that bus ride all the way from Baltimore to Iowa. He felt that the seats on the bus were too hard and that it might injure Ethel's spine if she had to do much traveling that way, and that would finish her as a dancer. That is why he is going to try and arrange it so that she can fly from Baltimore to Iowa instead of spending three days on the bus. It was of great concern to him, he said, because his first wife was a dancer and she had injured her spine from riding in coach trains and even though he spent thousands of dollars on doctors she

2 March 1948, Tuesday.

was never able to dance again. It's a sort of occupational hazard because dancers use their backs so much, in a way nature never intended. Ethel already has severe back pains and that is why he worries so much about the tour with Eric. He does not care if she makes a great success of it because it won't be worth that much if her health breaks down. Paul felt that Ethel's health was not too godright now because of all the mental and physical strain she has been through during recent weeks. His story about first wife gave us a new slant on his great concern about the bus tour for Ethel and there did seem to be a basis for some anxiety about the whole thing. Ethel does not have any insurance on this tour because they are playing in non AGMA houses and there is no coverage for playing before college audiences.

The rest of the time while Paul was here, Yuriko told about the group meeting held at the studio today regarding the European tour, and Paul still indicated great opposition to it by bringing up many fine points of opposition. However, I thought out loud that maybe Ethel would have to be the one to make up her mind if it came to a vote of whether to go or not and Paul agreed that it would have to be that way. Apparently, he realized that his tactics on his run-in with Doug on the Eric tour were not too diplomatic even though he still realized that he had a strong basis for his action. But Ethel's reaction sort of threw him as he did not expect that so that now he is a bit more careful.

Yuriko said that Martha told the group that she wanted free opinions and that if anyone decided not to go to Europe it would not be held against him. With that introduction, several of the group, including Pearl, Duggy, Sasha and Yuriko, began to ask a lot of questions which have been troubling them so much recently. Martha was stuck but said that they were fair questions. Most of the inquiry was regarding the purpose of the tour. Martha said that she did not think it would spread democracy. However, she did believe that it might

2 March 1948, Tuesday.

help the German people realize that America had a native culture too. This could be done when they saw the dances, heard the music and looked at the sets--three forms of American cultural development. When that was over, she said that there would be certain restrictions on saying things in Germany and they would not be free to talk too much even though that was an individual matter too. But, she said that she did not want to mix politics with art and preferred that the company did not either. It was then that the Jewish question developed. Sasha and some of the others felt that this was an important consideration and if they did not perform in DP camps, then one of the main reasons for the "mission" was not being realized. Martha thought this was reasonable and said it would be taken up with the Army officials. She felt that since they were all going at a financial sacrifice, it was only fair that they were settled in their minds about what they were going for. Her point about the cultural display seemed to have been very effective as Yuriko thought that most of the company would now vote to go to Europe. Paul said that if everything was above board in financial matters, then he would have no objections to Ethel's going but he still did not think that Eric should be permitted to put down an exorbitant expense account which was hidden from the group, while the rest put down only rent items. Because of the difficulty in making financial arrangements, it now seems that the tour will be limited to 4-6 weeks in Germany. Martha has a sponsor for Paris, but it will not cover all the expenses so that this may be cancelled.

Yuriko still feels so-so about the whole trip and she will go if the group decides that it wants to. She realizes that the tour will be largely for the purpose of Martha's self aggrandizement but thinks that there might be some cultural purpose in the mission even though she does not believe it could be too widespread. Martha is only taking along the dance pieces in which she will

2 March 1948, Tuesday.

do most of the solo work. Personally, I feel that the "cultural mission" could be much more effective if Martha allowed Yuriko to do her solo dance since that would be a graphic representation of how many diverse people are a part of the American pattern. The fact that she will be in the other pieces will be effective too, but not as dramatic as a solo might be. It could show the Germans how America treats one of her minorities in contrast to the way that the Jews over there have been treated. The fact that five of the company members is of Jewish decent will also be very effective, even though they are only going there as American artists. Sasha raised many points about the fact that they would be asked not to discuss any politics there, and he has a very valid point. It seems that the company is only going to be able to fraternize with officers! It's the same old crap which went on during the war.

Of more immediate concern to us is the fact that it is still unknown whether Yuriko is pregnant or not. There has been no definite symptoms yet, but Yuriko is thinking about the possibility of pregnancy more and we discussed it for a while after Paul left. Yuriko felt that it was no use in worrying about it since she did not look upon such an event in that negative way, but that it would raise certain practical problems. However, she did not seem to want to go into that too much this evening as she still has to think about it some more. It has been of concern to me because we really haven't talked about our psychological acceptance to the probability yet but I think that will come in time. I don't want to alarm Yuriko when we don't even know if there are definite symptoms. However, Yuriko did say a bit about what it might mean in terms of future career. She said that she could continue her dancing since we could get someone to look after a child like Marjorie does. I did not wish to precipitate any differences of opinion so I did not raise the point that this might be easier said than done. Yuriko said that she had one thing in mind which she could always keep

2 March 1948, Tuesday.

in reserve: that is, she knows Martha Hill real well and this would be the best recommendation to do college dance teaching. Martha Hill is the director of dance at NYU and Bennington and the one behind the plans for the summer dance festival at Connecticut College this summer. Yuriko said that if Martha Hill recommended her, she would be able to teach in any college dance group without a degree herself. However, Yuriko does not think in terms of teaching since she still wishes to concentrate upon dancing. She feels that this can be done even though there may be changes in our family life, and I suppose that something could be worked out. However, I am hoping that she will really be psychologically prepared in the event that she is pregnant so that she will be able to accept it emotionally and fully realize what it might mean in terms of her personal career. Yuriko has not thought too much of this yet because of the impact of actual pregnancy is not real to her although she does say that she thinks it might be true. She plans to go to a doctor in a few days if she does not have any menstrual period and start getting advise on how to take care of herself.

3 March 1948, Wednesday.

Yuriko does not feel very well today and she has been resting most of the day. She said that she felt a bit faint this noon and had to go sit down. I immediately jumped to the conclusion that this meant she was having pregnancy nausea but Yuriko said that she used to get the same sensation with menstruation before. However, she thinks it is over a 50% chance that she is pregnant and she seemed very calm and accepting of it. I guess I am the one who is more jumpy about it than she is because it is harder for me to look so calmly at the possibility as a natural event. One of the reasons why Yuriko does not feel so active today is that we talked until about 3:00 a.m. last night after we went to bed, and we had a full discussion of what starting a family might mean to us even though we are not sure that it is happening.

I did most of the talking as I suppose that most of the doubts are on my mind. However, I did feel that Yuriko might have some deep feelings about it since she will be the one to go through the process of childbirth. She said that she had talked to Charlotte Trowbridge who had a doctor that used a new system in helping a pregnant mother to relax during the time she is carrying a child so that there was no pain with the actual delivery. Yuriko thought that she might go to this doctor.

I felt that there was a 49% to 51% that she was pregnant, but Yuriko said the odds were larger in the positive direction. This gave me a chance to discuss what such an event might mean in an emotional way to the couple, and specifically to us. I said that although it was not outwardly planned, yet there was a certain deliberateness to it since Yuriko had expressed many times that she did want to have a child eventually. I had been holding back because of the fact that I didn't have any economic security. But, there was another factor which I had not mentioned to her before and that was my concern over her health. She had told me at the time we were first married that the doctor

3 March 1948, Wednesday.

informed her that there might be some difficulty in her carrying a child because of some kind of growth. I have worried about that because I don't know the nature of this obstruction. Yuriko said that when she went to the doctor she would try to find out more about it. I said that I had not mentioned it before because I didn't want to alarm her unnecessarily, but now we would not ignore it. It was very important for us to be emotionally prepared because it would mean a change in our lives which would be very significant, a sort of step forward in a new direction. Even if she were not pregnant this time, it would not hurt us to fully discuss these things. I said that I had not gone into it before because she had not indicated any desire to, but we could not avoid it either. Yuriko felt that this was right, and the main thing she worried about was what my attitude might be: she said I might be too critical of the way she brought up a child. I said that in many ways it was true that I was forgetful, but she should balance this up with all the times I was considerate and then she might get a better picture of what my attitude might be. I said that I certainly would not resent having a child and I thought that we could assume this responsibility easily enough since we did have a mutual understanding with one another. The economic factor is not going to be pressing once I start to work, and that leaves her health factor which we can find out about when she goes to the doctor.

However, there was one important area in which she has not indicated much concern about previously: her own feelings about what it would mean to her in terms of her career. I said that this might be of some conflict to her, especially since she is really getting started for the first time this year in a good way. Yuriko didn't think that it would be too much of a problem as she would merely drop her dancing until after a pregnancy and then go back to it later on. I said that was the point: it was not that easy and if her mind was not settled

3 March 1948, Wednesday.

on the long range implications, then it might actually cause some resentment later on. I said that many women never realized the importance of such attitudes upon a child and then they were greatly surprised when a lot of behavior problems developed suddenly at age six for the child. I said it could become a certain protective device to think in terms of the husband being at fault and that was one of the most important things we could talk about. I felt no great urge to further the family name, but I did think that it might prove of great satisfaction to have offspring growing up when we were a bit older and it would add meaning to our lives. It was not that I expected the children to support us economically since that was the least of the satisfactions we could look forward to. Yuriko had not looked upon it in quite this way before.

I mentioned that the complete acceptance emotionally of pregnancy would not come until there were more definite indications, and even then it was going to be a surprise and shock (perhaps pleasant) to us. Yuriko said it certainly will be a shock to Martha and how would she tell her. I thought that there would be no need to be apologetic about it and hint that it was very accidental and not wanted because we were not ashamed of starting a family. Yuriko said that was right but it would be still hard to convince Martha that we were taking the best step for ourselves as she only sees Yuriko in terms of a contribution in the Dance. I said that the basic reason why I didn't think that Yuriko would resent any child was because she was a totally unselfish person and very relaxed in her ways. That is why she need not worry that I will not "trust" the ways in which she rears a child because my knowledge of such things is purely intellectual and I don't have the warmth and feeling which she has so naturally. But we don't need to ignore modern knowledge either. It will probably turn out that Yuriko will have to educate both the

3 March 1948, Wednesday.

child and myself the path for a well adjusted personality pattern but I think we can do it. Maybe this is the best way for us to start a family because if we went about it deliberately, we might be overly cautious about the economic hazards. It is something for which we have both unconsciously desired but we have never faced it directly before. If she is not pregnant this time, then we may put it off again. I don't think it is vitally necessary for us to force any issue in either direction, but just be prepared as best we can in an emotional way so that an offspring will get a good start. This does not mean that Yuriko will have to give up her career, but it may create some conflicts. If she thinks that it is not worthwhile, then maybe we can do something to prevent it but that will be up to her. Yuriko said that she would never think of that and she has always wanted to have a child, and of course it is an exciting and perhaps a bit frightening experience to her but that she has a lot of things to think about now. She agreed in essence that being psychologically prepared was a very important thing. With such a cool and level headed person, it is no wonder that I am so much in love and I am sure that she can handle the whole thing in a mature way.

Since we live in a materialistic society in which uncertainty is the predominant theme, starting a family requires lots of emotional preparation. I don't know if other young husbands go through this initial turmoil, but it isn't easy because all I can think of is that Yuriko might suffer and I don't want that to happen! She has been so quiet all day and I know she is thinking about a lot of things we talked about last night, but I don't want her to get disturbed. Maybe I brought up a lot of things which were not important at all, but I couldn't know until we talked about them. From what was said last night, I am pretty well convinced that her mental attitude is very constructive. All we have to do now is to wait for another day or two to see whether she has a

3 March 1948, Wednesday.

menstrual period or not. Yuriko says that if she is, then she will ask the doctor if she should go to Europe or not because she doesn't wish to take any chances. She doesn't think of this in terms of making a sacrifice but is concerned that she does everything to protect an embryo if it is developing. It's such a funny feeling to have to realize that we might be on the verge of finding out if we are going to commence the production of a "blessed event" and I think I am more frightened of our great responsibility than Yuriko is! We shall soon see, and, if true, then it means we begin a lot of detailed planning.

I went to the office for a few hours today for my special interview with Cyril. He insisted upon taking me out to lunch so that we had a very long conversation. Cyril is still a bit bewildered about his status but he has been able to work more towards making a decision in planning because of previous discussions. It may be that the only solution for him will be to go back to BWI and wait for a regular visa and this was the thing which he would not even consider before. Miss Siebold went to Philadelphia today to find out from the central Immigration Service office what might be done in such a case and this may result in our writing to the American consulate in BWI to put some pressure on them to act favorably in this case. If Cyril went back on his own, he wouldn't have much chance of getting a visa without paying huge bribes and he just couldn't think of getting stuck there permanently. He said today that he would rather re-enlist in the army. We have another plan which is a sort of ace in the hole, and that is that he try for a student visa if everything else fails as that will give him more time to work for a regular visa. Cyril said that he had pretty well made up his mind that he wanted a college education and work for a CPA certificate even though he was previously discouraged that he would not be able to land a job when he was finished. This

3 March 1948, Wednesday.

was an important decision for him to make and I feel that I have been helpful to him by clarifying so many things which filled him with doubts before. He told me many interesting things about his background and I was able to get a clearer picture on why he thinks social status is so important. The thing which disturbs him is that his Harlem girl friends are always so afraid to come downtown for fear that they will not be welcomed and he feels that segregation creates this sensitivity. He said that most of the BWI live up in the Bronx and they get along fairly well even though they run up against a lot of prejudice. However, he thinks that only by spreading out can they achieve wider acceptance. I talked to him for quite a while on this and it seemed to help him in developing his self confidence. It is going to be difficult for him to get another worker in the agency after I leave because it takes a long time for him to gain confidence in anyone.

3 March 1948, Wednesday.

March 3, 1948  
63 Hoyt Street.  
Brooklyn N.Y.

Dear Reverend Matsumoto:

This is a belated acknowledgement of your recent brief note. Like yourself, we have been extremely busy lately so that we have not had an opportunity to go up to the hospital to visit Mrs. Mitsuhashi in the past month. Yuriko has just finished a concert season on Broadway with the Graham dance company, and there is a strong possibility that the troupe will be leaving for Europe at the end part of this month for a two month tour. After that, she will be going up to New England for a dance festival at some college during the summer. As for myself, I am winding up my work at school and I expect to be on a job soon afterwards.

Naturally, we are very concerned about how plans will be worked out for Yuriko's mother when she is able to leave the hospital. We should get some definite word on that from the psychiatrist when we go up there to visit this Sunday, and we will let you know of how things are. It is a difficult situation since Mrs. Mitsuhashi's non-acceptance of our marriage makes it impossible for us to plan in terms of her coming to live with us and we do appreciate your interest in the problem. According to our last conversation with the psychiatrist, Mrs. Mitsuhashi seems to relate extremely well to the staff in the hospital and she has a natural interest in the welfare of the other patients so that she does give promise of making good adjustments in an environment which will not recreate old feelings which contributed to her breakdown.

Although it is a bit premature to discuss a long range plan, I would like to talk to you eventually about this. Yuriko and I feel that it might be best for her mother to eventually return to relatives in Japan where the environment will not be so frustrating to her. I do not know when you plan to return, but

3 March 1948, Wednesday.

in the event that you do, we hope that some plan about Mrs. M. going back at the same time might be worked out. The psychiatrist told us that Mrs. M. would be capable of making excellent adjustments in the event she did this, and particularly if she worked with some religious group or social organization. Mrs. Mitsuhashi herself has often expressed this interest to us, and she particularly would like to work with orphaned Japanese children. In any event, we can discuss this possibility later on and we are hoping that you will have some valuable suggestions to make in planning. We appreciate your interest in this situation, and also your wife. We are confident that Mrs. M. will also be able to assist you capably in your home when the time comes for her to leave the hospital, and if it still fits into your plans.

Best wishes to your wife and family.

Sincerely,

Charles and Yuriko Kikuchi.

4 March 1948, Thursday.

We have not had any heat today so that we are almost frozen. I didn't get up until about noon as it was a free day for me, and after Yuriko left I just puttered around. I went shopping and also got a haircut. When it got too cold, I went out to a movie and Yuriko was home by the time I got back. She seems to be very quiet the past few days so I don't know what she is worried about. She says that she is just thinking about being pregnant and she is fairly certain that it is a fact. She went to a doctor today and made an appointment for next week. The thing which bothers her is the fact that a previous doctor had told her that she had some sort of a fibrous growth and she does not know how this will affect pregnancy. I said she should talk it over with the doctor next week and I am sure that it will not be a serious thing. Yuriko doesn't seem to be frightened by the prospects of being pregnant. Last night she was laying in bed and sort of looking vacant so I asked her what she was thinking about. She said, "Darling, I think that we will make this the baby's room and I was planning it a bit."

I just don't know how to react yet because there is a certain unreal factor present which has not dawned on me yet. I guess I want to be sure of the pregnancy or not before I get all enthusiastic, and the full impact of the thing will hit me then. Yuriko said that she will ask the doctor if it will be advisable for her to go to Europe with the company since she does not wish to take any chances. She will not have any doctors to see over there. I haven't found out about any maternal clinics in Brooklyn yet because I didn't wish to take any definite steps until we were more certain. As far as Yuriko is concerned, it is a pretty foregone fact to her and she seems to be accepting it without getting too upset, a natural phenomena which has its bright side to it. It is this uncertainty which keeps me up in the air. I told her that it would be hard for us to be living on the top floor if she had to go

4 March 1948, Thursday.

up and down, but she thinks that this can be handled. If we can find a place in the Bronx, that would be more convenient for her. However, there is no need in rushing about making definite plans on little details as long as we are doing some thinking about it. In case she is pregnant, I would like to have somebody near her during the advanced period when I am at work as I wouldn't worry so much. Yuriko is so tiny, just like a doll herself so it is hard to get through my thick head that she is potentially able to bear a child! Yuriko says I can't go poking my fingers into her stomach to feel the growth of the child because that may damage it! In the next couple of days we will have a clearer idea on what has happened because the conclusion will be pretty definite if she does not have her menstration by then.

Yuriko said that the studio has raised the wages to \$4.00 per hour so that she will be making a bit more. She doesn't think it will be harmful to keep on teaching as some of her friends have done it during their pregnancy and it did not have any ill effects. She thinks that she could do it through the summer, but she is not making any definite plans about Connecticut College yet. Most of our discussion has been on the basis of what we will do just in case she is pregnant so I suppose we still feel that it might not happen. I don't know if I would feel relieved or glad by then. I would feel better if my job adjustments went along well as that would take care of the economic problem, but I can't predict that. I guess we both feel a bit awed about our part in adding to the race and there isn't much we can do about that until it sinks in a bit more to the immediate level!

5 March 1948, Friday.

It was a quiet day in the office and I did mostly recording. The staff seems to be getting a bit disorganized as the fund raising campaign is not very successful. This creates a great deal of uncertainty, and the staff does not know what is going to happen to them. Miss Marcella has been given a notice that her group work job is terminating at the end of this month and she is very upset because it means that she has to make a new start some other place after giving so many years to YWCA kind of work. She thinks that a terrible mistake is being made now that the agency is going to concentrate on personal service and predicts that the program will fail. She still feels that her little nationality clubs are the only reason for an existence of an International Institute, but the interesting thing is that she now plans to go into case work! Mrs. Baker is also being laid off. Siebold has not made up her mind about leaving yet. I have been real nice to her lately in order to protect my final evaluation, and I pump her ego up by telling her how much I have learned from her. This is part of the risks of the profession! Siebold is still burnt up because her stolen purse was found in the Common's Bldg. and this points to an inside job. None of the staff feels safe because of the lingering thought that there is a kleptomaniac in their midst. Mrs. Balant is fed up with the case work job and she is thinking of quitting too. Whether the casework section fails or not will depend to a large extent upon whether a capable replacement is found for Siebold when and if she leaves. Siebold feels that she cannot keep up professional standards if she has to keep on contending with Mrs. Cole, the executive director, and the YWCA mentality of the Board. It would be very unfortunate if the service of this office were harmed as a result of these administrative policies because the work is so necessary.

Yuriko says that she will put the hand and feet prints of "our child" on the front page of an album she plans to keep, "isn't that a good idea?" As far

5 March 1948, Friday.

as she is concerned, she is definite in her mind that she is going to have a child and she says that I do not have to be choosy and request a boy or girl. She doesn't want to go to Europe now, but still has a bit of conflict about that because it will be giving up an opportunity but she says that she just won't take any chances. I suggested that she get the doctor's advise on this. Yuriko's biggest problem is going to be the breaking of this important news to Martha. She feels that Martha will get very upset because it will mean that the dance schedule has to be revised and a new person taught her roles. Yuriko says she didn't deliberately plan to make Martha upset but that might be the way she will take it. That is too bad!

Yuriko said tonight that the way she feels about pregnancy now is that it is much better to have the child while she is young, and to postpone it will only mean that we might get more cautious, and she does want an offspring. However, we may have to start thinking about moving again and that will be a problem. But she also thinks that we might manage at our apartment if we could not find another place. It does not matter too much to her. She seems to have worked out any conflicts which might have existed in relation to the progress of her career. She mentioned that other dancers have children so that she does not have to retire entirely. I think that we can work something out when the time comes. Yuriko is getting excited about the event now and believes that it will give more depth to our family life. We haven't thought of whether we want a girl or a boy. We don't even know if she is really pregnant yet, although Yuriko doesn't have any doubt about it.

We haven't built up any excitement about it yet because we don't want to be disappointed in case she is not pregnant. At first, I thought that we would be relieved if she were not pregnant, but now I don't think so. As long as Yuriko seems to be happy in the thought, that is what I want. I think that this is what makes the big difference, and even if we live in NYC that should not stop a

5 March 1948, Friday.

natural process from happening. After all, there are millions born here and they get along satisfactorily. City life is not very conducive to having a family but we can't let every little thing stop us or we will never be willing to take the chance. I suspect that in the long run, we will be much happier about a "blessed event." The only thing I worry about is that fibroid growth which Yuriko thinks she has as that may complicate the situation.

Of course, we cannot ignore the medical costs which will be involved. Yuriko will tell the doctor of our exact financial status and we hope to get a break in the charge. It costs some people \$1000 or more just to have a child delivered and that would be a terrific drain on us and it would really put us in the hole. But doctors do charge according to ability to pay and I would like it better if she were under the care of one during pregnancy.

This evening we went to a double feature movie, plus a stage show at the RKO. The stage show was a stinker. There was a young Chinese violin player who was particularly nauseating. He came out on the stage and made stereotyped remarks like: "Well, this is better than running a laundry," and "The Hungarian polka will be played by this Chinaman." It certainly was in bad taste.

6 March 1948, Saturday.

I got up about 11:00 this morning and went to work on our accumulated laundry. It took me two hours to wash all of those things in the tub and I figured that the job was worth \$2.00 but Yuriko would not pay me. She helped me hang the clothes and then she had to lie down for a while as she says that just thinking of all the hard work I did made her fatigued! However, it seems that she does get tired a bit easier these days and that might be due to pregnancy or to the concert just finished. Her stomach hasn't got big though, but she says that does not happen yet!

It was such a nice day that Yuriko thought it might be nice to go uptown and visit Joe's store as she wanted to buy some Japanese foods which she has a sudden craving for. She said that she wanted to taste some unusual things all of a sudden. Since pregnant women are supposed to get these cravings, I had to trudge along and pay the bill for all the things which she bought—which came to a fortune for the small amount we got. Japanese foods are in the luxury class and we couldn't afford it regularly even if we wanted it that badly. We only buy it once or twice a year and we patronize Joe even if we could buy it much cheaper down in Chinatown where he buys a great deal of his goods.

In the store we saw several caucasian husbands carrying oriental looking babies so it must be some of those GI's who got married in Japan. Joe says he takes it for granted, but the Issei are always so surprised. They don't seem to object so much if it is a white person because Japan is supposed to have a high opinion of MacArthur, the army emperor. But attitudes regarding other groups are as sharp as ever. Joe is all excited about a Wallace for President committee which is going to be organized among Nisei here. He feels that the Nisei are still very conservative and that many of them will vote republican. He hopes that they will become more politically conscious in this election, and this is one of the objectives of this committee. The Nisei probably will be

6 March 1948, Saturday.

like any other minority group and vote in a number of different ways depending upon the social class they identify the most with. Kenny Murase now does volunteer work on the ADA paper so I guess he has thought out his political thinking pretty carefully and concluded that it is best to support the Democrats regardless of who is put up. I guess I have to give him credit for being sincere, but it is hard for me to understand how such an intelligent person could suddenly change viewpoints so quickly without thinking that it is "play it safe" move, or that it is another pattern of the opportunist which his friends have always claimed him to be.

We dropped in to visit Saye because it has been months since we made a visit and Yuriko felt that we might as well make the rounds and call upon Nisei friends living in that area. Saye was very happy to see us and insisted that we stay if I cook, so I did! She is now working part time in the registration office of the school for Ethical culture or something--the progressive school where Wes, Jr. attends. She is devoting her life to being the mother of a "child genius," and she seems to enjoy this role very much. Wes Jr. is always glad to see me because I play child games with him and he doesn't have to act like a "genius." He calls me Uncle Charlie because he is not allowed to call adults by first name so I have to plot with him at times. Saye mentioned that when she was a child she had a terrific inferiority complex, and this may be related to her drive to achieve social status and have a very unusual son. Yuriko thinks that Saye likes me very much and that it is a "beautiful relationship" so she can relax and feel safe! Talked mostly "little talk." Afterwards, Saye wanted us to go with her to Yoshie's party so we trudged along.

Imagine our mutual surprise to see Bette and Gene there! We had been wondering what had happened to her as she has not contacted us, and we didn't think we should make the first move again. Bette said that she liked her

6 March 1948, Saturday.

job very much, that she was ill for three days last week but got paid for the time anyway. She feels that the Margaret Louise is a nice place to live and she felt that things were coming along quite smoothly. Gene has not actually got started at V.A. yet in his clerical job because he got "sick" again and needed treatment. I talked with him for a while and I guess he was a bit uneasy since it was the first time I have met him. He seemed to be very bright, but also confused in a lot of things he was saying. He very vaguely told me that his philosophy was to forget himself as an individual and have no emotions at all. A sort of complete negation is his solution of himself as a member of a minority group. However, he was so anxious to use his large vocabulary that what he said didn't make too much sense. I felt that he is confused about himself and what he was saying about self negation was an escape. He says that he is going to write a book on political philosophy and his thesis is that democracy and communism cannot work, and that society needs a system based on class lines. After all, he is only 23 so I guess he is at the age where he still thinks he is going to change the world--only he will not include himself in as an individual. All the time he kept talking, he nervously moved his hands. I got the feeling that he has lots of psychological conflicts, and that he is a rather disturbed individual. This is the thing which Bette needs to be more aware of whether he is white, black or purple. I don't think she is willing to consider that too much and I don't think that I will take the lead in discussing these things with her anymore since she will have to do it herself. I felt that it was too bad she did not pick a more stable individual, but then, she is in love and maybe he has something that other mortals do not have. The group at the party did not react too favorably to Gene but I don't know on what basis it is. I'm inclined to give him the benefit of the doubt as I think that he might have been trying to impress me

6 March 1948, Saturday.

with his brightness and so he had to say a lot of fancy words and recite all the books he has read on philosophy. Maybe Bette will be a good influence on him and bring him back down to earth a little bit, and maybe he is the type of guy who is different from the masses and who has something important to contribute. I don't doubt that he has the mind for it. I didn't mention at all any personal affairs to Bette as it was an uneasy situation for her as it was. She hardly said anything during the time they were there and that is a surprising change in her personality. They are both young and nobody can predict how they are going to make out. Anyway we did meet Gene in a natural way so that he won't have to be so much on the defensive the next time we see him. I can't get overly concerned about what may happen when Bette faces the social snobbery which she will face because my guess is no better than theirs. As an individual, I don't react to Gene any better or worse than I do to Mark or George T, the other Kikuchi girl's spouses. I do think that Bette needs to do some more thinking about herself being ready for marriage, but that cannot be pressed upon her regardless of an interest in her welfare. I still refuse to directly discuss with Gene his contemplated marriage to Bette as that is not my business. They have the same chance for marital success as any other couple in this situation, and if that is what Bette wants there should be no further discussion once she clears up her thinking on it.

I thought that Yoshie was even more of a mixed up person. Before the entire group, she allowed and invited discussion about her confusion regarding her contemplated marriage. Her fiancée was here last week and wanted to get married over the weekend but she backed down at the last minute and postponed it until this summer. We were over there until after 2:00 a.m. talking to her about her feelings on marriage and love. Yoshie thinks that love will solve everything, but she is afraid of it at the same time. She has been telling her

6 March 1948, Saturday.

girl friends of all her sexual affairs, but that is all a bluff and she admitted that she might be afraid because virginity was the one thing her sister did not have and what a difficult time there resulted for sister. Some of Yoshie's sexual conflicts seemed to be pretty deep. She has a very competitive attitude towards her fiancee, and claims that it does not bother her when he calls her a fat cow; yet, feels that he does not have enough respect for her. Still thinks that their philosophies of life are completely different, and she came out with the fact that she may be ashamed of him in many ways. Then she says that she loves him and she can make a go of it. I think the fact that she will soon be 26 and never had had many chances for marriage may decide her in favor of marriage despite the apparent incompatibility. It should be a nice dog fight, just like Mariko and George. Yoshie will no doubt give in to "social pressure" of her friends who keep on asking her when in the hell is she getting married, and why does she insist upon keeping 1000 miles between herself and her fiancee. She talks of her "career" but it is definitely an emotional crutch. It seems that she has an inadequate and neurotic personality and she is marrying a guy with similar equipment, but she can't decide. So all she does is talk about it, but she has to decide by this summer and I don't think she is going to do it objectively. She says that she has to have a man! She wants to discuss these things some more with me, but I can't see any value in that since she will just go around in circles and refuse to make a decision. She got a good idea of what she might think about, but I don't think she is going to do anything about it. This indecision pattern is no recent development as she was that way about everything even in Chicago. She has such a terrific inferiority complex that she can't bear the thought of marrying somebody who she considers is not up to her cultural level, but this comes into conflict with her fear that she may not have another chance and she really does not want a "career" for the rest

6 March 1948, Saturday.

of her life as she isn't equipped for anything in particular except her lately acquired interest in nursery schools. I was very lovey-dovey with Yuriko after all this because I again realized how lucky I am in having her for a wife!!

7 March 1948, Sunday.

We went up to Long Island to visit Mrs. M. today. She seemed to be very much better; was cheerful and logical in what she said and did not express fears of persecution at all. Her appearance was neater and she had a greater acceptance of the cause of her illness. She is definite in her thinking that she wants to go to Japan as soon as possible, even if getting deported is the only way. When Yuriko asked her why she had decided this, she said that she could be of much greater use to Japanese people because she could talk to them and she would like to go over there and work in a hospital or something. She said that she has decided that Yuriko and I are stable enough now to get along without her being worried so that she can devote her life to others. In her activities at the hospital, she seems to be following this out as several of the other patients greeted her pleasantly during the time we visited. We don't know if this is a temporary improvement, or whether she is getting back to a more normal balance. Her improvements seems to be very steady and that is a good sign. We did not see the doctor at all as there were too many other relatives waiting in line so we don't know when Mrs. M. will be ready for discharge. If Yuriko is going to Europe, we thought that it might be better to arrange it right away. We think that Rev. Matsumoto is still interested in taking her into his home to work so I have to write him a letter and tell him of the latest news.

Mrs. M. did not mention anything about Douglas and all of the other fears which she usually voices. She seemed to be well adjusted to the hospital routine and did not say anything impatiently about leaving right away. She would like to know if Rev. Matsumoto is still interested in taking her into his home as she thinks that this might be an agreeable setup for her. We don't know yet if Rev. M. plans to go back to Japan, but he may be able to assist in the planning. It is going to cost money to send her to Japan, but it does

7 March 1948, Sunday.

seem to be the best plan if she is improved enough not to need any further hospitalization. It might be better for her to remain here for about six months after she gets out of the hospital just to make sure there will not be a recurrence and I think that Rev. M. is still interested in doing this. She will probably get along well there because she can speak Japanese to them and there won't be any emotional tension about the place. I haven't thought about any other immediate plan because the doctor is still vague about the discharge date. Mrs. M. claims that she has not seen the doctor for weeks. She advised Yuriko not to worry because she might get sick too. It is a good sign that she recognizes that her emotional upheavals did play a large part in her breakdown, something which she was not willing to even consider before. I think that she has enough ego drive to do fairly well in Japan, and Yuriko and I could send her things she needs so she won't starve. She has many relatives in Japan and she definitely wishes to be done with this country now so maybe that is for the best. The prospects would not be too good if she remained on in this country since she has few close friends and it would not be practical for us to take her in, particularly now if we have a baby because that may recreate conflicts with Yuriko and it is better not to risk anything like that. Mrs. M. works hard in the wards and feels that she is paying for her room and board so that is a positive attitude to have: of course, it may be related to her fear of ever admitting dependency upon anyone because of her strong independent spirit. It is difficult to really understand what went into her emotional breakdown over a period of the years.

We came home leisurely, ate dinner, and now we are going to Clara's for a meeting of some dance organizers and Yuriko has been invited as one of the participants.

8 March, 1948, Monday.

63 Hoyt St.  
Brooklyn, NY.  
March 8, 1948

Dear Rev. and Mrs. Matsumoto:

We went up to visit Mrs. Mitsuhashi yesterday, and she seems to be coming along fine. She talked a great deal about wanting to work, and the nurse there said that she was a most willing worker in the wards, one who was unselfishly devoted to the care of the other patients and one of the most cooperative persons there. Mrs. Mitsuhashi spoke spontaneously about wanting to go to Japan when it could be arranged so that she could work for the people there. She seemed to have developed considerable insight into the way her emotional feelings went into the breakdown. She was very cheerful and optimistic about the future, and expressed the hope that you would still want her to come to your home and that she thought she could be very helpful in helping to care for children and the apartment. She was a midwife in California for many years so she has had considerable experience working around children. She was particularly happy that she could be accepted on the outside after her breakdown, and she seems to have overcome her emotional conflicts about her husband deserting her. We did not have a chance to see the doctor because there were so many people waiting so that we do not know when she would be able to leave. However, it seems to be indicated that it would not be in the not too distant future.

Although we do feel it is a great imposition upon you, it would be most beneficial to Mrs. M's morale if she could get a visit from you when your schedule would permit it. Dr. Kris would like to speak to you when you do come. We are saying this tentatively since we do not know if there has been any changes in your plans since we last spoke to you. I don't think there is any immediate urgency about completing the plans since it could be flexible.

8 March 1948, Monday.

Yuriko is leaving for Europe on the 24th, and I don't think that I could be too helpful in making the final plans myself since there is the language difficulty. Although Mrs. Mitsuhashi now verbalizes a greater acceptance of me as Yuriko's husband, the basic antagonism she has about this as a mother seems to be still there--it probably wouldn't be so bad if I spoke Japanese but that is a difficult but unavoidable barrier. Even the psychiatrist cannot help her much in this area because of the language barrier!

Aside from that, Mrs. Mitsuhashi seems to have regained a stable perspective of herself and her adjustments apparently have moved in a constructive direction for the past several months. We have appreciated your kindly interest in the situation since it has been of such positive morale building importance to Mrs. Mitsuhashi to find that others besides immediate family are interested in her as a person and this has contributed greatly to her recovery from the nervous breakdown. We plan to visit again on the 21st and we will let you know of further developments.

Very truly yours,

Charles Kikuchi.

8 March 1948, Monday.

The dance group which met at Clara's last night decided to call themselves the Society for Contemporary Dance and a tentative program was made out. The group includes Merce Cunningham, Jean Erdman, Nina Fonaraff, Yuriko, Marie Marchowsky, Kay, Judy Martin, Hanya Holm, and Hadassan. They plan to grow with the years, and the idea of the organization is to find a theater where modern dancers will have a place to perform, and to develop an audience. The biggest block to the whole plan is financial, and they did not settle it last night but hoped to find some sponsors. They were all enthusiastic about the organization as they felt that this was something which the dancers needed in order to survive. Clara and Charlie were giving their administrative experience to the planning because the dancers don't seem to be very practical about such things. They want to perform in a nice theater which will give recognition to both the dancers and the field as they feel that up to now the isolated dance concerts put on by each one individually is not going to get them any place and they will not survive unless they establish some sort of a cooperative organization. Hanya Holm is the only real well known dancer of the group, but the others have a limited following. The only big difference of opinion was in deciding how four dance dates could be divided among nine dancers. Merce and Jean felt that they had to have an entire evening to themselves or else their form of dance expression would suffer but the others were agreed that it did not hurt to appear jointly and it would be less of a personal loss financially. The group needs to raise \$6000 for the series and they hope to do it by subscriptions and finding "angels." They are also planning on a fancy cocktail reception for the press, and Clara is working on these details.

After the dancers left Yuriko and I remained for a short social visit and we remained there the rest of the night as Clara announced she was pregnant, and Yuriko thought she was so they had to compare notes. Clara says she will

8 March 1948, Monday.

have hers in summer. It was so funny the way she and Charlie described how disturbed they were about the accident and even tried to find out if they could get an abortion done. However, the doctor told them that they would love the child after it was born so that Clara is more accepting of it now. She said that it was due to the penicillin shots that Charlie took which made her pregnant. He says it was the Hopi doll hanging over their bed which put the spell on them, and he put it over our bed last night to make sure that Yuriko got pregnant so that he would have company in his misery. Clara felt it was wonderful and very good psychologically for her husband to find out about us because it will make him more accepting. She says she has suffered no pains or anything. She has fibroids too and the doctor told her that it would not affect the birth. She said she tried everything to discourage the embryo from forming, but it was too stubborn and insists upon being born so that she has to give in.

Charlie and Clara seriously propose that we buy a house together in Manhattan. He said that I could get the G.I. loan and he would take care of payments until I got more established if it were necessary. He felt that we could get a place for \$10-20,000 and that it would be relatively cheap over the years if we bought it together. Clara said that we could hire nurse maid together and then both she and Yuriko could continue on working and it would be much more convenient. Yuriko is very enthusiastic about the idea as she feels that we would like to buy a home and she has confidence in my ability to keep a job steadily! I think that it isn't a bad idea now that I think of it since we do keep on putting money into rent without any return at all. Charlie said that he would get his lawyer to start looking around for a two family house and that we could fix it up pretty good. The more I think of that, the better it sounds. Now all we have to do is to produce an

8 March 1948, Monday.

offspring! Clara has to pay her doctor \$250 for care during pregnancy, but we are hoping that we can get it much cheaper than that. We don't have the same financial status as they do so that we can't make plans as readily and have to consider things quite carefully before taking a step. Since we do expect to live in NYC, it would be nice if we could have a home and be more settled. The way Charlie figured things, it would cost us only a little more than rent per month and after a period of a few years the place would be ours. We would all be taking a chance on a depression, but we can't wait for that. He says that their place is too small for bringing up a baby in. He swears that he will not wash diapers or give the baby a bath, but I bet he does. Clara had some pocket book editions on how babies are born and she gave it to Yuriko to read. I think that Yuriko feels equally comforted that somebody is having a baby at the same time she is and it will be helpful in comparing notes. Clara says that it is a cinch and she is not worried at all. She says she might even name the child "Yuriko" Weinberg if it is a girl. It may be a problem to have two Charlie's around! I think that Clara's relaxed manner about the whole thing will have a good psychological effect on Yuriko too so it works both ways. Clara is able to talk about it humorously and they really don't resent the "little accident" as much as they talk.

I didn't get too much sleep, and I had to borrow a jacket so that I could come to the office on time. Fortunately, I have been able to keep awake all day to do my work, and it is now closing time. My recording is all caught up so that I can relax a bit. We talked about final evaluation in conference this morning, and I think that it will turn out nicely.

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

Received a communication from the V.A. saying that I would have the appointment to report for work on the 22nd pending the final result of the X-ray examination I had there. I have no reason to believe that an X-ray would show up with anything physical but it is an additional hazard of uncertainty. The job up there is of much greater importance to me now that Yuriko might be pregnant and I will not have the time to look around leisurely for a placement.

I was fatigued last night so after dinner I took a short nap, and then I proof read my thesis which has finally been typed. Yuriko had her nose in a book, "The Birth of a Baby" all evening and she is getting the dope on what is happening inside of her. She said that I cannot have 50% of the credit because she is doing most of the work on this production, but she will see. She expresses no preference for either a boy or girl. Yuriko is getting her thinking stabilized but drawing no real conclusions until she is sure. She will see the doctor today for an examination and start pre-natal care if it is positive. She has been thinking about what having a baby might mean in the matter of her career, but is pretty definite that now is the time to start the family. It is a matter of weighing the concrete things developing in her career progress now against the development of a child. She says there is no question in her mind of what she would prefer to have if it is an established fact; but, if there had been a more deliberate choice I am sure that we might have hesitated a bit more. This is the point which she weighs the most now as she says that it is better for her to have a child while we are still young and unafraid. Against this, Yuriko has more to lose than I do and she is stabilizing her thinking about it now since I can't do it for her no matter how much I may try to rationalize for her. It is true that she is beginning definite advancement on her career: she had good writeups from the

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

critics; she had important parts in the concert; she did her first Broadway solo; she has the Europe deal; she has the Connecticut College festival this summer; prospects for a Broadway role in the Fall through Robbins; she has been invited to perform with the Society for Contemporary Dance in the Winter; she has a prolonged tour with the Company for next spring; and she has an additional starlet from Selznick office which has been pleased with what she has done for the other students. From the immediate point of view, it would be surprising if she did not have some conflicts about giving all of this up for a child. I'm confident that she will work this out in a mature and balanced way, but it would be difficult if she did feel continuously that she is giving up too much of her career. It will mean about a year of retirement for her, and maybe even longer. I wouldn't want her to be unhappy and feel that she had no choice and that it is an act of Fate rather than a pleasant and exciting experience in itself. I am hoping that she will recognize that a career is fleeting and intangible at best, while a child is something which is tangible and it can mean an increase in personal growth. It is not a matter of child versus career, but for the immediate present it does seem to be the only alternatives. If I thought that having a child would make her unhappy, then I would say that she should try to get an abortion. But she seems to have a very adjustable personality and takes things pretty calmly and much in stride—much more than I am capable of doing. On the other hand, I think that I have certain strengths to offer too and that has been helpful in a way. Yuriko doesn't expect me to make a fortune in my work, but she does realize that I will try to be as steady in providing living expenses as possible. It may be mostly my own guilt because I think that Yuriko has to give up so much, and probably she doesn't even consider it as strongly as that, but looks upon pregnancy merely as a temporary semi-retirement and not nearly as much of a

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

conflict situation as I might think exists for her.

Yuriko's interest in how a baby is born and so forth is an indication that her attitude is very healthy and that she wants a child. She has always said that but we never did sit down and talk it out objectively about planned parenthood. We have had to compress this decision into a shorter period of time. I told Yuriko last night that all along she seemed to have a sort of unconscious desire to get pregnant from what I knew of her and she felt that this was very possible. She indicates that one does not fight a natural event of Nature. Actually it is not a matter of her giving up her career entirely, but she has concentrated upon it fully for 20 years and it is possible that it would take her a bit of time to sift out her own evaluation of exactly how she feels. Like a natural optimist Yuriko sees the future as very promising and feels no need to get all wrought up in anxieties. This is the healthiest way and it minimizes the possibilities of hidden resentments being nourished, to pop out unexpectedly at a later time. I guess I have been thinking about the psychological effects of pregnancy more than Yuriko because the natural acceptance of the fact is not so plain to me. I complicate the matter by projecting how I would feel if I were in Yuriko's position; and, I also tend to think that she has so much to give of herself to her art and it might be unfair to ask her to give it up even temporarily. Yuriko doesn't seem to indicate any of these feelings, even when I try to test her out subtly, so that it may not be there. I would hope that it is not a deep repressed sort of thing, but I'm sure that Yuriko has enough confidence in me to bring out all of her feelings when she feels conflicts about anything--just like we do on everything else. Sometimes I think that the psychological upheavals of being a Father more than equalizes the physical ordeal of being a mother; but, of course, that must be the male ego trying to rationalize his importance in the process of birth!

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

This morning, we had a staff conference on the case of the German boy and it went on for almost three hours. The staff was extremely interested in all of the cultural complications of the case and they wished that they had more of an opportunity to do intensive casework with their own heavy caseloads. Either Mr. Gleisner or Mrs. Balant will inherit this case from me and both of them would like to have it because it will give them a chance to use their casework skills within the area of handling cultural factors in relation to an individual's psychosexual development of personality. Gleisner felt that Walter was molded more by the Hitler doctrines than the rest of us were willing to go. Next week we will discuss the British West Indian boy and that is another interesting case from the technical-personal-cultural approach. Balant said that Seibold told her that she was most satisfied with my work because I had made some important beginnings in analyzing cultural factors in a case.

Gertrude has been depressed for the past couple of days. At noon, I asked her if something was bothering her. She said that the body of her brother will arrive from the Pacific this week and there will be a burial ceremony this Sunday. She said that the thought of it makes her very disillusioned because her brother was a promising doctor who sacrificed his life for the ideals of democracy and "look at the newspapers now, and it was only four years ago." She said that she never would believe in war as a solution for anything again because there was too much politics. It frightens her that the papers are full of comments about the probability of a war against Russia, almost imminent in some reports. It disgusts her that our statesmen are so conditioned with war as the only alternative and feels that the recent war is an insult to all of the men who were killed in it. Gertrude felt that we may even get a military person for the next president, and how could that stop the blind rush towards militarism. She doesn't blame Truman personally for his doctrines, but feels

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

it is the party which has failed the people and gone over to protect the rights of property--centered in wall street--against the rights of the people. She said that she has always been fairly liberal in her political beliefs but never radical. She had faith that the two party system could work out happy solutions to the domestic ills of the country and lead us towards greater internationalism, but she is too disillusioned to belief that is possible now. For this reason, she feels that she has to cast a protest vote for Wallace. She definitely will not vote for any Republican because she can't see that party as helping the people any, and she won't vote for Truman. She says that she might consider Douglas if he were nominated by the Democrats, but feels that Wallace might withdraw in the event that the Democratic party really became liberal. However, she does not think that there will be much chance for this. The argument that a vote for Wallace is a vote for the Republicans does not bother her because she believes that her past hope in the Democratic party cannot be regained with the present direction of its policies and she doesn't see how it could possibly be changed if all the liberals got behind Truman and voted him back in because he is just not strong enough to be independent of the "double crossing" party politics. She says she probably will vote for Wallace in memory of her brother, and she is very bitter about the whole thing.

Later:

I can now start thinking and feeling and worrying like a prospective father! Yuriko came home gayly with tumbling words pouring forth about: "Darling, our diagnosis is right; Future Citizen Kikuchi will come to join us on October 6, 1948--we only missed the guess by 6 days. Dr. Kulka said that I needed no AZ test to confirm the fact." After I got over the pleasant feeling, I felt very tender towards Yuriko and marveled at how she could perform such a wonder. Yuriko was very calm, said that the doctor told her she was very healthy and had

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

nothing to worry about and she could eat anything: "I think I will start with lobsters and sea foods." It will be okay for her to go to Europe so she is going to tell Martha. She should<sup>not</sup>/be thrown into the air but can dance and teach until summer. Citizen Kikuchi must be in the eighth week now, and is about as big as the dot at the end of this sentence now. Soon Yuriko's stomach will start expanding as Citizen grows up. Yuriko said she was very happy about the event because the doctor said it was best to have a child now because of the fibroid growth which might make it impossible later on. However, it is only small fibroid and may disappear with the production of Citizen. It will not hurt the development of the baby. She said that the doctor had her listed as Miss Yuriko so was surprised when she said she thought she was pregnant! He will give her a complete checkup before she goes to Europe, if the company goes.

Yuriko also discussed the charge with Dr. Kulka. He usually charges a fee of \$300 for pre-natal care and delivery. Yuriko told him of our situation so he said that she could pay as much as she thought we were able to so she said we could pay \$200. We can do it by installment. This will not include the hospital charges. We probably could have searched around and got it cheaper but Yuriko feels psychologically better in having Dr. Kulka as he has delivered babies of other dancers so it is worth it. We can't put Citizen down as a dependent on our income tax returns this year, but next year we will be able to. All I am interested in is that Yuriko has an easy pregnancy period and that everything will turn out fine. I read about a 16th Century child delivery which was very gruesome, but modern methods are much safer. The doctor said that it will not hurt Citizen if Yuriko dances for a while yet because the fluid surrounding it protects it. But Yuriko says I am not allowed to poke my fingers into her stomach to feel it because it might harm it. We have no

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

preference for a boy or girl, but I guess I would like to have a beautiful girl like Yuriko. But, of course, girls are a bit difficult when they get in their teens so I don't know. Yuriko says we will worry about those things if they happen, but if we rear the child right then there will not be any problems regardless of whether it is a boy or girl. It certainly is a funny feeling to think of myself as a prospective father and Yuriko as mother! Yuriko said that with "new citizen Kikuchi on the way, we can do some more planning now." I said that I would build an orange crate crib but Yuriko feels that this is not worthy enough for "our royalty."

Yuriko is fairly bursting to announce the glad tidings to all of the company. She already told Bob Cohan and he thought it was wonderful and he was in favor of the idea. He invited us to his home Friday evening to have gefulte dinner which his mother is going to prepare for us. Yuriko told Buggy, who was excited, and Pearl who said: "Oh boy, I've always wanted a real Oriental baby!" Yuriko said she will not lend me out for further production because she has best and only factory for me!

The Europe deal is still not definite, and I won't be surprised if it is called off. Now they have a new plan to perform in London for four weeks besides Germany. However, the expense fund for rents here has not been raised yet, and it is being proposed that it could come out of the London guarantee which has been pledged. Both Yuriko and Pearl felt that this would mean that it would come out of their salaries for the time in London so that they would actually be performing for nothing. Pearl has a great deal to lose as "Finian's Rainbow" will advance her from understudy to the main dancing role in the play and she has to give them an answer by tomorrow. Yuriko will wait to see what happens.

We have to meet Lee Mortimer at China Doll night club at 11:00: Yuriko is not interested in any night club propositions he may have, but feels that we

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

should go meet him as he could be vicious in his newspaper column in the Daily Mirror (a Hearst publication.) Yuriko is now prettying up to go out and she looks so nice. We feel that in a way it is a celebration for Citizen K., and we won't be going out much after this, we hope.

-----  
 Excerpts from Alice letter to Bette:

March 6, 1948

"Dearest Bette:

....Too bad you are finally getting to see NY in the manner you are, what with all those mixed up feelings and confusion, but I'm sure that you will soon get ahold of your thoughts, and decide what is the best course for yourself. Before I go on, please don't tell Gene anything I may say, you see, if you do marry him, there is no reason why he should feel against the whole family, and if you don't--it will have been unnecessary to bring up anything I may say that might possibly hurt his feelings.

Not knowing all the things that have gone on, and all the words that were thrown around, I don't have too much to go by, but it does seem a shame that you had to take such drastic action. It's all done now, and so it's too late to say anything, but if I had been in your shoes, I wouldn't have gone off with Gene. You could have gotten together later if necessary, but think of how mom and everyone felt when they discovered you had gone. Maybe you should have just packed up and gone to NY by yourself, and had a little time to think things over before you got together. I think I can understand better the thoughts that are going through your head, because of Angelo, but my problem was more simple, because of the evacuation, pop's illness and everything, and because he was a caucasian. It was too bad that Angelo was in such a hurry to get engaged, when I had my doubts in the first place, because all future

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

conflicts could have been avoided, but evacuation forced events and in my confused frame of mind, it was the easiest thing to do at the time. It's hard to tell you what I think of your situation now, because I don't know myself, but whatever your decision may be, I for one can be counted on for whatever necessary. I suppose in a case of intermarriage, there are a lot of things to think about that one ordinarily doesn't have to think about when one is marrying in the same race, but it requires considerable thought, and here is one angle: I'm not as smart as Charley, and I don't believe in directing or influencing anyone's mind, but just to get my two cents worth in, I'll say my say, and you can discard it or think about it, whatever you want.

"The only thing I know a lot about right now, is about children, and a mother's feelings, so since that is a point to consider in marriage, I'll go on from that. As you can see by Mariko and George, not everyone wants children right away, and in fact, some people are perfectly satisfied with just themselves, so it wouldn't affect them as much as it would someone like myself, who wouldn't trade anyone places for the happiness and joy Claudia and Ricky have given me. Life really started to have a meaning for me when Ricky was born, and the years following only strengthened the conviction that here is something useful for me to do, and it gives me a sense of power and responsibility when I see how much a child is influenced by his parents actions and thought...One of the things I kept thinking about when I was going around with Angelo was children. I know that everyone thinks that children who are half and half always adjust themselves, but it isn't that. I put myself in their place, and wonder if it would make any difference to me what my parents nationality or race were. Of course, if you and Gene expect to get married and not have children, there is nothing to think about there, but I know that you like children, and it's something wonderful to be a mother, and experience that

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

feeling of holding a baby in your arms and know that you have had a part in its creation, and I wouldn't have missed that for anything, money, or otherwise, I know that Mark feels that he is that much luckier and happier for being a father, and he wouldn't trade places with anyone—even if he has to work his head off to feed all of us.

...I was worried about your going to New York, so it helps me to write to you even if its just to let you know that I'm not letting you down at a time in your life when you need your family. You may feel that you have had too much of your family for awhile, but that will wear off, and I know that deep down in your heart, you realize all the advantages and happiness in being a member of a happy congenial family, so once this present situation straightens out, you won't feel too harshly against any member of the family.

There is another thing. I know that I have said just as many things about Mariko as anyone else, and have laughed at her expense, but we all know that Mariko has done more than anyone else to keep the family together and happy, and we all appreciate her more than we would like to admit. It is too bad that her personality often overshadows her good intentions, but whatever may have

gone on in that final family scene, don't hold it against her, because she was trying to save you from yourself even though she knew that you might never forgive her for her words, and because she was genuinely concerned. I wish I had talked to you more frankly when I was in Chicago, but I was too much of a coward, and I didn't want to spoil my stay by having you mad at me. At that time, I felt that you should have been more fair to mom and considered her feelings more than your own. I realized too that you wouldn't have listened to me at that time anyway so I decided to let things take it's own course. It wasn't too much to ask you not to see as much of Gene—and you should have thought of it more seriously, knowing how Mom felt about the situation. You

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

may think that it is all because she is so prejudiced and thinks so much of what her friends are going to think, but it isn't just that. Mom wants your happiness as does any other mother, and she wants you to do what will bring you that happiness, even though she puts it in other terms. I don't know Gene that well, but I hope he realizes that it wasn't as personal as it may have seemed. You know how mom picks on me regarding Mark, and he's a son of her best friend. It doesn't get me down but temporarily, because I know she has my best interests at heart, but it does bother me at the time it is said.

...I won't go on and on about the pros and cons of intermarriage..because  
is done  
what's done/and I feel that under the circumstances you are a very lucky girl to have a brother to help you out at this time, and that you have a stimulating job, and a place to stay. That for the present is the most important, and I feel sure that you will be able to straighten out the rest in time. Frankly, I feel that you did a good thing to leave Chicago, and get out on your own for awhile-- you'll find that you will get a new outlook on everything once you are on your own, so before you do anything drastic, enjoy this fling of independence, and show the family that you are capable of making a go of things without getting into complications. Don't get too involved with Gene, mentally speaking, and treat him as just another boy friend until his divorce is final, and he is in more of a position to be on his own too. He must be going through the same conflicts too--you know, it's not a one sided affair--and if your final decision is to marry him, everyone will make the best of it and wish you the same happiness that you would find were he of another color. Don't hold those prejudices of color against anyone because you yourself had your share of discrimination and prejudices before you got to the age where you realized that it wasn't the color, but the person who counted....

....We may be going back to the Coast eventually, and if we do, I don't

9 March 1948, Tuesday.

expect to be traveling too much..Our life here in Detroit is at a very uneventful pace, and I feel that my brain is getting stale due to my not getting any sort of mental stimulation....Our social life is limited and pleasant, but I'm not satisfied, and I feel that life is passing by too quickly not to get more out of it..

Alice

10 March 1948, Wednesday

We made the rounds of night clubs on Lee Mortimer last night, and we didn't get home until 8:30 this morning, just as all the working people were on their way to their jobs. It wasn't an exciting evening, but it was interesting because we got a sample of how some frustrated people find escape from life. Mortimer drinks like a fish but he can put it on his expense account on the "Mirror." I only slept for one hour and then had to drag myself out of bed to make a dental appointment, and I had a tooth drilled on until noon. I went to the office for my interview afterwards and I didn't get home until 6:30 because a couple of the staff were telling me all of their troubles. As soon as we finish eating, we have to be off again for the play this evening. We haven't had a taste of this night life for a long time, and it will probably be a longer time before we go again. Yuriko and I are not particularly fascinated by night clubs, find them rather dull, and we wouldn't think of using up our money for this sort of entertainment--especially now, when we have to think of providing for an addition. Yuriko thinks we should not tell any of the family about it, "let's surprise them because they won't think it's possible for me to have a baby." I doubt if she will be able to hold the news back that long.

We met Lee Mortimer at the China Doll, and he immediately led us to a ring-side seat and the procession of drinks came to our table without ceasing so that we drank too much. However, I haven't noticed any after effects, just tired. Lee is an affable, rather slight gray haired man--about 45, I think--who probably believes that constant drinking of champagne is the fountain of youth. He is so afraid of getting old, and he talked constantly of wanting to find a 17 year old Oriental girl to add to his harem. He manages the floor show at the China Doll in addition to his other interests and there were many hints that every girl in the chorus has been his mistress at one time or another. In fact, he went even further, and hinted that all oriental girls in show business in the

10 March 1948, Wednesday

U.S. have shared his bed and board during the past few years. One got the feeling that here was a frustrated man who was deeply insecure, but who put on a bold front to bolster up his ego and his connection with the "Mirror" gave him access into the inner life of the showworld. He spoke in a very deep voice, was charming and friendly, but could not be considered a deep thinking person. What he said during the evening personified the "Daily Mirror" mentality. He said as much himself as he believes that he has to give the readers what they want. Of course, he places himself far above the masses, terrific snobbery. Being seen with beautiful oriental girls apparently identifies him as a man of the world in night club society.

Yuriko had asked me not to get into any political or social arguments with him so I just let him ramble on with ridiculous comments about many things without making an issue. In fact, I boosted his ego so that he would come out with his opinions so I could be sure that I had not judged him wrongly previously as a vicious reactionary. He seemed to like us very much, and he is a charming guy when he keeps discussion to the superficial things. He likes to think of himself as a practicing liberal because of the opportunity he has given oriental show people to perform, but it did seem to be tied in pretty strongly to his deep need of elevating his own prestige. He is very anti-semitic despite the fact that he is of Jewish descent himself. When a Nisei girl (with a Chinese name) at the China Doll sang a Yiddish song, he leaned over and said with a smirk: "That's to get the Jew customers to part with their money here." Mortimer is the type of individual who can get along with individuals because of his charm, and one feels pity for him--except that he is in a position to be very nasty to people through his column.

While the floor show was going on at the China Doll (mostly by Nisei performers), Mortimer told us about his plan. He wants to build up a floor show with "longhair" stuff, using oriental talent and he thinks that Yuriko would be

10 March 1948, Wednesday

a natural for this. He has never seen her dance but he saw her picture in the papers and noted that she was a featured dancer with Graham so felt that this would lend prestige to his plans. However, he does not know any Nisei "longhair" artists and he is trying to get a list of them. He said that he has an offer to take such a group to Paris where it would undoubtedly be a terrific hit. The time when "hammy" oriental performers can get by in night clubs because they are novelties is passed so he felt that he had to have talent to go along with it. (He wasn't kidding when he said that the performers at the China Doll were hams as the show stunk) He also has plans to take a troupe to Hawaii as he knows some night club operators there. Later on, he would like to start a Japanese eating house here and call it the "Geisha House" and "ham" it up good. He feels that the time has come for Nisei performers to be able to pass for what they are and not as Chinese. That was one of the good things he said during the evening (plus, all his praise for Yuriko's looks--and she certainly was glad that I came along to "protect" her from that wolf).

Yuriko told him that she could not consider such a deal for a while because of her other commitments. He said that she would be able to take her time about it and he would contact her later on for details if she were interested. I'm sure that he uses this sort of tactics to rope in pretty nisei girls into his harem as most of them think it is so glamorous to be seen out with a columnist. He probably knows more nisei girls than any nisei fellow, and only the best looking ones at that. He mentioned that Connie Nakashima has turned into a wild reefer addict and she is a performer at a club in S.F. now! Amy Satow is a featured chorus girl at the China Doll and goes by the name of Ding-Dong, and that sort of setup seems to be very glamorous to her. She joined us at the table for a while, as well as Katie, a former Portland girl now one of the China Dolls. I was quite surprised to see that Goro Suzuki is now the MC there and she sings. It was always his ambition to do this, even before the war when I knew him as a member of the

10 March 1948, Wednesday

Yamato Garage gang in S.F. Gon Sam Mue, a T-agent with the Federal Bureau of Narcotics for years, also joined us and he went to the various night clubs with us all evening, and we ended up in Chinatown with him about 8:00 this morning to have breakfast before coming home. Also met the one and only "real" Chinese girl in the cast--she was from Hong Kong.

Lee Mortimer took us to ringside seats at Leon and Eddies and Eddie joined us at the table and spotlights were turned on "Mortimer and his friends just off the boat." We also went to the fancy El Morrocco "where all the movie stars and big shots go" and had champagne with the press agent of the place, who Lee said was a fairy, and the guy wanted me to "analyze" him because Lee kept on thinking I was a psychiatrist even though I protested that I was a social work student! About 5:00 we all went over to Lee's apartment in a swanky part of town and had a nightcap there, which lasted until about 7:00. He has a very fancy duplex apartment and he has shared it with three ex-wives and a number of oriental mistresses (including some I knew from the Coast). He kisses and tells! Lee likes to brag that he never visited a whorehouse in his life. Sam Mue told us later that Lee was carrying a torch for "Kono" now, one of the China Doll nisei dancers. The thing which surprised me was his terrific library of good books and he must read some of them at times unless they are complimentary copies given to the Mirror newspapermen.

It gave me the opening to start the discussion about his review of "Gentleman's Agreement," which he claimed was all distorted because there was no such thing as anti-semitism in NYC, which incidentally drew a lot of laughs and wrath from those who knew better. I asked him how he had arrived at this conclusion and he replied: "I'm a Jew myself, but I don't go around thinking that everything which happens to me is on account of that. I can get into anyplace in town, and I know that being a newspaper man puts me in the 'in' but that is not all.

10 March 1948, Wednesday

There isn't a place in town that a decent Jew can't get into. The trouble is that too many of them are 'pushy' or they are not dressed right. Lots of regular Americans get turned away from places like El Morrocco because not everybody can get into the place because prices are high, or they are not dressed right." Sam said sometimes he felt that he wasn't too welcomed at Leon and Eddies because he was Chinese, but was "allowed" because he was a T-agent. Lee said this was not true, that Chinese were welcomed as long as they dressed and acted right. He added, "Hell, there isn't one group in the country which can not get entry into places. The only exception I make is the 'niggers'. I will admit that they have discrimination, but not any other group. Look at the Japanese, they are welcomed with open arms in California because they 'acted' right. They went to the camps and they 'proved' themselves and now they are accepted. The same way for the Jews who are not sensitive and 'pushy'. They always say that everything is discrimination because they don't like to admit that there is something about themselves which is not agreeable to others on an individual basis. That 'Gentleman's Agreement' is a joke and it will do more harm than good. It takes time for a group to get accepted but it happens in time. Again, I say that the only exception is the 'niggers'. It's those 'commies' like John Garfield who pushes things like that. PM and Post are 'commie' newspapers and they are out for me on anything like that because they have a lot of Jew subscribers. People go to movies for entertainment and they don't want to be preached at. I don't believe that any of these things will eliminate discrimination; you can't legislate it out. That's why I think that the civil rights program of Truman is going to put the 'niggers' back 100 years and they will lose everything they have gained up to now." I hinted that there might be a difference between legislating against discrimination and forcing people not to be prejudiced, but Mortimer did not get the point. He said that FDR did more harm against 'niggers' with his Fair Employment Commission than all

10 March 1948, Wednesday

the Southerners put together. He said that he knew top flight 'niggers' like Bill Robinson, but he had to use common sense and not fight public opinion by going out with him socially because that was not going to change anything.

I asked him about his fight with Sinatra and this is Mortimer's version: "He knew he could not win the suit so he settled for \$9,000 out of court so that tells the story. I didn't call him any dirty dago like he said. He jumped me from behind with two friends and they held me down while he punched me. Sinatra is all washed up now. He goes around preaching about tolerance, but he didn't like it at all because I was trying to help Chinese and Japanese out and went around with them. That shows you what kind of a mind he has. It's all talk with him, but he doesn't practice it. Kay Kinoshita (Bob Kinoshita's sister) was with me that night and she was my witness so he couldn't get away with anything."

Mortimer on presidential elections: "Vandenberg will be our next president, nobody else has a chance. MacArthur may make it but I doubt it. He had many oriental mistresses and I knew one of them."

And so it went; we left him about 7:00 and Sam drove us down to Chinatown in this government car and we ate at a small Chinese restaurant which only Chinese go to. He gave us his address and said he would like to get together with us again. He is 51, has two grown sons, has a Nisei son-in-law, has been with the government for over 20 years. Very conservative in his thinking and a close friend of Mortimer. He has known Paul for years and told us about Paul's first wife: "Paul was very much in love with her. She was a night club entertainer, but they busted up because they were not in agreement. He used to have an apartment up in Jackson Heights. He was manager of a Chinese restaurant before he went into business for himself. Originally from Pittsburg."

-----

10 March 1948, Wednesday

After my dental appointment--which will cost \$27 for the filling of two bad decays--I was in the office for six hours because I had to wait for Burgess and he had been sleeping with his mistress in Jersey all night so forgot about the appointment. I had good news for him when he did come and now it looks like we will be able to get his legal status in this country accomplished. He wants to take me out to lunch next week "for appreciation" of the help I have given him in getting social and legal status ironed out. We are going to discuss this case next week in staff conference for cultural factors and I think it is one of the best I have ever done from this point of view.

Miss Martello was all upset because she was given a sudden notice that her job will terminate on the 15th rather than the end of the month and she was blowing off a lot of steam about the way she is being handled. Her UN club has over 100 members now and she has worked hard to get this group together from Lake Success, and now she is being pushed out of the agency because of the lack of funds, and she was furious. Siebold has not yet decided what she is going to do but may take the director job in Minpls International Agency. Mrs. Balent said that she planned to remain only for another month or so and then she will go to the West Coast with her seaman husband. Gleisner does not know what to do. He says that he may go out of town. He wants to remain in the international institute work because he would be handicapped in other agencies due to language disadvantage, but he feels that it would be helpful in this work where he can use foreign languages. So it looks like the agency is suddenly getting very disorganized in the agency.

Jean Pickering, our receptionist, is the most disorganized now, but from personal reasons. She came into my office about 3:00 to ask me if she could talk to me about it because she was so emotionally upset and she remained until 6:00. She wanted to know if I could tell her of a psychiatrist to go to who would not be too expensive as she believed that she was getting to be a psychotic case.

10 March 1948, Wednesday

When I asked her what was bothering her, she immediately began to pour out her story for the next three hours because she has not had any one else to spill it to. Roughly, her story:

"I think that I am getting paranoid. My married life is going on the rocks. My husband is going to a stag party tonight and I don't believe that it is the truth. He has told me white lies before, but now I am getting to the point where I can't believe a thing. It bothers me all the time, and I am in a terrific emotional state now. I have been drinking a lot and the vilest things come pouring out of me when I do. I get in bed and I lash out my tongue at my husband. This happened twice this week already. He has hurt me deeply by his indifference so I want to hurt him deeply too. Yet I think that I love him, but I am all mixed up now and I don't know what I think."

I asked Jean what she thought she thinks and she said: "It might be because I have a basic insecurity and it hurts me when he tells me to tuck my buck teeth in even though nobody ever notices it. But he likes blonds, and he is going out three nights in a row without me so I'm sure that he has another girl. The thing which gets me furious is when he goes out with his ex-wife. It might be our sex life, but I think that it is more him than me. He went through seven years of incorrect bed life with his ex-wife, and he just doesn't realize that it might be him. He is not very considerate to me and I am believing that our whole relationship is just physical. He seems to need intercourse so much and he doesn't even stop to think about my feelings. He doesn't care if I have an orgasm or not and often I have to simulate it because he has his orgasm in 15 seconds and I can't have it that fast. I don't know how to talk to him about that. He uses the excuse that he is the best in bed when he is drunk and that bothers me too because it is very messy and cheap that way. Last week he pretended to have an orgasm and I felt that he did that just to get it over with and that he really does not love me. I began to hate him and I would have murderous thoughts even

10 March 1948, Wednesday

while we were having intercourse. I don't know what it is, but maybe I am going crazy."

I said maybe that it was not so much a matter for a psychiatrist as for her to face the realistic problems presenting themselves right now, and try to figure out what she could do about it. Jean said the trouble might be that her husband was married before and has a daughter, and Jean hates it because she gets more attention than her. However, she doesn't know what she can do about it because they were married before her husband was legally divorced from his first wife. Met him in a saloon and when they got sobered up they went to Maine together and have been living with each other ever since. He was out of a job at the time and living on 52-20 club but was very moody so began to drink excessively. They moved to lower east side tenement apartment but he loafed from October to 1947 January because he kept dreaming of getting a terrific job. Then he worked on the docks for a while, and in July 1947 he got a job as an efficiency expert with Pepsi Cola Company, and he has been away from home most of the time since then with this job.

I asked if Jean did not think that maybe it was a matter of straightening out their mutual compatibility, if possible, than seeing a psychiatrist and she thought maybe this was the source of all her recent frustrations and emotional upheavals. She said: "My husband is sort of different. He likes expensive things and he likes the best foods and wines with his meals. We have a limited income but he doesn't consider that. Most of our income is spent on liquor. That's where the trouble comes in. I want to plan for the future, but he is satisfied in living from day to day. Last year I told him that I only had a few months to have a child because of cysts on my ovaries, but he just kept on postponing things and I had to use my own money to go to the hospital for an operation. Now I can't have children anymore. I tend to blame that on him. He

10 March 1948, Wednesday

He blows all the money on himself and his friends and he will spend \$50 in an evening when that is his allowance for a whole month. I can't see us getting anyplace that way. He will insist upon taking taxis all the time when it would be much simpler and cheaper to take the subway. He refuses to discuss anything because he says I have a small mind and I do get nasty when I should be calm. Then I do feel strange about his family and I don't get along with them at all. I told his sister that she gave me a pain in the ass and I don't know what made me say such a shocking thing. When I feel frustrated, I guess I do those things. His family is cruel and snobbish, but they all have terrific inferiority complexes. That does not help the situation any. I was willing to take all these things until he began to play around with Henny who is a friend of mine and I have brought her here to the office for lunch, remember? Anyway, she is just a prostitute and she sleeps with a different man every night.

"Maybe that's the source of all the troubles. I can't ever say anything to him about cheating because I was unfaithful once and I told him about it. But he could always throw that back in my face. I have told him that I have slept with a lot of men before I met him. From age 24 I have been having intercourse with different men, and I met my husband when I was 28. All that time, I never used any contraceptives and I used to go through agony for fear that I would get pregnant. Maybe that is the thing which makes me a bit restrained in our relationships now because my climaxes are never complete and I may have some deep feelings about that. Maybe that's why I distrust him so much now. I think he loves me but we have been growing apart recently and I seem powerless to do anything about it."

I said that if she could decide what to do now, maybe that would be better than going to see a psychiatrist at this time as I didn't think her reactions were abnormal in view of the situation. Jean was very relieved to hear that and

10 March 1948, Wednesday

said maybe this was it and she has been afraid to face it, but "I've got to decide what to do as I can't keep up this sort of life. I am brooding too much. Last night I had a big fight with him and said I was going to leave him, but I just couldn't. For the first time he said he was wrong and we haven't talked since. I won't see him the next three nights as he is going to stag parties. I just want to live like a human being. He has ability as he makes about \$400 a month but he spends it all on liquor and that isn't going to get us anyplace. He admits that he is not stable and he says that he is going to change, but he never does a thing about it. I want him to settle down a bit more, but he can't do it with that traveling job he has now."

I said that it was a pretty important decision for her to be making, and it did look like it would be easy to go to a psychiatrist and just talk about herself rather than making a decision and doing something about it. Maybe it was because she was afraid of any decision she might make. I thought she should think about what it would mean if she left her husband, and what it would mean if she tried once more. However, one thing she would have to learn when talking to her husband was to be calm so that they could discuss things. I asked her how he might be feeling about the whole thing, the meaning of his excessive drinking, the factor of sexual maladjustments because they have not discussed about it, how they might think of their future if they decided to stick together, how he might feel about having children and the possibility of adopting some if she could not bear any herself. Jean talked about these things for quite a while and admitted that she had always been afraid to talk about them to her husband. I said that if she would make the first move, it might encourage him to cooperate. Maybe her past behavior has made him just as uncertain about her as she is about him. Why doesn't she phone him and ask if he would be willing to discuss their future calmly this evening over dinner out? Jean did not think she wanted to phone him as they have not talked civilly to each other all this week. She deliberated

10 March 1948, Wednesday

back and forth about it. Finally, she decided that she would try it so she went to phone.

About five minutes later, she came bursting back into my office with the news: "Everything is roses now. I talked to him and he was so happy as he said that he had been so miserable during our period of strain and he didn't know if it was the end or not. He said that he has made a decision. He has quit his job as traveling expert for Pepsi Cola and he bought a bottling concession in Waterbury, Connecticut with another GI. It will be financed at first through a GI loan, but that he thinks he can make good now because he will have an entire territory for himself, maybe all of Connecticut. Now, he says, if I want to try once more with him to settle down, I can go up there with him and we will start out together for the first time in the two years of our married lives. He said that he was sure he would not drink so heavily now because he had to concentrate on building something up and we could have a real home and he would not be away five-sixths of the time. It was up to me to decide if I wanted to stick with him for another chance or to call it quits like I did last night. It was everything I had ever dreamed about, and I said of course I would stick. He said that I could help in the business office and be a part of it. It sounded all so exciting. It's a good thing I talked this all out because I don't know what I would have done otherwise and my thinking would not have been straight on it." Joe, the janitor, was kept out of my office during all this time Jean was talking to me and he probably thought we were having an affair as we were the last ones out of the place! Even though I was exhausted from lack of sleep, I felt that it was not time wasted since the conversation did contribute to Jean making some sense out of her tangled thinking. I told Jean that it was the start of new adjustments and that she and her husband still had a lot to work out together and she should encourage him to have confidence enough in her to verbalize

10 March 1948, Wednesday

it, which she could do if she remained calm and understanding. Now, she is going to give her notice to quit so that will be another staff member leaving the agency!

Tonight we will see the play, but I have time to catch up on sleep tomorrow.

11 March 1948, Thursday

We slept until about 2:00 this afternoon as we did not get home from the play until late. John Garfield was terrific in "Skipper Next to God" and it was a powerful story about one individual's thinking about the DP problem. The place was packed, but we had some fairly good box seats which the manager of the house gave us tickets for. The play attempted to probe seriously into our thinking on the DP's and what America might be able to do about its solution. Most of the audience was Jewish, not the regular playgoers from what I noticed during intermissions when we circulated about a bit. Yuriko thought we were very fortunate to be guests of the manager because the play impressed her very much and she felt that it was the sincerity of the actors which made it so good. The play originally was put on for one week by the Experimental Theater but it was so good that they decided to have a commercial run and it has been on about two months now.

Yuriko slept most of yesterday and she was home today so that she does not know what is going on around the studio about the Europe plans. The last thing she heard was that they were definitely going, but she has not done anything about preparing for the trip until she gets more definite word. She did iron some of my shirts a while ago so that I would have sufficient supply if she does go. The YWHA wants her to appear in a dance concert in May, but she has turned this down. She said that she will not make any more new plans until next year because of pregnancy, and she will wait until the time comes to figure out how it will be possible for her to go on with her dancing as well as provide adequate care for the baby. She says I must stop wishing for either a boy or a girl because we should be glad with whatever sex it may be, and that we have to take turns in walking it at night if it cries! It has been very relaxing just puttering around about the apartment today and we didn't even go out to shop for food because of the cold and rain. Yuriko plans to sew this evening. We decided not to have <sup>a</sup> dinner party for Warren and Kenny and spouses since definite invitations

11 March 1948, Thursday

have not been sent yet and we would like to rest over this weekend. Yuriko says that it is harder to climb up the stairs already, and her breasts are getting quite buxom. She says they hurt a bit so I said that mine hurt too and they are swollen but she laughed and said that was going too far in having sympathetic symptoms. She cooked a fish dinner last night as she says she needs more iron in her system.

---

12 March 1948, Friday

5:00 pm: I have to wait for an evening appointment in about a half hour, and after that I have to meet Yuriko so we can go to Bob Cohan's home in Brooklyn for a Jewish dinner. It has been fairly quiet in the office today and I am rapidly winding my cases up. In my conference, I still had to keep on boosting Siebold's ego as she has not finished my evaluation yet and I won't get to see it until my last day here on Wednesday. I have several more interviews next week, and most of my time will be spent in getting the records ready for transfer.

I got a good rest last night so that I felt ambitious today, but with not too much to do. We had a quiet evening home for a change and I just relaxed while Yuriko cooked a delicious meal and then she ironed some of my shirts afterwards. She hasn't done anything about getting ready for Europe as she still doesn't know if they are going. Her breasts are getting quite buxom, but there hasn't been many other changes in her condition. She says that she hopes that her breasts will not hang too much afterwards and maybe she will wean the child quickly. I said that women's vanity caused more neuroses among children and sometimes it will not be wise to wean too quickly as a child is supposed to gain security from having that breast feeding. Yuriko said she will think about it but she is sure that she will be able to give the child enough security in other ways since she likes children. She has a good point there. She probably will be a much better parent than I.

Yuriko says that she has to start training me so I will be a good example for a child. When I expressed surprise that she did not think I was perfect, she said that I slurped my coffee and I ate too quickly and she has to break me of that because she doesn't want any child of ours to have such bad manners. I said that she has to learn how to get up more quickly, and she replied, "Well, I will do that, but right now I am taking advantage of women's privileges when pregnant." One of the things which concerns her is how much weight she puts on. Yuriko figures that 20 pounds will be sufficient, and that there is a practical reason for this. She

12 March 1948, Friday

thought that if the child got too large inside of her it would be a difficult birth because of her small pelvis. I said that I didn't think that the growth of the embryo was influenced that much, but I didn't really know so she will ask the obstretician, who is getting paid to answer questions like that! She wondered what our offspring would look like, and I said probably it would be a monster. That scared her so I said that there was not much chance of this, but about 1 in 250 did get born with some abnormality due to defects of the parents; but, since we looked pretty perfect to each other, there was small chance that the offspring would not be equally perfect, but more!

We discussed about superstitions connected with childbrith, and we know that a lot of things passed around by the older generation is not true at all: birthmarks due to mother getting scared, embryo getting strangled by cord if mother raises arms over head, and so forth. The doctor has not had a long talk with Yuriko about many of these things, but she is getting prepared for it anyway.

As near as we can figure out, Citizen K. is in the ninth week of existence. This means that he has passed the stage of floating leisurely around in the fallopian tube and is now firmly attached to the placenta wall. Right now, Citizen's backbone should be starting to form and we hope it will be strong enough to withstand all the pressure of modern civilization to which it is being grought into. It's head is forming at this very minute, but the ears have not come out. It does have part of a heart, but no arms and legs yet. We hope it will have good features but it is not that developed yet. Most of the progress comes after the 3rd month.

13 March 1948, Saturday

After my interview at the office I met Yuriko and Bob Cohan on 14th St. and we went via the BMT way out to the edge of Brooklyn where he has a home. Bob doesn't live there himself as he batches with a couple of friends on the East Side, but when he gets a bit broke he goes home to eat. He has been promising us a gefulte fish dinner for weeks and he finally got around to arranging the plan with his mother. The Cohans have a beautiful home which they only paid \$7000 for last year and it has been fixed up into a most comfortable residence. Besides the parents, a younger brother and a 19 year old sister, plus a grandfather, live there and it is spacious enough to accommodate all of them. Yuriko wishes that we may get a place like that someday.

The Cohans were very gracious hosts, and it took us over two hours to eat all of the food which Bob's mother had prepared. We just stuffed ourselves to the neck and they were so happy that we ate so much. The fiance of Dolly was also there; he is a buyer with Hearn's. The family is a typical middle class non-orthodox Jewish family and they only follow the general pattern of background culture. They kid a great deal about all of the traditions which they do not follow. Bob's father is a linotypist and he has a warm and unusual relationship to his wife. The entire family is a rather close knit and compact unit and they seem to share a great deal in the interests of one another. This is not the usual pattern in such a large city where the family life is breaking apart at a pretty fast pace. Bob has broken from the family in order to pursue his career, but he still seems to have quite a bit of dependency upon his mother. I wouldn't be surprised if some of his nervous tension is not due to this extreme closeness to the mother; he flatters her as if he were almost a suitor or something rather than a son. Bob had to break from his family economically because the parents wanted him to follow the more settled traditions of work and his temperament is not suited for this.

13 March 1948, Saturday

During dinner, Mrs. Cohan explained the nature of the Jewish foods which we ate. They only eat it seasonally, especially around the Passover period when the entire Cohan clan, about 40 members, get around the huge family table to feast. She loves to cook and she said that she spent most of her time in the kitchen. Mr. Cohan uses good psychology because he constantly lets her know how much he appreciates her and he still brings her gifts of candy and things on special occasions. It would be very difficult to identify the family as Jewish since it appears to be more of a central European background, the blond, tall type; and its only identity with the Jewish cultural past seems to be certain family traditions. They are quite proud of the family name since it used to be one of the ruling classes of the Five Tribes, and we gathered that there was a practice of marrying first cousins in order to keep the unity of the group identifiable. This may be one of the causes for the nervous temperament passed down to Bob. His sister is engaged to a first cousin now. It is easier to understand Bob's previous statement that it would be almost impossible for him to marry outside of his immediate group because this would not be very acceptable to the larger family.

We enjoyed our visit over there, and we did not leave until midnight and Bob drove us down to the station in the family car. It was a bit difficult to talk about mutual interests since the family is mostly concerned with the more middle class activities, like country homes, purebred dogs, fine wines, business. It was in the discussion of building up a home that we found the greatest common interest. The family also has a keener interest of modern dancing due to Bob's participation in it. The family atmosphere is one of settled smoothness as the parents have established themselves over the years and the children will start out in fairly comfortable circumstances, unless they break away into a new field of activity like Bob did. It seems that quite a few of the clan members are in the clothing industry.

13 March 1948, Saturday

We got up rather late this morning, and just lounged around in bed talking for over an hour before we crawled out. Yuriko had to go teach one of her actresses and she will be back shortly. We have been invited out to dinner, but I don't know if we will go or not yet--depends upon how Yuriko feels. She has not had any illnesses or anything from pregnancy yet due to her remarkable physical condition and I hope that it keeps up that way. She said that she told Martha yesterday about her pregnancy, and that Martha was very glad for her and commented that she could not have a child herself but she thinks that it is nice for others who are capable of it. She agreed with Yuriko that it would be best to have it while young. At the same time, Yuriko can go to Europe with the group if her doctor approves, and Martha said that Yuriko could teach in the summer course up in Connecticut this summer and use a demonstrator to do the movements for the class. Helen McGeehee will start learning the part of "Cave" so that she can understudy Yuriko in Europe in case she is not able to do it physically. The company is definitely going to Europe as the tickets have been bought, but I won't believe it until the boat sails. They will be gone from March 24 to May 22. It has been worked out that each member will get \$200 for this period to pay for rent and other expenses so that Yuriko loses out. Bob and many of the others will get much more than they applied for under the arrangement. In Germany they will only get \$5 per week to spend in the PX. They will only perform in Germany and the plans for London, Paris and other European cities have been cancelled due to the difficulties in currency exchange. Martha still has not raised the money to pay for the company expenses of rent while they are gone. It seems that Don will be taken along as the stage manager and technician so that Martha will have somebody to "mother" her after all.

This morning, I was saying to Yuriko that it certainly is difficult for a couple to raise a family in this modern age because our society is largely geared

13 March 1948, Saturday

for the childless couples. I said that we would have to bring up a child in a very exploited economy under conditions of inadequate housing and it will face a miserable state of public education which is slanted more and more towards propaganda, and that with our selfish industrial situation with its passionate preoccupation with material goods, it is almost intolerable to bring children into the world. On top of that, I said, city life was not very healthy for a child, and that it was being brought into an atomic age with an emphasis upon war, with many racial and social upheavals, and, finally with a father who was a social worker and who could never provide much. I said maybe it was not such a good idea to have a child when one thought of all these things. Yuriko just grinned and responded, "So what! Gee, but think what it is worth to have you and me in one person--our own child." That convinced me that Yuriko is psychologically ready for parenthood. She realizes that there will still be some difficulties in planning her career with this added responsibility but does not think that it will be an unresolvable problem, and does not believe in worrying about it beforehand.

14 March 1948 Sunday

When Yuriko came home yesterday afternoon, she announced that we were going to have guests for dinner and we had to have shrimps. I protested that I had bought a week's supply of meat, but my opposition became feeble when I realized that I could give in to her less expensive food cravings now that she is pregnant! We had to go all over Brooklyn, but the exploration trip was worthwhile as we saw parts of the city which we had not seen before. In some ways the fish district near the waterfront was very picturesque, sort of old worldish and we had not known that such a place existed before. We got there by accident as all the fish stores we went into said they had no shrimps and directed us down to the waterfront so that was where we ended up! We enjoyed it very much because we found a lot of new food markets and later on when the weather is warmer we hope to prowl around some of those spots.

While we were walking back loaded down with fish and shrimps, Yuriko said that she had been thinking about Europe and that she has now decided that she will not go. She felt that she would have too much "guilt if something happens and I will never be sure if it were really not an unconscious motivation to wish that something would happen, and that is too risky. There wouldn't be enough medical care over there and it might be too strenuous for me. I have been thinking of this for quite a while and my thinking has not cleared up on this until now. It is related to a conflict I have about a career. I guess every woman who starts a career feels very threatened if it has to be stopped for a while to have a child and maybe I am not used to the idea yet. There are many women who feel that they have to compete with men in a man's world, and having a child would be considered as a defeat. I don't look on it that way because I have wanted a child for a long time. But at the same time, I have been building up to a peak in my dancing and that was hard to give up. Now I don't see it the same way."

I said that there still might be some indecision in some ways but I didn't want to influence it. She should think some more about it. Yuriko said that she

14 March 1948 Sunday

dropped in to visit Clara earlier that afternoon and they had a long discussion on this matter. Clara felt the same way at first, only much more intensely but now she is glad that she is having the baby. Clara said that she even tried to have a miscarriage when she first found out because she just didn't want to give up any time from her career but she is now more reconciled and does not see it as too much of a conflict as she may be able to work out a plan whereby both would be possible. She said that she and Yuriko should get a double carriage for their children, and they are really serious about finding a duplex house which we can buy. Clara phoned a couple of real estate companies and got some leads, but there is nothing definite yet. There is one possibility of a brownstone house on 90th and Park Ave. for 15,000. Yuriko said that it would be nice to get a place together since it would be easier to work out a plan for baby care after they were in a position to resume careers. Yuriko said she just didn't want to take any chance on having a miscarriage or anything.

She went on to say that she was not entirely satisfied with Dr. Kulka because he didn't tell her anything, and she thought that she might change to Dr. Warner who specializes. However, it would be a problem how to tell Dr. Kulka, and she didn't know what she would say. I suggested that she say that we could not afford him so Yuriko said that she would think about this. As for the Europe trip, I said that she need not make a hasty decision until she talked to Dr. Warner, and it may not be necessary to cancel those plans. I said that if she decided in too much of a hurry, then she might resent it later on. Yuriko said that she would think of it some more then. It would have been easier for me right away to accept her statement that she was not going to Europe, but that would have put her in a difficult situation if she wanted to change her mind during this week.

After we came home, I had to phone Cy and Elsie that we could not come over to dinner at their place so he suggested that we come next Friday. Then I told

14 March 1948, Sunday

him that we were expecting to start a family. Cy exclaimed, "What! Was it planned?" I said that, "Well, it was mentally planned but we had been undecided about the right time for it. However, we felt that it was better to have it while we were young because we would get more cautious as we got older and it would be harder to give up things for a baby." Cy said that's what he has been trying to tell Elsie. He added that he heard a rumor three weeks ago that Yuriko was pregnant: "You know, it's a funny thing, but professional people are so afraid of having a child. They think that it is a calamity. I guess I feel the same way, but not quite so much. Most of the professional people feel that for a woman to have a baby, it is the end of a career as they will get tied down." I said that everything has its compensation and that it did not mean necessarily that it was the end of things. I felt that it was a tendency for New Yorkers to be a bit selfish because they did not want to give up personal comforts in any way, and maybe that sort of couple should not have children because it would only cause a lot of neurotic behavior in the child later on. Cy said he wished that he was as emotionally accepting as I were and he wouldn't hesitate, but he did not think that Elsie was ready for such a step yet.

When I came back from the phone call, Yuriko had dinner well started and she was enjoying herself so much because she could prepare shrimps, raw fish, and other sea foods for which she "craved." (She always says that with a sly smile and she knows that she is not getting away with anything.) By the time dinner was prepared, Clara and Charley showed up with a bottle of fancy wine to have with dinner. We ate like pigs, and I made the pregnant wives eat cottage cheese because I read in a book that it was good for their condition! Clara is expecting in June or July so that they have not wasted any time at all. We discussed about buying a house, and Charley said that if I could get the GI loan, it would not be too much of a burden since the payments would be spread over a long period of time. However,

14 March 1948, Sunday

we do not know about how much taxes and upkeep would be but Charley said he will find out more details. He hopes we can get the place on 90th and Park because it is a reconditioned house and it sounds like a good buy. I don't know if I am being foolish in taking on such a responsibility when I have not even started a job yet, but if it means that the payments will not be much higher than rent, it may be a good investment. Yuriko and I are letting Charley and Clara do most of the investigating about houses as they know more about it. They want very much for us to live together and share a duplex house and I think that it would work our well since we get along quite well, and it is just like being neighbors since the duplex units are separated. If the Park Avenue place does not go through, Charley will look around for another place. I don't know how seriously they are looking but they seem to have investigated quite a bit. I will go along with them and if there is a good buy, we will consider it carefully. I didn't think we could ever become people of property this soon! It may not be until later this year or next year before anything definite is done and Yuriko and I are not building our hopes too high.

Charley seems to be more accepting of the fact that he is going to be a proud pater, but he still does not feel too good about the whole thing. The remarks he makes are made mostly in jest even though it reflects some of his feelings about it. He says he will place the baby in a drawer when company comes and shut it tight. He will sell it for \$200. Clara takes all of this in stride and she joins in with him. Yuriko and I must have a different feeling because we haven't ever considered the thought that we did not want a baby once we were sure that it was on the way. Clara said that if one is a boy and the other a girl, we shall start work right away on making an arranged marriage. She noted that baby clothes were very expensive and she might be able to get some from a sister who has an older child. I said I would make a crib out of orange crates, but Yuriko replied that our

14 March 1948, Sunday

offspring deserves better than that.

After we sat around for a while to digest our food, we decided to go to a movie, "Treasure of Sierra Madre" to watch Humphrey emote. It turned out to be a very good picture, although we had to sit through another B picture first. By the time we got back home, it was about 3:00 am. We fed them cheese cake and tea, and they left after we had made arrangements to go riding in the country for Sunday.

We got up about 11:00 this morning and washed the huge stack of dishes; then we rushed down to Manhattan. It has been a beautiful day, just like spring and we enjoyed the outing immensely. We started out about mid-afternoon and Charley drove us up to Mineola to visit one of his friends who has just bought a home up there. Going up Long Island by car is much pleasanter than via train. We passed the UN buildings on the way and I have a wish that it could bring about peace among nations. There are many little towns all strung out near Mineola so we had quite a time finding George Novak's place, but got there eventually. George is a socialist newspaper editor and he just bought the house for \$12,000 on the GI financing. His wife, Ann, is pregnant too! Ann is Catholic and George Jewish but they don't have any religious difference: they don't practice either. George said he didn't want to bring up his offspring with a Brooklyn accent. He commutes to NYC every day and it only takes him one hour. His house is very nice, but not worth that much. However, inflation has taken its biggest toll in housing and there is nothing that one can do when desperate to buy a home. They wanted us to stay and eat roast ham with them, but we decided to get back to the city before the traffic got too heavy. We couldn't figure out why anybody would want to live in Mineola because it is not country at all and it is so inconvenient to get anyplace.

After we got back to town, we went down to a Jewish place on Second Avenue and had a picturesque dinner there. The waiter shouts out the orders and everybody

14 March 1948, Sunday

is very chummy. Tea was served in glasses and little lumps of sugar were given to us as we are supposed to drink with the sugar between the teeth, Russian Style, but I didn't have the patience for that. Yuriko didn't want to go to the dance group meeting so we came on home. She said that she just didn't want to talk to any dancers today as it would spoil the nice day we had. It was a most restful day and we enjoyed getting out of the city on a social basis very much.

15 March 1948, Monday

Nothing much happened in field work day and I am rapidly winding up my cases. One of my clients gave me \$5.00 today (Mr. Abe) and I told him that it would be donated to the agency but he wanted me to keep it personally. However I turned it in. The office is rather disorganized now because the fund drive has not been very successful and everybody is getting demoralized. I am getting out at just the right time. The workers are getting worked up because the personnel practices were not followed by the director, Mrs. Cole, and they plan to issue a statement tomorrow. The thing was set off when both Miss Martella and Mrs. Baker were fired without getting the one month notice as set down in the manual of procedures. Mrs. Cole doesn't seem to know what she is doing these days and prayer will not solve administrative problems for her. Since the International Institute became an independent agency, she has not been able to put it on its feet because money is getting scarce and the fund committee did not collect as much as anticipated. On top of these worries, Mrs. Cole has much anxiety about her 87 year old mother who is near death and she has to run home several times a day in order to look after her. Miss Siebold is waiting until after the final report of the fund committee before deciding what she will do. She gave me my preliminary evaluation today and it was very good.

Yuriko still is conflicted about what to do regarding the Europe trip. She discussed many of the pros and cons with me last night because she was so restless, and finally decided that she will go to Dr. Warner and get her opinion and then decide. She said that she wanted more attention by the doctor to make sure that nothing would happen if she did decide to go. She got all of this settled in her mind and then turned over and went to sleep. But then, I could not get to sleep so I tossed and turned until about 4:00 am. I was thinking about my new job and hoping that nothing would interfere with my start at it next Monday. That was the reason why I felt so sleepy today and I didn't have much energy.

15 March 1948, Monday

Yuriko made an appointment during the day and she will go see Dr. Warner tomorrow morning. She said that she learned from the studio that the company will only be appearing in four cities in Germany so that maybe the tour will not be too hard on her. Martha told her that she will not have to do all the hard rehearsals and some of the dances will be changed so that she will not have to jump so much. Helen McGeehee is being trained by Yuriko for some of her parts so that she can take over. In the event that it is still too much, then Martha said that she would send Yuriko home by plane. Yuriko thought that under these circumstances she could go. She will find out from the doctor first what her opinion is and then feel relaxed about making her final decision. The company will get \$25 a week over in Germany for spending money instead of \$5 so that is some help. Yuriko said that the main thing she wanted to find out was how I felt about her going as that bothered her. I said I purposely did not take a stand either way as that would only increase doubts in her own mind. I said that she could make her decision without having any anxiety about how I might feel since I am agreeable as long as the doctor does not think it will make pregnancy more difficult for her.

Yuriko brought Rhoda and Lamar over for dinner. Rhoda was quite thrilled over the fact that Yuriko was pregnant, but Lamar thought that it would be a burden and he was not very enthusiastic. He would be that way since he is still not settled in his career. He is still working with the New Stages. One of its plays has been moved to an uptown theater and another play is now being rehearsed. Lamar is trying to get more into stage managing and directing, and he feels fairly satisfied that he is finally making some progress although he doesn't make too much money. However, Rhoda is able to take care of many of their living costs.

This is the first time since coming to NYC that Rhoda has been able to work steadily. She said that she got a \$5 weekly raise, and there is very prospect that

15 March 1948, Monday

the show may last for another full year yet. She read the Kinsey Report for a while because there is some joke about it in the show and she wanted to know what the book was all about. She became very absorbed when she discovered that it gave a detailed account of the sex life of a male. Since she had to be at the theater by 8:00 I had to rush through with making the roast pork in the pressure cooker. It was the first time I had done this, and it was a big disappointment when we cut it open to find that it was raw inside. Yuriko fried it up and it tasted good so that the dinner was saved after some hectic maneuvering during which darling Yuriko came to my rescue. It shattered my self confidence in culinary talents!

Rhoda and Lamar got evicted from their apartment near Times Square so that they had to move up to the Bronx. They are hoping to get another apartment in Manhattan and we said that we would look around. It's a good thing that both are working or they would have been in a very tough spot. Rhoda repaid Yuriko about \$90 and she has cut the \$500 loan down to about \$150 now. After Rhoda left for the evening performance at the theater, Lamar stayed for a while to work out her income taxes and I helped a bit with that. Then he had to rush off for a reading of the new play on which the New Stages group is working. We will go up to their place in the Bronx on Sunday for dinner. Yuriko cancelled the dinner plans with Paul for Wednesday but Shirley wanted us to come over that evening so we are still going out. Friday night we will be up in Queens for dinner with Cy and Elsie. It's a good thing Yuriko brought Rhoda and Lamar home with her to help us eat up the meat because it might have spoiled.

16 March 1948, Tuesday

I caught up on all my field work recording, and tomorrow I clean up the loose ends and have one more interview and then I shall be finished with school and get my M.A.--after the V.A. pays \$20 for it! At last! There isn't any special kind of a feeling on an occasion as this, just the end of something and a start on a new phase of experience. Things certainly have a way of popping to make life interesting. Tomorrow, I shall take it easy in the office. The staff is giving me a farewell lunch, which is more than poor Miss Martella and Mrs. Baker got when they terminated their connections with the agency today. Jean is very sorry to see me leave as she says that I made things more interesting around here, such flattery.

The more important event in my life right now is the formation of the embryo in Yuriko right now. She had a headache this evening when she came home because it was such a busy day for her and the sudden warm, spring weather made it more tiring. Her only eccentric ideas since pregnancy is the urge to sleep upside down in the bed and eat asparagus and I have to humor it along! She went to see Dr. Warner this morning, and she received detailed instructions on diet and care during pregnancy so that Citizen K. could be a perfect brand new issue.

Yuriko announced that she definitely had made up her mind not to go to Europe with the company after wrestling with the problem for a number of days. She said she was psychologically relieved to arrive at this conclusion, but she has not told Martha yet. Her decision was influenced by her talk with Dr. Warner who said that it could not be forbidden but Yuriko should use her common sense, "so I am using my common sense." Dr. Warner pointed out that nothing may happen in Europe, but if something did there might be a danger of miscarriage and inadequate care, with the possibility that she could not have any other babies. Yuriko said that she just could not take that chance and the Europe trip wasn't so important that she had to take a risk like that. With her mind made up, Yuriko has already made

16 March 1948, Tuesday

good adjustments to it and there is no regret. She feels that having Citizen K. is much more important anyway: "I feel very relieved that I finally made up my mind; I really have not been too excited about going in the first place, even before I knew that I definitely was pregnant. I have common sense too."

Yuriko is very happy with the change of doctors as she feels that she is receiving much greater personalized care and this is relaxing to her. She felt that as long as we were paying for the pre-natal care, she might as well get all of the benefits from it. Dr. Warner said that Yuriko was in good health, and that she should come in twice monthly for examination. When Yuriko told her that we could not pay too much, Dr. Warner said that her minimum was \$250 but that she would make a special exception in our case and make it \$200. In addition, there will be a bill of \$150.00 for the hospital expenses (Jewish Memorial in Upper Manhattan) which is the minimum. Yuriko also has to pay extra for vitamins and RH tests for both of us. I hope we can deduct all these things on our income tax next year. Yuriko will be able to teach dancing yet, and she may run the studio with Margorie during the time the company is in Europe. She has to teach Helen her parts in a hurry this week so she will be busy.

Since Dr. Warner has delivered many famous people in the theatrical world, Yuriko feels very comfortable under her care and psychologically it was better that she made the change as long as she felt a bit uncertain about Dr. Kulka. She says: "For the same amount of money, there is such a difference in what is being done and I feel much safer with Dr. Marie Warner. I won't have to worry a bit under her direction; she says we should join Blue Cross Hospitalization plan now that we will have a family." Yuriko hopes that Joan Skinner will be taken to Europe as the extra member of the company as this will be a great chance for her and it means much more--she is just starting out.

P.C. article (March 13) says of Yuriko in part: "The twin facts of race and ancestry long have limited the achievements of Japanese and other minority group artists

16 March 1948, Tuesday

in the fields of music, dance and acting...The significant fact about Yuriko Amemiya Kikuchi's success as a modern dancer, like that of Sono Osato's in the ballet, is that the matter of ancestry has had little to do with their individual achievements. Although the dance may be considered as a somewhat exotic art form, it might be said that both Yuriko and Miss Osato have succeeded in spite of the fact that they were of Japanese ancestry.

"Yuriko, as she is billed in the programs of the Martha Graham company, has been a member of America's foremost modern dance group for three years, joining after she arrived in New York from the Gila River relocation center. In that time she has appeared in nearly all of the Martha Graham productions. Her role of an American pioneer woman of the Revolutionary period in 'Appalachian Spring' is typical of the parts she has essayed successfully as a member of the Graham company. Two weeks ago at New York's Maxine Elliot Theater she appeared in her first solo roll in "Tale of Seizure" and was well received by the New York critics. It may be noted that not one of her appearances has been in an oriental role, although Yuriko is an accomplished Japanese dancer...The success stories of both Yuriko and Sono Osato presages a time of lessening racial consciousness in the theater. On the whole, however, minority group artists are beset by the frustrations presented by the lack of specialized material...The point is that, as things stand, it is still difficult for minority group artists to perform and to be regarded simply as artists, without regard to their racial identities. Two dancers, Yuriko and Sono Osato, have achieved this and perhaps, in time, other artists in allied fields may be similarly accepted."

17 March 1948, Wednesday

Last day of school! I didn't do much today, except for one last interview. The staff got together and had a nice lunch for me and the usual goodbyes were said. They said to drop in and see them sometimes, but I doubt if I will since it is an end of a phase and one usually goes on to new things. It has been a pleasant experience and I have learned quite a bit. I disagree with one aspect of my final evaluation in which the supervisor takes the credit for helping me to work out acceptance of myself as a member of a minority group but I didn't say anything since she has to feel that she accomplished something. It does convince me of the subjectivity of casework and point out how weak this particular discipline is in having a firm scientific foundation. From here, I go to another setting after a couple of days of rest and this time I will finally start getting paid for it! That should be a nice feeling. It has taken nine years in all to get the M.A. degree because of the war and other things and sometimes I wonder if it is worth while to struggle through to learn a profession which is one of the most underpaid in the country. If I had not gotten into the V.A., I would have had to start out with a salary about \$700 lower than what I will be getting.

President Truman made a war speech before Congress this noon before flying up here to review the St. Patrick's Day parade up Fifth Avenue. We saw part of the parade from our office but none of us bothered to go out into the crowds to get a glimpse of the President. That is not a very stimulating prospect after what Truman said. He talked about war in his speech and definitely committed us to a war psychology so anything may happen from now on. Russia has become the next menace to civilization and Truman says that we must contain them in order to save democracy. We must be willing to support the Western Bloc even if it means military support. He said that we had to protect other democracies from Soviet "internal aggressions." I was not aware that any of the European countries outside of Czechoslovakia even had any democracy. Wallace said last night that

17 March 1948, Wednesday

Truman was full of war hysteria. Truman says in order to back up opposition to Russian expansion, we have to have the Draft, UMT. That sounds like mighty strong war talk to me, and I wonder how the veterans are going to take this, especially those who still have not found housing and other adjustments after being told they were such big heroes for beating Hitler. Truman practically said that anyone who talked of peace was sowing seeds of disunity and had to be stamped out. If that is political talk to consolidate the rebel democrats and liberals, I think that Truman has cooked his goose for the next election as the voters certainly could never be so stupid to accept that. What Wallace said some months ago seems to be borne out, but it is labelled communist propaganda so that a person who sincerely believes that democracy can be saved by a psychology of peace in foreign policy is practically called un-American. It gets more confusing all the time. But Truman's speech didn't make me feel very good if that is any reflection of the temper of this country right now.

I think maybe we should have a girl as an offspring because I don't think a son would have the proper temperament to be a soldier type. I know that I don't feel any inclination to get out my old uniform and dust it off as a result of Truman's fighting talk. We were talking about names for our offspring this evening, and we couldn't think of any boys' names. I suggested that we name it after Martha, if a girl, and make her a godmother and then she might give it a present. "Martha Kikuchi," mused Yuriko, "that doesn't sound bad at all." I said we could name a girl Martha Yuriko Kikuchi, but she said that "it doesn't have to have any Japanese name so that is out.

Yuriko told Martha that she has decided not to go to Europe. She said that she let Martha practically suggest that it was best not to go because she cited all of the dangers which might arise. Martha suggested that it might be psychologically bad for her to go and have anything happen and it was not worth it to take the

17 March 1948, Wednesday

risk. Yuriko said that she had to consult me once more; I said that I couldn't decide for her, so Yuriko phoned back and said that she had thought about what Martha said and concluded that she did not want to go to Europe. Martha told her confidentially that the company may not go at all because they still have to raise \$3000 to get the costumes cleaned. Pearl has quit her contract for "Finian's Rainbow" so that she will be one mighty angry girl if they do not go because it will be such a financial loss to her.

In talking over with Yuriko plans for what she could be doing, Martha said that she could be the director of the school during the two months and teach as much as she is able and to use a demonstrator so that it would not be so hard on her. If Yuriko does direct the school, it will mean that the enrollment will keep up because she is supposed to be the best teacher in the school. She will have Marjorie and Shirley for her assistants. Yuriko said that the company has to go to Europe now because she has her plans all made in regard to running the school. Financially it will be very helpful as she will have a chance to make a bit of money. As long as Yuriko is emotionally settled about the whole thing, that is all I am concerned about and she seems to have adjusted extremely well to the whole situation.

We were over to Shirley's for dinner this evening, and Yuriko was enthusiastically planning the school schedule on the basis that the company will go to Europe. Since her energy could be happily devoted to this responsibility, I think that she made a wise choice. I think I would have been able to adjust to whatever decision she made and I didn't want to influence it in any way because I wanted it to come from her own feelings and I am happy that she was able to solve the problem without any undue emotional conflict. She figures that a baby will be lasting while a trip to Europe is transitory and therefore there is no sense in running the risk of a miscarriage. Even though she feels that

17 March 1948, Wednesday

nothing would have happened if she went to Europe, she feels that it is best to eliminate any slight traces of doubt by not going. I hope that being with me will be some compensation for Europe although it is not a very good bargain!! (Although she has not said so, I think that this went into her choice too, very flattering for the strength of our relationship!)

Shirley is the same as ever, still the struggling young dancer. Yuriko said that Shirley has made much progress and may be next in line to get into the company. The main thing which holds her back is considerable emotional disturbances about herself which is projected in a rather aggressive and argumentative disposition which rubs Martha the wrong way. Shirley is a very intelligent girl, but she has very little awareness that some of the roots of her maladjustments lie in her because she is able to intellectualize everything outwards. The last time I saw her she was interested in Hindu mysticism, now she is a devotee of Existentialism. Her current lover is a philosopher of this doctrine and he writes articles and lectures on it. Shirley will never learn not to stop running away from life, and I doubt if she will find any satisfactory escape in dancing. She also has an unusual interest in homosexuality and this may be bound up with her feelings of herself in which she tends to reject some of her feminine traits. Her big difficulty right now is excess weight and that might be due to a psychological basis too. I had a long debate with her about modern dancing and she was trying to convince me that it had its basis in an abstract absolute of beauty which was universal and that the masses were too ignorant to appreciate such aesthetic values. I said that these values were all relative so that she could not be sure that she was following the highest form of beauty. Shirley has the typical idea that dancers must suffer to give expression to her art and this form of neurotic behavior seems pretty common. It is surprising that Yuriko has escaped it; probably because she had

17 March 1948, Wednesday

a more wholesome personality, she was able to bring out her form of dance expression without the inhibitions and conflicts which Shirley and others go through. Of course, there is the matter of natural talent which might make a difference too. Shirley sneers at any dancer who goes commercial and hints that they are not true artists. Pearl draws her scorn in particular. The thing which has always puzzled me is: why do so many modern dancers think that they have a corner on true aesthetic values which has to be jealously guarded from the masses, while at the same time proclaiming that they are not understood because the masses have not been educated up to their cultural tastes and values yet?

Shirley recognizes that she is living in a changing society, but has no interest in political or social action events as long as she can pursue her little career which is apparently set apart from the rest of life. I don't see how she can ever achieve true development if she continues in this pattern of escape because I don't think a true artist lives in a vacuum, and that social events patterns much of the creative things which comes out of them. What Shirley is doing is to follow a path of intellectual snobbery which will get more and more bitter and full of disillusionment as she attempts to escape from the realities of her daily life. I think that she could find much better expression to her dance form if she pegged it a bit more closely to her immediate life and quit sneering at the masses with her intellectual superiority. Even though Martha's art may be an art of frustration, I think that she gets her material from the life around her and that might be the key to her success. I think that this is true of all sorts of artists. They may be ahead of the masses in what they bring out, but they don't look on the masses with utter contempt, which Shirley is prone to do. It may be a reflection of her present emotional mixup and she might come out of it in time but it won't be easy for her to overcome a lifelong pattern of maladjustments. If her dancing is taken away, she would fall apart as she has

17 March 1948, Wednesday

nothing else so she can't afford to give up and she gets more and more involved because the basis for her drives is unhealthy. She hates other dancers for being successful, denys there are any at Martha's dance form but desperately wants to get in the company.

18 March 1948, Thursday

I was able to relax today in preparation for the strenuous first day at my job on Monday. Part of the morning was taken up in the dental chair and the ordeal is almost through except for a cleaning tomorrow. My dentist has been telling me about his attitude towards those on relief. He figures that there are too many chiselers and I have been trying to convince him that most of them are worthy people. He notes that there has been an increase in panhandling lately, and feels that this portends another big depression unless we go to war once more. He said that the main objection he has against war is that too many people get rich out of it.

Yuriko also went to a dentist today and she was so fascinated with his smooth charm that she has decided that she will feel very little pain when he starts drilling upon her. She has to have quite a bit of work done on her teeth and that is another medical bill which we will have to deduct from our income taxes. Now that I am about to work, we will be able to take care of a lot of things which we have neglected during my student days. Yuriko went to visit a real estate agent friend of hers and he gave her a listing of several houses for sale in Manhattan--all running from \$15,000 and up. I don't think that we are going to be able to afford anything like that for a long time to come. There may be a chance that we can find a bargain, but I doubt it with the housing situation as it is. Yuriko phoned Clara about these listings and they are going to look them over on Saturday morning. We don't have to worry too much since our present apartment is roughly adequate, except that there may be a problem in parking a baby carriage.

Yuriko reported that the company is still not certain whether it will be going to Europe or not as the money has not been raised. However the members have been instructed to get their birth certificates for the passport so that they were sending telegrams to parents to obtain them. Yuriko said that it was "so good to sit back and watch all this bustle, bustle and be able to relax." She feels that

18 March 1948, Thursday

they just have to go on the trip as she has all of her own plans made. Martha told her that she could direct the school while they are gone so that she is officially notified of her functions. Martha still is willing to take her up to Connecticut this summer if the doctor approves and a demonstrator will be given to her to assist in the teaching of the dance classes.

This evening we went to see a movie, "Black Narcissus," and afterwards we went to eat something in a Chinese restaurant here in Brooklyn. Yuriko said that the movie made her very sentimental as she remembered about our romance out in Fort Hancock. On the way home a kitten followed us right up to the door, and I had a difficult time in convincing her that we should not adopt it because she felt so sorry that it was out in the cold.

We haven't heard from Bette but assume that she is getting along well. She dropped us a card saying that she might go to England this summer but we don't know how definite that is. We have been so busy lately that we haven't had the opportunity to invite her over--she works late every night and weekends, I suppose, she wants to be alone with Gene. It will take her time to get used to being on her own, but I'm sure that it won't be too difficult a process.

19 March 1948, Friday

The company trip to Europe has been cancelled, and Yuriko reports that there is considerable gnashing of teeth about it. Another one of the Graham plans which has blown up in their faces--it is not a new story. However, another dream has already been injected to cushion the disappointment: this time there is talk of a world tour in September! Each time it gets bigger and better. Martha apparently tried very hard to raise the money for the Europe trip but was not successful. The entire company went down to the passport office and paid \$2.00 to get pictures taken. While they were doing this, a phone call came in to say that the trip was off and they could not even get their \$2.00 back! Yuriko said that she was just as disappointed as the rest of the company since she had her plans all made about what she was going to do with the school. There is still talk of a "slim" possibility that they may yet get on that boat next Wednesday but I doubt it very much. It seems now that the State Department apparently was never too keen on the project and only a small amount of money was given to finance the project. The plans seemed to be as bemuddled as our foreign policy. Yuriko said that Pearl was very upset about the whole thing as she gave up her contract on the Broadway dance role and it will mean a terrific financial loss for her. Sasha was the only one who actively prepared for the trip; he bought some new suits. Their cycle of emotions now is complete: at first they wanted to go, then they hesitated, then they built up their hopes, and now it is all off. Martha has asked company members not to leave town as there still may be a last minute change of plans. That's one good thing about dancers: they never give up hope.

- - - - -

I went to the dentist this morning and the job was completed. Instead of napping when I came home, I got energetic and cleaned the house, polished the refrigerator, washed dishes, and did a big laundry. Yuriko would not believe I had done all of these things and promised \$5.00 if true. She saw the evidence herself

19 March 1948, Friday

when she came home, but now vaguely says she will pay me either at the end of the year or take it out of my first paycheck!

I called for Yuriko at the studio around 5:30 and we took the subway up to Queens to have dinner with Cy and Elsie Nydorf. Elsie cooked a delicious steak dinner, and we ate our fill. They have bought some expensive furniture and a radio with an alarm clock in it. I remarked to Cy that he was deserting the cause of the masses and this got a rise out of him. He got very defensive. Later on, when we mentioned that we were interested in buying a house, Cy and Elsie thought that it was not right, that a progressive person should not have property and so forth. I got the feeling that they are just as bewildered in their political thinking because they make the assumption that everything they say is right and nothing I might say in opposition makes sense. I like to discuss things with Cy as he does have a keen grasp of politics, but Elsie takes it too seriously and gets emotional. I mentioned that if Douglas were nominated for President, then Wallace might back him. Cy would hear not of this: he said both major parties were decadent. He was very disturbed because of the announcement of the sellout of UN. by the U.S. on the Palestine partition. He and Elsie feel that we have a fascist state right now, and they are almost willing to sell democracy short.

We listened to Wallace's speech which was extremely good, but for the sake of discussion, I wondered about what influence the communists might have in this country. Cy said that it would not have any influence at all; yet he turned around and said in the next breath that democracy was outmoded and that we should not close our eyes to change and call communism a foreign ideology since democracy was imported from France when it was first started here. I challenged this very much and asked directly if he thought that communism was better than democracy but he insisted that this was not the point: "we have to defeat the reactionary

19 March 1948, Friday

and decadent forces right now." I said it was very important because I believed that we had a chance to put the theory of democracy into practice and that I was not giving up on it. Cy's inference was that communism was a new wave of modern ideology which could well sweep the world, although he did not say this directly. My contention was that although communism was a historical revolution, it was not the final answer: that both democracy and communism had a part of the utopian answers, but that neither had a corner on it. Cy's viewpoint was more that communism was the next stage after democracy. Although he states that he is not a communist, his sympathies seem to be quite strongly in terms of Russia. He picks our foreign policy to pieces, but when I say that it takes two to make a fight and that both are wrong, he is not so willing to concede that. He marshalls a lot of facts together and carefully traces back causes to the Russian revolution when all the western nations were against it and have been anti-Russia ever since. I still felt that this did not make any one country any more righteous even though the guilt might be a bit stronger on the one side than the other. I felt that communism might be the answer, but that democracy was still our goal and that it could succeed. Then Cy would recite all the failures of the capitalistic system, which I could agree with but still not be willing to throw out the democratic system. He thinks that is naive. But he always winds up his points by saying that he believes in democracy too; that is why he is so strong for the Third Party. On that point we can agree. It may be that Cy is much more politically advanced than I who am so bewildered by the present trends of events. However, Elsie says that there comes a time when a person has to take a strong hand, right or wrong, and be aggressive about it as there is no longer time to weigh it. I couldn't buy that at all; it sounded too militant to me. It sounds much too simple to me that if the masses are given the ownership of the means of production, this will bring out the utopian age--sounds very dogmatic and fanatic to me, and

19 March 1948, Friday

the dangerous thing is that it makes any means justified to achieve this end. I'll still take the democratic ideology, which is a long way from practice. Cy feels that it might be too late because fascism is here now and that no minority is safe. This goes into Elsie's reasoning that she would live the U.S. and does not think it wise to buy a home. At the same time, they have a very swanky apartment with distinctly non-proletariat comforts, but they get touchy when I tease them about this. And they emphasize that they are not communists. I don't care if they are or not, but I do object to the dogmatic way in which they present things as if anyone who disagreed or asked questions were naive and stupid. I asked for it in a way since I was bating them on, but I was doing that in an effort to learn more about the confusing international political picture. Anything they quote is "fact" while anything which I may say about the "political right" is distortion, fallacy, and so forth. I really did not differ with many of the things which they stated; only I felt that its achievement could be found in the framework of a democratic approach. They said they agreed, but immediately would turn around and lambast private enterprise and all of the weaknesses found within a democracy, as if they were the one and same thing. I guess political conviction, like religious conviction, borders on fanaticism. I certainly don't approve of the Pope's statement saying that anyone who votes for communism in the Italian elections next month will be excommunicated from the Church; but that does not say that I think Communism is the answer for the world ills. I do believe that we need vital social and economic reforms in the democratic setup and a shift to a psychology of peace, and I don't hate Russia just because it has a different kind of political ideology. I feel now that a true third party movement may stop the present insane rush to another war, and that we have to respect differences among nations just like we have to accept differences between various ethnic groups in this country to achieve unity.

19 March 1948, Friday

We had a very stirring discussion over at Cy's and I believe that many of his points were valid, but I still don't feel that I know all of the answers to political questions: I just can't be as sure as he and Elsie are about these things. Maybe it is because I don't know enough about them, and maybe it is because there are valid reasons for confusion. Each political system works on the assumption that it is the one and only and that is where the great disagreements begin. I do that myself because I tend to support things from the Left: I don't like Truman's Doctrine, I don't like militarism, I don't like property protected over people. But I suspect that my reasons for favoring Wallace is a bit different than Cy's. Elsie is even more pessimistic than Cy as she says that the reason why they hesitate about starting a family is that we are in a fascist country and that they may have to go underground or leave the country and that there just isn't any security of any kind in this country. But if we just live for the future all the time, we may miss a lot in the present and I don't feel that it is that hopeless, even though the present trends are very discouraging. I feel like a rebel against so many of the malpractices of democracy, but I still feel like going on in the hopes that it will change for the better, and that Mankind is eventually going to be sane enough to tolerate more than one political ideology, all of which may have some values in the direction of that Utopian pattern, which we will never get. We can only hope that it will be in the democratic direction which will respect the individual dignity of man. Any system which goes counter to this is a result of the influences of all other systems, and there does seem to be a need for a broad acceptance of human rights as the basis for all ideologies. Otherwise, we keep on having wars as the end product of universal ignorance.

21 March 1948, Sunday

The weekend brought spring for sure and we have had beautiful weather. It was so balmy yesterday that I just relaxed most of the day. Yuriko had to go teach one of her movie starlets in the afternoon yesterday, and after she returned we walked down to the new shopping district we had recently discovered and bought our week's supply of staples and weekend food. I didn't discourage Yuriko once about watching the budget and gave in to all of her food whims so that she would be happy about approaching motherhood. We are stuck on thinking of a name, but we still have time.

After eating a delicious Japanese dinner which Yuriko created, we went over to BJ's for the evening as they had invited us over for a poker session. Paul and Ethel were there. BJ and Gary Warburg live up on the Upper East side. BJ is one of Ethel's college classmates, and she is the piano accompanist for the studio with a Negro boy. Gary is studying acting and he hopes to make that his career. They are a very pleasant couple. BJ seems to be much older emotionally than Gary and she supports him while he goes to school. She comes from a moderately well off middle class family so that they live on a liberal budget. In our poker session, Yuriko did very well considering the fact that she has only played a few times in her life and she was quick to catch on to some of the finer points of the game. BJ, Paul and Ethel lost about \$7.00 between them. I got \$2.00 of it and Gary got the rest, while Yuriko was a few cents ahead. Afterwards we ate some of BJ's delicious pie, and indulged in light social talk--mostly about the theater and Pei Fen, the Chinese girl that the girls know. Pei Fen learned about dancing from books, then taught a class of 150 in a Chinese college, traveled alone all over China to learn about folk dances, went through Japanese lines during the war, and finally came to this country to attend Smith College and to learn of modern dancing from some of the leading lights here. She doesn't have any money to attend the Connecticut festival this summer so that the

21 March 1948, Sunday

girls were trying to figure out a way in which the money could be raised-- some kind of a benefit party or something.

After we left with Paul and Ethel around 2:00 we talked in the subway station for quite a while about Graham politics and the Europe deal. Ethel said that some of the company still have hopes for going, and that she was sorry for Pearl because of the large financial loss. This was the first time I have heard Ethel say a kind word about Pearl so I guess that they really don't dislike each other as much as it is sometimes put on. Ethel is so attractive that everybody looks at her on the subway. She said that she and Paul might get married early this summer, maybe after her return from Connecticut. She wants to wait until her mother gets well from her illness. Her mother is still rigidly opposed to her "marrying an Oriental." Ethel said that her concert trip with Eric was not bad at all and she had fun, but made very little money. She is very glad that the Europe tour has been called off.

We decided to put the poker winnings into the Baby bank, the one we started with pennies soon after we got married. The large jar is over half full. Our original plan was to guess the number of pennies and the winner take all, but this plan has been changed to starting future Citizen's first bank account. We didn't get to bed until about 3:30 last night, and we got up around 9:30 this morning in order to go up to Long Island. It was a very nice trip up as everything is getting green and fresh. As soon as we got to the hospital, we went to the doctor's office and we were told that Mrs. M. was now ready for discharge. We didn't know what was going on as we had not heard anything and we wondered if it meant that the hospital was going to follow a policy of pushing the patients out rapidly without regard to good social planning. Our fears were quickly dispelled by Dr. Kris who said that it was obviously impossible for Mrs. M. to come and live with us and that she was going to write the church board to find out if

21 March 1948, Sunday

some minister would take her. She said that in the meantime we could go ahead with our plan with Rev. Matsumoto. Dr. Kris felt that Mrs. M. had made good recovery from her illness and indicated that the diagnosis was involuntary melancholia, an ailment usually related to menopause. She said that Mrs. M. was making excellent adjustments on the ward and was extremely helpful to the other patients.

When we saw Mrs. M. she was cheerful and expressed a desire to leave but was a bit fearful that Rev. M. now did not want to take her in. This might have been related to her fear that she will have a stigma because of her illness. We assured her that the best possible plans were being made and for her not to worry. It may take a couple of weeks before the final plan is worked out. In the meantime we should see Douglas and try to get him to repay the cleaning shop money, which I am convinced that he is going to try and hold out on. It may take legal recourse in order to get it straightened out, but we will give him plenty of opportunity to do the right thing. Mrs. M. said that she still wanted to go to Japan because of her desire to work with war orphans. She felt that she would feel much better being in her own country where she could talk the language, and she said that there was a great need for trained people of all kinds to help rebuild the country. She said that it was her opinion that this meant that women in Japan would be working on a scale never known before, and that there certainly would be need for nurseries to look after the children. We have decided not to tell her of Yuriko's pregnancy for a while yet, because that may reactivate Mrs. M's desire to look after Yuriko and she may even insist upon doing the delivery upon the basis of her past mid-wife experience! Mrs. M. is apparently very accepting of the fact that Yuriko is now starting a new family life and she thinks that her efforts can best be directed in another direction. As long as she has seemingly made this adjustment, there is no sense in precipitating renewed feelings of overprotection

21 March 1948, Sunday

of Yuriko on her part. I think that Yuriko has been able to give her mother enough of a sense of security and interest for Mrs. M. to realize that it is not rejection, and this has helped her with her desire to strike off in another direction. I hope that the news of pending discharge will not set off a new period of anxiety, but it does look like the prognosis is pretty hopeful for the immediate future.

After we returned to the city, we went right up to the Bronx and had dinner with Rhoda and Lamar. They seem to have settled down but still have not decided upon the marriage ceremony. Lamar feels that he will have to stay on in NYC now regardless of how his career turns out because of the roots he has made here. Rhoda sees only the immediate future; hopes that her show will last for a full year. They both feel that the future is still very indefinite and are alarmed at how quickly the years go by. Lamar is, however, hopeful that the next ten years will be the best as far as personal advancement and that this will determine all of the future goals. He hopes to be an established stage director within that period. Rhoda has no such long term plan, but secretly hopes to be able to get married and have a family. She only sees the immediate future in terms of being in Broadway shows. She was very thrilled by the fact that we are going to start a family, and seemed to be rather envious that we apparently are more settled. All she has with Lamar is the common law relationship and an alley cat which stinks their apartment up to high heaven. They said that we should get a three duplex apartment so that they could come and live there too. I still don't know how concrete our plans for buying a place are, and we really don't have much for a down payment. But it is worth looking into and we may luckily find a nice buy which won't fun into a fortune of payments. Somebody should will us a house! I hate to think of living in a rented place for years and years, but millions of New Yorkers do that very thing.

21 March 1948, Sunday

Have to go to sleep now as tomorrow is my first day of work and I need to get up before 7:00 in order to get there by 8:30; it does feel nice to be starting out on a job after all these years of school.

22 March 1948, Monday

My first day at work is now completed and it was indeed an energy exhausting time. I just sat around most of the time waiting for something to be done. Had to sign a lot of forms; fill out an application for loyalty test; declare my dependents; and so forth and so on. I was half asleep most of the morning as I am not used to getting up so early. On the subway, I saw a new type of commuters--the ones who do manual labor and have to start work at 8:00 and not the office type I have been seeing up to now. It takes me just an hour to get to work. I was signed into the V.A. setup along with several others, and we got lectures on all of the benefits like Credit plan and Blue Cross Hospitalization. Employees earn 26 days per year vacation time, but under the hospital setup the personnel are not allowed to use up more than 10 days per summer vacation. The rest of the time is accumulated along with sick leave for emergencies. I don't know whether to ask for my vacation when Yuriko is up in Connecticut or when she goes to the hospital for delivery, but we have lots of time to think about that. I hope that there will not be any retrenchment before my first year is finished as I am only on probationary appointment and the newest member of the Social Service Department.

Miss Loeb will be my immediate supervisor and she seemed to be a nice person, a Southerner. She was so interested in my past work record in the WRA camp that she asked if I would give a talk in one of the staff conferences soon, and in order to get off to a good start I consented. She was very much impressed by my connections with the UC study and that certainly has been a good recommendation. She kept telling me to take it easy, and then would be bringing me more data to read. She said that I could look over some of the stuff tomorrow. I met a number of the staff but could not remember all of their names as there were too many new things facing me today: Mr. Rogers, Mr. Oliver, Mr. Winneck?, Miss Orlich?, Mrs. Doedeck, Miss Hunt, Miss Wilson.

On Wednesday I will get my first ward: the Genito-Urinary Ward and next week

22 March 1948, Monday

I will have a Dermatology ward. They are just words to me right now and I don't know much about the work which is done there. It seems to be an emphasis upon practical social service, which suits me fine. The five medical schools in NYC send graduate students to train there so that the relationships with the doctors are apparently good. I only saw a small fraction of the hospital setup as there are a number of buildings, but the equipment is of the best. I went to lunch with part of the staff and the half hour period was extended to one hour so that they are not too strict about that for the professional workers. The only thing is that 15 latenesses makes one liable to discharge. We don't have to sign in or out but the gate closes at 8:30 in the morning. I think that I am "going to like it fine" as Miss Loeb says. She doesn't want me to strain myself the first week as she says that I will be bewildered and I don't doubt that. One of the things I like best is that the staff quit at five and they don't have to do a lot of work at night in order to catch up, although Miss Hunt said that this might be necessary right at the beginning. I know that I was worn out by the time I left the hospital this afternoon, and the temperature reading of 73 degrees did not help much.

It is still too early to tell how things will be but I have the feeling that I will be able to make the adjustments and find the work interesting. There is a mental hygiene clinic there which I would eventually like to get into. The Social Service Department has a system of tour of duty in different types of social work wards so that we get a well rounded experience and there are a number of different kinds of staff meetings going on each month. For the first day, I found it stimulating and it seemed a lot like the first day in field work training in a new setting--the big difference is that I will get paid for it. It will take a while to adjust to getting up by seven in the morning, but it should not be too difficult now that spring is here. It was a good thing that Yuriko made

22 March 1948, Monday

me set two alarms last night as I did not hear the first one and I would have slept right through. Now that the company is not going to Europe it makes me feel very good that Yuriko will be home to take care of me. She thinks that I should eat breakfast, but I would rather sleep the extra few minutes. I only hope that the work up there does not get too heavy so that I won't have the time to do some reading as I would like to keep abreast of the latest developments in my field of work.

Yuriko had a surprise dinner--steak--for me when I got home, with other fancy things like pig's feet. She also had a picture of a schoolboy discarding cap and gowns for business suit, and she gave me a present of two silk ties in honor of my completing school at long last. Yuriko relaxed today as she was tired from our continuous social activities last week. After this, we plan to do things much more moderately and leisurely so that she will not get worn out. Lately, Yuriko has been having an enormous appetite but she hasn't gained too much weight as far as I can see. She goes to the doctor again next week for another checkup. She hasn't been having any pains or anything except for a slight twinge around the lower heart section, which might be due to the fact that the heart enlarges during pregnancy. It's too bad that we did not get in Blue Hospitalization Plan sooner as it would have saved over \$100 in hospital payments for maternity. However, we can join in a couple of months and we definitely will take out a policy.

23 March 1948, Tuesday

My second day at field work was not as exhausting as the first; I still have to time the subway correctly as I can make it in one hour. Some of the feeling of newness and strangeness has worn off. The other workers have been nice and they try to make me feel as much at home as possible. Already I can see that there are several cliques and factions in the office and I don't want to get involved during the time I am making my initial adjustments in there. Mrs. Boedeck, the girl in the same office room with me seems to be the eager beaver of the group and I can sense that the others do not care for her too much as she works too hard. She does seem to be a bundle of nervous energy as she was busy from the moment that she came in until I left, and I think she planned to work this evening. She has her lunch alone and takes some of her office work with her. One of the girls said it was because her husband was not meeting Mrs. B's basic needs! It seems that the other workers don't like her because she works so many hours overtime and they do not believe that social workers should do that because that is why it is difficult to get standards up. There is a great deal in that. There are a couple of unions among employees of the V.A. but I don't know which the social workers are connected with, if any.

Miss Loeb, my supervisor, continued to be very nice. With a stick of candy in her hand, she took me on the tour of the hospital and I only saw a little part of the vast place. The hospitals occupy 30 acres of land with the four or five buildings. The place used to be a Catholic orphanage but the V.A. bought and converted the place after the first WW. The occupational therapy program there is quite a remarkable project, and it was quite a sight to see the legless vets learning how to use new muscles so that they can eventually go out and earn their own living. The hospital is a general center for cancer and other specialized services for most of the Eastern states and the patients get the best of medical and psychiatric care. It made me feel very peculiar when I saw a

23 March 1948, Tuesday

legless vet in his chair reading the Daily News which had screaming headlines about getting tough with Russia and how we should deal with the Italian elections. The vet said to his friend: "We should drop a bomb on Moscow, that will take care of them." Even those who lost the most by the recent war are susceptible to the increasing war propaganda. The UN just doesn't seem to have much chance to function for peace anymore, but I still have hopes. I don't think I could support Truman after some of the militaristic remarks he has been making lately so that leaves me little choice.

I read a few case records today, and I think that I will be able to handle the work adequately. It promises to be stimulating and interesting. Tomorrow I go to my ward and start taking over. It still is a bewildering process to get oriented, but I feel a bit more at home now that I have found the canteen to drop down into for a breather once or twice a day. Miss Loeb suggests that I use the library while I have a chance as she said that I should just take it easy the first week.

Yuriko said she phoned Mrs. Matsumoto today, and that she is willing to take Mrs. M. in. I have to phone tomorrow for further arrangements.

The Europe deal for the company is definitely off. I think we shall go to bed real early in order to get a good rest. Now that I am working, I can't keep such late hours!

24 March 1948, Wednesday

Another day of sitting around the office and just reading. It is giving me a mild anxiety as I want to get started and the longer I don't get started, the more difficult I might get to think the job is. The staff takes things pretty leisurely, except for Mrs. Boeback who has severe anxiety and she even works nights here. Not even the supervisors do that! Apparently, this generates a lot of ill will from the other workers since it might reflect upon their own interest in the job. I have found out that there are factions within the staff most of it directed against Mrs. Boedeck. I am in the same office with Mrs. Boedeck and the way she bustles around makes me wonder what is expected of me. Mrs. Rosenbaum came in while Mrs. B. was out and gave me the "low down" about the feeling re: Mrs. B. and how to react to the supervisor. There is a strong feeling against process recording as the workers are too pressed to spend a lot of time writing up detailed cases for pursual of the supervisors. The doctor's don't want long records so that brief ones are made for him separately and the workers feel that this is about all they can do and that their case work skills will come out in the actual handling of case situations. But the supervisors want long records in order to keep track of what workers are doing. So I think that I will probably be caught in the middle until I learn my way around. I will probably benefit from the supervision for quite a while and Miss Loeb seems to be helpful so I don't mind at all. I have received some hints that Miss Loeb is not such a hot supervisor, rather unsure of herself and Mrs. R. believes that she has a lot more experience. Mrs. R. is a very nice girl and I think that she really was trying to give me a clear picture. While she was talking Mrs. Boebeck came back and gave her a dirty look. When Mrs. R. for her office, Mrs. Boebeck said, "What did that Ball of Fire have to say." I said nothing in general. The phone is right next to my desk and Mrs. B. practically shouts in it all the day long and it is rather uncomfortable so some of the other workers have suggested that I ask to be moved to Dr. Deliver's office since he is leaving for a downstairs office, and then I would be in with Dr.

24 March 1948, Wednesday.

Winnick who said he would be glad to have me in with him. I sort of hesitate to make such a request because Mrs. B. and her circle might take it personally. I suppose this sort of thing is one of the difficulties of Federal Civil Service and I don't want to be involved in anything but be friendly with all the workers until I get a chance to determine objectively about these matters. It doesn't appear to be a serious situation, but uncomfortable for a new worker.

Miss Loeb asked if I could give a talk on social service in the relocation camps and resettlement period on April 14 when there is a group staff meeting. The other workers said that they felt sorry for me because I was put on the spot and that I shouldn't have been asked that much right in the beginning. The workers seem to be pretty protective about one another, which is a healthy sign. The rest of the day, I slipped into the library and just read. However, when I got home I was worn out. It still is going to take time to get adjusted to regular work hours. Tomorrow I go to the wards.

Yuriko is very tired from her teaching. She says that the Europe trip is on again, but it will be in August 25! I doubt it. I phoned Matsumoto re: Mrs. M. and Yuriko will make further plans with him tomorrow.

25 March 1948, Thursday

I didn't get so worn out at work today; still in the process of orientation and taking it easy. I went down to the library part of the day and just browsed around among the medical books. Also went to the medical rehabilitation section and the director showed me around. It seemed to be a terrific program, the way that handicapped veterans are taught new skills. Mr. Oliver took me to the Genito-urinary ward which I am taking over from him and I got a quick introduction into the set up of my work. Some of the V.A. doctors are not too good in cooperating with social service and others are excellent so it remains to be seen how it works out for me. I observed a bit more of the staff reactions to the setup; some of them are more enthusiastic than others. Those who have permanent appointments feel more secure than those who are not. Then there are the various personality differences, but most of the staff seem to be well organized. There seems to be a concensus of feeling about Mrs. Boebeck but I must admit that she has been nice to me despite her expenditure of nervous energy in her work. I heard some guarded comments about Miss Loeb, the supervisor, but I am not sure how the staff reacts to her. It seems that there is a sort of disillusionment about being in Federal Civil Service and very few of the workers speak of it in terms of a career for an extended period of time. Since social service is relatively new in V.A. not many of the workers have been there for over a year or so. Some are very recent appointments, as recent as two months -- excluding myself. There seems to be some sort of a split between the medical ward workers and the mental hygiene group. I really haven't had time to evaluate things, but I tell everyone that I am interested and stimulated by the prospects of being there and that I expect to get a lot out of the experience, and maybe it is just what I want for a long time period. There is no way that anyone can predict these things. A new worker naturally looks at the brighter side of things! One of the things which I will have to study about upon is medical diagnosis as I know very little about it and I will have to have a surface acquaintance in order to be able to discuss patients with doctors.

25 March 1948, Thursday

supposed to be the size of a tennis ball, eyelids open. Yuriko just hasn't had any of the symptoms connected with maternity thus far. She went to the dentist and she may have to have extensive work done on her teeth, but outside of that, she hasn't suffered one single pang. She feels more tired than usual, but that is all. I was saying in passing that I read that a mother should not wean a child too soon because cow's milk is for calves, and mother's milk is for babies -- and that it may have some psychological influence if weaning comes too quickly. I was referring generally to the concept of maternal rejection. My comment struck a responsive note in Yuriko and she said that she thinks that we are going to have many arguments about Baby because I will say that she is not doing things according to the books. I tried to pacify her, but she was in one of those most unpredictable moods when she quietly determines to be contrary just for the hell of it and the more I say, the deeper I put my foot into it. When I see those signs, I usually drop it because it could become an argument and we have avoided such things in our 18 months or more of marital life so far.

I guess I have to be more careful about what I say I read in books because Yuriko doesn't like it and she interprets that I think she is not qualified for infant care. That is not my intention at all; it is just that I am interested in knowing as much as possible so that we can be prepared for the great responsibility we are going to assume with Baby's arrival. Yuriko realizes that, but she has to put up a defensive against accepting everything I say (from books) too quickly because that may lead to personal criticism of her child rearing technique. To that extent, she certainly is justified and I told her that I had full confidence in her and that I only meant that we should try to do as much as possible for a child by being prepared as best as we could. Yuriko said she already has planned that the child will have good dental care and that I need not fear that it will become neurotic if it is weaned too soon as she could make up by giving it a sense of security in an all around way. That I do not doubt;

25 March 1948, Thursday

Mrs. Baum is leaving the office tomorrow as she is pregnant and the staff gave a party for her at 4:00 this afternoon. It was one of those stilted affairs in which nobody felt too comfortable and things seemed to be a bit forced. For me, it was not too easy because I don't know the people too well yet and there wasn't much I could say as they talked about past experiences. They tried to include me in but I didn't have too much to go on. On top of that the party was capped off when the present was dropped and some of the stones fell out of the pin given as a going away present. One of the girls said it made her feel like it was such a cheap present! I think that generally I am going to like the group very much as they have been quite friendly in trying to get me to feel at home. I suppose I won't really feel comfortable until I get well started in the work. Once that is done, I shall be able to relax more easier and not feel so new and strange. In some ways, it is harder because this is the first job experience for me in social work; on the other hand, I am supposed to have some maturity to balance that off. Anyway it is added up, it means that a new job situation always takes some time to get adjusted into and that is the normal situation. Four or five of the workers are beginning to call me by my first name so that is some progress. In order to be happy in any job setting, I think that the most important thing to do is to first get along with the co-workers--assuming that one is qualified for the work.

Yuriko cooked a wonderful stew dinner this evening, and she is now shopping at the stores (open Thurs. evenings) for material. She is anxious to finish a dress she is making for Helen L. She said that she is not going to charge for labor since Helen's sister had a paralytic stroke and the doctor and hospital bill is making things difficult financially for Helen. Yuriko always is very considerate of others, unselfish and generous.

It is/very <sup>this</sup> trait which should make me realize that I need not have any worry about Yuriko being properly equipped to take care of Baby. Baby is now

25 March 1948, Thursday

however, I feel that there may be a problem for Yuriko after the child is born insofar as the time for weaning. It is related to the time lost from her dancing career, and if nine months of pregnancy has to be extended by another 9 months before weaning, it means a year and a half away from dancing. Naturally that is a very threatening thought to contemplate and I wasn't too tactful in thrusting it at her out of the clear sky because I know that these situations will be handled when the time comes. I don't harbor any thoughts that Yuriko will be so resentful of offspring for tying her down that it will result in the loss of security for the child; but at the same time, it will be a real problem for her. We hope to be able to work this out in time and perhaps we can arrange for some sort of infant care so that Yuriko will not have such a long break, but in the long run, it seems wise to have her think of this now so she won't be full of conflict later on.

26 March 1948, Friday

I had a pleasant morning in the library listening to some wonderful classical recordings. I went down to look at some medical books on skin diseases and cancer but got sidetracked after a while. I got my first case on the cancer ward and will start on it next week. In talking to Miss Loeb about it, she mentioned that quite a few workers are afraid to go into that ward because they fear it. I wondered how they could do case work if they had attitudes like that and yet expected to help the patient stricken with it. I had quite a conversation with Miss Loeb on things in general and she is so anxious that I get to like the work. As I see things now, I think that I will enjoy the experience very much. Many of the other workers are disillusioned because they don't think they will ever get any place financially, but this is just the start of my career and I don't have doubts like that now. I got a hint of the fact that in some of the wards it is difficult to get the doctors to use social service, and my ward is one of those. Miss Loeb has been telling me a lot of the administrative setup and this afternoon she asked me to write up a memo on how a new worker might get oriented into social service so I whipped up something in a hurry. She seems to like me very much so I think that the work relationships might be profitable and I can gain from her supervision. She doesn't impress me as a threatening person, but I have noticed that she is insecure in some ways. She has only been a supervisor for a year. She told me today that she used to be a teacher, and she got her social work training in the south. She kept telling me that I have had some interesting experiences and that I impress her as a capable and well rounded person so that I should learn a lot. I gave her the old charm as there is nothing like getting off to a good start with the supervisor!

In riding home with Al Winnick on the subway this evening, he told me that the staff has nicknamed Miss Loeb "Smiley." He says that she has to be taken in stride; that she is insecure and really does not know how to supervise too well so picks on little things during the conferences. In addition, other workers, Mrs. Rosenbaum in particular, knows a lot more about casework. In addition,

26 March, 1948, Friday

Miss Bizzelli used to be a supervisor there but got downgraded because she could not handle the job. This is part of the insecurity of civil service. He advised neither to get too aggressive or too passive but strike a happy medium in conference and I would get along fine. He feels sorry for Loeb and she is a lonesome person but doesn't like her as a supervisor. Nobody seems to like Mrs. Boebeck either. Such intrigues going on! Everyone has treated me nicely and they go out of their way to be friendly. Mrs. Rosenbaum, Mrs. Auerbach, Miss Wilson and Miss Decker seem to be the personality gals in the office. Bob Oliver is going to the out-patient unit downstairs so that there will be just Al and myself to represent the males upstairs. I asked if I could move into that office and Miss Loeb said it was agreeable. This was a good compromise for the rest of the girls as they didn't want any of the others to get in with Al but they could accept me! Al is the popular one in the office. He was telling me that he used to be in personal work and thinks that he might go into counselling as it pays better. He is an only son and he has a mother in Brooklyn whom he visits twice weekly because she has a strange disease of the feet and may soon become completely bedridden. He wishes that he were not an only son now. I suggested that one of these days he come to dinner with his wife, and he said he would be glad to do that when it can be arranged. The end of my first week of official duty on the job finds me getting oriented to the setup and I am ready to get busy now. I am beginning to know the workers much better and call them by their first names. It is pretty important to get along with the co-workers. A Miss Carter is coming in next week and she is supposed to be a very attractive colored girl. From what I hear, the social service department is really getting started now as the past few years have been more in the nature of laying the foundations.

- - - - -

We don't know what has happened to Bette as she hasn't taken the step to get in touch with us after our invitation and we don't know if we should try again or wait for her. Maybe we will make the move.

26 March, 1948, Friday

Such pride I am developing in my role of prospective father! I have told all at the office about it already and they are starting to express some curiosity about seeing this wonderful creature I have married. Mrs. Baum, the girl who quit yesterday because of coming pregnancy, asked if Yuriko vomited yet. I said she had not gone through this stage at all. She said that that meant that Yuriko was most likely a very secure person since there was a psychogenic factor involved since many mothers vomited because it was symbolical of trying to get rid of the foetus! I guess I am a very lucky person. Yuriko takes such nice care of me and she has not been tempermental in the least. She was saying this evening that if she gets a bit cranky, "don't get upset because I can't help it -- it is pregnancy." Then she goes and cooks a fine dinner and makes me feel most comfortable even though she is tired from her day's activities. Nothing much is happening at the studio these days now that the furore of the Europe trip has died down. Pearl has definitely lost her Broadway show contract and she is mad because she has to draw unemployment compensation now!

Yuriko made final plans regarding her mother. Charley will drive us up two Sundays from now and Rev. M. will go along and we will arrange to get Mrs. M. out of the hospital. Then we will have to get busy on Douglas for sure to turn that money over to Mrs. M. Yuriko just doesn't have a streak of meanness or harshness in her so that she doesn't like to have a scene with him. I don't either but it has to be done. Yuriko can get stubborn at times, but to me she is most understanding. Sometimes I irritate her because of my knowing way of saying things but she never blows up. She always says later on that what I said might be valid. I think that she is much more intelligent than I am. Certainly she has a more outgoing personality and a greater sense of personal security, plus a more wholesome character. That's why she need not feel at any disadvantage due to difference in academic education. I have to develop a better tact in telling her things with understanding so that it will not cause her to resent it emotionally and I think

26, March 1948, Friday

that this is not a big problem since things have worked out fine so far. Yuriko has the attributes to be an excellent mother so that she doesn't have to read books. If we go too much by the books we might bring up a neurotic child. The essential thing is for parents to get along so that the child can have sufficient love and security, and to use book learning wisely and with discrimination. Merely relying on books for infant rearing is no solution in itself, but it has to be tempered with a sound foundation on the part of the parents. We still haven't thought of a possible name.

27 March 1948, Saturday

Such a busy day it was in getting the house cleaned up and shopping. We did not have to buy as much as we thought we needed because Kenny and Kimi said they could not come for dinner, but hoped to drop in later on. We got about \$12 worth of stuff and managed to consume the greater part of it during the course of the evening. With such high prevailing prices, it really was not too much. Yuriko cooked a very tasty and bountiful dinner, and when Warren, Betty and Dave arrived, they pitched in with great appetities and for the rest of the evening we were all munching on things.

We had a nice relaxing evening, talking mostly about pregnancy, Warren's future, and Hawaii. Dave goes to the Geo. Wash. U. in Washington DC, a vet, only 22, and thrilled by Truman's get tough policy with Russia. Warren has been teaching him some of the facts of life. He comes from one of the family of new rich in Hawaii during the war. He is Mormon and Warren has been teaching him to drink and smoke, but Dave thinks that is going too far. He seemed to be such a naive young boy, yet he saw combat. He left for a JACL dance after dinner.

Yuriko told Warren and Betty that she was expecting also and they were so happy with the news. We don't want to spread this news around because we want to surprise my family at the last minute. Warren said that he really didn't want to start his family until after he got out of school. He gets his M.A. next month. He is still in considerable conflict about the Hawaii business but he seems to be over a barrel now and he probably will go. He said that he is going to try and get a job teaching in some college as this will enable him to stay here. He has no other alternative if he doesn't land a job. Warren recognizes that it will not be very helpful for his own family life if he goes to live with in-laws. But Betty is very set on the idea and she puts all sorts of pressures upon him. She seems to be excessively attached to her mother from some of the things she said. Her mother is going to send them \$1000 so that they can buy a one way ticket there via plane. Warren feels that he will never get away

27 March 1948, Saturday

once they go to Hawaii, but Betty said that they can leave after two years and go to California and build a home as her mother wants to go there. It didn't seem like too realistic a plan since she didn't consider very much about what Warren will do about his job future. He talked around this quite a bit, but it always seemed to go back to the point that Betty has a tight economic hold upon him. Warren said that he never had any money before so he doesn't worry so much about it, but it will be a problem if he doesn't have some sort of a job security and has a child to be responsible for. Betty wants to have another child right away after the first and she says that her family has money so Warren need not worry about it, that her mother will buy them a home, etc. This is the biggest problem which Warren will have to work out--getting tied body and soul by a mother in law. I just commented that he should live on the other side of town if he did go to Hawaii.

Betty and Warren also told about Kenny's attitude about having a child. Mimi would like to have one very much, but Kenny is afraid to because he is not secure yet. He is now thinking of studying for a Ph.D. degree, but that seems to be a sort of escape. I don't think he is too happy in his present job. Warren has had debates with him on Wallace issue, but Kenny is still ADA. He has ulcers now, from excessive worrying no doubt. Plans to go to California, or may be even Hawaii, as he still feels socially isolated in NYC.

28 March 1948, Sunday

The spring weather didn't cooperate for Easter as it was cold and cloudy. Yuriko got up at 10:00 this morning to phone Rhoda about plans for the day and when she returned she started to wash the accumulation of dishes from last night. I kept very quiet in the bedroom, pretending that I was still sound asleep. After a while my conscience began to bother me and I could not sleep so I lit a cigarette. When the lighter clicked shut, I could have kicked myself because I thought Yuriko would hear it and call for my assistance in the dishwashing. But nothing happened, so I felt uneasy. After another half hour, I finally got up and very sleepily asked, "What are you doing darling?" Yuriko burst out with a laugh, "You are so funny. As if you didn't know I was doing all the dishes. I heard you light that cigarette, silly." I kept quiet!

Rhoda and Lamar came over about 1:00 for a waffle brunch and Yuriko served a tasty morsel. Then we started out for Prospect Park to see the cherry blossoms and look at some of the Easter finery, but it was too cold. Lamar didn't seem very anxious to walk and he preferred to go see a movie as he finds most of his amusement in movie theaters so we were dragged to see a crummy show. By the time we got home, it was time to eat dinner so that girls bustled around fixing the meal while Lamar and I sat in comfort in the front room and talked. All the while, I kept wishing that I had bought something for Easter for Yuriko as Rhoda had on a new outfit, but Yuriko only had new gloves. But I rationalized that Yuriko would prefer to having the security of a comfortable marriage without new clothes all the time than to be in Rhoda's position and have a new outfit.

Lamar still seems to be cool to the idea of getting definitely married, he blows hot and cold on the idea; and it is mostly Rhoda who wants it done for the sake of the security it might give her. She was teasing him about not being so considerate of her and he remarked that maybe one of these days he would find another girl. Rhoda was embarrassedly silent so the subject was changed. She

28 March 1948, Sunday

did make a comment about how nice it was to start a family, but this only brought a disapproving frown from Lamar as he is not able to think in such settled terms yet. He definitely has given up any ideas of leaving NYC for the immediate present as he has made some slight inroads upon a career and he believes that the promising future is somewhat closer than previously. Since Rhoda makes more money than he, Lamar obligingly allows her to pay half of the expenses when they go out to a show. Rhoda has been trying to domesticate him, but it doesn't seem to take. It is getting to be like one of those arrangements in which two people live together for the sake of sharing expenses and preventing a sense of loneliness from descending upon them. Since Rhoda is busy with the show evenings, Lamar spends most of his time rehearsing the new play which New Stages is going to produce.

At the same time, there are some slight indications that he would like to settle down if he could get established some more. This is his greatest pre-occupation as he realizes that it means his entire career and he is 27 now so that he can't go floating around aimlessly much longer. But he feels that he is not in any position to assume marital responsibilities right now, and he is content with the common law arrangement and Rhoda will have to accept it until he comes to some definite decision.

The present muddled world situation intensifies Lamar's feeling of personal restlessness and frustration. He had some lengthy comments to make about how confused he was politically because things were developing so rapidly that it was almost beyond his immediate comprehension. He said only three years ago he was bombing Germany and with the end of the war, he had the feeling that he actually was on the threshold of a brave new world so that he felt the war had been justified. But so much has happened since then to change the picture that he hardly knows what to think or believe, and he guesses that the majority of the veterans who had done any thinking at all were in the same predicament. He did not think that the worsening international situation was all one sided

28 March 1948, Sunday

and he commented that the Truman doctrine was the thing which started us off on the present cycle of rushing madly into another war. If this is accomplished, he felt that the Nazi's certainly would have the last laugh. Lamar said that he was so confused that he didn't know how to think about it clearly, and he didn't know what he could do as an individual to prevent the present trend.

I said that although one individual could not control our present foreign policy, there was still the theoretical freedom of the vote and that was why the elections this year would be most important. Lamar said that was just the trouble-- he didn't know who he could possibly vote for. He knew that he would not vote for Truman and he didn't think that any of the Republicans were worthy of consideration. To him, Wallace was an unknown quality although he believed that Wallace was politically naive. But he felt that maybe this was what was necessary because the hard boiled politicians seem to be hell bent on leading us right into another war. He said that if he were called back to active duty as a flyer, he thought he would object because the whole thing looked so senseless to him and another war was not going to accomplish anything constructive.

The thing which bothers him is: why does Communism have such a strong appeal for the masses of Europe? He said that it was hard to believe that a minority of communist forced the people to think that way without offering something which was more appealing to them than democracy. He pointed out that we have tried to sell democracy to Europe since the end of the war and it has not been very successful so that something must be lacking. He pointed out Italy as an example where the full force of the Church in a strongly religious country plus all of the resources of the greatest democratic country in the world was going to the polls against Communism next month and yet the issue was still in doubt. What did that mean? Did it mean that maybe communism did have something to offer which appealed to the common people? Did it mean that a revolutionary change was necessary--like the growth of democracy only a couple of hundred years ago?

I said that I didn't know the answer to that one, but it did seem to me that

28 March 1948, Sunday

the communists had a part of the vision for the utopian state and that democracy also had a part. So that it was not a matter of one destroying the other. It was my personal opinion that democracy need not be sold short but that there was plenty needed to be done in order to bring it closer to the theoretical ideal. I didn't think that the concept of private enterprise was inviolable and that some needed economic reforms had to be made before we could achieve a closer integration with the ideal. I felt that the present political parties were very afraid of this so in the name of democracy, it was trying to create a fear of communism to divert the public away from domestic issues. This was why I felt that a Third party movement was very healthy at the present time and that Wallace was a symbol that we had not lost the right to vote freely yet. Lamar answered that he had been thinking of this too, and he was not definitely decided in the favor of a third party but if the democrats did not come up with a decent candidate he might have no other alternative. He said that he was no crusader, but just wanted to live a decent life and work towards bettering himself, but with the political situation so bad it just added to the uncertainty. He felt that it would not be too good for the country to have a military president but was afraid that this might happen. He concluded with a shrug of his shoulder that he just couldn't make any sense out of present developments. He was like millions of others who were so immersed in the problems of trying to meet the rising cost of living, trying to get established, trying to work out personal problems that he just didn't know what was going on in the political scene and one of these days he might wake up to find that fascism or something like it was an accomplished fact. But what could he do if he had to worry about having enough money to pay the rent next week. He couldn't go out in the streets to preach for peace as he was not the type. I said it was a difficult problem since we all had to make a living but we could do little things like voting for our convictions and talking to friends like tonight. Lamar said that he was very enthusiastic about the AVC program because it was really a liberal group but he has been so busy with personal

28 March 1948, Sunday

problems in the past year that "now the communists are taking it over, and liberals who wanted to use AVC to strengthen democracy are getting to be in a minority."

I suppose the rather hopeless and disillusioned attitude which Lamar reflects is very common among millions of decent Americans who certainly don't want another war. Lamar said that he was sure that the veterans will not stand for another war right now, but since they are not very vocal they may find that the situation will get so bad that they will have no other alternative than to support it in the name of defending democracy. It is a difficult matter to try and figure out and I don't think that I have the answer any more than Lamar does. I don't think that a Federal Civil Service worker will be encouraged to support Wallace and yet I feel that he represents the only vocal voice in the name of peace. Yet it is called "appeasement of Russia." It doesn't make much sense, but neither does the present administration policies. Lamar asked, "Doesn't it worry you to think you might have a son who will have to go into the war three or four?" I said that it didn't and that I couldn't guide my life by anticipating the worst possible future for our offspring as I have hopes that democracy will have enough resiliency to bounce back from the present discouraging trends and go forward to a further development of things. I guess one can't afford to be too pessimistic of the future when family responsibilities are assumed! Warren was saying just last night that Yuriko and I had terrific confidence in ourselves and never worried much about the future. It was his theory that this is why I am having such a hard time trying to keep from getting fat and contented. I don't think that things are as easy as Warren said, but there is some truth in it. We certainly have more faith in the future than Kenny and Kimi, who are so afraid of the future and who are overanxious to play it safe in everything, very cautious and conservative--and Kenny gets an ulcer in the process. Worrying is not worth that much.

29 March 1948, Monday

I had a couple of cases today so that I feel that I am really started as a social worker in the Bronx V.A. (Hospital now! One was a very routine case referring a patient (Protestant) to the Jewish Welfare Board for a loan of money; and the other a tough case in which a chronically ill pt. is rejected by all of his relatives, but the doctors want him out of the hospital to use his bed for a more hopeful (medically speaking) case. I also discovered that my work up there has its pitfalls. Like I suspected, the doctors are not very enthusiastic about social service and they think of us in terms of soft hearted fools who meddle into their business. One consoling factor is that my ward is not typical of all of the others, so that there is hope that the doctors may be educated to better acceptance. The more cynical social workers comment that the doctors only use us because they have to according to civil service regulations. The more optimistic ones say that we are used because the doctors appreciate our real service in casework. I suppose that the truth is somewhere between the two, and I would prefer to start out thinking that there is a hopeful future in the development of my work. It has its challenging aspects and I hope to make progress. There isn't any doubt in my mind that the patients need social service because emotional problems are so closely related to their illness and they are not cured until some of their social problems are worked out with them. I guess I may have to develop my own case load as the doctors on my cancer ward just don't use social workers at all.

Many of the doctors have the concept that social workers are to be used as sort of errand boys and girls, or the last person to pass the buck to when there is an unsolvable social problem which they cannot handle. But there are a few who see things more positively and they use workers constructively in a real teamwork relationship. It is my observation that the prettier the female social worker is, the greater the chances that the doctors will be accepting of them! I don't know what the criteria would be for a male worker, but maybe

29 March 1948, Monday

there is a chance that results will be considered in deciding upon further use. My main difficulty in my cancer ward is to get a chance to do something so I can at least try for results. My first step was in making friends with Miss Chernin, the ward clerk, as she is the eyes and ears of the ward and she might refer some cases to me when she hears of them because I know now that the doctors are not very likely to. Such is the life of a social worker. As the ward clerk says: "The social worker is the lowest recognized one of the professional staff, way down here." (putting her hand one foot from the floor.) That is the lot in life of social workers, but if the patients have a higher regard for us, then I suppose it is worth it! I've never been in a setting yet where the social workers are looked up upon with esteem as professionals, but that is because of the nature of our work where we deal usually with the most deprived in our society and tend to see things in terms of their best interest even though it may run counter to what the rest of society may think in its very smug and punishing way. If this bridge can be closed just a little, then the social worker feels encouraged to go on and try some more and doesn't mind the ridicule heaped upon his work--but the ego does take a beating at times too!!

Yuriko stayed home all day, cleaned the house and arranged a drawer for my socks and underwear. Now she is bathing. She has to visit the doctor tomorrow for a checkup again.

30 March 1948, Tuesday

I finally got started with work in my ward today, I was kept busy most of the afternoon. Three of the patients I talked to had routine requests for help, but the other is a rather complicated personality problem. However, the social workers are not able to do much with these cases since the medical doctors are antagonistic to the psychiatrists in the clinic. I have discovered that this is a general situation, but that the social workers are somehow able to do a fairly effective job with little help from the doctors. The patients feel that social service gives them individualized attention and they don't get much of it from the rest of the hospital so that the word goes around in the wards. I am working in the cancer and the dermatology wards and the doctors don't appear to be very cooperative. The other workers said that the best way to operate is to depend upon the ward clerks for referrals. Some of the patients with cancer are not able to talk much so that very little casework service can be offered to them. The doctors do not tell them that they have cancer. It seems that the doctors are very inhuman but I suppose that they are rushed and overloaded so that they get immune to patients as individuals. This is the thing which gives the social worker an opportunity to give a real service. I talked to a 71 year old veteran today who was on the verge of discharge and he didn't have a cent so that I was able to help him make some plans for applying for public assistance. He had a lot of feeling about being rejected by society because of his old age and it was a relief to him just to talk it out to me and I tried to help him realize that he would still maintain his self respect even if he had to get an old age pension.

In my lunch period I am getting to know the other workers fairly well. Mrs. Boebeck is the lone wolf and she eats alone all the time because she has a neurotic need to be overwhelmed by her work constantly and she keeps telling her patients how much she does so they will appreciate her. I share the same

30 March 1948, Tuesday

office with her so I can't help overhearing what she says, and it will be a relief when I can move in with Al Winick in another week or so. About five or six of us usually eat in Al's office: Bob Oliber, Mildred Auerback, Gertrude Rosenbaum, Sally Hunt, Miss Decker, I don't know the other workers too well as I never see them much even though we are in the same office. Those I have gotten to know seem to be very nice and I am getting along well with them. None of them seem to like Miss Loeb very much, but they respect Mrs. Thirwall the chief supervisor.

Yuriko went to the doctor today and was told that Baby was coming along fine, but that she needed to take a nap in the afternoon. Yuriko has been teaching reduced schedule, but she still has not gained the weight she should. She only weighs 95 pounds now. Baby will be small when it arrives. Charlotte Trowbridge is very excited about news and feels we will never regret it. She says that she will give us a bassinette and other things. She says for Yuriko not to listen to what others say about what to do, just listen to the doctor. Charlotte has a baby herself recently so is temporarily retired from her job at the Museum of Modern Art as an artist or something. Thinks that we will have a cute baby. I told Yuriko that I hope it won't take after my looks as she is far better looking, but Yuriko says that I just don't appreciate myself as much as she does. She has to go to the dentist tomorrow. I cooked dinner tonight, very tasty too.

31 March 1948, Wednesday

The work pace is picking up by slow degrees and I had a mildly active day today. Worked on two cases, one of them might become fairly complicated. Most of the work so far has been helping patients get cigarettes and things like that but I am getting a few family problems now along with some emotional components to illness. In discussing how I used Jewish Welfare Board with Miss Loeb, she made a point of it by hinting that only Jewish patients should get this service. It seems that she has a lot of unresolved feelings about the fact that she is of Jewish descent. She has a habit of getting into discussion on these things which are not closely related to the case, and other workers have told me that it is because she is very insecure in her position as supervisor. Gertrude thinks that Loeb is "nuts" and "almost paranoid" about the fact of being Jewish and this has created some uncomfortable feeling between the two. Gertrude said that the best thing to do is to avoid personal discussion during conference as it will only get involved. The reason Bob Oliver is moving downstairs is because he cannot get along with Loeb. Mildred said that Loeb also has brought up the Jewish question with her once and that it was her impression that she has a terrific need to be supported emotionally. It is a good point not to get too involved personally with Leeb, but there is a lot which can be learned from her about mechanical details and casework skills.

Mildred asked me if I would be interested in joining the union today, and I said that I would. Not all of the workers belong because of the recent scare over the loyalty business among federal employees. I don't know why I ever had a twinge of inner hesitation because I believe that the union is a good idea. However, I suppose it was related to the fact that my job is not secure yet and I didn't want to unnecessarily jeopardize chances for getting a permanent rating--which seems to be the chief motivation for the non-joiners.

31 March 1948, Wednesday

But I brushed that thought aside quickly and I felt that if the workers did not stand together, they would never improve their status--even in civil service--and I don't think that Yuriko would be proud of me if I played it safe just in order to protect my salary. I can't be worried about that, not that I plan to do anything rash to encourage a bad work evaluation. The union is known to be sort of "radical" around the place, but that is a misnomer--it is just progressive. Nobody ever talks politics around the office either, but I think that Mildred and a few of the others are favorably inclined towards Wallace. I suppose that this would be considered disloyal in civil service, but we did not give up our right to free thinking on politics when we took the job.

I am finding the job much more interesting now that I have gotten started, but it is going to be a job to develop any sort of cooperation from the ward doctors. That remains to be seen. The patients who have contacted me so far have referred themselves after hearing other patients tell of the service they received, and I may have to depend upon this word of mouth referral for most of my business at first. I came home very tired so I rarely feel like typing anymore. Most of the data at work is dictated.

After work, I went to see Dr. Warner to get a blood test. She said that Yuriko was very healthy, that the fibroid was nothing to worry about but it was nice that we were starting a family now. We had quite a talk and she invited us to come and hear her give a lecture on the emotional aspects of pregnancy next month. She says Yuriko should keep active, but not to overdo it. Yuriko usually rests in the evenings, like she is doing now. She went to dentist today.