

speed

May 7, 1942
Grandstand 28 C
Konforon Assembly Center
San Bruno, Calif.

Dear Dr. Thomas,

Thanks for everything - this is just a note, in a way, to keep a promise to write tonight. Many things are happening these will be put down in a subsequent letter.

Just enjoyed a hot chili con carne with Tom and Jim one of the more pleasant things in camp today. Tom says that he will write soon. He is extremely busy with his job as block leader, but he believes it gives him good lead into the local administration setup. He is keeping up with his notes - and as usual has his "feelers" out. til later aloha.

P.S. Regards to Dr. Thomas, Virginia, Hajima, Margaret and Alice.

COPY

LETTER

Haruo Najima
Tanforan

May 9, 1942

May 9, 1942
28 C Grandstand
Tanforan Assembly Center
San Bruno, California

Dear Jean and George:

Thanks, George, for getting the checking account for me. With all the "pretty little things" running around here, I'll probably need it for refreshments, i.e., soda and candy bars. In fact I'm going to spend all of it -- in spite of your fatherly advice to me via Miss Lynn.

Tanforan is windy and cold. The horse stables converted into family homes are warmer than the new barracks set up. The former house 2-4 persons. They are the same type you see at the Sacramento Fair grounds. The barracks are about 20' x 120' divided into 3 rooms more or less. They are reserved for family units of three or more. This is not definite because changes have been made continuously in the past few days. Some families have had to move into other rooms because of this reorganization. Many of them resent it, particularly after they have put a great deal of labor into fixing the place up. Barracks are much colder than the stables. When the eaves of the stables are walled up and the cracks of the doors fixed, it's quite cozy; however, in the barracks the thin pine veneer and tarpaper offers no insulation. Furthermore, the wind whistles under the house (houses are on stilts) and up the 1/8" - 1/4" spaces between the floor boards and up through the holes cut in the roof for stove pipes. It takes "quite a bit" of blankets and rugs to "warm up" a person living in them and most of the occupants didn't bring enough of them because the regulations were to bring only necessities. Some people have sent for them by writing to friends.

The camp is equipped with laundries, showers, and latrines -- and (important) mess halls. The Assembly Center is divided up into several sections each with its mess halls, recreation rooms, etc., but they are not fully ready to be used, some cases not yet constructed and usually not well organized.

The food situation is lousy. That is in my neck of the woods. I eat in the main mess where about 3,000 have been eating. As new mess rooms open the number will probably decrease here and the quality of the food would probably become better. At least I hope so.

The idea of just being cooped up behind barbed wire fences and armed outlook towers isn't pleasant in spite of relative freedom of movement within the camps. It is maddening to watch the neon lights of San Bruno go on at night, to see lights of some city across the bay, to see people working in the fields just outside, to see cars whizzing by on the highway just feet away or on Bayshore miles to the East. After being taught and educated that freedom of expression and movement is something worth while in the schools, it is extremely difficult to accept cooping up as if it were inevitable hand of fate had thrust us here, and that we should meekly

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LETTER

May 9, 1942

Haruo Najima
Tanforan

accept that as such. The older folks are, younger kids are, and the rest of us will have to.

In this camp there is a great deal of petty jealousy of this kind or that which hinders a well-thought-of organization or plan. Planning the camp activities in itself is a tough job and this petty bickering adds to the confusion.

Regards to Mac and Mrs., to the Smiths and to Said.

Be writing again soon,

Aloha,

(signed) Najima

26 C Grandstand
Kaufman Assembly Center
San Bruno, Calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Miss Dixie Hooper
c/o Dr. Dorothy S. Therman
Gouin Foundation
Berkeley, Calif.

Copied

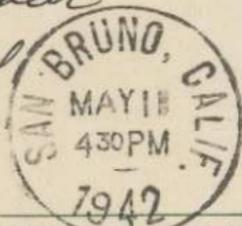
May 11, 1942

Hello Dixie,

Beginning of one day and ending of another "just happens" here at camp. Many of us are losing track of the date and the day of the week. Each ~~we~~ day is similar except Sunday when the Sunday paper (funnies) break ~~into~~ the monotone pattern of living.

We have been having 7 camp inspections by the Army. Friday we had the housing inspector. on Saturday the food inspector, one came yesterday but I haven't been able to find out who he was.
nil later.
Rajima

Najima
26 C Goodstead
Konjoran Assembly Center
San Bruno, Calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Virginia Gelbraith
To Dr. Dorothy S. Thomas
Joanna Foundation
Berkeley, Calif.

May 11, 1942

Hello Virginia, Copied

Tonforaa is no picnic, altho picnic spirit is still prevalent among its 7000 residents. Evacuees are still coming in; when that ceases and when the "center" swings into routine I can't help but feel that there will be much discontentment.

I have been on a day shift police duty which has taken up quite a bit of time. Beginning today I have changed to a night shift; it'll give me more time to catch up on my correspondence. Letters will be sent shortly.
raj.

LETTER

May 31, 1942
Barrack 14 Apt 41
Tanforan Assembly Center
San Bruno, California

Hi George (mehren)

Thanks for everything big and small. The fool in particular was appreciated altho it had to be marred by your awful domineering presence. But like all things in life the good must be taken with the bad so I shouldn't kick too much. The good food offsets your bad presence. Too bad George that you're across the Bay and you won't be able to annihilate me.

For the first time since I have been here I feel pretty good. During the first week I had stomach trouble as usual, then I came down with the Tanforan sniffles, then the induced typhoid left me in a rather dismal mood.

Everything seems o.k. now.

I propose to do something which will probably get you pretty mad. If you get "mad", the hell with you.

Since Said passed his exams, since Alex passed his departmental, and since even you have your theses finished, it's about time that I did something.

I think I am enclosing enough for Jean, Said, Alex and you to take one round of the cheapest liquor at Trader Vic's, so will you Kindly escort the above to the "proper" place.

Regards to all and so long til later,

Naj.

[Note : a five dollar bill was enclosed in the letter].

LETTER

Haruo Najima
Tanforan

June 1, 1942

Dear Jean and Butch: (Mehren)

Thanks Butch for the swell cookies which you helped your Mom make, they were delicious. The cookies were blitzed by my room mates as soon as the cover was taken off. It didn't last very long. When four hungry fellows get into food---well it just doesnt survive very long.

Just dont know what to write about, Butch, so will you kindly excuse me from making more noise.

From your letter you seemed to have had a wonderful time at Sacramento and Carmel. How were the pretty young things. I bet they just disgusted you. I bet they cooed and made great deal of funny noises, thinking that they were entertaining you. Aren't the "grown-ups" funny? You would think that they never had the chance of being young and healthy once. But shucks the people forget things as time goes by so we can't blame them if they say and do rather queer things. We have to be tolerant and broad minded.

Thanks? Jean, for the cookies. It is not within my vocabulary to say all the things which would be appropriate to say in order to thank you.

In spite of rather good treatment we get in camp here at Tanforan. Most of us want to get out. Why? It's something hard to describe. One just feels it, so to speak. We might become conditioned to it in the long run. Maybe we won't.

Just a little note to thank you, Jean, for everything you have done for me. I hope to sit down some day and write to you, Mrs. Peterson, Dr. Thomas, Miss Lynn and others, letters which I should have long ago.

Sincerely, Naj

June 3, 1942.

Stable 14 Stall #1
Toronto Assembly
San Bruno.

Dear Virginia,

It sure was swell to see you yesterday.

This morning's Chronicle stated that Fresno and Inver coarties (plus others) will be evacuated.

Could you confirm that. Do you know if Selma section (near Fresno) would be included.

My parents are there and I would like to advise them what to bring, if they are to be evacuated.

Could you ask Dr. Thomas if it would be possible to have my folks go with me to Lake Lake? There would be four of them.

Should write more but the third typhoid "shot" is making my arms ache and my head ooz. - so 'xcess play.

ps long.
rij

June 4, 1942

Dear Naj:

Thanks for writing me. It was good seeing you, pal. Really we miss you around here. And you should see the papers that have piled up since you left. The girls downstairs are clipping them now under Morton's supervision but it seems to be going awfully slowly. Maybe they're doing what we used to do--stop and read everything. 'Member?

George M. was just in the office and had a long talk with Morton on Constitution, imagine.

Yep, I'm afraid I'll have to confirm the report on the Fresno county order. It is a freezing order and so far no evacuation order, but they will be out soon. Dr. Thomas said for you to send her the age, sex, occupation of your family and she will try to see that they go to Tulelake with you. It is very possible but I don't know how probable. She'll do all she can, so don't worry.

I found that letter from DeWitt to Tolen in the Toian reports and it is being copied downstairs. I'll send it to you and To, just as soon as they give it to me.

I'm inclosing the list of our missing copies of the Neichi Bei. If you can will you ask your parents, and others who take it if they can supply any of these. Thanks, Naj.

Let me know when you leave, I'll write Tulelake next, I bet.

With affection,

June 5, 1942
Stable 14 Stall 41
Tanforan Assembly Center
San Bruno, California

Dear Virginia:

It might be quite difficult to get the back issues of the Nichi Bei from the "outside" (that is, from my folks because I think they have their hands full packing to be evacuated), but I'll try there and here at Tanforan.

I'm sending you the information which you want for Dr. Thomas on my family, but I don't know whether the family will want to go to Tule Lake even if it could be arranged if the friend who is living with them cannot also go. My parents have more or less raised him from childhood and at the present time he has taken my place ~~at~~ at Selma. If he weren't with them, I doubt if I could have come here to Tanforan with any peace of mind.

I don't know just how much "community pressure" will be put on me to go to where my parents are going. At present quite a bit has been put on me from my parents' friends and indirectly from my kibeis and nisei friends. They have been satisfied so far with my answer that if the things got worse I would go to my parents. The things have turned out to be "worse", but I don't believe I would care to go to the Assembly Center or Relocation Center where they might be sent. Just what the reaction of the community would be is uncertain, but it would probably be something quite unpleasant. It would not be just now, but after this whole mess has blown over. The Japanese community has a long memory for "deserting one's family".

I don't know the exact "vital statistics" of my folks, but I think it is as follows:

59
Y. Najima (father) 59 years. Barber
M. Najima (mother) 53 " Housewife
Dale Najima (brother) 20 years apprentice barber
(residence: 1547 W. Front St. Selma, California)

Thanks, Virginia, for every little and big thing

til later aloha.

ps. have written to my sister in Denver to find out if my parents could go there and make a living.

Camp publications

Camp Position Relocation Center
Camp Poston, Arizona
Fresno Grapevine
Fresno Assembly Center (Fresno, Calif)
Manzanar Free Press
Manzanar Assembly Center
Manzanar Calif
Marysville Arbo-Gram
Marysville Assembly Center (Marysville
Calif)
Merced Assembly Center (Merced, Calif)
Pinedale Logger
Pinedale Assembly Center
Pinedale, Calif
Center News
Pomona Assembly Center
Pomona, Calif.
Evacuazette
Portland Assembly Center
Portland, Oregon
Puyallup Assembly Center
Puyallup, Wash.
Salinas Village Crier
Salinas Assembly Center
Salinas, Calif
Santa Anita Pacemaker
Santa Anita Assembly Center
Santa Anita Calif.

najima
stable 14 stall
tanforan assembly
san bruno, calif



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Virginia Galbraith
Giannini Foundation
University of California
Berkeley, California

June 13, 1942

Mr. Clifford Kallam
Japanese Evacuees Camp
Tulelake
Modoc County, California

My dear Mr. Kallam:

I am sure you will be interested to know that Mr. H. Najima who expects to report to your camp in connection with a project of our Dr. Dorothy Thomas has had an unusual and thorough training in various aspects of agriculture. Najima has done especially good work in farm management and has given evidence of an understanding of the subject which you will undoubtedly like to use.

I am taking the liberty of calling to your attention Najima's name with the thought that you may like to seek him out following his arrival in order to make full and good use of his talents. Of our many Japanese students I feel that Najima gives evidence of a rather full understanding of the American way of life.

I recall with much pleasure my visit with you when in the Tulelake country and plan a return trip in September. Perhaps we can get together at that time for another interesting discussion.

Cordially yours,

R. L. Adams
Professor of Farm Management

RLA:rj

cc: Dr. Dorothy Thomas

Stockton El Joaquin
Stockton Assembly Center
Stockton, Calif.

Tulare News

Tulare Assembly Center
(Information Bulletin)

TuleLake Relocation Center
Tulelake Calif.

Tume

Turlock Assembly Center

Turlock, Calif.

Walerga W^Asp

Walerga Assembly Center

Walerga, Calif

Pacific Citizen

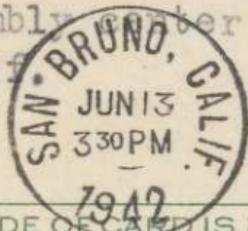
415 Beason Bldg.

25 E. Second South Street

Salt Lake, Utah

najima

najima
stable 14 stall 41
tanforan assembly center
san bruno, calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Miss Virginia Gabraith
giannini foundation
universty of california
berkeley, calif.

May 14, 1942

Mr. Harold Najima
Grandstand 260
Tanforan Assembly Center
San Bruno, California

Dear Naj:

I read the letter that you wrote to George. I know that things are going pretty hard for the time being, but try to continue in your well known patient and intelligent way, for I am sure some of the mess will straighten out shortly.

If I can get clearance with Mr. Eisenhower, I will be able to go ahead with my project and there will be certain things I shall want you to do for me. I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum I have written. Maybe this will give you some clues. Also I have you very definitely in mind in regard to your agricultural abilities, and as soon as I possibly can, I shall try to use influence so that these abilities will not go to waste.

Let me know if there is anything you want.

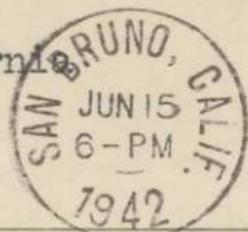
With very cordial regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy S. Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology

DST:rj
Enc.

najima
stable 14 stall 41
tanforan tracks
san bruno, california



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



miss virginia galbraith
giannini foundation
University of ~~california~~
berkeley, california

June 15, 1942

Dear Virginia,

Am still here at Tanforan.

Tom left yesterday at 4:00 PM will or rather, have arrived in Klamath at 8 this am.

Camp is having a pretty lively political campaign for the election of the five councilmen. Isseis are taking more interest in the whole campaign than the niseis. It is interesting to watch the political cliques maneuver into position for the kill on Tuesday. The following song put the censor on the Talent Show.

"Tanforan you are all they say
With your barracks cold and food
that's hm-- hm---

Tanforan you were ~~once~~ a track
Suckers laid their bets and hopped
up nags ran around

I've seen the change in Tanforan
Tho the ho~~r~~ses gone They've
left their odorous memories

And tho I'm always tired and hung
While the house managers -----
(fill in with names) go around
full and happy

But I'm getting to like my Tanforan
(music ~~is~~ Tangerine)
Plenty happening here but difficult
to get the connections.

til later,

naj

June 17, 1942
Stable 14 Stalls 41
Toufaran Assembly
San Bruno

Dear Virginia

Find it very difficult to locate issues of the
missing Nieli Bei.

Councilmen elected last night. Those appealing
to the issue notes were in every case except in
possibly one. (5), even in ~~this~~ ^{this} case issue notes
were very high. Some these recorded.

Sending the last copy of Doko.

Regards.

Sincerely
hj.

P.S. have collected some songaigi posters will send
them in.

Dear Virginia

Tuesday 4:45

Just got my walking papers for Iver.
Leaving Thursday afternoon some time 10¹⁵ am.
Will miss Dr. Thomas if she is returning
Thursday evening for Berkeley.

til later
Naj.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Miss Virginia Galbraith
Gionnini Foundation
University of California
Berkeley.