

Dec. 27, 1943

Dearest Hiro,

Well, here it is the day after Xmas; we missed you so much, and hope you had a nice holiday. No doubt you were busy with programs, etc. I'm feeling much better now, just have a slight backache, but have more pep. We've had so many visitors that I haven't been able to stay in bed and rest enough; but I think I'm getting better as the days go by.

I think I last wrote you on the 20th. On that day I got your package from Shelby, which later turned out to be a beautiful red bag; just what I needed; with the nicest card enclosed in it. Mrs. Legasca the Public Health nurse here, who is a friend of mine came to bathe Jane for me; she had an awful case of heat rash; and she thought it would be better to wash her off, so I got a lesson in how to bathe babies; it's been so long since Peter, I really was afraid to handle her. I had stacks of visitors that day: Horace, (I donated \$5.00 to the Church for Xmas); V. Ladys, Grace, Mrs. Yoneda, Mrs. Sampei, Mrs. Kang, Chabo and his sister. On that day our blackout hours changed from 10:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. that means we can have all our lights on till 10 p.m. and also that enemy aliens can go out till 10; poor Obachan though has no place to go.

On the 21st, Kiyo came over and brought her baby scales for me to use. Horace came again, he had received the wire you sent to the Church, and he was so impressed. I received a package from Beth and Bob Crowell from Seattle, which later turned out to be full of Xmas gifts for all of us, including Jane. Mrs. Suzuki came later; she and Jiro have been getting my mail for me at the P.C. post office every day, and have been swell. I got Jane's birth registration notice from the Bd. of Health, and also Dr. Sakimoto's bill which, believe it or not was only \$35.00! I plan to pay him in January; I wish you would also write him a letter to thank him; his address is: Dr. Richard Y. Sakimoto, 308 Dillingham Bldg. Honolulu. Considering the fancy delivery I had and all the personal attention he gave me, he practically did the delivery for nothing. I'm to go back to see him with Jane about Feb. 1st.

On the 22nd, Nancy Uchigaki Sasaki came and brought me a gift. She said that Tsugio is still ill; they have changed doctors again, and are testing him for different allergies now. By the way, you will be bowled over to know that Consuelo Barcelona and Dr. Ted Casey of the plantation hospital were married last weekend! It's the talk of the town now; you know what the complications will be like in such a community! I mailed out birth announcements to some of our friends; Takayo came over, so I had her take them to the post office. I got a card from Alice in Cinn. telling us they had heard from you about Jane. Got \$2.00 worth of defense stamps from Kamejiu for Peter and Jane; also your mother sent the same. Got a baby gift from Pat Stuart in S.F. of a sweater; also a baby gift from the Kenneth Masuoka's in Paia. Later Grace came; Mrs. Dickson called. They have moved; will send you their address later. They sent Peter a Xmas present; I sent them a box of candy.

On the 23d, Kiyo came over; she went shopping for me and brought some groceries from Ewa. Rev. Tamura came and brought Jane a gift; he is very enthused about the work among the issei in Waipahu; has over a 100 people in his congregation every Sunday now; he feels that if you were here, together you could do big things. Mae and Noboru came later and brought gifts; Grace went shopping for me and got my mail. Received two letters from you dated the 15 and 16th. Peter was kind of let down you sent the stamps for Jane, but he snapped out of it. He is gradually getting used to her; has moments of strong affection for her, when he wants to carry her, kiss her, handle her, etc. Then too moments of unconcern. Michiko came later; Mr. Mikami of Waipahu Garage came with gifts in the evening; his wife had another baby girl two months ago, I didn't know anything about it; he's so disappointed, as he wanted a boy so badly. When I'm able to get around I'll call on her and take something to the baby. Got a Xmas card from Eiko in N.Y.C.



On the 24th Mrs. Shimomura came over and brought a baby gift, some eggs and cabbage. Grace came; Peter went to Dickie's to play, and later went to the Suzuki's at 3 to a Xmas party they had for the kids. Mrs. Komuro, James and Mary and baby came; they were here to spend the holidays with the folks; the baby is 8 months old now, and is a whopper. Looks like a Komuro. Sent their regards to you. Then Charlie Stillman dropped in and brought Jane a lovely blanket; he has quit the dept. and is opening a photo studio in Wahiawa with another fellow soon. Mrs. Takayasu and Aiko came and brought gifts and a laying hen for Peter. We put it with our hen, and did they fight, so we have her in another pen now. Baron Goto and wife dropped in with a gift. Then Eddie, Shinso, Daisy and a very attractive girl Miss Nakanishi (Shinso's date) came by, all dolled up. They were going to the Tavern to make whoopee. First to Kazu's for preliminaries. They brought out gobs of gifts for us; Shinee gave Peter and Jane each \$10.00 worth of defense stamps, not to mention gifts for obachan and me. He also brought about a lovely orchid which he got at your request; he couldn't get the roses you ordered to be sent to the hospital, so substituted. The hospitals are very strict now about flowers being sent, and will only allow a bouquet a day per patient and then it has to be in a container. Shortage of help, accounts for this ruling. So it seems that your idea of rose a day couldn't be worked out. Eddie said his brother Fred thinks a lot of you. Fred is very much enamored with a girl from L.A. name Yukako Nakagawa and is thinking of marrying her. Of all coincidences she is the daughter of Mrs. Nakagawa the former Japanese school teacher who lived near you in Boyle Heights. Mr. N. is some relative. Rev. Sokabe's; and Mrs. N. is Daisy's aunt! It seems that Daisy wrote to Fred and told him to go up to Chicago on his furlough to meet this gal; it was a case of love at first sight; so Eddie thinks you will be asked in the near future to perform a wedding ceremony! Talk about having things within the family! Later Jimmy Liu came by and brought gifts; Kiyo came and brought gifts.

On Xmas day Peter could hardly wait till we finished breakfast to open his gifts; he only got 41 presents! While we were opening them Mrs. Kito came over crying; ~~kit-~~ it seemed that Achan's condition had got worse and she asked me to call Dr. Yamamoto in town to see if he could see her; so I did, then lent my car to Kito to take her in. She came back with Achan; it seems her condition is hopeless; she is all swollen up now, and I feel that any one of these days, the end might come suddenly. Poor Mrs. Kito is all broken up; she has tried just about every doctor in Honolulu; they all have the same prognosis, but you know how mothers will live on hope. So it was a very sad Xmas for their family. After we opened our gifts; we had a roast, chicken dinner; Grace gave me a tender chicken; had Kito kill it for us though. It was a very lonely Xmas; we talked about you all day, and wondered what you were doing. The food didn't even taste good without you. Later Eliz. Lee came and brought Jane a gift; then Margaret, and Grace and the children. to see our tree and gifts. I had the small tree I made on the cabinet by the bookcase and had it decorated with blue and silver balls, with the star on top; then on the piano I had a few decorations and some red poinsettias; Mr. Okuda had given us a potted plant several months ago which

which came into bloom just in time; then on the windows I hung some paper wreaths Peter made at school out of green and red tissue paper. So all in all, we had a few festive decorations around.

Yesterday, Sunday the 26th, Jane changed her schedule and didn't get up for her 2 a.m. feeding. It has happened now for two nights so I'm hoping that it will get to be a habit as it means more sleep for me. As it was I was getting about 5 hrs. nightly; and getting very tired. Jane is so cute; she has changed so much in the short space of time, is so roly poly and has a personality. I took a few pictures of her yesterday but doubt if they came out due to the weather; but when they're developed will send them to you. I've asked Hide, Henry and Noboru to come and take some of her when they have time. Mrs. Kurashige came by and brought gifts; in the evening Lt. Albers dropped by; he has been taking Margaret out quite often; they took Peter to the show. About 8 p.m. the Church kids came over; about 60 of them! They caroled outside for a few minutes then came in, all laden with gifts for us. You never saw so many gifts they brought; for all of us too, including obachan and Jane.



The Church gave Jane a fancy combination toilet seat and high chair contraption, and a canvas swing; we got gifts galore from various Church members too; Shigemitsu made a nice speech about how every year it was the custom to come to our house at Xmas time; so they couldn't omit it this year. I told them a little about your work there and about the boys you've been seeing. I was overwhelmed at their kindness; they never forget. They all said they were thinking of you and missed you; it seems that they had the Xmas party with Santa last night before coming here. Oh yes, I forgot to say that in the afternoon Frances Kaneshiro and family dropped by to wish us Merry Xmas. They are expecting another addition next Spring; their boy is so cute.

So today is the 27th and the holidays are over. I just spent the morning putting away some of the gifts; I don't know where to put half of them now! We have so much for Jane, lucky girl, that I don't think she'll need anything more until she begins to walk. Blankets, dresses, bibs, sweaters, etc galore. We look like a baby store this morning! Mrs. Suzuki called a little while ago to say she would take up my laundry for me and mail this, so am dashing this off. It's now about 12:30 noon; obachan just finished the diapers; Jane soils about 2 doz. a day; poor obachan works so hard, is on her feet all day long; and gets swollen legs at night. I hope I'll be able to be up and around soon to relieve her. I gave her \$5.00 as a Xmas gift from Peter and Jane.

We got enough defense stamps for Xmas in toto to buy another bond; which I will do so in Jan; inasmuch as we got two this month already (one for Dec. 7th; and one for Jane from Eddie) I thanked Eddie for you for the Xmas present he sent you; told him you would write as soon as possible.

Oh yes, last week Jiro washed my car again; please write him when you can and thank him as they are doing so much for us; in fact, I don't know how I would get along with them and the Ikeda's; not to mention Kito and Kiyo; all of them run on errands for us and look after us. Kiyo gave Peter an atlas; just what Peter wanted. Herbert never did send us the dentist bill of several months back. Shizue Yoshina even sent Peter a gift from Hilo. I gave Harry Komuro George Morey's address in N.Y. and asked him to have Rev. Akamatsu call on him; George is the WRA buyer in N.Y. now, you know.

Capt. Woods came by on Xmas day to wish us merry Xmas; he was feeling good; had on a pair of tabi; was awfully homesick I think, as he had lots of fun playing with Peter and wanted to get a "goodsmell of the baby", as he was homesick. He and Lt. Albers are so good to us. Buck Weaver got to fly back; so probably got home to spend Xmas with his family; wasn't he lucky?

Mama asked me to thank you for the dress you sent her; she got it last week; she will write you as soon as possible.

I think Peter had as nice a Xmas as he could under the circumstances; but I know that he missed you terribly; I've been trying to help him make some of his toys, like those that you put together, etc. He is over at Kito's almost all day; hangs around their front porch reading comics, or watching Kito work in the garage on something; he plays lots now a days with Tahei Kang (Chabo's brother, a nice boy); Tommy, Arthur and Jr. He doesn't seem to like to play with Dickie anymore, says he's too rough. So every day, they have a commando raid around our yard; you should see them tearing around; poor Jr. is always the stooge, and is crying half the time, but wants to play with the bunch so they let him!

New Years will soon be here; what are your plans. Lets hope and pray that we will all be together again this coming year. Take care of yourself, am enclosing Peter's letter,

All my love,

*Hisako*  
P.S. Shigemitsu said yesterday Saburo Ikemura, Clark's brother, died suddenly. same old ailment from his football accident. Is Clark there with you?