

Jan. 15, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

I called up Ai Young last night to see how she was as she is due her time soon. Sam had gone out to the Johnson's for dinner, but Ai Young said that Harry Komuro had come by to tell them he had just returned from Hilo, and learned that your mother was injured in an auto accident recently. She was coming out of a show and was crossing the street and got struck by a car driven by a 77 yr. old person. She has a fractured collar bone and is in the hospital. Harry went to see her at the hospital, and found her in good spirits and recovering well. Kamejiu also told him, your mom was recovering rapidly. Mother and I are writing to obachan to find out further details.

I also called up Harry last night, but he wasn't in; talked to Mrs. Komuro though about your visit with the Hinatas. She (I mean the younger Komuro's) had already heard about it through one of the service men who had visited the Hinata's too; how you offered to help Mrs. Hinata in the kitchen, but she wouldn't let you, etc. You must have had a nice visit. I got your two letters yesterday of the 3d and the 8th. Its funny as earlier in the week I got your letters of 12/30 and 1/5, so you can never tell about the mail. Poor Mrs. Hinata must have a USO by now with all the service men dropping in on her.

I also got the pecan nuts you sent; they came in good shape. I will make some pecan squares; wish I could send you some. I suppose pecans are very common down in the South, but they're a treat here.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fuji (Toshi-chan) sent Jane a gift yesterday, of some shirts and towel; also some school tablets for Peter; I had sent them an announcement.

I am enclosing the first pictures we have of Jane, taken at 3 weeks old. Don't you think she is identical with Peter at that age; we got out the album and compared and you'd think it was the same person; only she is fatter and has a little longer face. She has gained all of 2 lbs or more by now, over her birth weight; still has a huge appetite. Yes, I still get up for the 2 a.m. feeding, only this morning she slept straight through till 4 a.m., so that may be the beginning of a change in her schedule, I hope so. It's now about 10 a.m. we just had waffles with some more of your Vermont maple syrup on it. I had it in a bottle in the pantry, and found it was getting sort of fermented, so we are eating it up fast now. Peter calls it "beer" and thinks its so much fun to have beer on waffles.

The other pictures were taken on 12/30 when Sam and Eddie and the gang dropped in; don't you think they're pretty good of Peter and Mona? Mona is so cute, and so well behaved. She talks so much now; its hard to imagine that she was just a baby a few months ago.

I last wrote you on the 12th; Mrs. Suzuki went to town that day with my car; I had asked her to get me a play pen advertised at Sears, but she said they were junk and not worth \$8.00; so I'll look around some more. Margaret dropped in after supper, she was going to the show. On Thursday the 13th, Mr. and Mrs. Dixon came over and brought Jane two lovely dresses; we had a nice chat; they are such nice people; I hope when I'm able to get around I can do something for them too. Mr. Dixon brought his camera and took a whole roll of pictures of Jane and of us too; so when they're developed I'll send them to you; they ought to be good, as he's quite a camera fan; he also brought us some ice cream. I gave them some eggs. Mama and I think Mrs. Dixon is pregnant, as she looks that way, but I didn't ask her. She seemed awfully interested in details of how to raise a baby, and was in the kitchen asking Obachan how to sterilize things, etc. Mr. Dixon has been promoted, and has a desk, white collar job now. They always come all the way out on the bus, and are so nice. I showed them the searchlight toy you sent; he took it home and will fix it for Peter.

They said that Irv had come back from his visit with his family; when he got back, he found he had been re-classified to 1A! His deferrment till May, but will probably be drafted then. They thought it was very foolish for him to go back, as he lost out on pay, and a lot of other things, plus spending all that money.

Yesterday Grace went shopping for me in Waipahu; she is so good to us; also Jiro always brings the mail to me several times a week. Horace telephoned last night; he said he had just heard from you; his voice was still husky; had been in bed with the flu for some time. He said though he was back at work now. He is going to try to bring either Henry or Hide over tomorrow afternoon to take some indoor pictures of Jane. Then you can see what nice big eyes she has, and how cute she really is. Its hard to take them outdoors, as the sunlight is too strong for her, and she squints.

Yes, I notice by the War Dept. notice about your allotment that you have our home address on it. However, I know it will continue to come to the post office, so don't worry. I still haven't received the Dec. allotment, but presume it will be coming next week.

My head cold is pau, Peter still has the sniffles, but He's been going to school. He took his Treasure Chest game to school yesterday for show and tell; he had the whole class playing the game, including Miss Coates. Its like anagrams, and is educational. I had him clean out his shelf in his room yesterday; it took him all afternoon, and looked just as bad afterwards as before. I suggested he throw away some of the stuff and make a pile of magazines and comics to give to the soldiers; when he got through he decided to keep them all! Talk about being greedy! Last night he was lying on the punee with the big futon on him; he was wrestling with it and pretending it was you. He said "Daddy just beat me". I know he misses you so much. I tell him that almost every night I dream about you, he thinks its so funny. I dreamed one night I went all the way to Shelby with all of us to see you, when I got there I was told I couldn't see you; and I broke down and cried. Then another night I was waiting for a bus to take me to Shelby, several passed by, but none of them were the right ones, and I was frustrated. Last night I dreamed though you came home unexpectedly, and said you had a few days furlough over the holidays; and who should come with you but Anson. I've wondered about Anson; haven't heard from him since a year ago Xmas, although I wrote him at his APO number. Have you heard from him?

Yes, the casualties of the boys in Italy is frightening; the Igarashi and Takahashi boys in Waipahu have died; and they had memorial services in the Buddhist temple recently; I understand Mr. L'Orange attended too. I think they are the first casualties from Waipahu. We hope and pray that your group won't have to go over; however if you do, we'll try to be brave and wait. I suppose you will be sending some of your things home if you do; if you have anything breakable like your camera, you'd better send it to Alice and the folks in Cinn; as I doubt if it would reach me intact. The sgt. Sugi you mentioned, is he Suma Sugi's brother? She was a school teacher in L.A. over whom once there was quite a controversy, as she couldn't get a job despite her training, and finally ended up being an attendance monitor or something mediocre. A very nice girl. What will happen to all the wives and families of the mainland service men who are there now? Will they have to go back to relocation camps? How will they support themselves? Do you have many families there, and where do they stay? What will the wives of the Hawaiian group do too? It sounds as if there will be many problems, and no doubt many of them will wish their families had remained in the Islands. I think that the parting would be awful, if I were there, and the time came for you to leave. This way, its a little better.

What do you think of my going back to work this fall in August if the department asks me? I know there is a shortage of case workers, and I personally don't want to go back but its all up to you. The govt has just signed an order giving all territorial workers a \$50.00 bonus effective as of Jan. 1st of this year, which means I would get about \$ 225 per month. Please give me your opinion, as it will make a difference in planning on Peter's tuition for school for next year. I notice by the Punahou

catalog that the 3d grade will cost approximately \$148.00 which includes most fees. As tuition is payable in advance in Sept. I will have to be planning pretty soon. I don't know if you think we should reapply to Mrs. Richards again, what do you think?

Its now about noon; I had to take time out to feed Jane; then Kiyo and Mrs. Jones dropped in; Kiyo had bought me some liver in Ewa. We exchanged news about our friends on the mainland; her parents are still in one of the camps. Mrs. Jones is pregnant and is looking fine.

I just called up Dr. Sakimoto; he doesn't follow through on the babies after birth, so advised me to take her either to the Well B by clinic in Pearl City or to my own pediatrician. So I may take her to either the Clinic in P.C. or to Dr. Lilestrand as it would be closer and it will save me a lot of trouble taking her clear into town each time. I will go in about two weeks for my re-check exam though, at which time I will pay him. Please don't forget to write him to thank him for all he's done for us.

Please take care of yourself; we think of you all the time, and pray that you won't have to go over; let's hope it will be over by the time you're ready.

Love,

Hecah