

July 23, 1944

Dearest Hiro,

How are you? I have just re-read your letter of July 8th; and hope and pray all is well with you and the boys. It is now almost 9 p.m. Peter and I just returned with the Suzuki's from Horace and Joan's wedding, which was truly beautiful. If you only could have been here to officiate, how much more perfect it would have been. The Church was beautifully decorated, with crown flower leis topped with clusters of gardenias on each pew; the stage was a mass of ti leaves, +tuberose and gardenias; Kats and Rev. Coale both officiated, inasmuch as Kats is not ordained yet, so couldn't actually pronounce them man and wife. About a half dozen girls dressed in evening dresses ushered, and Nobuko Takayasu played the wedding march. The church was packed; all the bridal party looked lovely. The refreshments were super, and each guest was given a piece of the wedding cake wrapped up, plus a box containing a Boston cream pie as a gift! Peter managed to get four boxes of cakes! Was I mortified, but you know him, everyone wants to give him things! I know Joan and Horace will be very happy; by coincidence Molly caught the bride's bouquet, so we are hoping Shigemi and she will be next.

I heard from Janet and Tokuo Yoshida who were sitting in front of us, that yesterday Grover Nagaji's death was announced to the family by the War Dept. Also a boy named Okuda and another boy were wounded; I suppose it is only the beginning of the many casualties we must expect. It has given me such a funny feeling; as I remember Grover very well, and I can't believe he is dead. I know more than ever how difficult it must be for you in your position, when you too have been so close to the boys. We pray that further casualties will be spared, and this mess will be over soon.

I last wrote you on Friday, the 21st. How has my mail been reaching you? Your last letter came in 10 days; I hope mine are as fast. On Friday I went to Waipahu to meet with my class. I also received the June allotment from you.

Yesterday, I went to town in Mrs. Suzuki's car; Grace went too, and all the kids. Peter had another swimming lesson, and enjoyed it so much. The teacher, Mrs. Silver, is very good, her method is super. At least so far he has learned to put his face in the water and not be afraid. I had to go to a staff meeting, and also an aloha luncheon for my boss, Miss Latimer. We had noodles from Sun Yin Wo's, which were brought to the Y, and had a lovely luncheon in one of the big rooms, with leis, hula dances, songs, etc. It was a real aloha party, such as only Hawaii can produce. We all gave her some money as a gift. Miss Latimer feels they want me to take charge of GP clubs out here again this fall, probably in Aiea, Pearl City and Waipahu. It will start after school begins, so with this coming week, my summer job will end. I will get paid through July, and not in August, as we will rest then. I also did a little shopping too. Bought Peter a small booklet put out by the Bishop museum on how to subsist on native plants, etc, if you're cast away on an island; it is very interesting, and he just loves it. Today he took it over to the Kanga and gave them his own version on the book!

We got home about 3; then about 4:30 Mr. and Mrs. Ottman dropped in. Mrs. Ottman brought me a letter from Mr. Wilson in answer to my request for an extension of my leave for the duration; he said the civil service ruling is you can only have leaves for specific periods, like six months or a year. So I signed some papers for her, requesting a year's extension; she says it can be renewed each year, if the Governor and Civil Service approve. They feel I won't have any difficulty getting back into the dept. at any time. We had a nice talk. Mr. Ottman's son who was with Major Gee's outfit is still down under; poor kid hasn't seen a furlough ever, and his chances are slim. They sent their regards to you



Today we all slept late; last night I was so tired, I was all in. So got up at 10. Then we had a late breakfast; I baked an applesauce cake; Margaret dropped in; and of all people Sparky Okumura and Masaru Isono dropped in. Masaru is a Sargeant too; he is geting married to a Helen Sato of Ewa; you married her brother at our home several years ago. Masaru wished you were here to officiate; he is going to ask Harry Komuro. He said Richard Hata is now in Florida with some Air Corps group; he is in the interpreter's group you know; he had called his wife up on the phone clear from Florida recently! Masaru says he is the last one of his bunch to get married. I guess you married most of them didn't you? He and Sparky both sent their regards to you.

We had supper about 4; made beef hekka; we always wish you were here to eat such foods with us, for we know how you must relish it. If only we could send you edibles from here.

I think Peter was quite impressed by the wedding. He saw his pal, Hide, and Hide promised to come visit him next Sunday; Peter calls him "Wun Ton" of all things, becuae he's so fat! Speaking of weight, Peter is now 4 ft, and 1/2 inches tall, and weighs 51 lbs. He is growing so much, and can hardly get into his pants as his waist has increased.

He is drawing airplanes now, and obachan is sewing on a dress. Jane is sound asleep; we had a lot of fun with her today, Peter and I both got into the play pen with her and played; she just loved it. She utalks a lot now—and laughs and gurgles all over the place.

I saw the Bruce Nishimoto's at the wedding tonight; they are expecting a baby next February; hope this time she won't have a miscarriage like the last time. Marion Takayesu's is also expecting any day now; she is very big. Mrs. Takayesu was so glad to hear that Ben was o.k.

I noticed some car headlights tonight on the road with their shields taken off now that we can; it seems so strange to get such a strong glare. We must all have our headlights adjusted now when they are removed.

Just went over to Kito's to take him one of the cakes from the wedding; he certainly was red as a beet; had been fishing all day. Doc Tatekawa is on Molokai at present. The whole gang went out fishing today per usual. Half of the time they get nothing but keep at it just the same!

We miss you so much dear. There are so many times during the day when I find myself feeling this loneliness; when I hear some familiar peice on the radio; when Peter talks about you, when I see your picture—everything to remind me — and how we all hope and pray that you will be home with us soon. I am glad I have my part-time job in a way to keep me occupied—as its helps to ease the loneliness somewhat. But when you return what a reunion we will have! Peter and I keep talking about it all the time—how he is going to run up to you, and have you lift him up to see how heavy he is, then how we will sit down and have a good meal— all the things you want to eat— then Peter will start asking you for souvenirs, and you will have to tell him all about your experiences.— how real it already seems.

Tomrrow he is going to buy another bond; he has saved enough from his tomato picking money, birhday gifts, what he has earned around the house, gifts from Sam and Shinso—and he is really very proud he has accumulated enough by himself. He has it all figured down to the last cent how much each cent, dollar, etc. can buy for you and the other service men.

This is all for now, dear. Please take care of yourself—and know that we are with you all the time.—praying for the day when you will be home with us again.

Say hello to Dollar, Takeshi, Tani, Ben, Abe and the rest—we hope they are all well. Tell Tani his mother lives for his letters— so keep up the good work, and tell him not to forget to write her at every chance— ditto for Ben—as his mother feels the same. Goodnight, dear— Love,

Thinks

P.S. your pal, Bullard Atterton, is now asst-mgr. of Mutual Telephone.