

September 20, 1943

Dear Mom:

No letter as yet from you and it worries me. I hope your alright and nothing has happened to you. I just came back from an interesting weekend and a very happy one. Left the post Sat. for Waterbury to spend the evening with Ed Treat and his family. He has a very lovely family, his wife a former nurse whom he met in turkey and three little boys. The oldest about the age of Peter, I was so thrilled to be able to spend a day in a home with little boys around - the noise of the children running around made me think of Peter. I got there in the evening and after supper went with Ed to visit couple of familys. We first went to a home of an Oberlin student - we talked about Oberlin and learned a lot concerning what I should expect there if I ever dropped in to see my old alma mater. Apparently School is not beginning until November 1 inasmuch as the navy has taken over the school for training. After that we visited a Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Spencer, Supt. of Schools of this district. Mr. Spencer had heard me speak last weekend at Johnson - he was very skeptical of the Nisei problem and since meeting me had changed his mind completely to tolerance and understanding. He was very interesting. We talked about the school system and found out that we have a better educational system in Hawaii. The teachers here get paid in peanuts compared to the teachers in the islands - and since each district has its own system - a teacher in one district or town may get paid less than the teacher in a town across the river teaching the same grade. A University degree is not required for teachers in most of the schools except in the High Schools - and the curriculum is not standard. We talked about Hawaii and I have convinced everybody that Hawaii is paradise - I think I will send the chamber of commerce a bill when I get home.

We came home at 12 midnite. The homes here are all two storied - built that way because it is more economical to heat a two storied house than a one story building. Next morning I spoke in Ed's SS and church service. It was grand - and enjoyed preaching there. It is an old church well kept with a tradition - like all NE churches - the young people asked me all kinds of questions about Hawaii whether our houses were made from bamboo or not - whether we had schools or not.

After the service we went to pick a gallon of real maple syrup which I hope to end to you via freight. I hope they will ship it from here to Hawaii. In the afternoon Jack Smith from Hardwick came to pick me up to speak at his church. It was a nice ride though the rolling hills thickly covered with maple trees and other kinds of trees. I can just picture the flaming hillsides when the trees begin to change color. Jack has three children but older than Eds - two boys and a girl. His wife a former social worker from New York is very interesting and nice. I spoke there - and this morning when we got up to drive home found the windshield of the car covered with ice. Talked with Jack and his wife late in the evening. I was surprised to learn that in New England I would be one of the highere

be one of the higher paid ministers. In fact perhaps with the best paid - don't tell Dunny that or it might give him ideas.

I am now planning to go to New York this Thursday and spend two or three days there - I would like to see radio city and many points of interest and perhaps find a restaurant that would serve me meals like at home. My school begins next week - and after a month of that will be in the deep deep south. From all what I hear of the south from the men around here and Ed - it's just an impossible place and chiggers would be the minor worry... the ignorance, poverty, the provincialism and caste system. I am looking forward to it.

Just came back from the evening show - the picture "Johnny come lately" with James Cagney. It was very good - not the kind that he plays all the time - just a nice picture. I am rather lonesome tonight - perhaps, just the idea of going to a show alone - and the thought that I am all alone. The feeling that everywhere I go I have to do things alone without you or Peter. It bears down on me - perhaps its because I did not get any letters from you this week and am worried.

The men of the post are so very nice to me - both the officers and the men are very courteous. I hate to leave this place but realize that I have my boys waiting for me.

I did part of my laundry this evening as I know that the laundry wont be ready for me if I leave on Thursday. Goodbye now - and before you go to bed tonight give Peter one little hug and kiss for me and tell him its from me. I miss the little boy so much - I never felt so blue as I do tonight. Write you later again

Feel a little better this morning - hope there is a letter in the Post Office for me. Traveling again - how I do hate to travel but within a couple of days I will have to leave here for school. Have to finish the letter now - in the box containing the syrup - I have a few acorns which you might give to Peter and tell him that it is squirrel food.

As Ever

*Heid*