

FeMarch 2, 1943

Dear Betty,

I'm sitting here in my shorthand class waiting for class to begin. Since I'm just auditing the course, it's lots of fun--reviewing my shorthand and doing a little typing. As you've probably noticed by the date, I've really forgotten how to type. (Class is going to begin now so I shall finish this letter at home by pen.) We had a little dictation and transcription test--not so bad.

Before I go on any further, thanks for the two letters. You're so busy working, and yet you find time to write to me--you make me feel ashamed of my negligence.

My heartiest congratulations upon your promotion to instrument tester. You're doing alright by yourself. Won't be long before you'll be telling me you are now the chief executive (or whatever you call the head) of Lockheed. Then, little me shall be able to say, "I knew her when--".

My lands! I didn't know you had ever played the sax. But you can play mighty well. It's really fun trying, isn't it? (The trying refers to my playing--not yours.) Yesterday, my instructor gave me "Rose Marie," "Roses of Piccadilly," & "Madame Butterfly" to learn. Nothing like massacring (?) good pieces.

Where is Nido? At the present time he is employed in the "Free Press" office as business manager. I don't know how many times he's changed jobs. When I saw him the other day, I told him you asked about him, and with his wide grin and chuckle, he answered, "Guess I should write to her." But, don't depend on that, because as most fellows are, he's not

much of a correspondent. - almost fainting when I heard from him once when he went on furlough last summer.

I certainly don't envy you folks who have to make out income taxes and try to figure out three meals a day on the point rationing system. Although we are effected by the rationing of shoes, sugar, coffee, and canned goods, we don't feel it as much as those back home since we are fed our three meals in the mess hall. I'll have to admit, though, that the shoe rationing hits us a little harder because we have to do so much walking on plenty rough ground. As for myself, three pairs of shoes a year will be more than sufficient, even tho' I do wish sometimes that I could buy another pair of good ^{practical} Sunday shoes. You should see the mad rush at the general store when any kind of material comes in. Everything is cleaned out within an hour. 3/2/43

Last Wednesday morning, Manzanar lost a good 177 former Bainbridge Island people to the West Relocation Center, Minidoka, Idaho. A grander group of people, we've never met. There were real tears of sorrow shed the day they left us. You see, all those folks had petitioned to evacuate to the Idaho center right after the riot when there was so much tension because they wanted to be with the people from up north where they had come from. For some unknown reason, the government or army had ordered them to evacuate way down here in Manzanar instead of going where the other northerners had gone. These Bainbridge Islanders were one of the first groups to come here on April 1st of last year. When we arrived here, it was a real surprise to us to meet them since we'd never even heard of them or the place before - we ^{our family} even have distant relatives from among them. Yes, I guess it won't be too long

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before the larger portion, if not all, of this camp will have relocated to other parts of this U.S.H. If induction of volunteers begins in March or April (it's March already!), the number will be depleted considerably.

In add to my already full schedule, I've signed up for a beginners class in drafting which begins next week and will be held every Wednesday and Friday morning. This round of activities won't last for long, though, I'll assure you — probably will drop a class or two along the way.

I received a card from Marge Harris, sixteen from Big Bear. Said she and her sister and girlfriend are (or were) were there for a four-day vacation after finals.

Speaking of pens — I'm mighty pleased with my 394 fountain pen purchased at the local store. After losing two good pens, I decided it's not worth

buying another one with my hard-earned money
and then losing it again. I'm almost sure not
to lose this inexpensive pen.

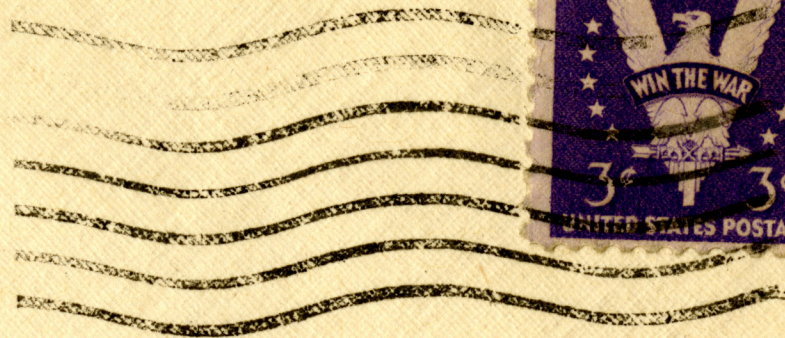
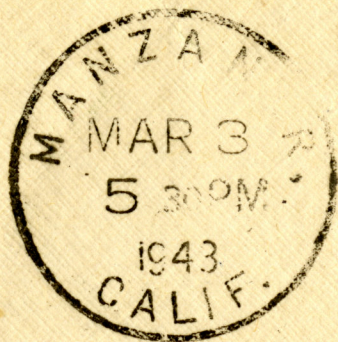
The sky is overcast today and the rain is
beginning to fall. Guess we'll be having some
more rain and colder, windy days. For a long
while there, I thought it never rained in Mangenar.
How I wish that snow would come down a little
further and let us experience a beautiful white
surrounding for once, anyway.

Greetings from all to all. Don't work too
hard - you've only one life to live on earth.

Always,
Meri

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29-6-4
Manzanar, Calif.



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