

December 27, 1943
Monday night

Dear Betty,

I received your very generous Christmas gift today and my what a pleasant treat met my eyes when I opened it. Now am I ever going to thank you enough for doing so much for me. I certainly don't deserve to be on the receiving end of all your generosity. Since the parcel post receiving place is near my work, I ran over there this morning with my notice to claim a package wondering who could be sending me anything. You can imagine my surprise to see your name on it. I opened it since the children weren't there (they're having a holiday recess) and passed the cookies around to the nursery teachers and janitor who were there working. I know they join me in saying how delicious the cookies are (I still have some left for the family to enjoy).

We were anticipating a "white Christmas," but it turned out to be a cold, windy Christmas with snow only on the mountains surrounding us on the west and east. We did have snow three times before Christmas, though, and it was beautiful. The last snowfall was accompanied by rain which made the ground terribly slushy.

We gave our block children a Christmas party Christmas eve with "Santa" to present to give them their gifts. These gifts were donated by various churches and distributed among the blocks for children up to 18 years of age. We were also very fortunate in being able to purchase sufficient candy for the kiddies through our Co-op. All in all, I think the children had quite a merry Christmas thanks to many people.

Margie Harris sent me a Christmas greeting and wrote saying she and Bobby had broken their engagement. She's now doing her student teaching - finished her first assignment with a B+ grade. I'll bet she really is a fine teacher.

Tuesday night

I didn't get very much written last night, neither did I have much to say that was of much interest to you.

Today, a card came from Betty and Ralph Gibbons which was first sent all the way to Honey in Maryland, then forwarded back to the west coast to Manzanar. Apparently, Betty thought I was no longer in Manzanar since she hadn't heard from me for such a long time - I'm ashamed to admit how long. Incidentally, it was sent from Burbank. She says she'll be in Burbank until April. Could that mean something? Or, am I being too

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nosey? It would be nice, tho, don't you think? Guess I'd better spend more time with my pen and stationery before my friends start looking in the obituary columns.

While the school children are taking a holiday from the classrooms, we pre-school teachers are putting in our time working in our rooms mornings and attending lectures on biology, psychology, and a number of other subjects that our supervisor feels we should know as pre-school teachers afternoons until school re-opens on the 6th. Miss Schauland, our pre-school supervisor, is well experienced in her field and has contributed considerably toward the growth and improvement of the nurseries and kindergartens and the teaching personnel. We are very fortunate in having such a person.

Thanks again and again for the cookies and candy.

I'll close now and drop this letter into the mail box tomorrow morning.

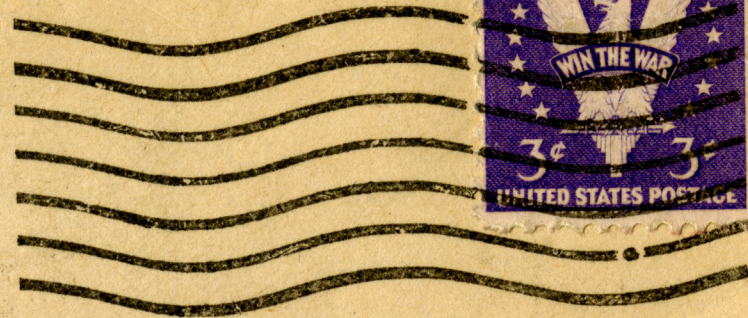
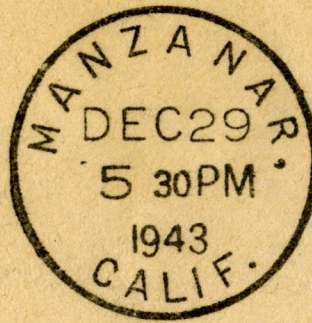
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Sincerely,
Mimi K

P.S. I'm finally wearing the sweater I was working on months ago. Ought to frame it. Probably never make another.

24-6-4

Manzanar, Calif.



Miss Betty Salzman
1755 Gardena Avenue
Glendale 4
California