



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

December 3, 1945

Dear Soldier,

Merry Christmas! And here's hoping the New Year will be the best you could possibly hope for.

We wish you could have been here for the parties we've had. The first big one was a Hallowe'en dance October 27 at the Del Mar USO (formerly Japanese Association Hall). When we counted up the Nisei young people to be invited we were amazed to find that there were about 160! Among the 125 present were a dozen or so Caucasian young people. The party featured Hallowe'en games and stunts led by Ted Tajima, decorations by Setsu Tajima, refreshments of doughnuts, apples, and punch, and dancing to music provided by A-O Radio Shop (Sat Akutagawa).

A Thanksgiving get-together was held November 17, with about 225 crowding the USO dance floor. This dance was planned by a committee of junior college students. About 25 young Negroes, including girls who are junior hostesses at the USO, added spirit with their lively jitterbugging.

Now we're starting plans for Christmas. We will probably have a dance shortly before the 25th, and also go caroling Christmas eve. A large group of Nisei will work for one of the contractors on the Rose Parade floats, and we hope to have some kind of a party after the work is done.

At the first annual Pasadena Art Fair, in October, a display of carved wood bird pins from Hillcrest Sanitarium attracted many visitors. In the same exhibit were modern-design trays by Jiro Oishi, and flower arrangements by Setsu Tajima.

The job placement work of the Friends of the American Way is now receiving support from the Council of Social Agencies. They have supplied us with a social worker to help job seekers and those with special problems, and also a full-time secretary, Miss Haruko Imamura, formerly a student at the Univ. of Washington.

The Lucky Florist Shop reopened on November 15. Mr. Maruyama states that business is good and that they are delighted with the friendliness of their customers. Another item concerning the flower business--five Japanese growers are now taking flowers to the Wall Street Market in L.A., and they sell out every day.

New employers of Nisei: Eaton Company on Union Street, Pasadena, which employs Helene Shinmoto for sewing; Jerome MacNair, a Los Angeles attorney and "charter member" of Friends of the American Way, who employs Shizuko Sakamoto in his office as a stenographer; Los Angeles Board of Education, which has a number of Nisei clerks; Southern Pacific, which has at least one Nisei mechanic; Boys Market, Pasadena, which employs one Nisei in the produce section.

The latest Pasadena returnees:

The Kawai family has come. Hideo has been here for several months, operating a small auto repair garage which is constantly busy. Nobu is back with Crown City Dairy. Shig came for a short visit from Detroit, and will probably be back after the first of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Nuno have returned from St. Paul, and Mr. Nuno is an estate gardener. The Okuras are back in Highland Park, as are Mr. and Mrs. Togo Furumura (Grace Okura). The Haygens have come, also the Oshitas, Tanzawas, Taguchis, Naka-hiros, and Noguchis. Billy Tai has returned to gardening for Mrs. Grasselli of San Marino.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirita are staying with the Ishikawas, in South Pasadena. Tom Tanaka and his wife have taken a couple job in Beverly Hills. Tom Nishi and George ("Chubby") Sugano are here. Mr. Mitsumori has been sent to Japan by the U.S. Government as a special inspector of war damage, and for interpreting. Two Nisei students are continuing at Occidental, Mitsie Koyama and Ted Tajima. Ted has recently been awarded a scholarship there, and we understand that he is writing a regular column for the Oxy paper.

Service men who have visited us recently include Jim Arima, Ted Yamane, Tosh Ogura, Albert Nambu, John Mitsumori, and Bob Shoda (recently discharged). Russell Nakata visited here, too, now works for Presbyterian Church Headquarters in Denver. Men who have been drafted since returning to Pasadena include Tosh Ogura, Albert Nambu, Ted Kajiya, John Oshima, Seichi Nakawatase, Kazuo Inuzuka, Edgar Fukutaki, Joe Uchida, and Richard Kai.

Now for some news about other service men. Sho Nomura has spent a year or so in Yenan, the Communist capital of China, and has met many of the Communist leaders. Tsuneo Tajima is now a second lieutenant, doing interpreting work at General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo. Howard Uno, who was with Tsuneo in Australia and Manila and is now a patient in the Pasadena Regional Hospital (formerly Vista del Arroyo Hotel), has given us recent news of him. Other Pasadena men that we know of in Japan now include Harry Tsushima, Colbert Nakata, Hitoshi Sameshima, George Hayakawa, Hideo Takayama, Calvin Msono, Harry Oka, and George Honda.

Bill (Yei) Nuno is back in Pasadena after many months in the South Pacific. Frank Ichino is continuing work in Eagle Rock, and his brother Phillip has just come home from service as a Warrant Officer with the 442nd. All three of these fellows send their greetings to you. Art Kirita has been discharged after two years in North Africa. He and his wife and child have joined the big search for housing. Here's a message from him: "Dear War Heroes--Well I'm out and you fellows should try it, the water is fine. Pasadena looks great and the people are the same as ever. Come around when you get out and this civilian will buy you a drink.--Art"

Shig Takayama is still in Germany with an Engineer Corps. Bill Ikeda has been in Germany with the Parachute Infantry since just before V-E Day. "Swish" Ogura is expected home very soon after long service with the 442nd. Frank Morimoto is with his family in Oregon. Isamu Ishida is still in Texas, and his father tells us he was married recently. George Suzuki is still at Gardiner General Hospital, Chicago. He and Iko Tanzawa were married in New York City September 9.

Sorry there isn't room for more news. Best wishes for the new year...

Sincerely,

Mayjane Noble