

[Personal Correspondence]

1998.38.55

Envelope –
Sat Sakuma
44-10-E
W.R.A.
Hunt, Idaho

Mr. E. Wells
c/o Education Dept
W.R.A.
Manzanar, California

{Stamp description – purple 3 cent stamp “Win the War”}
{Postmark} Hunt, Mar 3, 3PM 1943 Idaho

Letter-

44-10-E
W.R.A.
Hunt, Idaho

Dear Mr. Wells

We finally reached after a couple of days of tiresome train ride. We didn't come across any beauty spot but we went through San Fernando Valley, Glendale, and Salt Lake City. The only thing was that we went through there early in the morning about 3 o'clock. I was awake and tried to see but did not succeed. All the rest of the place was all desert land with only sage brush. We didn't do much on the train except looked forward for our meals. The eats were pretty good. All the rest of the time we spent writing letters or play pinochle. We reached camp about five o'clock in the evening. By the fine cooperating of the Minidoka people we got all our baggage that night. They really worked hard. When we walked in our apartment the jive was going full blast and the beds and blankets were all ready in the apartment. We were really welcomed in this camp. Everybody is friendly. Their even putting on a welcome mixer tonite and we're suppose to be the guest. They were all ready for us to come in because when we came in every thing was in order and stoves going in each apartment. It was really swell for the people of Minidoka to do this. We took a shower and went to bed early that not. I really made up my lack of sleep on the train because I don't get up every morning until 9:30 – 10 o'clock in the morning. This morning was the first time I got up for breakfast.

I'll tell you little bit of this camp. This camp is really complicated. I can't figure out heads or tail in the place. It's shaped something like a horseshoe. All even blocks are on one side and odds on another and same building is facing another way. There are forty-five blocks in this camp. The blocks are little smaller than in Manzanar. We suppose to be living in the last block. It's a long way from the business section. We tried walking to block one but got so tired that we turned around and headed for home. The building in this camp is lot better constructed. It has regular doors and flooring.

Each block has twelve living quarter, mess hall, laundry, and a women and men latrine. Each barrack has five apartment each different size. According to the number of people in family they get there apartment. One outer door leads to two apartment, what I mean by that is when you open the outer door in go into a little hall. Inside that little hall way are two door one on each side which leads to two different apartment. In each apartment there is a built in closet and a coal heater that gives off four times as much heat than the one in Manzanar. They issued per person, a wooden cot, regular mattress (not those straw mattress in Manzanar), two army blankets.

The laundry room is a combination of a lau

ndry and ironing room. Most all the residents use the ironing room to iron.

The mess hall in our block is not open yet. The floor of the mess hall is concrete. I think the eats in Manzanar is a lot better. The food up here seemed to me like it's kind of rationed.

The latrine down here are lot bigger and better. They have regular wash basin and a big stove to keep warm.

There isn't much to do for your recreation yet. We hang out in the big laundry room where we talk all day. There is a big stove in there to keep us warm. If we we don't do that we stay home and write letter. Boy, it's a lot of work writing letters all day. We don't go walking around camp because its to fr in the first place. Secondly, it's too cold.

The weather in Manzanar is lot warmer. The cold breeze blowing all day is pretty cold. The ground freezes during the night and thaw out in the morning. It sure gets muddy.

We registered for school yesterday. All we did was put down the subject that we took in Manzanar in order that it came. They don't know first how these going to work it. This semester ends March 19. The school does not seemed to be very good.

Getting late so I better sign off. Say hello to the class for me. Thanks. Don't for get to write.

Always,

Sat Sakuma