

Madras, Oregon

Dear Folks,

May 3, 1955

I suppose that you are wondering what has happened to us but we've just been on the go .. [sic] We finally got our packing done and got bag and baggage on board ship. We left Kobe at 9:00 o'clock at night but in spight [sic] of that + the rain quite a large group were out to see us off. It was really an exciting time. The ship was a big luxury liner + we enjoyed our trip so much. None of us were sea-sick. The children were quite good. There was a play-room where they could play during certain hours, swimming pool, glass enclosed deck, lovely dining room, lounges etc. We had two stops [sic] one in Tokyo and one in Honolulu. It was good to see friends in Honolulu and we held two services there.

Friday the 29th was an exciting day - Just after sighting land we saw a large school of whales. Then we crossed under the Golden Gate bridge and docked in San Francisco. Rev. + Mrs. Tosh. and several other friends were there to meet us also Herbert + Ruth. It seemed like a dream that we were actually in America again. The Toshes [sic]

took the youngsters + I to their place for
awhile while Jake got things through
customs. Then we caught the train
for Salem. We had sleepers on the

-Page Break-

train so rode all night. When we
wakened in the morning we were
passing through the Cascades and
there was snow all around us.

Paul + John were so interested in
everything. We arrived in Salem about
8:00 Sat. morning and took a taxi
out to Jake's folks. They were surely
excited - All of his brothers + sisters
came and we had a turkey dinner
together. Sunday we all went to
Portland for a big D.Q.M. rally. Bishop
Ormston gave a good message in
the morning. In the P.M. Jake spoke.
The place was more than packed
out. We all dressed up in kimonos +
sang a song in Japanese. There was
a good spirit in the service + it was
such a blessing to see old friends
again.

Yesterday we hopped the bus and
came over to Jake's brothers [sic] home
near Madras. They live right on the
Deschutes River and have a 600 acre

place (189 acres cultivated) with the other in pasture + fruit orchards.

The children are having a wonderful time riding the donkey + seeing the sheep, pigs, ducks etc. and we are enjoying a little rest. Jake + Glen went trout fishing this evening + Jake caught one. We plan to

-Page Break-

stay here for a couple more days and then go back to Salem. Our plans are still not certain but probably we will start back to Iowa about May 24th. We are really getting eager to see you all as it's easier to talk than write. I'll drop you another little note before then if I can.

Lots of love,

Florence