

Rachel Jensen, Corinne Pysker, and Quan H. Tran (editors)

*"Camp life was fun at first, but the novelty has already worn out."  
Hiroko Nonoshita's Reflections on Japanese American Internment  
in Manzanar, California (1942-1944)*

*Shelfmark*

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF).  
University Archives and Special Collections.  
SC-2019-19.

Hiroko Nonoshita Letters.

Manzanar (Camp) Correspondence to Helen Tracy.

March 24, 1942, to November 7, 1944.

Letters, cards, and one photograph (numbered 1 to 15 below).

*Introduction*

The collection edited below was donated in 2019 to CSUF's University Archives and Special Collections by Jim Satterbury, son of one of the correspondents. All but one of the correspondences are from Hiroko Nonoshita, a Japanese American woman who was born in Los Angeles, California, and grew up on Terminal Island with her parents and siblings. In April 1942, Hiroko Nonoshita and her husband Ryoji (along with their respective siblings and Ryoji's mother) were incarcerated at Manzanar Internment Camp in the Owens Valley of California. While at the camp, she wrote numerous letters to her friend Helen Tracy of Los Angeles, California. Overall, the fourteen letters, cards, and one photograph (which will henceforth all be referenced as "letters") are in good condition, and the paper and cardstock are largely free of damage. Only one letter is slightly damaged: on page 2 of letter 3, a small water stain at the top of the paper (no larger than a quarter) diminishes the readability of a few words, but the remainder of the letter is undamaged. Most of the letters are legibly written in cursive in blue or black ink on blank paper (beige in color). However, there are several correspondences that are uniquely different: letter 1, a typed marriage announcement on a slightly heavier quality paper; letter 7, the only correspondence written on lined paper; letter 12, written on a small postcard; letter 13, a Christmas card; letter 14, a black-and-white photograph of Gordon Nonoshita; and finally, letter 15, a "Want to Know About Me" birth announcement card with a newspaper clipping featuring recent births at the Palo Alto Hospital. Letters 1, 7, 8, 13, and 15 include the original beige envelopes addressed to Helen Tracy. In order to fit the letters into the envelopes, most of them were folded which does not interfere with their readability. It should be noted that two of the letters are dated incorrectly. Letters 8 and 9 are dated as having been written in January of 1942; however, based upon the postmark on the envelope for letter 8 and the information in letter 9, it is clear that the year was incorrectly recorded and should, in fact, be 1943.

All but three of the correspondences were written to Helen Tracy by Hiroko Nonoshita during her incarceration at Manzanar Internment Camp. Letter 1 is a marriage announcement postmarked March 24, 1942, prior to the internment, celebrating the union of Hiroko Nonoshita (née Takahashi) to Ryoji Nonoshita. Letter 2 is also written just prior to the internment (dated March 27, 1942), and expresses gratitude to Helen for everything she has recently done for Hiroko. According to letter 3, Hiroko departed for Manzanar on April 4, 1942. The most incongruous correspondence is letter 15 which does not hail from Hiroko Nonoshita at all; instead, it is a birth announcement for James Donald, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Satterbury. The remaining ephemera focus on Hiroko Nonoshita's time at Manzanar, detailing the preparation for and arrival at Manzanar (letter 3); the early days in the camp, when it was not yet fully operational, and its gradual evolution (letters 3 and 4); descriptions of Hiroko's living situation, especially after her husband had left to attend the University of Utah (letters 6 and 7); explanations of work-life at the camp, particularly her own work as a lab technician for the hospital (letters 4 and 6); and the specifics of camp life, especially the violent wind and sand storms (letters 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, and 12). A common element across many of the letters are requests for small favors from Helen Tracy, specifically purchasing items for Hiroko that could not be obtained or purchased at the camp (letters 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 13). During the course of her time at Manzanar, Hiroko became pregnant, and a number of her letters subsequently include details regarding the pregnancy: how she discovered she was pregnant after feeling poorly for quite some time (letter 6); the progression of her pregnancy and recurrent wish to have twins (letter 7, 8, 9, and 11); and the eventual picture of her son as a one-year-old (letter 14).

Hiroko Nonoshita's correspondence with Helen Tracy will be of particular interest to those studying twentieth-century United States history, particularly the home front during World War II, as well as those specializing in Asian American or California history. Hiroko Nonoshita's letters are a detailed personal account of life in Manzanar, a valuable primary source that illuminates the hardships and difficulties facing Japanese Americans. Her letters provide insight into the human toll of the Japanese incarceration in America, how it truly affected the lives of individuals and their families. It can be all too easy to think of those affected as a single entity; yet, artifacts like the correspondences edited here uncover the human dimension and suffering in the internment camps, offering names and identities to the victims of America's unjust practices.

The transcriptions below preserve the lines, spelling, and capitalization of the original letters. Any additions are enclosed by square brackets.

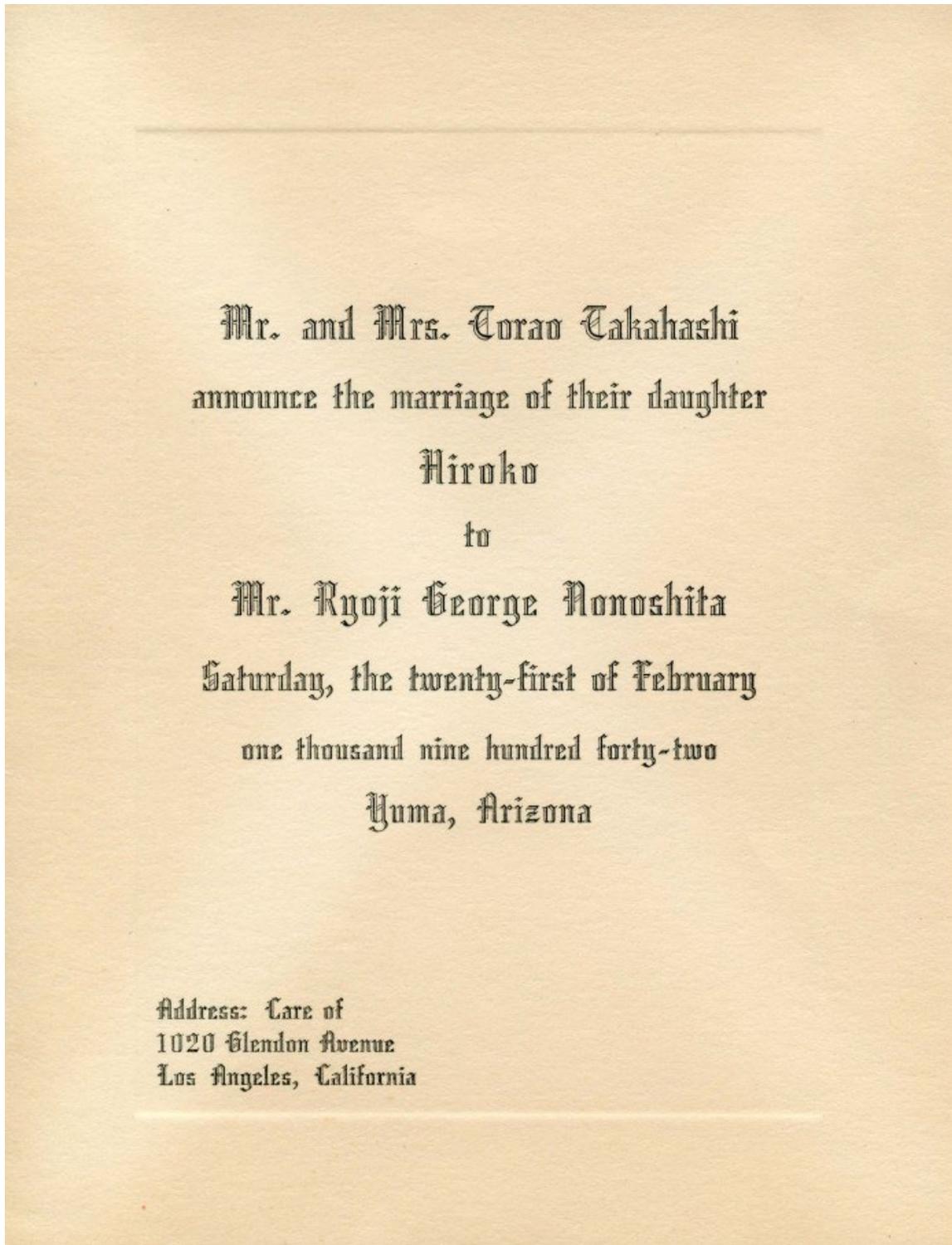


Figure 1: Letter 1, Marriage Announcement, addressed to Helen Tracy, March 14, 1942, Los Angeles, California.

*Edition: Letter 1, Marriage Announcement, addressed to Helen Tracy,  
March 14, 1942, Los Angeles, California*

Cream-colored paper envelope: [round postmark:] 10 LOS ANGELES/MAR 24/12  
PM/1942/CALIF. [canceled stamp; text:] BUY/DEFENSE SAVINGS/BONDS AND  
STAMPS [red stamp featuring President John Adams; text:] UNITED STATES  
POSTAGE/John Adams/1791-1801/2 CENTS 2 [addressee:] Miss Helen Tracy<sup>1</sup>/1020  
Glendon Ave<sup>2</sup>/Los Angeles/ Calif.

Cream-colored paper: [text (printed):]

Mr. and Mrs. Torao Takahashi<sup>3</sup>  
announce the marriage of their daughter

Hiroko<sup>4</sup>

to

Mr. Ryoji George Nonoshita<sup>5</sup>

Saturday, the twenty-first of February  
one thousand nine hundred forty-two

Yuma, Arizona

Address: Care of

1020 Glendon Avenue

Los Angeles, California

*Edition: Letter 2, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy,  
March 27, 1942, no place of origin*

Front:

Mar 27, 1942

Dear Helen,

Thanks ever so much for

what you have done for me!

Gee, and those nightie,<sup>6</sup> pantie,

slip and all the other things!

---

<sup>1</sup> A friend of Hiroko Nonoshita and the recipient of the letters edited here.

<sup>2</sup> The building that would have stood at this address in 1942 has since been replaced by new construction. The address is in Westwood, just south of the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

<sup>3</sup> Torao Takahashi came to the United States from Japan and became a resident of Terminal Island in Los Angeles County, California, in 1907. Following internment, he was the plaintiff in the 1948 Supreme Court case *Takahashi v. Fish & Game Commission*, which found that a California prohibition on the issuance of commercial fishing licenses to individuals who were not eligible for citizenship was unconstitutional.

<sup>4</sup> Hiroko Takahashi was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1919 to Torao Takahashi (father) and Natsu Takahashi (mother).

<sup>5</sup> Husband of Hiroko Nonoshita (née Takahashi).

<sup>6</sup> Alternative term for a nightgown.

They were really lovely and  
 I really appreciate all your  
 kindness!  
 And it certainly was swell  
 to be in your unit, even if  
 I wasn't fed right – your  
 grabbing [?] is terrific!  
 Well, after your big send  
 off, I had to stop by at  
 Hershey Hall;<sup>7</sup> and then came  
 here at 9 o'clock. Boy, was  
 I tired. After taking a bath  
 I put on that lovely night-  
 gown & thought of all you  
 kids – getting a bit senti-  
 mental.  
 Take good care of Al,<sup>8</sup> Helen.  
 Don't get mad at him. You

Back:

know that men are extinct  
 species. Uhn, lot of advises  
 I'm giving, now that I'm  
 married!  
 Well, thanks again, Helen.  
 I'll write, again.  
 Always  
 Hirok<sup>9</sup>  
 P/S. Write to my sister's place:  
 204 N Saratoga St.  
 Los Angeles.<sup>10</sup>  
 Thanks, again.

---

<sup>7</sup> A residence hall for female students at UCLA from 1931 until 1959, when an addition was built to house male students. At the time of this edition (2022), the building still exists; however, it no longer serves as a dormitory.

<sup>8</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>9</sup> The shortening of Hiroko's name is intentional as she signs her name in each letter without the "o" at the end.

<sup>10</sup> At the time of this edition, the building still exists. It currently serves as a Japanese language school.

April 8, 1942

Hi chums!

Well, here I am in Owen's Valley!  
 But first of all I want to thank ~~you~~  
 all of you for the swell things  
 you gave me and for treating me  
 so nicely. I certainly hope I can  
 be with you all soon.

April 9, 1942

Back again, to begin from the start,  
 we were notified on April the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 (morning) that we were leaving for  
 Owen's Valley April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Friday) at  
 7 o'clock. <sup>(7:11)</sup> So on April 2<sup>nd</sup> we went  
 to get our names registered & physical  
 examinations. Also, we were told that  
 we were not able to take our cars  
 and that the Federal Reserve Bank  
 was going to store it for us. So  
 we took the car to the designated

Figure 2: Letter 3, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy (?), April 8, 1942, Owens Valley, California [excerpt].

Edition: Letter 3, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy (?),  
 April 8, 1942, Owens Valley, California

Page 1, front:

April 8, 1942

Hi chums!

Well, here I am in Owen's Valley!<sup>11</sup>

But first of all I want to thank ~~you~~

<sup>11</sup> Valley of the Owens River in eastern California bordered by the Sierra Nevada mountains.

all of you for the swell things  
 you gave me and for treating me  
 so nicely. I certainly hope I can  
 be with you all soon.

April 9, 1942

Back again. To begin from the start,  
 we were notified on April the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 (morning) that we were leaving for  
 Owen's Valley April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Friday) at  
 7 o'clock (AM). So on April 2<sup>nd</sup> we went  
 to get our names registered & physical  
 examinations [.] Also, we were told that  
 we were not able to take our cars  
 and that the Federal Reserve Bank<sup>12</sup>  
 was going to store it for us. So  
 we took the car to the designated  
 place and can you imagine,  
 the cars are just lined up in  
~~the~~ a vacant lot with out any cover  
 or anything – that's for the  
 duration. The gas ~~æ~~ is drained &  
 being used by them. I don't know  
 if there's going to be anyone  
 guarding the place or not, but

Page 1, back:

when we went there, there was just  
 one man, there. Gosh, when we  
 eh [?] saw that, we realized that  
 we'll never see our car, again.  
 The whole day was a hectic  
 one. Ryoji & I had to pack our  
 belongings – books, clothing, &  
 etc. Then his mother with  
 some friends she was staying  
 had to bring their belongings  
 to our apartment since they  
 lived in Canoga Park.<sup>13</sup> On  
 top of that with the curfew in

---

<sup>12</sup> The Los Angeles branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

<sup>13</sup> A neighborhood in the San Fernando Valley region of the City of Los Angeles, California.

effect we couldn't get out after  
8 o'clock (PM).

Then that evening we heard  
that the date of leaving was  
postponed to Saturday (April 4<sup>th</sup>)  
and that we are allowed to take  
only very few luggages – just  
enough to be able to carry by  
ourselves. So on Friday we  
unpacked every thing and repacked  
just enough clothings.

Page 2, front: [in the upper right-hand corner is the number 2 in a circle]

On Saturday morning, we got up  
at 5 o'clock and rode [?] it [?] down to  
the old Santa Fe station.<sup>14</sup> There  
we loaded our luggage on a  
baggage car and got on the train [.]  
Some people left by bus – I think  
about 4 ~~of them~~ buses & rest of ~~them~~ us  
by train [.] I don't know how  
many of us were taking the  
trip but ~~on top of~~ in addition to the 4 buses,  
the train had ~~18~~ about 18 passenger  
cars – (all filled) and 4 baggage  
cars.

We left the station ~~at~~ at 8:30  
but made many stops so we  
actually got out of L.A.<sup>15</sup> about 9:00.  
We passed Glendale,<sup>16</sup> Lanchester<sup>17</sup> and  
others that I don't remember [.]

At noon, the Army fellows gave  
us ~~of~~ lunch boxes of 1 jam sandwich,  
1 mince ham sandwich, 1 apple &  
a slice of cake. And milk.

For dinner we had the same.

When we arrived at the Owen's

---

<sup>14</sup> The Santa Fe Freight Depot.

<sup>15</sup> Abbreviation for Los Angeles, California.

<sup>16</sup> A city in Los Angeles County, California.

<sup>17</sup> Lancaster: a city in northern Los Angeles County, located in the Antelope Valley of the western Mojave Desert.

Valley station it was about 6:00 PM.  
Boy, was the wind cold!

Page 2, back:

From the station, the buses which came up took turns unloading the people on the train & taking them to the camp. So when we arrived, here it was about 7:00 [.] Then, we were assigned to different barracks. They gave us Army blankets – since our beddings hadn't arrived – and pillows (dirty!) for women & children. Seven of us were assigned to one room – about ~~1/2 as big~~ <sup>1/2 as big</sup> times bigger than double rooms in Westwood Hall.<sup>18</sup> The cots are the kind used in CCC<sup>19</sup> camps. And the mattresses are just a large bags & stuffed with straws – hay. The floor was covered with about 1/2 inches of dirt – ~~no~~ this is no exaggeration. The wood used for the building are full of knots so the floor & walls are full of holes. The door is so made that the cracks between the boards are about 1 inch wide. We wouldn't mind the holes

Page 3, front: [in the upper right-hand corner is the number 3 in a circle]

if the wind didn't blow so much but the storms are terrific!  
The second night after we came about 1 o'clock, we had a terrible wind. ~~The~~ Our camp is so sandy that when the wind blows one can't even see 10 ft in front. So

---

<sup>18</sup> A residence hall at UCLA.

<sup>19</sup> Civilian Conservation Corps, a voluntary public work relief program instituted through the New Deal (1933-1942).

we had to get up during the night & nail a blanket on the door & stuff papers in the holes & window cracks. Little later, there was a downpour of rain – but not as bad as what we sometimes have in L.A. But by the morning it cleared up [.] Gee, goodness it was cold, though. During the rain, the mountain on the East was covered with snow. And the mountain West of us still had snow. The water we use here comes from these mountains so it's really cold [.] The first day, the lavatory here wasn't completed so

Page 3, back:

they had those temporary “Johns”<sup>20</sup> which was awful. Now, they have the regular lavatories to about 1 for each 4 blocks (16 buildings to a block & 4 rooms to one buildings & about 8-10 people to each room) [.] But do we have privacy! Goodness, the “Johns” don't have any partition at all. Also the showers are in ~~just~~ one room with no walls between each showers – of course men & women are separate. At the present time we don't have any warm water, so we ~~get~~ take cold – really icy cold – showers. Boy, is it cold! However during the daytime, it's so

---

<sup>20</sup> English vernacular for a toilet.

hot here – 86°-90°<sup>21</sup> –  
 so it isn't so bad, once one  
 gets use to it.  
 The laundries are not completed  
 so it's very inconvenient. We

Page 4, front: [in the upper right-hand corner is the number 4 in a circle]

heat our water with electric  
 heater – luckily we bought  
 that and go down to the "John"  
 & wash our clothes – it's  
 awful!  
 By the way, ~~the w~~ [?] we are more  
 handicapped because we don't  
 have enough things – I mean  
 we don't have any tables,  
 ironing board, closets, chairs,  
 buckets, washing board, shelves,  
 bureaus or anything. Some people  
 bought hammers & saws so they  
 started to make chairs, tables,  
 etc. We made ironing boards,  
 closets & shelves but the thing  
 is we don't have the tools so  
 we have to borrow them.  
 One thing we don't have to do  
 is cook. We just form a line  
 at the mess hall and hold  
 out our plates & cup. The meals  
 aren't so bad if you like beans  
 & potatoes. Beans & Beans & more  
 beans. For instance for lunch  
 we had red beans, can[ned] spinach,  
 carrots & cup of tea – some bread

Page 4, back:

and bread pudding. All in all  
 the meals aren't too bad. But  
 the plates & cups are so greasy  
 so we take our own.  
 The other day something wasn't  
 good because everyone came down

---

<sup>21</sup> Temperature is measured in Fahrenheit.

with a stomach ache & were  
 running to the lavatory every  
 few minutes. Some had  
 fevers & head aches. But I guess  
 it wasn't too serious.  
 Oh yes, when we first  
 arrived we – Ryoji & I, his  
 mother & brother – were  
 living with 3 other people whom  
 we didn't know very much  
 in one room. And my sisters &  
 brothers were living with about  
 30 other people in a barrack  
 with no partition. And so we  
 asked to be moved & put together.  
 With a great deal of commotion, we  
 finally got a room so my 2 brothers  
 & 2 sisters & we are staying together.  
 Of course we don't have any  
 privacy but it's better than  
 living with people we don't know [.]

Page 5, front: [in the upper-right hand corner is the number 5 in a circle]

Today was the first time since we  
 left L.A. that I saw a newspaper.  
 There's a store down on block 1 –  
 we on block 9 – where they  
 sell candies, cookies, soda, etc.  
 Oh yes, ~~they~~ we don't have  
 any schools yet so the children  
 are just playing around. We haven't  
 been assigned to any work but  
 I went to apply for a job in the  
 lab. or in the hospital.  
 Right now, the sand storm is  
 really going.  
 Well, I have to get a Typhoid  
 & Scarlet Fever shots so I'll  
 close – Tada Boy, they  
 certainly give us a big dose  
 because today at lunch a  
 man fainted because of the  
 shots he got this morning.

Always,  
Hirok.  
P/S. Thanks for the telegram, Helen.  
Please, pass this letter to the girls

Page 5, back:

in the Unit & to Mary<sup>22</sup> & Betty<sup>23</sup> &  
whoever wants to read it. ~~It~~  
~~write~~ Please, write.  
Owen's Valley Reception Center<sup>24</sup>  
Manzanar, Calif.  
We go to the post office, everyday  
for mail.  
Regards to Mrs. C Gammon.<sup>25</sup>  
Return to Ball<sup>26</sup>

*Edition: Letter 4, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy,  
May 1, 1942, (Manzanar, California)*

Page 1, right side:

May 1, 1942  
Dear Helen,  
Well, back, again and to ask you  
for more favors. A friend of mine's  
little girl is going to have a  
birthday very soon and I wonder  
if you can't order a cake costing  
about \$4.00 and have it sent here.  
The cake needn't be too fancy –  
perhaps have "Toyoko" written  
on it. If this isn't possible  
you could send up ~~at~~ cookies  
or something like that to feed  
20 people. And also, would you  
please, buy a case of White

---

<sup>22</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>23</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>24</sup> The Owens Valley Reception Center was the first of the Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA) administered, short-term detention camps to open (March 21, 1942). The name was later changed to Manzanar War Relocation Center ("Manzanar" for short) when the War Relocation Authority (WRA) took control on June 1, 1942.

<sup>25</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>26</sup> This last line is written very faintly (in pencil) across the bottom of the letter and was presumably added later. "Ball" may be referring to Dr. Meridian Ball (see letter 4).

King Bar Soaps<sup>27</sup> (100 in a case)  
and send it up here. Don't  
forget to include postage when  
you subtract the cost from

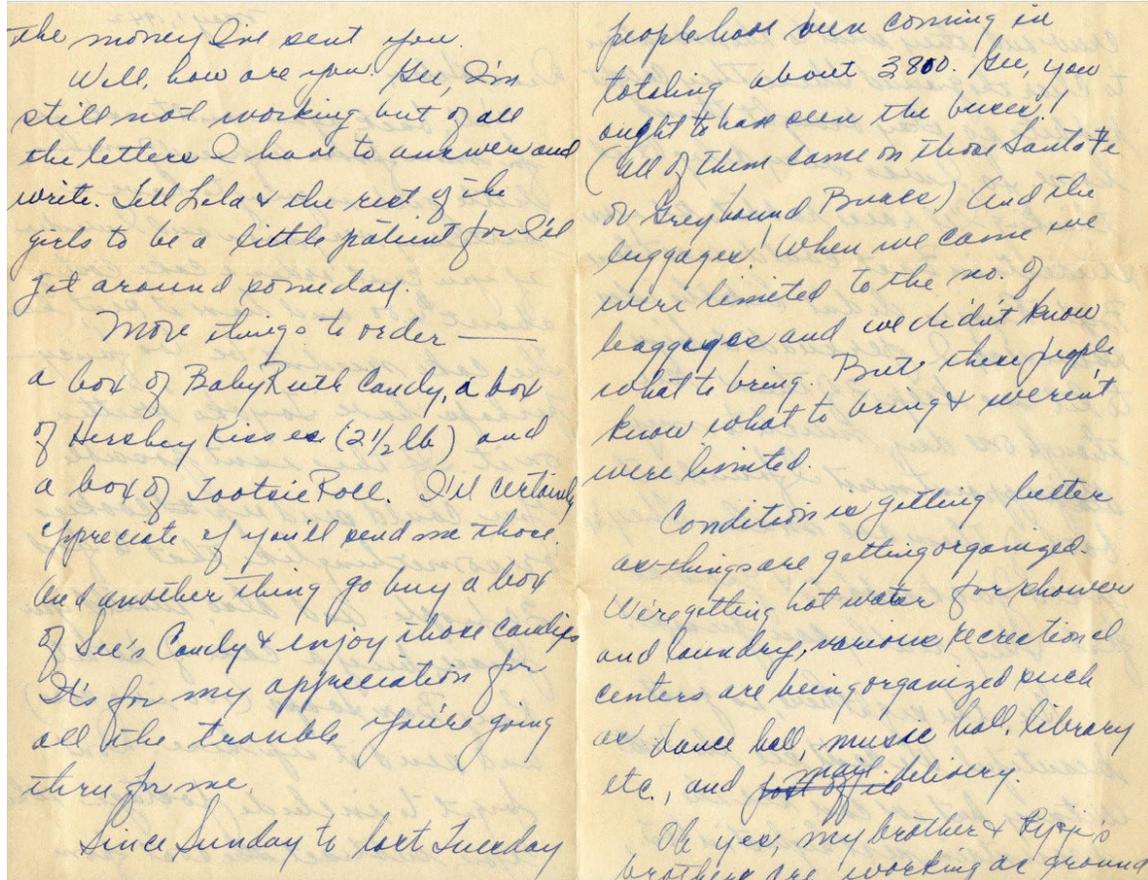


Figure 3: Letter 4, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy, May 1, 1942, (Manzanar, California) [excerpt].

Page 2, left side:

the money I've sent you.  
Well, how are you. Gee, I'm  
still not working but of all  
the letters I have to answer and  
write. Tell Lela<sup>28</sup> & the rest of the  
girls to be a little patient for I'll  
get around someday.

<sup>27</sup> A brand of soap manufactured by the Los Angeles Soap Company, which went out of business in 1987.

<sup>28</sup> Unknown individual.

More things to order –  
 a box of Baby Ruth Candy,<sup>29</sup> a box  
 of Hershey Kisses<sup>30</sup> (2½ lb) and  
 a box of Tootsie Roll.<sup>31</sup> I'll certainly  
 appreciate if you'll send me those.  
 And another thing go buy a box  
 of See's Candy<sup>32</sup> & enjoy those candies [.]  
 It's for my appreciation for  
 all the trouble you're going  
 thru [*sic*] for me.  
 Since Sunday to last Tuesday

Page 2, right side:

people have been coming in  
 totaling about 3800. Gee, you  
 ought to have seen the buses!  
 (All of them came on those Santa Fe  
 or Greyhound Buses.)<sup>33</sup> And the  
 luggages! When we came we  
 were limited to the no. of  
 baggages and we didn't know  
 what to bring. But these people  
 know what to bring & weren't  
 were [*sic*] limited.  
 Condition is getting better  
 as things are getting organized.  
 We're getting hot water for showers  
 and laundry, various recreational  
 centers are being organized such  
 as dance hall, music hall, library  
 etc., and ~~post office~~ mail delivery.  
 Oh yes, my brother & Ryoji's  
 brother are working as ground

---

<sup>29</sup> American peanut-caramel-nougat-chocolate candy; manufactured since 1921.

<sup>30</sup> American chocolate candy; manufactured since 1907.

<sup>31</sup> American chocolate taffy; manufactured since 1907.

<sup>32</sup> An American manufacturer and distributor of candy, particularly chocolates, founded in 1921 in Los Angeles, California, by Charles See, his wife Florence, and his mother Mary.

<sup>33</sup> The Santa Fe Transportation company operated buses from the 1930s until 1947. Greyhound Lines started operating buses since 1914.

Page 1, left side:

crew and they went to the mountain  
to clear the ground. There, they caught  
rabbits so they brought them [*sic*]  
home. So, I was very delighted  
thinking I'll raise rabbits so you  
students in Bact.<sup>34</sup> could use them.  
But Ryoji didn't like the idea [.]  
However, I persuaded him  
to let me keep 2 of them. Gee,  
though one day, much to my  
~~dia~~ disappointment I found out  
both of them are males. They're  
wild Jackrabbits & grow so  
fast. They really can jump!  
Gee, the sight here, is just  
beautiful. We can't see the Mt  
Whitney<sup>35</sup> but we can see the  
mountain next highest in U.S.,

Page 3, right side:

Mt. Williamson.<sup>36</sup>  
Oh yes, did I tell you about  
the first wedding here? It was  
very simple with the bride  
wearing a blue suit. The maids  
carried Lilacs and she carried  
a little bouquet of White Sues.  
We got a ~~little~~ letter few  
days ago from my mother –  
the first letter. She was  
transferred to Immigration  
Station on Terminal Island<sup>37</sup> on  
April 16. There's about 33 women  
in there. She seem to be rather  
lonely but I guess it's better

---

<sup>34</sup> Bacteriology, a course of study at UCLA.

<sup>35</sup> Mt. Whitney is the highest peak in the Sierra Nevada mountain range and the contiguous United States.

<sup>36</sup> Mt. Williamson is the second highest peak in the Sierra Nevada and the state of California.

<sup>37</sup> An artificial island located at the mouth of the Los Angeles Harbor in Los Angeles County.

for her to stay there than to  
 come to a place like here.  
 The sandstorms are terrible!  
 Ryoji is trying awfully  
 hard to contact a school

Page 4, left side:

in other state – Mid. West –  
 but they all don't seem to want  
~~to~~ us to come but they all  
 give us discouraging letter.  
 I guess, once we're in this  
 camp we'll never get out –  
 maybe even after the war.  
 Well, regards to everyone and  
 I'll write to them sometime  
 later.  
 Tell Dr [.] Beckwith<sup>38</sup> & Dr [.]  
 Ball<sup>39</sup> that I haven't forgotten  
 them and will write to them [.]  
 Thanks a lot.  
 Always,  
 Hirok

*Edition: Letter 5, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy,  
 May 4, 1942, (Manzanar, California)*

Page 1, right side:

May 4, 1942  
 Dear Helen,  
 Gee, I hope I'm not asking  
 you, too much ~~but~~ because  
 I'm going to ask more  
 favors. As you know May  
 10<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day and  
 I'd like to give Ryoji's  
 mother a pair of nylon  
 hose. So will you kindly  
 send me a pair, size  
 9 and the color – not too

---

<sup>38</sup> Dr. Theodore Beckwith, Professor of Bacteriology at UCLA (Chairman of the Department).

<sup>39</sup> Dr. Meridian Ball, Instructor in Bacteriology at UCLA.

dark & not too light –  
medium length.

Also, May 10<sup>th</sup> is my  
husband's birthday, and  
I wonder if you can get  
me a book titled Living  
Biographies of Great Philosophers

Page 2, left side:

edited by H[enry]. Thomas & D[ana]. L[ee].  
Thomas.<sup>40</sup> I think you could  
get it at Campbells.<sup>41</sup> If that  
book isn't there get  
me Living Biog[raphies]. of Great  
Painters<sup>42</sup> or L[iving]. Biog[raphies]. of Famous  
Rulers<sup>43</sup> or L[iving]. Biog[raphies] of  
Great Composers.<sup>44</sup>

If you can't get any of those  
books get either The  
Complete Works of Shakespeare  
or Cantebury Tales [*sic*].  
(Ill[ustrated]. by Rockwell Kent<sup>45</sup>).  
Oh yes, don't forget  
a little card for each  
of the gifts.  
I certainly appreciate

Page 2, right side:

all you've done for  
me, Helen. I hope  
some day I can repay  
you and the rest  
of the gang.  
Well, I'm in a  
hurry so I'll close  
& write, again [.]

---

<sup>40</sup> First published in New York in 1940.

<sup>41</sup> A bookstore in Westwood, across from the UCLA campus. It has since closed.

<sup>42</sup> By Henry and Dana Lee Thomas; first published in New York in 1940.

<sup>43</sup> By Henry and Dana Lee Thomas; first published in New York in 1940.

<sup>44</sup> By Henry and Dana Lee Thomas; first published in New York in 1940.

<sup>45</sup> American painter, printmaker, illustrator, and writer (1882-1971).

Love  
Hirok.

Page 1, left side: blank

*Edition: Letter 6, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy,  
October 2, 1942, (Manzanar, California)*

Page 1, right side:

Oct 2, 1942

Dear Helen,

Well, here I am finally! Gee  
it was just a month ago  
when I received your letter.  
And here I am answering it  
now. Gee, I ought to be ashamed  
of myself! But in a way I  
have good reasons for not  
writing – First, Tracy,  
I want to thank you for all you've  
done in sending the candies, the  
book and shower cape.  
Well, to go back to where I  
left off. As you know I was  
working in the local –  
Manzanar Hospital – hospital  
as Assistant lab. technician.  
Since the medical staff of the hospital  
is so small, everyone just  
works ~~her~~ her head off.  
In the first place we have  
only 6 doctors for 11,000  
people and about 5 registered  
nurse for the whole hospital

Page 2, left side:

whose capacity is 250 patients.  
There are 2 ~~full~~ certified lab.  
technician and I. We really  
had lots of work to do –  
doing blood counts for all  
the new in-patients (which  
includes the contagious disease  
patients), urin[e] anylysis [*sic*] for  
all new in-patients, blood

counts & urin[e] anylisis [*sic*] for  
 clinic patients designated  
 by the doctors, stool exam,  
 and throat swabs and  
 then Wassermann<sup>46</sup> test for  
 all kitchen workers (50  
 people in each kitchen – about  
 30 kitchen open) as well  
 as Wassermann for pre-  
 marital & prenatal and  
 clinic patient suspected of  
 Syphillis. We also had  
 to do Typhoid injections,  
 Small pox vaccination,  
 and Whooping Cough &  
 Diphtheria injections

Page 2, right side:

to the children in camp.  
 So you can see how busy  
 we were – we really  
 worked over 8 hrs a  
 day and our wages are  
 \$19 a month for professional  
 (doctors), \$16 for skilled  
 laborers (this is where  
 I come in), and \$12 a month  
 for the unskilled. When  
 you think of the money  
 angle, the work doesn't  
 seem to [be] worth anything.  
 But I liked it so it wasn't  
 bad. Pity the poor  
 nurse's aid. They really  
 worked about 9-10 hrs  
 each day since there  
 aren't enough R<sup>47</sup> nurses  
 and they get only \$12!

---

<sup>46</sup> An antibody test for Syphilis, the first of its kind to use blood to identify infection.

<sup>47</sup> Presumably denoting “registered” nurses.

And those girls really  
do a good size job—  
almost like a regular

Page 1, left side:

nurse and they have to go  
on night shift as their  
turn comes.  
So I am sorry I didn't  
write to you all but  
really haven't had time to  
write a single letter! I  
bet many of my friends are mad  
at me. Then, about 2 months  
ago I suddenly became  
sick, I kept on vomiting  
everything I ate and be-  
came weaker & weaker—  
oh, the heat just got me  
too. The temperature goes  
up easily over 110°F inside  
the houses here in Manzanar  
during the summer months.  
Well, I went in the hospital  
and came out in a few days. They  
gave me over a quart of  
water with nutritional  
elements thru my arm  
vein. Well, I found out  
what was wrong with me.  
I am to have a baby

Page 3, right side:

next year, end of April or  
beginning of May. Boy, but  
I was sick the last 2  
month[s] that I just wonder  
if it's worth having baby  
after having to go thru  
all this—and what's  
to come. I'm rather  
skeptical about what's  
coming because there  
has been a great deal

of premature birth in this camp. And quite a few of the babies died. I guess it's due to the strain the mothers had to go thru when evacuating and also the fact that this camp lacks many of the conveniences we had ~~at~~ back home — such as running water faucet in the house — we have to carry buckets of water each time we want to mop or when we need water. Camp life was fun at first

Page 4, left side:

but the novelty has already worn out.  
 Gee, it's swell to hear that you girls got out of Gammon's sight. I bet it's life to have an apartment all by yourselves.  
 Gee, I wish I was with you kids. I don't mind the perpetual studying.  
 In fact, we were making arrangement to get ~~out~~ out of this camp to attend either University of Nebraska or [University of]<sup>48</sup> Utah. We had to write to Washington for ~~out~~ our travel permit. Well, of course, I can't go now, but Ryoji is still planning to go but the darn officials are taking their good old time about that permit.

---

<sup>48</sup> Hiroko Nonoshita uses ditto marks ["] for "University of" here.

My congratulations to Joyce<sup>49</sup>  
& Kashy.<sup>50</sup> Gee, that reminds

Page 4, right side:

me Joyce wrote about 2 or  
3 month[s] ago and I haven't  
said a word to her. Please,  
tell her I haven't forgotten  
and I'll try to get around  
to her.

Oh yes, Helen, if you see  
Dr [.] Ball, tell her how  
sorry I am about not  
writing to her but I try as  
soon as possible!

Yes, we're very happy –  
especially with both my  
mother and father released –  
at least they're on parole (  
sounds like criminals). I'm  
living with Ryoji and my mother  
in law & brother-in-law in  
a 20'x20' room. Perhaps, it  
may be different for you girls  
but I'd advise you not to  
live with your in-laws  
if you can help it. I'm having  
trouble – well, one thing the  
Japanese ideas of a daughter  
& mother in law relation

Page 3, left side:

is terrible. Especially if you're  
married to the first son,  
you have to do everything  
for the mother in-law and  
get bossed all around. But  
one thing I'm determined is  
that noone is going to tell  
me how to raise my children!

---

<sup>49</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>50</sup> Unknown individual.

Oh yes, do you hear from  
 Lela? I certainly like to  
 write to her but is she  
 teaching in Bakersfield?<sup>51</sup>  
 Tell her to write.  
 So Cook<sup>52</sup> is back with  
 you! That's swell!  
 Helen, how are you getting  
 along in Bact?<sup>53</sup> I bet you're  
 getting those A's.  
 Well, I'll close and  
 wait to hear from you.  
 Are you starting your  
 fall semester, now?  
 Regards to the gang. What's  
 Una<sup>54</sup> doing. If you dare  
 to approach Gammon  
 give her my regards.  
 Love Hirok.  
 P/S. Wrote this in bed so excuse the messiness [.]

*Edition: Letter 7, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy,  
 November 30, 1942, Manzanar, California*

Envelope: [printed: "After Five Days Return To"] Hiroko Nonoshita/9-10-  
 3/Manzanar, Calif [round postmark:] MANZANAR/DEC 1/5:30 PM/1942/CALIF.  
 [canceled red stamp featuring an artillery cannon; text: UNITED STATES OF  
 AMERICA/ARMY AND NAVY/FOR DEFENSE/POSTAL 2 CENTS] [addressee:]  
 Miss Helen Tracy/10810½ Lindbrook<sup>55</sup>/Los Angeles/California

Page 1:

Nov 30, 1942.  
 Dear Helen,  
 Thanks a lot for your last letter (when  
 was it that I received it?) Any way thanks and  
 I'm sorry to be so late in answering it. I've  
 been feeling much better, lately and try-  
 ing to keep my self busy so I won't miss  
 Ryoji.

---

<sup>51</sup> City in Kern County, California.

<sup>52</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>53</sup> Bacteriology, a course of study at UCLA.

<sup>54</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>55</sup> At the time of this edition, this residence still exists.

You know Ryoji is in Salt Lake City, Utah attending Uni. of Utah. Of course I could have gone excepting there would be no one to look after me, and it'll just be an added expense. So I'm staying with my in-laws. You can just about imagine how I'm getting along. Sometimes I get so lonesome that I want to do something drastic. Maybe, that's how people get insane, but I wish I could do something to see Ryoji or even be with you girls.

Of course, I go to my folks place quite often but with most of the family working & my older sister left this camp to get married to a fellow in a camp in Wyoming, it isn't like it use to be.

Page 2:

Gee, Helen, I'm glad you like your major I mean Dietetics.<sup>56</sup> Did Al leave yet? I hope not. I bet you'll be plenty lonesome!

By the way, what became of the triangle Lela, Sam<sup>57</sup> and Lee?<sup>58</sup> Tell me about it.

Well, Helen, I'm sort of in a hurry and yet I want to ask you some more favors, if you don't mind. You know I'm getting big just at one spot. And I just can't do anything with my clothes so I wonder if you can go to downtown Bullock's<sup>59</sup> and get me the dress that is ~~showing~~ illustrated in the enclosed clipping.

---

<sup>56</sup> An academic course of study that focuses on the diet and its effects on health, using knowledge about food and nutrition to promote and maintain health as well as prevent disease.

<sup>57</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>58</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>59</sup> A chain of department stores that closed in 1995.

It's the middle one "B" costing \$5.95  
 whew! I know it's plenty but I got to [have]  
 some sort of camouflage! My choice  
 of color would be 1. brown 2. Rose 3 [.] blue  
 4 [.] red. I just want one dress in  
 any of those colors & in size 12.  
 And also Helen 13 ozs<sup>60</sup> of Zephyr –  
 down no. 27511<sup>61</sup> in the color indicated

Page 3:

by the enclosed sample. It cost 50¢  
 an ounce. I know they should have  
 them since one of my friends [got] the  
 sample from Bullocks.

Some more yet, Helen, 42 or 45  
 inch bleached white sheeting for quilt  
 lining (Quilt is 40x60 inches). And  
 white & pink sewing cotton No. 50  
 for quilting. And also cotton sheet  
 wadding.

I hope I'm not asking too much  
 but please, get them for me.  
 I'd like to write more ~~but~~ since  
 I have more to say but I'll leave it till  
~~not~~ next time I hope soon. Tell all  
 the girls Hello!

Love  
 Hirok.

*Edition: Letter 8, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy and Kashy,  
 January 8, 1943, Manzanar, California*

Envelope: [printed: "After Five Days Return To"] 9-10-3/Manzanar, Calif. [round  
 postmark:] MANZANAR/JAN 9/5:30 PM/1943/CALIF. [canceled red stamp  
 featuring an artillery cannon; text: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/ARMY AND  
 NAVY/FOR DEFENSE/POSTAL 2 CENTS] [addressee:] Miss Helen Tracy/10810½  
 Lindbrook/Los Angeles/Calif.

Page 1, right side:

Jan. 8, 1942<sup>62</sup>  
 Dear Helen & Kashy,

<sup>60</sup> Abbreviation for "ounces."

<sup>61</sup> A fabric dye used in the mid-twentieth century.

<sup>62</sup> The year should read 1943.

Gee, thanks a lot for your presents.  
 Honestly, I don't know how to express  
 my appreciation and joy of receiving  
 your gifts. I know Juniors<sup>63</sup> [*sic*] going to  
 make a great use ~~for~~ with those  
 undies. And the candies are just  
 the thing since our only canteen<sup>64</sup>  
 is always out of candies –  
 even cookies – And the nightie!  
 Size 8! Goodness even if I had  
 quadruplets, I don't think  
 I can quite fill in that  
 nightgown! But any way,  
 I really didn't know what  
 to say when I opened the  
 package! You certainly made  
 me happy.  
 And the dress just fitted  
 me & my folks were pretty  
 happy about getting their  
 presents! Thanks a million.  
 Gee, I bet you were busy  
 and I made you buy those

Page 2, left side:

things! Really, I certainly  
 appreciate everything you do  
 for me. And I hate to ask  
 you to do things since I know  
 you're pretty busy.  
 Ryoji wrote and he  
 said they've just started  
 a new quarter this week.  
 He had 2 weeks vacation  
 for Christmas at which  
 time he worked as a  
 janitor at the University.<sup>65</sup>  
 Lately, the weather's  
 been rather cold ~~ab~~ around

---

<sup>63</sup> Gordon Nonoshita, Hiroko's and Ryoji's son, referred to as Junior prior to his birth.

<sup>64</sup> A store found in a camp or factory where food, drinks, and small supplies are sold.

<sup>65</sup> University of Utah.

30°F. And with the wind blowing continuously, the coldness really penetrates! So I certainly can make use of the flannel nightgown! How was your Christmas? Did you get to go home, Helen?

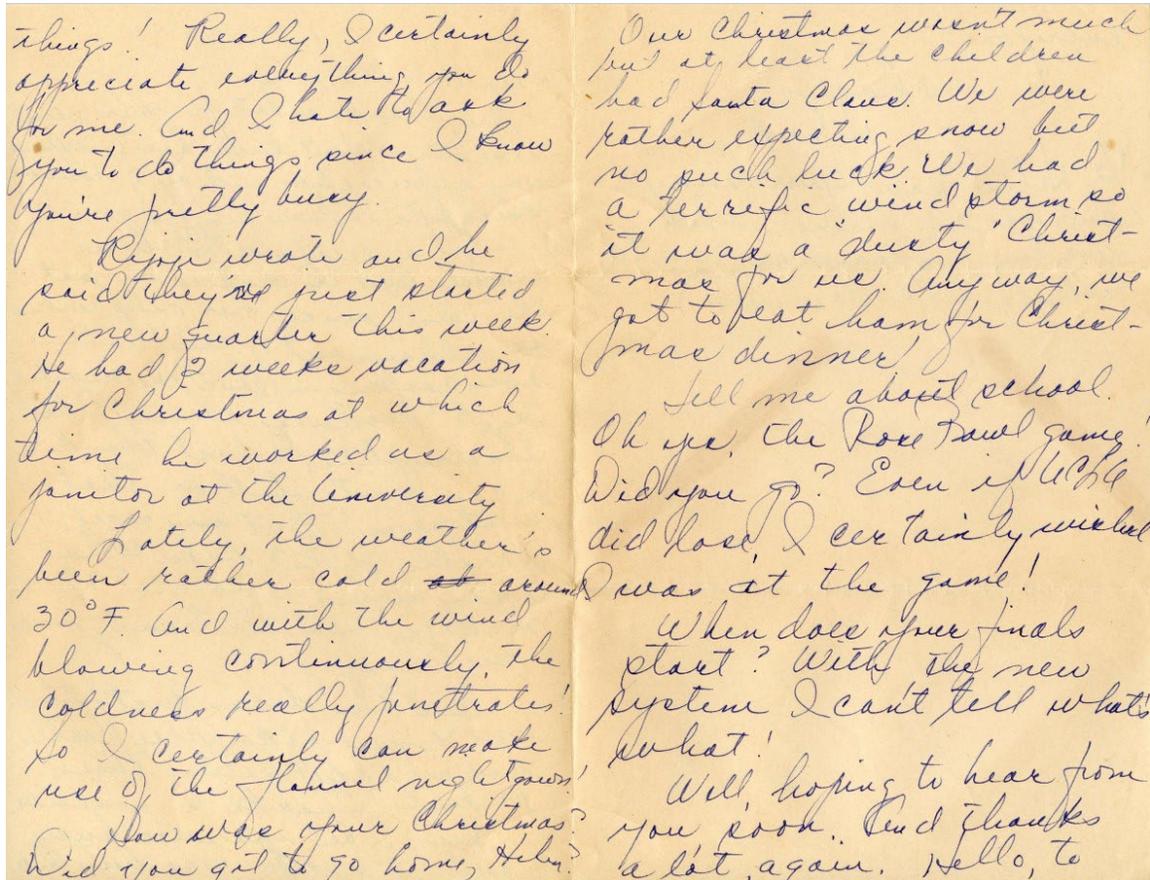


Figure 4: Letter 8, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy and Kashy, January 8, 1943, Manzanar, California [excerpt].

Page 2, right side:

Our Christmas wasn't much but at least the children had Santa Claus. We were rather expecting snow but no such luck. We had a terrific wind storm so it was a "dusty" Christmas for us. Anyway, we

got to eat ham for Christ-  
 mas dinner!  
 Tell me about school.  
 Oh yes, the Rose Bowl game!<sup>66</sup>  
 Did you go? Even if UCLA  
 did lose, I certainly wished  
 I was at the game!  
 When does your finals  
 start? With the new  
 system I can't tell what's  
 what!  
 Well, hoping to hear from  
 you soon. And thanks  
 a lot, again. Hello, to

Page 1, left side:

everyone!  
 Always,  
 Hirok  
 P/S. Helen, save your penny  
 and use 2¢ stamps when  
 writing to Manzanar from L.A.  
 (includes W.L.A.<sup>67</sup> or Westwood<sup>68</sup>)

*Edition: Letter 9, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy,  
 January 19, 1943, (Manzanar, California)*

Page 1, right side:

Jan 19, 1942<sup>69</sup>  
 Dear Helen,  
 Gee, I'm glad to hear from you!  
 And thanks again for the Christmas  
 presents. The nightgown certainly  
 keeps "us" warm! You see the  
 mercury drops to about 17°F  
 during the night & morning so  
 we really need to keep ourselves  
 warm.

---

<sup>66</sup> The Rose Bowl game is played in Pasadena, California, traditionally on January 1. On January 1, 1943, the Georgia Bulldogs defeated the UCLA Bruins with a score of 9-0.

<sup>67</sup> Abbreviation for West Los Angeles.

<sup>68</sup> A neighborhood that encompasses the UCLA campus and the Westwood Village.

<sup>69</sup> Based on the letters' information and the timeline of the pregnancy, the year should be 1943.

Helen, never mind about the yarn and the batting. The canteen here is selling the batting and I have ordered to a yarn company for the yarns – they seem to have the color I want. If you already bought them you can send them – it's all right because I can always use them. But will you still get me the quilting threads (No. 50 I believe) pink and white. And the quilt lining. Also, in addition, please, get me a case (I mean a whole box) of Ivory<sup>70</sup> cake soap for laundry. I hope the store will sell you that much. Any

Page 2, left side:

way, I'll need them to wash diapers and rest of Junior's wardrobe [.] The soaps sold in camp are too strong and we're limited to one cake at a time. Imagine!  
By the way, am I using more money than I gave you? Please, let me know if I "overdraw."  
Gee, Helen, you don't know how much you've helped me! It's certainly is [*sic*] swell of you kids to do everything for me.  
By the way, how about sending me a snap shot of each of you.  
Gosh, you don't know what it means to have a picture out here! Noone is allowed to take pictures – in fact one shouldn't have a camera or a kodax. So I don't know what I'm going to do when Junior comes and Ryoji is out there in Utah. He won't

---

<sup>70</sup> American soap; sold since 1879.

know how his own child looks like.

Page 2, right side:

Oh yes, Helen, I certainly would like to have a twin! Even a triplet (spelling?) will do! You see the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 month[s], I really suffered and if I have a twin or more I don't have to suffer that much or more.

Get?

Gosh, I know how you feel with Al so far away. But buck up, it won't be long when we'll get to be with the ones we love!

Golly, good for Una. I hope that 1<sup>st</sup> date wasn't the last one. She sent me a beautiful Christmas card and I wanted to thank her but haven't gotten around so tell her I haven't forgotten. Also, tell Joyce that ~~th~~ I'm still hoping

Page 1, left side:

to answer her letter.

Well, be good – I mean everyone. Study hard!

Love,  
Hirok.

P/S. Gee, too bad about Louise<sup>71</sup> not being able to join the Waves.<sup>72</sup>

Can't she try out for RO.TC<sup>73</sup> (women's)

Or are they strict about the perfect need of one's eyes? There's a girl (P.E. Major) who graduated U.C.L.A. and she's a Waves. Maybe

---

<sup>71</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>72</sup> Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service; the women's branch of the U.S. Naval Reserve during World War II.

<sup>73</sup> Reserve Officers' Training Corps; a college and university-based officers' training program.

Cookie<sup>74</sup> can write to her. Her name is Ruth Nelson.<sup>75</sup> I'll get her address if you want me to. Any way, I don't know much about the Waves requirements but it seems as though a great deal has to do with "pull."

*Edition: Letter 10, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy, March 2, 1943, (Manzanar, California)*

Page 1, right side:

Mar 2, 1943

Dear Helen,

Thanks a lot for the valentine cards! It really was a surprise but I guessed who.

Well, how was your finals?

And what are you taking this semester? I've been rather busy doing nothing but I haven't forgotten you girls.

Things are really hard to get so I bet you people are really have[ing] a time. We didn't have to worry about ration cards till recently but now with shoes rationed we'll be getting those tickets. We haven't as yet gotten them, though.

By the way, Helen, never mind about the quilting threads. But, please, get me

Page 2, left side:

the white cotton sheeting for quilt lining (quilt size 40"x60") about 3 yds<sup>76</sup> of 42" wide material. Also, the soaps

---

<sup>74</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>75</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>76</sup> Abbreviation for "yards."

(Ivory), you can send them few at a time if you can't get all at once. You see it's not very far off before Junior is to come and the quilt is for the crib and I need the soaps for the diapers & bathing Junior. The thing is that we can't get any kind of laundry soap at our local canteen. So I'd appreciate if you will send them as soon as possible. Oh yes, would you be able to buy me knitted sheetings for baby crib— about 3 of them. They're sheets

Page 2, right side:

or crib covers which are knitted like undies. I think if you go to the Babie's [*sic*] department of any large department store, such as Bullock, they'll have them. I want them instead of the regular cotton sheets because they don't need to be ironed.

Well, I better close if I want to get this out before the mail goes out. Will write again.

Love,

Hirok

P/S. Regards to the girls.

Page 1, left side: blank

*Edition: Letter 11, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy, March 23, 1943, (Manzanar, California)*

Page 1, right side:

Mar 23, 1943

Dear Helen,

Thanks a lot for sending me  
 the sheets, sheeting material  
 and the soaps. I received them  
 yesterday. I'm sorry I had to  
 rush you when you're so  
 busy. Thanks, again.  
 Gee, it's good to hear from you!  
 Gosh, a lot of things certainly  
 happened. Extend my congratulation  
 & best wishes to Kashy & Paul.<sup>77</sup>  
 I'll try to write to her sooner or later,  
 but you [know] how it is, now – I  
 bearly [*sic*] write ~~to peo~~ to Ryoji  
 (and others because of necessity).  
 Gee, it's too bad that Paul has  
 to leave right away. I know how  
 she feels. But I guess I'm  
 better off than most of you  
 since I have Junior to look  
 forward to. This darn war  
 has to mess up every body's  
 life & happiness.  
 But it's good to hear  
 that Al is a staff sergeant

Page 2, left side:

already! As they say, how  
 much does he get?  
 Nope, Ryoji won't graduate  
 until next March (1944) [.]. He's  
 suppose to this June but  
 changing school just puts  
 him off that much. You  
 see Uni of Utah is on quarter  
 basis (3 quarter equal a year)  
 while S.C.<sup>78</sup> was on semester  
 basis (2 semester = a yr.<sup>79</sup>).  
 So he just finished his finals  
 & is starting Spring quarter

---

<sup>77</sup> Unknown individual.

<sup>78</sup> The University of Southern California.

<sup>79</sup> Abbreviation for "year."

this week, lasting until  
June.

I don't think Junior's  
going to be a twin since  
the doctor hasn't said any-  
thing to the sort. But I  
certainly like to have one.  
I guess it just doesn't  
run in our families!  
Gee, Helen, I'll try to send

Page 2, right side:

a picture or more of Junior  
if I can. But you see we're  
not allowed to have cameras  
or kodaks in this camp.  
Only the Caucasian can take  
pictures so we have to be  
pretty lucky to have our picture  
taken – sounds like the  
uncivilized world. Any way,  
Helen, to tell you the truth I've  
been trying to "smuggle" in a  
cheap (\$3.00 or so) box camera  
so I can take pictures of  
Junior – that's about all  
that's interesting to take  
around here – however,  
I haven't succeeded. If you  
think you could take the  
chance and if it's not asking  
too much, will you buy  
me one (about \$3 or \$4) and  
some films and send it by  
mail. They don't inspect parcels [.]

Page 1, left side:

Tell me before hand when  
you're sending it. Don't do  
this, if you feel you shouldn't.  
I promise "on my honor"  
that I won't use it for "spying  
or anything of that sort" [.] Just  
for Junior, Helen. Any way, if

you should get it, do you  
 have enough money. Do you  
 want me to send you some?  
 Let me know. Gee, it'll be  
 swell if I can take pictures,  
 then I can send them to Ryoji.  
 Otherwise, Ryoji will never  
 know how Junior looks like.  
 My goodness, I didn't know  
 Eve Harris<sup>80</sup> was expecting!  
 I'll have to write her.  
 Yup, I remember Old  
 Dr Gordon.<sup>81</sup> It didn't take  
 her very long to get married!  
 –65 yrs<sup>82</sup> old, did you say?  
 Well, end of the page, and this is  
 the last sheet of paper I have so  
 I'll close. I'll let you know when  
 Junior comes. Love to all, Hirok.

*Edition: Letter 12, Postcard, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy,  
 June 2, 1943, Manzanar, California*

Beige postcard: [text:] 9-10-3/Manzanar, Calif. [round postmark:]  
 MANZANAR/JUN 4/5:30 PM/1943/CALIF. [canceled green stamp featuring  
 Thomas Jefferson; text: U.S. POSTAL CARD/ONE CENT/1 JEFFERSON 1]  
 [envelope; green text:] THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS [addressee:] Miss  
 Helen Tracy/10810½ Lindbrook/Los Angeles/ California

Back:

May

June 2, 1943<sup>83</sup>

Dear Helen,

Gee, Helen, thanks for your  
 pretty blanket [.] And the soaps!  
 You shouldn't do those thing,  
 Helen! After all the things  
 you did for me! Really,

---

<sup>80</sup> Unknown individual

<sup>81</sup> Unknown individual

<sup>82</sup> Abbreviation for "years."

<sup>83</sup> The date reads June 2, 1943, but the 2 denoting the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June is written over a 1 while the 3 in 1943 has been written over a 2.

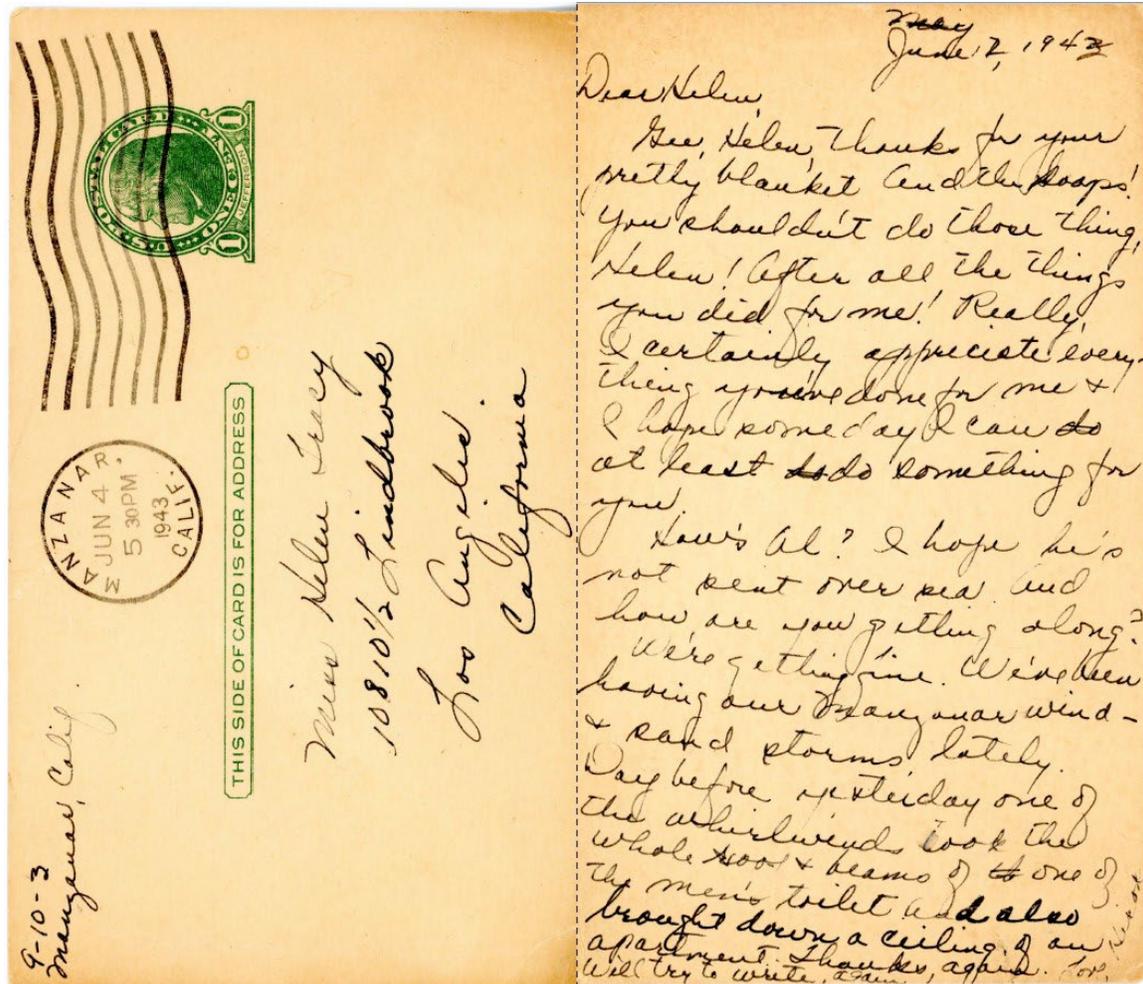


Figure 5: Letter 12, Postcard, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy, June 2, 1943, Manzanar, California.

I certainly appreciate every-  
thing you've done for me &  
I hope some day I can ~~do~~  
at least ~~do~~ do something for  
you.  
How's Al? I hope he's  
not sent over sea. And  
how are you getting along?  
We're getting fine. We've been  
having our Manzanar wind—  
& sand storms, lately.  
Day before yesterday one of  
the whirlwinds took the  
whole roof & beams of ~~th~~ one of  
the men's toilet and also

brought down a ceiling of an  
apartment. Thanks again.  
Will try to write, again.  
Love, Hirok

*Edition: Letter 13, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy,  
December 21, 1943, Manzanar, California*

Beige paper envelope: [text:] 9-14-5/Manzanar, Calif. [round postmark:]  
MANZANAR/DEC 21/5:30 PM/1943/CALIF. [canceled purple stamp featuring an  
eagle encircled by stars; text: WIN THE WAR/3¢ 3¢/UNITED STATES POSTAGE]  
[addressee:] Miss Helen Tracy/1468 Drake 10810½ Lindbrook/Burlingame Los  
Angeles/California

Beige paper envelope (back): [round postmark:] BURLINGAME/JAN 10/5:30  
PM/1944/CALIF.

Christmas card (front): [front of red and white Christmas card featuring the front  
door, window, and stoop of a red brick home covered in snow, a green wreath hangs  
on the door; printed: Season's Wishes]

Christmas card (inside): [inside of Christmas card featuring two red houses nestled  
within a snowy landscape; printed: With Christmas cheer at every door/To welcome  
you anew/May every wish for/HAPPINESS/Bring joy the/whole year/through]

Dear Helen,  
Gee, I owe you a letter since  
last summer. But I haven't  
forgotten you. I've been pretty  
busy with Gordon.<sup>84</sup>  
How are you? And Al? Where  
is he?  
Are you still attending UCLA?

Christmas card (back): [bottom of card; printed: NO. 40R11/MADE IN U.S.A.]

Gordon has become a husky<sup>85</sup>  
of 21 ½ lbs now — 8 mo.<sup>86</sup> old. He's  
a regular toughie and wears  
me out.

By the way, I was certainly  
surprised about Una. How  
did it all happen. Let me know.  
Oh yes, how much do I have  
in the "kitty."<sup>87</sup> I wonder if you

<sup>84</sup> Hiroko's and Ryoji's son, referred to as Junior prior to his birth.

<sup>85</sup> Meaning strong or hefty.

<sup>86</sup> Abbreviation for "months."

<sup>87</sup> Meaning a fund of money.

can get me something for Una,  
Joyce, Cashy<sup>88</sup> and who else  
was married since I left? Anything  
you think is nice costing about  
\$1.25 each. If you don't have enough  
let me know.

Well, Merry Christmas &  
a Happy New Year to a swell girl.

Love,  
Hirok &  
Gordon.

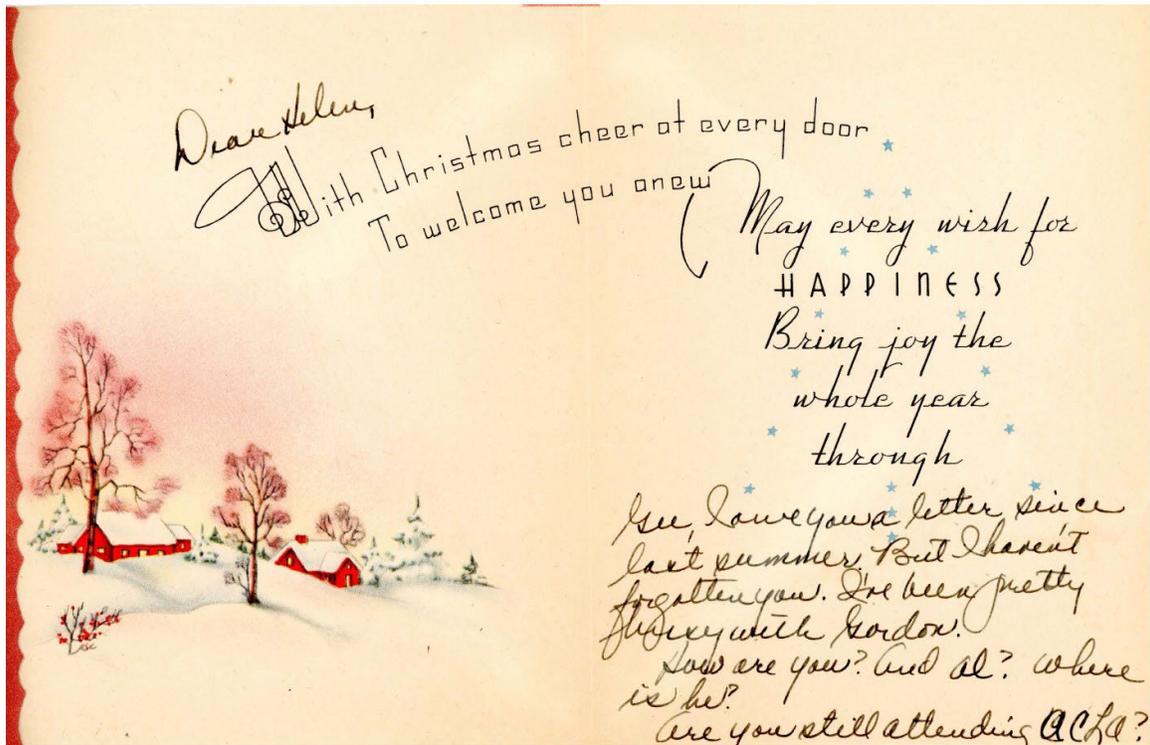


Figure 6: Letter 13, Hiroko Nonoshita to Helen Tracy, December 21, 1943, Manzanar, California [excerpt].

Edition: Letter 14, Photograph of Gordon Nonoshita,  
April 18, 1944, Manzanar, California

Front: [black-and-white photograph featuring a one-year-old boy of Japanese descent sitting upon a wooden bench, grasping a stuffed panda bear]

Back: [handwritten text:]

Gordon Nonoshita 1 Yr Old  
Hiroko Takahashi – Mother

<sup>88</sup> The same individual as “Kashy” in letters 6, 8, and 11.

Ryogo<sup>89</sup> [sic] Nonoshita – father  
Manzanar, Calif 4/18/44

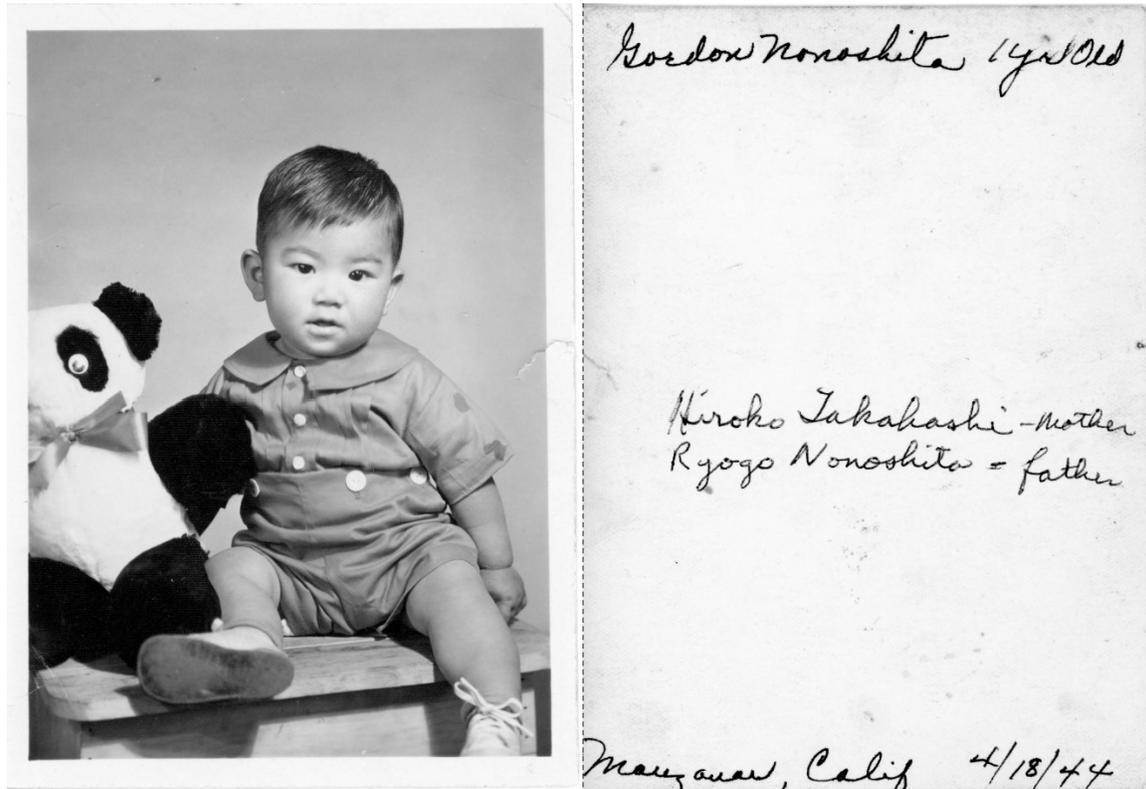


Figure 7: Letter 14, Photograph of Gordon Nonoshita, April 18, 1944, Manzanar, California.

Edition: Letter 15, Birth Announcement, addressed to Helen Tracy,  
November 7, 1944, Redwood City, California

Beige paper envelope: [text:] 336 Edgewood Rd<sup>90</sup>/Redwood City/Calif [round postmark:] REDWOOD CITY/NOV 7/1:00 PM/1944/CALIF. [canceled purple stamp featuring an eagle encircled by stars; text: WIN THE WAR/3¢ 3¢/UNITED STATES POSTAGE] [addressee:] Miss Helen M. Tracy/Diet Dept. California Hospital/1414 S. Hope St<sup>91</sup>/Los Angeles/ California [written in pencil:] Carol<sup>92</sup>

Beige card (front): [design featuring a question mark made of blue flowers surrounding the head of a baby with a white bib; printed:]

<sup>89</sup> The parentage of Gordon Nonoshita is written in a different handwriting than the rest of the notes on the back, which possibly explains why Ryoji's name is misspelled

<sup>90</sup> At the time of this edition, this residence (built in 1912) still exists.

<sup>91</sup> At the time of this edition, this building (built in 1925) still exists.

<sup>92</sup> This is the only item in the collection not written by Hiroko Nonoshita. The sender is unknown, but likely related to the baby announced here (James Donald), possibly one of his parents (Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Satterbury, mentioned in the newspaper clipping).

## Want to Know About Me?

Beige card (inside, left): [design featuring a baby laying on a pillow; printed:]

Want to know about me?

When and where I came?

Just what I/tipped the scales at?

And what's my

brand-new name?

Beige card (inside right): [design of blue flowers in the upper right hand corner; printed; added, handwritten words appears in italics below:]

Well, here goes:

I arrived *Christmas Day*

at *1:02 P.M.*

weighing exactly *9 lbs*

everybody calls me

*James Donald*

Newspaper clipping of birth announcements: [added, handwritten words appear in italics below:]

To Mr. and Mrs. William Potter, 150 Redwood, a daughter was born on Dec. 24 in the Palo Alto Hospital.

To Mr. and Mrs. [Larry] William Goldsmith, 3243 Spring St., a son was born on Dec. 24 in the Palo Alto Hospital.

To Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Satterbury, 413 Lakeview Way, a son was born on Dec. 25 in the Palo Alto Hospital.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan J. Kaplan, Bldg. 327, Apt. 8, Stanford Village, a son was born on Dec. 25 in the Palo Alto Hospital.

To Mr and Mrs. Ragnar Thorsen, 417 O'Connor St., North Palo Alto, a daughter was born on Dec. 26 in the Palo Alto Hospital.

To Mr. and Mrs. [Barbara] Dudley B. Shean, Apt. 6, Stanford Village,

a daughter was born on Dec. 26  
in the Palo Alto Hospital.  
To Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Car-  
penter, 1315 Hollyburne Ave.,  
Belle Haven, a daughter was  
born on Dec. 27 in the Palo Alto  
Hospital.

*ABOUT THE EDITOR: Rachel Jensen of Buena Park, California, earned her B.A. in History and English at Rider University (2015) in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where she belonged to the Iota-Epsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) and the Nu Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society). She earned her Single Subject Teaching Credentials in Social Science and English at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) (2017), and is currently pursuing an M.A. in History at CSUF.*

*ABOUT THE EDITOR: Corinne Pysher of Placentia, California, earned her B.S. in Human Development at Hope International University (2002), a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling at Azusa Pacific University (2005), and her M.A. in History at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) (2022). She has been a school counselor for 15 years.*

*ABOUT THE EDITOR: Quan H. Tran of Garden Grove, California, earned his B.A. in History at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) (2018), where he is a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society). He is currently pursuing an M.A. in History at CSUF.*

*The primary-source edition published above originated in the "History and Editing" course offered by CSUF's History Department.*