



10-7-1943

**"Lily," TOPAZ Relocation Center to "Irene" (10-7-43) [2 l.; descr.
TOPAZ in detail]**

"Lily"

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CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT
TOPAZ, UTAH

Segregation

October 7, 1943

Dearest Irene:

Thank you very much for the lovely letter you sent me, Irene. I was waiting so impatiently to hear from you. You can't imagine how I was waiting for it. It's so good to hear from an old friend. It means a lot to me. Thanks again.

Thanks, too, for seeing me off. Gosh, it just broke my heart to see Tulelake and you and all my friends there. And when the train started to move, I wanted to get off and go back. Gee, I hated to leave there. I cried for a long, long time after Tulelake disappeared into the distance. I hope, we can meet again, someday.

I was so homesick the couple of days I was here. I just cried and swore (don't be so shocked, Irene, dear. You know me.) I did a lot of crying on account of segregation, Irene. It's something I shall never forget. Gee, Irene. Anyway, I didn't care for the camp, I still don't. Give me Tulelake anytime. I'm getting used to the camp now, so it isn't so bad, but still.....California is my home.

The camp is a lot better and cleaner than Tulelake. I admit that. People here are awfully polite. Too polite. Goodness, but I have to watch my manners all the time. And you know, what kind of a manner I have. Anyway, the camp isn't as bad as I thought it was going to be.

We had a couple of those famous Topaz dust-storms, already. They were terrific ones. Couldn't see anything outside. But they tell me those were only tiny ones compared to the ones we are going to have pretty soon. Goodness me.

You know, one thing, though, it's easy to wash your hair here. The water is soft and soaps just suds and suds. Feels good. So, dust-storms can come galore.

At first, the water tasted funny, but now, it's okay. Guess if you get used to anything, it isn't so bad. So, eventually I'll like this camp, I hope.

Nothing going on around here, what a dead place. Except for movies, I have nothing to do. But somehow, I'm pressed for time. This Saturday and Sunday, there's going to be a baseball game between the Tule and Topaz all-stars. So,----- it's something, anyway.

Tuesday morning, I went to shopping in Delta. Delta is a little town about 16 miles from this place. It isn't too good of a town. The shopping district is a block long.

and not very many stores. But it was good to walk on real sidewalks again. To see neon signs once more, to window shop, to walk around in civilization again. Mr. Murray, our boss, took us out to Delta for dinner and show on Tuesday night. Golly, what a good time we all had. Real sirloin steak, golly. Food in camp is sure a slop after that. Went to a real movie. And sat on real honest-to-goodness chairs. My, my. I'll never forget it. Hope to go out again, after all, when you get a taste of anything, you want more. That's me. Sure wish you were here so we can go to Delta together. Irene, bet we'll have lots of fun, neh?

Gosh, this place is sure dusty. Those famous Topaz dust-storms weren't only rumors. It really blows and blows over here. Dust-bowl is right. Can't see a thing outside. It's terrific, no fooling.

Haven't seen your brother or sister as yet. Where do they stay? I bet a long ways from our place. We live in the other end (from the front) again. One thing, though, I'm not living next to the Suer house as we did in Tulelake. It's on the other end of the camp. Good thing, too. I had just about enough of it.

Am working at Finance section. Payroll again. I like it very very much. Lots of work, but I love it. It's about the only place around here that I like. Quite a few Tuleans work here so I'm not too lonesome. Tak Hitomi works in the next room. Sadako Hori and Haru Miyahara in the same room. Akiko Koyama works at the pay station. Same division, but not same place. Saw her yesterday.

Miss everybody like the dickens. Ah...gee...I'm so homesick. Irene, hurry and come to Topaz, neh? I'm lonesome for a good companion. I sure miss you, Irene. I mean it.

I'll always remember you on that morning. My last day in Tulelake. Thanks for coming to see me off, so early in the morning, too. And for coming out to the gate. Gee, Irene, you don't know how much I appreciate it. I'll never never forget. I hope someday we can meet again. Do try to come here, neh, Irene. It's really not a bad place, even though, I don't care for it. My opinion isn't worth a penny, so don't mind me. Come out here, neh? I'll be waiting.

I'll say "bye for awhile" until I hear from you.

Remember I'm thinking of you.....

Always.....

Love,

Lily

at 0760

Portland

The White
115 SW 4th

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Always.....

Love,

Irene