



Miss. Joan. Gillis

R. R. NO. 1,

New Westminster
B.C.

LORETTA
MANITOBA

Lorette Manitoba

Feb. 14 /43



Dear Joan:

Hello Joan, thanks for the very welcome letter I received on the 1st of Feb. How are you and the rest all fine and dandy, and I hope you didn't catch a cold during the sub-zero weather you had out there. I was glad to hear you had received my letter on your birthday and besides it was on my sister's birthday I sent it.

I heard it went down as low as 45° below in the North Fraser Valley. Is that true? I suppose you have couple feet of snow there now. My friend in the interior of B.C. says they had 3 ft of snow, but out here we only have 18 in. average. In places there are about 5 ft of snow frozen hard enough to keep us up. One of our boss's son recently went trucking up into Alaska and he says it's 80° below there. Boy the fuel cost went sky high these days. Hasn't it this winter sure

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fooled many citizens. I heard in
the prairies there burning their
own houses for fuel. There is so
much snow there the roads
are all blocked up. Quite a
few highways in Manitoba are
blocked up. The people around
here says this highways about the
last to get blocked. There are
snow ploughs working on the
highways but it don't do much
good to be because the wind out
there are too strong it blows
the snow snow around 30-40 feet
up in the air.

My brother came from Fort
William. He is perfectly well now
and at present he is in Winnipeg
looking for more profitable job.
The fellow that went to Ontario
to cut pulp wood says the trees
there are no bigger than a
raspberry cane. My brother
brought home a piece of
birch bark to write letters on
It's almost as smooth and thin
as an ordinary writing sheet.
He had about foot square of it.
He says, Ontario quite similar
to B.C. of course there are no

high mountains.

"Lorette Village" as they call it is a French settlement. The people living in this district are almost all French. The most outstanding building here is the Catholic church about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the size of the Lutheran church at Anniyal. There is a nun's school, Public school with high school, 3 general store ones with Post Office, Hall, Hotel, 2 Garage and a pool room. In this town there are six Japanese families one of them being our neighbor back home. The Manitoba Sugar Beet Co. intends to put 10 more families in this Area. We live 3 miles away from the Village. But our boss owns a small General store so we don't have to cycle in for our groceries. There is a small school right across my place that holds about 50 pupils. There is one 23-year old teacher teaching 40 pupils, Grades 1 to 10. It is exactly 50 miles from Lorette to Nelson Siding. Our boss owns 16 kids. The eldest about 25. He lost 4

He expects to get another soon.
Theres only nine home now and
the eldest is only 16. Our neigh-
bor just across the river from
us has a family of 12 and maj-
ority of them are girls. They all
say the French have a big
family. They all seem to be
friendly towards us at least
they have no hatred towards
us. Is this true about Glen
that he is a student of the
University of Washington? And
about the large balloons they've
got up around Vancouver? Have
you seen it yet?

Last night the Japanese girls
in Winnipeg held a party at
the IWA. Well this is about all I
can think of so I'll close here

P.S.
I'll be waiting for
your swell picture



Always
Pat.