

Saturday
May 29, 1992

Dear Kelly:

I hope I have the date correct. I can't see the calendar.

I have tried to write this description I am enclosing as nearly proper explanation as possible. It's too bad Erv got killed on an autobahn in Germany about 30 years ago. Erv was very upset about ~~denying legitimate~~ ~~Americans~~ (Caucasian or mestizo) from getting passports. Of course he knew a lot of the people. I remember in camp he cried once about a family who were killed by the Japanese when they entered their town (children & all the family) It was a family he knew. I think the Dad was a "squaw man". Erv had known him since 1915 or so. I think they were teachers together in Cebu or Iloilo. ~~The father of this family was one who wrote in for a passport to get his wife & kids up back to U.S.A. Everybody knew there was going to be a war. Larry Salisbury spoke Jap. very fluently (12 years in Japan previously). Almost every day of the weeks for 6 or 8 mos. previous to the time he departed Manila (I think end of Sept., 1941, maybe early Oct.) some Jap. businessmen he had known in Japan would come in, on their way through town.~~

you can see ... I want to see you \$50 instead of \$100. But I started subscription to the Monitor newspaper & do the magazine. Let me know if they come in about 2 week. I will send another \$50 later. I sent a year's subscription to the Daily Monitor.

letter). There were 2 other women writing similar letters. I reckon at least 5,000 letters were written, denying passport (10,000 or more people?) I believe the other 2 women have passed on now. One of them (about 50 then) passed on in camp, and I cannot locate the other one, who remained in the P.I.

Mr. Sayre (the H.C.) of Cow Row both testified about these letters in the 1st 10 years after W.W.II. It is in the Congressional Record.

The wives & children of American service personnel were sent back to U.S.A., beginning in June (or maybe a little earlier) of 1941. All of us knew some of them. Very few "service" wives remained ^{in P.I.} at the outbreak of hostilities. This was true only for service wives, however.

Those ^{who} were in any kind of job for Armed Service in which they had been employed a year (or sometimes less) who were civilians were "frozen" in their jobs. "If you leave now you will never get another U.S. govt. job." Stan (my husband) was an Asst. Purchasing Agent for the U.S. Navy. He was one who received these instructions. Everyone in his Dept did the same. Most of them got blown up with the bombing of Cavite. Stan's office was in Manila, so though he had a broken ^{ankle} leg (in a cast) in Dec. 1941, ~~unfortunately~~ we sat on the sea wall ^{along Dewey Boulevard} Dec 8 & watched Cavite go up in smoke.

Lucia B. Ridder

May, 29, 1992

It has come to my attention that some people are not aware of the restrictions on American civilians returning to USA for 18 months prior to W.W. II, from the Philippines.

I worked in US High Com's office for Lawrence Salisbury, Political Advisor to the HC; but, because his work did not require all my work hours, I wrote considerable correspondence for Erwin Ross, Passport Agent. At that time American citizens (civilians) all over the Philippines were writing in to try to get American passports to return to USA. Many of them had lived there most or all of their lives. Instructions came to Mr Ross (from State Dept) that passports were not to be issued, except in cases of extreme emergency, such as a severe illness requiring medical attention in USA, or a businessman (export & import, for example) whose business depended on him going to the States. All of this, however, had to be documented, at length. Erw. was troubled about this, I remember, and he & Larry had several conferences about it; but of course the upshot was that Erw had to obey his orders from Washington.

There were at least 20,000 Am. civilians in the Philippines (maybe more) in Dec. 1941. I wrote more than 1500 letters (copying a form

2.

Of course they always spoke Japanese. Every time, when they would leave, he would say "now look there, Mrs. Tidder - there's another one predicting a war." It was a large office, my desk at the far side - I could hear this palaver in Nkhongo (?!) but didn't know until the departure of his friend what was said - except I finally got so I suspected what they were discussing.

I am so proud of all the work you have done. I am enclosing a \$100 check. I may not be able to send much more for a while. Getting three grandkids thru college, with tuition what ^{it} is today, and helping Sarah get her teaching certif., keeps my nose (financially) to the grindstone.

Will send you a 6 mos. subscription to the daily Monitor. Let me know & I will send an additional 6 mos.

Love,

Lucia B Tidder

Stan says "Hi!"

P. George Gray (Legal Adviser to the HC) was the one who said 20,000 civilians in P.I. before WWII. That was what was on record. He was sure of that. But he said there may be more (not on record). As there were so many squaw-men all over P.I., it is quite possible there really were 30,000 American civilians. They all had huge families.