State of Washington
Department of Agriculture
Office of State Chemist
University of Washington
Seattle
Maria Y. Orosa PH.C. Assistant Chemist

Enero 20, 1920

Mrs. Juliana Ylagan Orosa
My dear beloved mother,

I received your treasured letter and was overjoyed on learning that everyone is well. I also received the small embroidered dress that you sent.

I am happy to share the news that through the mercy of God, both Pepe and I are feeling well and continue our studies. Pepe is now at the University, as a result of having gone to the Y.M.C.A. from October to December for high school courses. Then he took an entrance exam at the University and passed – with very high marks. He is taking courses in Business Administration and perhaps there is a specialty in Foreign Trade. This would involve our commercial relationships with other countries. Important people, such as Yangco[a], who are passing through, told us that these courses of study are absolutely important to our country. Since first entering the Y.M.C.A. and then the University, I have enjoined Pepe not to work, to concentrate instead on his studies. I would like to see him not only pass but earn high marks.

I am truly looking for other business opportunities for our livelihood. One day I met an American who is interested in purchasing copra[b]. He is a big buyer and is looking for 500 tons or 1,000,000 pounds every month! However, we have not come to an agreement yet. It may take until May to complete the arrangement on his side. So I will write you again once we come to an agreement.

NOTE – there is apparently a page missing from this letter.

Footnotes:
a – Although Maria didn't provide the first name of Yangco, it is most likely that he was Teodoro Yangco. A serial entrepreneur with holdings in various industries, Yangco was also the Philippine Resident Commissioner to the U.S. Congress during the time Maria was in Seattle.

b – copra is dried coconut meat that is the source of coconut oil. It was and remains a vital commodity for the Philippine economy.