

State of Washington
Department of Agriculture
Office of State Chemist
University of Washington
Seattle

Maria Y. Orosa PH.C. Assistant Chemist^a

Aug. 9, 1919

Mrs. Juliana Ylagan Orosa
My beloved mother,

Enclosed please accept a \$100 money order, proceeds from the sale of embroideries. This is for yourself only. From past transaction, I have also deposited \$380 for the dress shop. There is still some leftover which should sell in a short while.

I am currently on vacation since I was given a month's vacation by the university. So tomorrow, the three of us, including Pepe^b, are going to a farm to pick fruit^c. This is a good way to earn some money.

Pepe is fine and is respectful of us. He works hard and is frugal. Whatever he earns, I am depositing in a bank under his own name and he has saved a lot already. I am instilling into him that he not take anything from what he has accumulated so that when he needs something for his studies, he can withdraw from the savings.

Through the mercy of God I am fine, gaining more weight. You might not even recognize me when I return home!

There have been a lot of (Filipino) pensionados^d arriving, but we seldom see them since they don't stay very long. There are also a lot of other Filipinos arriving, to work and to study. Blas Brual, the son of Pedro Brual is also here and I asked Pepe to help him find employment. He was able to find work at a hotel on Broadway earning a salary of \$52, working until 11 at night. He just has to endure, at least he found work. Roger is in Alaska and writes that he will return by the end of this month.

How are you all doing there? Is cholera^e back again? Death remains a distance away when you are careful. Do not eat undercooked foods^f!

Greetings to all of you there. I am longing to see you. Where is Feling going? Send some news to us here.

Your loving daughter, awaiting your blessing at all hours,

Maria Y. Orosa

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Footnotes:

a – Note that Maria now has her own official stationery.

b – obviously, after Maria's last letter of April 16, Pepe made it to Seattle; he had turned 19 in July.

c – August is the busiest harvest period in Washington state. They would have many choices of fruit to pick, from trees like apple, apricot and peaches, to bushes such as blueberries and blackberries. Besides Filipinos, the other fruit pickers were Japanese.

d – pensionados are government sponsored scholars, such as my dad, who came in 1906. They are typically farmed out to different high schools and then universities, mostly in the mid-west.

e – this is the third time Maria has mentioned cholera.

f – a year ago, Maria was telling Ate Tia to consume raw eggs.



Picking fruit in Washington state 100 years ago.