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THE MIDGET TRIBUNE

DES MOINES, IOWA

VOL. 1 NO. 1

SATURDAY - JULY 22, 1944

A MESSAGE TO YOU...

From our guest writer Cornell Hewson, active member of the Des Moines Relocation Committee.

...Nearly two years ago, there appeared on the Drake University campus a small group of Nisei. This little group of alert, keen-minded, courageous young group of Nisei - this little group of people opened the way in Des Moines, Iowa, toward a wider opportunity for Americans of Japanese ancestry.

In the weeks and months to follow came a large number of relocatees, a W.R.A. office, a city-wide relocation committee and the Friends Hostel. Added to these forces has been the cooperation of the Des Moines Register and Tribune in building a background for the enlarged program of resettlement.

At no time has this number been spectacular, nor have the numbers been large, and still Des Moines and Iowa have furnished a friendly place in which to continue one's education, to get a job, and to re-create a new place in the normal stream of American life.

Under circumstances such as this, it would not be unusual for there to be times of tension and strain, and yet this feature, this bad feature of the problem, has not developed. The principle factors are the Nisei and Issei themselves, for they have come to Des Moines with hope and confidence and faith. Inherently polite, friendly and helpful, they have won many friends and will continue to win them. Another factor is probably a group of interested men and women and young people who really

wanted to help these Americans re-establish themselves.

We are glad that you have come to Des Moines, young and old, for you have brought us an opportunity to know you. You are making a contribution to the business life and you have added a keenness of mind to our schools and colleges. We hope that many of you are looking forward to making Des Moines and Iowa your permanent home because we believe that you will be welcomed and because you will make a real contribution to the life of the community. It has not always been easy and sometimes there have been problems, and there will be other problems in the future, but you have the "stuff" to meet and overcome the unpleasantness, friction, and the problems. And so again, we're glad you're here--we want you to feel that you are welcome and we want you to, in a simple, natural way, play your part in the everyday life of this city.

* * * * *

Despite the adverse circumstance,
Despite the sea of ignorance,
Despite the darkness of distrust
Quail not, Nisei, carry on, you must
Have faith, Nisei, and face the world
And through your Actions show the world
True concept of Democracy,
Our hope for world humanity.

TAKASHI TERAMAYE
Des Moines, Iowa

WHAT'S BUZZIN, CUZZIN'

Have you seen the Kita family of 1347 28th Street with their beaming faces? Reason - Son and brother, Sergeant Carl Kita has been home on furlough from Camp Grant, Illinois, for about a week.

A recent visitor to Des Moines has been the Rev. S. Kanow who visited a few days with his sister Mrs. Y. Katayama.

Roy Fukuto has recently returned from a few weeks' visit with his folks at Poston - Hope you enjoyed the "heat".

New Drake Alumna, Kazuye Sekiya, is so ambitious! She goes to a 7:30 class (AM) at Drake and then tackles a secretarial job all day at the National Screen.

May Ideta, Drake student, has a summer job as a secretary at the Columbia Pictures Corp. May no longer haunts the U. S. Employment door.

Popular Florence Takemura has done it again.....this time she has rated a trip to Denver to attend the Japanese Christian Convention representing the young people of the Christian Church of Los Angeles. Seems to have crossed roads with numerous friends too.....

* * * * *

SOCIAL AT UNITARIAN CHURCH

A "July Jig" is scheduled for the benefit of Nisei and Caucasian guests this Saturday on the 22nd. Everyone is cordially invited to attend and enjoy the folk dancing which will start the evening off. Refreshments will be served in the course of the evening to be topped off by a period of social dancing.

FOOTNOTE: Any likely suggestions or additions regarding THE MIDGET TRIBUNE will be accepted gracefully. Please mail to: Nisei Hospitality Committee, 520 Liberty Building, Des Moines 8, Iowa

SIDE NOTES

Snoopy Soupy is on the prowl again..... Overheard from George Nishimura, as well as Pauline Shinta, Cherie Imai, Mits Nakamura, Gordon Sato and a few others from various centers, "Des Moines is a swell place!" (We all agree.) Above persons are a few of the boys and girls who have just completed their high school education in a relocation center and are looking forward to a future starting right here in our own Des Moines.....

IN APPRECIATION: Thanks to our friendly, helpful, well-built Frank Gibbs, relocation officer of the Des Moines WRA. "Frank" is always on hand to lend a hand wherever needed and can be reached when trouble is a'brewing (except cupid trouble).

To the two-some at the Friends Hostel--- Ross and Elizabeth Wilbur---go our sincere thanks also for their efforts.

ORCHIDS TO.....

Attractive Masako Kimura, former Manzanite, the only Nisei applicant among eight others applying for a clerical position at the Credit Reference Reporting Bureau - and got it!

* * * * *

PLACES TO EAT

Of the many places to eat and dine in Des Moines, Skondras Restaurant, 311-6th Street; Bishop's Cafeteria, 711 Locust; and Grace Ransom Tea Room, 708½ Locust, are outstanding.

The atmosphere, courtesy, and good food leave a lasting impression.

We would recommend Grace Ransom Tea Room or Skondras for a leisurely dinner while the appearance of the splendid food at Bishop's Cafeteria whets up the appetite. Won't you try them?

MIDGET TRIBUNE

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

DES MOINES, IOWA

November 18, 1944

270 IN DES MOINES

SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE CONTINUES

RELOCATEES FILL
MANY POSITIONS

OUT-OF-STATERS SUBSCRIBE TO MIDGET TRIBUNE

In the last issue, the Midget Tribune subscription drive was begun and many persons residing in other states have shown interest and given encouragement through their subscriptions.

The Midget Tribune subscription drive, with its newly-organized staff, will continue for one extra issue. Since the Nisei Hospitality Committee took over this voluntary project, it has experienced difficulty in securing funds for regular delivery to every person in the area; therefore, the Midget Tribune will be published in subscription form and will hereafter be mailed to subscribers only. The drive will end with this issue, so we urge you to send in your subscription fee (25¢ per person) to:

Midget Tribune,
c/o 2150 Grand Avenue
Des Moines 12, Iowa,

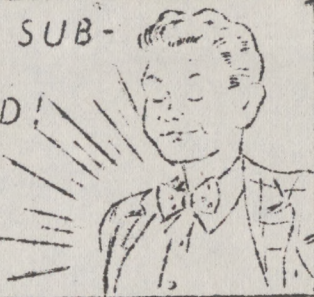
or subscribe personally through any Midget Tribune staff member. (See below)

Non-subscribers and those desiring extra copies may purchase the Midget Tribune for 3¢ per copy through the above medium.

MIDGET TRIBUNE STAFF APPOINTED

The new Midget Tribune staff, appointed at a meeting held recently by the former volunteer workers of the Midget Tribune, will be headed by Jackson Takayanagi, newly-appointed editor. The new staff which will work with Mr. Takayanagi has been appointed as follows: Copy Editor: Mariko Matsumoto; Art Editor: Alice Uchiyama; Business Manager: Susumu Myose; Circulation Mgr: Ray Nakagawa. Reporters consist of May Ideta, Mary Takayanagi, Miyoko Sakaguchi (Pella, Ia.). The staff, appointed on the basis of interest and willingness to cooperate to make the Midget Tribune a success, is not complete and others will be selected shortly. All work done on this project is voluntary. The Midget Tribune will be published the 3rd Saturday of every month.

I HAVE SUB-
SCRIBED!
HAVE
YOU?



Starting with a mere handful of pre-war residents and relocatees in 1942, Des Moines has increased its evacuee population steadily in the following two years. Statistics show an average of 18.0 persons resettled "permanently" in the city of Des

Moines itself within the last 15 months, the present total standing at 270.

Among the 270, sixty family units have successfully worked into the community and their children are attending various grammar, junior high, and high schools. A great objective for those seeking education beyond high school would be to attend Drake University in Des Moines which was one of the very first of its kind to open its doors of welcome to those of Japanese ancestry in 1942. Each year they have met their quota of 33 students and it is quite apparent that this practice will be carried on.

A great difference in the attitude of prospective employers has been noted within the last year. Des Moines has been recommended for ideal relocation due to the general acceptance offered by its citizens; however, jobs were rather limited to certain professions and industries. Much credit is due to those who have started at the bottom and worked up the reputation for others who were to follow, thus making it simpler for each evacuee to enter into his chosen profession. In comparison with 1943, the year of 1944 has been marked as one of many wonderful opportunities, brought about with openings for physicians in hospitals, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, a skilled linotype operator, war production work, and many other industrial and service positions. The way now looks clearer for those who plan to make Des Moines their home.

The "WELCOME TO DES MOINES" slogan displayed by the Des Moines Railway Company of this city greets each newcomer as he boards a public conveyance, and it expresses itself true to form.

It is expected that many more groups will take advantage of the opportunity to begin their normal life in Iowa.

LAST FREE ISSUE!

EDITORIAL


During the past summer, a small group of Nisei gathered together for the purpose of publishing a newspaper under the auspices of the Nisei Hospitality Committee. After a great deal of work, the Midget Tribune made its debut to the people of Des Moines on July 22, 1944.

It was not long before it gained wide recognition throughout the State and into other states. Published whenever time permitted this little group to get together, the Midget Tribune has made three appearances. With each edition the publication gained more popularity and recognition until it was decided by the little group that a definite staff was needed to carry on the work regularly.

This was effected last week and the present publication is the first issue under the newly-appointed staff. The work is all voluntary.

The Midget Tribune is a newspaper of the Iowa relocatees, and its success shall depend only upon the support given by the Nisei and Issei in our city. Only as you are willing to meet the expenses of this little publication will it be able to survive. Therefore the staff is calling upon you to make your subscription NOW! Time, effort and expense are put into every issue. We are asking you only to meet the expense with your subscription and back your paper up.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO INSURE YOUR CHRISTMAS EDITION AS SUBSCRIBERS ONLY WILL RECEIVE THE COMING ISSUES.


 FROM OUR
 - GUEST'S PEN -

Most evacuees who have been in the tall corn country for a short while soon realize that they are accepted as full-fledged members of the community. One is not restricted, segregated, or relegated just because his ancestors happened to have come from Japan.

The attitude of midwesterners - which seems to be that a man should be accepted for what he is and what he can do and not what he was born - is a reassuring contrast to the attitudes we have been exposed to in other places.

(Continued next column)

YOU WON'T REGRET IT, SUBSCRIBE!!!

This situation necessitates a pair of precautionary "don'ts" if you can stand another sermon:

(1) Make yourself completely at home, but don't be too conspicuous. You can't go around dressed as you did in the centers, nor is it good sense to congregate in large numbers, because the moment you become conspicuous, you attract attention to yourselves and to the fact that you are "different". Unfortunately, a reflection against one evacuee affects all others.

(2) Forget your camp and coast complex and remember that you are being accepted by this community as the equal of any man. A cur that slinks around expecting to be booted usually does get a kick thrown his way, and the same is true of human beings. Be proud of the fact that you have a job, that you are a free American again doing usual work instead of killing time in a center.

Whether you intend to stay here or move on, be sure you are a credit to Iowa and to the 100,000 other evacuees trying to get a new start.

(Editor's Note: The above message has been brought to us by today's guest writer, Mr. Bill Hosokawa, prominent citizen of Des Moines and employed on the staff of the Des Moines Register and Tribune Company.)

HOPE AMONGST TEARS

I can't express in words my sentiments,
 As I recall that tragic exodus
 When all my joys, my aims, accomplishments,
 Were torn and left my hopes ambiguous.

Those happy days and weeks of yesteryear,
 Those valleys cool, and green, and picturesque,
 That life I led which was, to me, so dear
 Are now to me just memories antique.

Yet in these bitter thoughts my heart
 Tells me,
 Look to your future years, think not of
 Past,
 I must decide my fate, my life to be,
 And so I vow I shall redeem the past.

And now, with faith in God, undoubtedly
 My hopes someday will bloom immortally.

TAKASHI TERAMAYE
 Drake University

"DRAKE DOINGS"

The latest news - Hanaye Ota recently announced (more or less) her engagement to Ben Morishita who is presently residing in Cleveland, Ohio. Date unknown but we all hope to see Ben back in Des Moines - Congratulations...The Morishita brothers are doin' all right - this time Ted has worked himself up to the good graces of Shag Nishijima who has resigned her Drake "career" to take up a valuable position as future housewife. Both from Gila River Relocation Center and presently in Cleveland, Ohio...Next! Chrys Kubota elected vice-prexy of International Relations Club...Yukiko Ideta, initiated into Phi Sigma Iota, honorary language fraternity....Alice Uchiyama, elected secretary of Delta Phi Delta...George Kita proving himself outstanding on Drake football team (be surprised if he didn't)...Maria Fujitomi, Roy Fukuto, "Kow" Endo and Akira Asano, former Drakians, gracing campus of University of Minnesota this fall...Toshiko Horita now joined with family in Denver...Reputable Freddie Tokuyama spending his last year at Drake...so many new faces on the old campus grounds, welcome to Drake!

* * * *

CENTRAL COLLEGE NEWS

A brief introduction of students enrolled at Central College, Pella, Iowa:

Miwako Tanaka - Formerly of San Francisco, Pomona Assembly Center and Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Sophomore, member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Literary Society.

Kenneth Tsutsumi - Via Honolulu, Hawaii, and Tule Lake. Sophomore, and one of the stars on the campus football team.

Akiko Morimoto - Freshman, formerly of Orlin, California, and Amache, Colorado. Member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Literary Society.

Gordon Sato - Freshman, formerly of Terminal Island, Manzanar, California, and Des Moines. His parents and brother are residing in Des Moines.

Yasunori Katano - Freshman, formerly of Los Angeles and Manzanar, California.

George Nishimura - Freshman, from Beverly Hills and Manzanar, California.

Miyoko Sakaguchi - Freshman, from Cortez, California, Merced Assembly Center and Amache Relocation Center. Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Literary Society.

WRA DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT FORUM

Dillon S. Myer, Director, spoke at East High School in Des Moines on the program of the Adult Education Forum October 26, 1944. His topic was titled, "What About Our Japanese Minority?"

Mr. Myer received his higher education at Ohio State University and earned his M.A. at Columbia University. His government posts have been Chief of the Compliance Section and Assistant Director of the Program Planning Division of A.A.A.; Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service; Assistant Administrator of the Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment, Administration of the Department of Agriculture.

In his talk, he traced the history of relocation from the time when it was decided that 112,000 Japanese Americans and aliens would be evacuated from the West Coast. He stated that one-third have been relocated, and praised the efforts of Des Moines citizens. Quote, "The results might well be held up as a model to the entire country." He also lauded the 100th Infantry Battalion fighting in Italy. In this Battalion more than 1,000 Purple Heart awards had been made in addition to 44 Silver Stars, 31 Bronze Stars, 9 Distinguished Service Crosses, and 3 Legion of Merit Medals.

ISSEI ENJOY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

With thirty Issei present at the first all Issei Fellowship Supper at the Hostel on October 29, 1944, Henry Sakata was elected to head and organize all future meetings. This is the first attempt to bring the Issei together for fellowship purposes. A good time was had by all over tea, cake, and osushi. Mr. Sakata announced that a similar meeting will be held on the last Sunday of this month, Nov. 26, and all Issei are invited to attend.

BUDDHIST MINISTER VISITS IOWA

Rev. Gyomay Kubose, Chicago Buddhist minister, visited Des Moines and Grinnell enroute to various relocation centers to give a report on "outside life".

Before some 25 Issei and Nisei at the Friends Hostel, Nov. 9, 1944, Rev. Kubose talked on his experiences throughout the Mid-West. Rev. Kubose stated that on the grand opening of the Chicago Buddhist Church, newspapers carried articles and pictures and a radio station broadcasted the opening affair.

HOSTEL HI-LITES

By "Kimi"

Back from their well-deserved vacation to Media, Pennsylvania, are congenial directors, Ross, Libby and Little Cardyn.

Convalescing from a basketball game injury is Soupy, that hard-working Hospitality Committee Chairman. "Brother" Kenny (Tom Nakashima's dad) now has two patients on his hands. A quick recovery to you both. Visitors welcome!

Among new arrivals to the Hostel are Tak Tanino from Heart Mountain via Chicago and Jim Hayashi of Chillicothe, Missouri. Swell fellas! Bob Fujii, Sam Momii and that husky gridiron man, Jim Shinohara (who have all deserted their former jobs) account for those pin-up pictures in the wolf's den on the third floor.

Dorothy Hatai of Waukees spent part of her vacation here with her sister, Lorraine Kusumoto, who is attending A.I.B.

Our dietitian, Ruth Wakida, is missing the able assistance of Ralph Kawabe who has taken a part-time position at the Fort Des Moines Hotel. Fred Umade, one of those who enjoyed our "ochazuke" feed the other nite had three heaping bowls of rice!

Heard from Fumi and Florence. "We both miss Des Moines so much," they say. Roy Fukuto and Aki Asano send regards to all from Minneapolis.

Reverend Lester Suzuki is in charge of our big housecleaning which will last until the middle of November. He can use plenty of help, so notify him of your spare hours and he will set you to work.

The Hostel, with its "homey" atmosphere, is open to all.

FIRST TEA HELD

Sponsored by the Nisei Hospitality Committee, the first tea for the season was held at the Hostel Sun., Oct. 7, 1944, with 60 in attendance. Entertainment was provided by: Gordon Miller, soloist from Grandview College; Esther Sanematsu, pianist; Kay Kokubun with his "Voice"; and Philip Pearson, violinist from Grandview College. Following the musical program, the guest speaker, Mr. Ed Maher, manager of Ft. Des Moines Hotel, spoke on his experiences while visiting Heart Mountain Center. Concluding the program was a special guest speaker, Rev. Bennett, from Santa Monica, California.

IN SERVICE

"Going to school ten hours a day may sound easy compared to the swell job the other soldiers are doing on the front lines, but soon we'll get a taste of it. Regards to all...if it isn't too much trouble, could you send me the Midget Tribune or have the person in charge send me one whenever they come out?" Says Pfc. James Chikahisa, Fort Snelling, Minn. (You'll get 'em, Jim!)

"It has been three weeks since we finished our training. A few of us have been held back because we volunteered into another branch of the Infantry. I have been expecting to go to another camp for the last three weeks but to my dissatisfaction, I'm still here. The latest rumor - we'll be out of here by the end of next week. It's beginning to get chilly in the mornings and we want to take our shirts off - just plain screwy weather! I'm still looking for the guy that started all that propaganda about Florida!" Pvt. Kosh Ando, Camp Blanding, Florida. (Well said, Kosh)

"I was on a furlough visiting in Arizona and in Colorado with friends, and my family. I was only able to spend five days with my folks, but it was grand after not having been able to see them for a year and a half. On the way back to camp from my furlough, I stopped in Kansas City to visit the WRA office and see some of the girls I know, and I met Mr. Simmons, the director...he seems to think that the program is very successful in Des Moines." Pvt. Mary Uyesaka, WAC, Camp Crowder, Mo.

"Here I am just waiting for school to start. It's a king's life compared to Camp Blanding. It's just the reverse of things at Blanding, where we were lucky if we had a good night's sleep." Comments Pvt. George Fujimoto, Fort Snelling, Minn.

"Guess you got a pretty good idea where I am. About all I can say is that I'm on the east coast someplace and it's plenty cold out here. The only way you'll know when I've made the trip on the banana boat is to wait and hear from me over there." Pvt. John Takayanagi, APO, New York.

The above excerpts were from letters received by Goldye Allen of the "Y". We'd like to hear from others who have gone into the Service from Iowa. If you hear from any others, won't you please share some news with us?

SIDE NOTES WITH SOUPY

"WANT ADS"

Hooray for the A.F. of L. Ralph Kawabe has been accepted in the A.F. of L. Laundry Union. He is probably the first Nisei to be accepted by this Union in this locality - good work, Ralph!

Kimi Ruth Fukuto, our Hostel secretary, enjoyed a well-earned vacation in Minneapolis, Minn., visiting her brother Roy. We hear she also enjoyed herself with a top Sgt. from Fort Snelling. Nice going, Kimi. Incidentally, Kimi is now on the O.P.A. payroll - "congrats" to you from all of us.

Halloween Hi-Jinks.....a pre-Halloween celebration was held at the Hostel Saturday night, October 28, with some 60 attending the "old clothes" affair. Alice Uchiyama and Yukie Takata took charge of the affair while Sumiko Horibe took charge of the refreshment. Kay Kokubun handled the music and Hip Matsuo, clean-up. Thanks everyone.

Magic did it! Yes, magic with Magician Virgil Betts did the trick. Approximately 60 Caucasians and Nisei enjoyed a grand Tea Time at the Hostel last Sunday when he entertained the crowd with spectacular tricks.

This affair was the second of a series of the teas which the Nisei Hospitality Committee sponsored. More are forthcoming, so read your notices.

Hear ye! Hear ye! All ye fellows and girls! The Cosmopolitan Club, under the sponsorship of the "Y" is now scouring the community for new members. They are especially interested in new Nisei members. Apply to Miss Ruth Wiltz, in care of the YWCA, 9th and High, Des Moines.

TURKEY, well done and stuffed. Would prefer additions of gravy & cranberry sauce but will be content with plain turkey if not ready by November 23. Deliver to Midget Tribune staff, in care of nut house.

RELOCATEES TO IOWA. Male or Female, no preference. No waiting, any number may apply, and all are welcome to Iowa. Reservations must be made in advance, however, if relocatees wish to be met at the station by mayor and brass band.

SUBSCRIBERS, young and old, all sizes and shapes. No experience necessary but ability to count up to 25 cents preferred. Apply for subscription imme-jet-ly at address shown somewhere in Midget Tribune

FINE FOOD

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OPEN EVENINGS-SUNDAYS

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307 LOCUST

HAVE GOOD TIME!

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1171 - 25TH

SERVICES HELD FOR TORU MIYAKE

A funeral service was conducted for Mrs. Toru Miyake on October 26 at the Dunn Funeral Home, Des Moines. Rev. Lester E. Suzuki led the small gathering of friends who had come to pay tribute to the memory of Mrs. Miyake. An inspiring service which was marked by its simplicity and spiritual beauty was held and, in accordance with the request of the deceased, a soloist sang Ave Maria accompanied softly by an organ.

Mrs. Miyake, former resident of Portland, Oregon, passed away on October 24, 1944, of a long illness. She had arrived here a year ago from Heart Mountain Relocation Center and made her home in Des Moines with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Hosokawa.

