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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT
TOPAZ, UTAH

INDUCTION OF THE SIXTH AND LAST TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By

E. W. Conrad

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION
E. W. CONRAD
CHIEF

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

TOPAZ, UTAH

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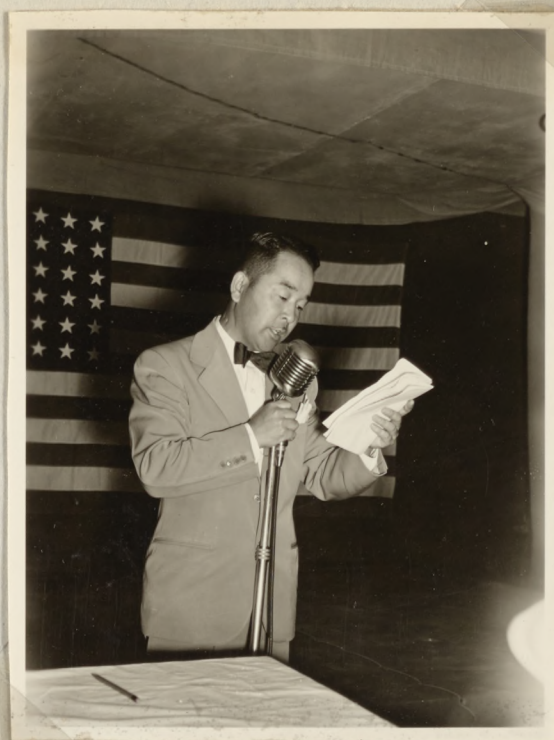
By

E. W. Conrad

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION

Historical Section

INDUCTION OF THE SIXTH
(Pictorial)



James S. Hirano, Chairman of the Block Managers and Toastmaster for the Induction banquet that preceded the Induction ceremony, gives his opening address.



General view of banquet in Block 9 dining hall which preceded the Induction ceremony. Most diners shed their coats because of the mid-summer heat.

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Documentation)



Dr. George Ochikubo, one of the newly elected Councilmen and chairman of the Topaz Consumers Cooperative Enterprises, reads a prepared address at the banquet.



Little Miss Anne Kaku entertains the banqueters with a Japanese song, accompanied by Hajime Mizuta on the Shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute).



Acting Project Director R. E. Bell steps back from microphone after introducing Scott M. Mathewson, Assistant United States Attorney, Salt Lake City, guest speaker for the Induction ceremony.



Mr. Mathewson, speaking extemporaneously, counsels the Japanese-American residents of Topaz to forget the scars of evacuation and resume life in normal communities if they wish to find happiness.



Mr. Mathewson administers the oath of office to the new Councilmen.



Masaru Narahara, re-elected Chairman of the Council, gives his message to the Councilmen and residents.



Mme. Sahomi Tachibana, Topaz dance instructress, presents a Japanese classic dance, the Ancient Flower.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT
TOPAZ, UTAH

INDUCTION OF THE SIXTH AND LAST
TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Preface

The induction of the sixth and last Community Council at the War Relocation Authority's Central Utah Project, Topaz, Utah, July 21, 1945, was more significant historically than any of the previous inductions with the possible exception of the first because evacuee speakers broke precedent by severely criticizing WRA policy.

Council inductions traditionally were light-hearted social affairs at which speakers representing the Japanese-American residents of the center refrained from raising issues and speaking their minds openly. But on this occasion both resident speakers, Masaru Harahara, reelected chairman, and Dr. Oshikubo, one-time Council chairman and leader of the so-called anti-administration group, pulled no punches.

Both bitterly assailed WRA's decision to close relocation centers in the next few months and not to provide any further education facilities for evacuee children. (Center closing dates had been announced only one week before the induction ceremony, Topaz's being set for November 1.)

Dr. Oshikubo also criticized WRA's dining hall closing program and classified administrative staff members into three categories--"Rubber Stamps" who follow Washington instructions to the letter whether applicable or not, "E's" who strive for efficiency rating at the expense of the residents, and "humane" officials who try to better the welfare of the residents. He intimated that the latter group was small.

Many of the evacuees present, as well as administrative personnel, agreed later that Dr. Oshikubo's remarks were in poor taste, irrational and misconstrued the facts.

His presence on the program was without precedent. Heretofore the Council chairman was the only resident allowed to deliver a message. The Topaz Community Analyst later pointed out a possible explanation: Dr. Ochikubo was defeated for the chairmanship by one vote, presumably his own as he did not cast a ballot, and his faction elected its candidate for vice-chairman.

The Analyst also observed that as a result of the close election the reelected chairman, Narahara, who had always been on the most friendly terms with the administration, was faced with the choice of trying to continue a policy of cordial relations with the administration and losing support of the Council, or becoming the popular spokesman of both factions.

Narahara's message was not virulent, and while criticizing WRA's center closing program it expressed appreciation for the "fine work that has been done and the consideration which has been given by Mr. Myer and the WRA despite many trials and tribulations."

The Council chairman especially was critical of WRA for not revealing its plans for handling residents "who will not be able to relocate by the closing date." He asserted this secrecy "has left many residents who most need assurance and moral uplift in a quandry and in complete darkness, and has added fears for their future security."

He announced a list of recommendations which he said the Topaz council would submit to the Councils of other centers for approval as a petition to WRA Director Dillon S. Myer. The principal recommendations urged WRA to rescind its center closing orders, reveal what it intends to do with residents who do not leave by the deadline, and keep schools open until the closing date.

All program arrangements were made by evacuee leaders, headed by the chairman of the general election board. More than 250 persons attended. Scott M. Matheson, assistant United States Attorney, Salt Lake City, was the guest of honor. Other Caucasian guests included key administration officials, the mayor and postmaster of Delta, Utah, the president of the Delta Lion's club, the vice-commander of the Delta American Legion post, the county commissioner and Dr. Edward Spicer, chief of WRA's Community Analysis section in Washington. Evacuees present in addition to the 42 newly elected councilmen included election officials, Block Managers and Protestant and Buddhist resident ministers.

The evacuee-operated project newspaper's coverage of the induction is attached as Exhibit C.

INDUCTION BANQUET

The Induction program, Exhibit B, began with a banquet in dining hall 39. A photograph of the banquet and other pictures of the proceedings taken by the Project Reports Officer make up the frontispiece of this documentation as Exhibit A.

The banquet program, scheduled to begin at 6 p. m., was delayed an hour awaiting the arrival of the guest speaker, Mr. Matheson, and his wife and daughter, who had motor trouble en route from Salt Lake City. During the interim, the other guests collected in front of fans to obtain relief from the day's near 100-degree heat which hung in the low, tarpaper barracks building.

The banquet began with a brief welcoming address by the toastmaster, James E. Hirano, chairman of the Block Managers organization, in which he expressed appreciation that Mr. Matheson had made the long, hot trip from Salt Lake City to induct the new Councilmen.

The Rev. Carl Nugent of Delta said Grace and the hungry diners attacked the roast chicken and other food which had been on the tables more than an hour but was still warm because of the high room temperature.

Following the dinner, the toastmaster introduced Acting Project Director Roscoe E. Bell, assistant directors, guests from neighboring communities, the general election board chairman and Masaru Marahara, who had been reelected to a third term as Council chairman.

Dr. George Schikabo, one of the newly elected Councilmen and former Council chairman, read the following prepared address:

"This evening I am going to set a precedent in regard to the speech I am about to make. It seems as though precedents are set here by the administration more or less as a habit of convenience and this evening I am hoping the step that I am about to take will be constructive and beneficial to all--that it is not a precedent because of convenience. I have here a message for both the administrative personnel and the residents of the community of Topaz.

"To the evacuee residents of Topaz, I am sure that you will agree that we all acknowledge the Community Council as truly a representative body in which the residents are the participants and in which they are the ones directly involved in relation to the failure or the success in which the Community Council conducts itself. It is not a body for the residents to criticize behind their back for it reflects upon you, as the members of the Community Council

participate only as representatives in your behalf. It is vitally necessary that the full understanding and cooperation must be extended to the Community Council for the Council to survive and to progress successfully. All organizations in our community including the Churches must join hands in our crucial trials for the mutual benefit and welfare of all. May I stress again, the point that the Community Council is your council and it is your responsibility to see that the members of the Council participate and fully carry out their responsibilities in a manner that is satisfactory to those whom he represents and that is you.

"The acknowledgement of the administration as to its relative position in regards to our center is now necessary. Personally, I have interpreted the individual actions and mental attitude of the various staff members serving on the administration as to the purpose and reason as to why they have accepted their respective positions. I have in my own mind classified the staff members into three major categories. 1- The "Rubber Stamp" group. They are the ones that follow instructions from Washington and memorandums from the local administration word by word according to their own interpretation regardless of whether such instructions or memorandums are applicable here or not. 2- The "E" group. They are the ones who because they desire promotions and advancements devilishly strive to earn an "E" rating in Washington for efficiency and thereby must be mercenary in that respect at the expense of the evacuee residents using them as stepping stones to achieve their goal. And the third group are the humane ones. They are here not for the sole purpose of the responsibilities they must fulfill but because they have a heart and a soul, trying to better the welfare of the residents and considering them as human beings. These are the members whom the evacuee residents deeply appreciate and respect. However, regardless of what category I have mentioned, I fully acknowledge the handicaps, and the various trying responsibilities that the administrative personnel are working under.

"May I call the attention of the administration as a whole, that we evacuee residents, are human beings such as you. That warm blood courses through our veins; that we do have feelings; that we do laugh and cry; and that we do suffer as well as the next individual. When Governor Maw of this state attended our first induction banquet, I will never forget the story he told us nor the one statement made by our outgoing chairman, Dr. Carl Hirota. The story as told by Governor Maw was this. Two sisters were walking in

the garden of roses one day and one sister remarked, what a shame that such beautiful flowers as the roses have such thorny bushes. Whereupon the other sister marveled how such ugly, thorny bushes could produce such delicate, beautiful roses. The moral of the story as applicable to our situation, I believe, is understood by all. Dr. Carl Hirota stated during his speech "that evacuation was a scar on the face of democracy." I would like to discuss further on the statement as made by Dr. Carl Hirota.

"Most assuredly the task of ever importance that the local administration should fulfill is to rebuild the faith of the evacuees in the justice and the fairness of the United States Government and its constitution. When we were evacuated, certainly our faith was torn asunder and a gaping wound opened. Due processes of law was denied us--the Nisei were classified IV-C--neutral aliens who were not allowed to assist in the war effort nor allowed to work in defense plants. The War department would not accept us.

"We were charged without any definite basis as IV-C's and now are given an opportunity to write to have that classification reconsidered. How can one honestly write? When I was classified as IV-C and when I received the confirmation from my local Selective Service Board as to the reason why, there was no other interpretation than to accept the fact that the War Department could not trust me because of my racial background and now I cannot understand why the IV-C's are to be trusted at the present time. Most certainly, in democratic practices, one is notified as to the reason that is justified as to why certain actions have been taken. In the case of the IV-C classification, it has caused unnecessary embarrassment and inconvenience in regards to the fact that the time will come when an explanation will be necessary to the growing children, to the friends and to the public as to why one did not participate in our crisis. Who is to be responsible to explain satisfactorily for the IV-C members?

"And so it is with the administration, must we resident evacuees go on life with an uncertainty? Does the administration believe that the wound will be healed by their open flagrance of the WRA regulations? But their undemocratic practices of justice that Caucasians to be tried by Caucasians and Japs by Japs? Does the administration expect cooperation from the resident evacuees on such a basis where mutual trust cannot be had?

"Because of Washington instructions regarding the closing of the centers in the near future, is it necessary to cause

more inconvenience, in the short period to the residents, by closing their dining halls to save a few paltry dollars? Does the administration believe that it is beneficial to the United States to close schools on the most innocent victims of this war? That the education of these children in the ways of democracy is not vital? Does not the administration fully realize the worry and the anguish in our hearts in regards to the future without further burdening us with unnecessary inconveniences? Are these the steps in healing the wound, of rebuilding the faith of these evacuee residents in the United States government?

"Personally, these indirect pressures to force relocation can only irritate the wound more. How the War Relocation Authority can close all centers in the near future is beyond my wildest imagination and all I can say is that although we were evacuated because of military necessity, we were evacuated because of the basic factor that we were Japs. I would like to caution the local administration and the War Relocation Authority in Washington, D. C., at this time, that when closing the gates of all centers that you are no longer dealing with Japs but with human beings. In order to accomplish the desire of the War Relocation Authority a more sensible, more reasonable plan must be forthcoming or else humanity must be discarded.

"I am sure that we more than full appreciate the individual officials who have carried on regardless of the reaction they have encountered in our behalf, and those organization on the outside who have greatly assisted and sacrificed in the true American spirit. In spite of all the sacrifices that these individuals and the organization have made it seems as though many local administration officials are satisfied for the progress made. But how can any group of individuals or any group of organizations successfully accomplish their aims when the main cog of the machinery cannot function smoothly? When certain standard procedures are set aside or bypassed and when certain things are to be accomplished because of convenience, then most assuredly the usefulness of such a group for humanity comes to an end.

"The time has now come when the evacuee residents of this center must fully realize and acknowledge the facts and circumstances that they are being confronted by and it is their privilege as to whether they are sincere in their desire to support and maintain the Community Council of this center. I call upon each and every individual of this center to again deeply meditate in regards to the future problems that are bound to rise and that will involve the future of each and every individual residing in this center.

"The Community Council fully acknowledges the vital problems confronting all and promises to do the utmost, and we ask that the full cooperation, faith, and trust be extended to us from you, the evacuee residents. And to the administration, may I say a few words in conclusion in regards to the evacuee residents of this center. May I stress the point once again that we are human beings, that we are capable of intellectual thinking and that we do have feelings. And because we are human beings who are alive, we would desire the full understanding of each and every member of the administrative staff to modify and correct the undemocratic practices that are existing in this community so that the basic factor of mutual trust and understanding may be obtained for further harmonious solution to all the problems that are to be confronted.

"Although the time may be inopportune for me to make this statement in reference to the officials in Washington, D.C., I would like to take this opportunity in stating that it is my sincere desire that a groundwork be broken so that hereafter in the Name of Democracy, no American citizen regardless of what nationality that they may be descendants of, will be ever placed in a center as we have without due process of law. A precedent has been set when we were evacuated and untold misery and inconvenience, not saying the material losses, were encountered and the resulting problems that are now in the hands of the governmental agencies to be satisfactorily disposed in a manner acceptable to human beings. May I at this time thank the members of the Community Council and evacuee residents for allowing me this privilege to speak this evening."

As Dr. Oshikubo retired from the microphone he received scattered applause from the evacuees present but none whatever from the Caucasian guests. The latter, however, gave no other evidence of their surprise and embarrassment.

Mr. Narahara, although not listed on the program at this point, stepped to the microphone and said:

"Dr. Oshikubo's remarks are his personal opinion. They do not represent the feelings of the majority of the Council--I hope."

After a moment of silence, the toastmaster announced that seven-year-old Anna Kaku would entertain with a song, accompanied by Mr. Hajime Mizuta on a Japanese bamboo flute known as a shakuhachi.

This number was followed by several vocal solos by Mr. Lloyd Buchanan, Project Attorney, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Clarice Meas of the gatehouse staff.

The toastmaster then announced a 15-minute intermission to give waiters time to clear the tables before the start of the induction ceremony.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Mr. Hirano, toastmaster for the induction banquet, acted as chairman for the induction ceremony. He introduced Mrs. Rhett Mitchell, pretty and talented Negress dietitian for the Topaz hospital, who sang the national anthem.

Rev. Nugent pronounced invocation.

Acting Project Director R. E. Bell introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Matheson.

The Assistant United States attorney prefaced his extemporaneous address with the remark that one of the blessings of living in this democratic country is that every one has the right to express his personal opinion openly. He was referring to Dr. Oshikubo.

The guest speaker then praised the residents for the manner in which they have conducted themselves and emphasized that the only way they can find future happiness is to forget the scare of evacuation and go out and resume life in normal communities.

Representative paragraphs of his address, which he recalled and wrote down later, are:

"The records of this Center, as well as the verbal reports of the Administrative staff, reveal that during the time the evacuees have been residents here, in numbers exceeding at times 8,000, there have been no crimes of violence, theft or immoral conduct. In spite of the fact that you have been brought here away from your homes, there has been very little agitation, and that from but a few. Such a record is a compliment to any people or any community, and I extend to you my sincere congratulations for such a splendid showing.

"I am advised that this Center is to be closed this year. Therefore, your considerations should be directed to the future. I deem it impractical and a waste of energies at this time to review and ponder the circumstance by which you were placed here, or to evaluate the reasons therefore. To do this is to

nurture unhappiness and distraction. It will hamper your future progress and success.

"Leaving the true answer to all those disturbing questions to time and history, I suggest that you look to the future, and upon that future concentrate your energies and your purpose of mind. All of you present here, young and old, like all mankind, have deeply ingrained desires for personal happiness, and I mean happiness within your own life's span, whether it be short or long. To accomplish this, or even approach it, must be your greatest purpose in the balance of your life-time. It is not easy to prepare for this undertaking, in view of your past experiences, but it is justified in your own self-interest.

"For three years many of you have known only the confines of this area. The world outside has changed much in this brief period, but it is the world into which you now must go. I do not speak to those who do not intend to make America their future home and build their future lives here, if any among you there may be. I speak to those of you whose future lives will be spent here in America. Your future welfare can be best safeguarded, and your heartfelt ambitions realized, by active whole-hearted adoption and practice of all of the principles of good citizenship in this democracy. This means that you must take your place in the communities in which you shall make your future home. You must gain a full understanding of your obligations as citizens of such communities and become a part of community life. This must be done by full and whole-hearted association with other people, participation in social, political and religious affairs. You must become acquainted with your fellow citizens and your neighbors, and by such association establish full confidence with other citizens. There is nothing which brings to individuals a greater feeling of security and well-being than to know and respect, and to receive the respect of one's neighbors. Mutual helpfulness naturally follows, and through mutual helpfulness many of the harsher problems of daily life are solved.

"You, I am sure, are conscious of the handicaps under which you will proceed. The sojourn of your race and people in this country has been comparatively brief and you can not point to generations of ancestors who have been born and have lived upon this soil. You were aware of some racial differences, but in full consideration of all of these you must also have in mind that few people in this country can look back over numerous generations of ancestry in this country and the posterity of the earliest arrivals in this country have brief backgrounds as compared with peoples of older countries. Also,

people of this nation are a composite of many peoples, races and nations, who have by adopting the principles and practices of democracy blended into a new and vital kind of people. You, who were born here, and the future native born posterity of your people may claim all of the rights of citizenship which any others may claim. You, too, may become an integral and responsible part of the community in which you live and by full cooperation, association, enjoy the fruits of true democratic life.

"My own family lines are very new to American soil, and yet in the first native born generation I personally feel the full and vital heritage of American citizenship. I am sure it need not take you long, any of you, to come to the same realization.

"Therefore, I submit that your quest for real happiness must be through full acceptance and active practice of the principles of democratic citizenship. If convinced of that, I anticipate for you much joy and satisfaction yet to come when these dark days have passed. I extend to you my sincere congratulations for your cooperative attitude here under trying circumstances, and extend to you my sincere best wishes for your future accomplishments as full participants in the blessings of this democracy."

The audience applauded Mr. Matheson's address enthusiastically. The Councilmen then crowded onto the small speaker's platform against the background of a large American flag and the Assistant United States Attorney administered the oath of office. The Councilmen repeated after him:

"I solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Utah, and that I will abide by the regulations of the War Relocation Authority, and that I will conscientiously and impartially perform the duties of councilmen for the community of Topaz according to the best of my ability."

After the Councilmen had returned to their seats, Mr. Narahara, whom they had elected as their chairman (the equivalent of mayor), spoke from notes as follows:

"The War Relocation Authority, by announcing the definite closing dates for all centers prior to January 2, 1946, has thereby told us that we have now entered the final phase of our existence in this center.

"This reminds us that a little over three years ago we were required to leave our homes, businesses and farms on the west coast, on the grounds of military necessity. We then became, as Secretary Ickes has said, 'victims of the hazards of war.' We cooperated with the government although our hearts protested the evacuation because we could not understand the necessity for it.

"Even though our existence in this center during the past three years has been a sub-normal one, we have appreciated up to the now the security for ourselves and our children which the WRA had repeatedly promised us for the duration of the war.

"I would like to present at this time some of these promises. The War Relocation work corps pamphlet issued in 1942 states that the future workers in the relocation centers should keep these definitions in mind--it defines as follows "Relocation center--a pioneer community, with basic housing and protective services provided by the Federal Government, for occupancy by evacuees for the duration of the war."

"A little folder entitled 'Questions and Answers for Evacuees,' widely distributed to evacuees at the time evacuation was taking place, states quote ".....nursery schools, elementary schools and high schools will be maintained" and later, the WRA manual and handbook gave us further assurance as to the educational standards which were to be maintained for our children.

"These promises and assurances previously made by WRA have been passed along to the residents in good faith by those of us who have endeavored to give constructive leadership. But now we find ourselves embarrassed when we have it thrown up to us that these promises and assurances are now broken by the forced closing of this and other centers.

"The people are saying that for the life of them, they do not see how it is reasonable to expect to relocate as many residents in a little over three months, as have relocated in a little over three years. They feel this especially because they realize that for the most part those who are now in the center have far greater relocation obstacles than those who have already left.

"For those families with children of school age who have not been able to relocate by November 1, we need proper education facilities. Without them, the sacrifice our children will have to make to the WRA relocation program is too great.

"We need this education service to insure unbroken studies for our students in order that they maybe on equal footing with other American children when they do relocate. In due time, residents may forgive and forget the hardship caused by necessity, but how can they be expected to either forgive or forget the planned denial of basic educational rights once so definitely promised.

"We would like to agree with Mr. Myer that "closing of schools is natural and inevitable result of the program of center liquidation," but we cannot. It is avoidable and need not now be. To us, who have always taken great pride in the achievements of our children, the continuance of education up to the hour of our departure is just as important as roofs over our heads, shirts on our back or the bread on our tables.

"Although the WRA has announced the closing dates of these centers, staggered from October 1 to December 15, no information has been released on the plan of action or the assistance for the future security of those who will not be able to relocate by the closing date of November 1.

"Mr. Myer states in his recent letter that 'actually, there is no hidden or mysterious motive at all behind closing of center schools.'

"If there is nothing for WRA to hide from the residents about schools, which is very important, we cannot see why WRA should be so mysterious about the plan for future action. The WRA surely must have a plan!

"It is obvious that many thousands will be left in the center at the end of the closing dates, because of obstacles to relocate, or the failure of WRA to complete their relocation plans. Lack of this information has left many residents, who most need assurance and moral uplift, in a quandary and in complete darkness, and has added fears for their future security.

"Many will continue to leave these centers under protest and sacrifice, face certain undue hardship because of pressure from their children. Most residents now remaining in the center desire to relocate and would have relocated, if they had been given adequate federal assistance, assurance of freedom from fear and want; to live once again in the normal stream of American life.

"We fail to see the justice in the WRA center closing policy without a more definite plan for future security for those incapable of relocation especially as this applies to a group of people who at time of evacuation were 70% American citizens and their loyal alien parents.

"Thousands of these citizens are now serving in the United States Armed Forces and have fought and died for the principles for which this democratic country stands--for the four Freedoms.

"A sense of injustice has caused the residents of Topaz to force the issue upon their respective block councilmen to pass the following resolution. Resolve that:

1. We respect the present relocation program of the WRA in relocating our residents, therefore, will continue to give every possible assistance to those capable of relocating.
2. The order of the WRA to close these centers is contrary to previous statements issued by the WRA. Moreover in view of the present condition of the center residents, the order cannot be reasonably accepted. Therefore, we request the rescinding of this order.

Topaz Community Council recommends that--

1. WRA announce immediately to the center residents, its plans and instructions which will apply to those remaining in the center at time of center closing.
2. That there should be no difference in the kind of relocation assistance to those who relocate before and those who relocate after November 1.
3. That the schools should be maintained for any remaining children until the closing date, so that when the school bells ring once again this fall all over the country, it will not ring in vain for our children.
4. That the Federal Resettlement Aid Program gives more aid to every qualifying relocatee instead of to only 10% of the non-dependent cases.
5. That the WRA field offices give more practical assistance in housing and employment problems.
6. That federal assistance and assurance for evacuees' security within and without the center be given until such time we are able to re-establish ourselves.

"The accomplishment and the practical application of these recommendations, not only will hasten to write finale to the WRA relocation program, but the residents will also continue to look upon the WRA as its friend and benefactor, which is important for the best civic relationships. We have tried to respect and cooperate with the government and the WRA for the past three years and will continue to do so.

"The residents of these centers appreciate all the fine work that has been done, and the consideration which has been given by Mr. Myer and the WRA despite many trials and tribulations.

"We believe WRA does not want to lose the present faith of the American public nor of the residents of these WRA centers in the final phase of its program.

"Only by complete understanding and cooperation between the WRA and the residents of these centers for the program that is nearing its end, which is of mutual interest to both, will we be able to write a finale as a job well done!"

The Rev. Nobu Nishimoto of the Topaz Protestant church pronounced benediction.

Entertainment followed. A young Nisei performed card tricks. Mme. ^{Sahomi} Tachibana, leading Topaz dancing teacher, presented several classical numbers. Dr. James W. Goto, chief evacuee surgeon, sang "Old Man River." A Caucasian violinist played. A Caucasian trio sang. The final number, rather ironically, was a vocal solo by Mrs. Mitchell entitled "End of a Perfect Day."

- P R O G R A M -

INDUCTION
OF
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

July 21, 1945

Luther T. Hoffman, Project Director

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT
TOPAZ, UTAH

BANQUET PROGRAM

- 6:00 P.M. Dining Hall No. 39
- Toast Master Mr. James Hirano
1. Opening Address Toast Master
 2. Grace Reverend Carl Nugent
 3. Yokyoku Mr. Y. Numanami
 4. Dinner
- Introduction
- a. Acting Project Director and Ass't. Director
 - b. Guests from outside
 - c. Gen. Election Board Chairman, Mr. Bunzo Fujii
 - d. Re-elected Chairman Mr. Masaru Narahara
of Community Council
5. Address Dr. George Ochikubo
6. Song: Miss Anne Kaku
Accompanist Mr. Hajime Mizuta
7. Solo "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" Mr. Lloyd Buchanan
"Without A Song"
Accompanist Mrs. Clarice Maas
8. Closing Address Toast Master

INTERMISSION 15 MINUTES

INDUCTION CEREMONY

- Chairman Mr. James Hirano
1. Opening Address Chairman
 2. National Anthem Mrs. Rhetta Mitchell
Accompanist Miss Emiko Komiya
 3. Invocation Reverend Carl Nugent
 4. Introduction
Mr. Scott M. Mathewson, Ass't. U.S. Att'y
By Mr. R. E. Bell
Acting Project Director
 5. Induction Mr. Scott M. Mathewson
 6. Message Mr. Masaru Narahara
 7. Benediction Reverend Nobu Nishimoto

MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Yamada, Hideo | 22. Hidekawa, Motohiko |
| 3. Takayama, Hiroshi | 23. Ochikubo, George, Dr. |
| 4. Sugiyama, Ichiji | 27. Handa, Sadata |
| 5. Miyata, Takuichi | 29. Ishida, Arata |
| 6. Kawaguchi, Kanitsu | 30. Narahara, Masaru |
| 7. Arita, Jiro | 31. Hideshima, Shlehisaburo |
| 8. Hashiguchi, Tadashi | 33. Hirotsu, Masaichi |
| 9. Kihara, Kaichiro | 34. Araki, Hitoshi |
| 10. Morimoto, Tomikichi | 35. Kimoto, Yoshigusu |
| 11. Nagai, Noriharu | 36. Shimamoto, Hikoichi |
| 12. Nakamura, Shotaro | 37. Mikami, Naoyemon |
| 13. Ichiyasu, Hirotaka | 38. Baba, Risaburo |
| 14. Watanabe, Tsuna | 39. Nodohara, Kiichi |
| 16. Kaneko, Hideo | 40. Mayeda, Yasutada |
| 19. Mizote, Sojuro | 41. Ishikawa, Chojiro |
| 20. Nakabayashi, Koshiro | 42. Akagi, James Toshio |

Exhibit C

TOPAZ TIMES

W E E K L Y

Vol. XII, No. 4

Topaz Times

Friday, July 27, 1945

COUNCILMEN INDUCTED

BRONZE STAR AWARDED TO SGT. KOJIMOTO NARAHARA TELLS PETITION CONTENTS IN SPEECH

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY--Sergeant Mitsunobu Kojimoto, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kojimoto of 40-3-C, has been awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action.

Cited for heroism in the vicinity of Bruyeres, France, Kojimoto was decorated by Colonel V.R. Miller, commander of the 442nd Japanese American Combat Team, at a ceremony in Lecco, Italy, shortly after the close of the Fifth Army's final campaign.

When Germans opened fire with machine pistols, grenades, and rocket launchers, Kojimoto, realizing the importance of holding his section's position, ordered his men to engage the enemy with all available weapons.

His ammunition bearer, armed only with a carbine and several grenades, infiltrated toward the enemy position. Kojimoto attempted to call him back but was unable to make himself heard above the din of intense firing. He moved to the left and laid a covering fire with his sub-machine gun. This drew

(Continued on page 9)

The Topaz community council has requested WRA to rescind its center closing order, to reveal what it intends to do with any residents remaining at the time of center closing and to keep schools open until the closing date. Masaru Narahara, reelected chairman, announced at the Induction ceremony for new councilmen Saturday night in DH 39.

The Council also has recommended that the same relocation assistance be given those who relocate after the November 1 closing date, as is given those who relocate before, that the Federal Resettlement Aid program give more aid to every qualifying relocatee instead of to only 10 per cent of the non-dependent cases, that WRA field offices give more practical assistance in housing and employment problems and that Federal assistance and assurance for evacuees' security within and without the center be given until such

(Continued on page 8)

REMAINING VOCATIONAL TRAINING CLASSES TO CLOSE AUGUST 27

RESIDENTS GIVE TO MILLARD CANCEC FUND

Residents of this center have contributed \$23.20 to the Millard County Cancer drive fund.

In turning the subscriptions in to Mrs. W.R. Hilton of Delta, Acting Project Director R.E. Bell stated:

"I am sure that the local county will especially appreciate this contribution inasmuch as the center residents are receiving very limited pay for the work they do here."

All remaining adult education and vocational training classes will be closed on August 17, Perry Carmichael, executive secretary of the Project Training committee announced following a meeting of the committee yesterday.

Adult education classes that will continue until August 17 are English, art, sewing, and Asaeda's lectures on geography for relocation.

The vocational training class in American cookery wound up its activities yesterday with "graduation dinner" served to the Project Training committee and other guests. Vocation-

(Continued on page 9)

OCHIKUBO ELECTED HEAD OF ASS'N TO FIND HOUSING FOR RETURNEES

Dr. George Ochikubo disclosed today that an organization known as the Cooperative Rehabilitation Association was formed at the recent All-Center conference of Cooperative Enterprises in Salt Lake City

to assist relocatees find housing on the West Coast.

A group of conference delegates subscribed \$10 each as initial operating capital and elected Dr. Ochikubo president and S. Nozaka, also of Topaz, secretary-treasurer.

By-laws are being drawn up and memberships are being sold at \$5.00.

(Continued on page 9)

NURSES AIDES NEEDED AT LOCAL HOSPITAL

Due to the shortage of nurses's aides at the hospital, girls 16 years of age or older are urged to apply immediately to Mrs. Augusta Kirchner, head nurse at the hospital.

No experience is needed by applicants.

TOPAZ POPULATION REPORT

January 2, 1945....5974

One week ago.....4349

Today.....4282

TOPAZ TIMES

Published Every Friday at the Central Utah
Relocation Center

Editorial Office....2-7-EE; Phone....401

Reports Officer--Edwone Conrad

Editor--Tosh Yamada

REPORTERS--Tak Kubota, Shiz Namba, Mits Asahara, and
Norma Kanzaki

ART AND TECHNICAL STAFF--Mamoru Hirota, art editor;
Wyno Nagasawa, head stencilist; Harold Hayashi,
Harry Kawabata, and Togo Oshima

CIRCULATION--Yo Ikeda



The Heart Mountain Sentinel will suspend publication with its July 28th issue, it was announced by its board of trustees.

Heart Mountain Sentinel

Butte and Canal High Schools shorthand classes won first place among all the high schools, colleges, and private schools in the entire state of Arizona.

Tula News-Courier

Forty-two Tule Lake residents, including eight basic family units, left the center during June to resettle in various parts of the U.S., the Relocation division announced.

Newell Star

Rohwer's last and perhaps biggest art and handicraft exhibit to be held here took place Friday and Saturday July 21, and July 22.

Rohwer Outpost

The recent Fourth of July carnival sponsored by the Amache Recreation association netted \$523.32 announced Nasutoshi Yoshizawa.

Granada Pioneer

The Minidoka relocation center has the highest relocation rate of all WRA centers since the reopening of the West Coast.

Minidoka Irrigator

SNELLING RATED 100% IN WORK EFFECT

"Fort Snelling was the only installation in the Seventh Service Command's recent report on work measurement effectiveness to score 100%, according to information just received from service command headquarters in Omaha.

"The report indicates that the Fort has made complete utilization of its present personnel and that there is no waste of manpower on the Post," according to Major Walter H. Murray, Snelling's Executive Officer, who is director of the personnel division.

AMERICANS ARE

(The following appeared in the San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune July 17, 1945)

For the purpose of expressing our own editorial stand, we herewith publish, in full, a letter to the editor which came to us from Arroyo Grande with "One of Your Subscribers" the only signature.

"To the Editor or to whom this may concern:

"In Wednesday night's copy of the Telegram-Tribune, the picture of a Jap boy and his father appeared on the front page, stating that they had met in Okinawa after eight years.

"As one of your subscribers, I thoroughly believe that you should exclude such pictures and put in pictures of our boys who deserve the right to have their pictures in the paper and which have done far more for their country than such barbarious cowards which one can't even call them human. The boys who deserve the right to have their pictures in the paper is our good American Yank which have fought and died for our country.

"The saying has always been the only good Jap is a dead one, and it still holds true in every case."

The picture in question was titled "Hiya Pop!" and showed T-4 Seiyu Higachi, 10th Army man and interpreter for the 24th Division G-2, greeting his father on Okinawa for the first time in eight years. Higachi was born in Los Angeles, moved to Okinawa with his family as a youngster, and later returned to the states to live.

It is our feeling that any soldier who went through the Okinawa campaign, be his name Smith, Jones, O'brine, Greenbaum or Higachi, is more than worthy of having his picture on the front page of any newspaper in the land.

Remember, Subscriber, that to most of us, T-4 Higachi is a soldier of the American Army—a soldier who, by going through that ferocious campaign, has done more for his adopted country than you or I or any of us who are not on the battle line in this war can hope to do.

We have yet to hear any serviceman look down upon a Japanese-American combat soldier or dismiss him with the "A Jap's a Jap" libel.

Does this Subscriber dare to call this man, an Okinawa veteran, a coward? Has this Subscriber taken the time to consider the facts in the case? We think not.

T-4 Higachi was good enough for the United States Army—good enough for combat service in one of the most perilous spots of the Pacific war. That makes him good enough for our front page.

REMOVE DISLOYAL JAPANESE—VFW

The Council of California Veterans of Foreign Wars, in a resolution, urged Congressional legislation compelling removal from this country of all Japanese of both foreign and American birth.

INDUCTION SPEECHES

(Continued from page 1)

time as the residents are able to re-establish themselves, he said.

The council will submit these recommendations to the councils of the other centers for approval as a petition to WRA Director Dillon S. Myer.

The council resolution charges that the center closing order "is contrary to previous statements issued by WRA, but pledges "continued assistance to those capable of relocating."

Narahara declared that the adoption of the council recommendations will hasten the completion of the WRA's relocation program.

"The residents appreciate all the fine work that has been done and the consideration which has been given by Mr. Myer and the WRA despite many trials and tribulations," he said. "We believe that WRA does not want to lose the present faith of the American public nor of the residents in the final phase of its program. Only by complete understanding and cooperation between the WRA and the residents....will we be able to write a finale as a job well done."

The council chairman pointed out that the relocation work corps pamphlet issued in 1942 defined relocation centers as communities "for occupancy by evacuees for the duration of the war," and that another folder entitled "Questions and Answers for Evacuees," stated that "nursery schools, elementary schools, and high schools...will be maintained."

Dr. George Ochikubo, expressing his personal views at the induction banquet, also was critical of WRA policies, especially of the dining hall and school closing programs.

"Is it necessary to cause more inconvenience in the short period left to the residents by closing their dining halls to save a few paltry dollars?" he asked. "Does the administration believe it is beneficial to the United States to close schools on the most innocent victims of this war? That the education of these children in the ways of democracy is not vital? Does not the administration fully realize the worry and anguish in our hearts in regards to the future without

further burdening us with unnecessary inconveniences?"

Dr. Ochikubo classified administrative staff members into three major categories--the "Rubber Stamp" group made up of those who follow Washington instruction to the letter whether applicable or not, the "E" group made up of those who strive for an efficiency rating at the expense of the residents, and the "humane" officials who try to better the welfare of the residents. He stressed the point that the residents are human beings, are capable of intellectual thinking and have feelings.

"We would like to agree with Mr. Myer that 'closing of schools is natural and the inevitable result of the program of center liquidation', but we cannot," the Council chairman said in his address.

"It is avoidable and need not now be. To us, who have always taken great pride in the achievements of our children the continuance of education up to the hour of our departure is just as important as roofs over our heads, shirts on our backs or the bread on our tables."

Narahara criticized the WRA for not revealing its plans for handling residents "who will not be able to relocate by the closing date of November 1." Lack of this information, he declared, "has left many residents who most need assurance and moral uplift in a quandry and in complete darkness, and has added fears for their future security."

"Most residents now remaining in the center desire to relocate and would have relocated," he said, "if they had been given adequate federal assistance and assurance of freedom from fear and wantWe fail to see the justice in the WRA center closing policy without a more definite plan for future security for those incapable of relocating...."

Scott M. Mathewson, assistant United States attorney, Salt Lake City, inducted the new councilmen into office. As guest speaker, he praised the residents for the manner in which they have conducted themselves and emphasized that the only way they can find future happiness is to forget the scars of evacuation and go out and resume life in normal communities.

SEATTLE PRODUCE MERCHANTS DENOUNCED BY SEC. ANDERSON

Secretary Clinton Anderson of the United States Department of Agriculture declares that refusal of Seattle produce merchants to deal in produce grown by Japanese Americans an "unjustified discrimination" which must be corrected.

Pending settlement of the Seattle marketing difficulties, the WRA is aiding evacuee growers who are marketing produce through to other channels.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

Thomas Sumida, 1339 Kalaniana'ole, Waiale, Honolulu, Hawaii, wishes to find the whereabouts of Chester Y. Sumida.

NJASRC GRAYBILL HEADS STUDENT RELO

Ann Graybill will become director of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, according to Penn-Notes, Philadelphia nisei publication.

Miss Graybill will succeed Mrs. Elizabeth Emelen.

NATL COMMUNITY SHEPPARD'S ACCUSATION CHESTS TO AID BLASTED BY ROBERTSON RESETTLERS

Community Chests and Councils, Inc., a national organization with headquarters in New York City, has urged its more than 340 local chapters to help organize and work with special community or welfare council committees to assist Japanese-American residents of Relocation Centers to resettle.

The following paragraphs are reprinted from an article in the June issue of Community, official publication of National Community Chests organizations.

"The resettlement program presents a special challenge to community chests and councils of social agencies. As overall coordinating and planning organizations in the fields of health and welfare, they can make a unique contribution by helping marshal community resources. Councils may assist the relocation officer, as the Brooklyn, N.Y., Council has done.

"The purpose of enlisting community chests and councils and establishing local committees is not merely to help evacuees while the War Relocation Authority relocation office is on the scene, but to lay the groundwork for a program in existing community organizations that, after the relocation offices are closed, will continue to serve this group of newcomers on the same basis as it serves any other group in the community."

VETERANS BITTER ABOUT VANDALS

(Continued from page 4)

"I thought we were fighting against this sort of thing, not for it," said ex-Marine Bob McDannold of Pacific Grove.

Jack Yadgar of Yonkers, N.Y. who fought with the Army in Europe said:

"If anyone should forget past animosities, I think that we must. Forty per cent of those graves belonged to infants."

If the War Relocation Authority were part of an "official conspiracy to release Japanese-American from internment camps," as charged by Rep. Harry R. Sheppard of San Bernardino county, the WRA would be proud of its fellow conspirators including the War Department, Area Supervisor Paul G. Robertson declared today.

HARA FAMILY INHERITS \$1,500

St. Louis--A Japanese American family will open a new rooming house here soon through the generosity of an old gold miner who traveled by day coach from Los Angeles to St. Louis to give them \$1,500 before he died.

Mr. and Mrs. Yamato Hara and their four daughters, former residents of Los Angeles, were given \$1,500 by Thomas Fehr, 81. Fehr arrived from California after standing through much of a tiresome train trip. He was taken to City Hospital and died of a heart ailment.

TRAIN CARRIES 425 ROHWERTES TO CAL.

The first complete railroad train carrying evacuees back to California left the Rohwer relocation center yesterday with 425 passengers.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes said the arrangement was in conformity with Office of Defense Transportation regulations.

The train consisted of seven day coaches; one tourist sleeper reserved for the aged, infirm and sick, a diner and two baggage cars. The all-evacuee train is scheduled to reach California about July 31.

Sheppard issued his statement yesterday in Washington, D.C., accusing WRA of conspiring to release Japanese and Japanese-Americans from "internment camps to engage in sabotage on the West Coast."

Robertson called Sheppard's blast "An unfortunate statement completely out of touch with fact."

Robertson cited Sheppard's assertion that persons likely to engage in sabotage are returning to the West Coast, as a very satisfactory method for shaking public confidence in government agencies vital to the war.

"I cannot speak for the War Department, nor for the FBI, nor for the Army and Navy intelligence agencies," Robertson said.

"But as a citizen I can tell any person who tries to use WRA as a dummy through which to tear down the good name of our internal security agencies, that in my opinion these agencies are doing a bang-up job."

"To charge that those agencies, either jointly or singly, cannot control potential saboteurs in the face of their records, to my mind is ridiculous," Robertson said.

"Sheppard's accusations," Robertson said, "may well raise doubts in the minds of the men overseas fighting for the democratic principle. If the tiny minority on our population comprised of persons of Japanese descent can be successfully victimized, then the servicemen will know that the minority they will comprise in our nation also may be victimized."

Robertson revealed that San Bernardino county had a pre-evacuation population of 346 Japanese in that area.