

J1.96:2

2 of 2

67/14
C

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Poston, Arizona

Poston is very much interested in your relocation program. We in the center are particularly interested in you because you are one of the pioneers blazing the trail for the many others who will follow in the coming months.

At the present time, there are hundreds of niseis and isseis in a state of uncertainty -- to re-locate or to remain here in a future-less Poston. We in the Employment Division want to help answer some of their many questions. As we do not know many of the answers, we would like to ask for your help. Will you help us to assist others?

These are the outstanding wuestions that have come up:

1. What is your present occupation?
2. Do you like your present locale? Why? If not why?
3. How is the public opinion to niseis?
4. How is the housing, food and, transportation situation?
5. What possibility is there of niseis getting into industry and other better class jobs?
6. What advice can you give others leaving?
7. Any other suggestions that may be of help.

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope with a mimeopgraphed sheet.

Sincerely yours,

Survey Dept. Employment Div.

May 31, 1943

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

It has been exactly one week and three days that we have experienced the big city life of Detroit. Each day brings home new experiences and new pleasures which we relate around the dinner table at night.

Starting today, you will be interested to know that I have obtained a reinstatement of my Federal Civil Service and am working for the War Department, Tank Automotive Center, in the Union Guardian Building. I am so happy and thrilled working again in an office. I am classified as CAF 3. We work from 8:30 to 5:15 with 45 minutes for lunch. The Penobscot Building where the WRA office is located is just one block from here so I go there quite often and make myself feel at home. In fact I believe I'll take some sandwiches there and eat at noon because the restaurants are so congested around dinner time.

After arriving here we stayed in a hotel for one week and then moved to the above address which is a rooming house run by Jack Shimoda, a restaurant owner who has been here for two years. He is trying to help the evacuees find temporary housing at his place until they can find a house. It feels so good to do your own cooking again.

In passing Kalamazoo and looking at it from the train, we thought it looked like a swell little city. Everywhere we go people are so pleasant and nice. We feel so much at home and live it here. Things are green after the recent rains, but most of the people are complaining that their Victory gardens are beginning to get washed away.

There are so many jobs. After being out, we wonder how people can stay in the camps--that is, there is so much to do and so many people idle ~~he~~ there.

We stopped in Granada 3 days to visit our folks enroute and it was quite windy and dusty there. We enjoyed seeing our nephew who had grown so big and do hope it will not be long before everyone can come out.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Gladys Onoye

253 E. Forest Ave.
Detroit, Michigan

Employment Survey Department

June 1, 1943

Present occupation : Mining Engineer
City: Salt Lake City, Utah

1. After almost 4 months in Salt Lake City, I find that everything has been of a very pleasant nature; the conditions are far more favorable than I had ever anticipated. The Mormon people, so far, have welcomed us into their communities with open arms; they seem to understand our situation better than most Americans, because of their past experiences which were none too pleasant. In years past, they were persecuted for their religious beliefs, and were driven out of the eastern states to find a place of their own. The great majority of people here are characterized by their friendliness, sincerity, tolerance, and their everyday practice of the "American Way."

For myself, this locality is ideal for my profession because of the mining activity; Utah is one of the richest mining states in the U.S., with Salt Lake City as its center.

2. The public opinion, in and around Salt Lake, has been very favorable toward Nisei; the press has been tolerant, and in many instances have come out in our defense. It is gratifying to see Help Wanted Ads specifying American-Japanese; in some cases, there is an addition to an advertisement, such as: "will consider American-Japanese."

3. The housing condition is truly acute; apartments and houses are at a premium. However, there is no marked sign of racial discrimination in any of the residential districts. The difficulty in finding housing is due to the acute shortage. From all indications, there is no relief in sight on this matter; in fact, some concern is felt for the near future because of the anticipated increase of defense workers coming into this area in the next few weeks.

The food situation appears to be better than in some other States; most everything is available. Most of us, who have lived in California, find it a little difficult at first to get accustomed to the high cost of vegetables. ~~Food~~ Food is plentiful, but more planning is necessary under the point-rationing system.

Transportation is adequate so far, but one has to expect some inconvenience due to the conditions; facilities are fairly convenient. Public utilities are a little higher than most of us are accustomed to, but not to the point of being prohibitive. Telephones are almost out of the question if one desires to have a new service installed.

4. The question of a minimum wage or salary for living is difficult to answer because it varies with individuals. Off hand, I would judge that a single person could live on \$100 per month and a couple on \$125. Jobs with wages over this figure are not easy to obtain; however, seasonal work at good wages are available.

5. At present, I would say that the chances of Nisei getting into industry, business, and better type positions are not too encouraging. However, there is a ray of hope, because a few have "broken the ice", and are proving themselves worthy. It is not uncommon to see Nisei "ads" in the newspapers -- it is my understanding that there is an immediate response to these advertisements. Quite a number of stenographic positions have been taken by Nisei girls and are proving themselves highly satisfactory.

there is a crying need for laborers in the mining industry, but it is not easy to get Niseis into a field of that type. Not long ago, the Utah Copper Co. hired about 20 Nisei, and immediately, the Mine workers Union objected to working alongside the evacuees. It doesn't make sense, but that is the situation.

6. From what I've seen, it is imperative that each individual who plans to relocate, give careful consideration to what he is about to undertake. If a contract is involved, he must consider its seriousness -- once he signs, there is an obligation to fulfill. Much goodwill has been destroyed by unthinking individuals who sign a contract just to get out of a Relocation Center and break it for no reason at all. Taking a whole family at once would be a grave mistake in my way of thinking.

It would be wise to advise all persons leaving the Center to take all of their belongings -- don't throw or give anything away. There are many things which they may consider mere trifles, until they try to get along without them. After they get out, they are very likely to be disappointed ~~without them~~ because there are many articles ~~which~~ which cannot be purchased at any price.

Travel should be confined to the early part of the week -- the transportation facilities are not so crowded. When a person arrives in a new city he will find that hotel accommodations are almost impossible to obtain over week ends.

7. Many new fields will be opening for the Nisei, but how soon and how many will depend on us. In this area, many employers are willing to hire Nisei, but they are a little reluctant to do so, simply because they have heard of so many "jumping" their contracts. Our conduct will have a great deal to do with our future; many of the younger people do not realize fully, the responsibility which is being placed on their shoulders. Many Americans on the "outside" have never been acquainted with Japanese -- some have never seen one. The first impression is a very valuable thing -- upon it many depend the whole future of the Nisei in a new community; this is a point which cannot be dwelt upon too strongly.

Letter to Giles L. Zimmerman
from Gladys Onoye

June 22, 1943

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

I was hoping you would have had at least a half day in Detroit and could have called us, but I do know how terribly busy you are and am glad to hear you are back in Poston and keeping up the good fight.

Yes, we were terribly amazed to suddenly see all the publicity pop up in the Detroit Times regarding that situation. First I remember a small article revealing the confessions of N. James. Then what I am sending you under separate cover came out. Please note beside the front, page 4, two articles. I remember Mr. Townsend quite well in several meetings while at camp.

Kaz Oka arrived last week and three more very good friends from Poston today, all on the Johnson Milk Deal, but Kaz didn't start because he knew he couldn't do the heavy work. He is working in a defense plant making wire and seems to like it very much. He inquired at several newspaper offices, but they don't seem to need the workers right now. So many are coming out on the Johnson Deal. In fact all the people I know are accepted, but it's really very strenuous work. The weights of the cased milk is 135 lbs., so you can imagine how some of these small fellows cannot "take it".

The past two days have been hectic. At least the Poston camp will be out of the news until the race riot is over. It's something very terrible and quite disheartening. Our boarding house is situated in a colored neighborhood, but they all like us. Last night two boys from Poston on their way home were threatened on the streetcar, Hiroshi Amano and Mas Oshiki. They packed up and left Detroit this a.m. with a very bad feeling. You see they dragged out all colored conductors and motormen, kicked and beat a lot to death (28 is the figure today). The boys said that when they saw them a white man called out, "What about these Japs?" After a moment another man called out, to leave them alone. They couldn't sleep last night and left today very unhappy. Sada and I were coming home on the streetcar and about five blocks away from here, they asked all the colored to duck and rode straight through the mob as fast as possible for some five blocks. We saw three cars burning and overturned right on the street.

Charles has found a good lineup in Monroe and we plan to move right away and could have before now, but the housing situation is just as bad there. It's a lovely community of about 20,000 and a house is being vacated today so I think we are moving tomorrow.

I had to reluctantly resign my Civil Service position. The girls were so grand and all plan to visit me on weekends. They were so friendly at all times. I hated to leave, but then have obtained just as good a position in Monroe. I am going to work for one of the most influential lawyer and citizen there. I believe there is a great future. He knows California quite well but hoped I could take root in Michigan; that is,

if I liked the winters. Sada will work as Secretary for Mr. Fashbough, Vice-President of the Greening Nursery. He had a full page of pictures of evacuees from Denson, Arkansas working on the nursery last month in the Detroit Times.

About two weeks ago, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, 130 Farand, Detroit invited all the evacuees to a get together at their home. About 40 showed up. They are Quakers, too, and when I mentioned your name they knew all about your good work and what an influential person you were. They were happy to know of your excellent work and position in Poston. We always speak of the wonderful work of the Quakers toward us. The Central Methodist has also been extremely cordial about inviting us to their meetings and church services. We have been going right along, although we are Presbyterians.

The weather as you know is quite sultry. We hope when we get near Lake Erie we will not suffer so much. I have had no need at all for blankets at night. It's so different from Poston, but we perspire just the same.

I have met many sympathetic Caucasians, but of course, most of them do not know who we are. We never argue with them and have been accused of being Chinese, Filipino, Mexicans, and Indians. Found out that Negroes do not like Indians or Chinese so we tell them the truth!

Sincerely,

/s/ Gladys Onoye

253 E. Forest Avenue
Detroit 1, Michigan
June 27, 1943

Mr. Giles Zimmerman
Chief, Employment Division
Colorado River Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

Dear Giles:

It was my honest intention of writing much sooner. But the circumstances arising from efforts to adjust myself to this "new" life had not permitted me to sit down for any length of time until this day. I trust that you will excuse my somewhat lengthy silence. In the meantime, allow me to express my deepest appreciation to your staff for your many endeavors in my behalf.

Undoubtedly you have heard previously from other former Poston residents as to the conditions and situation prevailing in Detroit. It may be, though, that you might be interested in getting my reaction to this relocation program, and of the conditions existent in Detroit. While this is by no means a "report to end all reports," I shall try and give you a factual story borne out of my observations, limited though it may be.

SENTIMENT OF THE PEOPLE TOWARD AMERICAN JAPANESE. As far as I have been able to observe, the attitude of the majority, of the great majority, has been one of tolerance and acceptance of the evacuees. I must say that this impression was partly gained by the fact that the people here are, as a rule, too busy with their own war-time affairs to spend much time trying to figure out the whys and wherefores of the so-called Japanese problem. As long as the evacuees take care to make themselves as inconspicuous as possible, there is no reason in the world why the evacuees should not be able to get along in Detroit on an even keel. I make note of this because even in Detroit, there has been an instance of where a group of six boys from Rohwer habitually tramped through the streets. We are endeavoring to "educate" the evacuees not to go out into public in groups of more than threes. Two whenever possible. In this respect, at least as far as Detroit is concerned, I must say that the many former Poston evacuees who have settled here have been very cooperative and beyond criticism in their actions.

I note that some of the evacuees coming out here arrive with the "pre-meditated" idea that the people are unfriendly, that they "ain't going to like Detroit." It is interesting to note that five boys who arrived here in that frame of mind left after only a stay of three days for points west (Chicago, etc.). You must impress upon the evacuees who are still remaining in camp and who are contemplating on relocating themselves that they must have a positive idea of making the best of everything. I would say that 99% of the time, they will find themselves much better off if they would assume such an attitude.

As far as I am concerned, the feeling of the people here toward those of us who are of Japanese descent is very, very, good. It has been my privilege to talk with the average "man on the street", Negroes, and with the people whom I work. I have also discussed matters with a storekeeper, my barber (75¢ for a haircut), and with a Chicago businessman who happened

to be visiting in Detroit on business (this conversation took place on a streetcar one evening), and in every case, they were very cordial and friendly. I was privileged to address a small group of business men who comprise the Y's Men Club of the local YMCA, and they were keenly interested in the relocation program and in the so-called Japanese problem. This in spite of the fact that they were embroiled in the midst of a mad race riot involving hundreds upon hundreds of Negroes and whites.

Of the three newspapers in town, two of them have been very impartial. The third one is a Hearst paper, and I shall assume that you know the answer to that. I am enclosing a copy of an editorial in the Free Press which testily asks Martin Dies NOT to come to Detroit. You may be interested to know that Mayor Jeffries "invited" Dies NOT to come here when witch-hunting Dies stated in Washington that he blamed the Japanese for inciting the riot between the Negroes and the Whites and was going to undertake an investigation. The other paper which has not "picked" on the Japanese is the Detroit News. The Hearst paper is the Detroit Times. In talking about the Times with the members of the Y's Men's Club, they assured me that the only time anyone ever reads the Times is when they want to consume something "sensational".

COST OF LIVING. The following statement may be hard to believe, but it's the truth, so help me! I am staying in an apartment which was purchased by a Japanese here, Jack Shimoda, who operates a cafe for defense workers. Jack claims that he purchased the building (at an estimated cost 10,000 dollars) to help out the evacuees. At any rate, he charges each occupant \$3.50 per week. He furnishes the linen and towels, changing them once a week. In one large room, there are 8 boys bunking together. I am staying in a smaller room with another lad and when my wife joins me, we shall be privileged to have this room to ourselves. Three boys are in another, two more couples have rooms of their own, and so on. All told, there are approximately 23 staying in the apartment, which is a three story affair. He will have room for about 25 more when he completes renovating the rooms. However, he tells me that he has a long waiting list, although I have not known him to turn an evacuee down when they hit town and have no other place to stay.

We have the privilege of using a kitchen by shifts. Seven boys who bunk together got by on \$3.00 (yes, three dollars) each for meals last week, and this week they got by on \$3.50. They are all working and eat rather heavily. Another group of seven, of whom five are girls and I am one of the two boys, got by last week on \$4.85. We not only ate heavily, but we also indulged in some fancy desserts after every dinner. In my case, I eat four times a day, inasmuch as I work the swing shift at a defense plant. (more about my job later.)

The boys' heaviest expense seems to be in their lunches. Another couple who lives in an apartment of their own tells me that got by on \$8 for the two the first week, and cut it down to \$6 the second week. She told me that it was possible to get by on an average of \$6 to \$8 every week for a couple if they do their own cooking.

Yes, eating out (in restaurants) is very expensive. Some of the boys who stay at the Y told me that it costs them anywhere from \$1.50 to \$2 a day when they eat out.

This does not necessarily mean that food is inexpensive. One will find it costs high, in comparison with peacetime prices. But by careful shopping and reasonable use of the ration stamps, it is surprising how far one can make a dollar stretch. Despite the so-called inconveniences of rationing, etc., a person is able to eat whatever he chooses. Since my brief stay here, I have consumed ham (roast), veal steak, shrimp (fried), tasty tomato and lettuce salads, etc., and all it cost me for a week was \$4.85; not to mention the desserts which included cakes of all kinds, and a melon once.

HOUSING. Probably the most pressing problem on our hands lies in securing adequate housing facilities. However, numerous individuals, primarily connected with the churches, with the cooperation of George E. Graff, have launched a series of conferences to assist the evacuees in finding adequate housing. As I said before Jack Shimoda's place offers temporary refuge to evacuees. I would unhesitatingly recommend any family men to first come out by themselves first and scout around. They will save themselves much needless expenditures and troubles. While the housing situation in Detroit is "tight", evacuees are coming in almost daily and somehow finding places in which to stay. The girls have been making some very satisfactory arrangements. They have been able to find housing with private families at very reasonable rates. Many of the girls are coming out as typists and other secretarial work and have made such "family arrangements" which, I think, is called the hospitality arrangement in Iowa. It seems to be working out very satisfactorily.

Please instruct the outgoing evacuees to be sure and not only wire the relocation officer in their respective destination of their probable time of arrival but also to report to such an officer as soon as they hit town. Many have neglected to do this, with consequent inconveniences. In this respect, evacuees should also wire their ~~in~~ relocation officers to make some temporary housing arrangement, especially if their time of arrival is at night.

EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES: Jobs are numerous. However, evacuees must be told that no matter what job they may choose, it is hard work and they will NOT earn \$200 a week. Contrary to all the stories of high wages, etc., the average earnings of defense plant workers varies between 75¢ to 90¢ per hour. This is not racial discrimination. It applies equally to whites, negroes, and what-have-you. Only skilled men, such as welders, etc., should expect to earn more than a dollar an hour. The average earnings of the approximately 15 to 20 boys who are staying at Shimoda's place range around \$40 per week. This figure of \$40 was based on the fact, that while the great majority of the boys are earning \$45 a week and over, there are two lads here who started at 65¢ an hour and are earning only \$25 per week. However, even in their isolated case, they will eventually be raised to 90¢ per hour, which will raise their earnings substantially.

There are many civil services positions open to qualified persons. Gladys Onoye hit the Federal Civil Service here which would have brought in approximately \$2000 per year to her as a stenographer had she remained (they are planning on going to Monroe so she quit her job). James Sakamoto, former life guard at Poston II, came in just last week. We gave him a lead on a city of Detroit civil service job as life guard or swimming instructor. If he passes the written test, he will go to work at \$2100 per year to start. Among the City Civil Service jobs listed are: fire fighters, stenographers, IBM statistical, machine operators, senior

semi-senior and junior accountants, bath house golf course and general attendants, life guards, swimming instructors, play leaders, forestry helpers, hospital orderly and porters, building trades helper, mechanics and repairman of every kind on autos, clerks and typists, etc. The fact that James Sakamoto was received cordially despite his Japanese ancestry is proof that there is no discrimination. If Jimmy doesn't get the job, it will not be on racial grounds, but on the written test, as he passed his swimming technique and demonstration very successfully.

Just to give you an idea of how things work here along wage lines, permit me to digress a bit on my own fortunate circumstances. I am employed by the Hoskins Manufacturing Company, a concern engaged 100% in war work, manufacturing wires and metals made of chromel (an alloy of nickel, chromium, etc.). I started in at 75¢ per hour on the day shift. Then I was shifted into what is known as the annealing department (operating three electric furnaces and lime and lead coating wires) on the swing shift. My hours are from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. I get 5¢ more or 80¢ per hour on the swing shift. After that, every two weeks, we get a five cents raise until I get 95¢. If I'm on the day shift, I will earn only 90¢ an hour. That seems to be about the tops, unless I learn a special skill. We put in a 54-hour week, with time-and-a-half after 40 hours.

The work is hard. Fooling around with furnaces whose temperatures range anywhere from 1300 to 2000 degrees Fahrenheit and with hot wires is no fun. I already got three minor burns on my arms, but that is all ⁱⁿ the course of a day's work. What makes my job and the jobs of the others in other plants (glass factories, wholesale fish markets, cleaners and dyers, mild compales, etc.) bearable and nice is the pleasant relations which we all seem to enjoy with our co-workers, be they whites or Negroes.

Yes, jobs are a dime a dozen. But instruct your out coming evacuees to expect their jobs to be hard and not as high-salaried as they have been dreaming of. But no matter what the earnings, they should be able to make a go of it, if they can find a place to stay and do their own cooking.

GENERALLY SPEAKING. I would say (and I find in my conversations with the evacuees here) that it's a great life if a person can take it. We have freedom of movement, eat what we please, sit in nice theaters, and we're maturing properly. The folks are okay, be they colored or white. Every evacuee must be discreet in his actions. That's the only requirement. Thank God! we have no zoot suiters yet among the Japanese descendants in Detroit. On the whole, the evacuees have been behaving, as I said before, with sagacity and exemplarity. There are approximately 100 evacuees in Detroit at the present time. Unfortunately, we are for the most part, in the colored sections and therefore, the whites are not too cognizant of our numbers. So the situation is well in hand.

Before closing, I would like to have you consider in any way you can possibly can the following:

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. George E. Graff requires more help in the office. At present, just he and Mrs. Marie Doi seem to be doing all the work. As I pointed out before, there are numerous employment possibilities which are not merely domestic, etc. But he hardly has the time to unearth them.
2. The WRA policy should be altered in the relocation program to the following. As I am given to understand, the WRA relocation officers

"sever" most of their connections with the evacuees once they are out and on their first job. I maintain, and I am basing this on my observations of evacuees in predicaments, that for the first month while out, the evacuees should be given thorough assistance in adjusting himself to the new life and conditions. You may disagree with me and say that the relocation officers are supposed to do that. Unfortunately, they are not doing it. Mr. Graff is too busy with his own affairs, much less look after the welfare of those who already came. He himself admitted that he has orders, generally speaking, of course, to concentrate on getting the evacuees out of the camps. That is all well and good. But it must be remembered that the evacuees venturing out are too, too unfamiliar with the conditions of the east. Most of us have never had previous experience in the jobs we are now holding. In my own case, it required one good week before I was able to turn up with the present job. The rest of the time was spent in evaluating the good and bad points of the three possibilities which I did have. But others have not been as fortunate. There altogether are too many cases of where the boys would come out on a job, then find out that it wasn't exactly to their liking for some reason or another for a variety of reasons. In short, the boys are generally "lost" when they first come out. Conditions are different from the days they used to know on the coast. During this primary month, these boys need counseling and advice as to what course they should pursue, always keeping in mind the welfare of the majority; the only agency properly fitted out to carry out this duty of assisting the evacuees in adjusting themselves during that first month is the WRA. I have been doing it on a very small scale. But it's almost a hopeless case. It's a fulltime job.

3. There should be more concerted effort to alleviate the housing situation. Mr. Graff is doing the best he can with the condition, but his hands are tied by the voluminous amount of work. As a matter of fact, during the first week that I was here, another fellow and I went up to the office practically every day to give him a hand with his office affairs. But we couldn't keep it up indefinitely. After all we have to eat, too, so we had to go to work. I don't mind donating my time, inasmuch as it's for a good cause. But a person can't keep it up indefinitely.

4. To date, the WRA has been strictly on the defensive in regards to the press and to such as Dies, Townsend, Etc. It seems to me that the reports division of the WRA is really falling down on the job. They've got a high-salaried reports department. Why not take the initiative and put out more dope on just how the evacuees are trying to help out the war effort under ADVERSE conditions? ~~What~~ Ralph Gelvin probably meant well, but his statement that 450 evacuees were disloyal was certainly not the best method of approaching the matter. Doggone it, Giles, it burns my hide to see the administrative forces and the ones that were released fighting it out before the congressional and other investigative bodies and putting the evacuees on the spot. The administration, in endeavoring to justify its management of the camp, and the other guys who were "fired" trying to discredit the administration, is merely putting us evacuees on the spot. What-in-the-hell's going on anyway? Ralph isn't the only one. I haven't read of your testimony so I presume that whatever you might have stated was all okay. Otherwise the press would have pounced on it. Thanks to Hearst's Detroit Times, we are fully acquainted with what's going on over there in your part of the country.

But the evacuees are trying to make the best of the bad situation. It seems as if tho' the administration is putting every evacuee, regardless of their loyalty, all in the same boat. So we take it on the chin. And you tell us to keep our chins up. Well, we're doing it. But if you don't somehow call attention to this cat-and-dog fight, some of the evacuees are going to lose fight and your relocation program will be a flop.

I guess I've said enuf for one letter. I hope you were able to make something of it all. In the meantime, I'm trying to keep my nose clean, working hard, and getting by as happily as circumstances will allow. Tell all my friends in there, Tats Kushida, Marian, Bessie, Jimmy Yamada, Ed Nossoff, Miss Stevick, Miss Chino, Drennen, etc. that I'm still living and my sincerest regards to all. Tell them I appreciated the many favors which they extended to me and that I haven't forgotten.

If there's anything I can do on this end, don't hesitate to call on me.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

As ever,

/s/ Kaz Oka

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

May 4, 1943

Present Occupation: Coal miner
City: Price, Utah

1. I am interested in my present occupation because I am a former old time miner. I like the place I am resideing for its just like home sweet home.
2. The public opinion toward Niseis in this area and the State of Utah have nothing against the Niseis as racial discrimination.
3. Housing condition in Utah is very rare, because Utah is becoming a large industry state. Food is plentiful. Transportation also is hard for there is an increase of over 50% in population since 1941.
4. Wages consider on type of occupation, one goes into at present in bad condition. Wages are \$150 a month. If one is to "back" living expense it would amount from \$25 to \$45. Mine work is easy to obtain considering the experience one has.
5. According to experience of the Niseis, wanting to getting into any kind of business or industry. And one that can stick to their positions.
6. To my opinion people leabing relocation centers should be persons that are willing to work and stick to a job without hopping around like grasshoppers.
7. In any city, Japanese have a very bad reputation as troublemaker especially people from the Coast.
Nisei walking around city in bunches should be banned.
8. Niseis bragging and talking aloud in public places should be banned.

June 1, 1943

Mining Engineer
Salt Lake City, Utah

1. After almost 4 months in S.L.C., I find that everything has been of a very pleasant nature; the conditions are far more favorable than I had ever anticipated. The Mormon people, so far, have welcomed us into their communities with open arms; they seem to understand our situation better than most Americans, they were persecuted for their religious beliefs, and were driven out of the eastern States to find a place of their own. The great majority of people here are characterized by their friendliness, sincerity, tolerance, and their everyday practice of the "American Way."

For myself, this locality is ideal for my profession because of the mining activity; Utah is one of the richest mining states in the U.S. with Salt Lake City as the center.

2. The public opinion, in and around Salt Lake, has been very favorable toward Nisei; the press has been tolerant, and in many instances have come out in our defense. It is gratifying to see Help Wanted Ads specifying American Japanese; in some cases, there is an addition to an advertisement, such as: "will consider Japanese."

3. The housing condition is truly acute; apartments and houses are at a premium. However, there is no marked sign of racial discrimination in any of the residential districts. The difficulty in finding housing is due only to the acute shortage. From all indications, there is no relief in sight on this matter; in fact, some concern is felt for the near future because of the anticipated increase of defense workers coming into this area in the next few weeks.

The food situation appears to be better than in some other states; most everything is available. Most of us, who have lived in California find it a little difficult at first to get accustomed to the high cost of vegetables. Food is plentiful, but more planning is necessary under the point-ration system.

Transportation is adequate so far, but one has to expect some inconvenience due to the conditions; facilities are fairly convenient. Public utilities are a little higher than most of us are accustomed to but not to the point of being prohibitive. Telephones are almost out of the question if one desires to have a new service installed.

4. The question of a minimum wage or salary for living is difficult to answer, because it varies with individuals. Offhand, I would judge that a single person could live on \$100 per month and a couple on \$125. Jobs with wages over this figure are not easy to obtain; however, seasonal work at good wages are available.

5. At present I would say that the chances of Nisei getting into industry, business, and better type positions are not too encouraging. However, there is a ray of hope, because a few have "broken the ice", and are proving themselves worthy. It is not uncommon to see Nisei "ads" in the newspapers -- it is my understanding that there is an immediate response to these advertisements. Quite a number

Quite a number of stenographic positions have been taken by Nisei girls and are proving themselves highly satisfactory.

There is a crying need for laborers in the mining industry, but it is not easy to get Niseis into a field of that type. Not long ago, the Utah Copper Co. hired about 20 Nisei, and immediately, the Mine Workers Union objected to working alongside Evacuees. It doesn't make sense, but that is the situation.

6. From what I've seen, it is imperative that each individual who plans to relocate, give careful consideration to what he is about to undertake. If a contract is involved, he must consider its seriousness -- once he signs, there is an obligation to fulfill. Much goodwill has been destroyed by unthinking individuals who sign a contract just to get out of a relocation center and break it for no reason at all. Taking a whole family at once would be a grave mistake in my way of thinking.

It would be wise to advise all persons leaving the Center to take all of their belongings -- don't throw or give anything away. There are many things which they may consider mere trifles, until they try to get along without them. After they get out, they are very likely to be disappointed, because there are many articles which cannot be purchased at any price.

Travel should be confined to the early part of the week -- the transportation facilities are not so crowded. When a person arrives in a new city, he will find that hotel accommodations are almost impossible to obtain over week ends.

7. Many new fields will be opening for the Nisei, but how soon and how many will depend on us. In this area, many employers are willing to hire Nisei, but they are a little reluctant to do so simply because they have heard of so many "jumping" their contracts. Our conduct will have a great deal to do with our future; many of the younger people do not realize fully, the responsibility which is being placed on their shoulders. Many Americans on the "outside" have never been acquainted with Japanese -- some have never seen one. The first impression is a very valuable thing -- upon it may depend the whole future of the Nisei in a new community; this is a point which cannot be dwelt upon too strongly.

Tomo Ito

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 4, 1943

Present occupation: Secretary to Carl Sandburgh
City: Harbert, Michigan

1. Small town, friendly people, too secluded, however.
2. Friendly -- but partially due to the fact that employer is a respected citizen and personage.
3. Too small a town to offer possibilities to persons other than those in domestic capacity.
4. \$100 a month for at least a decent living -- could probably have bare subsistence on \$75.00 -- for Chicago, the nearest large town.

If a person has skill of training of the kind demanded, he should be able to get a job paying at least \$100; the worst thing for a person to do, however, is to undersell himself. If he thinks he deserves \$150 a month he should demand it.

5. Niseis are new to the people around here -- once they became used to us as respectable people -- it shouldn't be bad. I would recommend that niseis consider only white collar or professional jobs or a defense job.

6. that they learn how to spell "advice".

1. Don't go around with a chip on your shoulder because of the bad experience in camp -- Caucasians will think better of you if you can joke about it or look at it from a detached point of view.

2. Be frank about your past -- never feel it necessary to lie or apologize ~~about~~ for your race.

3. Be prepared to receive a great many rejections and brush-offs before finally landing a job that you want. It is better to wait two weeks and get a good job than rush blindly into any old job because you feel desperate after pounding the pavements for a week; especially dangerous now because defense jobs are frozen (once a person is in an essential industry, he can't get out easily even if he has a better job offer elsewhere).

4. Be encouraged if a prospective employer gives you an interview even if he does not employ you because each time he sees a nisei his resistance against them is weakened; and he may employ the next Nisei that comes along.

5. Respect yourself and treat yourself with respect if you expect or want some one else to.

Buy defense bonds whenever you are expected to.

6. BUT NO MATTER WHAT, GET OUT OF CAMP. That's a lousy place to be now.

June 5, 1943

Electric Motor Mechanic
Chicago, Illinois

1. I'm formerly from L.A. So I'm quite used to city life. The people here is more friendly than those of the coast cities. Chances for jobs are more likely in such big cities as this. I like it very much.
2. People who understand our situation are just swell. People whose loved ones were injure or kill in Pacific War zones are very much against the Nisei's. Of coarse we must expect these situations.
6. Do not come out unless you can really take care of yourself. Expect to face racial discrimination. Don't just come out to have fun and make it tough for the other Nisei's. Don't accept any type of wages, because you will lower the standards of the Nisei's.
7. Office works don't pay very much. Some or mostly don't pay very much. Some or mostly Nisei officer ~~work~~ worker don't even get a \$100.00 a month. Of coarse if you are highly trained you can make around \$125.00. Most Nisei boys are working as bus boys. Pay is very good. But you have no future in that line of work, Some Nisei's are working as apprentice mechinest at 70¢ an hour; I think very good future.

Kunihiro Fujitsubo

June 5, 1943

Stenographer
Chicago, Illinois

1. In looking at the date, it is exactly two months since I left Poston. Somehow it seems longer and it's hard to believe that I was in camp for a year -- camp life seems a thing of the past. As far as building ~~xxxx~~ structure and everything else is concerned, it's very different from California. However, I like Chicago cuz the people out here are really swell -- for the first time, I found out -- it's not the place but the people which really count.

2. Public opinion here is very good. As yet, I haven't had any experience to think otherwise. The funny part of it is that so many of them never knew relocation centers existed let alone evacuation occurred. They're very surprised and very curious to know just what went on and are most sympathetic. You don't feel any discrimination -- I expected some when I ~~come~~ out and found out there's very little if any. Most of the people are very friendly and nice -- on streets and on trolleys and busses, you mix with people -- very seldom do you have the feeling you're being stared at.

6. Those of us who have come out realize now that too many of us came out expecting too much -- thus too many are easily discouraged. Don't coze out with an idea to get a \$150 job. There are some but not enough to go around. It's better to get a job you really want than to jump at the first one and change on as opportunity presents. Too many are doing this and creating ~~ill-feeling~~ ill-feeling among employers. Those employers who have experienced this more than once are beginning to think that Nisei are like that and that it isn't worth the trouble to break them in. This makes it bad for the rest of us and it's one publicity we can do without. Another suggestion is to come with the hope to assimilate and mix with other races -- don't be self-conscious or emphasize the fact that you're a Japanese. Chicago is so big -- you're just ~~don't make yourself~~ one in midst of millions and you go unnoticed. Just so you don't make yourself too conspicuous.

7.

Kiyo Matsumoto
2155 West Pierce
Chicago, Illinois

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 5, 1943

Present occupation: Electric Motor Mechanic
City: Chicago, Illinois

1. I'm formerly from L.A. so I'm quite used to city life. The people here is more friendly than those of the coast cities. Chances for jobs are more likely in such big cities as this. I like it very much.
2. People who understand our situation are just swell. People whose loved ones where injured or killed in Pacific War zones are very much against the Niseis. Of course we must expect these situations.
3. Housing situation is fair. Many places will not accept niseis, but if you look long enough I'm quire sure you can find a decent place to live.

Food is supposed to be highest here in Chicago comparing with other eastern cities. The cost hasn't gone up very much. You can live as cheaply as normal times if you want to. Transportation is fair. You can always ride on any means of transportation.

4. For a single person over \$125.00 (men)
For a single person over \$100.00 (women)

Jobs paying over \$150 is hard to get unless you are highly trained.

5. Some defense plants will accept Nisei if he has good recommendations. I believe it'll depend entirely in the person concerned.
6. Don't come out unless you can really take care of yourself.
Expect to face racial discrimination.
Don't just come out to have fun and make it tough for the other Niseis.
Don't accept any type of wages, because you will lower the standard of the Nisei.
7. Office work don't pay very much. Some or mostly nisei office worker don't even get a \$100.00 a month of course if you are highly trained you can make around \$125.00.

Most Nisei boys are working as bus boys. Pay is very good. But you have no future in that line of work.

Some Nisei are working as apprentice machinist at 70¢ an hour. I think very good future.

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 15, 1943

Present occupation: Shipping clerk
City: Chicago, Illinois

1. I do not like Chicago too much because it is a "sooty" city, too much soot, the weather here is too sultry, the people here are rather in the lower class. Quite dirty also -- streets, and buildings. I don't like it now, but after a period of months, I may get used to it.
2. The public opinion in general is quite favorable.
3. Housing is readily available at the Y.M.C.A and private rooming houses which are clean and very reasonable priced. Food is somewhat higher than what we are accustomed to before evacuation. One can still buy a nice meal for seventy-five cents. Transportation is available from all parts of the city and the suburban districts. The public utilities here are quite good.
4. In my estimation, I should say not less than \$25.00 a week. Jobs paying 60¢ an hour and over are quite readily available.
5. As in my case, I went out on a WRA job as a bus boy in a nursing school and since I wasn't particularly fitted for that job, and also that I was offered a better position, I transferred over into an essential industry. Therefore I think the chances are very good in regards to getting into better positions than offered by the WRA.
6. Not to expect too good a job and also not be too expectant in the train ride and of the city in which they arrive or they will be greatly disappointed. Some of my friends here, have expressed their wish to go back to Poston many times because of their jobs and the general conditions here.
7. I came here not expecting too much so I wasn't disappointed, but many fellows come out of camp expecting good jobs and seeing nice cities that they are greatly disappointed when they first leave the train and for a few days they wish they never left camp. So, tell anyone who plans to leave camp, not to expect too much.

June 17, 1943

Waiting
Cleveland, Ohio

1. There is no housing available -- 125% full. There are jobs but if one wants a good one he's got to get a G2 clearance. This very important before leaving camp.

2. There is very little discrimination. The papers are favorable. In housing we find there is.

3. Housing is absolutely impossible. Cleveland is 125% full.

Transportation is good.

Housing and food very high.

4. Single --\$150.00
Double --\$200.00

3. Here where G2 comes in. You can get any old job. Many are in jobs and are discontented. Doing ~~something else~~ something else than job promised. Many are thinking of returning to camps.

4. The WRA here is of very little help. All "second" rate jobs. When I left Poston employer stated that housing available will assist in finding. We've been here two weeks/ ~~fixing up~~ Our money all spent. Really I feel like returning to camp. Life on the outside is tough. No housing, food high, and good jobs not so available. I suggest your department carefully investigate every area before you send anyone out.

7. Don't send any more people out here until you carefully can find housing. Espevially families.

Peter T. Akahoshi

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 17, 1943

Present occupation: ^Waiting

City: ^Cleveland, Ohio

Signed up: Fisher ^Body (Bomber plant) prime contractor (waiting for myG²)

1. Cleveland, Ohio
There is no housing available. 125% full.
There are jobs but if one wants a good one he's got to get a G² clearance. This very important before leaving camp.
2. There is very little discrimination.
The newspapers are favorable.
3. Housing is absolutely impossible. Cleveland is 125% full.
Transportation is good.
Housing and food is very high.
4. Single-- \$150.00
Family -- \$200.00
5. Here's where G2 come in.
You can get any old job. Many are in jobs and are discontented.
Doing something else other than job promised. Many are thinking of returning to relocation camps.
6. The WRA is of very little help. All "second" rate jobs. When I left Boston, -- employer stated that housing available -- will assist in finding. We've been here two weeks -- our money all spent. Really I feel like returning to camp. Life on the outside is tough. No housing, food high and good jobs not so available. I suggest your department carefully investigate every area before you send any one out.
7. Don't send any more people out here -- until you carefully can find housing especially -- families.
The WRA (Asst. adm.) G. Wumino -- Poston III promised that all our freight be paid. (We paid our freight into camp) that we would be entitled to that -- another thing -- your office, I believe sending some baggage by railway express putting addition expense on evacuee. Please check carefully----

Rec'd--

Fr. bill

Railway

\$89.10

\$35.88

\$124.98

Just smoke that.

That's not hay.

June 19, 1943

Timekeeper
Chicago, Illinois

1. There are two sides to everything and this is no exception. Chicago at present is quite favorable toward the evacuees, however, one can't say what the future holds of course. I was accustom to big town which makes things just easy for me. I've met several girls and men who told me that coming to Chicago was a great mistake, that they not reestablish themselves satisfactorily. I believe those people are from smaller town back home.

2. Since most of the residents here believe that the Japanese are largely locked in camps, they, I believe, think us as a Chinese. If, however, they knew us to be Japanese, I'm sure that opinion toward us would differ to a great extent.

6. If one has had no experience in big town, Chicago would be a wrong selection. For a large city such as this one could not live amongst the crooks, the wise etc. at ease. Most positions offered here require much experience and unless one has the ability this is no place.

Before anyone attempts to relocate anywhere a little more security always helps for in these times who will help the Japs?

7. Much of the girls who have come here on domestic have suffered because they are working for the Jewish people, i included. If we were notified such before our arrival, most of us would be happier and more satisfied.

Harriet Hirabayashi

nJune 19, 1943

Domestic
Columbus, Ohio

1. The population as a whole in Columbus seems quite intelligent and understanding. This being a college town probably accounts for their attitude. In the two months I've been here, I cannot recall any unpleasant incidents; therefore I have no reason to dislike this place. However people seem more smug and self-complacent here than in the West and things become rather monotonous. This I have noticed in people employing Niseis for house~~work~~ hold help.

2. Public opinion is very good here. The newspapers have cooperated fully and have been very fair to the Nisei. Several papers have printed stories of the Nisei presenting them as loyal, patriotic citizens of the United States. We have had no time to be lonesome because almost all our free days are taken up by invitations to homes of college professors and other influential people in Columbus. They are the kind of people one would poud to acknowledge as ~~friends~~ friends anywhere.

6. People leaving relocation centers should be relatively sure of their talents and chances and try to make a detailed study of their field of interest and where it will best received. An evacuee should try to make himself as inconspicuous as possible especially where his dealings might be with lower classed people because his is enough to attract considerable attention. Human nature is such that they see the bad one might much more clearly than the good, and in all fairness to ~~other~~ other evacuees one should conduct himself with as much propriety as possible. without losinf his independency and individuality.

Kiyo Iwanaga

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 20, 1943

Present occupation: Cook help
City: Chicago, Illinois

1. Unknown.
2. As yet there isn't any disliking.
3. Housing is about 98% filled and the food is fair except vegetable is pretty high, for transportation we take street car and they are reasonable.
4. Yes, according to your skill and work, \$35-\$45 a week without room or board.
5. There are all kind industry, business, with 50-50 chance with your knowledge and ability and skill.
6. I haven't any definite answer, but it's up to each individual what he or she coming for or to resettle for, resettle here in Chicago I don't think they could make a go of it. anyway I couldn't if I I was to bring my whole family out maybe in future there maybe where a person could see, for we here are now and we don't know what head of us, we have to study more about Chicago, and a person gets a job now he or she is almost stuck for duration so when people come out they have to come on one mind to stick to one job. They can't change so often anymore.

June 21, 1943

Sales Clerk
Detroit, Michigan

1. Detroit is pleasant place to live and am liking it already. People and the atmosphere here are very nice to get along with, and with that being on my mind I feel confident that we can succeed in whatever we do.

2. People are very friendly toward us, it's up to the individuals how they look up to the people. As long as you have an American spirit a loyalty in you, you can get along fine with anyone here. Friendliness counts a lot out here.

6. None

7. I hope that every loyal Nisei will take the opportunity to find employment on the outside. I know it will take time and patient, but anyone with ambition and with lots of confidence will get ahead in life. I wish them lots of luck and success in the future!

Michiko Inamaru

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 22, 1943

Present occupation: Labor
City: Kemmerer, Wyoming

1. I cannot very well explain why I like this locale, maybe its because I was born here and have lots of friends.
But I can say this much: People in this area treat us as equal.
2. Good.
3. Very poor housing, lots of empty house, could be cleaned.
Good transportation.
Public utilities situation is good.
4. Four in family could make pretty good living for \$100.00.
Plenty of jobs if not particular.
5. Lots of possibilities in business, or good postiotn.
6. Get out and help fight for Democracy and our Rights.
7. House rent in this area is very cheap.
Write to Quealy Coal Company of Kemmerer, Wyoming if they would use Nisei miners.

June 23, 1943

Machinist
Cleveland, Ohio

1. Cleveland is in general, a nice industrial city with a very nice residential district just outside of the business district. Business district is quite central and conveniently located. The people are quite hospitable generally. As yet, there have been no unpleasant incidents involving Niseis in this localities.

2. Public opinion in general is favorable towards Niseis. The local papers have taken unusual interest in the niseis problem of housing together with many promising citizens. so that suitable housing may be located to the greatest extent in the shortest time.

6. It may be considered advisable to those seeking outside positions to wait for jobs paying better rates so that they may not be inclined to change jobs after coming out. Certificates of availability are difficult to obtain after being frozen to the jobs. It may be well to make sure of living accommodations before leaving camp and to not expect too much on arrival. Don't rely too much on YMCA accommodations because the Army and Navy have first choice in such matters

Mike

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 23, 1943

Present occupation: Warehouseman in La Vida Bottling Co.
City: Salt Lake City, Utah

1. I like this city because:
 1. The people here are very nice (service men are nice too.)
 2. No demonstrative actions against the Niseis.
 3. Clean city.
- 2/ A. Public Opinion is on the favorable side or seems to be indifferent in an outwardly appearance sort of way; of course, I do not know what the P.O's are thinking inwardly.

B. No discussion has appeared in the editorial of the city's newspapers concerning the Nisei's of Salt Lake City as far as I know.

C. My friends also told me the public is nice.
3. A. ^Housing.
 1. Scarce, very difficult to even find a good hotel to stay in, but not impossible.
b. Food
Pretty reasonable -- considering.
- C. Transportation
Public transportations are generally crowded, but depend also by the time and place you want to go.
- D. Public Utilities
 1. Fairly good
 - a. fine parks
 - b. golf course
 - c. gym
 - d. churches
 - e. busses and cars
4. a. Minimum -- \$100 a month
b. Yes
5. I am unqualified to answer the above question. At the present time, but all indications point to good possibilities.
6. On traveling, do not bring too many baggages. Better to have your excess baggages sent to you later. Be sure to make reservations ahead of time. (transportations and hotels)
7. Do not live in just one section of the town where Niseis are staying; scatter out to all sections of the town. Mix with people of the Caucasian race.

New Item: University of Utah officials are neutral regarding Nisei students. They will not encourage Niseis, to enroll or will not oust the Niseis from the institution.

June 28, 1943

Domestic
Columbus, Ohio

1. I like this place because the city is large enough so that an individual is not too conspicuous. The number of Japanese Americans is relatively scarce here and enables us to mingle freely and be sure of setting a good example to the public by knowing everyone and giving each other helpful hints. Small enough to keep from bewilderment as found in larger cities.

2. As a whole, they don't know we Niseis. We are Chinese to most of them. Upon our conduct -- they vary their opinions but thus far they consider us a good American and show no prejudice. They're in a very receptive mood yet.

3. People complain of meat shortage -- but I'm having too much of it, it feels. Columbus papers state that we are going to meet severe meat shortage. As yet no meatless days for us. However, in spite of the set ceiling prices, food -- especially vegetable -- are quite expensive.

Transportation -- if you live in a residential section or city limits you can catch a bus and go to town easily for a reasonable fare. I don't think I know of the country situation. On housing, somehow, people seem to be managing and around university campus there are often seen "Room for rent -- for women" or "Room for rent for men" signs in large private homes.

Columbus is lacking in recreational facilities.

4. Approximately \$125 and such a job in this city is hard to find as there are not many job opportunities. People just pass through -- some look at the opportunities of Columbus.

5. We have a Japanese (Nisei) doctor here who is teaching a summer class of buck privates. He is well known and very well accepted. Many girls are working in the offices of governmental concern -- making good contacts. Columbus does not offer as much opportunities as many other cities.

6. Go far and wide -- cluttering together becomes conspicuous and already I have heard people calling Chicago "Little Tokyo". People become suspicious.

Seek to make good Caucasian friends. You'd be surprised how nice they can be to you -- and they'll help you climb back into civilized livings. Don't be too happy-go-lucky. Even if you despise your job think twice before you quit. "Will it affect the others who are out with you?" Don't come out with a strong inferiority complex.

7. ~~Don't~~ Dressing well helps to promote the Caucasian attitude towards you. Seen in bars too often -- not so good. Many people think that the "outside" is a lot of fun and glamour -- honestly it's good hard work

June 29, 1943

Attendant
Chicago, Illinois

1. I am quite satisfied with the present plan of my relocation. I feel that I was quite fortunate in finding a hospital such as this where I room and board also. My employer and all the employees here treat me with every consideration. The hospital is well situated, fine buildings, wonderful equipments, very cleanly kept, has a fine and large garden, rooming conditions are very good, food is excellent.

2. As yet I have not experienced any embarrassing or unfriendly incidents. On the contrary, most people are inclined to be friendly if you give them half the chance.

I do not know whether such is the case for all Niseis as a group but I would say that is no evidence of discrimination by the general public.

6. First of all expect hardship and disappointments.

Come with the intention of meeting the public more than half way, certainly not with a chip on one shoulder.

Do not come out with the intention of having a fine time playing, this will be interpreted resented by the public for this is WAR!

Kenji Kushino

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 29, 1943

Present occupation: Attendant
City: Chicago, Illinois

1. I am quite satisfied with the present place of my relocation, I feel that I was quite fortunate in finding a hospital such as this where I room and board also my employer and all the employees here treat me with every consideration. The hospital is well situated, fine buildings, wonderful equipments very cleanly kept, has a fine and large garden, rooming conditions are very good and food is excellent.
2. As yet I have not experienced any embarrassing or unfriendly incidents. On the contrary, most people are inclined to be friendly if you give them half the chance.

I do not know whether such is the case for all Niseis as a group but I would say that is no evidence of discrimination by the general public.

3. As you're heard, housing is the most difficult problem. This not only pertains to the Niseis, but to the public here as a whole. Very cheap rooms are available but the average priced ones are very scarce.

I do not know much about the food problem but I do know that it is quite expensive to eat your meals out.

Transportation here in Chicago is good. One can travel to any part of Chicago with only 8¢ even though the distance may be ten miles. There are many means of traveling by streetcars, busses, elevated trains or taxies.

4. This of course will depend on the individual but I would say one hundred dollars as the safe minimum wage. Jobs paying up to \$130 are obtainable, anything higher is quite scarce.

5. This will depend greatly upon the reaction of the employees to the Niseis now employed, and also to the trend of the war.

6. Those with special training and ability will always find positions.

6. 1. First of all expect hardship and disappointments.
2. Come with the intention of meeting the public more than half way, certainly not with a chip on one shoulder.
3. Do not come out with the intention of having a fine time playing, this will be resented by the public, for there's is war!

June 30, 1943

Chemical Operator
Gary, Indiana

1. The general area of the Midwest is rather favorable with some acceptance into Caucasian society in smaller communities. In larger cities as in Chicago people just ignore your resents. It is a passive acceptance. I like this place very well but one cannot hardly save money and keep up the standard of living that Americans expect us to.

2. So far we have met very little discrimination. There is however the unconscious discrimination towards all minority races that we must accept in order to relocate here. The people that we get to know well are very nice. People of the Protestant faith have very little to fear in this respect because the churches offer many friends.

6. To ladies I believe even those who are interested in positions of white collar nature should start in homes as domestics and skip around to see what is open because often times these people that hire domestics pave your way to better jobs and they do much of the first worries for you as your first nights lodging where to eat, where to get your hair set and all the minor details that are at first major problems because of our uncertainty of acceptance.

7. Nisei should be taught things not taught at school as how to tip, common courtesies a party is obligated to show when favors are done and things along this nature. I'm sure it would help our ~~cause~~ cause tremendously. Especially our manner of speech.

George Oitabara

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

June 30, 1943

Present Occupation: Chemical operator
City: Gary, Indiana

1. The general area of the Mid-West is rather favorable with some acceptance into Caucasian society in smaller communities. In larger cities as in Chicago people just ignore your presence. It is a passive acceptance. I like this place very well but one cannot hardly save money and keep up the standard of living that Americans expect us to do.
2. So far we have met very little discrimination. There is however the unconscious discrimination towards all minority races that one must accept in order to relocate here. The people that we get to know well are very nice. People of the Protestant faith have very little to fear in this respect because the churches offer many friends.
3. Housing is poor-often times here we notice our state in society. Many landlords will not accept our presence in their buildings. This seems to be the most efficient problems. The rent is high and homes poor. Also, the residential section where many of us end up is not the best. The food and public utilities are good but trains to large cities are very much crowded.
5. Average.
6. Learn how to behave in public -- especially table manners and behavior in general. Your dress, habits, your type of recreation, how a person behaves in small things will determine our status in this strange society.

To ladies I believe, even those who are interested in position of white collar nature should start in homes as domestic and hop around and see what are open because often times these people that hire domestic's pay your way to better jobs and they do much of the first worries for you as your first nights' lodgings, where to eat, where to get your hair set and all the minor details that are at first major problems because of our uncertainty of acceptance.
7. Nisei should be taught things not taught at school as how to tip, common courteous, a party is obligated to show where favors are done, and things along this nature. I'm sure it would help our cause tremendously. Especially our manner of speech.

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

July 1, 1943

Present occupation: Dishwasher
City: Salt Lake City, Utah

1. I like this place because the white people are very kind and friendly toward us. Of course there are few which are bad but narrow minded but the majority of them are good to us. I like it here because where I'm working they've given me a chance and they helped me get started. They all are human and they want to make friends with us if we do our part. Some of the Japanese think they're too good for the public and they're the ones the public hates.
2. I don't know what the public thinks but I'm pretty sure they like to make friends with us and treat us right. One thing they don't like is, to see a large group of Japanese walking around in town. They are friendly and they will talk nice to us if we do our part, but never walk around in large group, because every time we do, they say look at them Japs. I guess they get scared of us or something.
3. Housing is pretty scarce. It is pretty hard to find a house to rent or even to find a room in a hotel. You can find a hotel easy if you look like a good guy. Also if you pay enough money, you can find a room in a hotel but if you want to find a cheap or average room, it is pretty hard unless you've stayed here quite a while. You have to tell the landlord or landlady to save this room for you whenever someone move out. About the food, I guess I can't write much on that because I get my meals at the place where I work. I sure get good foods to eat there. They feed us chicken once in a while. We order what ever we want to eat but pretty hard to get chicken every day. I eat either turkey, roast beef or pork once a day. The busses are pretty full ~~max~~ during go home and go work hours. When the men go to work and come home the busses are full but other times it's not so bad. Public utilities are alright. We can phone nearly any time except sometimes the line is busy. I guess every other things are average but little worse due to the war, even phone is pretty busy during office hours.
4. I work at the Temple Square Hotel and Coffee Shop. I get \$100.00 a month and meals. Some of the other Japanese working there get up to \$135.00 a month. If you stay with the place a couple of months they'll give you a raise. I'm getting \$110 now and probably get \$120 next month. If you go out and look for a job you can always find a job and get pretty good salary but don't expect to get a too high salary at first.
5. There isn't many chance of getting a better type of position but you can get into industry and defense plants if you are OK'd by the army and navy for defense jobs. You can get a job in an industry plant easy such as cement plant, brick plant, and many other places where they make those type of things. The pay is pretty good also.

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY DEPARTMENT

July 2, 1943

Present Occupation: Assistant secretary
Place: Chicago, Illinois

1. Like because in Chicago -- the people go about their own business
Dislike -- the city is no place for me -- Chicago isn't what you call
clean -- a smoky factory town.
Never ran across so many colored people -- as in Chicago.
2. Public opinion on the whole -- People are friendly. The office girls
where I work treat me as one -- the men working joke with me the
same as other girls. My employer too is very concerned and very
helpful in many ways.
3. Housing -- terrible -- especially to find one at the right district
and a respectable one -- Looking for an apartment we've come across
prejudice.

Food -- haven't been buying own groceries -- just eating at restaurants
-- Not as hard up as in the Western States. Meats are expensive --
Plenty of candies -- coffee served one to a customer -- transportation
haven't had trouble -- After you learn your way can cut down from
5 to 15 minutes traveling time.

Public utilities -- clean depending where you go.
4. \$30 a week -- I stay at the Y. Average room with running water --
share with another friend -- \$2.50 day room -- runs \$8.75 week each:
Meals run from \$1 to 1.25 -- transportation to work --
\$30 for typist -- are plentiful -- but whether Japanese American
can easily obtain -- I can't say!
5. Was doing housework -- came into Chicago and found my position in
3 days -- counting Sat. and Sun. really took only 1½ days. Many
are getting into industry and business here.
6. I say anything is better than a relocation center -- but wished I
were back -- then things get discouraging. If you are not going
to do housework -- do not come out on one. Very bad for those who
are trying to come out as one.
7. Not very helpful but so hard to answer----
Was working in a home -- was very unhappy knowing I wasn't trained
for it -- was very fortunate in finding a place to work (office).
My third week and still looking for an apartment to stay --.

July 2, 1943

Auto Mechanic
Lowell, Massachusetts

1. As small towns go Lowell is all right. This question can be answered by the following:

2. People here are ignorant of the nisei problems. What they know are gathered only from the papers -- and the papers carry nothing on such recently. The people are indifferent -- but there is nonnoticeable discrimination. Acquaintances I have made are pleasant, understanding and quite neighborly.

3. Food is nor exceptionally good.
Transportation is mainly buses and trains. Traffic has been thinned due to OPA strictness on pleasure driving.
Public utilities are good.
Town not crowded so rooms, and apartments are available.

4. One can manage on about \$25 a week. Jobs not plentiful here -- although there may be in the numerous textile mills here.

5. Hard to say but -- some may make go of it. In the first place this is a small town -- the surrounding country is probably like Oregon and Washington. There may be though; because Boston is only some 18 miles south.

6. For people who want to settle among conservative people mostly of French, German and Greek descent this place is good. Outlook for "big money" is definitely questionable.

People of this area are great church-goers and that would be good way to make connections. Summer weather is variable --mostly pleasant-- but winters are usually severe.

7. I have been here only a month so my observations can be wrong. If you are interested I can send in another report in the near future.

Sukenori Aizumi

July 4, 1943

Domestic Help
Toledo, Ohio

1. I like the town because it is very conservative. It is very different from glamour towns in California or Phoenix who thinks we are poison. American with Japanese faces are few for that we do not create any disturbance to our problem. Smaller towns with few Japanese are much successful. I fully believed if every little cities have one or two to start off it and have limit to the 20 or 50 or 100 to the size of the population. It is more success.

2. So far the public opinions haven't much noticed for the WRA secretary ~~is very careful~~ is very careful to see that we do not go in large groups and create unpleasantness among ourselves. As far as I am concerned I go alone and love it. Nobody has given me any mistreatment or anything. Of course in my situation it is very different from office workers, where they have larger bumps to go against. DuBois' friends are thrilled to see me.

6. 1. Be friendly. Don't be dressed in zootsuit.
2. Be careful with your tongue and slang.
3. Have good manners whether at the table or at the party.
4. Don't drink or smoke to excessive.
5. Be an good Christian American Japanese citizens so that everyone can be proud.
6. Don't loag around town.
7. Contribute your pay wages on war stamps, bonds, USO, American Red Cross, "Y".
8. Be a part of civilian.
9. Don't complain about everything.
10. Don't self-pity.

Elizabeth Ataka

July 4, 1943

Graduate teaching assistant
Rochester, New York

1. Both my wife and I like Rochester because we have found the people whom we met more than friendly. Of course, we have heard from others of the antagonism of certain people toward the Japanese people, but fortunately have encountered none of them. The man on the street appears to be more or less incurious.

2. Those whom we have met within the university, church, and The League of Women Voters Club, have been quite sympathetic with the problems of the Nisei. They are aware of the difficulties which we encounter, and for this reason are eager to help us where they can.

My wife and I have spoken to the Baptist Church and Brick Presbyterian Church adult groups and to the League of Women Voters Club about the relocation centers and the relocation program, and they all have shown interest and intelligent understanding of our situation. However, this can't be applied as public opinion.

3. As we have been living with a family, we know next to nothing about this question. Cross-town transportation is nil. Transportation is difficult because the entire system is made up of buses and with the present gasoline famine buses have been cut down 20% and yet more people are now riding them than ever before. Bicycles have solved the problem for us; they're not too difficult to obtain.

We now have a two room apartment which comes to \$9.00 a week. Opa ceiling. Housing quite difficult if one is too particular, however; Rochester is such a large industrial center. In our search for an ~~appt~~ apartment, we didn't come against any discrimination.

We are finding food prices high, and vegetable prices are very high (To us Southern Californians, exorbitant). Probably because we are so far northeast where fresh vegetables are not in season until late in June.

4. Minimum wage for living is about \$125-\$150. We wouldn't know anything about the second question, as we haven't looked for any.

5. According to what we have heard, it is, at present, very difficult to find employment in industry. But then we haven't tried.

My wife found no difficulty in finding a position (clerical work) at the University Library. So the technically trained nisei shouldn't find too much difficulty in securing a position.

David K. Fukushima
791 Exchange St.
Rochester 8, New York

July 4, 1943

Entomologist
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

1. We are very much pleased with our new home because of the very friendly atmosphere created by our employer and his men. Through the foresightedness of my employer who went out of his way to smooth public relationships with the local people, we are now experiencing excellent reception by the local people. The climate here is moderate and we are well pleased with it.

I feel that coming out here has been worth all the expense incurred as I have made important contacts which will insure me in the future.

2. We understand that previous to our coming here that there was quite a bit of antagonism towards the nisei. It seems that a group of Tule Lake evacuees were scheduled to come to this region to work as farm laborers. Due to rumors which got around and which was said to be very ugly regarding the "importation of large groups of dangerous Japs" the towns-people objected to the niseis coming into our town. This feeling of hatred, however, had died down and we have not felt any aftermath of the incident. We are the only Japanese located in this area and it will take quite some times to sound out the public opinion.

3. We have had no difficulty in obtaining housing, partly because we have been fortunate in coming in contact with the right kind of people. We live in a nice farm home rent-free. Our town which has a population of 2500 under normal times is said to have swelled within recent months due to the building up of defense industries, and the housing condition is very acute.

Food is very reasonable from the standpoint of cost and availability. Dairy products especially is very plentiful in the state of Wisconsin.

Transportation to large cities, such as Milwaukee and Chicago is very good. Public utilities is satisfactory.

4. \$125 per month would give a couple a satisfactory standard of living. Jobs paying over \$150 a month would be quite difficult to obtain.

5. I don't know what possibilities there are.

6. It should be appreciated first of all that this country is in a state of war and any evacuees leaving a relocation center should come out with that idea firmly in mind. No one seems to care how badly the niseis were mistreated in the relocation centers partly because the nation as a whole has suffered to much greater extent. The Niseis should be conservative in the way in which they should dress, speak, and live. Be assured that the people in Wisconsin have the greatest abhorrence for zoot-suiters. They associate zoot-suiters with young criminals in Los Angeles.

The people with whom we have come in contact are the finest type of people. We consider ourselves very fortunate in this respect. We have been invited out constantly to parties and other social gatherings.

Social intercourse is very important in our daily life and we find that a brushing up on Family Post will do no one harm.

George S. Kido

EMPLOYMRNY SURVEY DEPARTMENT

July 6, 1943

Present occupation: Store Room Clerk
City: Chicago, Illinois

1. There are yet no reasons for disliking Chicago.
I'm greatly surprised as to the little racial prejudice shown here.
(It may be due to the fact that the public believe that we are either Chinese or Filipinos).
2. The greater percentage of the people here understand the situation we are in and racial prejudice is slightly shown. If we behave ourselves and mind our business the public sentiment will be with us.
3.
 - a. Housing in certain districts are hard to find. The room rates have gone up to 5 dollars a week per person. Prices varies in various districts.
 - b. Food cost is approximately \$1.50 to \$2.00 a day.
 - c. Transportation is easily obtained by bus or street cars to any part of the city.
 - d. Practically all public utilities are opened to Niseis.
4. The minimum wages are 60¢ an hour with time and a half over 40 hours. Jobs over 60¢ are easily obtained to skilled laborers. the approximate wage for living costs from 15 to 20 dollars a week and this may be considered conservative.
5. Every day factories who wouldn't employ niseis are now employing. A government employment office is trying to employ many skilled workers in a more essential war factories.
6. The only advice I can give ix to behave themselves in the eyes of the public. Mind their own business and overlook some of the "ignorant" people who may cause your feelings to be hurt. It also looks conspicuous to be loitering on the streets in a group of 4 or more.

In factory work, be expected to be put on shifts that might not suit a person to his convenience.

7. Openings of better positions into industry will depend largely upon the Niseis presently employed who can show that they are dependable workers.

Many of the jobs are disappointing and many change jobs frequently they find one that is suitable.

July 7, 1943

Railroad Section Laborer
Clearfield, Utah

1. The reason why I dislike the place is because we are located almost a couple or three miles away from important army and navy stations. If they clamp down on us again we will get it first and may start off a rumor of some kind. (Attention Dies Committee)

There are also too many Japanese to suit me and the younger punks are getting too cocky too. They don't realize that a war is going on and that all the fingers are pointing towards us.

2. As far as the public is concerned as a whole; it seems to be ok. There are some that gives us a dirty look and some might say something that don't sound good to us, but we all have to take that ~~they~~ as they come. If the colored race took it this long; we can take it or should until it quiets down.

3. The housing is poor and only way you can get is building it yourself. We are lucky to be employed by Mr. Bamburger who fixed our housing.

The food is not bad at the present, and it's not too hard to get like some places. I do not know how it is during winter though.

Lots of trains and busses between Salt Lake and Obden but it really gets cramped up at times.

Public utilities O.K.

4. 60¢ to 65¢ per hour and jobs over this figure are hard to get out of season.

5. Not much possibilities.

6. Be sure it's the kind of job you like and be sure of good housing. Be sure of everything.

7. Don't come if you think life is easy outside. If you are not afraid of hard work and want to better yourself then more power to you.

Joe Katano

July 12, 1943

Worker at Produce House
Denver, Colorado

1. Haven't been out long enough to get very broad view of the place butas ~~much~~ as I've seen seems to be a very nice place -- Larimer St. (Jap town) isn't very clean and too full of Japs -- the young kids out spend too mych time at pool halls. In a way you can't blame them because there is no other place to go. Shows are plentiful and bowling alleys are receptive to Niseis -- I go there about twice a week. On Sundays it's about 50-50 between Japs and soldiers.

2. Although the Denver Post is very anti-Japanese the people seem friendly. I haven't run into any person who did not like the sight of the Niseis. The JACL is doing very much work for the Nisei here in Denver.

3. Housing is very acute and difficult to find.

Food I wouldn't know because we eat in a restaurant every day and it sure runs up into the dough! I haven't tried to get around much on buses and streetcars so I wouldn't know about them. Seems to be plenty to Taxi around.

Wages aren't too good -- have to put in long hours to get anything. Last week we put in 70 hours and got about \$45.00. 60¢ per hour and overtime from 56 hours. Soje get overtime from 40 hours. Few of the packing houses pay ~~xxx~~ 70¢ a nd 80¢ straight.

4. I guess you could get along on \$25.00 per week by yourself. It's costing me \$20 for room and board and incidentals (bowling, etc.)

5. I guess if you are qualified and can make good connections you can do alrgiht. I have a friend who is assistant instructor at an aviation school. Very hard to get into business in competition with white people.

Fred Mizusawa 2535 Champa St.
Denver, Colorado

July 13, 1943

Production Clerk
Cleveland, Ohio

1. Cleveland is a very highly industrialized city and is usually in a haze of smoke from the factory chimneys. The weather here is rotten and the natives claim that it has been very unusual this year. It rains every week and is very humid. The firm I am working for have just sold out to the Cleveland Automatic Co. a very large firm here in Cleveland. I understand that we go with the sale, I hope.
2. So far as I know the public opinion towards Nisei has been very favorable. The newspaper comments are about 90% for the Nisei and about 10% against them. The first reaction of the people are doubtful but as they get to know you they gradually change for the better. I personally believe that the people in Chicago are less cognizant of your presence than the people in Cleveland.
3. The housing situation here is very tight. There are more people advertising in the paper that they want someone to rent a home to them than there are houses for rent. Some people offer rewards as high as \$50.00 to obtain housing. Housing however, for single man are not so hard to find. I, myself had a difficult time obtain housing and I am still looking. At present my family and I are at the Cleveland hostel. We had a cottage in Chagrin Falls but due to unavoidable circumstances we moved out voluntarily. The Baptist organization under Max Franzen have found a large fraternity house which I will run as a cooperative. boarding house. I hope to get in there within the next ten days. There is plenty to eat but you have to pay a fancy price for it. Tomatoes are as high as 20¢ apiece.
Transportation is fairly accessible. The streetcars run on schedule and every one of them head toward the Public Square which is downtown Cleveland. Since the winters are long and cold here the people are buying coal this summer so they won't be deprived of coal due to shortage and transportation facilities.
4. For single men about \$125 a month, for married men with a child about \$175 to \$200 a month. This figure is for just bare living necessities. Most jobs here in Cleveland pay fairly high. The main bottleneck now is that all essential work and civil service is frozen and therefore good jobs are hard to obtain. Mechanics and Body and Fender men are still in great demand.
5. Unless the Army or War Dept. gives their ok, in letting large war firms employ Nisei the possibilities are few. Most of us are working as factory hands making anywhere from 70¢ an hour to \$1.25 an hour. There are very few white collar nisei workers in Cleveland if any. Of course the nisei girls get jobs in offices but even at that they do have quite a difficult time obtaining jobs. I still believe that its the initiative of the individual alone can get him anywhere.
6. I advise that Niseis getting out of camp dress nicely since the people back East all dress conventionally. You notice that especially in

Chicago. Family men should come out alone by all means since housing and cost of living will be their main problems. Two family men from Poston had difficulty in housing and it took them two months before they found living quarters. Don't expect too much from the outside world just because you have been evacuated. These other people are having just as much difficulty as you or I may have.

Kaz Nadaoka

July 13, 1943

Student
Syracuse, New York

1. Wonderful environment, people, facilities, etc. etc. (Whatever that means). Scenery here is just too wonderful for words. It was rather surprising to find such wonderful group of people here. Although some of the students here (there are already somewhere in the neighborhood of 11 students, all male except myself!) have related incidentw to me about some unfavorable experience, I have yet to encounter it. Being so close to such liberal and broad-minded group as the Ciybcuk if Social Agencies and the Syracuse Peace Council have more or less prevented me from coming too directly in contact with the average, everyday thinking people.

Hate to admit that Syracuse University didn't measure up to my expectations and most of us here are of the universal opinion that we would prefer going to some other school. Laboratory equipments are old, professors are negligent, etc. On the whole the University doesn't measure up to the schools in California.

2. As I have just mentioned in the above paragraph, all my experiences have been extremely favorable and very pleasant. People on the street, on the whole, are very disinterested about us. No one questions your color, unless you are placed in a conspicuous position.

Had an unusual experience today as I was walking out to the wholesales district. A lady walked up to me and inquired if I were a Japanese. Confirming her question, I started to go on my way but she again stopped me to extend me her welcome to Syracuse. She said she was a German Lutheran, not quite as badly suspected as the Niseis but as equally suspected.

Most of my contacts have been so far, with people of firm pacifistic tendencies. They are really super-duper and the most HUMAN of all human beings.

3. This is a rather hard question to answer since i am not too familiar with the city but I shall try mu best. Upon xonsulting Bob Vogel of the Syracuse Peace Council (he's only been here for a month since his release from the C.P.S. camp to do interracial -peace work), I was able to confirm my impression that the transportation situation is the same here as in any other city. It is adequate, although slightly overcrowded in the evenings (local transportation). Outside transportation is extremely overcrowded an in some instances, people in the aisle have to all get off before the bus can displse of its passenger. Food costs are moderate with moderate varieties available. Housing problem is acute -- extreme shortage. Public utilities are adequate -- what can you ask in times like these?

4. Jobs are extreley hard to obtain due to the fact that employers are rather reluctant to hire someone so far out. And too, personal interviews are so much more advantageous. Bob suggested people vome here, accepting any kind of work and then let the Syracuse Peace Council help you bbtain better jobs. They have (the Peace Council) had a hand in getting all of us our of the centers and geeting us jobs, so their records speak for

Speak for themselves. Bib also believes that there are no possibility of obtaining jobs in the war industry although one of the students here is employed in one at the present.

6. Only advice I can give is: Be broadminded about all things, no matter how unpleasant. Don't look for unpleasant experiences -- some of the students here, I noticed, are overly sensitive about themselves and their past experiences and resent any sort of references made about their expulsion.

Also, Come East! Come East! the scenery is simply beautiful (climate is pretty bad but the goodness of the city overweighs such minor detail. People here, I must repeat again, are too perfect for words.

Personally I love it here. Have never had the occasion to think of myself as an outsider, at any of the social functions. We have to make the aggressive approach first, but they take you in very easily. There is no problem in getting along with people -- be cooperative and friendly and you'll have loads of fun.

7. One of the mistakes I noticed about some Niseis leaving the center is their fanatical desire to be cosmopolitan (I think it is the word). Coming to a large city for the first time, they think incidentals such as smoking and drinking are necessary to be accepted into the right places. They look prosperous, yes, but they look foolish too. That, was one of the first things I noticed when I made a stop-over in Chicago. The effect was so funny -- rather pathological -- I had a great desire to laugh at them. Is that what you call spreading GOOD WILL -- is that one of the pre-requisites? If so, I'm afraid I'm being a miserable flop!

Kazuko Nakamura

July 13, 1943

Orderly
Chicago, Illinois

1. I don't like Chicago for its sultry wealth and dirtiness, but the public sentiment is not bad at all.

2. I can't say how the public opinion is toward the Niseis as a whole, but people are definitely indifferent to what other people are in regard to their desceny.

6. I have seen many young people out of the camps who are always talking about the wages. They are in the tendency of changing their accupations merely because of a slight difference in wages. I often wondered, if they are to be the herald for people coming out later, why they don't look for something more than "money". I believe the authority made another flagrant mistake in letting the evacuees out simply in order to lessen the expense of the government instead of apologizing to them for the evil the government had done in the past. Also I have seen many U.S. citizens of Japanese descent who were acting as if they were foreigners. I can tell that they don't have much condciuousness that they are members of the nation.

7. In this sanitarium for mental cases, I work every other day. 4 hours on week days and 10 hours on week-ends. My work consists of answering the door and lighting cigarettes for the patients. For this work, I get free room, board, and laundry besides thirty dollars a month.

Kiyooki Murata

July 14, 1943

Office Secretary
Cleveland, Ohio

1. Cleveland has been a very agreeable place in which to relocate. They have accepted the Nisei much more readily than in some other communities. I like the feeling of friendliness that prevails in Cleveland. I have had no hostile or otherwise unpleasant incidents that would prejudice me against this community. This is a very large city and we are not too conspicuous. My present living quarters and place of work are both very pleasant so that I have been quite satisfied with my relocation here in Cleveland.

2. Public opinion has been very favorable toward the Nisei. There is a tendency for the general public to stare when any group of Nisei walk down the streets. However, that is to be expected because we are strangers here. I think it would be thus even in peace time. This is the first time for many of these people to have even seen Nisei, let alone associate with them. Once in a while there is discrimination when applying for housing or apartments, but that too is not because there is prejudice. In generalization, I should say that public opinion has been favorable.

3. Housing is the bottleneck in the relocation program. Because of war industries in this city, the population has increased more rapidly than housing can be provided. ~~Many, many of the~~ Many, many of the evacuees are having difficulty in finding suitable living quarters. In the case of single persons it has not been too difficult. Food is extremely expensive. With the point rationing it is that much more difficult to obtain food in quantities and kinds desired. Fresh fruits and vegetables are about double the price that the average evacuee is accustomed to spending for these particular items. We don't get the variety and quality of the West Coast cities (before the war).

Transportation is fairly adequate. However, all means of transportation are crowded to the maximum. When a person gets accustomed to the method of the street car and bus system, it is not difficult to get to the desired points.

4. \$100 a month would be the minimum. It is not easy to get jobs with wages over this amount.

5. Have not had sufficient time to study this angle, and cannot give a very good opinion on the subject.

6. Don't ever leave the centers with the mistaken notion that you are coming out of camps to make a fortune. Too many evacuees have come to the eastern communities thinking that exorbitant wages are being paid to all persons, regardless of skill or profession.

Wages are comparatively low. In industry, those who are inexperienced must expect to start at the bottom on the same level with Caucasians.

Life is not a rosy picture and being that it is in war time, there are bound to be hard knocks a good deal of the time.

there are bound to be hard knocks a good deal of the way.

Never have your hopes too high for there is no "Utopia" right now.

July 15, 1943

Accountant
Chicago, Illinois

1. In many ways similar to San Francisco. The weather is very humid now. It's gone up as high as 95 degrees, but it is often more uncomfortable than Poston's 120 degrees.

2. The public hasn't noticed the nisei too much -- yet. Hearst paper is the one that generally rants and raves about us, but the other papers (Tribune and Sun) have been more than fair.

If you mind your own business the public will do the same.

3. Housing is getting acute, but the Nisei are finding apartments and rooms daily. We rented an unfurnished flat (bathroom, bedroom, living room, dining room and kitchen for \$29.50 a month). One room apartment with kitchenette from \$8.50 to \$10.50 a week. Foods in restaurants are not too high. Ham and eggs from 30¢ up. Transportation is good. Elevators, surface cars and motor coaches.

4. Minimum for a girl \$100 a month. Minimum for a boy 120 a month. If a person can do his own cooking the cost is greatly reduced.

5. Certain industries are closed to Nisei. Produce is not open -- union restrictions. Some private businesses welcome Nisei -- others don't. Professional people are having the hardest time getting what they want. For the others it runs the gamut from unskilled labor up. Girls are finding typing jobs right along.

6. Don't expect too much from the regional WRA offices. When you get out expect to do your own job and house hunting. Don't expect too much and you won't be disappointed. Expect to "pound the pavement" for at least two weeks in finding a job. House hunting will be harder.

William Minami

July 15, 1943

Student at St. Cloud Teachers College
St. Cloud, Minnesota

1. It is hard for me to say definitely whether I like or dislike my new "home" as there are many points to be thought of. I am not an authority on employment as I am student at the State Teachers College. However I have tried to get employment and chances are very slim here at St. Cloud. Those of you who plan to come out should be able to face a lot of disappointment and still have the courage to go on as you ~~with~~ will meet up with quite a few embarrassing situations. I have been to Minneapolis and the job possibilities for the Nisei are not very good. I do feel though that the further eastern areas should be a more attractive site for us. In Minnesota, especially where I am, the people do not even know of our evacuation and are completely awed at the stories we tell them, which aren't stories but a true fact which is our major problem. I do not like to state the public sentiment too freely as I am only 6 weeks in Minn. and cannot really judge by that short a time. I have been to the Presbyterian Church but the people are not too congenial and do not go "out of their way" to make us feel at home. There are 4 Nisei girls here as students. Please bear in mind that I am at a summer session, and the younger group is not here, which may make a difference, I am sure. I feel that in the fall semester I will find this place more comfortable.

2. As far as public opinion toward the Nisei is concerned I haven't felt left out; altho at an educational institution the people are more liberal minded and are therefore more tolerant than the general public. ~~People staring at you is not uncommon around here,~~ People staring at you is not uncommon around here, and I have learned to walk around with eyes looking at me very curiously. But I am in a town of 25,000. In a metropolitan area there should be no such experience.

3. The food and also prices on general articles are ridiculously high. Especially citrus fruits, vegetables and any other non-state commodities. We who are used to the good fruits, vegetables, etc. of California, will have to readjust everything but I do think sincerely that I am happier out here than in camp where it is definitely insecure and futureless. I don't say that you will feel secure coming out, but I do believe that any Nisei who has the courage to venture out, should by all means come out and try to make a place for himself. I think we should make influential friends who may help us; We will really need them then, more than now. In Minnesota, flour and milk is not expensive as it is a wheat and dairy country. Housing conditions are more or less set by the standard of wages. I board at a college boarding house so I cannot tell you too much about boarding for employees.

4. In Minneapolis the salaries are \$80 for typists. \$60 to \$40 for domestics. Homes in Minnesota are huge due to the extreme weather in winter. They are constructed to hold excess food supplies. For Nisei I doubt that defense plants will take us in. We have been rejected.

You will spend a minimum of \$20 month if you board and room out. If you're a domestic worker you should clear \$60 to \$70, depending on how it is spent. One place I have inquired at offered \$18 week as a laundry check girl but would only make a living on that.

5. As far as getting into industry, business or better types positions are concerned, I can only say that it is up to the individual to make his own good connection. I can't get a good position. At the present I am a student, but this Saturday, July 17th I am going to Minneapolis to look for a job. We were fortunate, very fortunate and have been invited to stay at a friend's home temporarily until a good job and home or boarding house could be found. "Lady Luck" came our way for the first time after many disappointments.

However, I would rather see more of the Nisei out if they feel that they can hold that much and bear it. At first it is trying and you may find yourself wondering why you came but do think that is what makes us appreciate everything all the more now.

But jobs are not plentiful for the Nisei. Maybe for the Caucasians but being a slightly pigmented race does make a difference at the present. This depends on the community into which you enter. I haven't been too lucky, in that respect. According to various letters and news items I receive, it seems that the far eastern cities offer better positions. I am not condemning Minnesota as in Minneapolis and St. ~~Cloud~~ Paul, it should be far better.

6. When traveling, take as little as possible as the trains are very congested with all the troop movements going on throughout the country. You will meet up with a lot of soldiers and I would say that a girl should have a companion or make an acquaintance of an elderly lady on the train. I came along ~~max~~ and regretted it, though now it is a thing of the past.

We who came out, are so determined to try our utmost to assimilate with the Americans but depending on your community whether they receive you heartily, or otherwise you may find yourself longing for a Nisei. I did. It is wisest though not to become too conspicuous and not to have too ~~many Nisei gatherings~~ many Nisei gatherings altho in the larger cities it is being done, and the comments have resulted from these large gatherings. As I repeat again it depends on your community, and also on the individual.

Emi. Matsumoto

July 15, 1943

School girl
Detroit, Michigan

1. I like the place I have relocated to because ist the folks I stay with are understanding, easy to get along with and mainly because they uphold the Christian way of living -- They have (as the job offer stated) taken me ~~as~~ one member of their family -- in every sense of the word. Neighbors mind their own business -- but are friendly. All of their friends are friendly. Not too close to town, about 10 miles. Downtown is similar to that of any city, such as L.A.

2. The public opinion is much better than Chicago. I don't doubt that many people think Niseis are Chinese. On buses, eating places, amusements, policemen, everyone is friendly. One must be willing to go half way at least before they can expect what they want. Normal life-- such as prewar days. Have not encountered any means of discrimination.

School faculty is sympathetic (Most).

3. Housing ~~as~~ in other states is difficult due to war, however, it is not as bad as Cleveland and Chicago. The city is cleaner than Chicago. Clothes are moderately priced; as for foods -- oranges 69¢ a lb., strawberries 49¢ a basket, watermelons 6¢ a lb. Fruits are on the whole expensive. Prices have gone up considerably which is ~~xxxx~~ true in all states. Transportation-- buses are traveling in all sections all day and night. 10¢ fare and free transfer. Streetcars 6¢. More people ride buses and streetcars since the war. Since Detroit is a large city its public utilities are satisfactory.

4. For a single person \$35 to \$40. \$35 jobs are not too easy to obtain. It is more than what many Detroiters make presently. I would say \$35 is enough for a single person to get along; paying room and board, eating out and amusements, Leaves a small savings amount. I am not too acquainted with full time. School-girl jobs average from \$6 to \$8 a week -- 4 hours a day light housework.

5. Civil Service jobs are now a little more difficult to obtain in Detroit. ~~Some form of application must be cleared at Washington.~~ Some form of application must be cleared at Washington. Chances of Nisei's getting into business are satisfactory, according to ability and experience. Several are working in hospitals as organic chemists, dental assistants, steno's, secretarys. Some jobs are much better than those occupied by Caucasians altho the Nisei's capability is counted upon in that case.

6. Advise is -- don't leave camp with the attitude that you're going to relocate and go on a spree because if you do, you'll be sorry. You must be adaptable to the surroundings, make yourself adaptable, determination, courage and self-restraint.

Don't accept offers smereely to get out of the centers, because it creates an uncertain attitude of the employer just as is the WRA office towards ~~try to~~ the hope they have upon the Nisei.

/better

Try to strive for jobs keep away from domestics because the ~~pub~~ public will recognize the Nisei as in the domestic class.

The first two or three weeks times will be trying you must expect it but it is a natural think everyone experiences.

7. Chicago is a center for Niseis from all centers more or less. Fellows going together and act as if there were an invasion or something. In ~~evening to~~ coming to Detroit that is one main thing we want to prohibit. Everyone is fairly well scattered. Church groups are ~~helping~~ very much, including social gatherings of ~~at~~ both Nisei and Caucasians. Approximately 175 Nisei in Detroit now. I am fortunate to be in a very nice Christian family -- a young couple. School-girl jobs are not real difficult to obtain especially during the month before school commences.

Bessie Morimoto

July 17, 1943

Layout Draftsman
Chicago, Illinois

1. I guess every city is different. I haven't built up any dislikes.
I know I won't like the cold winter.

2. Indifferent. Yet, strangers seem to know that the FBI etc. has passed
on the Niseis who have come out from the camps. The public is not afraid,
in my opinion.

6. Essential articles that cannot be bought should be sent from the centers
or from their home in So. Calif. The railway Express rate is about 10¢ per
lb. to Chicago so it's not very cheap.

Hand luggage should be kept to a minimum on the train.

M. Smoot Katow
3548 No. Halsted
Chicago, Illinois

July 18, 1943

Housework
Evanston, Illinois

The city of Evanston is a lovely place (esp. the north side) and the people are nice, altho some look at us quierly. Most of them think we are Filipinos or ~~xxx~~ another nationality. I folks I work for are very nice and undeſtanding.

How is the public opinion toward Nisei:

As I mentioned before some look at us with uncertainty which you cannot blame for they have never seem a Japanese. The people are nice to us.

3. As far as the housing is concerned -- if a girl wishes to work in a home, there is quite a few people who are willing to employ them. It isn't crowded ~~and~~ in Evanston. I believe there is quite a few apts. here for Evanston is a large place wltho it is considered a suburb of Chicago. Many buses run from here to the north of Chicago and also, it is close to the trains which will take you straight into the loop and down south or up north to the other main sections.

4. (Blank)

5. What possibilities are there of nisei getting into industry, business or into better type possition?

In Evanston I don't know of anyone who is in industry or business work altho there should be a grand opportunity for usch. For instance, a girl was looking for office work here and said it took some time because the people didn't know us and was rather dubious of hiring the Japanese. She may have a job by now.

6. When traveling carry only necessary clothing in a small suit case. To dress neatly and not to talk in the Japanese language. Not to gather in groups because that's when the people start to really take notice of Japanese.

7. The weather is very changeable out here. Quite sultry and rains now and then. Prepare for a cold winter here. Nothing can beat Californian weather tho.

Rose Endo

July 21, 1943

Maintenance and Garden Work
Peoria, Illinois

1. I like the place I relocated to because it isn't a large town and the people are very considerate and nice.
2. The ~~public~~ public opinion towards the Nisei is very good as far as I know. It seems as though every one I talk to, understands our situation and welcomes us all.
3. Housing may be hard to get, because there are few that doesn't like us to reside by them. The food is plentiful, and all the sales clerks are very nice.
Transportation is plentiful in the city limits. The transportation by bus and street car is very inexpensive. A dollar ticket will privilege you to ride all week at any time any place. The ticket holders all say they get at least 3 or 4 dollars worth out of a dollar.
4. The minimum wages for a average living is about \$150 a month for a single man. \$80 to \$90 is a good salary for a single man with board and room. The jobs with higher wages are easy to obtain if you are qualified ~~xxxxxx~~ for the job.
5. I haven't inquired about any industrial jobs yet.
6. I would advise people leaving the relocation centers to get out and help the manpower shortage as much as they can and stay with the employers.
Be prepared to face all the public the same as you would another Japanese. Don't listen to the people, who doesn't think twice before saying things.

Chuck Ogawa

August 2, 1943

Designer-Draftsman
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1. I like Milwaukee because:

1. It is a fairly large city.
2. Clean (even though it is an industrial city)
3. Majority of the people are very friendly.
4. Absence of Japanese pachucos.
5. Good employment possibilities.

2. Very good public relations so far. Might possibly be changed by a too great an influx of Japanese. We are sort of a novelty at present. Some of the understanding Caucasians are very friendly and helpful. Most of the Caucasians here are more or less neutral and are usually won over by even a friendly chat. The Hearst newspaper (Milwaukee Sentinel) does great damage to say good work done by the WRA here.

6. 1. Never sign contracts with ~~future~~ future employers. If it's a good job a person will stay -- if not he is free to leave.

2. Travel "light" as possible. Leave all household goods behind until you are established. 10 to 1 you will move at least 2-3 times and always end up in 1 or 2 furnished rooms.

3. Try not to be conspicuous by traveling or playing in large groups. We must remember that the first Niseis to land in a strange and new community are considered as examples of the American born "Japs". Our actions and appearances are always scrutinized by the "natives" here.

7. Outside life isn't half as bad as one thought it would be in camp. But situations "outside of camp" can be very disappointing at times -- weeks of "house hunting", job-hunting, annoying stares, embarrassing questions, etc. In other words, come out prepared to "take it on the chin!"

Robert Kinoshita
2847 N. Shepard St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Aug. 16, 1943

Clerk
Minneapolis, Minnesota

1. I like it very much. Why? Everyone is liberal, sympathetic, and kind, broadminded. There is no feeling of racial difference, perhaps there is with the people of little education, but on the whole, everyone is fair. The weather is all right if ~~don't~~ one doesn't mind extremes for winter and summer. Beautiful scenery and many parks.

2. Very good as no one causes any rail disturbances when anything critical happens to American soldiers from Japanese warfare, such as the Doolittle incident a few months ago.

6. Prepare to face the Caucasians as you would any friend of yours. Don't let racial differences interfere with becoming acquainted with people about you. Make friends, and show thorough interest and loyalty to the United States of America. Become a true American citizen and be a part of the mass who are trying to make America a better nation.

7. I do hope more would leave Poston for outside employment, making a decent living and really working toward a better future for everyone. It's wonderful being free and doing as you please without prying eyes of neighbors and such.

Adela Nakayama

September 27, 1943

Secretary
Chicago, Illinois

1. Chicago is like any other large city and after one becomes accustomed to the city it isn't as bad as they all say. I have come to like Chicago but the first impression one has of this city is filth, soot and crowds. The city sprawls out quite a bit and for those who are not use to the noise and crowd it is quite bewildering. The sousing set-up is not good but it is better than some of the other cities. As far as pleasures are concerned there is much to see and do in Chicago --- most of the museums, aquariums, Art Institute and other places of interest are free of charge to the public and one finds many interesting exhibits which are worth while and cultural.

2. I have encountered no prejudice thus far except in house hunting. Certain areas are restricted to us but aside from that the people seem very impersonal. In the first place I doubt whether they know just what we are and in the second place I wonder if they much care. Lately it has come to be a common sight to see Nisei's on the streets.

6. Don't expect too much I think that too many of the Niseis expect everything to be handed to them on a silver platter. Its so easy to become discouraged but it all depends on how much effort you put in yourself. It isn't wise to be brazen but it helps to hold your own and demand your place as a fellow American.

Secondly, your outward appearance is important especially with the boys. I would suggest that they dress like all the other people, cut their hair and forego their ~~zoot~~ "zoot suits". It gives a very bad impression to the people. In Chicago only the colored folks wear the "zoot suits."

Martha Hayakawa