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Sent out Aug 30, 1944

NATIONAL COUNCIL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS..SERVICES TO WEST COAST EVACUEES
3209 West Highland Blvd., Milwaukee 8, Wisconsin

WHAT CAN LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS DO TO ASSIST IN SERVICES TO WEST COAST EVACUEES?

*File
(over files)
YMCA*

1. Get facts on total situation
 - What YMCA'S are doing across the country (Satow to write up)
 - Center YMCA's and their activities (Enclosed)
 - Relocation, resettlement and the Nisei

Information resources:

 - Office of War Relocation Authority
461 Market Street, San Francisco 5, Calif.
 - Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans, Federal Council of Churches and Home Missions Council of North America
297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York. A monthly Bulletin is issued at 10¢ per copy.
(George Corwin represents the National Council YMCA's on this Committee)
 - Committee on American Principles of Fair Play
2234 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley 4, California
(Galen Fisher, active in the affairs of this Committee, represents the National Council YMCA on the Protestant Church Commission for Japanese Service)
 - The Pacific Citizen, official paper of the Japanese American Citizens League 413 Beason Building, Salt Lake City, Utah
A weekly summary of Nisei activities and activities concerning the Nisei. Subscription \$2.50 per year. Declared by Elmer Davis of OWI "one of the outstanding weeklies in the nation".

2. Encourage Relocation Center YMCA's
 - Letters of greetings to Center YMCA's. Interchange of letters, put Center YMCA's on mailing list.

3. If possible: Active leadership for Center YMCA's, Secretary spending several days in Relocation Center assisting in leadership training.

4. If possible: Center visitation by Secretaries and Board members.

5. Preparation for return to west coast of some of the evacuees.
 - Use of films "Challenge to Democracy", WRA Relocation color talkie, and "Go For Broke", 442nd Combat Team (Japanese American Volunteers now fighting in Italy) in training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi
These films now being distributed by
YMCA Motion Picture Bureau
351 Turk Street, San Francisco 2, Calif., with guides for discussion
 - Use of Nisei soldiers now convalescing in west coast hospitals
 - Discussions and forums using Public Affairs Pamphlet #91 by Carey McWilliams, "What About Our Japanese Americans?" and other materials.
 - Locating guarantees of jobs and housing and writing of same to
General Benosteel, Western Defense Command,
Presidio, San Francisco, Calif.
with duplicate copy to
Robert V. Cozzens, Field Supervisor,
War Relocation Authority,
461 Market Street, San Francisco, 5, Calif.

#70,100

THIS IS AMERICA

(Program notes to be presented in Japanese and English, in connection with PROGRAM UNIT NO. 3B, THE NORTHEASTERN STATES..)

BEFORE THE FIRST FILM

THIS IS AMERICA: A series of programs of sound motion pictures, that brings you information about those parts of the country where people of Japanese ancestry have settled successfully. If you are thinking of going outside, or if you have friends who have already gone out, you will be interested in these films.

Tonight's program of three motion pictures presents information about all the Northeastern states, where over a third of the whole population of the United States lives. Although there is considerable farming carried on, and excellent markets for farm produce are available, the main activity of the region is industry and trade.

THE NORTHEASTERN STATES

FILM - THE NORTHEASTERN STATES (10 minutes)

Winter in the Northeast is a time for play just as much as the summer is, and skating and ice hockey are familiar to every boy and grown person. This next film, although made in Canada, just north of the Northeastern States, will give you an idea of winter sport. Professional games of ice hockey, one of which you will see here, are played before large audiences from Chicago to New York and Boston.

HOT ICE

FILM - HOT ICE (20 minutes)

The New England states were first to develop modern industry, and they still make up one of the great world centers of industry, particularly for machine tools, and types of manufacturing that require special skill, such as the making of typewriters and guns, cameras and watches, business machines, and clothing. This modern film will take you inside many of these great industrial plants.

THIS IS NEW ENGLAND

FILM - THIS IS NEW ENGLAND (20 minutes)

The next program in this series, THIS IS AMERICA, will be shown here next _____ night at the same time.
It will be _____.

GOODNIGHT!

72618



THIS IS AMERICA

(Program notes to be presented in connection with PROGRAM UNIT No. 4A, WARTIME CONDITIONS, in both Japanese and English.)

BEFORE THE FIRST FILM

THIS IS AMERICA: A series of programs of sound motion pictures that brings you information about those parts of the country where people of Japanese decent are settling. If you are planning to go outside, or if you have friends or relatives outside, you will be interested in these films.

Tonight's program is made up of four pictures, and it is intended to give you an idea of wartime living; the way people are working, and some of the things that they are thinking about.

Even Minnie Mouse and Pluto, Walt Disney's famous characters, have had to take the war into account. At first Pluto doesn't like it too well -- but see for yourself.

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN

FILM - OUT OF THE FRYING PAN (3 minutes)

It is estimated that by the end of 1943, there will be a man-power shortage of six million workers. Over fifteen million Americans have relocated since 1940, drawn from their old homes to new homes, by the wartime needs for man-power. This great shift in population has meant housing shortages of course. You will see something of all this in:

MANPOWER

FILM - MANPOWER (8 minutes)

All over the country women are working now, to an extent that they never did before, for there is need of woman-power as well as man-power, and many opportunities have opened up for women and girls. Some of the facts about this have been gathered together in this next film, which was specially written by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and spoken by Katherine Hepburn.

WOMEN IN DEFENSE

FILM - WOMEN IN DEFENSE (10 minutes)

Never before has the Capitol City of Washington been so much in the news. All over the world people read of it, people talk of it. Washington is the focus of our national interest. For this reason, we are presenting a motion picture which will show you what the capitol looks like, and actually take you inside some of the famous government buildings.

THIS IS WASHINGTON

FILM - WASHINGTON (20 minutes)

(For Centers that are presenting this as the eighth and last program)

This concludes our presentation of THIS IS AMERICA. Those of you who want to know more about some particular state or city may consult books, pamphlets, and maps, at the relocation library located _____.

(For Centers that have the "A" series still ahead.)

If you want to see more of America, come next _____ night at the same time, and see the program presenting _____.

GOODNIGHT!

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THIS IS AMERICA

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(Program notes to be presented in Japanese and English, in connection with PROGRAM UNIT No. 4B, THIS AMAZING AMERICA.)

BEFORE THE FIRST FILM

This series of programs, THIS IS AMERICA, is bringing to you, through sound motion pictures, information about those parts of America where evacuees are resettling. If you are thinking of going out, or if you have friends or relatives outside, you will be interested in these pictures of America.

Tonight's program is a special all-color program, giving you a general view of America, and also some specific information about recreational and educational opportunities.

Our first film, "Y" WAYS TO CITIZENSHIP, is a presentation of the many YMCA facilities open to all evacuees. Gymnasiums, social halls, hotel accommodations, camping trips, restaurants, for girls and families as well as boys and men, regardless of religious affiliations. Hundreds of evacuees now in Chicago have taken advantage of these opportunities, and many are now living at the YMCA hotel.

"Y" WAYS TO CITIZENSHIP

FILM - "Y" WAYS TO CITIZENSHIP (25 minutes)

Our second and last film tonight is the story of a young couple who took a bus trip around America, what they did and what they saw. But you don't need a guide - see for yourself.

THIS AMAZING AMERICA

FILM - THIS AMAZING AMERICA (35 minutes)

(For Centers that are presenting this as the eighth and last program)

This concludes our presentation of THIS IS AMERICA. Those of you who want to know more about some particular state or city may consult books, pamphlets, and maps at the relocation library, located _____.

(For Centers that have the "A" series of programs still ahead.)
If you want to see more of America, come next _____ night at the same time, and see the program presenting _____.

GOODNIGHT!

32314



CONFIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON JAPANESE RESETTLEMENT

To be used with Y.W.C.A. leaders or small leadership groups who are vitally interested in this problem. It is not for use in public meetings.

THE NATIONAL BOARD
of the
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

RESETTLEMENT OF THE JAPANESE

I

BRIEF SUMMARY OF WRA REGULATION PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29,
AND EFFECTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 1.

Several types of temporary leave from relocation centers are permitted but the new type technically called indefinite leave for work and residence outside the centers is what is meant by the term "resettlement." It provides generally that all applicants for indefinite leave shall have made arrangements for employment or other means of support, shall have agreed to report change of address, and shall have no record which would cause authorities to believe that the applicant would interfere with the nation's war program or otherwise endanger public peace and security.

Specific provisions are interpreted as follows:

- (1) Any evacuee residing within a relocation center may make application for leave.
- (2) The War Relocation Authority requires a record check of each person by F.B.I. to determine eligibility to leave. This is administered by the Washington Office of WRA. The attention of social agencies to this matter is not necessary.
- (3) The WRA must be provided with a description of the job, salary and other conditions of work, and with some indication that the presence of the new settlers will cause no disturbance in the community to which they go.
- (4) The WRA provides transportation only to the most convenient railroad or bus station. The rest of transportation costs must be met otherwise.
- (5) The persons released under this provision are free. They may change occupation, be discharged by employers, go to other localities to find work, and carry on their daily lives as other American citizens and residents. They are required only to keep WRA informed of changes. They may return to relocation centers.

II

PLACE OF THE Y.W.C.A. IN THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

The resettlement order is one step toward the permanent solution of evacuation problems. Cooperation with the War Relocation Authority by organized groups is necessary if the project is to meet with the maximum of success. The Federal Council

of Churches, the American Friends Service Committee and other religious and social service organizations are making plans to participate in an effort to restore the evacuees to a self-supporting basis and thus relieve the government of their care, to make possible the reintegration of American Japanese and their families in normal community life, to release much needed manpower at this time.

The Y.W.C.A. is a logical organization to approach the problem in the special interest of women and girls (of whatever religion or creed) and resettlement is the next step in the Association program already under way in the relocation centers and in the centers of Colorado where the voluntary evacuees, those who left the Coast before March 30, have largely settled.

The resettlement project in all organizations is in its early stages. There are few established precedents. A representative of the Y.W.C.A. will keep in touch with Washington in order that the Association services may keep entirely in line with government regulations. There is regular contact also with headquarters offices of other agencies in the field. The third and the most important phase of the problem lies within the local Association.

A brief outline of procedure is offered for the purpose of opening the subject in local Associations which might be interested in participating in this national project:

- (1) The Y.W.C.A. in a given community would get in touch with church federations, local Friends Service Committees, International Institutes, Family Service Agencies, Council of Social Agencies and other interested groups to keep abreast of what is being done, to stimulate activity in regard to the problem, to coordinate local activity, to help guide public relations. Included in community planning, as far as it might be expedient, should be representatives of local Japanese.
- (2) A list of possible employees would be secured either from the acquaintance of persons in the Association, from lists that might be furnished by the National Board or other agencies, or from the War Relocation Authority, Washington, D. C. It is not desirable that large groups of Japanese be resettled in any community. Each community will know its own saturation point.
- (3) Employment opportunities must be secured. They may be of any kind provided they offer wages and working conditions compatible with good standards in any given community. It seems highly desirable to work for placement in professional and highly skilled jobs as well as in households and in unskilled labor. At the present time delay of a month or six weeks is unavoidable. WRA is working to speed up the placement process.
- (4) It is difficult to say whether jobs should be lined up first or lists of possible employees. Perhaps both approaches should be used until experience improves technique. The WRA is preparing as rapidly as possible a "pool" of names of persons who are ready for employment. It might be that Associations would know workers fitted for given positions who would be accepted by an employer upon recommendation of the Y.W.C.A., or several names might be submitted to give the employer a choice.

- (5) In making official request to WRA for a known person or for the name of a person or persons to fill a position, it would be necessary to write a description of the job, giving salary and other pertinent data. The employer might write or the Y.W.C.A. might write. Attached to the letter should be a statement from a responsible person in the community stating that he or she knows of no particular reason why the coming of a Japanese person or family into the community would arouse active opposition or create an unfavorable situation. The statement of such a person is to be considered as a sampling of the current social atmosphere of a community. The person who writes the letter would take no financial responsibility and he or she need not be a public official. A minister, a teacher, any well-rooted citizen would be highly desirable. It is not necessary to secure permission of public officials for American citizens to move around within this country. The American Japanese should be advised not to write to communities for permission to settle unless they are well acquainted with some particular person who they know would help them.
- (6) The employer would carry on his own correspondence with the WRA and the prospective employee or employees or the Y.W.C.A. might do so as the case required. The Association would seek to stimulate employment and to facilitate it wherever possible. Assistance might be given to Japanese known to be wanting to leave the centers by putting them in touch with prospective employers and actually helping with transportation and housing until they are settled. It is of great importance that segregation in housing be avoided.
- (7) After the Japanese come to a community the Association would carry its share of responsibility for giving them normal opportunity to fit into community life. Social care in an emergency would be the same as for any other person. However, provisions are not well worked out for long-time care if it should become necessary. Work is being done on this problem by the government and private agencies and special funds for emergencies are being created by some churches.
- (8) At this stage of development it is highly necessary that work and interpretation be done quietly, that there be no newspaper publicity of any kind, or public meetings. It should be made clear that dependent people are not being brought into a community. They are all workers and the problem of placement is nation-wide because of war emergencies and the high degree of mobility of population at this time. Few problems are completely local today.
- (9) Write the War Relocation Authority when necessary. Address Director of Employment, WRA, Washington, D.C.
- (10) While plans are being worked out, the reactions of and practical suggestions regarding procedure from general secretaries of local Associations are immediately necessary. A system of record keeping and follow-up is a matter for later consideration. In writing, please address Annie Clo Watson, Secretary for Nationality Community Interests, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York.

Among women and girls in relocation centers there are experienced stenographers skilled typists, doctors, elevator operators, nurses, salesgirls, practical nurses, housekeepers, bookkeepers, telephone operators, cooks, social workers, teachers, file clerks, librarians, artists, nursery governesses, laboratory technicians, waitresses, beauty operators, seamstresses. It would be a real contribution to the social welfare of the nation if these people and their families could enter again into useful and productive employment.

III

RELATION OF RESETTLEMENT TO OTHER PHASES OF THE EVACUATION

It seems advisable to make a positive and simple approach to resettlement as a definite job to be done. The nation needs manpower; the relocation centers are one possible source. The majority of the evacuees are Americans whose native language is English, who were brought up in American educational systems, have good work records on the whole and have no blemish on their record as loyal citizens. Restoring them to their former status of self-maintenance will be to circumvent in its early stages a possible new "Indian reservation problem." Education of the public as to the meaning and implications of the evacuation is another important phase of the total problem which should not be allowed to complicate unnecessarily the resettlement effort.

(Although factual data in this bulletin are correct as of this date, this is to be considered a temporary statement to be revised in accordance with changing regulations and experience.)

Prepared by Annie Clo Watson
Division of Community Y.W.C.A.'s
November 10, 1942

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL

ORGANIZED 1851

CENTRAL BRANCH: 1441 DRUMMOND STREET

July 27, 1942.

Dear Friend:

The past few weeks have been fraught with such consequences to the Montreal Truemans that I think it behooves me to write another of my circular letters. Please try to read into your copy a very real personal note: as you will see from what follows, it is plainly impossible for me to write individual letters at the present time.

In the first place, under the terms of our Retirement Fund I sent in my resignation last January 20th, the same to take effect on July 31st. So by the time this reaches you, my thirty-five years of service with the Y. M. C. A. will be nearly over. Naturally, it is proving to be quite a wrench to sever relationships that have been so long a-building: especially do I regret leaving my friends at Central where for the last eight years I have enjoyed my work so well. I still feel, however, that in the long run the best interests of the Association will best be served when the secretarial leadership is kept in younger hands, so with reluctance, yet with a sense of duty fulfilled, I hand over the torch. My regrets are tinged with satisfaction in that down at the Y our Branch finances showed a substantial surplus at the end of the last fiscal year and the staff I am leaving behind is quite the best we have had in years.

On June 8th, at the request of the British Columbia Security Commission, an organization called into being by the Dominion Government to handle the evacuation of the Japanese from the West coast, I started out on a tour to see how the evacuees were getting along and to make a report on conditions.

After December 7th, the need for urgency in clearing the coastal area from possible saboteurs was so pressing that it was decided to send the Japanese women and children, men over sixty and ineffectives to some of the abandoned mining towns in the hinterland of British Columbia and all able bodied adult males to road construction work camps either in British Columbia or elsewhere, at least one hundred miles from the coast. Although reports from both camps and towns had been streaming in to the Commission, as yet no one person had been around to size them all up, so to speak. Evidently, the thought was that my long residence in Japan and my knowledge of the language should make me a fitting person to do this job. At any rate the call came. The plan was that the Montreal Association would pay my salary while the Government would meet my travel expenses. Our Board of Management was

good enough to release me for four or five weeks for this purpose so on the above mentioned date I started West on a United Airlines plane going via New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Omaha, etc., etc. It was my first long airplane trip which fact I suppose made it of such absorbing interest. I left Montreal on a Sunday at twelve noon; next day at 2:30 p.m. I was in Vancouver. The only tragedy on the trip was the loss of my supper -- but not in the way you are thinking. The hostess had just served me my evening meal when we struck an air pocket. I went down: the tray went up. The hostess who was passing grabbed the tray: another drop and a side slip and the tray dropped out of her hands far down on the carpeted floor -- veal chops, vegetables, bread, milk, fruit cup and strawberry ice-cream all in one vast jumble. How they managed it I don't know, but later, after we had hit calm, another meal was forthcoming.

I spent eight days in Vancouver, mostly seeing people in an attempt to understand the British Columbia Japanese problem, and then started out on my tour. Just at that time the Commission was sending a car out to Kaslo and I was asked to drive it. I had a grand companion in Miss Kaufman formerly of the Y. W. C. A. in Japan who was also going to Kaslo. On the way we visited two of the road camps and Greenwood, one of the ghost towns. We covered over eight hundred miles in the three and a half days, all the time in clearest weather and passing through as fine scenery as there is anywhere in the world. For the next two weeks and more I was in the heart of the mountains all the time. All told I visited all of the four ghost towns and twenty-two of the twenty-six road camps. I found the feeling of the evacuees in the camps none too good. Their most important complaint was over the separation of the families. This the Government is rectifying by bringing the families together as soon as living quarters can be secured. Other complaints had to do with the monotony of the work, slow mail delivery, wrong attitudes on the part of foremen and timekeepers and insufficient wages. In some of the camps the men had resorted to the sit-down strike method in order to draw attention to their grievances. In each camp visited after talking to the foreman or his representative and looking over the camp itself, I was always able to have a meeting with the Japanese Committee where one existed or when there was no Committee with a few of the workers picked out by the foreman as the most influential among their fellow workers. Despite underlying grievances, in a few of the camps, I found a very splendid spirit of co-operation. I soon became able to pick out these places even before talking to any of the men. Where proper facilities for recreation existed, in nearly every case the spirit was good: where none or too few existed the spirit was bad. One foreman hit the nail on the head when he said "In my camp work I count morale as important as food." One of my most important recommendations was to the effect that a centrally directed morale department be established.

My trip gave me a grand opportunity to see British Columbia. I saw it from plane, train, car, truck, boat and nearly two hundred miles of it from a "speeder" -- a sort of glorified handcar, gasoline driven. My first impression was naturally of the beauty of the scenery. Five times I passed by Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Rockies and each time had a perfect view: my second impression was of the tremendous distance and of the inconveniences of travel from place to place. When going from Kaslo to Revelstoke, for example, this was the

itinerary. Bus to Nelson two hours, stay all night: bus 8:00 a.m. to Nakusp six hours, stay rest of afternoon and all night: boat 8:00 a.m. to Arrowhead three and one half hours: wait till 2:30 for train: train two hours to Revelstoke. My third impression was of the almost illimitable timber resources in the province. Square mile after square mile of fir and spruce and pine; mountains of green gold all ready for the mining -- and yet too few miners: this also with a scarcity of lumber in the country.

After the last camp had been visited I stayed over a day and a half to write my report. Train to Saskatoon, plane from there to Toronto and then on to Ottawa. I think the real satisfaction of my whole trip came to me there. I had been asked to make my report to three groups -- a representative of the British Columbia Security Commission who was in Ottawa at the time, the Department of External Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Labor. I had expected that I would have to bludgeon my way in so to speak. On the contrary, I found them all very cordial and apparently eager to hear both my observations and recommendations. Several of the latter have already been put in operation.

My concluding recommendation was to the effect that our whole evacuation policy be set in the light of some long term plan which envisages the final solution of the Canadian-Japanese problem: my version of that solution involves the scattering of the Japanese population in families among the provinces in self supporting jobs and in such small numbers in each vicinity that the formation of "little Tokyos" will be impossible. If this is done in everything except physical characteristics in two generations or less there will be little to distinguish the Canadian of Japanese parentage from the Canadian of any other race. In this way also the two features hitherto operating most forcibly against the proper assimilation of the Japanese in British Columbia, the Japanese language schools and the matter of dual citizenship would disappear.

I stress this point at length for in it my own immediate future is bound up. The Government has asked me and I have consented to spend the next while trying to work out some system of placements whereby this final solution may be carried out. So far most of our correspondence has been by telegram so I can't state the precise nature of my assignment other than that I am to start in on August 1st and am to have Toronto as headquarters, the feeling being that for the immediate future at least, Ontario and contiguous provinces offer the best chances for the success of this project. Details are to be worked out on August 3rd when I have an appointment with the Deputy Minister of Labor. In the meantime please send your letters to the above address where information as to my new office will be sent. The present plan is for me to go to Toronto alone. If a suitable house can be found by that time, we shall be moving around the end of August.

To me the new job constitutes quite a compelling challenge. I am particularly interested in the "Nisei", the Canadian born Japanese who I suppose have as much right to the privileges and responsibilities of Canadian life as any of the rest of us but who at the present time owing to the fortunes of war are being treated more or

less as enemy aliens. When the war is over they will still be with us: but whether as a soured disgruntled group or as a happy contented and co-operative part of our national life will depend to a great degree on the treatment they are now receiving or will receive in the immediate future. It is my fervent hope that the right thinking people of Canada will reach out hands of friendship towards these fellow citizens thrust out of their homes and occupations. Due caution must of course be exercised. Hundreds of them, though, know no country but Canada, no loyalties but to the Canadian flag -- some of them no language but English. They have, too, certain skills of which Canada is greatly in need at the present time. It is now mostly a matter of relating the supply to the need -- and at the same time demonstrating that our way of thinking does not punish the innocent for the sins of the guilty.

With sincere regards and the best of good wishes,

I am,

Yours as ever,

G. Ernest Trueman.

NATIONAL COUNCIL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS..SERVICES TO WEST COAST EVACUEES
3209 West Highland Avenue, Milwaukee 8, Wisconsin

STATUS OF RELOCATION CENTER YMCA'S (Aug. 30, 1944)

GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER, RIVERS, ARIZONA

Two YMCA's have been in operation at the Gila River Project, one at the Butte Camp and the other at the Canal Camp. Most of the Y men in the Butte Camp have been lost via resettlement. Things there have come to a practical standstill with the induction of our Coordinator, Shigemi Arotani, into the Army in May. At the Canal Camp, the Phalanx Club has been the bright spot of our program. In spite of the resettlement of the majority of its original members, other members have been recruited from time to time to take their place. Seeing that the draft and resettlement would soon deplete the ranks of potential members, the Phalanx Club has recently organized the Canal Hi-Y Club. The Phalanx group issues its own mimeographed paper, and recently celebrated its first anniversary. We do not have a Coordinator at the Canal Camp, but do employ a Librarian-Secretary, Miss Toshi Mori. The Phoenix YMCA under the leadership of Dewey Swihart has been most helpful to the Gila Association through the periodic visits of Cap Root, through joint meetings with the Phoenix Phalanx Club and a visit to Gila Project by members of the YMCA Board of Directors.

GRANADA RELOCATION CENTER, GRANADA, COLORADO

The only YMCA program we have in Granada is a strong Hi-Y Club under the advisorship of Mel McGovern, a teacher in the high school who was formerly a member of the Hi-Y in Dubuque, Iowa. The Hi-Y sent two representatives to the West Central Area Council meeting in Kansas City in March, sent five representatives to the Denver Hi-Y Conference, and five to the West Central Area Camp this summer. Among the guests of the Hi-Y Club in the Center was Judge Phillip Gillian of the Denver Juvenile Court. Over a year ago, the Board of the Pueblo YMCA visited Granada and held a joint meeting with the Amache YMCA but since that time, practically all of the original Y members have resettled.

HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION CENTER, HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING

The latest news from Heart Mountain is the reorganization of the YMCA Board necessitated by the loss of members by resettlement. Dick Fujioka, our Y Coordinator and who doubles as head of organizations, has been having his salary paid by the Community Activities section of the WRA, but the July Board minutes indicate that a move was made to have the YMCA take over. Steps have been taken to organize a Y's Mens Club and also groups of younger boys. Heart Mountain has the largest number of boys groups, there being 15 Y Clubs with a total enrollment of 225. An active Hi-Y Club and a Junior Hi-Y Club, and a Presidents Council which meets regularly, complete the picture. Membership cards for the YMCA have been printed and memberships solicited from evacuees as well as administrative personnel. For two years the Heart Mountain YMCA has sent representatives to the West Central Area Council meeting in Kansas City. George Nakaki is the new Board Chairman, taking the place of Tom Sashihara who recently resigned. The YMCA through its Coordinator have given leadership and stimulus to the entire club program of the community activities section of the camp. Yosh Kodama, one of the most active Board members who was instrumental in organizing the Y groups has resettled to Dayton, Ohio.

MANZANAR RELOCATION CENTER, MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA

Our Coordinator at Manzanar is Hiroshi Namazue. New headquarters for the YMCA have been obtained in Block 16 which is the Grammar School block. The Y's Mens Club at Manzanar is one of the most significant groups in any of the projects, being made up of both evacuees and administrative personnel who meet on an equal basis. The Hi-Y Club has been reorganized under the leadership of Dave Jacobson of Los Angeles Immanuel Presbyterian Church and active in the Wilshire YMCA who is assisting at Manzanar during the summer months through the courtesy of the Protestant Church Commission. Ralph Lazo, former Hi-Y President who recently rated a write up because he elected to go to Manzanar with his friends although he is of Mexican ancestry, is assisting Dave. Ralph was recently sent to the Rocky Mountain Student Conference at Estes Park by the Manzanar YMCA. A group of Friendly Indians have been meeting regularly and going on hikes and swims to the nearby creek, but Center regulations make such activities difficult. Harry Matsumoto, YMCA Board Chairman and Superintendent of the Children's Village, has recently resigned preparatory to resettlement. Various YMCA Secretaries of the Los Angeles YMCA have visited Manzanar, and on the way back from their recent annual summer institute at Lake Tahoe, six carloads of Secretaries and their families visited Manzanar.

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER, HUNT, IDAHO

Tad Muraoka is our Y Coordinator at Minidoka. The Hi-Y Club was the first YMCA organization started and continues to be the strongest group. It was started early in the history of the Center by one of the evacuees who was formerly a member of a Hi-Y Club in the Pacific Northwest. A Board of 14 members has been recruited and six Gra-Y Clubs with 80 members and one N-Y Club have been organized through the efforts of Tad Muraoka and Rev. Tsutomu Fukuyama, Chairman of the Board. Mr. James Maxwell of the Pacific Northwest Area Council YMCA and Galen Fisher of the National Council have been recent visitors to Hunt. Tad Muraoka was chosen as the YMCA delegate to the Seaback Student Conference for which special permission was obtained through the Western Defense Command by the Student YMCA-YWCA.

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER, POSTON, ARIZONA

Our work at Poston is practically nil at present, the majority of the Board members having resettled and we have been unable to recruit a Coordinator to succeed George Kasai who resettled in March. The Hi-Y Club in Camp I is the only YMCA group. No work was started in Poston II or III. For some time there was hope that some help might be coming from outside Associations, but so far this has failed to materialize.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER, McGEHEE, ARKANSAS

Kaz Ikebasu, Secretary of the Rohwer YMCA Board, writes that he is the only fellow left in the Center from the entire Board. Rohwer was one of the two Centers which celebrated the Centennial of the YMCA. A devotional program followed by a showing of films constituted this program on June 6th. There is an active Hi-Y Club and we also sponsor a Tri-Y Club. A new club of Friendly Indian boys was organized recently by Ikebasu. The St. Louis YMCA has been very actively interested in the YMCA here, Robert Vernon, Ernest Friend and Arno Haack, visiting several times. Mr. Schreiner, Southwest Area YMCA Executive visited Rohwer recently. Two representatives were sent to the Southwest Area Student Y Conference at Fort Worth, Texas, while Kaz Ikebasu attended the Student Christian Conference at Fayetteville, Arkansas. The recent transfer of the bulk of the people from the closed Jerome Center to Rohwer have unsettled things for a while. We have no Coordinator at Rohwer.

CENTRAL UTAH RELOCATION CENTER, TOPAZ, UTAH

Mr. C. Numajiri, former Associate Secretary of the San Francisco Japanese Branch is our Coordinator at Topaz. The Centennial was celebrated on June 7th with the dedication of two thirds of a barrack for YMCA purposes. Topaz has a strong Hi-Y Club which held a most impressive induction ceremony in March. Advisor of the Hi-Y is Emil Sekorak, a member of the Administrative personnel. Two of the Hi-Y boys were sent to the Rocky Mountain Student Conference at Estes Park. The Topaz YMCA has solicited membership which now number 104. Early last year Ed Hunt of the Mission Branch YMCA of San Francisco was sent to Topaz to assist in organizing the Topaz YMCA, but since that time nothing more has been heard from San Francisco. Last year the Topaz YMCA conducted a summer camp with 50 boys and 15 leaders. Mr. Numajiri, the Coordinator has just attended this year's Pacific Southwest Area Association of Y Secretaries Summer Institute at Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

GILA - Miss Toshi Mori, Gila YMCA, 27 - 11 - A, Rivers, Arizona
GRANADA - Mr. Mel McGovern, c/o High School, Amache, Colorado
HEART MOUNTAIN - Mr. Dick Fujioka, Block 16 Rec., Heart Mountain, Wyoming
MANZANAR - Mr. Hiroshi Namazuo, YMCA, 16 - 2, Manzanar, California
MINIDOKA - Mr. Tad Muraoka, YMCA, 22 - 1 - C, Hunt, Idaho
ROHWER - Mr. Kaz Ikebasu, c/o Community Activities, McGehee, Arkansas
TOPAZ - Mr. C. Numajiri, YMCA, Recreation Hall 34, Topaz, Utah

RELOCATION CENTER YMCA'S.

The Amache Hi-Y Club at GRANADA RELOCATION CENTER is one of our most active. Advisor Mel McEovern writes that four members and himself recently attended the southern Colorado Hi-Y Workshop at Pueblo, Colo. A picture of the Workshop in the 'Pueblo Chieftain' discloses two delegates from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming.

At the GILA RIVER RELOCATION in Arizona, only twelve members are now left in the Phalanx Fraternity of the Canal Camp, of whom six are facing induction in the very near future. It is estimated that more than 50 have been enrolled in this Club since its founding over a year ago. The draft and resettlement are responsible for cutting down the membership.

Satow visited the Rohwer Relocation Center recently and found that members of the original YMCA Board had all resettled, but that there were two Hi-Y Clubs active with a total membership of 75. Fifteen men met to reorganize and revitalize the Rohwer YMCA and consented to serve as Board members.

ORCHIDS***

***to the St. Louis YMCA under the leadership of Bob Vernon, its able General Secretary, for..

- being of inestimable help to the Rohwer YMCA ever since the opening of the Rohwer Relocation Center,
- Bob Vernon, Downtown Executive Ernie Friend and Washington Univ, Student Y Secty. Arno Haack, making several visits to Rohwer (465 miles),
- sponsoring an exhibit of pictures and handicraft from the Center in its building,
- the usual personal services and housing evacuees coming out for resettlement,
- having its own Citywide Committee on Resettlement headed by Mr. Randall Foster, prominent insurance man. Also member of this Committee is Dr. Howard, physician, whose son Major Howard flew with Gen. Chennault's Flying Tigers - (see TIME, Jan 31, '44 under "Heroes").
- being the spearhead for the resettlement effort in St. Louis under the leadership of Arno Haack, and
- for aiding resettlement by employing evacuees in the Y Tailor Shop and employing as Swimming Instructor on the Downtown Staff Ted Ohashi, former Univ. of Calif. basketballer.

***to the PHOENIX YMCA under Dewey Swihart

- for generously allowing Cap Root to make periodic visits to Gila Relocation to assist and encourage the Gila YMCA,
- whose Phalanx Fraternity have had many joint programs with the Gila Phalanx Fraternities,

ORCHIDS (continued)

- getting eleven members of the Board interested enough in the Center and the Center YMCA to visit the project on a hot (120°) Sunday afternoon in summer of 1943,
- for allowing the use of the building and facilities for evacuees on their way out to resettle,

***to the PUEBLO, COLO. YMCA for taking 14 Board members on a visit to Granada Relocation (140 miles) to hold a joint meeting and worship program with the Granada YMCA in spring of 1943, officially welcoming Granada into the fellowship of the West Central Area Council. This visit served to temper the tone of the 'Pueblo Chieftain' toward the Relocation program. Chairman Roy Franz reported this as "the best Board meeting we have ever had" and said "the visit even made a Christian out of one of our Board members".

JIMMIE YAMANAKA, for six years associated with Mas Satow at the Japanese Branch YMCA in Los Angeles, began his new duties last month as Boys Secretary at the Eastern District Branch of the Brooklyn YMCA. His address is - 760 Riverside Drive, New York City 31,

MR. C. NUMAJIRI, former Associate Secty. of the Japanese Branch in San Francisco and our YMCA Coordinator at the Central Utah Relocation Center, Topaz, Utah, has just resettled to Cincinnati, Ohio.

OUR BOYS

PFC. Frank Arikawa, the first from the Manzanar Relocation Center to be killed in action in Italy, was for fourteen years a member of our Spartan Y Club in Los Angeles.

Pvt. Hank Masaoka of our Y Club in West Los Angeles is the only Japanese American soldier at Camp Adair, Oregon. He is one of "the fighting Masaokas", four brothers being with the 442nd Japanese American Combat Unit in Italy, two of whom were recently wounded in action.

Cpl. Kaz Oshiki, former editor of our Y Camp Green Valley Log, is now stationed at Camp Pinedale in California after completing his course at the Military Intelligence School in Minnesota. Sister Yoni Oshiki, our former office secretary works for the Army's Sixth Service Command.

TAD MUKAIHATA, former member of the Los Angeles Belmont Hi-Y who was elected the Student Body President of Belmont High after Pearl Harbor, is the regular half-back for Dennison Univ. in Ohio on a team composed mainly of Marine trainees.

WHERE WE HAVE SCATTERED

To show what is happening under the re-settlement program, here are what the former members of the Japanese Branch Y Board in Los Angeles are doing:

Chairman Frank Kagiwada is teaching the Japanese language at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
DR. T.G. ISHIMARU is with the War Department in Washington, D.C.
Pvt. SHIG ARATANI is at Camp Shelby, Miss.
GEORGE YUZAWA is a designer for Annenburg and Erickson, Madison Ave. Florists in New York City.
DR. TOYO SHIMIZU looks after Indians' teeth for the U.S. Indian Service, making the rounds of the reservations in Arizona and New Mexico on horseback.
GEORGE MOREY is a buyer for the joint Consumer Cooperative Enterprises for all the Relocation Centers with offices in the Empire State in New York City.
DR. M. M. HORII is practicing his dentistry in Ogden, Utah.
GEORGE ONO works in the wholesale market in Denver, Colorado.
SAM MINAMI recaps tires for Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
REV. K. UNOURA ministers to the Japanese people in and around Rocky Ford, Colorado.
REV. J. FUKUSHIMA does the same for the people in and around Ogden, Utah.
SAM FURUTA is a mechanic in Chicago, Ill.
DICK FUJIOKA is our Y Coordinator at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming.
DR. KATS UBA is also at Heart Mountain trying to help on the dentist shortage.
MR. J. HORI is still in Poston Relocation, Arizona.
Latest word is that TOM SASHIHARA is preparing to resettle somewhere in Ohio from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyo.
PVT. GEORGE SAITO (Mariner Y Club) in a letter to his father in Belmont, Mass. telling of the heroic death of his brother Cpl. Calvin with the 442nd in Italy, says among other things:
"Dad, this is not time to be preaching to you, but I have something on my chest which I want you to hear. In spite of Cal's supreme sacrifice, don't let anyone tell you that he was foolish or made a mistake to volunteer. Of what I've seen in my travels on our mission, I am convinced that we've done the right thing in spite of what has happened in the past. America is a damn good country and don't let anyone tell you otherwise".
(George and Calvin were two of the first to volunteer for the Japanese American Combat Unit from behind the barbed wire fence of the Granada Relocation Center. Another brother, Cpl Shojo (also Mariner Y Club) is stationed at Camp Robinson, Ark.

LIEUT. KEI TANAHASHI

was one of our staunchest YMCA supporters. A Fifth Army report telling of how he died in battle refusing medical aid until every other injured soldier of his platoon had been given first aid, brought this comment from his mother, Mrs. Kin Tanahashi of Heart Mountain Relocation Center:

"Kei always told me of his loyalty as a citizen, and I am glad that he could do just a little for his country in her hour of need. I hope that his death will help the public realize that we are Americans fighting for America, too. I have lived in this country for over 30 years, and it is my country just as it was Kei's, and I feel the way he felt - that of any American loving his country."

Kei was with the 442nd Japanese American Combat Unit. We shall always remember his telling us that the biggest thrill of his life was to return for a visit to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center from whence he had volunteered and have the MPs guarding the gate salute him as he went in.

"People often ask me whether I think I am fighting on the right side. It is not a question of the right side or the wrong side. I was born in America, educated in American schools, I am fighting for what I have learned to believe in."
"I have never been discriminated against in America. I have been treated royally. But I have been in uniform. If those boys who gave their lives in Italy know there were places where their families could not go because they are of Japanese descent, they would turn over in their graves."

"We would all like to see the day when we will be described simply as Americans, not as Japanese Americans."

—Capt. Mitsuyoshi Fukuda of the famed 100th Infantry, holder of the Silver Star for gallantry in action. — at a banquet in Milwaukee in his honor.

GILA RELOCATION CENTER YMCA'S

We were the coordinator for the Leadership Institute held at the Gila Relocation Center, Nov. 7 - 14th, sponsored jointly by the national youth serving agencies in cooperation with the War Relocation Authority. Members of the team were Miss Juanita Luck, Group Work Consultant for the Children's Bureau, Washington D.C.; Miss Esther Briesmeister, National YMCA; Miss Nora Garvin, Western Regional Representative for National Campfire Girls; Mrs. Clelland, Phoenix Playground Dept.; and Mr. Marshall Stalley, Chief Supervisor for WRA Community Activities. A banquet was held in connection with the Institute and Bill Hammaker of Phoenix YMCA-USO was instrumental in promoting over one hundred visitors from Phoenix. "Cap Root, Maricopa County YMCA Secretary assisted on the Institute.

The Butte Camp Hi-Y Club at Gila is one of our strongest. Two other Hi-Y Clubs have been organized at Butte and one Gray Club. Yuichi Nakase has taken George Nikkaide's place as Y Coordinator since George has left for the Army. The Phalanx Club is practically depleted of members through induction into the Army and resettlement. Dr. Kiyasu and Mr. Hikida, former members of the Board of the Japanese Branch YMCA in San Francisco are active members of the Butte Board. Latest addition to the Board is Mr. Bill May of the Social Welfare Dept. who is a graduate of Springfield College.

The Canal Camp Phalanx Club lost seven members in November through induction into the Army. The Board has been newly organized since all but two of the original members have resettled. The Hi-Y Club is active, sponsored a student body assembly at which we were the main speaker. Coordinator for the Canal YMCA is Harry Osaki who was recently given a medical discharge from the Army. Harry is one of the highest ranking Boy Scouts in America, and before evacuation was badminton champion of Washington State College and co-captain of the archery team.

While at Gila, we attended a service to sendoff 38 boys to the Army. Practically the entire Center turned out en masse. Gila's service flag has close to 900 stars of which a score are gold.

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER

Mr. James Maxwell, Executive for the Pacific Northwest Area YMCA visited Minidoka in November and helped to induct new members into the Hi-Y Club. We lost Tad Muraoka, our Y Coordinator, who resettled to Toledo, Ohio, where he supervises groups at a neighborhood house. He hopes to enroll soon at George Williams College.

FORMER YMCA BOARD MEMBERS

Among the many instructors of the Japanese language at the Naval Intelligence School at the University of Colorado are Mr. Kiyoshi Tomizawa, former Executive of the Japanese Branch Y of San Francisco, Dr. K. Kitagawa, former Board chairman, and Mr. Koshi Suzuki, Board member. Lincoln Kanai is now taking some graduate work at University of Chicago.

From the Los Angeles Japanese Branch Board, Shig Aratani went overseas from Camp Shelby and is now a Sergeant with the 442nd Japanese American Combat Team.

Former Board member George Yuzawa of Los Angeles volunteered for Military Intelligence duty in the Pacific, is now taking his basic training at Camp McClelland, Alabama. Incidentally, greeting the Nisei boys at McClelland is Paul Alexander, formerly of the San Pedro Y staff who is now YMCA-USO Secretary at Anniston, Alabama.

OTHER Y MEMBERS

S/Sgt. James Mizuno (Golden Bear Y Club) was given a battlefield promotion and is now Lieut. Mizuno with the 442nd in France.

Also a Lieut. is Hideshi Yonemura (SON Y Club) and former yell king at U.C.L.A.

Lieut. Feto Yamazaki (Sires Y Club) is the librarian (extra-curricular) of the G.I. Cheirmade up entirely of Nisei at Fort Snelling, Minn. This 100 voice choir was heard on the Army hour on Sunday, Dec. 24th. Superintendent of the Military Intelligence School at Fort Snelling is Major John Aiso (Hollywood Y)

T/5 Jack Nagano (Golden Bear Y Club) is one of the many Nisei with Military Intelligence in the south Pacific, has been there for two years, is now located in New Guinea.

Cpl. Tom Saito (Golden Bear Y Club) is an M.P. at a camp for German prisoners in southeastern Nebraska.

Killed in action with the 442nd in southern France were:

Pfc. Shig Yasuda (Spartan Y Club)
Pfc. Ted Fujioka, organizer of the Hi-Y at Heart Mountain Relocation Center and brother of Dick Fujioka, our Y Coordinator there.

Pvt. George Saito (Mariner Y Club) who upon the death of his brother, Pfc. Calvin, wrote from France that "America is a damn good country and don't let anyone tell you otherwise" to his father.

There are over 300 brother combinations in the 442nd Japanese American Combat Team.

Recent newsreel shots showed the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" of Texans by the 442nd Japanese Americans. Cpl. Mike Masaka wrote back, "If the "lost battalion" had been California boys, it really would have been something!"

Mas Isebe from Topaz Relocation Center is the Assistant Boys Work Secretary at the Milwaukee YMCA.

A recent report of resettlement by the War Relocation Authority shows evacuees resettled in every state in the Union except South Carolina. Illinois leads with the largest number, followed by Colorado, then Ohio, Utah, Michigan, Idaho, Minnesota, and New York.

A LETTER FROM "SOMEWHERE IN BURMA"

...I noted that most of the articles concerned the Japanese American fighting in the European theatre and the grand job they are doing. We, of the Merrill's Marauders wish to boast of the Japanese Americans fighting in our outfit and the swell job that they put up. Every Marauder knows these boys by name even if they don't know ours - this is due to the courage and bravery shown by them. One of our platoons owe their lives to Sgt. Hank Gesho who translated Jap orders which were foolishly yelled to the effect that they were attempting a flanking movement. Hank - (we call him "Horizontal" because he's been pinned down so many times by Jap machine gun fire) - guided the machine gun fire on our side which killed every Jap on that side.."

"...May of the boys, and myself especially, never knew a Japanese American or what one was like - now we know and the Marauders want themselves to foster a community-wide you to know that they are backing the Nisei 100%. It makes the boys and myself mad to read about movements against Japanese Americans by these back home..."

Sgt. George Miller

And Sgt. Henry Gesho wrote the following to a friend in Wisconsin...

.. "You no doubt have read in the papers of the Merrill's Marauders" drive in Burma. I am proud to say that 14 of us Japanese Americans were one of the first elements of Merrill's Marauders to leave the states. We were assigned to different companies and platoons and held the recognition of being the first Nisei to be assigned to front line action with platoons. I was proud to be with the boys because we were so readily accepted and the importance of our work was recognized. Two hundred per cent attention was given us and they looked at us as better than brothers.

"My first baptism of fire came at Walawboun when our platoon was flanked on all sides by Japanese. We were caught in a crossfire of machine guns... Scared? You're darn right I was, but strangely enough I was calm and collected. Enough to translate Japanese officer's orders which were foolishly shouted aloud and enabled us to know their next move.

"We got out of this trap under cover fire of a rescue squad. Jeepers! I shiver everytime I think about it. But it was the calmness, collness, and alertness of the other 47 men in our platoon that kept me under control. They sure are a bunch of swell pals. And it brings a lump to my throat when I realize that each man in our outfit sort of secretly looks after my safety from capture from the Japanese. The boys jokingly say, "Boy, Hank, if Tojo ever caught you, wow!"

(Sgt. Gesho's wife and daughter live in their "home" at the Minihoka Relocation Center.)

FROM THE RECORD OF THE 19TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION...

Council Action:

"That the Council register its continuing concern for the civil rights of the evacuees of Japanese ancestry and for their reincorporation into normal community life. While recognizing that authority to determine the time for return of evacuees to the West rests solely with the War Department in its capacity as guardian of national security, the Council recommends that in the near future Area Councils, local Association boards and individuals members, especially in the Western States, assure the Commander of the Western Defense Command that, if and when the War Department revokes or further relaxes the exclusion orders, they will exert the spirit of cooperation with the action of the War Department and will extend assistance and fair play to returning evacuees and veterans of Japanese ancestry."

cf. p 2.

August 1, 1945

To: L. E. Norrie, Area Executive
From: Dwight O. Welch, Associate
Subject: Progress Report

I. Status of YMCA's in Relocation Camps

A. Rivers, Arizona

1. Canal Camp: Due to close October 1, 1945. Final YMCA board meeting held to dispose of physical equipment such as cooler, books, and some furniture. Board disbanded and secretary terminated employment as of July 31. Four board members had just recently relocated with balance expecting to do so very soon. Membership cards were sent to local secretary to present to board members indicating in what capacity they served in the Rivers YMCA.

The final report on the Hi-Y Club shows a peak membership of 23 with 34 members present at three meetings in June. Most of the officers had already relocated. The final meeting was a club social. Six club members relocated during June according to the report.

The Hi-Y Club was considered one of the best - ranking with the Topaz club in quality.

2. Butte Camp: Presumably to continue on until termination date (December 31, 1945). The "Y" secretary, Yoichi Nakase, after doing a splendid job, relocated to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He is now engaged in settlement work and happily situated. His successor is Hoover Hiroto, an active member of the Butte Christian Church.

Y's Men's Club has disbanded. Two Hi-Y Clubs have disbanded leaving only two clubs for the balance of the summer months. The board and secretary recommends that the work be discontinued after September 1st due to relocation of both board and members.

Butte has promoted the largest volume of YMCA work in any of the centers. A prominent, active board, an energetic secretary, and the consistent help of "Cap" Root, former Maricopa County "Y" secretary contributed to this situation.

- B. Poston: No active YMCA work. Have received several letters from Poston youth and adults relative to the Youth Conference held there in early May. Evidently a lasting impression was made in the lives of the Poston youth.
- C. Manzanar: This center is scheduled to be closed by October 1. Last May the YMCA board was discontinued, and a sponsoring committee was formed to carry on the one boys' club then in existence. The project is discontinued as of August 1. Our key man, Aksel Nielsen, community activities director, left for work in Europe in June. The final report has not yet been submitted by the local secretary, and perhaps will not be forth-coming. The "Y" employed personnel in Manzanar left much to be desired.
- D. Topaz, Utah: A YMCA board was never fully developed in this center. Due to the efforts of one Emil Sekarak of the welfare office, an excellent Hi-Y Club was developed - probably the best. The summer has seen the conclusion of their program. The club was active in the school and community. Much credit should go to Mr. Sekarak.

NATIONAL COUNCIL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION . . SERVICES TO WEST COAST EVACUEES

WEST COAST VISITATION - LOS ANGELES; SAN FRANCISCO; JAOL CONVENTION

JANUARY 8 - MARCH 9, 1946

*by Masao Satow
Sec'y YMCA*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8th - Leave Milwaukee

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10th - Arrive Los Angeles

MONDAY, JANUARY 14th - SATURDAY JANUARY 19th - SAN FRANCISCO

Confer with:

Esther Briesemeister, National Board YWCA
Joe Masaoka, Japanese American Citizens League
Harold Wagner, Managing Director, San Francisco YMCA
Bob Simcock, Program Sec'y, San Francisco YMCA
Dave Tatsuno, Protestant Church Federation
Yas Abiko, returnee from Philadelphia; Haruo Imura
Toshi Koba, Edna Williams, Booker T. Washington Community House
Mr. Wixon, District Supervisor, U.S. Immigration & Naturalization;
Annie Clo Watson, International Institute; Joe Masaoka, Citizens League, Mari Okazaki, International Institute
Mrs. Nance, Recreation Director, Hunter's Point; Dave Tatsuno, Annie Clo Watson, Mari Okazaki, International Institute; Miss Snyder, Council of Social Work; Mr. Manning, Urban League; Joe Masaoka, Citizens League.

Visit Hunter's point FPFA Project and Booker T. Washington Community House
Attend meeting of Resettlement Committee of Council for Civic Unity.

SUNDAY JANUARY 20th - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25th - Los Angeles

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - En Route to Denver

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - MONDAY, MARCH 4 - NATIONAL CONVENTION OF JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE AT DENVER, COLORADO

TUESDAY, MARCH 5 - FRIDAY, MARCH 8 - Back to Los Angeles on personal business

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 - Arrive Milwaukee

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20th - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25th - LOS ANGELES

Confer with:

James McCandless, General Sec'y of YMCA
Leslie Eichelberger, Associate General Sec'y YMCA
John Stone, Associate Sec'y, Pacific Southwest YMCA Area Council
Larry Norrie, Sec'y, Pacific Southwest YMCA Area Council
Scotty Tsuchiya, Japanese American Citizens League
Rev. Arnold Nakajima, Presbyterian Board
Raymond Booth, Executive, Council for Civic Unity
Dwight Welch, Associate Sec'y, Pacific Southwest YMCA Area Council
Miss Atalca, War Relocation Authority
Esther Bartlett, International Institute
Price Steiding, District Supervisor, War Relocation Authority
Rev. K. Uncura, Disciples of Christ Church
Rev. Dan Gemung, All People's Christian Church
Otis Peterson, James Shelley, District Supervisors - WRA

Confer:

Dr. Emory Bogardus, Dean of Graduate School, Univ. of Southern Calif.
Dr. J.M. Yamazaki, St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Gerald Allen, Supervisor, Los Angeles Youth Project
Chas. Van Winkle, Executive, Southeast Branch YMCA
Dr. Clarence Gillette, Executive, Committee for Christian Democracy
Dr. Kingsley, Pastor, Pilgrim House
John Pixley, Associate Executive, Los Angeles Youth Project
Mas Goto, Director, Koyasan Hostel
Mrs. Purington, Program Sec'y YWCA
Mr. Louis Meillette, General Sec'y, Honolulu YMCA
Tom Rowe, Executive, North Hollywood Branch, YMCA
Al Fenn, Executive, San Leandro Branch, Oakland YMCA
Scotty Tsuchiya, Sgt. Howard Uno, G-2 (Manila)
Scotty Tsuchiya, Sgt. George Inagaki, g-2 (Adm. Nimitz Staff)
Dr. Clarence Gillette; Dr. Galen Fisher
Pfc. Tad Masaoka, 442nd veteran
Henry Chye, War Relocation Authority

Meetings:

Southwest YMCA Phalanx Breakfast
Japanese Christian Church Young People - two meetings, one with Dr., Rice, State
Sec'y for Disciples of Christ Church
Southern Section, California Council for Civic Unity
Los Angeles, YMCA Citywide staff
Southern Calif. Association of Secretaries
Los Angeles YMCA Boys Work Secretaries
Los Angeles YMCA Metropolitan Board of Directors
Los Angeles YMCA Citywide Young Men's Rally - Don Typer
Two informal meetins of evacuee workers at Evergreen Hostel
Pacific Southwest Area Council YMCA Interracial Commission
Community Relations Committee, Los Angeles Welfare Council
Los Angeles Youth Council Planning meeting
Los Angeles Youth Council Brotherhood Rally
Two meetings of people working in field of interracial and intercultural
relations, one with Dr. Edwin Embree of Chicago
Annual meeting of Pacific Southwest Area Council YMCA
Los Angeles YMCA Citywide Executives
Speak to Clipper Class, Glendale Grandview Presbyterian Church
Speak to Hamilton High School - Hi-Y Club
Informal meeting with members of Japanese American Citizens League

Informal with:

Mr. & Mrs. Ody Bohlander, Executive, West Hollywood YMCA, returned vet from Pac.
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Bramsen, returned vet from ETO, former Y Sec'y, Palo Alto, Cal.
Mr. and Mrs. Van Winkle, Southeast Y Executive; Mr. & Mrs. Van Hine, Wilshire Y
Executive; Mr. & Mrs. Hub Russell, West Los Angeles Y Executive; Mr. &
Mrs. Paul Steward, Pasadena Y Staff
Dr. & Mrs. Ishimaru, returnees from Boulder, Colo, former Y Board member
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sakemi, Indio, Cal., returnees from Milwaukee
Mr. and Mrs. Rio Kashiwagi, returnees from Milwaukee
Mr. M. Shimizu, returnee from Chicago, Issei businessman
Mr. Fred Morita, farmer, returnee from Utah, former Y leader
Mr. Henry Murayama, returnee from Davenport, Iowa
Mr. & Mrs. C. Tanaka, former Y Board member; Mrs. Kawamura (Issei)
Rev. & Mrs. Yamaka, Methodist Church Hostel
Mr. and Mrs. Kumai, Issei

Approximately fifty percent of the evacuees have returned to the west coast. in general, the people fall into three categories. First, are the business men and property owners, those who have farms or homes or businesses, or who have sufficient capital to invest in business ventures. At the other end are the helpless who for one reason or another remained in the Relocation Centers through V-J day, and who were consequently shipped back by the government to the counties from whence they had been evacuated. Many of these are living in hostels and FPFA installations with quite a number of them on relief. In and around Los Angeles this group numbers about 3500. Between these two groups is a third of those who have gone back to the coast for other reasons, friends, weather, family connections, "just to look around".

The turnover in the hostels and installations is still small due to the impossible housing situation in Los Angeles where even veterans cannot find anything. The attempt is being made to place people in domestic situations or farming where housing is available. However, for those with children, there are hardly any domestic opportunities. Some people are moving to the cheaper hotels or double or triple up with friends temporarily.

The problem of the FPFA installations comes to a head with the closing of the WRA offices on May 1st. It seems to be the intention of WRA to close up the installations and to give up this responsibility. WRA contends that some of the people could find places to move, while those on county relief should be cared for by the county. However, no provisions are made for the residue group. A high WRA official informally asked me what the kickback would be publicly following the announcement of the closing of the installations. It is quite certain that the reaction would be much worse than when the closing of the Relocation Centers was announced for the simple reason that in the case of the closing of the Centers, places were provided (under pressure) for the people to go.

I understand that Los Angeles County has been quite liberal in the matter of relief. However, the tune that county officials are playing is that prior to the war those of Japanese ancestry constituted the least of the county's problems. Now since the government has chosen to evacuate the people and resettle them, the problem must be laid on the government's doorstep as a government responsibility. Of course, no one should ask just why the federal government decided to step in and take action for evacuation.

Just who will assume responsibility for the evacuees after WRA closes is a mooted question. Several moves are in process, but to date no one organization or group of organizations has been willing to undertake the responsibility altho' they admit that someone should. Unfortunately, at this point, there are some personality clashes; some groups raise the point of responsibility for the problems fo other racial minorities. However, there is a real difference between working with those who came voluntarily to the area and who have had nothing as compared with the evacuees who had no choice but to return to the coast and who had what they owned taken away from them. There are not enough people of influence who look upon the matter as a personal responsibility in the way that friends in the east and midwestern cities have taken hold as part of their civic job. Perhaps the absence of civic pride in Los Angeles has something to do with it. At any rate, it is most unfortunate in view of the fact that the problems faced by evacuees in this area are more acute than those of the evacuees in the east and midwest. There seems to be an abundance of personal good-will toward evacuees, but this does not solve the problems of those who have no personal contacts, or the larger and more basic problems of restrictive housing, escheat cases and indemnification. Housing is impossible for everyone, but for returnees as for some of the other racial groups the field is narrowed down some forty percent by restrictive covenants.

The job situation progresses although slowly. Domestic and gardening takes the largest group. Girls seem to have a better chance of finding jobs than fellows in the field of office work. It is said that the Nisei girls who are now working in the WRA office can just about write their own ticket when WRA closes because of the demand for stenographers. For the fellows there is an especially dearth of jobs in the white collar field. On the whole, however, there are more Nisei now working for Caucasian firms than before the war, even though only one half the number are back. Good land is not available and wherever available the cost is prohibitive. Two places run by Nisei are established in the wholesale vegetable market. Most of the flower growers are back who were members of the Southern California Flower Market (all Japanese), and it is hoped to reopen the market in August. A few have gone back into the fruit stand business. Whether this line of endeavor will see as many Nisei as prewar remains to be seen. The A.F. of L. Fruit Stand Union had something like 4000 members at the outbreak of the war. One of the real handicaps for the fellows is that too many of them do not possess specialized skills.

Public opinion is as favorable as it has ever been, in fact, the Japanese have more friends now than ever before. The end of the war has been an important factor, the War Relocation Authority and friends of goodwill have done an excellent job of public relations, the story of the Nisei GI's accomplishments in the European theatre and their invaluable work in the winning of the war in the Pacific are becoming more and more appreciated. Add to these the returning of the Nisei veterans themselves as well as the return of the Caucasian veteran, both of which are important factors. Another item is the increasing awareness of the whole problem of racial minorities and what practical democratic living at home means. Incidentally, people tell us that the Japanese problem is the lesser of three evils, the large influx of Negroes and the large group of Spanish speaking Americans in the area constituting the more important problems of adjustment.

The story is told around Santa Barbara way that a Nisei was refused service at a gas station in an adjacent town. Taki Asakura, who works for WRA, went there for a checkup accompanied by a Caucasian WRA worker and found that he was cordially treated. Upon inquiring about the Nisei who was refused service, the proprietor explained that ~~several~~ several Marines were at the gas station at the same time the Nisei drove up. Desiring to make a good impression upon the Marines he told the Nisei to get out, whereupon one of the Marines told him that he did not deserve to live in America, that he belonged in Germany. The proprietor admitted that this cured him once for all.

In Los Angeles, "Little Tokio" has started up again. Japanese professional men have once again located in the First and San Pedro S_ts., area, and Japanese stores and restaurants have sprung up. I understand that the Japanese are paying atrocious prices for the leases, but this has resulted in quite a transformation of the area in the past several months. Once the Japanese take over, they clean up and paint and modernize and make their places so much more attractive than the current Negro shops. According to Dr. Kingsley of Pilgrim House, the Negroes there are amateur business men who made money in spite of the past because of the war conditions, who are not being ~~even~~ displaced by the industrious Japanese business men. Some 25 restaurants have been opened by the Japanese, but I understand some are already changing hands because there is no need for that many. They business men are anxious to make as much money as fast as possible. Apparently, many of the Issei think they are coming back to the prewar Little Tokio.

So far, there has been little friction between the Negroes and the Japanese in this area, but everyone admits that anything can happen to touch things off. The Japanese are fairly tolerant, many of the Negroes are their customers, and people comment on how well the two groups have gotten along. However, some of the Issei do not have too healthy opinions about the Negroes in general, and coming into contact with some of the poorer representatives of the Negroes does not make for better understanding and appreciation. Even the old time Negro residents made a distinction between themselves and these Negroes from the deep south. The Amelia Street Elementary School which serves the area has had to go on double shift, indicating that the child population has practically doubled. Incidentally, May Kumai, a returnee, is a regular teacher of the third grade - something unheard of before the war.

Pilgrim House has a program for the youth in the area, but except for the regular nursery school, returnees do not participate. Since Pilgrim House does not have a regular Sunday morning worship service, a worship service for the returnees has been set up recently by the Presbyterian Board under the direction of Rev. Kowta, Issei minister and Rev. Arnold Nakajima, Nisei. Just how much service this place can render to the community remains to be seen. Much of the membership of the Old Japanese Union Church came from outside of the little Tokio district. Facilities are limited for recreation. Although there is a gymnasium, it is much too small to be of any value for the older Nisei who are used to the spacious high school gyms. Although it seems that returnees are coming in every day, Little Tokio is not a residential community, and as soon as anything opens up in the residential areas, most of the returnees will move away. The public at large seems to have the mistaken idea that most of the Japanese lived in this downtown area, there as a matter of fact, only one tenth to one ~~11th~~ eighth of the Japanese lived in the First and San Pedro area. One notices many rural people back in this area.

Dr. McKibben of All Nations Foundation has Dewey Ajioka making a survey of the number of returnees living in this area as well as around the All Nations building. The youth problem is acute for those who are out of high school, for at least the high school students get some chance for normal contacts with other people. One sees many youth standing on the street late at night with nothing to do. Some of these are those who always did stand on the street corners, but one notices many younger fellows among them. There are no adequate facilities for recreation in the area, the pool halls proving to be the most popular. In this connection the emphasis upon non-segregated programs by the various agencies plus the lack of experienced leadership constitute the major problems.

Some of the agency people erroneously assume that the people who are back are the same kind of people that were in Little Tokio before the war. What has actually happened is that, by and large, the most able Nisei who were in places of leadership in community activities prior to the war have not returned. The Buddhist Young people talk in terms of their leaders coming back within the next six months. A study of the key people of the former Japanese Branch YMCA are - that is shows that out of 98 Board members, club leaders, program and camp leaders, only 17 are back for or 17% while the percentage of evacuees back is 50. The same holds true of the Japanese WCA with 16 back out of 70, or 23%. Of the 16 back in this case, eleven are members of Board with only five out of 39 club leaders back. Various social agencies have asked about trained and experienced Nisei group workers, but so far as can be determined, not a single trained Nisei group worker is back. The Rafu Shimpō (Daily News) decries the lack of organized activities for young people and urges "let's get organized", but there are not too many people able to do the organizing. Add to this fact, is that those who may have the ability are so busy trying to re-establish themselves that they cannot give the time to community concerns. In their minds also is the fact that through evacuation and relocation camp days it didn't pay for one

to "stick out his neck" for the people. Then there is also the insistence that Nisei assimilate into other groups and forget about all Nisei activities, and some of the Nisei are doing just, so that the youth in "Little Tokio" are neglected. Very few of the agencies have any kind of ongoing program in this area. Those who are best able to move out and "integrate" into other groups are precisely the ones who can do the most for the Nisei themselves. A case in point of that of a Nisei girl who was active in high school activities program at Poston. At present she is leading a girls club not one member of which is a Nisei, and explains that she doesn't want to lead a Nisei group.

The first thing one runs into when discussing program for the Nisei is this whole matter of "integrated" or "segregated" programs. People assume that the two are mutually exclusive, and if you favor one type of program, this means that you are dead against the other. A lot of good people are wasting their time arguing this point, while in the meantime nothing is done for the young people who need activities. In order to try to help clarify the matter, I have enumerated some basic principles which are fundamental everywhere and to any group. Some of them seem so simple yet they need to be set down to remind people that you are working with human beings primarily. To be sure I was on the right track, I consulted with Dr. Bogardus of the University of Southern California who has done much thinking along these lines, also spent an informational session with a group of evacuees.

Basically, we go along with the whole idea that the ideal situation toward which we work is association of people at the level of community interests which exclude any artificial separation by racial background. We most certainly pledge ourselves to this ideal, but we also recognize certain basic principles of group work which are important to program planning.

1. Our primary objective is that of helping individuals become integrated personalities. While recognizing that we depend upon group life and group activities to achieve this goal, we question those who are primarily interested in "integrating" people into something. If by "integration" we mean the mere mixing of people, then some of our zoot suit boys who frequent the beer parlors are among our better integrationists, and they do a better job than some of the church people.
2. "Integration" does not come by preaching. Nisei are sick and tired of having "intergration" preached at them. Good leadership begins with people where they are with whatever attitudes and desires, however wrong we may think them to be. This is a test, not of the Nisei, but of the leadership itself, how imaginative and resourceful can we be? Leadership here must consist of something more than "consecrated incompetence".
3. We resent some people trying to dictate to others just what groups they can join and what their associations shall be. What was the war fought about anyhow?
4. So long as racial discrimination exists in many forms, there are bound to be segregated groupings. This can only be eliminated by working toward the elimination of prejudice and discrimination.
5. Even though a person belong to one segregated group, it does not necessarily follow that his whole life is lived on a segregated pattern, although we recognize the danger of its becoming so, especially in situations on the west coast.
6. "Integration" is not achieved en masse or overnight.

7. People are in varying stages of readiness to participate in various community group activities. Some will voluntarily seek opportunities for "integration", and are so doing. At the same time, groups are in varying stages of readiness to accept other people.
8. Although many churches present opportunities to begin "integration", not all "integration" is going to take place through the churches.
9. So called "segregated" groups can, under good leadership, move toward the "integration" of its members into other groupings. It is interesting to note that in the east and midwestern cities, the "Nisei Councils" have been positive forces for better integration of Nisei into community life. Witness experiences in Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Des Moines, St. Louis, and Cincinnati.
10. People mingle and get to know and appreciate each other upon the basis of common needs, interests and experiences.
11. Efforts at "integration" must bring satisfactions to the people involved.
12. Program for youth does not begin with resolutions about what you will do, i.e., not have segregated programs or groupings; youth is interested in what you will and are doing.

A group of Nisei high school boys in West Los Angeles formed a Hi-Y Club. There are other Hi-Y Clubs (Caucasian) in the community. They then went to Hub Russell, West Los Angeles YMCA Secretary and asked if they might join the West Los Angeles YMCA Hi-Y fellowship and participate in the council activities. They were allowed to do so. Latest reports show there are now three non-Nisei members of the group, and friendships have been formed with other groups and individuals through the participation in the activities of the Council and joint meetings and athletic activities. A committee member of the West Los Angeles YMCA told Hub Russell that it was wrong to admit the Nisei as a group. According to him (a sociologist at UCLA), what should have been done was to put the names of the Nise boys in a hat, have the other clubs pick out two or three names and invite them to their club.

Although a number of Nisei are actively participating in various community programs, the majority of the Nisei are untouched. The strategy will be to challenge what trained nisei leadership there is and to develop new leadership within the community. According to reports the First Baptist Church is opening up its Teen Age Canteen on Saturday evenings for the exclusive use of the Teen ages (Nisei) The Japanese Christian Church is still in the process of trying to decide upon what basis to operate in conjunction with the All People's Christian Church. St. Mary's Episcopal Church has reopened upon the same basis as prewar. According to the latest figures some 21 Issei and Nisei ministers are back in Los Angeles area. It is highly important that national church bodies and organizations determine the nature of their local work on the west coast against the total background of what has happened to the evacuees, the lack of any stability in community life, the absence of any organizations whatever.

The Koyosan Temple (Buddhist) is working on an interesting situation. It seems that a number of Caucasian people are interested in the Temple. A Rev. Latimer is going to be preaching there in English to draw these Caucasian people. Altogether they admit that this move is for more financial support, still this is a good move toward an interracial church.

At the Annual meeting of the Pacific Southwest Area Council YMCA, Galen Fisher gave a report on the YMCA Area's Work with evacuees and the current situation. The Chairman of the meeting gave him permission to expand the report, and Mr. Fisher told of the problems of the returning evacuees and how the treatment accorded them had a direct bearing upon international relations. After, Galen Fisher was presented with the 1945 Pioneer Preeminent medal as the outstanding layman in the Area.

There are three Nisei girls working the Los Angeles office of the Area Council. The Downtown Branch has four Nisei girls working and James Matsubara teaching Judo two nights a week. Ted Meier of the Torrance District of the Los Angeles Y has been going to the Lomita Air Strip housing project once a week to meet with a group of evacuee fellows in a club program. The Nisei Baptist Church Team was playing in the church league of the East Los Angeles YMCA.

SAN FRANCISCO Quite a large number of evacuees have returned and appear to be returning to the same Fillmore area which they once left. Businesses are starting up again, but not to the extent one sees in Little Tokio of Los Angeles. A number of the people who formerly lived in San Francisco are now living in Berkeley.

The Fillmore area represents an area of possible tension since it was occupied by immigrant Negroes when the Japanese were evacuated. Having been there for three years has brought a feeling of belonging and ownership. A number of people close to the situation are disturbed because the Issei are returning to this area with the thought of carrying on exactly as pre-war. The relationship to the Negroes may be affected by the Japanese asking for the return of their properties such as Kimon Gakuen (now the Booker T. Washington Community House), the YMCA (now used as the Negro USO) and the YWCA (now occupied by the Northern California Service Committee).

The ~~the~~ Salvation Army has taken an arbitrary attitude toward the building built by the Japanese, to the effect that it is a community building and should be used for the good of the community, although most of the money was raised by the Japanese. One can detect a feeling of resentment against the Salvation Army on the part of the Japanese for having made this decision without consulting them.

The Booker T. Washington Community House is supported in part by the Community Chest and pays \$100.00 per month rent to the Japanese. The Program Staff has just added a Caucasian worker and also a Nisei, Toshi Koba, formerly of the San Francisco Japanese YWCA. They are hoping to work out an intercultural program which will serve the whole community. The hitch is that the Japanese want back their building (Kimon Gakuen) as a place for the Issei to gather and to serve as headquarters for the Japanese American Citizens League. It is hoped that some kind of a compromise situation will be worked out unless similar headquarters can be found for the Booker T. Washington House in the neighborhood. It would be tragic to abandon the work of Booker T. Washington.

The YMCA represents a pretty serious problem. Although the legal title rests with the Metropolitan Board, there is a feeling of moral obligation to the Japanese. At the present the building is being used as the Negro USO and the lease is for the duration and six months. Quite a program has been developed by the Negro USO. Already some of the Japanese are asking, "When will we get our building back?" Will there be enough returnees to support the building as well as use it to best advantage. Provision must be made for Negro participation lest the Japanese be accused of doing what they have accused other

branches of the Y, i.e. practice discrimination. There is some talk of the possibility of using the building as a joint YMCA-YWCA operation. Back of the problem is the fact that the Japanese YMCA building took over twenty years to build and certain sentimental attachments. It seems that the older Nisei are more aware of the new implications of the situation than the Issei. It is unfortunate that the situation is a bi-racial one where the Negroes for the most part do not match the Japanese incultural background and education.

The YMCA churches are getting back on a prewar basis. The Methodist Church draws from some of the Nisei who have been going to the Fellowship (Interracial Church). On Sunday after the morning service they feature a 20¢ luncheon which appeals to the Nisei working as domestics who have to eat out on Sunday anyhow. The Buddhist church attracts a large number of young people.

The YWCA building is being used by the Friends Service Committee. The feeling seems to be quite different about this situation because of the tremendous amount of work done by the Friends in behalf of the evacuees, so one hears little talk about getting back the YWCA building.

The situation calls for the best planning and good leadership. Esther Briesemeister says that some of the Nisei remark, "Wait until our leaders come back", but she raises the question "how do you know your leaders are coming back"? Many of the abler Nisei are not back to a situation where they can best help, but are already "integrated" in communities in the east and midwest.

Hunter's Point Housing Project is luxury compared to the installations in and around Los Angeles. Furniture is provided and it is only six miles from the former Japanese district. There are some problems of bi-racial nature centering around the recreation program. Both the Negroes and the Japanese who live there feel a sense of temporariness and feel that they may be living elsewhere within a month or so. Because the evacuees were the last group to come in, there is not sufficient room in the neighborhood school for the evacuee children, so they go by bus to another school in another district, hence do not mingle normally with the other children at school, feel even more segregated. The staff of the recreation division is composed of Mrs. Nance, a Negro, and Mr. Kim, a Korean. Apparently the staff itself is not sure of its policy, for Mr. Kim has identified himself with the evacuees and has even had some programs for them alone where the Negroes have not been invited. The FFHA has a regulation that no private agencies shall use their facilities, thereby excluding the private agencies, some of whom have offered to help on the recreation.

The Central Branch of the YMCA is anxious to pull evacuees into its program. Incidentally, Negroes are no longer barred from participation in the Central Branch activities. Two Nisei girls are working in the offices of the Central Y - real progress considering the official attitude of the Metropolitan Board a year ago.

AMERICA'S NEW CROP OF TUMBLE-WEED

--by Harry L. Kingman
General Secretary
University YMCA, Berkeley, California

Uprooted from their Pacific Coast homes and vocations more than 70,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry are now, like "tumbling tumble-weeds", being swirled hither and yon by every wind that blows. One of our most valuable racial minorities, composed in large part of capable, law-abiding, hard-working, self-respecting and loyal Americans, is in the process of being warped into another dependent and costly ward of the government.

The University Y.M.C.A. has been one of the organizations which has felt unusual concern for these people. Thousands of them are former students of this University. Some of them have been valuable and popular members of the Stiles Hall fellowship. We know individuals who are well assimilated into American life and to whose loyalty to this nation we can testify.

Since both loyal and disloyal persons were congregated indiscriminately in the relocation centers unfortunate incidents have inevitably occurred. It is no wonder that morale has ebbed low at times. It may be that enlistments in the Army will prove disappointingly few in some of the centers. The best-informed authorities apparently hold, however, despite all this, that the great majority of the evacuees are loyal to this country. The devotion of most of them to the United States in the face of the rebuffs and discouragements that have been theirs is, in fact, inspiring.

Our traditional support at Stiles Hall of democratic freedoms makes it natural that we should be keenly disturbed over the unprecedented withdrawal of citizenship rights from Americans merely because they happened to have been born with Japanese faces. I wonder whether those who are agitating in behalf of the various anti-Japanese legislative measures in Sacramento and Washington would feel any different if they, too, had happened to be born Japanese-Americans. I imagine they would feel, under those circumstances, that racial discrimination is an evil thing.

The fact that the Japanese government has, in the past, claimed citizenship rights even over the Nisei is no more to be held against these people indiscriminately than is Hitler's claim upon the Americans of German ancestry. Someday, we "of the land of the free and the home of the brave" are likely to look back shamefacedly at an episode, born of our unjustified fears, wherein a little group of Americans, a quarter of them children (half of them under 21 years of age) were deprived of their freedom on the sole basis of their racial appearance. Famous Police Chief August Vollmer told me the other day that he thoroughly disapproved of the way in which we had treated our Japanese Americans.

As the war against Japan accelerates and becomes more and more sanguinary, public antagonism to those of Japanese appearance is likely to increase. The practice of punishing our citizens of Japanese ancestry not for their own misdeeds but for the crimes of the Japanese government and military caste will probably be all too common. Fortunately there will be many who will stand firm against action so manifestly un-American and unsportsmanlike. In the long run, I believe that we will do the square thing, even, eventually, making governmental financial restitution for property losses which our Government's evacuation orders made inevitable.

The "Y's" have done what they could to mitigate some of the mental sufferings of the evacuees--the Army's commendable attempt to handle the exodus with all possible humaneness kept physical hardships at a minimum. We have helped in the relocating of students in mid-western colleges; some of the needed books and recreational equipment have been supplied; the attempt is being made to ward off discriminatory legislation; by correspondence we have sought to keep these dispossessed folks from feeling that they are entirely forgotten and abandoned.

That these Japanese Americans possess qualities that our nation needs is re-emphasized by the way some of them are meeting the blows that have struck them. Herewith are two rather moving examples:

SERGEANT YORI WADA OF CAMP ROBINSON, ARKANSAS, FORMER MEMBER OF THE STILES STUDENT CABINET, WROTE THE FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS EDITORIAL IN HIS CAMP PUBLICATION:

HER AMERICA, HIS AMERICA, YOUR AMERICA.....

She stepped onto American soil at the time of the tragic San Francisco fire. Desolation stretched everywhere and the smouldering ruins were a pathetic welcome to this woman who had left her native land across the Pacific.... left that island country in search of a life of freedom. Not a life of freedom from strife, toil, sweat and tears, but a fuller life of freedom of conscience, freedom of expression, the great freedom of ideals planted and nourished by Washington, Jefferson, Paine, Lincoln, and scores of Americans big and small.

This was America with her stretching plains and towering mountains....this was America with her fertile valleys and smoking chimneys....this was America with her fruited orchards and giant skyscrapers. Yes, this was America, and her alien, foreign hands stretched out humbly and thankfully for a newer, better way of living.

No, she didn't leave hard work and tears and grief behind....she knew them here too as she struck out into the land as bravely as any Pilgrim woman... as staunchly as any pioneer woman crossing the country westward. Memories of that homeland across the ocean grew fainter, but she forgot them not... how could she when it was the land of her birth and growing up. But in America, folks look to the horizon ahead, and she was in America.

She found her nook in a town in the San Joaquin valley...America...she liked it here and set out to do what every first generation foreigner sets out to do: make a place for their sons and daughters despite prejudice and discrimination. Yes, every family in America has had someone such as she.

All this was HER AMERICA.

Later the children came and with them a more inspiring outlook in America. As her sons and daughters grew up, they went to school...to American schools where they learned of the men with their institutions who contributed unstintingly to this country. They also came to know and to like the many people, young and old, who shared this American life with them.

These Americans of foreign ancestry, her own, had their roots in this rich soil...it was theirs to hold and to love...it was theirs to add their share for life in a democracy also entails responsibility. Carefully, conscientiously this alien Mother turned their sights to America above all. Odd that this foreign woman from across the sea should take such pains that her children should grow up as true Americans. But among the peoples of many nationalities in these United States, this has always been the great, unwritten creed.

Her son grew up in the American community. He liked it here...the peoples, the land, the many institutions. Not only did he learn from books, but from his experiences in daily living. But the way was not easy for he learned early that the son of a foreign Mother faces prejudice and hardships. But he understood, too, of the many opportunities in this country. Deep inside, he felt that a liberal, open-minded America was pulling for him. For inscribed 'neath the hardy, symbolic Statue of Liberty was this inspiring message:

"GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR,
YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE.
THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORES
SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, THE TEMPEST-TOST TO ME,
I HOLD MY LAMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR."

College beckoned and he followed. Four years at the campus near "the rugged eastern foothills" made him aware more than ever of his place in this American democracy. He pitched in with youthful zest in pursuit of the human affairs of peoples of this broad continent...the dictates of his conscience.

Names which are more than mere names take him back poignantly..to days when he sought to find out what made this country click...Harry Kingman and Stiles Hall...Jim Fowle and Asilomar...Barrington Hall and Jack Perlee...the Daily Cal and Charlie Rosenthal and Charles Bell...Bob Stone and Don Eichner... Tom Yamashita...Bob Speed...Sherman March and Red Hill and Charles Fender... all these made him realize that there was something essentially vital and alive in his America of factories, orchards, grain fields, hospitals, churches, cities, dairies, radio, subways, and self-government.

Graduation did not bring the kind of job he wanted...no employer was willing to risk profits for liberalism. Despondent, he turned homeward...and here his foreign Mother stood by...stood staunchly by to support his failing faith in a just and equal America.

All this was HIS AMERICA

Came Selective Service and greetings from the President of the United States. "Chosen by his friends and neighbors", he changed from civvies to the uniform of an American soldier. Fast passing days of drill, storm and heat of bivouac, paydays. He sorta fitted here and he met farmers, city fellas, collegians, cowboys, mailmen, professors, ditch-diggers. It didn't make any difference whether their names were Brabianowski, Schultz, Yasukochi, Suaste, Pietz, Juliano, Howe, Wagoner, Necker, Luksemburg, Kohler, Bryan, Frydenlund, Bales, or Novac. You're in the Army, an American soldier, and a part of America.

Then on December 7, 1941...Pearl Harbor treachery...war. For him there was but one allegiance, but one loyalty. From his worried, alien Mother came a heart-warming letter: "For your America, do not hesitate to give your life." He tried hard to calm the whirling kaleidoscope. For him, for his Mother, "this is worth fighting for" was not trite. They wanted desperately to belong with the United Nations. And to him, it was gratifying that many fellow soldiers welcomed him. For isn't Americanism one of faith in justice, belief in tolerance, and courage to strive for them---it has no bounds of nationality and color.

No place to call home as the family is moved to a relocation camp...pride and humility as he hears "The Star Spangled Banner" at Retreat...the lonely thoughts of a soldier as he listens to Taps...fiercely anxious to help as he hears and reads of the exploits of Yanks on many fronts...thinking of this America...of Joe's farm...or Bob's garage...of Dick's home in Chicago...of Ed's wife and home...of Fred's vegetable gardens..of Gil's death on Bataan.

The American soldiers of an alien Mother...will you deny them the privilege and right to fight for YOUR AMERICA?

NOTE: When the Secretary of War announced on January 28, 1943, that Japanese-Americans would be enlisted in a combat unit at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Sgt. Wada immediately applied for a transfer from his hospital job at Camp Robinson to the new unit.

FROM THE RELOCATION CENTER AT MINIDOKA, IDAHO, COMES THIS LETTER FROM A CAL ALUMNUS OF 1933. (A generous contribution to the Y's 1943 Finance campaign was enclosed without comment.)

"Thank you for your letter. It was a real treat to hear how every one of the Y boys are doing their part. I am under the medical department here and I am working everyday as an optometrist. It keeps me busy and I have made a number of new friends that I never dreamed of meeting. Minidoka is not bad and all of our family are in good health. We are thankful...

"I am glad to know that I have so many friends on the coast. This evacuation has made me realize how insignificant one can be and at the same time how important it is to keep a level head and look at the whole over-all picture. I am thankful that this is America.

"Idaho is beginning to have a beauty in itself that I will never forget.

"The golden bright orange sunset over snow covered sagebrush, the clear blue sky, the crisp clean air, the stillness, the quiet and vastness make one lonely and yet there comes over one a feeling that he is not alone. I feel that there is someOne to watch over all of us no matter where we are. His presence gives one comfort and hope that is so welcome.

"Even if it is for only this thing I am glad that I came out to Idaho. You may have known for a long time that I was a member of the Buddhist Church. Our Ancestors for the last 655 years have been Buddhist, and our home in Japan has a Buddhist Temple on its grounds. My forefathers have been either priests or scholars.

"During my childhood I went to the Methodist Church in Oakland and learned to read and I did read the Bible through twice when I was only thirteen. Our parents built a Buddhist Church in Oakland in 1927 and at that time my father made me go to the new Buddhist Church. Buddhism is a fine religion and I cannot help but agree with a number of its principles. I cannot find any fault with my father's life as a Buddhist. I refused to be baptised as a Buddhist when the Chief Abbot was in America a few years ago. But I am still what one would call a believer of Buddhism.

"Out here when I am alone I cannot help but think and realize all of the fine things that friends like you have done for me. I have begun to wonder what there is that guides your beliefs and actions. My first contact in a close way was with the YMCA at Stiles Hall. I can only say that they were the finest fellows that I have ever met. Then before, during and after the evacuation...you Christians stepped to the front and took a lead and gave a helping hand --all that I will never forget. I have started to wonder of God and other things. I am reading the Bible again and I hope to convince myself that Christianity is something greater than my present concepts. I feel that there is a motivating power in life and someOne is always there. I do not know whether I can call Him ...God. It will take more time and deeper thought for me to find myself. I am glad I am started and maybe it took these so called adverse circumstances to put me on the right track.

"Minidoka is not bad and no matter how bad it becomes I am not going to complain, for my bitterness is over and I am glad there is an added 'richness' in everything.

"Life is coming to come to a more definite road for me within a couple of months. The Army...though I have not yet signed the volunteer papers I have reserved the right to join when I desire. My father urges me to go. He is in favor of my joining the army. The only thing that is stopping me from joining now is the answer from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine. My father and I agree that it is important that I do the best thing to serve the United States in what ever work I can do the most good. The lack of M.D.'s and the need of them in the army, the fact that I may be able to go this summer direct to medical school, and since I have been striving for this goal for the last ten years I feel that it is only wise to wait for a few months to see if I can get into the Buffalo medical college in Buffalo, N.Y.

"I am doing everything to get admitted--starting to sell my home--trying to get a quick loan, etc. If the door of the University is closed to me, I will never be bitter...I know I'll go out and pitch in with the combat unit and add my bit to get this mess over in a hurry. When it is all over I may be able to go back to California and enter a dream school of medicine...

"There is not much more to say. In about three months I will be able to tell you what happened and where I am. Till the next letter-- "

Sincerely,

GEORGE