

PSEUDONYMS FOR  
CASE HISTORIES  
(Chicago)

200-399

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Real Name

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Phone

Remarks.

Document No.

Real Name

Uyeda, Bill

CH - 301

"Paul Uyeno"

6160 Stony Island, Chicago, Ill.

CH-301

UYEDA, BILL



*Hiyamoto*

Michi and I walked into a restaurant on 63rd and saw Paul sitting with an older Nisei at a booth. We had known Paul in Tule Lake, and he seemed as glad to see us as we were to see him. He introduced us to his companion, and invited us to join them since they were just starting their dinner too.

Paul declared that he knew we had left T. L., only a week or two before he had, but didn't know where in Chicago we were. He himself left Tule Lake on April 13, 1943 on the same day that quite a contingent, of some twenty resettlers, left on the same bus. He had been waiting at Tule Lake for some time hoping that he might get into some school through Student Relocation, but since nothing developed along that line, the Ritters advised him to get out, work for a while, and then get into some school from out here. School wouldn't be starting for the summer session for a while anyway, they told him, and he might as well work in the meantime and save some money. On the strength of this suggestion, he had made reservations on the train early in March trusting to luck that his travel permit would arrive in time to permit his leave. The permit did arrive and he came out without a job but with a place to stay at the Bretheren's hostel.

(The urge to relocate must have become very strong in Paul during the registration difficulty for I recall that at one stage he was the only one in his block who favored registration, and he walked around expecting to get beaten up at any moment for his view. At the time he expressed a longing to get away from the center.)

Paul's stay at the Bretheren's Hostel, the contact for which had been made by the Ritters, didn't last for long. He walked into the Friend's Service office one afternoon shortly after his arrival to inquire about housing. "I spoke to Muriel Ferguson and she said a telephone call had come in only ten minutes earlier stating that there was an opening at 6260 Stony Island." Mrs. Jones, the landlady who put in the call, is apparently a Quaker herself and she was apparently trying to help in the general cause of her group. He immediately jumped at the chance, and after meeting Mrs. Jones, decided to move in. Both Paul and his friend spoke very highly of Mrs. Jones's kindness and of her effort to help the two fellows who have been rooming together.

At present he is working as an accountant (Paul didn't give any clear indication of what his job is, and only declared that his position was one of "accounting") somewhere in the Hyde Park district. However, he intends to ~~school~~ start school very soon but presumably he intends to maintain his job for the present.

Paul's main field of interest is pre-medica, and from his somewhat confusing statement of his own goals, he intends to pursue this aim later. However, the University of Washington, where he had formerly attended school, had included a lot of engineering credits which he had earned in the transcript which they sent out,



On the basis of this transcript he was able to get into the Illinois Institute of Technology, quite a good school in engineering, as Paul remarked. He also seemed impressed by the fact that Hayakawa, the author of "Language in Action", is at the Institute as head of the English department. He was not clear as to what he intended to do with his engineering training, but his ultimate purpose seems to be to get into pre-medics. He inquired what I thought of the University of Chicago so I encouraged him to attend that university if he ever got a chance.

Since coming out to the Middle West, his first visit this side of the Rockies, he has visited Duluth and Milwaukee as well as some of the other cities of this region. He gave no indication of the purpose of these visits. His main interest socially is in church work, and he regularly attends the Woodlawn Baptist Church, a local group where no other Japanese attends. On one Sunday a Nisei couple came to the church, approached the doors rather timidly, and entered only at the very cordial invitation of the church members. But this couple, according to Paul, has never returned to the church. Paul and his friend kept discussing with each other whether the other would accompany the other to church for the mid-week meeting or not; and it seemed quite apparent that Paul was the more active member of the two.

It was quite evident that Paul feels himself definitely Americanized, and enjoys the Caucasian contacts he has. In fact, it seemed true to say that he wanted to identify himself with Caucasians rather than with the Nisei. In talking about his former home in the Northwest, he said, "Oh, Renton is a real place to live. It's the best little town in Washington. I lived in a Caucasian district, right down by the lake." And he said it emphasizing the fact that he had been brought up outside the Japanese community.

Throughout the conversation, there was much teasing on the friend's part of Paul's numerous girl friends. "It's about time you married and settled down instead of playing around," the friend would say meaningfully. The latter is married and is looking for an apartment so that he may bring out his wife and boy.

Analysis: An outstanding point of interest in this brief account of Paul's activities here since arriving in this city is the amount of Caucasian contacts he has established in a short time. This raises the question, "How does a resettling Nisei go about establishing contacts among Caucasians? What is the pattern?" There is the further question, "What are the personality traits that enables Paul to make these contacts which contrasts him with the isolated Nisei?" Regarding the first point, it is of interest that most of his initial contacts are with church people. It seems that the Christians are the most willing to accept the evacuee, and whatever influence the church may have on the religious beliefs of the individual, anyone who seeks such contacts is in a position to enter the circle of Caucasian society which may otherwise be



closed to him. The hypothesis is: The resettler enters the American society at the point of least resistance, and the Christian Church is one of the points of very least resistance. It should further be noted that Paul's contacts with Caucasians did not begin with his arrival at Chicago, but started back in the relocation center and before that. To describe only that part of the history that is known, Paul met the Ritters among other Caucasians at the Tule Lake Center, they directed him to the Hostels, through the Friends Service office he met Muriel Ferguson and through her, Mrs. Jones, his landlady, Mrs. Jones, who is a very religious person, may have directed him to the Baptist Church, but in any case, these initial contacts are blossoming forth into further contacts.

One notes an aggressive quality in Paul's personality, not an obnoxiously aggressive quality, but one that keeps him socially active and seeking. It may be that he has met some rebuffs due to prejudice, but the dominant characteristic of his life at present is one of pleasant contacts with many Caucasians. However, it is quite apparent that he has not lost touch with the Nisei either, for now and then he mentioned the Nisei groups he had been with since coming here.

CH-302

TAKEMOTO, ARTHUR

Takemoto, Arthur

CH - 302

"Harry Tominaga"

6160 Stony Island, Chicago, Ill.

Remarks:



Michi and I went to Karman's for supper this evening and ran into Harry who was with Paul (CH-301). We had never met Harry before, but we did know Paul, and ~~the~~ latter introduced him to us. In the course of conversation Harry told us something about himself.

Harry has the appearance of a man of about forty, and for a moment I thought he must be a younger Issei of the professional class. He is about five feet seven inches in height, with a good figure, a rather professional looking face with his mustache and slightly greyish and thinning hair. As soon as he began to talk, however, I knew that he must be an older Nisei, and his voice and speech gave me the impression that he was younger than he looked. At least what he had to say was less impressive than his appearance; there was neither the confidence nor the distinction I expected in view of his features and dress. However, he struck me as being a very pleasant fellow.

"I was down at Poston," he replied upon my inquiry. "I'm rooming with Paul here right now while I hunt for an apartment. I'm trying to find something big enough for my wife and kid, but it's pretty hard to find anything. They're still in Poston, but I want to bring them out as soon as possible. Every spare moment I have, I spend looking for an apartment, but it's almost impossible to find anything. Even Mrs. Jones, who runs our apartment, has been looking around for me. She goes out twice a week during the afternoons looking around for me, but we haven't found anything yet. Both she and her husband are very kind people; they're church members and they take their religion very seriously. They're really quite wonderful."

"I'm working up on 67th and Stony Island. It's pretty close to where I'm living now. But I've thought that I'd look elsewhere in the city for a house or an apartment if I can't find anything here, and I'll even give up my present job for one that pays less if I can find some place to bring my wife and boy. Housing is the main problem here; I'm sure I could get a job even if I were to quit the one I've got now, but it's pretty hard to find a decent place to live. I've got a place back in Los Angeles where I lived that would beat almost any home around here, and I'm renting the place dirt cheap. It's near the Douglas Aircraft Co. and rents are pretty high out there now. I wouldn't exchange my home in Los Angeles for some of the better places around here."

The conversation somehow turned to the conditions in Detroit. Harry remarked, "Oh, I wouldn't go up there. We talk about the difficult housing conditions here, but this place is nothing compared to the problems up in Detroit. You can't even find a house in Detroit, while at least there are some vacancies here in Chicago." He said all this so convincingly that I thought he must have been in Detroit and inquired about it. "No, I've never been in Detroit," He replied, "but one of my friends writes to me of the conditions up there." I was a little surprised to observe with what assurance this fellow passed on second hand information.



7/29/43

CH-302 is temporarily unemployed . He has applied for a personnel security questionnaire through the War Relocation Authority. His explanation of his unemployment: "The work we were doing ended. I'll get back there agin as soon as there is a need; but in the meantime I'm looking for something temporary. I don't want any hard factory job. It's back breaking and I'm not used to it." A few minutes later, however, he said: "I could go back to work tomorrow if I had my joint board clearance." He was not exactly clear about his status.

CH-302 has satisfactorily solved his housing problem. He has brought his wife and two children from Poston, and they are now all comfortably settled in a new house in the Bridgeport Housing Project, a war workers federal housing project. His address is 3161 S. Lituanica. He applied for and secured these quarters through the company where he was formerly employed.

He describes the house: "We have two bedrooms, a large living room, a nice kitchen with electric refrigerator and stove, bath room, good yard. A block away there is a public swimming pool. The school is also very close, and am I glad. You know, when a man has two children the age of my son, who is 10, and my daughter who is 5, he gets pretty worried about school. Now they're making friends with all the neighbors childrens and getting along okay. When school starts they'll be all set. I think I'm pretty lucky getting into the project. One of my neighbors said he spent a year trying to get in and another one said he tried for six months. I got in after a couple of weeks. I pay \$36 a month rent. This includes the utilities."

--interview by Tamaka