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67/14

Santa Barbara

News-Press

4/29/45 - B-4

Ota Family Returns To Carpinteria Home

CARPINTERIA, April 28—Mr. and Mrs. K. Ota, their two sons, Kenji, 30, and Minoru 18, and their married daughter Miyeko Ota Fukasawa and her son, Johnny Jr., have returned to their home on Bates Road south of Carpinteria. Miyeko's husband is in service overseas, now in Italy.

The Otas have been at Gila Relocation Center at Rivers, Ariz., and are very glad to get back to their own ranch. The family has lived in Carpinteria Valley for 22 years, all the children attending the local schools.

The other children of the family left the Relocation Center earlier and are located as follows: Tom Ota, 31, is working in Chicago; Sumiye Ota Fukasawa is a high school teacher in Elkport, Ia., and her husband is fighting in Germany; Kawuye Ota Yoshimura and her husband are in Des Moines, Ia.; Hanaye Ota is attending Drake University at Des Moines, and Masaye Ota has just graduated from Drake University and is now looking for a teacher's job in Larchmont, N. Y.

OTAS RETURN TO CARPINTERIA RANCH

Gila River has news of the relocation of Mr. and Mrs. K. Ota, who have returned to their Carpinteria Valley Ranch near Santa Barbara, California, where they lived for 22 years.

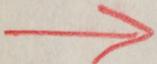
Their two sons, Kenji, 30, and Minoru, 18, and their married daughter Miyeko Ota Fukasawa and her son Johnny Jr., came with them. Miyeko's husband is with the U. S. Army in Italy.

All the children ~~are attending~~ ^{attended} ~~Carpinteria schools~~ local schools. The Carpinteria Valley is a rolling slope between the Santa Ynez mountains and the Pacific, green with lemon trees. Lemons are picked the year around and marketed through two packing houses in Carpinteria, which is 12 miles south of Santa Barbara on the highway to Los Angeles along the coast. Carpinteria boasts of "the world's safest beach", and its Union High School is considered one of the best in California.

The other children of the Ota family left the Relocation Center at Rivers earlier. Tom Ota, 31, is working in Chicago. Sumiye Ota Fukasaw is a high school teacher in Elkport, Iowa, and her husband is fighting in Germany. Kawuye Ota Yoshimura and her husband are in Des Moines, Iowa. Hanaye Ota is attending Drake University at Des Moines, and Masaye Ota has just graduated from Drake and is seeking a teacher's job at Lardmont, NY. The address of Mr. and Mrs. K. Ota is Bates Road, Carpinteria, Calif.

file

May 5 1945



(Please send carbon copy to Rev. John M. Yamazaki,
c/o Rev. G. L. Pratt, 960 S. Normandie Ave., L. A. 6.)

Note: Dr. Yamazaki read this over, made a few additions in pencil, and says the article is 100%, ~~xxx~~ quoting him exactly. He likes it -- says it is just what he wanted to put before the people in the centres.

HLW

REV. JOHN M. YAMAZAKI TOURS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,
FINDS FRIENDLY RECEPTION EVERYWHERE
FOR RELOCATEES

~~"No trouble at all in Southern California."~~

So says
/Rev. John M. Yamazaki, S.T.D., Minister, Episcopal Church, former rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Los Angeles, and now visiting many cities in Southern California under the auspices of the National Council of the Episcopal Church.

Dr. Yamazaki's trip is a personal inspection of conditions, ~~especially~~ based on intimate talks with those evacuees who have already ~~xxx~~ returned. He is not connected with any government agency but is financed by the Church's "United Ministry to Resettlers".

"I have ~~visited~~ been in ~~xxx~~ eleven cities of Southern California at this writing, May 5," Dr. Yamazaki ~~revealed~~, reveals, "including two so-called 'hot-spots', Buena Park and Montebello. Not once did I find any indication whatever of hostility or even unfriendliness toward returning people of Japanese descent, either Issei or Nisei, with one single exception.

(more)

*RED PENCIL CHANGES
NOT MADE BY DR. YAMAZAKI.*

"That one exception was in Monrovia, where a store window of Mr. Shinoda's florist shop was broken at night. Nothing was stolen. Apparently some youth ~~throughxxxxxxx~~ threw ~~xxxx~~ a rock when no one was looking. No harm was done as Mr. Shinoda carried insurance. ~~Nothing more happened there or anywhere else.~~

The cities visited so far by Dr. Yamazaki are Riverside, Azusa, Monrovia, Santa Ana, Buena Park, Talbert, Whittier, Montebello, West Los Angeles, Pasadena and Los Angeles.

He left Chicago on April 22 and will return after completing his tour,

entering San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Sacramento, Portland, Seattle, Spokane, Minneapolis, before he goes back to Chicago.

"This was my first trip ~~back~~ to the coast since I left in 1942," he says. "I had faith in the American people and expected no difficulties. And there were none."

"No one pays any attention to us any more than to ~~xy~~ anyone of any other race. ~~xxxxxxx~~ There is some whispering here and there, of course, as to what might happen if we came back en masse, say fifty people all at once. Then people would notice, ~~if~~ naturally, if a large group of Japanese-Americans stepped off the train and walked around town like a parade. But as individuals or single families, I have found we are simply not noticed, except by those who know us personally, and nearly always they go out of their way to give us a friendly welcome.

(more)

Dr Yamazaki

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"There is no occasion for anyone now in the centers to feel hesitant or nervous. All the talk/you may have heard/about what might happen is just so much talk. When I try to run it down and find out who feels that way, it's always 'the other fellow'.

"Why, I and a WRA man even went into a restaurant in Buena Park where a 'No Japs Wanted' sign was displayed. The waiter was cordial and we had a fine luncheon. It turned out that ~~xxxxxGardena~~ calling itself the "Emergency Committee" a Gardena association/~~of xxxxxxxxxx~~ came to Buena Park and asked that the ~~sign~~ card be put in the window, and the proprietor put it up like he might any ~~xxxxx~~ other card such as a notice of a dance. ~~(But he wasn't interested in the "No Japs" idea at all and paid no attention to it.)~~

"We interviewed quite anumber of Caucasians ~~working for~~ neighbors of /Japanese farmers, and they were all very friendly. Of course they almost all say it is better to 'come later -- about the end of the year'. They all think the other fellow might make trouble -- but we could never find 'the other fellow'."

Dr. Yamazaki relates that when he came back to his own church, St. Mary's Episcopal in Los Angeles, on Sunday, April 29th, "there were two Filipino families worshipping along with the Caucasians -- the church has a Caucasian rector now -- and four or five Japanese-Americans. A Filipino usher was very

(more)

Dr Yamazaki

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cordial and ~~gixi~~ said he was glad we were back. The rector too greeted us in the friendliest fashion. Three Filipino children who used to come to my church were still there.

9" After the service I went out and visited two Japanese families on ~~Normandie~~ Normandie Avenue in Los Angeles, Mr. and Mrs. S. Ishikawa, I found, were doing nicely; Mr. Ishikawa was formerly a ~~xxxx~~ druggist. After coming from their home I saw someone waving a hand from inside a window, and I noticed it was a Japanese lady. So I approached the house and found her to be the wife of a Filipino whom I had occasion to help out while I was at Santa Anita during the early evacuation ~~xxx~~ days.

"Her Filipino husband used to come to visit her at Santa Anita Assembly Center, but when we had to go to relocation centers, her name was among those ~~xxxxxxx~~ listed for Arkansas. It was impossible for him to see her as he could not make the long trip to that state. So she ^{had} asked me to help her to be nearer to Los Angeles. It was hard to get this done, but finally I got permission from the Army to permit her to transfer to Gila River, Arizona; her husband was very happy about it. I found him at the house and he thanked me deeply."

Mr. and Mrs. H. Hirota of Riverside was among the families visited by Dr. Yamazaki. "I found her brother, ^{MASATATSU YONEMURA,} who has been

graduate of wife, Berkeley.

(more)

Dr Yamazaki

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serving under General MacArthur in the Pacific for ~~xxxxx~~ two years, has ~~xxx~~ just been commissioned a 2d Lieutenant. Her sister's husband was reported killed in action three weeks ago in Italy with the 100th ~~(Pax)~~ ("Purple Heart") Battalion."

The Rev. Yamazaki ~~xi~~ says that before the ~~xxx~~/there WRA opened its office there early in 1943, were less than 300 people of Japanese descent in Chicago, and now there are more than 8,000. "They have settled there because they find plenty of jobs and better pay, and so far they have managed to find apartments and ~~xxxxx~~ houses ~~xxx~~ despite the housing shortage. Of course there is a shortage of living accommodations everywhere, ~~xxx~~ ^{but} and it's no ~~xxx~~ worse in Chicago than elsewhere. We want more to come to Chicago and the east. We know they will find a place to live somehow, within two or three days after they arrive; and they will be taken care of temporarily until they do. They ~~xxxx~~ will be ~~assisted~~ ~~by~~ helped by their ~~friends~~ friends and organizations. Every one of the 8,000 there had to ~~xxx~~ hunt at first, but they all ~~xi~~ got settled in a reasonable ~~xxx~~ time. There is no hostel in Chicago now, as it was closed when it was found that most of those coming already had a place to stay temporarily, with relatives ^{or} ~~xxx~~/friends. But ~~xi~~ to take care of families that will come now we would ~~xi~~ like to have a hostel opened ~~now~~ again."

(more)

Dr Yamazaki

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One of the cities visited, Montebello, supposed ~~to~~ to be "difficult", was the home of Mr. M. Uyemats^u, and Dr. Yamazaki called on ^{his son, Francis} him as he did on all Japanese ~~in every city~~ of which he had knowledge in every city he visited. "I found ~~Mr. Uyematsu~~ ^{Francis} operating his Star Nursery in full swing," he says.

"Then in Azusa I met Mr. G. Nakada, who ~~was~~ operates ~~his~~ his own small farm there. Mrs. Nakada was ~~in~~ in a wheel chair but is getting better after her illness of many years, and is now able to walk to her wheel chair. The Nakadas have seven sons in the United States Army. They ~~said~~ told me that they were well received when they came back. Neighbors brought them gifts and made them very happy. They raised eleven children in Azusa during the many years of their residence there."

Dr. Yamazaki plans to return to Chicago at the end of his tour. Then from there he ^{intends to} will call at the ~~Re~~ Education Centers and help people by giving them first-hand information on West Coast conditions. "I also want to tell them about conditions east of the Rocky Mountains," he explains. He is ~~very~~ familiar with that part of the country as he has lived in Chicago for two years now.

"Neither have I seen or heard of any racial trouble

Dr Yamazaki

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in Chicago," he adds. "There was once a case where a Japanese was involved in a fight with a Filipino but it was clearly and unmistakably not a racial matter at all. Despite what some people may say, I have found the Filipinos friendly, even very friendly."

Dr. Yamazaki's former parish, where he was rector for 29 years, has 56 now in the United States armed services including WACs. There is a gold star in the church's service flag.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Dr. Yamazaki is well known for his Americanism and democratic spirit. He typifies a liberalism that is an influential factor in the Church Federation.

He is highly spoken of by the Caucasian bishops of his faith in Los Angeles. The doctor's education was at Berkeley Divinity School in Connecticut, and he has lived in the United States since 1904, having been born in Japan.

Of his three sons, one, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ 1st Lt. James N. Yamazaki, is a prisoner of war in Germany. Another, John M. Yamazaki Jr., has made application for a Chaplaincy in the United States Army.

~~The third, Lt. Peter Yamazaki, was publicized by~~ A photo of the third, Lt. Peter Yamazaki, was in the Minneapolis Tribune of December 21, with a story telling about his organizing a full choir of Nisei voices to be heard over ~~MS~~ NBC on the "Army Hour" world broadcast Christmas Day. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Dr. Yamazaki's one daughter, Louise, attends Carlton College in Minnesota.

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May 5 1945

(See other side for address
& phone)

CHURCH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHICAGO
UNITED MINISTRY TO RESETTLERS

REV. JOHN M. YAMAZAKI, S.T.D.
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TELEPHONE DORCHESTER 3259

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TELEPHONE FRANKLIN 2427

MAY 5-1945

%

REV. G. L. PRATT

960 S. Normandie Ave. (6)

DREXEL 4583.

(ALWAYS IN TOUCH -
LIVING NEARBY)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

1031 South Broadway
Los Angeles 15, California

May 2, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Paul G. Robertson
Area Supervisor

ATTENTION: Earle O'Day, Reports Officer

FROM: G. Raymond Booth, District Relocation Officer

Is there any news here? He is an Episcopalian rector who has two sons in their Uncle's army, One of them a guest unwillingly of Adolph (or Doenitz). His parish has 56 in armed services, including WAC. One star in the flag is golden. He has another son, a clergyman, who wants in the army. He has opinions re democracy, etc. His name is Yamazaki. He can be reached through Bishop Stevens' office.

Louis Lewis

*%
BISHOP STEVENS
VA - 3481.
57-4-7352*

*APR 24 1945
CITIZENSHIP
T-31
S-7 TIME
T-31*



May 5 1945: Dr. Yamazaki called in person at our office (Los Angeles) and I interviewed him, writing a 7-page story which he then read and OK'd, for the project newspapers. His card is attached showing where to reach him while he is in L. A. And he will drop in again to see us.

H L Walker
of Mr. O'Day's Office

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

1031 South Broadway
Los Angeles 15, California

May 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Paul G. Robertson
Area Supervisor

ATTENTION: Earle O'Day, Reports Officer

FROM: G. Raymond Booth, District Relocation Officer

Is there any news here? He is an Episcopalian rector who has two sons in their Uncle's army, One of them a guest unwillingly of Adolph (or Doenitz). His parish has 56 in armed services, including WAC. One star in the flag is golden. He has another son, a clergyman, who wants in the army. He has opinions re democracy, etc. His name is Yamazaki. He can be reached through Bishop Stevens' office.

"THESE BITTER YEARS"

A new book by David S. Bromley, "These Bitter Years", offers his patriotic/^{short}poems to the public in ~~xxxx~~ collected form.

A foreword by Ralph P. Merritt, Director of the War Relocation Authority at Manzanar, and former Regent of the University of California, says:

"A poet is one whose soul sings.....In this book of the poems of Dave Bromley we have the songs of the soul of an American, a veteran of the last war, a father of a soldier of this war, a man who in his community holds high the banner of his faith and who sings as he marches on. Here is the creed....of a small town man -- the creed that
(more)

every democratic, optimistic, liberty-loving American feels in his own soul and wishes he could express."

A stanza from "Here is America", written to comfort the parents of a Japanese-American boy killed in our cause and buried on the battle fields of Italy:

"We question not his ~~creed~~ or faith or race,
He lies at peace beneath God's gentle sun;
It matters not his ancestry or face;
America is here....here lies her son."

And this is from "Because":

"Because my skin is dark, because my face
Bears not the markings of the pure white race;
Then is this blood that flows within this vein
Less red, or I less sensitive to pain?
To flee from grim oppression, hate and fear
It was for these that I sought refuge here.

(more)

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Is this great light you boast, this liberty

One bit more precious then to you than me?"

H And from "Tolerance":

"This land breeds tolerance, and from its soil

May grow the understanding which we toil

To see in its ~~resplendent~~ resplendent tapestry

Depicting that one day man shall be free.

Then he may stand beside another race

With all of fear and doubt gone from his face;

Here truly we may start the Maer's plan

And cultivate the Brotherhood of Man."

5/14/45

Bring
up to date

MARY KITANO WORKING FOR
CITY NEWS SERVICE IN L. A.

Mary Kitano, formerly 23-8-1, Manzanar, which was next door to Rev. and Mrs. Suzuki and their son and daughter, is now working for City News Service in Los Angeles at 132 W. 1st Street. She reads and finds news items in over 100 papers.

"I was hired over the 'phone even before a personal interview," she tells. "Next day I went to see Mr. Rodney Voigt, the manager of City News Service -- he is married to a Korean who was Betty Lyou when they met at U. C. -- and (Note to printer: Name is Lyou, not Lyon) when I told him about my girl friend, Fusako Takemoto, he said bring her. So Fusako was hired too."

The atmosphere at City News is ~~cosmopolitan~~ international, for there are also three Russian girls and a Chinese rewrite man

on the staff. Mary works an 8-hr. 5-day week. She is "crazy" about ~~her~~ her job.

Before evacuation Mary Kitano lived at 1800 S. Acacia St., Compton, Calif. Her present home address is 17016 Baker Ave., Gardena, though she spends much time in Hollywood.

Mrs. Voigt, who also works in the office, says there is a Chinese on every paper in Los Angeles except the Examiner, as either reporter or photographer.

When in Chinatown Mary and Fusako were asked by ~~a waiter~~ a Chinese waiter whether they were Chinese or Koreans. They let him puzzle it out, and when they left he remarked "You must be Koreans".

In Gardena the two girls had one unpleasant ~~incident~~ experience. While ~~shopping~~ they were shopping, a man hopped out of his car, swore at them in a loud voice, and them jumped back in the car and drove on. That was all.

"We know it's very likely in a wide world like this that we'll have an unpleasant run-in somewhere, someplace,

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with someone. But until then, so what?" is her way of ~~ix~~ looking at it. "Usually when mistaken for Chinese girls we don't want to embarrass people by telling them they're wrong. But when they ask us point-blank, we come right out and say we're Japanese."

Mary's first job after leaving Manzanar was in Chicago, with the big city directory publishers, Reuben H. Donnelly Corp. Then she went to Grand Junction, Colorado, for a month's vacation with her folks on their ranch before coming to Los Angeles March 30.

"Doc Lechner, the professional hate-the-Japs man, came through Colorado making speeches about not selling property to the Japanese," she says. "A bill along this line was defeated by the legislature and then by the voters, so I don't think he made much of an impression on the people of that state."

Mary's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. ~~Kim~~ Kitano, her brothers Roy and Akira, and her sister Emy all live on their Grand Junction ranch.

~~xxxx~~ Miss Kitano's chum Fusako Takemoto's family was the

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first Japanese family to return to Gardena. They have lived in their own home there since the first of this year. The Takemotos were never in Centers, for they moved to Grand Junction before evacuation.

Fusako's brother Sam, an honorably discharged Army vet, does war work for a Compton firm, and is probably the first Nisei to work in that city. Before that job he loaded bombs for a Redondo Beach company.

Miss Shitone ("Toni") Iwasaki, secretary to a woman doctor in Hollywood, is one of Mary's friends.

Mary has just received a \$25 check from "Readers Digest" for a "picturesque patter" item. She has a commission to write for "Now" magazine.

City News Service, she says, has 15 reporters, covering metropolitan stories for small-city papers.

NOTE ON PHOTOS: 1st picture:

Betty Lyou (Mrs. Rodney Voigt -- she prefers to be known by her maiden & professional name, Betty Lyou); standing next to her and back of her, her husband, Rodney Voigt, manager of City News Service; then ~~Fusako~~ Miss Fusako Takemoto, and last Miss Mary Kitano.

Note on Photos (continued) -- (Reading left to right all photos)

2d picture:

Betty Lyou;
Fusako Takemoto (seated);
Mary Kitano;
Vera Haprov;
Mary Plamin.
(Last two named are Russian girl employees of
City News Service.)

Note: Fusako Takemoto and Mary Kitano are both Nisei.
Mr. Voigt, of course, is a Caucasian, and ~~her~~ his wife,
Betty Lyou (note: this is Lyou, not Lyon)
is a Korean; both went to U. C. at Berkeley, Calif,
and met there.

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On March 5 of this year he entered University of Southern California. Having previously attended Fresno State and Washington State, he is in his senior year.

Harry was ~~National Intercollegiate~~ national intercollegiate archery champion at Washington State in 1942, first among 96 schools in the U. S. At U. S. C. he is majoring in sculpturing and industrial design under fine arts professor Merrell ~~Gage~~ Gage.

Harry's story is one of outstanding achievement. When he was a lonesome farm boy at 13, a ~~xxxxx~~ Congregational minister, noting signs of talent, induced him to join the Boy Scouts. At first Harry thought it was a military ~~xxxxx~~ organization, but after joining he was so enthuzsistic that his father drove him 20 miles a day for five years ~~to~~ so he could do his scout work. Before he was 18 Harry had earned 87 scouting merit badges in high school. Harry, himself a Presbyterian, still corresponds with ~~his~~ his Congregational minister friends.

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His future plans are to work in the motion picture industry in miniature model construction, and already he is well acquainted among picture people.

Neither Harry nor his father, who is a grape grower in Fresno, has had a single unpleasant incident of any kind, Harry declares. "Here at U. S. C. in the heart of Los Angeles everything is perfect. My college life is entirely normal, even though I am the only person of Japanese descent at U. S. C.

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"I have been in ~~the~~ states since the war, through my sports and scouting activities, including three trips to New York, /and haven't come across an 'incident' ~~yet~~ yet," Harry said. "I share a room near U. S. C. with a Caucasian, and spend a good deal of time in Hollywood.

"As soon as I went to the registrar's office at U. S. C. I was ~~xxxx~~ processed and a minute later I was ~~ix~~ again a university man. The Dean told me, ^{very courteously,} /before I could explain, that he knew I was a Japanese, I didn't have to tell him. He asked me first thing if I had a place to stay, and got me a room by the

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campus. Almost all the men in my dormitory are vets -- Caucasian vets. They all give me a good plug."

~~Harryxxxxxxxixxxxxxxx~~ Harry added: "Friends go out of their way to look me up. I have heard some of the Jewish boys at the college called, jokingly, 'you big Jew', but no one has called me a ~~big Jap~~ 'Jap'.

The big problem, Harry says, is housing. "If the cities weren't so crowded, people wouldn't be nervous".

Not only was Harry accepted by Legion Post 320, but he had offers to join two other posts. And when in Fresno he was asked by a Caucasian veteran who saw his discharge pin, to join a post there.

"If you know where you're going, you don't have to talk to anyone -- you just break in naturally to your new location," he advises. "In my case, having been scoutmaster for eight years, including two Legion troops and one Lions Club ~~xxxxxx~~

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~~troop, all Caucasians,~~ troop, all Caucasians, and one all-Japanese troop too that won highest honors of any Fresno troop, I knew my way around. You know there were incidents before the war -- incidents that happened to all races, for all the minorities get pushed around at times.

While I haven't seen any incidents myself, those I have heard of aren't serious and are ~~mostly~~ the same as before the war -- drunks or ignorant people. If there is any organized pressure, it's economic, not really racial."

To make this point clear Harry cited statements that "we don't want the Japanese back now that things are prosperous, but when ~~ax~~ times get hard we want them because they are the best people on the farms".

Harry worked in Cleveland ~~after the war~~ before enlisting in the Army, for the Chrome National/~~Chrome~~ Co., a war plant that chromed all the moving parts of airplane motors. He got more overtime than the Caucasians -- because of his special ability at this work.

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Of his training with the 100th Battalion at Camp Shelby, Miss., he says: "Our outfit was well respected in the south. We maneuvered against the 69th Division and captured their general. He was certainly mad about it!"

On returning to California after ~~his release from the~~ honorable discharge from the Army, he rode from Klamath Falls, Ore., to Fresno in a Greyhound bus, although, as he says, "I had heard that the bus company wouldn't take Japanese".

Harry is now 27, and volunteered from Gila River.

During his eight months at Rivers he was head of the juvenile department of the community's law enforcement agency, taught physical education and was a member of the scouting commission. The fact that he had won 103 of the possible 106 merit ~~badges~~ badges as a Boy Scout no doubt led to his being selected for this responsibility.

Not only ~~he~~ did he win the intercollegiate archery championship, but he was also badminton champion and a ranking

Harry Osaki

5/16/45

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tennis and golf player at Washington State.

His brother Moro is in the Army, and he has four other brothers and sisters who were at Rivers. Five of them have attended college. His sisters, Alice and Grace, both have sought permission to join the WACs.

Harry Osaki is now at 3131 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles.

Note: When he comes in at noon today he might read this over and correct and/or add to it. HLW

PICTURE NOTE: The photos show Harry Osaki in his fine arts sculpturing class at USC with Asst. ~~Prof.~~ Prof. in fine arts Merrell ~~Gage~~ Gage, and Caucasian students.

Photos of the statue of The Trojan show Harry standing next to his roommate, a Caucasian, and other students grouped around at base of statue.

May 19, 1945

MR. & MRS. KYUJI HOZAKI
AGAIN OPERATING THEIR
BARBER SHOP IN L. A.

"All our old customers come back, including Caucasians. Everyone comes in and says hello. A Caucasian friend loaned us the money to take over the shop lease. Business is good."

So says Kyuji Hozaki, who with his wife Haruyo is again operating their barber shop at 822 E. 7th St., Los Angeles.

The Hozakis left Rohwer, 11-5-B, on March 28 of this year. They started the barber shop in 1926. It is on a busy street, and they live in back of the shop. "We're glad to be home again. Trouble? No trouble. Everyone is fine."

Business continues to improve, and as they charge the standard rates (\$1 for haircuts now in Los Angeles) they find conditions profitable. Both Kyuji and Haruyo are members of the Master Barbers Union. Kyuji graduated from the American Barber College of Los Angeles.

Their son Toshio, wounded in Oct., 1944, while in action in France, for which he received the Purple Heart, was killed April 5 in Italy serving with the 442d Infantry.

(more)

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Teruo, their other son, is with the 1st Army, now reported to be redeployed from Germany to the Pacific, so he may be able to visit them on furlough soon.

Haruyo's niece, Miss Lillian Oda, 53-10-B Poston, is visiting them before returning to Poston.

Mr. and Mrs. Hozaki are both Isseis.

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CHerry 3147 .

The Reverend Shunji Forrest Nishi

Field Counselor
Cleveland Church Federation

1010 Hippodrome Building
Cleveland 14, Ohio

For Center Papers

May 19, 1945
(Actually written May 30)

The Rev. Shunji Forrest Nishi, field counselor of the Cleveland Church Federation, and also representing the "Committee on Resettlement of the Home Missions Council" and the "National Council of the Episcopal Church", was in Los Angeles May 19th enroute to Arizona relocation centers.

Leaving Cleveland May 9, arriving in California May 15, Rev. Nishi is making a personal survey of conditions particularly as concern relocatees.

Before the war he was at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific at Berkeley, Calif. From there he went to Episcopal affiliated with Harvard, at Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., before the evacuation "freeze". And from Cambridge in September 1943 he moved to Cleveland on assignment from National Council of the Episcopal Church to work with the Cleveland Church Federation.

"There are 1600 people of Japanese descent in Cleveland, 85% of them Nisei," he estimates. "They are getting along

Rev. Nishi

5/19/45

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wonderfully. First they had their initial problems of adjustment that anyone would have, but they are getting into good jobs, social life and church life as they would wish to. Wherever they are qualified for jobs they almost always seem to fit the available positions. There is very, very little race discrimination. Plenty of jobs.

"In Cleveland housing is acute as it is everywhere else. We have people who have found very satisfactory houses and apartments, however. Several have bought homes in Cleveland. There are no restrictions as to district or anything like that.

"I imagine from what I have heard and seen ^{in California} that there are more job offers for Japanese-Americans than before the war. New lines are opened up to them, too.

"I was in San Francisco on my trip and found housing tough there. But to show that Nisei have been getting into

- 3 -

Cleveland life, here is something interesting -- we find that they are going to about forty different churches in that city. They include Episcopal, Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist and all of the major denominations, including a few Roman Catholics. Ten percent of the total Japanese-American population attend church regularly each week. Many of them never had church connections before. I think about 40% of all the Japanese-Americans in Cleveland have church connections."

Asked about "incidents", Rev. Nishi said: "No unpleasant incidents at all in Cleveland, except that occasionally people have been turned down in applying for housing, but that might happen to anyone."

His advice to people in the centers: "Look over the opportunities. Opportunities will grow scarcer as time goes on, and housing on the Pacific Coast will get more acute as emphasis is shifted from Europe to Asia. In the east there

Rev. Nishi

5/19/45

- 4 -

will be a gradual reconversion to peacetime industry which has already started, and it is certainly opportunistic, if nothing else, to get in on the ground floor now.

"Certainly a large percentage of those who have gone east will stay there, I think. There are more opportunities in the east than in the west. Of course you can't beat the California climate. I can understand why people want to come back -- I want to stay in California myself, because it's my home -- I'm the sentimental type."

(He will be back in L A after returning from Arizona, on May 31. We took no picture yet.)

HLW

PS -- The purpose of trip is to see how things are and bring in news of the outside world to the centers, he says. He will cover Poston and Gila River while in Arizona.

May 24, 1945

First draft

RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE FUND
MONEY AVAILABLE TO BOTH ISSEI AND NISEI
IN EMERGENCIES

One of the first families to benefit from the Federal "Resettlement Assistance Fund" program is that of Mr. and Mrs. Kiko Mibu and their three children, who returned to ~~Hawthorne~~, near Los Angeles, from Rohwer about April 20. *SANTA ANA*

They found that their personal belongings, stored with neighbors in Hawthorne, had been stolen while they were at Rohwer, including bedding and dishes. Their furniture had been sold at time of evacuation. They were therefore financially unable to set up housekeeping again.

The W. R. A. made an investigation in cooperation with the Orange County Welfare Department, and found that equipment for a four-room house, including stove, would cost \$379. The Welfare Department gave the Mibus a check for that amount; the furniture, etc., was purchased, and the family was settled in their house comfortably.

(more)

- 2 -

This special "Resettlement Assistance Fund" is money that was originally part of W.R.A. ~~budget~~ budget, /now transferred to this special fund and under supervision of Social Security Board. It operates through State Welfare to County Welfare, so that application should be made to County Welfare (or better, to WRA so that WRA may assist in presenting request to County Welfare).

Of course, it is necessary to show that a family is financially unable to take care of itself.

There are ^{also} other government agencies prepared to make loans, although requirements are rather difficult to meet in most cases. In the case of "public assistance", such as the "Resettlement Assistance Fund", both Issei and Nisei are eligible. But in the case of loans, such as RFC or FSA, only citizens are eligible.

RFC (Reconstruction Finance Corp.) has a small loans department, but considerable business experience is usually required to qualify.

FSA (Farm Security Administration) loans for the purchase of land and equipment to those who can show they have had a successful record as farmers.

Production Credit Corp., still another government

(more)

- 3 -

agency, advances money on crops or products where they are already well under way but the grower or manufacturer is financially ^{un}able to complete.

Then, of course, while both Issei and Nisei are eligible for County Relief (if without funds of any kind), only Nisei are eligible for Old Age Pension, payable at 65 to the needy aged.

Unemployment insurance is payable to anyone who in private industry, but not agriculture, etc., has worked/roughly within the past year and a half, if they have earned ~~at least~~ a minimum amount (\$300 in California) during that time.

(no connecti on with Old Age Pensions), Old Age Security, /like unemployment insurance, is also payable to anyone, provided they have been working more or less regularly in private industry for some time and are 65 and retired.

Aid to the blind, needy children, etc., are other features of the public assistance division of Social Security.

While "public assistance" is forthcoming on ~~an~~ a basis of need, and Old Age Security and Unemployment insurance on a basis of past work regardless of need, the loan agencies consider applicants strictly on a basis of their credit risk. Very few Japanese-Americans have so far qualified for such loans.

For Center papers. (Manzanar). Interview 5/31/45; written 6/7/45.
(Photos taken by Mr. Mace.)

(YAM OKAMURO
STARTS OWN
GARAGE BUSINESS
IN GLENDALE)

Yam Okamuro is now operating his own garage business. It's in the back yard of the Glendale house where he lives with his sister Mary and her husband, Kaz Hara, who helps Yam overhaul car motors. All are from Manzanar.

"After the war we'll get a regular building, but we started right away without waiting for conditions to change," Yam says. "We looked for a garage or auto mechanic's shop for rent, but couldn't find one. Then we figured on building our own, but learned that steel construction was required by local ordinance, and this kind of small business couldn't qualify for OPA steel priority. So a Caucasian friend went to bat for us, rounding up some used sheet metal, and we opened up right here in the back yard. It's convenient even if it isn't fancy."

Yam had left Manzanar in 1942, going to Detroit where

- 2 -

he worked for Grand River Chevrolet as an auto mechanic. When he returned to Glendale last February he found his old friend, Pete Alamillo, was going into the Army, so Pete rented him his house for a nominal sum while he was away at Camp Roberts. The house is at 421 West Palmer St.

On March 22 Yam and Kaz opened for business and in a few days had four cars from Caucasian customers. "Now we've got more business than we can handle," Yam says.

Yam and Mary both graduated from Glendale High School shortly before the evacuation. Kaz Hara graduated from Belmont High, Los Angeles, about the same time.

Mary's nephew, Dennis Okamuro, age 4, is staying with them. Late in May ~~Yam's~~ Yoshitaro Okamuro, father of Yam and Mary, visited them on short-term from Manzanar.

Yam, young, single and muscular, has had no time yet for social matters. Manzanar girls, you have his address!

FOR CENTERS PAPERS (MANZANAR)
(Photos by Mace) Etc.

Interview June 1 1945
Written June 8 1945

SHIMOKAWAS RETURN
TO L.A. --
AND EVERGREEN HOSTEL.

The taxi stopped at 506 North Evergreen Avenue, Los Angeles. Out of it stepped James Shimokawa, his wife Jennie and their little son Gary, all looking well and fit after their trip from Denver.

They had left Manzanar in 1943 for Idaho; then Denver; and here they were home again -- Los Angeles. Only they now had no home of their own. So the first stop was Evergreen Hostel until they could find a place to live permanently.

Rev. Sohei Kowta met them on the steps of the hostel as they came in with their suitcases. "We're glad to be back," the Shimokawas said warmly. Three-year-old Gary smiled too.

A week of June passed by and they were still looking for a home. Mr. Shimokawa, a former produce business executive, was also negotiating to re-enter that business. But meantime they were living comfortably at Evergreen Hostel, welcome to stay as long as they wished.

The first week they were charged the usual \$1 a day per person for lodging and three meals daily, helping with the work of the hostel. After that, \$1.50.

- 2 -

No, it isn't the Biltmore. But it is clean, homelike and friendly. There are individual rooms for families, and separate dormitories for singles. There is a large, attractive dining room served by a roomy, clean kitchen. There are reading and social rooms, and an attractive central patio with flowers, fishpond and sunshine in true California style.

Evergreen is a quiet street on the heights across the Los Angeles River from what was once Little Tokyo but now is "Bronzeville". Streetcar service to downtown is convenient.

"I've been asking all the people who come here about unpleasant experiences," Rev. Kowta says. "They all tell me they have had none -- none at all. On the contrary even strangers will come up to them on the street and shake hands."

Housing is the problem in Los Angeles. Somehow, though, people manage to get located, though it isn't easy. The job situation is good, but those who have worked in eastern industrial plants say wages and opportunities for Japanese-Americans are better there. California thinks of Issei, at least, as gardeners -- and a job-wanted ad will quickly bring a couple of dozen offers from householders wanting such work done.

Rev. Kowta, acting for the Presbyterian Church, is, with Miss Esther Rhoads of the American Friends Service Committee, one of the two directors of the hostel. He is an amiable, busy man of middle years, and he has his own family too. He devotes his entire time to hostel management "though I have to neglect

- 3 -

my family," he says smilingly. Of course, he explains, membership in the Church or the Friends is not expected.

Before evacuation the three-story hostel building was a Presbyterian Church school for Japanese children. Originally, 20 years ago, it was a boarding school for Mexican girls. One of three hostels in greater Los Angeles, it was the second to open, Pasadena Hostel, also operated by the Friends, being the first.

Two requests are made of those wishing to stay at the hostel -- make advance reservations, and bring ration book.

"We have just 99 people now, that's capacity, but we seem to manage to take care of all who come, for there's a constant turnover," Rev. Kowta said in June. "Our staff and bulletin board help find jobs -- and sometimes housing."

For Center papers (Poston)

Interview June 1, 1945.

(Picture by Mace)

Written June 8, 1945.

(MR. & MRS. GEORGE
YANASE COMING TO L. A.)

Staying at Evergreen Hostel, Los Angeles, in June were George Yanase, his wife Ann and their daughter Robbie Jean, 19 months of age.

Mr. Yanase plans to go into the garage business in Los Angeles. He had left Camp 1, Poston, early in 1944, moving to Pagosa Springs, Colorado, where he did auto mechanic work.

His trip to Los Angeles was to sound out opportunities in that line, and finding them satisfactory, he is returning to Pagosa Springs to arrange moving permanently to California.

Before the war the Yanase family lived in Anaheim, Calif. Three of their children are still at Poston, but they hope to have the entire family together again before long.

"Evergreen Hostel comes in very handy as a place to stay while looking around," Mr. Yanase said. "It wouldn't have been possible to have moved everything out before I had a chance to get a line on business opportunities and housing in L. A."

SHIMOKAWAS RETURN
TO. L. A., STAYING
AT EVERGREEN HOSTEL

James Shimokawa, his wife Jennie and their son Gary, age 3, have returned to Los Angeles and were staying at Evergreen Hostel in June.

The Shimokawas had left Manzanar in 1943 for Idaho, then moved to Denver. Mr. Shimokawa plans to re-enter the produce business in Los Angeles. Also he ~~is searching for a house.~~ is searching for a house.

Evergreen Hostel, at 506 North Evergreen Ave., Los Angeles, is very convenient to many who, like the Shimokawas, need a temporary home while re-establishing themselves.

Rev. Sohei Kowta, with Miss Esther Rhoads, is one of the two directors of the hostel. He devotes his entire time to its management, and reports 99 guests, capacity, early in June. "That's why we need reservations in advance. And don't forget your ration book," he advises.

The hostel charges the usual \$1 a day per person for three meals and lodging, and \$1.50 after the first week. Guests help with the work.

Evergreen Hostel has separate rooms for families, and dormitories for singles. There is a large, sunny

Evergreen Hostel and Shimokawas

- 2 -

dining room, served by a clean kitchen. There are reading and social rooms and a beautiful patio.

The hostel is on the heights to the eastern side of the Los Angeles river across from what was once Little Tokyo but now is Bronzeville. Downtown streetcar service is handy.

"I've been asking everyone here about unpleasant experiences, but they tell me they have none. They say even strangers come up and shake hands," Rev. Kowta says.

Housing is the only real problem in Los Angeles. The hostel helps with a trained staff and bulletin board notices, but it takes a lot of looking to find a home for a family.

Eastern jobs in industrial plants have better wages and opportunities for Nisei, the hostel residents believe. California thinks of Issei, at least, as gardeners; a job-wanted ad will bring a couple of dozen immediate answers from employers in that line.

The hostel is a three-story building that was formerly a Presbyterian Church school for Japanese children, and before that a boarding school for Mexican girls. It is one of three hostels in greater Los Angeles.

For Center papers (Poston)

Interview June 1, 1945.

(Picture by Mace)

Written June 8, 1945.

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YANASE COMING TO L. A.)

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For Center Papers (Heart Mountain)
(Pictures by Mace)

Interview 6/2/45
Written 6/8/45

EVAN OYAKAWA
HAS TWO SWIMMING
POOLS TO USE

Evan Oyakawa said goodbye to Heart Mountain last March. Back to Los Angeles went Evan -- Los Angeles, where he could take a swim.

And now he has two swimming pools to use. One is at U.C.L.A., where Evan is a freshman pre-medical student. The other is on the swank 61-acre estate of Sydney Walker, retired eye surgeon, in the motion picture section of Crosby's San Fernando Valley, where Evan works week-ends.

"Saturday at 4:30 we stop work and take a swim," Dr. Walker says. "You know how I got Evan? Well, Victor Potel, horse opera star in the old silents, who is a neighbor, told me about Evan's pop, Yokichi, who wanted to come back to work for Victor. Victor didn't need a man, ^{but I did,} so I wired Heart Mountain and the first of March Yokichi showed up. Say, there's no one like this old guy. He really knows how to look after my roses and hedges."

Yokichi and his daughter Lily have a separate cottage adjoining Walker's garage, and Evan ~~visits the old man every~~

comes out Saturdays and works with them. He and Dr. Walker get along famously. The doctor is a World War I veteran, and saw action at Chateau Thierry, Belleau Wood and Soissons.

"None of these super-patriots who fight the Battle of Van Nuys can tell me that these Issei and Nisei aren't cleanly, decent, honest people," Walker says. "But Yokichi here has joined the union -- he won't work more than 13 hours a day. I have to go out and make him quit for the day."

Walker takes pride in his estate and works along with Evan and Yokichi. "No one can compete with the Japanese-Americans when it comes to growing flowers and vegetables," he says emphatically. "Maybe that's why some people don't want them back."

Evan's chum at U.C.L.A., one of the largest and most beautiful universities in the world, located off fashionable Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles, is Alwyn Wong, American of Chinese ancestry, also studying medicine.

Evan's father Yokichi is an Issei widower. His Heart Mountain address was 8-2-E.

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(Note: Dr. Walker says go the limit in quoting him, any kind of publicity.)

FOR CENTER PAPERS (MANZANAR)
Photos by Mace

Interviewed May 21 1945
Written June 9 1945

(Goka would like copy first)

BOB GOKA HAS
PLENTY OF BUSINESS
IN WEST L. A.

Robert K. Goka, who returned to West Los Angeles Dec. 14, 1944, on a special permit from the Army, has "more business than he can handle" at his block-long flower and plant retail establishment on fashionable Wilshire Blvd. near Santa Monica.

"You see all this glass in the greenhouses, right on Wilshire -- not a pane has been broken at any time, even though everyone can see us Japanese-Americans working behind the big plate glass windows of the retail shop," Goka smiled.

"As soon as I returned from Manzanar I called my good customers of pre-evacuation days to get their reaction. They came over right away and shook hands and encouraged me," he added.

Bob believes that there is too much "propaganda", as he calls it, in the centers about "incidents". "The good things

- 2 -

never get to the center papers -- just the bad things," he suggests. "Why, there was a story going about Manzanar that I was hit by a marine -- there was nothing to it at all. And then another one about my store being picketed. That was entirely wrong too. What happened is that someone saw all the customers I have especially on holidays, and thought they were a picket line!"

As he owns his own home in West Los Angeles, Bob had no housing trouble other than having to wait until the tenant moved out, as is customary. He has had difficulty in buying plants from wholesalers, however, as, he says, the nurserymen's association induced them not to sell to Japanese. But he specializes in tropical plants and gets what he needs from Florida. And he has no trouble at all in selling his flowers and plants, for he has a swank trade among the wealthy homes.

"You know after being in the center so long it took me six months before I felt at home again in seeing important people," Bob explains. "I had been in a number of different businesses -- importing in Hawaii, chop suey, and operations at Atlantic City and Redondo and Texas, which required that I contact such people as mayors and chiefs of police. Well,

- 3 -

I'm OK again, but it took time to get back to normal."

At present he has nine employees, all he can hire under manpower ceiling, and of course some of them are Nisei. He pointed out one of his greenhouses, built just before the war -- "the first and last steel construction greenhouse anywhere in Los Angeles," he says. When priorities lift he plans to expand. "I like this nursery business best of all," he says. "I bought the place in 1940 -- it's always been known as Frank's Flowers and Plants. They say my showrooms are the finest anywhere in Southern California."

His wife Melba Miwako is with him, and also his three children, Robert Masaru, age 9, ~~and~~ Linda Yoriko, age 6, and Phyllis Mikiko, age 1. Robert and Linda are in third ~~and~~ grade and kindergarten respectively at ~~Frank~~ Brockton School, West Los Angeles.

Bob Goka was very well known at Manzanar, where he lived at 23-13-4. He is a Hawaiian-born Nisei, in his late thirties. He could pass for ten years younger.

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TODAS OPERATING
SUNRISE HOTEL
IN L A

Hikotaro Toda and his wife Fuseo, Issei who returned April 10 from 8-3-A, Gila River, are again operating the Sunrise Hotel at 1205 East Sixth St. in Los Angeles.

Their daughter Nobuko, 17, attends Roosevelt H. S. nearby. They have no other children.

The owner of the 42-room hotel doubled the lease when the Todas took over management from the operator who had it while they were at the center. The Todas then spent \$500 in refitting the hotel, which had run down in their absence. It has both housekeeping and single rooms, all occupied by permanent guests, mostly Caucasians and Americans of Mexican descent.

"We have no trouble," Mr. Toda said. "Except we get only \$3 and \$3.50 a week for single rooms, same as before the war. We are making new schedule for OPA -- maybe they will let us get a little more."

Lest center residents imagine that all rentals in Los Angeles are similarly low, it might be pointed out that the Toda's hotel is in the old industrial section of town.

MR. & MRS. ICHIOKA,
BOTH M.D.'s, AGAIN
PRACTISE IN L. A.

Toshio Ichioka, Issei, and his wife Tsutayo, Nisei, both M.D.'s, are again practising medicine at their well-known doctor's office, 3939 East First St., East Los Angeles. However, the clinic they formerly operated there is not yet re-opened.

Miss Satsuki Nakao, Tsutayo's sister, is a licensed pharmacist and assists them. She was at Children's Hospital, Denver, while the Ichiokas were with Denver Clinic.

From 73-5-A, Gila River, they had gone to Denver last August (1944), and returned to Los Angeles January 25 this year.

In addition to a handsome building of their own which they use for an office, the Ichiokas have several houses adjoining, which were looked after by a caretaker while they were away.

Their former patients, mostly of Mexican descent, have come back. One, Manuel Briones, said: "I would do anything for the Ichiokas. They have been taking care of my wife and our whole family for a long time, and are very good."

(more)

- 2 -

The Ichiokas report plenty of patients, no trouble, and a great satisfaction in being home again.

In his odd moments Dr. Toshio Ichioka is Japanese-language reporter for the Colorado Times of Denver, and welcomes news items of Coast doings.

- 30 -

FOR CENTER PAPERS.
(Photos by Mace).
Written June 11.

Interview 5/25/45.
Written 6/11/45.

Two young men, Jiro Oishi, formerly 59-10-C, Butte Camp, Gila River, and Satoru Akutagawa, formerly 12-2-D, Topaz, have just opened their own business, A & O Radio Service, 1856 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena.

They looked for weeks before finding a suitable store for rent, finally spotting this one on Pasadena's main street.

Helping them is John Kimata, formerly 58-9-A, Butte Camp, Gila River. John is 17 and attends Pasadena Junior College, working at the radio shop part-time.

Jiro Oishi lived in El Monte, near Pasadena, before evacuation. He had three years at University of Southern California. Two years ago he left Gila River, going to Chicago, where he did radio work. His wife Anna is still in Chicago, but when he finds a house she will join him.

Satoru Akutagawa, like Jiro, also returned ~~very~~ recently to California. He lived in Los Angeles before the spring of 1942. He left ~~Gila~~ Topaz a year ago, going to Denver, working in radio service there. His wife Kay is still at Topaz.

Satoru also ~~next to~~/seeks a house, and Kay will join him when he finds one, with their children Kenny, 3½, Teddy, 2, and six-months-old Elaine.

John Kimata's father Toyokichi and his sister Mary are still at Gila River. They lived in Pasadena up to the time they were moved out of California.

(more)

- 2 -

The A & O
~~Their~~ shop is small but neat and attractive, and includes
~~up-to-date electronic equipment.~~ some of the latest testing equipment.

Reception from customers and community has been excellent.

Trouble? "Only trouble is finding houses -- if you know
of any, let us know," the partners say.

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For Center papers.
(Photos by Mace).

Interview 5/25/45
Written 6/12/45

JOE NAWA
OPERATING
SIERRA CO-OP
IN PASADENA

JOE NAWA and JOHN OSHIMA are partners in operating the Sierra Co-op Service Station and Garage at 250 Mary Street, Pasadena. ~~Previously~~ Joe is now the ~~sole~~ active partner, for John, who was in the Army Reserve, was called to active duty June 6.

John's wife and two children remain in Pasadena. They were never in a center, ^{early in 1942} for/the Oshimas went to Idaho, ~~early~~ ~~in 1942~~ where John did garage work.

lived
Joe ~~was~~ formerly/in Norwalk, but he selected Pasadena for his post-center future. The two young men started early in March of this year with \$700; now they have \$1500 worth

- 2 -

of equipment alone, and enough business to warrant a part-time helper, Raoul Reynolds, Negro, USC student, who is 215 lbs., 6 ft. 4 in. "He isn't ~~But we don't need~~ a body-guard," Joe and John said. "Everyone is very nice."

~~Just that is a problem with housing~~

solved the housing situation by taking John's wife ~~back~~ a household job in a large Pasadena apartment home where the whole Oshima family had a separate ~~house~~ over the garage.

Joe's experience in motor mechanics was in Detroit. He left Rohwer in 1943, first going to Chicago, then ^{to} the automotive city.

Sierra Co-op is affiliated with The Cooperative League of U. S. A., a nation-wide organization whose cooperatives include several at the centers. Non-discrimination is one of its principles.

Advice for those in centers? "Don't bring the family until you have a place to live," the partners suggest.

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FOR CENTER PAPERS
Picture by Mace

INTERVIEW May 29 1945
Written June 12 1945

SOICHI ARAO
WORKING IN
L. A. NOW

Take a temporary job while getting re-established, at least until you find a better one, is the system of SOICHI ARAO from Rohwer. He returned to Los Angeles May 9 to give notice to the tenants of his home at 255 East 31st Street, which he bought just before the war, so he and his wife Shigeno, still at 38-5-F Rohwer, could move in.

Meantime he has gone to work on swing shift in a downtown restaurant, ~~leaving him~~ ~~so~~ thus being ~~leaving him~~ free to look around daytime. He wanted to give his tenants ample time, so he is batching at 986 South Kingsley Drive ~~leaving him~~ while waiting. That house belongs to Mrs. Haruko Ige, who won't return until additional furniture arrives. Her uncle Frank K. Ige and his friend Hiro Nakate, both from Rohwer, are ~~living with Mr. ARAO~~

(more)

- 2 -

Occupying the house along with Mr. Arao, and using their own pick-up truck have all the gardening business they can handle.

The Araos are both Nisei. Soichi was born on the island of Maui, Hawaii, 54 years ago.

They have a son, Raymond, at Valparaiso University, studying medicine; he plans to transfer to a university in Los Angeles soon. Another son, Richard, is a skilled mechanic/^{under civil service}with the U. S. Engineers in Honolulu. ~~Richard~~ Robert, the youngest son, works in Chicago.

Their daughter Harriet teaches language ~~at the~~ in Chicago for Northwestern University extension. She graduated from a college in Japan, after attending Roosevelt High School in Honolulu.

Kay Taguchi, ^{while}~~Kay~~/their other daughter, is at Amache Center, ~~and~~/her husband, also a Nisei, works on a federal construction job in Colorado.

"I like the roses," Soichi said as he looked over the garden in front of the Kingsley Drive house. "Everyone in Los Angeles is good to us. So I didn't like to ask my tenant to move in a hurry."

GETTING A JOB
IN YOUR POST-CENTER
WORLD.....

First thing to do about getting a job is to get an Availability Certificate, or "A.C." Go to the nearest U.S. Employment Service office and ask the War Manpower Commission for it. U.S.E.S. and W.M.C. work together in same offices, and are listed in 'phone books under "U. S. Govt."

Veterans of this war, however, need no A.C. Manpower controls do not apply to them.

U. S. E. S. will also help you find a job.

Some employers have ceilings -- the total number of employees they may have under W.M.C. regulation. Veterans, women, everyone under 18, students on vacation and ^{certain} others are exempt from ceiling. The idea is that the ^{less-} ~~more-~~ essential employer can't hire someone useful in a more-essential job. Now if W.M.C. has no war industry or other essential job to offer you, they may exempt you from ceiling if you request it on ground you are not employable in war industry.

Domestic and agricultural work are not covered at all by W.M.C. regulations. You need no availability certificate for such jobs. Nor, of course, do you need one for self-employment. If you become an employer, ask W.M.C., Social Security Board (old-age insurance) and State Department of Employment (job insurance) for employer forms.

- 2 -

When in doubt, ask W.M.C. For instance, a greenhouse business is "agricultural" as to the nursery but "non-agricultural" as to the florist showroom.

U.S.E.S. will have more and more veterans to handle from now on, all the more reason civilians should avail themselves of U.S.E.S. services now, before the rush.

Rev. Shunji Forrest Nishi, traveling recently in California from Cleveland on a survey to discover opportunities for relocatees, had this observation:

"Job opportunities will grow scarcer as time goes on. Housing on the Coast is getting more acute as war emphasis has shifted to the Pacific. A gradual reconversion to peacetime industry has begun. It is certainly opportune to get out of the center now and get in on the ground floor of employment while you can. Don't put it off -- 'tomorrow' ~~it~~/may be too late."

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Written June 16 1945
From office interview
June 15 (Friend of
Miss Suzuki)

MISS TOYOKO IOKI
STARTS WORK IN
LOS ANGELES

From a \$16 a month job as secretary in the personnel office at Manzanar to a \$165 a month job as CAF-3 secretary in Los Angeles, is the step ~~being~~ taken by Miss Toyoko Ioki of 14-13-2 Manzanar.

Toyoko got the idea from Dave Bromley, who said "see Mr. Barton of WRA in Los Angeles area office". So she did -- and starting June 16 she ~~with her~~ ^{was} writing Gregg and tapping the keys ~~with her~~ for Miss Plant of that office.

Toyoko graduated from Manzanar High School in the summer of 1943. She is 19. She arrived in Los Angeles June 15 and stayed with Mary Suzuki, another WRA stenographer.

Prior to ~~going to~~ evacuation Toyoko lived in Venice, Calif., and before ~~that~~ that in Oakland. Her brothers, Hiroshi, Minoru and Susumu, left Manzanar ~~that~~ June 16, and her father Toyoshige and mother Kaname, and sister Yoshiko, planned to leave within two weeks after that.

(NISEI STENOS
WORKING IN L.A.)

Los Angeles -- city of romance, adventure, glamour -- well, they say that about Hollywood anyhow! -- beckoned to two dozen ^{Nisei} girls who had secretarial-stenographic-typing ability.

"Why work for \$16 a month when the Big Town pays ten times as much?" they must have thought. So in the past several weeks of Spring, a dozen girls have left Manzanar and a dozen more have left other centers as far away as Granada, coming to Los Angeles, now the fourth city in the nation.

For jobs, of course. Au revoir to sand and dust and desert and mountain -- hello to Broadway and Wilshire Boulevard and Hollywood Boulevard!

Only two of them are now staying at hostels. The rest

- 2 -

have found permanent quarters.

And all have jobs. The WRA office at 1031 S. Broadway hired several, mostly at CAF-3 federal civil service rating, which is \$165 a month. Non-profit organizations such as YMCA, Boy Scouts, Youth Federation, University Methodist Church, Church Federation, International Institute, and Council for Civic Unity took other disciples of John Robert Gregg. The 26 letters of the alphabet are being pounded on Underwoods, Remingtons, Royals, Smiths, etc., by still others at the offices of /OPA, ~~xxxx~~ a woman doctor in Hollywood, a publisher, and the CIO union. ~~xxxx~~

And so the City of the Angels has opened its arms to Nisei stenographers. Also its payrolls, which is more important. Do people lift eyebrows occasionally at the sight of a "Jep"? Well, if they do, it's very rarely. More often they go out of their way to say "welcome back".

(PASADENA NISEI WEDDING
SUNDAY JUNE 17 1945)

Kieko Kawahara and Akira Kageyama, brother of Mary Kageyama Nomura who became a bride just the Sunday before, were joined in matrimony Sunday, June 17, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Porter, 1120 Buena Vista Street, South Pasadena.

Both are from Manzanar. The bridegroom is employed at California Institute of Technology under Dr. Robert Emerson, Biology head.

The bride's sister, Miss Tayeko Kawahara, who recently arrived from Illinois where she attended college, was maid of honor. The best man was M. S. Nishimura. The bride was given away by her ~~father~~ father, ~~Mr. Kosa Kawahara~~ Kosa Kawahara. Mary Kageyama Nomura, "Song Bird of Manzanar", sang the chorus of the wedding march, which was played by Mrs. Dewey Anderson on the violin accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Robert Emerson.

The marriage vows were read by Rev. H. V. Nicholson.

The house was decorated with white candles and carnations. The bride wore a white satin veil caught with orange blossoms, and carried a bouquet of white roses and purple orchid. Her sister wore a blue marquisette with matching blue band on her hair.

(more)

- 2 -

The young couple is to honeymoon at Hermosa Beach at the home of Miss Frances Whitlock, sister of Mrs. Porter. Later they will be at home in Pasadena.

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Further data if can use:

Kieko Kawahara lived at 453 Kensington Place, Pasadena (the hostel.) Before evacuation, Clearwater, Calif.

Akira Kageyama, the groom, lived at 148 North Vernon, Pasadena (where his sister the Song-Bird and her younger sister, Tillie, lived.) Before evacuation, Venice, Calif.

The groom and Mary Kageyama Nomura's husband work together in guayule at Caltech.

Mrs. Dewey Anderson is the wife of the former State SRA Director, during the Olson administration.

Mrs. Robert Emerson is of course the wife of the Caltech biology head.

Wedding was at 6:30 PM.

Dr. T. Miyamoto
opens Cooperative
Service Bureau, L A

Returning to Los Angeles, Dr. Tatsuhiko Miyamoto from Granada has opened the Cooperative Service Bureau, of which he is director, with Mr. Ray Moriwaki from Jerome as his General Manager.

The Bureau, at 3554 S. Normandie, is just organizing but when operating will promote the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ interests of relocatees particularly by aiding them to start their own businesses.

Dr. Miyamoto keeps in close touch with many returnees and is prepared to advise prospective returnees who are interested in writing him.

----30----

Note: The office of the Bureau is just a very little place with a small bridge table and three kitchen chairs and an old file cabinet, but it may develop into something. Moriwaki also comes from L. A. He seems to be capable. We took a photo of both of them and a Mr. Paul Dote, who comes from Rohwer, and is now at Hermosa Beach. Didn't have time to get a full story as they were cooking up some business deal and we had to get down to the McWilliams luncheon.

HLW

(Note: Mr. O' Day has further data on Dr. Miyamoto)

TAKEJIRO KUSAYANAGI
FIRST TO LEAVE AND
FIRST TO RETURN

He left Los Angeles, by request, on December 7, 1941.

He returned the day the ban was lifted, December 17, 1944.

"First to go and first to come back" -- that is the story of Takejiro Kusayanagi from Manzanar 29-10-1, now again living in his 14-room home in the fashionable West Adams district of Los Angeles.

With him are his wife Matsu, and his son George, who has a job in the city. His one unmarried daughter, Irene, is expected to return from Chicago soon. His four other children, all daughters, now grown and married, are also in Chicago. They are Yaeko Nakamura, Kimiko Hasegawa, Sakae Okabe, and Masako Goto. Both Masako and her husband are M.D.'s and expect to come back to Los Angeles soon to practice.

This is slightly wrong -- actually, Bob Goka was the first to return.

- 2 -

Mr. Kusayanagi was operator of the National Trading Co. dry goods store on Main Street, across from the Los Angeles city hall, from 1906 to 1941. At present he is retired, devoting his time to care of his home and his several business properties in Bronzeville and elsewhere in and around Los Angeles.

A Japanese garden with its pines, goldfish and arch bridges is part of the half-acre surrounding his home. He enjoys puttering around the garden. "I have five grandchildren," he said proudly. "And they are all girls."

June 28 1945

Int June ~~28~~ 26

NOTES

Mr. Takejiro Kusayanagi
3741 W 27 St
Fashionable W Adams Dist
First to be deported - on Pearl Harbor Day Dec 7 1941
First to return- day ban lifted Dec 17 1944
(3 years away)
Went to Montana first; then to Manzanar June 17 1942

Has 5 grandchildren, all daughters

Operated National Trading Co (dry goods) from 1906 to
1941 (Dec 7)

On Main St across from cityHall

Picked up by authorities on sidewalk Pearl Harbor Day

Manzanar address 29-10-1

Lives in home and is retired; property management
owns property on N Main St, San Pedro,
Little Tokyo, etc

Says 3 or 4 Jap churches in Little Tokyo and people
who own property there will return there

He also says many people own houses around 35th &
Normandie; and other sections are: Little Tokyo,
Boyle Heights, East of Vermont near Commonwealth, (Virgil),
W L A

Family with him (wife & son)

Has 6 children; son George, about 24, here, working

Five others are all daughters

Yaeko Nakamura
Dr Masako Goto (husband Dr Goto)
Kimiko Hasegawa
Sakae Okabe

Single daughter: Irene

All daughters in Chicago...Irene come here from Chicago
and Masako ditto with her husband to practice here

His wife is Matsu

14 room house, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

July 13 1945

NEWS ITEM FOR CENTER PAPERS (ALONG LIGHTER LINES)

She dropped into the WRA office in Los Angeles to say hello.

What did she think of Los Angeles? "The job is OK", she said. "I've got a pleasant place to live. No 'incident', except that a Hollywood wolf tried to pick me up at the corner of Hollywood and Vine. I said no. He was a Caucasian. Was I discriminating -- is that racial prejudice on my part?" she asked with a smile.

"Anyway, it's getting so that a lot of nice fellows think they have to act like wolves to be in style. If they would just relax and be themselves....why, you know, the 'incident' publicity was like that; a lot of people thought it was fashionable to push around the Nisei and Issei. It's sort of died down lately."

"We'd like to quote you on that," the WRA man said. "It would make a nice item for the center papers."

"No, I've got a boy friend and I don't want him worrying about competition from wolves," she replied.

"Well, then, what is the No. 1 problem for returnees? Housing, jobs, or incidents? You seem to have solved them all without much trouble."

"No, it isn't any of those," she answered with a twinkle in her eyes. "I'm not speaking for myself, but for most Nisei -- girls, I mean -- the No. 1 problem is manpower. All the Nisei boys are in the Army. Almost all, anyway.

"Why, we want to get the war over faster'n anyone. The quicker we win it the better. Then my man will be back."

Well, folks, that's one girl's point of view.

LA

(Suggested Editorial Copy)

CURTAINS FOR EVACUATION
MEANS TOLERANCE MUST RULE. . .

The curtain is about to fall on the third act of a real-life drama that has taken place right here in California during the past 3½ years.

It is a drama involving 93,000 people, who on a few days' notice were dispossessed, thrown out of the state and put behind barbed wire by the government in what, in any other country, we would call "concentration camps."

Were these people enemies? No. Were they guilty of anything? No. What was their crime? Simply one of ancestry!

They are the Nisei (pronounced "nie-say-ee") -- the American-born citizens of Japanese descent -- and their parents.

Because they LOOKED like the enemy militarists of Japan -- which might have led to confusion in case of invasion -- they were evacuated from the west coast in the Spring of 1942.

Many have already returned, and still more have re-located in eastern states. But, between now and Christmas, the last three thousand will come back home again -- or to what they once knew as home -- here in California. . . to take up the threads of life that were terribly tangled in the web of war.

Now, more than ever, tolerance must rule.

"Most Americans, if they know the facts, will protest

(more)

and fight injustice." So wrote Carleton Kent from Washington recently, referring to "one of the American home front's most delicate problems, the West Coast Japanese-Americans."

They were evacuated only because, in case of invasion, they might have been confused with the enemy! People of Italian and German descent were found guilty of sabotage -- but no one of Japanese descent. In time, the Army, FBI and Dept. of Justice approved the Nisei and Issei for loyalty. Yet they had been thrown out.

And so now the government accepts a responsibility through its soon-to-end agency, the War Relocation Authority (WRA), to help them relocate.

Up in the Santa Maria valley a big strawberry industry is being developed, and 100 returning Japanese-Americans will be employed in it.

With the Mexican nationals on their way back to their native soil soon, the Americans of Japanese descent will help fill the anticipated severe labor shortage -- if agriculturists make it clear that they want them. Else they may not be on hand.

There is no doubt that California has a debt to pay here. But the Nisei ask no favors. They simply desire to remain loyal and serve the cause of national welfare as good citizens and be recognized in that light.

They are Americans. And it's good Americanism to regard them as such!