2:24 WRA PRESS RELEASES 1946, n.d.

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Fair Play Comm.

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U. S. Dept. of Interior
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
1031 S. Broadway, L. A. 15
PRospect 4711, Ext. 740

PRESS RELEASE TO
JAPANESE-AMERICAN
NEWSPAPERS (COPIES TO
CENTERS, HOSTELS, Etc.)
Mailed Oct. 31, 1945
(Air-mail)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WRA WAREHOUSES
CLOSE PERMANENTLY ON FEBRUARY 28, 1946

Here is news of vital importance to all Japanese who still have goods in Southern California WRA storage:

All WRA warehouses in that area will be closed permanently on Feb. 28, 1946, it was announced over the week-end.

In connection with this announcement, however, it was emphasized that WRA is attempting in every way to make it easy for returnees and evacuees to obtain their belongings without red tape.

It is only necessary to sign two witnessed copies of WRA form No. 156, which is a request for transportation of personal property. Copies of this form will be mailed to anyone who writes or phones for them, or they may be picked up in person at any WRA office if help is needed in filling them out.

It has been definitely stated that WRA will pay the cost of all packing, crating and transporting of such goods that are to be delivered more than 25 miles from the warehouse where they are stored. In such event, the owner has no expense.

In short-haul deliveries, however, the owner has to furnish his own pick-up and transportation. Usually, this close-in delivery is not expensive.

Those who have no place to put their goods or who might prefer to sell them may ask WRA to assist in obtaining bids from possible purchasers. Such bids will be submitted to owners for approval, and no sale made without the owner's written consent.

In any event stored goods should be taken care of before the end of February. WRA will gladly advise anyone who is doubtful about what to do with his property.

It is pointed out that any unnecessary delay may cause a last-minute rush with inconvenience to the returnees -- and if the goods are still in warehouses on March 1, WRA may have to put up such property at forced sale.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT OFFICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION

PR-4711
EXT. 750

March 20, 1946

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The WRA today announced a summary of the status of four classifications of persons of Japanese ancestry in regard to induction into the armed forces of the United States.

Category No. 1

Persons of Japanese Ancestry Who Were Serving in the Army on December 7, 1941, and Who Were Given Honorable or Other Discharges Shortly After That Date Under the War Department Policy of Permitting Commanding Officers at Certain Levels, to Determine Whether They Wished to Retain or Discharge Soldiers of Japanese Ancestry.

The War Department policy in regard to persons who have had military service and have been discharged or released is uniform in its application. In general, those who have served honorably and have since been released are not being forwarded for induction by Selective Service unless they volunteer.

There is no restriction on the voluntary enlistment or induction of these persons if they are found to be qualified. Those men who receive discharges without honor, so-called "blue-discharges," may submit their cases to the Secretary of War's Discharge Review Board. If that Board determines that an injustice has been done, corrective action is taken to award an honorable discharge which will render the men in question eligible for voluntary induction or enlistment, if they are otherwise qualified. The policy which precludes the enlistment of those who have received blue discharges is non-discriminatory, and applies to all citizens and non-citizens regardless of their ancestry.

Category No. 2

Aliens of Japanese Ancestry.

The present status of this category is that Japanese aliens are not being forwarded by Selective Service for induction unless they volunteer. Japanese aliens have, for the past two years, been afforded the opportunity of volunteering for induction. Only a few have taken advantage of this opportunity and, in view of the small number of Japanese aliens who are eligible for induction, the War Department is inclined to believe that no change in the current policy is warranted.

Category No. 3

Former American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry Who Have Renounced Their Citizenship.

These former citizens are technically aliens and must be so regarded by the War Department.

[illegible]

Category No. 4

American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry Who Remain Classified in 4-C.

Recently the Secretary of War has advised the Director of the Selective Service System that cases of persons in this category may be re-opened by local boards and forwarded through to National Headquarters, Selective Service System, to the War Department for review, when such persons are otherwise eligible for immediate induction. Directions have been given to the effect that this review will be made under standards appropriately revised to meet the changed conditions brought about by the capitulation of Japan.

The United States Department of the Interior
Information Service
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

ADVANCE RELEASE for Sunday, May 28 and thereafter

Virtually all the 22,000 Japanese Americans who so far have left relocation centers have been well received in communities in various parts of the United States, away from the Pacific Coast, the War Relocation Authority today reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The report stresses the thousands of case histories of successfully relocated people who have resumed their normal place in society.

In traditional man-bites-dog fashion, it has been the very few exceptions that have made news, the report indicates. The business of finding new homes for these American citizens of Japanese ancestry, as well as for the law-abiding Japanese aliens, has been proceeding steadily ever since the mass hegira from the Pacific Coast was begun as a military necessity early in 1942. In fact, says the report, some of the first to move from the Pacific Coast had been resettled in other sections of the nation before the last had been uprooted and sent to the 10 relocation centers.

Illinois has proved to be the Mecca for the greatest number of these citizens whose only "crime" was having Japanese parents. About 5,000 have found homes in that state, chiefly in the Chicago area. Approximately half that number are living unobstrusively in Colorado. Utah and Ohio are hosts to about 1700 each, followed closely by Michigan. Idaho has received about 1000. Some states have less than 100, and a few of those evacuated have found jobs as far away as Delhi, India and Melbourne, Australia.

Of the thousands who have dropped into other communities without causing an economic or social ripple, the case of Frank Shiba is typical. Shiba and his wife, Caroline, had made their home in Fresno, California, where he ran a recreation hall before the war. After the evacuation they found themselves in the Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas. Like the majority of the evacuated people , Frank, his wife and their baby daughter, Diane, are American citizens.

Frank and Caroline, along with otherevacuee residents of the relocation centers, filled out questionnaires prepared by WRA in cooperation with experienced intelligence officers. Their names were submitted to the Federal intelligence agencies and nothing was disclosed to indicate that they were anything but loyal American citizens. Accordingly, they were granted "leave clearance" by the Director of the War Relocation Authority. They were free to go to any community outside the excluded West Coast military area.

The Shibas decided on Cleveland, Ohio, as their future home. A few dozen Japanese American evacuees had preceded him. Mrs. Shiba and little Diana stayed in the relocation center until Frank could find a job and a home. He wanted a job where he could feel that he was helping in some direct way to win the war. He found it as an apprentice on a grinding machine at the National Tool Company.

Now, ten months later, he is a fully qualified operator and is getting the full scale wage. His wife and baby are content in their new home. They've made friends, and with every week the family's roots are more firmly set in the new community.

Multiply Frank Shiba's experience by 22,000, make allowance for the geographic variations extending from Spokane to Boston, and for hundreds of occupations, and you have the story of the people of Japanese descent who formerly lived in the Pacific Coast area and who have relocated to new homes and new communities farther East.

About 110,000 West Coast residents, all of Japanese descent, were poured into the hourglass-like system inaugurated by the Army and the War Relocation Authority. The pouring-in process lasted from April to August, 1942.

Of the 22,000 who have left the centers on indefinite leave to date, most are American citizens. On the average, they represent the young, able-bodied adults, educated in American schools, speaking English well and Japanese poorly, if at all, thinking and acting like other Americans.

Life in the relocation centers was bound up in a 20 foot square room for a family of three or four, a wood burning stove, cots, blankets and a light bulb furnished by the Government. The evacuees fashioned tables and chairs out of crates, boxes and scrap lumber left over from the construction work. Eventually they got some of their own furniture shipped into the relocation center. The community bath house was a couple of hundred feet away and it served all of the 250 or so residents of the block. Three times a day all the residents of the block passed down the cafeteria line to the mess hall. Housewives couldn't prepare meals in their own homes, because no cooking facilities were provided.

Babies were born in the center hospitals, where they were well provided for. Special formulae and baby foods are available, and both mother and child receive competent medical attention. Children of school age attend classes in the barrack-type buildings. Work is available at $16 a month. Church, movies, occasional dances and home-produced entertainment are available at all the centers.

Leaving the relocation centers, the people of Japanese descent have scattered to most of the states outside the excluded Pacific Coast military area. Some regions have been found to draw greater numbers than others, but at no point do they approach the concentrations which were found in the "Little Tokyos" of Los Angeles, the "Japtown" of San Francisco, and other West Coast cities and farming districts before evacuation.

In moving eastward, many of the evacuees have left behind them farms and business properties laboriously built up on the Pacific Coast over a period of several score years. Some have lost all their equities in these properties and have been compelled to start life almost wholly afresh.

The younger relocators have had their schooling interrupted first at the time of evacuation and later upon the departure from the relocation centers. Adults have been cut off from familiar surroundings and from social ties of

many years standing.

But even though the transplantation has been a drastic process for many, it has some compensations from the long range point of view, the report to the Secretary stated. It has tended to break down the pre-war isolation of this Oriental minority in the United States and has brought thousands of these people more completely than ever into the mainstream of American life.

In a few instances there has been local opposition or discrimination when evacuees moved in, in spite of efforts of the WRA to determine in advance the attitude of the community toward persons of Japanese descent. In Great Meadows, New Jersey, neighboring farmers objected strenuously to five Japanese being employed as share croppers on a vegetable farm. To avert further violence, after a shed of the employing farmer had been burned down, the evacuees left.

More characteristic is the experience of Bill Okazaki and his family. They are settled on the farm of A.J. Krecker, near McHenry, Illinois. The Okazakis have been accepted into the community, their twin daughters are enrolled in the first grade at school. Formerly a vegetable grower in California, Okazaki is now engaged in producing crops and livestock of a typical Corn Belt farm.

Fred Doi, 35, who operated a vineyard at Fowler, California, is now in charge of 3000 laying hens near Elkhorn, Nebraska. He also helps in a dairy herd on the farm to which he has been relocated. Mrs. Doi is active in the local Red Cross and other community work. Neighboring farmers in this instance are favorably impressed with Doi and have started negotiations for other evacuee farm workers.

Other examples of relocation are:

Harley Asari who operated a goldfish hatchery at Huntington Beach, California, was the first nisei, an American of Japanese parentage, to be employed by the U.S. Foundry in Denver. Now there are 25 on the foundry payroll.

Jori Tanaka is one of the first women welders to graduate from a Des Moines welding school and is now making radio condensers.

Joe Eto, discharged honorably after 11 months Army service, is doing a job with a critical war plant. The product of this plant is so critical that publicity concerning it is strictly barred. The officer responsible for security arched his eyebrows and began to question whether or not it was safe to have a man of Japanese ancestry employed in so vital an industry. But Eto's war record won his confidence and Joe stayed.

Kelly Yamada managed three optician shops in Oakland, California, before being moved to Poston, Arizona. He has relocated in Peoria, Illinois, with his wife, two sons and his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Toraji Yamoto. Mr. Yamoto is a Peoria nurseryman.

Henry Mitarai, formerly of San Francisco, is operating 480 acres of vegetables in Utah and employs 25 fellow evacuees for the growing season and expects 125 for the harvest. Four transcontinental rail lines are employing evacuees as section hands, some are working in coal mines in Carbon County, Utah, and sixteen are employed by the Utah Lime and Stone Company.

"Relocation is our main job", says Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, in pointing out that the segregation in Tule Lake of those who refused to pledge loyalty to the United States was a necessary step in relocation.

"We felt relocation would be carried on much more effectively if those who were not eligible to relocate were put in one place, leaving the other centers composed entirely of those whose loyalties lie unmistakably with the United States. Our aim is to relocate every person who can be relocated, and work ourselves out of a job as quickly as possible."

To express the feelings of the evacuees, a more articulate spokesman could hardly be found than Mary Oyama Mitwer, successful writer, mother of two, whose husband Fred Mitwer had an American father and a Japanese mother; one of his brothers at last reports was interned by the Japanese government as a dangerous alien.

The Mitwers were evacuated from Los Angeles to the Heart Mountain relocation center in Wyoming, and then relocated in Denver, where Mary resumed her writing and Fred went into the food processing business. Mary Oyama expressed an attitude to which many of the evacuees subscribe:

"Of course it was a bitter experience to be uprooted and hustled off to a relocation center, but it's futile to be so preoccupied with the past that we lose sight of the future. The weak and misguided may blight the remainder of their lives by ill-considered acts. The strong and wise will make the best of their lot and emerge stronger and wiser than before."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

1031 South Broadway
Los Angeles 15, Calif.

'Phone PRospect 4711
Ext. 100

(For publicizing by Reports Officer and Relocation Officer)

RELOCATION UPS AND DOWNS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Returnees are invited to practice judo at the Los Angeles Dojo, 12th & Fedora streets, six blocks west of Vermont Avenue and near Pico street (take "P" car).

Dojo heads George E. Tate and William D. Albertsmeyer say they welcome Nisei and Issei men who are interested in judo. They also would like to find someone qualified to instruct in Kodokwan judo.

Sessions are 7:30 to 10 each Tuesday and Thursday evening. Caucasian businessmen find judo a good means of physical conditioning. It is a standard form of combat training for men in the armed forces.

(And, for the benefit of those unfamiliar with the word, a dojo is simply a gym for judo. Judo, in turn, is not limited to Japanese, but is commonly practiced by many of other nations. It isn't jiu-jitsu, but jiu-jitsu is an advanced form of judo.)

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LA-Proj. #44
EO'D-7/12/45

The United States Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAR RELOCATION CENTERS DO THEIR PART IN BOND DRIVES

War Relocation Centers for Japanese Americans evacuated from the West Coast two years ago are conducting the Fifth War Loan Drive in typical American fashion according to Robert B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of the War Relocation Authority. Although the centers are given no quota by the government due to their limited resources, (salaries are $12, $16, and $19 per month), the camps set their own quota and usually reach this figure. Heart Mountain Center in Montana is typical.

The Fifth War Loan Drive officially opened in Heart Mountain with a door-to-door campaign by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls. Girl Reserves conducted a campaign in the High School. The Center "Y" and other youth organizations took part. Thirty two prizes were offered to individuals selling the most bonds and stamps. A plaque of recognition was offered to the organization with the greatest percentage of sales.

A total of $2811.45 in bonds and stamps were sold by these youth organizations during the first week of the drive. The Girl Scouts led the sales with a total of $906, followed closely by the Boy Scouts with $878.90. One Girl Scout won the individual sales contest with $445.25. A Boy Scout, who sold $416 worth of bonds and stamps, won second prize.

A community dance, attended by 600 people, climaxed the bond drive. At the dance, seven $25 bonds were presented to holders of winning raffle tickets. Decorations with a patriotic motif adorned

the high school auditorium for the dance.

Japanese Americans in relocation centers have contributed well in past bond drives. In commenting on their part in the last bond drive the Jerome, Idaho North Side News stated that Jerome County made one of the best records in Idaho due in part to the bond sales turned in by the Japanese American residents of the Hunt Center. It added, "Many fine donations were received from folks of the same nationality living outside of Hunt".

The Arkansas Gazette, praising the patriotic achievements of Japanese American High School students at the Rohwer High School served as sponsors for a three weeks bond drive which netted $3506 - the cost of three jeeps".

During the Third War Loan Drive, the Gila River Center near Phoenix, Arizona reported that evacuee bond purchases amounted to $9425. Purchases to that time totaled $29,825. J. E. Carlson, chairman of Cochise County Third War Loan Drive commented, "It is rather unique to read in the paper that the first Arizona community to subscribe its quota was the Rivers Relocation Camp composed of Japanese Americans who are living there for the duration but who are considered in sympathy with America. ... The Japanese at Rivers, Arizona, have thus gone 'over the top' for the United War Fund, and the quota belongs to Pinal County".

In two days last year, during the Second War Loan Drive, with no selling campaign except the announcement that war bonds were for sale, the Japanese American soldiers at Camp Shelby, Mississippi bought $101,550 worth.

The Caucasian personnel at Relocation Centers contribute their part to the war effort, also. They have gone 'over the top' on every war loan drive thus far. Reports from the centers now show that they are doing so on the Fifth War Loan Drive.

Miss Ruth Kingman
2234 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, California

The United States Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAR RELOCATION CENTER HIGH SCHOOLS GRADUATE 2100 SENIORS in 1944

Approximately 2100 seniors graduated from the relocation center high schools according to figures compiled from the War Relocation Authority center newspapers.

Majority of the centers held their commencement exercises in June. The Colorado River Center at Poston, Arizona led the centers in total graduates with 406. Heart Mountain in Wyoming followed with 301, while Minidoka in Idaho was third largest with 286.

Following is the list of center graduates:

Colorado River Project, Arizona	406
Heart Mountain Project, Wyoming	301
Minidoka Project, Idaho	286
Gila River Project, Arizona	233
Manzanar Project, California	181
Granada Project, Colorado	158
Rohwer Project, Arkansas	154
Jerome Project, Arkansas	138
Central Utah Project, Utah	127
Tule Lake Project, California	121

Handicapped as most of these high schools are by lack of buildings and equipment, they have been able in the past two years to meet the requirements of the states in which they exist. Their graduates are being accepted in

universities and colleges on the outside and in several instances have achieved outstanding records.

Under Selective Service many of the boys are being inducted into the Army immediately after graduation.

Commencement exercises in relocation schools are patterned largely after the schools they left behind in California, Washington and Oregon. There are the baccalaureate sermons on the previous Sunday. A typical program consists of the processional followed by the invocation. Usually "America the Beautiful" is sung by the class or the "Star-Spangled Banner" is played by the school orchestra.

These young people had not forgotten the America which they left two years ago. The commencement speeches of their class representatives show that they have the backbone and the grit to succeed as youth has always done.

The students and their instructors, after an interlude of two years during which they have been severed from much of the outside ties, are still able to look to America's problems with the same broad perspective that all Americans do. They have shown that they are Americans, interested in America's war, her postwar problems, and her place in the family of nations.

In the speeches of these young graduates there was no pessimism or brooding over the past. They all pointed hopefully toward the future.

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POSTON, Arizona, -- "We are not the only ones who have been driven out of our rightful homes," was the declaration of Miss Aileen Asako Oita, valedictorian of Post II High School, Colorado River Relocation Center of the War Relocation Authority.

"We are not the only ones who will have to start out all over again when this war is over. Half of the people in the world will be starting out anew, and theirs would be the more difficult task, for they would have a whole country to rebuild," said the American girl graduate of Japanese ancestry.

Miss Oita, formerly of Watsonville, California, was the third member of her family to be valedictorian of a graduating class. An older brother, Katashi Oita, was valedictorian of Watsonville Union High School in 1941, and another brother, Itsumi, was last year's Poston II High School valedictorian.

In her address, little Miss Oita chided some of her fellow students for not having adjusted themselves to the restrictions of center life.

"If you cannot adjust yourself to conditions here, you can hardly hope to do so on the outside," she warned. "Life is a give and take proposition. It is an investment. And you have to invest a lot of your own time and effort to receive any benefits."

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Unwarranted persecution and discrimination against American citizens of Japanese ancestry" was condemned in a resolution passed by the national convention of the American Federation of Labor, a copy of which resolution was received here yesterday by Robert B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of the War Relocation Authority.

The resolution adopted by the AFL in its recent New Orleans convention is as follows:

"WHEREAS: in 1942 by Presidential Order 9066, all persons of Japanese origin resident on the West Coast of the United States were ordered evacuated inland in the interest of national security and,

"WHEREAS: of 126,947 persons of Japanese origin, more than 85,000 are citizens of the United States by birth, and of these more than 8,000 Japanese American youths are serving our Country splendidly in every theater of war and,

"WHEREAS: the strong tide of just hatred against imperial Japanese barbarism and brutality has been turned without reason against loyal Japanese American citizens resulting in innumerable incidents of unjust persecution and unjust discrimination,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that this 64th convention of the American Federation of Labor in session in New Orleans, in reaffirmation of our great tradition of struggle against intolerance and oppression, strongly condemns the unwarranted persecution and discrimination against American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

"Your committee recommends that the resolution be referred to the Executive Council for thorough-going study, for such recommendations and action as seem most appropriate."

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Department of Interior
War Relocation Authority
201 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Accomplishments of the Y.W.C.A. in helping Japanese-American evacuees from the Pacific Coast to cope with personal and social problems arising from their removal to relocation centers were summed up today in a report from the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. made to Robert B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of the War Relocation Authority, Department of the Interior.

Recalling that the Y.W.C.A. dealt with the problems of civilian evacuees in many parts of the world since the outbreak of the present war and long before the United States was drawn into the conflict, the board's progress report tabulates efforts made by the Y.W.C.A. to cope with problems brought about by mass uprooting of both citizens and aliens of Japanese ancestry.

With establishment of relocation centers, staff members of the national board were assigned to survey the situation and determine how the Y.W.C.A. best could serve the evacuees. Conferences were held with Government officials and leaders among the Japanese-Americans.

As a result, programs were formulated and put into operation. The program in each center has been directed by Japanese-Americans, most of whom are former Y.W.C.A. secretaries, board and committee members, club members and students.

Particular stress has been laid on meeting the real needs of the women and girls in the centers through recreation, group activities, service work and preparation for resettlement. Problems of family relations, preparations for marriage, juvenile delinquency, etiquette, vocational education have been met. In some instances U.S.O. programs have been organized for visiting service men who return on furlough to visit their families or friends.

In one WRA center, the Y.W.C.A. has equipped a dormitory and a club hall which are used by many groups in the center for discussions, parties, weddings, and meetings of various kinds.

In all centers club rooms have been fully or partially equipped through activities of the Y.W.C.A.

Special projects to promote friendship and understanding between girls inside and outside the relocation centers have been tried with success and a "letter-friend" project arranged for the Girl Reserves now includes 57 Girl Reserve groups in 21 States who correspond with Japanese-American girls in seven centers.

(more)

Local Y.W.C.A.s have cooperated in the resettlement of Americans of Japanese ancestry, often employing Japanese-American girls in their offices, residences and food service departments. In addition, Japanese-American men have been employed as maintenance men, thus helping to solve the manpower problem and at the same time affording an opportunity for resettlement. No small part of the success of such resettlement projects is due to the community understanding created through the efforts of the locals.

Says the report:

"The National Board believes that its work in the centers is helping to prepare loyal Japanese for resettlement and that its work through local Y.W.C.A.s is helping prepare communities for the reception of the new residents. The Y.W.C.A. believes that in helping Japanese-American citizens and their families to take their places again in normal community life it is rendering significant service to this nation in the struggle to preserve the values long cherished as the American way of life."

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

1031 South Broadway
Los Angeles 15, Calif.

Prospect 4711
Ext. 100

(For publicizing by Reports Officer and Relocation Officer)

RELOCATION UPS AND DOWNS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

An instance of breaking down State Board of Equalization resistance to issuing sales tax permits to Issei, is shown by the case of MRS. TOMI SHIBUYA of Los Angeles.

On July 20 the Board granted her the necessary retail license to re-open the garden supplies store at her home, 3718 S. Western Ave., which had been operated by her son before he enlisted in Uncle Sam's Army early in 1941.

WRA District Office reports that Area Supervisor Paul G. Robertson had Assistant Director R.B. Cozzens bring this matter urgently to the attention of the Board of Equalization's state headquarters, with the result that the latter's Los Angeles office was promptly advised to issue the permit. This may set a precedent in other cases now pending.

In recent weeks the Board has told Issei (not Nisei) to first get "clearance" letters from both the Army and the Navy. Apparently the Board did not regard the military OK given at time of leaving center as sufficient. But the Army and Navy, having no jurisdiction over civilian affairs of this kind, were unable to furnish the letters demanded by the Board, with the result that sales tax permits were delayed week after week.

Mrs. Shibuya organized the Blue Star Mothers of Amache. She has one son and two stepsons in the United States Army, one daughter in war work at Chicago, and another daughter whose husband is in war work at Salt Lake City. Mrs. Shibuya and her husband KINKICHI were born in Japan but came to California many years ago.

[illegible]

(Continued)

Ex-S/Sgt. Harry Tanouye gets around Los Angeles OK with a cane --he wouldn't need that cane but for a little German action in the Vosges mountains. Before the war Harry was in marine brokerage on the coast. He joined up with Uncle Sam's Army before Pearl Harbor, and served with the 522d Field Artillery. He has a Purple Heart, a bronze star for one of those behind the enemy lines suicide missions three campaign stars and various military ribbons earned in Italy and France. "I'm just an ordinary, common guy -- who did his part like the rest of them. I don't want any ballyhoo", Harry says. His father, Iwajiro, and mother, Hisako, are at Heart Mountain. A brother, James, was killed in action with the 442d in Italy.

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The A & O Radio Service Store, at 1856 E. Colorado Blvd., the main street of Pasadena, is operated by partners Jiro Oishi and Satoru Akutagawa, from Gila River and Topaz respectively. These two young men left the centers some time ago and went to work in eastern cities, and now are capitalizing on their experience by going into business for themselves. Their store is modern and neat. The only trouble the boys have had is finding housing for their families.

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LA--Proj.#49--HLW--7/24/45

U. S. INTERNEES IN JAPAN

THOUSANDS FACE DEATH FROM MALNUTRITION

Washington, Feb. 16 (AP)-- Several thousand United States citizens still held by the Japanese in the Orient, Congress was informed today, are facing death through malnutrition.

The disclosure was made by Breckingridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State, during hearings on the State Department appropriation bill reported to the House by the Appropriations Committee.

Discussing plans to bring the Americans back home, Long told the committee some of them have lost from 50 to 60 pounds in weight, "not through illness, but through malnutrition."

"They do not get the elements in the food that are sufficient to constitute the basis of life according to our standards," he explained. "We have people over there that are given a Japanese diet. That Japanese diet consists of a certain amount of rice, a little fish, frequently spoiled, and a little meat occasionally, maybe a piece of fruit once a week or once a month, and sometimes vegetables. It is adequate, probably, for the Japanese to live on because they have been raised that way, but our people cannot live on it."

Some of the Americans are interned in the Philippines, some in Shanghai, some in Korea, some in Japan, and some in Manchuria.

Negotiations for the return of about 1500 of them, Long said, had been started at the time distrubances broke out at the Tule Lake, Calif., Japanese detention center, and the Japanese promptly halted the negotiations until they could investigate the treatment of their nationals in the United States.

An investigation was made by the Spanish Embassy on behalf of Japan, Long said, and on the presumption the Spanish report would be satisfactory to Tokyo, the United States renewed its offer to negotiate for the return of more of our nationals.

"Their reply was 'no', that they would prefer to wait and to do this in their own way," Long said, "So, we are hung up for the time being on that."

Long told the committee the transfer was to have been made on the liner Gripsholm, under charter to the State Department. The Gripsholm, which already has made two trips to exchange prisoners with Japan, sailed from New York for Lisbon yesterday to carry out an exchange with Germany.

From another State Department attache, Nathaniel P. Davis, foreign service officer, the committee heard that United States foreign service officers captured in Manila on the whole were treated 'correctly' by the Japanese."

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
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Douglas 8173

For Release to All Project Papers,
Information of Area Reports Officers
and District Relocation Officers

Project Release No. 12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recently the War Relocation Authority sent a reports officer out to find out how the largest groups of relocated Americans of Japanese ancestry in California were working out their resettlement problems, individually and as a unit of the community.

The groups visited were in Fresno County. While individual answers ranged all the way from "wonderful" to "pretty good, so far", there was not one person unable to say he was glad to come back.

The first visited was the Inoye family who have returned to their home in the Westside of Fresno. When Mrs. Inoye answered the doorbell and saw her visitors, she exclaimed happily, "More company". Mrs. Inoye told us that she had had a stream of callers ever since they returned about two months ago. Her former boss from the Bank of America, the Dean of Women at Fresno State Teachers College, many neighbors and friends have rung the Inoye doorbell to welcome them home. "One nice old man saw my husband on the other side of the street and he got so excited he ran over and hugged him", Mrs. Inoye said. "They looked so funny standing there hugging each other."

The first night Mr. and Mrs. Inoye came home, they walked down to the Chinese section of the town with their fourteen year old son and had dinner in a Chinese restaurant. The proprietor was friendly. Some Filipinos stared at them but the Inoyes were told that Filipino hostility in that section came from seasonal workers who would soon be gone. "We just stay out of their way", Mrs. Inoye said.

Several months before the Inoyes returned, their place of business, a garage, was burned down. This means that they may not be able to reopen their business but, even so, they are happy that they came home.

"If we had listened to rumors, we never would have been here," Mrs. Inoye said. "When we were on the train coming out, we bought a San Francisco Chonicle and read of the Orosi case. I'm afraid we never would have started out if we had that news before we got on the train. I'm certainly glad we didn't know about it because we would have missed the wonderful happiness of being home."

Mrs. Inoye keeps a guest book and all the returnees sign it when they visit her home. She is a complete information center on their plans and activities. She can tell you, for instance, that Fred Waterida has returned to his vegetable farm outside of Fresno and is being cordially welcomed by his Chinese neighbor. Or, she can give you news about young Robert Yabuno from Gila who is preparing to take a job as an optometrist or, maybe, he will open his own business. A Caucasian classmate of Robert's is going out of his way to help him get settled as are other Caucasian friends.

While we were in Fresno West Side, we visited Mr. Kubota, Poston's former Mayor, at the hotel he operates there. Mr. and Mrs. Kubota and young Henry were working like beavers to get the hotel painted up and spring cleaned. Henry is waiting to hear from the Government on a matter of business pertaining to World War Number II and while he is hanging around he is having a good time seeing his old friends. He was invited to a party given in a Caucasian home the other night for a serviceman on furlough. Henry doesn't worry much about talk of Filipino hostility. He had his hair cut by a Filipino barber the other day and in addition to a good haircut, he got a hearty welcome.

Going back to the Relocation Office, we met Fred Nishida and Chick Sasaki who are back in Reedley with their parents and brothers and sisters. These two boys told us that they had a warm reception in Reedley. Returning war veterans from the Pacific have shaken hands with them when they met them on the street. They were urged so heartily to attend the First Mennonite Church that they did a few Sundays ago and were cordially welcomed by everyone. They got their biggest thrill out of homecoming in a grocery store. "We were standing in line waiting our turn at the counter", Fred Nishida said. "We know all about the cigarette shortage and so we weren't even going to ask for cigarettes. But the fellow in front of us, a Caucasian, asked and he got two packages. I thought I'd ask and see what the storekeeper would say to us. After all, we are of Japanese ancestry and the storekeeper is a Filipino but something made me ask--just to prove to myself whether or not we were being treated like other people. The Filipino storekeeper didn't answer me when I asked for the cigarettes- He merely reached down behind the counter and handed me-- not two packages like he did the Caucasian customer-- but THREE."

(over)

Our first call outside of Fresno was at the home of Harry Osaki near Selma. For a house that had been peppered with buckshot a few weeks ago, it certainly had a normal appearance. Those who worried about the effect of this attack on the elder Osakis would have been relieved if they could have seen them happily puttering around in their garden. The boys were out in the fields and so we visited with the parents.

Mr. Osaki does not speak English fluently but he knows how to get over one point--"This is my country", he said, scuffing his foot in the soil of his ranch, "this is where we belong."

Not far from the Osakis are the Hiyamas. Mr. and Mrs. Hiyama and their two children got home a few days before Christmas and later other members of the family followed. Mrs. Hiyama and her sister-in-law were digging out in the vineyard when we arrived and they were glad to stop work. It looked like rain and they said they might go in the house to bake a cake.

The Hiyamas were one of the first families to relocate in Fresno County. Neighbors and friends called on them and brought them gifts. Even people whom they didn't know dropped by with Christmas presents. They received over a dozen letters of encouragement from people all over the State. A man sent them an American flag and told them to hang it on their front porch.

The older Hiyamas and their daughter called on a Filipino family whom they had known before evacuation. The family was happy to see them and the Hiyamas enjoyed their visit.

Around the corner and down the highway are the Hirokas. Mrs. Hiroka and her two daughters, Alice and Fusa, were doing chores in their comfortable home when we arrived. They sent out for Harry, the brother who is managing the farm. He is the only one of the four Hiroka boys who has been spared by the Army to run the ranch. Harry came in with Howard Hatyama, a neighboring rancher, who, like the Hirokas, relocated to the East from Gila.

The younger Hirokas were enthusiastic in their praise of Morriston, New Jersey, where they had relocated. They were in the midst of a Friends colony there and the environment was ideal. We suspected that the younger Hirokas would have liked to stay in Morriston--but not so Father Hiroka. He is the biggest booster for relocation to California we met on our trip.

"I guess you can sum it all up by saying 'Be it ever so humble there's no place like home'", young Harry said.

The Hirokas were the first returnees to Fresno County and sentiment was not too good then, they think. "You can tell it's improved by the way people act", Harry said. "When we first came back, people didn't visit us too openly. Now they come here freely." The Hirokas trade in a Chinese store when they go to Fresno. There is one thing that could make their homecoming more pleasant, Harry thinks, and that is for more of the evacuees to come back.

Howard Hatyama said that he and his wife backed up everything the Hirokas said. Both families were amused at the rumors that had circulated in the centers about their homecoming. "We heard that people in the centers had reports that the Hirokas were all dead and that Hatyama was in the hospital or in jail", Harry laughed, "It's too bad people pay any attention to those wild rumors."

Back in Fresno, we ran into James Muyamoto from Poston who has come back to take over the family ranch. Muyamoto runs the farm for himself and his four sisters. Soon he is going into the army and so his friend, Sata Watari a 4-F also from Poston, will run the place for him. Muyamoto has been welcomed by his high school teachers and hundreds of old friends in Clovis. He told us that Johnson Shumiza, also from Poston, is coming back with his family to work for the Leonard Fruit Company. The company is fixing up a home for him.

During the day Pete Nakayama, from Rivers via Montana, dropped in to talk to Paul Fischer, Relocation Officer in Fresno. Nakayama and four other returnees are working for a Caucasian farmer in Kingsburg. The other workers, who are Mexican, are very friendly. Nakayama has been too busy to get around Kingsburg much but he says he can tell that Caucasians are friendly because they "raise their hands to us" when they pass by.

All in all Fresno seems to be a good place to come home to. Fair Play Committees, church groups, sympathetic community leaders, a relocation officer and staff who go out of their way to add many extra touches not really called for in their job descriptions make relocation in that area a pleasant adventure.

Mr. Fischer has only one complaint--he wants more evacuees to relocate.

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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202 Sheldon Building
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For Release to All Project Papers,
Information of Area Reports Officers
and Relocation Officers

Project Release No. 13

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Typical of the type of service offered to all travelers by the Travelers Aid Society is that recently received Rikisaburo Ohashi, a paralyzed returnee.

Mr. Ohashi was met in Sacramento by a representative of the society and given every possible attention there while he and his family changed trains for Modesto.

The representative of the Travelers Aid Society wired the Stanislaus County Welfare Department at Modesto to meet the train with a wheel chair, as was done in Sacramento.

The Travelers Aid Society should be notified far enough in advance to handle special cases. The society is equipped to arrange for emergency medical and ambulance service at all railroad transfer points.

The Ohashis said that porters and other railroad employes were very kind and considerate to them during the trip.

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Project Release No. 14

For Release to Project Papers,
Information of Area Reports
Officers and Relocation Officers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(On March 6 an attempt was made to intimidate the family of Joe Takeda which had returned to his farm three miles out of San Jose, California, January 26. Several persons, thus far unidentified, attempted to burn the Takeda home and then, when the fire was being fought by the Takedas, further attempted to frighten them by firing several shots in the general direction of the house. Although law enforcement officials quickly were on the job, a heavy rain obliterated such clues as footprints or tire tracks. However, the search for the culprits goes on. Meanwhile, Joe Takeda, American, has refused to be frightened or intimidated by a few bigoted night-skulkers. Just how Joe Takeda feels about the whole thing is told by Joe Takeda himself in the following letter which was recently received by James E. Edmiston, WRA District Relocation Officer at San Jose. Written from Rt. 2, Box 958, San Jose, the letter follows.)

"Dear Mr. Edmiston:

"Now that the atmosphere has cleared somewhat following the recent attempt to burn and shoot-up our home near San Jose, I want to tell you how my family and myself feel about this attack. The first purpose of my letter is to set at rest a lot of rumors which have been circulated throughout Santa Clara County.

"Nine members of our family were in the home at the time of the attack. They were: my father and mother; my married sister and her husband, Phil Matsumura; two younger brothers attending Santa Clara High School; and my baby sister Beverly, a student at Alviso Grammar School. I am speaking for all of them when I say that we are satisfied the attack was perpetrated by a few individual thugs and that it does not in any way, reflect the feelings of the people of Santa Clara County and San Jose against our family or any other returning evacuees.

"In support of this may I point out that all of our Caucasian friends, many of whom have known us children since we were babies, have been very cordial indeed. At Santa Clara High School both the teachers and the students have welcomed my brothers and received them back into school activities as though they had never been away. The same applies at Alviso Grammer School.

"The report that we had left, or were about to leave our home is entirely without foundation. We are here catching up the threads of our lives where we left off and it would take much more than the incident reported to convince us that we are not wanted in this community.

"My brother-in-law, Phil Matsumura, is the only member of our family who has left San Jose. He is reporting for induction into the army.

"You are at liberty to use this letter as you see fit at the Relocation Camps in order that our feelings may be known to other American Japanese in the centers who are planning to return to their homes.

"Sincerely,
"/s/ Joe Takeda
"Joe Takeda"

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