

7:7

Nishikawa, Yayoi

Notes

1944-1945

June 1, 1944

TULE LAKE FIELDNOTES

ROSALIE HANKEY

This is copy not copy

After my talk with Mr. Best I stayed in my room and did not talk to anyone for two days. But this solitude was very hard on me, and I decided to risk talking to people in the administrative section.

Yayoi Nishikawa and Lillian Manji

Chatted briefly with two Nisei girls whom I had known in Gila, who are employed in the administrative section. They gave me a glowing account of the funeral which had evidently been very impressive. At least 5,000 people were there said Yayoi. Mr. Best made a speech and the flowers were wonderful. It was too bad it was such a bad day - it rained by fits and starts all day and the wind was cold and nasty - but still it went off very well.

The other girl, Lillian, remarked that *"he was lucky to have such a nice funeral."* before she realized what she had said and grew embarrassed.

Miss Nishikawa (she is Mr. Harkness'¹ secretary and as far from a status-quo supporter as one could be) said worriedly, *"It is going to be bad though if the soldier is acquitted. The people are just waiting to hear."*

These two Nisei girls feel very lost and unhappy at Tule Lake. They are studying Japanese, but their heart is not in it. The conversation continually turned to friends in Gila and to those who had relocated. One girl's sister who had relocated was going with the family for whom she was working outside to Michigan for her vacation. *"Just think,"* she sighed enviously.

They asked if there were any truth in the rumor that the exchange ship was coming soon. That these dislodged Nisei are the unhappiest people in Tule Lake is not open to much question.

OPLER

Next I encountered Opler who told me that everything was very quiet in the colony. Will have to go in tomorrow myself and see. Huycke took a picture of the funeral for the Examiner - a step which was long debated by the Administration. No untoward results followed.

HARKNESS, Superintendant of Education

Stopped in to see Harkness. He was extremely cordial and we chatted for some time. He remarked that at the last incident, November 4th, Opler had predicted the night of November 3 that everything was extremely quiet and he expected no trouble at all.

The Nisei here, Harkness went on to say, are really in a tough spot. Many do not know whether they are actually going to Japan or not. Many do not know if they can go. Consequently, they do not know whether to concentrate on their Japanese education or their English. *"We can't help them either, because we don't know ourselves."*

STORY FROM CAUCASIAN EMPLOYED IN HOSPITAL

Leaving Harkness' office I met a woman employed in the hospital. She told me that when Mr. Okamoto was brought into the hospital, the Japanese standing around *"were just praying for him to die and don't kid yourself."* I met her again at lunch and I expressed sympathy for the soldiers. *"Don't give them any sympathy,"* said she.

1. Mr. Harkness was Superintendant of Education.

CALL ON CONSERVATIVE NISEI GIRL FROM GILA - YAYOI NISHIKAWA

Talked most of the afternoon on inconsequentials, my intent being to see what Yayoi thought about the Manzanar people and if she would express any opinion on the war situation. I failed completely on the latter point but found that she now thinks quite highly of the Manzanar group as a whole. *"At first we didn't like them because we heard how rough they were. But now we've gotten to know them."* A Manzanar boys' club invited some of the high school girls to a weiner bake and the girls were afraid to go. Those who did go, however, were treated so nicely that the reputation of the young fellows from Manzanar is now very good.

As I left, Yayoi said that she hoped very much that there would be no more trouble. She evidently lives in constant dread of a recurrence of the discomfort and confusion of last November. She is fairly happy in her high school courses, but complained, as did Lillian, that very few interesting or broadening courses are given. The high school graduates really have a tough time keeping themselves occupied.

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CALL ON YAYOI NISHIKAWA - Nisei girl from Gila

Yayoi seemed tired and depressed and looked almost ill. She has stopped her post-graduate work in high school this semester. She remarked that she felt that Tule Lake was making her very lazy. She ~~never~~ ^{never} feels like getting up in the morning and she doesn't feel like taking a job although Opler has offered her one. She also said, ~~significantly~~, "I don't feel like going back to Gila. I'm afraid I've gotten too lazy."

Renunciation of citizenship

Well, I haven't heard much about it. Many people are talking about it though. We don't know whether it's better to throw it over yet. We want to discuss it. Don't some boys want to throw it away right away?

Some people think that it (renunciation) will help them to get to Japan first. If you don't throw it away it looks as if you want to stay here. However, when you come down to doing it, you have to think twice.

We haven't taken any steps yet, but we will (make up our minds) at the end. I notice lots of people talking about it.

The ~~Sakoku~~ ^{Resegregationists}

I don't see how anyone can act as they do. They've planned a government of their own in here. They think they have more power than the Spanish Embassy. They say it's faster and more efficient to join their group and then they'll get ~~comparisons~~ the Japanese government to get them there first. They say they're sending all the people in their organization back to Japan and they'll go first.

A lot of people tell us to join, but we don't. We think they are an insignificant organization. We feel we should go through the Spanish Embassy.

We feel they're having trouble in their organization. Some people were removed from the organization and so I think they're trying to stir up trouble. They (~~Sakoku~~) are telling people to resign.

We noticed a notice in the laundry building them (~~members of the Sakoku~~) to resign. Until now, they really thought they were the only people living around Tule.

It would be a good idea to have an organization like that if it has the power to get us to Japan. Gee, but I hope we get to Japan or we get somewhere.

The worst part in camp is that the leaders aren't outstanding enough. So far, I'm wild because we're ~~not~~ (her family) not involved.

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DO NOT COPY

Resegregation rumor

"Do you think there will be resegregation?" (Yayoi seemed very concerned over the fact that the renunciation might be used as a method of resegregation. She ~~stated~~ ^{said} that when they had signed the military registration they had not been told that it would be used as a ^e method of segregation. (There seems little doubt that this question is being hotly discussed in camp.)

Sokoku Kenkyu

I think the Sokoku Kenkyu people had a good group at first. But now they seem to be having trouble of their own. However, I think some people in here should know more about Japan. (Yayoi means they aim of the Sokoku ~~are~~ ^{was} worthwhile and some of the Missi need instruction in ^{educational} Japanese history and culture.)

Employment

Why don't they (MRA) have more work for the people. If the people had jobs it would be better.

(Yayoi ~~stated~~ ^{said} that she felt sure her family would go back to Japan eventually - yet she spoke of relocation as if she had half way considered it. She also told me she was ~~attending~~ attending the Tea Ceremony class.

TALK WITH MRS. NAKANO - moderate - ex-councilwoman from Topaz

Ap-113 p-9- to be amended

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

	1981	1980	
Net income	4198.22	4668.96	
Repairing of lights at 8th bend		60.00	
Flaming		471.50	
Beautification		22.00	
Art of July Party		897.49	
Lawyer		411.00	
Water		113.91	
Walk cleaning		142.00	
Tree spraying		2400.00	
Snow removal		1100.00	
Halloween party		112.17	
Collection and mailing fees		778.00	
Difference			
(+)	32.87		
(+)	7.53		
(-)	1500.00		
(-)	300.00		
(-)	22.00		
(+)	4.00		
(+)	14.00		
(+)	100.00		
(-)	41.00		
(-)	291.49		
(-)	60.00		
	4410.10	4915.07	

* The snow contract was cancelled because the contractor did not fulfill his obligations.

In view of the situation a special meeting with the Block Representatives was called to decide on the possible reduction of the budget. It was decided by those who attended to reduce the service of spraying to only the front lawns.

The other differences come from some of the 1981 figures being estimates. To maintain a budget with full services similar to those provided in 1980, taking into consideration a 12% inflation rate (annual), will require a change in the assessment from an average assessment of \$22.65 per house to \$41.50 per house, an increase of \$18.85 a year or \$1.57 a month.

This and other alternatives will be discussed at our Annual Meeting.