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FROM: Information Division
War Relocation Authority
Hunt, Idaho

MWRP
9/22/42

(Special press release to Times-News, Twin Falls, Idaho, for
release Thursday, September 24.)

First water for growing food, grass, and flowers--to convert acres
of sagebrush into fertile lands--reached the Minidoka Relocation Center
area this week.

Block 41 at the eastern tip of the community was the first area flooded.
Other areas in the community will be put under water as rapidly as possible,
and all ground with the exception of roads will be planted in some fast-
growing grass or grain to end the harsh dust condition.

This five-mile primary canal, which taps the Milner-Gooding canal,
has a flow of five to 25 second feet, which is considered sufficient to
irrigate the center area proper and an adjacent area, a total of approxi-
mately 200 acres. The ditch was dug in a month's time by evacuee crews
using mostly hand tools.

A main lateral canal will be constructed in about the same location
as the primary canal to irrigate 3,000 to 4,000 acres immediately east
of the camp area in time for planting next spring. Eventually a series
of ditches off the Milner-Gooding canal will enable the colonists to turn
about 15,000 other acres of waste land into productive farms making the
colony self-sufficient for many foods.

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FROM: Information Division
War Relocation Authority
Hunt, Idaho

MWRP
9/28/42

(For special release to the Times-News, Twin Falls, Idaho, for use in special edition, Thursday, September 24.)

HUNT, Idaho--A forward stride in providing needed services for Minidoka Relocation center colonists will be made this week when Community Enterprises opens a service department in Block 12, Building 11.

The department will include beauty salon, shoe repair shop, dry cleaning and laundry pick-up service, watch, jewelry, radio, and general repair shops, and barber shops. Some services will not be open for business immediately due to a delay in the arrival of necessary equipment.

Other services already in operation are the community stores located in Block 6, Block 40, and Block 30, the latter open since Monday. The mail-order department, temporarily located in recreation hall 21, is taking orders for magazines, newspapers, and merchandise mail orders. Clothing and dry goods will be sold in Block 30 as soon as stocks are received to meet the needs of the residents.

Organized to operate all retail enterprises and services on a non-profit basis, the Community Enterprises is an association to serve the community with membership open to all residents over 21 years of age. John Essene, superintendent, explained that membership in the co-operative is available at \$10 per share and added that a down payment of \$1 on a share secures voting membership.

A stamp book system will be installed whereby stamps will be issued with each purchase to be placed in the purchaser's book. When the book is filled, the owner will receive \$4 for it or if his membership is not fully paid, \$2 will be paid in cash and \$2 will be applied upon his membership until fully paid.

At each accounting period the earnings of the co-operative store are determined and distributed to the patron on the basis of stamps issued. This patronage refund will be applied first upon any unpaid portion of the membership fee and the balance will be paid in cash. If a person leaves the community, he may receive cash for his fully or partially paid membership and at the rate of 4 per cent upon whatever amount of stamps are pasted in his stamp book.

I. Sakahara, formerly of Rife, Wash., is the co-op organizer and is directing organization of the association which will be incorporated after it is completely established.

Community Enterprises will operate on a limited-interest rates and a restricted capital investment. Credit sales will be forbidden and goods will be retailed at prevailing market prices. No credit trading will be permitted. The association will have a board of directors elected by the members which will act as a governing body and plan expansion and development of services on the basis of need and of availability of funds.

(For special release to the Times-News, Twin Falls, Idaho, for use in special edition, Thursday, September 24.)

HUNT, Idaho--First steps leading to a democratic form of self-government for the Minidoka Relocation center will be taken next Tuesday (Sept. 29).

George L. Townsend, Chief, Community Services division, announced today that all residents 18 years of age or over in every block will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in their respective dining halls to elect representatives to a congress which will in turn recommend to the project director seven from among their number to serve as a community council organization commission.

Each block manager will open the meeting in his block's dining hall Tuesday night and explain the provisions of W. R. A. Administrative Instruction, No. 34, on community evacuee government. The block manager will conduct the election of a temporary chairman. The temporary chairman then will conduct the election of two block representatives either by a standing vote, a show of hands, or any other method decided on at the meeting.

Block managers will have copies of Administrative Instruction, No. 34, which anybody may examine at the block manager's office.

The 72 block representatives will meet at an early date to recommend to the project director seven persons from their own ranks to make up an organization commission. This commission will prepare a plan of community evacuee government in accordance with the controlling provisions of Administrative Instruction, No. 34.

When the organization committee has completed its work, arrangements will be made for a ratification of its plan by a majority of qualified voters at a special election. Another election will be held to choose members of the community council by secret ballot.

Administrative Instruction, No. 34, provides that the plan of government shall have a representative legislative body to be known as the community council. The community council may be authorized to establish such regular and special committees and commissions as may be necessary to carry out its duties and functions or to cooperate with the project director in promoting the general welfare of the residents.

The nomination, election, and tenure of office of council members shall also be provided by the plan of government. It shall also contain provisions for the organization of its council, its officers, and the methods of their selection.

The plan of government and any subsequent amendments shall be submitted to the project director for review that none of its provisions shall violate any regulation or instruction of the War Relocation Authority. The plan of government shall become effective when approved by the majority of the qualified voters at a special election. When the plan has been thus approved, amendments may be

initiated only by a two-thirds vote of the council or by a signed petition of one-fourth of the qualified voters. Amendments shall become effective only when approved by the majority of the voters either at a general or a special election.

All persons 18 years of age or over shall be eligible to vote in all elections held pursuant to this instruction. Only citizens of the United States who are 21 years or over shall be eligible to hold elective office. All residents whether citizens or non-citizens shall be eligible for membership on appointed committees, commissions, boards, and other appointed administrative positions which may be established.

The community council shall prescribe regulations and provide penalties for their violation on all matters, other than those defined as felonies by the penal code of the State of Idaho, which affect the internal peace and order of the project and the welfare of the residents insofar as regulations are not in conflict with any federal law, military proclamation, law of the state of Idaho, or any order issued by an appropriate officer of the War Relocation Authority.

The council may provide for confinement, suspension of privileges, and other suitable punishments, but it shall not provide for the imposition of a fine. In lieu of the fine the council may provide for the suspension of the defendant from work privileges, pay privileges, or other privileges to which he would otherwise be entitled.

The community council may present to the project director resolutions on questions affecting the welfare of the residents of the center. The council may license and require reasonable license fees for evacuee-operated enterprises, the total of such fees from all sources not to exceed \$1,000 for any year. Such funds shall be spent only for purposes which will promote the general welfare of the residents.. The council shall not have the authority to regulate the management, operation, or conduct of business enterprises within the center.

The government plan shall provide for a judicial committee or commission of not less than three members which shall hear cases and apply penalties for violation of law and order regulations prescribed by the community council. In criminal cases involving felonies, the project director shall deliver over the defendant to state and local officials for prosecution.

Orderly methods will be provided for settling civil disputes between residents of the project who voluntarily agree to submit their disputes to an arbitration commission.

FROM: Project Reports on
Minidoka Relocation Project
Hunt, Idaho

MWRP
1/16/43

(Special to North Side News.)

(Cufllines for photo of Sachiko Ochi Kodaira.)

CONCERT SOLOIST

HUNT, Idaho--Sachiko Ochi Kodaira, former concert pianist on the Pacific coast, will be one of the soloists appearing at the Jerome high school auditorium January 28 with the Minidoka mass choir. A former Seattle resident, this accomplished pianist has studied under four noted teachers, Marcel Maas of the Brussels Conservatory, Belgium; Sigismond Stojowski of New York City; John Blackmore of the Boston Conservatory of Music; and Madam Bertha Pancy Jacobson, University of Washington.

SOLOISTS WILL PLAY HERE WITH MINIDOKA CHOIR

A varied program of religious music, American folk songs, and concert favorites will be presented by the Minidoka mass choir of 83 voices and solo artists at the Jerome high school auditorium January 28 at 8 p.m.

Members of the choir are residents of the Minidoka Relocation Center for Japanese evacuees at Hunt. Most of the choir members sang in Seattle church choirs prior to evacuation.

Soloists who will appear with the group are Sachiko Ochi Kodaira, former concert pianist on the Pacific Coast; Teruko Akagi, former violin soloist with the University of Washington Symphony Orchestra; and Yoshi Uchida, 16, former bass soloist with the Lincoln high school glee club in Seattle. The latter possesses an unusually deep voice for a person of Japanese ancestry.

The concert will be sponsored by the Jerome Ministerial Association. While no admission will be charged, voluntary offerings will be accepted to be used for the purchase of music for the choir.

Mrs. Iwao Hara, superintendent of music at Hunt, is director of the choir.

The concert program follows:

I.

- a. O Be Joyful, All Ye Lands. Gretchaninoff
- b. Beautiful Savior Christianson
- Alto Soloist - Waka Mochizuki
- Choir

II.

- a. Thirty-two Variations Beethoven
- b. Etude. Liszt
- Sachiko Ochi Kodaira - Pianist

III.

- a. Today There is Ringing Christianson
- b. Gloria Old French Carol
- c. The Shepherd's Story Dickinson
- Soprano Soloist - Minnie Yokoyama
- Tenor Soloist - Mike Hagiwara

IV.

- a. The Living God. O'Hara
- b. Volga Boatman
- Yoshi Uchida - Vocalist

V.

- a. Deep River Negro Spiritual
- b. Every Time I Feel the Spirit Negro Spiritual
- c. Goin' Home Dvorak
- Soprano Soloist - Minnie Yokoyama
- Alto Soloist - Grace Hagiwara
- Tenor Soloist - Mike Hagiwara
- Choir

VI.

- a. Romanza Andaluza Sarasate
- b. Zigeunerweisen Sarasate
- Teruko Akagi - Violinist

VII.

- a. The Lord's Prayer (Finlandia). Sibelius
- b. The Lost Chord Sullivan
- Alto Soloist - Waka Mochizuki
- Choir

FROM: Project Reports Division
Minidoka Relocation Project
Hunt, Idaho

MWRP
1/23/43

(For release Thursday, January 28.)

HUNT, Idaho--The Minidoka Mass choir of 83 voices from the Minidoka Relocation Center will sing for Jerome high school students in the school auditorium Thursday (Jan. 28) at 4 p.m.

The choir will sing a formal concert Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the high school auditorium under the auspices of the Jerome Ministerial Association.

Three outstanding musicians will be featured as soloists on the program. Sachiko Ochi Kodaira was concert pianist on the Pacific Coast before she was evacuated to the Minidoka Center along with approximately 9,500 other Seattle and also Portland people of Japanese ancestry. Teruko Akagi was violin soloist with the University of Washington symphony orchestra. Yoshi Uchida, 16, was soloist with the Lincoln high school choir in Seattle. He has an exceptionally low bass voice.

The mass choir concert will include sacred numbers, negro spirituals, and concert favorites. There will be no admission charged. Voluntary contributions will be used to buy music for the choir.

Mrs. I. Hara, who directed the prize-winning Seattle Methodist church choir and who is supervisor of music at the Minidoka center, will direct the concert.

(for Twin Falls Times-News only.)

The choir will sing at the First Methodist church in Twin Falls, February 9, under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce, Twin Falls Ministerial Association, service clubs, and the inter-church youth affiliation.

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JAP RELOCATION WORKERS STRIKE

HUNT, Ida., Jan. 5---(AP)-----Several thousand Japanese washed in cold water today because 105 Hunt Relocation Camp janitor-boilermen stayed away from their jobs.

R. S. Davidson, acting director, said administration officials and camp leaders were attempting to settle the dispute.

Davidson said the men, Japanese-evacuee residents of the camp, quit in protest of a new work schedule adopted with the advent of cold weather. Although they serve only 40 hours a week, the men contended the new schedule, reducing the number of men on duty each shift, would overwork them.

When no hot water was available to wash, crews unloading coal and collecting garbage also walked out.

Boilers providing heat for the camp remained in operation.

"Arizona Republic" ----- January 6, 1944

How

Press Release

(Special to the Twin Falls Times-News.)

A program of concert favorites in the field of sacred music and spirituals will be sung by the Minidoka mass choir tonight (Feb. 9) at 8p.m. at the First Methodist Church, Fourth and Shoshone.

The appearance of this musical group from the Minidoka Relocation Center at Hunt is being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the Ministerial Association, Service Clubs of Twin Falls, and the Inter-church Youth Affiliation.

Soloists to be heard with the choir are Sachiko Ochi Kodaira, well-known concert pianist who achieved wide popularity on the Pacific coast; Teruko Akagi, violinist, who recently was soloist with the University of Washington Symphony Orchestra in Seattle; and Yoshi Uchida, 16, bass soloist, former member of the Lincoln high school Chanters in Seattle.

The piano solos will be Thirty-Two Variations by Beethoven and Etude by Liszt. Miss Akagi will play Romance by Wieniawski and Zigeunerweisen by Sarasate. Mr. Uchida will sing two songs especially suited to his deep bass voice, The Living God by O'Hara and the Volga Boatman.

The choir program will include the Be Joyful, All Ye Lands by Gretchaninoff, Beautiful Savior by Christianson with Waka Mochizuki as alto soloist; Today There is Ringing by Christianson; Gloria, an old French carol; the Shepherd's Story by Dickinson with Minnie Yokoyama as soprano soloist and Mike Hagiwara as tenor soloist; The Lord's Prayer from Finlandia by Sibelius, The Lost Chord by Sullivan with Miss Mochizuki as soloist; and a group of negro spirituals including Deep River, and Everytime I Feel the Spirit. Going Home from Dvorak's New World Symphony will feature Miss Yokoyama as soprano soloist, Grace Hagiwara as alto soloist, and Mr. Hagiwara as tenor soloist.

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2/11/43

HUNT BOY SCOUTS
WILL GET AWARDS

HUNT, Idaho--Court of Honor will be held Friday night in the Minidoka Relocation Center to conclude observance of national Boy Scouts Week by Hunt district scouts and cubs. Ray Balmforth, executive of the Snake River Council, will preside as judge and will award to Hunt scouts 40 merit badges, four star scout ratings, three first-class badges, and 20 second-class badges. Kendall Dayley, field executive of Snake River Council, also has been invited. Hunt district commissioner is George Hakehashi.

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FROM: Project Reports Division
Minidoka Relocation Project
Hunt, Idaho

MWRP
2/25/43

RUPERT WILL HEAR
CHOIR FROM HUNT

HUNT, Idaho--The Minidoka Mass Choir of 85 voices is preparing a concert program for presentation at Rupert on March 14.

The Rupert Chamber of Commerce, Rupert churches, women's clubs of Rupert, Business and Professional Women's Club, the Rotary Club, and Protestant youth groups will sponsor the appearance of the choir which is made up of Japanese-American residents of the Minidoka Relocation Center.

The place where the choir will sing has not yet been named. It is planned for the concert to be given Sunday afternoon on March 14.

The concert program will include sacred numbers, folk songs, and concert favorites.

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FROM: Project Reports Division
Minidoka Relocation Project
Hunt, Idaho

MWRP
3/5/43

HUNT, Idaho--On Sunday March 14, the Episcopal church in the Minidoka Relocation Center will be formally established as a mission in the Twin Falls deanery of the missionary district of Idaho with Father Mitsuo Joseph Kitagawa as the vicar in charge.

The Rev. Frank A. Rhea of Boise, Episcopal Bishop of Idaho and the Rev. E. Leslie Rolls, pastor of the Church of the Ascension, Twin Falls, will attend the service commemorating the occasion.

Rt. Rev. S. Arthur Huston, Bishop of Diocese of Olympia, Washington, will attend the observance of Ash Wednesday in the center.

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FROM: Project Reports Division
Minidoka Relocation Project
Hunt, Idaho

MWRP
5/18/43

FOUR SAKURA BROTHERS
VOLUNTEER FOR ARMY

(outlines)

Lt. Stanley D. Arnold of the War Department, Washington, D. C., chats with the four Sakura brothers at the Minidoka Relocation Center. The four residents of Eatonville, left to right, Ken, Chet, Ted and Howard, volunteered for service in a Japanese-American combat team of the Army.

(Special to Tacoma newspapers.)

HUNT, Idaho--The four Sakura brothers, former residents of Eatonville, have volunteered for induction into the U. S. Army to serve in a special combat team of Japanese-Americans, according to officials of the Minidoka Relocation Center.

Two of the brothers, Chet and Howard, are fathers; Chet has three children and Howard has a baby son six weeks' old. Howard formerly was dry kiln foreman of the Eatonville Lumber company and he was active in Boy Scout work.

Chet was foreman of the planer mill and also active in Scout and radio work. At the Minidoka center, he has been working in a radio repair shop operated by the Minidoka Consumers' Co-operative which is a non-profit organization of the residents to run stores, barber shops and other services not provided by the government.

Kenny Sakura is well-remembered in sports circles as an outstanding player on the Eatonville Lumber baseball team several years ago.

Ted is the fourth brother. Their sister, Grayce, wants to join the WAAC. Recently a WAAC recruiting officer visited the Minidoka center

to determine how many girls would be interested in joining the WAAC.
if it were opened to Japanese-American girls.

Their mother, Mrs. Misa Sakura, also is a resident of the Minidoka center. Their father, Toyozo Sakura, died 29 years ago.

"Long before Dad died," Chet said when they volunteered, "he told all of us if Japan and America should ever be engaged in a war, there would be only one thing for us to do--live and fight to uphold the U.S.A.

"We have not lost faith in America and we are ready to discharge our responsibility to the United States to our children and to all future Japanese Americans."

Of the 1,000 Japanese Americans who volunteered for the Army, more than 300 were from the Minidoka center.

The Army volunteering is one phase of a new program to permit all loyal Japanese-Americans to participate in the war effort, in the Armed forces, in agriculture and in other industries.

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HUNT, Idaho--Rev. Charles Horejs, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Jerome, spoke at the Minidoka Relocation Center Friday and Saturday as part of the first Religious Emphasis Week. The theme of the week was "Christian Convictions for Modern Living."

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FROM: Project Reports Division
Minidoka Relocation Center
Hunt, Idaho

Special news releases for the Times-News and North Side News.

HUNT, IDAHO**Several truck loads of shade trees donated by residents of Jerome and Twin Falls were planted in the Minidoka Relocation Center this week. Since the center is located on an area cleared of sagebrush and barren of vegetation, the trees were welcomed by the residents. Volunteer crews following a uniform plan put the trees into the ground.

The center has made arrangements to have its trucks pick up trees, cuttings, shrubs, bulbs and seeds at the two towns. In Twin Falls they should be left at the bandstand in the city park on Shoshone Avenue.