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OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION

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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

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BUFFALO 3, NEW YORK

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THE WESTERN NEW YORK DISTRICT

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DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Western New York District, as it now exists, is a combination of the former Western New York District; Erie County, Pennsylvania; and a portion of the district formerly covered by the field office in Rochester. The geographical boundaries are as follows:

North - Lake Ontario

East - Cayuga Lake, Cayuga County, Tompkins County,
and Tioga County

West - Niagara River, Lake Erie

South - Pennsylvania

The counties in the area include: Erie and Niagara, known as the Niagara Frontier, with Buffalo located in Erie County; Monroe County in which Rochester is located; Chemung with Elmira; Ontario with Geneva; Chautauqua with Jamestown; and Genesee with Batavia. There are also the counties of Cattaraugus, Allegany, Livingston, Orleans, Schuyler, Steuben, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates. In all of these latter counties, the chief source of livelihood is agriculture. In some of these counties, there are a variety of other industries. Other cities located in some of them will be listed in a paragraph below. Erie County, Pennsylvania, in which the city of Erie is located is also included in the district.

The largest city¹ in the district is Buffalo in Erie County with a population of 575,901; Rochester in Monroe County is second with a population of 324,975; third is Erie, Pennsylvania, with a population of 116,955; fourth is Niagara Falls with 78,029; then

1. Population figures are those of the U.S. Census for 1940.

Elmira with 45,106; Jamestown with 42,638; and Geneva with a population of approximately 30,000. Local citizens in each of these cities have been interested in the program. Buffalo, Rochester, Erie and vicinity, Geneva, and Elmira are the only cities to which resettlers moved; the greater number going to Buffalo and Rochester. Interest was shown by as many as eleven families in a furniture factory opportunity in Jamestown, but no one ventured to accept. Our records indicate only four people with definite interests in opportunities in Niagara Falls.

Communities with populations of 10,000 to 25,000 include: Dunkirk, Corning, Hornell, Kenmore, Lackawanna, Lockport, North Tonawanda, Olean, Tonawanda.

Two girls did relocate to Lockport. In Olean and Dunkirk, there was particular interest on the part of interested citizens. Work in each place was available.

Communities with a population of 5,000 to 10,000 include: Canandaigua, Depew, East Aurora, East Rochester, Fredonia, and Hamburg, Lancaster, Penn Yan, Salamanca, Seneca Falls, and Waverly.

Near East Aurora, an Issei family bought a truck farm in the fall of 1944, after having worked a year for someone else near by. In Fredonia, three men and members of their families were employed by a person who owned a vineyard and a winery. It should be mentioned that he also owns vineyards in California. He visited the Colorado River Relocation Center and has spoken highly of his reception there. At Penn Yan, students attend Keuka College.

Most Popular Communities For Resettlement

Buffalo and Rochester have been the communities that have

attracted the greatest number of resettlers. In both the sentiment has been favorable. Each city had a committee of citizens who were ready to assist in molding public opinion and to cooperate with the government.

Rochester attracted girls who were interested in the training for cadet nurses. The Genesee Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, and the Rochester General Hospital has Nisei girls registered. A total of twelve have been in training. The University of Rochester also attracted students; the School of Medicine and the Eastman School of Music should be mentioned particularly. The Colgate-Rochester Divinity School has students of Japanese ancestry enrolled. Near by Rochester is the Roberts Junior College at North Chili. Several Nisei boys and girls started their college training there. Work was also available in Rochester. It was work that did not, for the most part, require particular skills; however, some men have pursued their trades; three in particular are linotypists.

Although Buffalo did not attract a large number of students, some have been enrolled at the University of Buffalo. The attraction of other colleges in other localities, either because of the particular opportunities available, or the chance to return to the West Coast brought about a transfer of the students at the University of Buffalo. One young Issei¹ is known to have been graduated from that University. Work opportunities of various types have been available. Before the PMGO Clearance was required, the

1. Frank Hijikata, who was one of the first arrivals in Buffalo, came through the efforts of the Baptist Home Mission Society.

Curtiss-Wright Corporation employed five men as engineers, one woman as an industrial artist, and a second as a typist. After the experience of the removal of one¹ of the men by the Military, the Corporation did not care to get involved in the procedure² of PMGO Clearance.

One other part of the district that attracted a number of resettlers is Erie County, Pennsylvania. Resettlers went there to work on farms, as caretakers of estates, workers in a food processing establishment and workers in an establishment that produced products made from cement. The communities were near the lake, suburbs of the city of Erie. At North East, where the food processing establishment and the concern that made products from cement, there were at one time as many as 13 unattached men working. A total of at least 37 resettlers have lived in Erie County, Pennsylvania. It is significant to note that no special effort had been made on the part of the Authority to develop a favorable climate of opinion in that part of the district. The men who hired the resettlers were men who had status in the community. The owner of the cement concern told the writer that when he had the opportunity to employ several Nisei he called his workers together, a much depleted group, told them the situation and suggested to them that if any of them felt that they could not work with these fellow Americans, they should feel free to go to the

1. George Furutani was denied PMGO Clearance for war work as of June 13, 1944, and was dismissed for "sufficient cause."
2. The gist of a statement made by a Nisei worker who was interested in getting positions for other Nisei.

office to get their pay. Two or three of the former employees did quit.¹

Lack of Interest in Other Major Communities

When the first center residents were leaving the centers, Western New York was not an area open to resettlers. It was in the Eastern Defense Command. Relocation was not opened a year after other places were well on their way. Then, too, efforts were concentrated in the cities of Rochester and Buffalo. Other communities were interested in having resettlers and were waiting for them to arrive. No one wished to be the first. In Jamestown, housing may have been a drawback. Possibly, the lack of a variety of job opportunities may have been the reason for no one going to some communities. In some cases, the jobs themselves were not appealing; in Niagara Falls, for example, nearly all jobs were in the heavy industries. Probably the outstanding reason given by the resettlers for not going to Jamestown, Dunkirk, Niagara Falls, or elsewhere, although there was good transportation available, was not being near "any other Japanese."

The time that it took for center residents to make up their minds to accept a position and then to move caused many employers to become disinterested. One farmer stated that his experience indicated that it took a minimum of six weeks for a family to get themselves on the job after the head had accepted the offer.² It appears that it was not the community but the center residents who

1. Conversation with O. F. Morse, proprietor of Morse Cement & Tile Company, North East, Pennsylvania.

2. Frank Barney, potato grower, Girard, Pennsylvania.

were the determining factor as to whether or not a community had resettlers.

Resettlement in Urban and Rural Localities

Resettlement in rural areas has been negligible, not because there have not been the work opportunities, but for a reason already mentioned: "no other 'Japanese' in the vicinity." One family that came to Buffalo in the fall of 1943, after working a year for a truck farmer, did buy a fifteen-acre place with modern building, approximately twelve miles southeast of Buffalo on Rice Road, just off New York State Highway Number 78 near Spring Brook, six miles from the residential suburb, East Aurora. This is the only family in the district known to have been so venturesome. Some others have talked about starting business.

In the fall of 1944, the Gow School, a private school for boys at South Wales, just off United States Highway Number 16 which is the main highway between Buffalo and Olean, employed an Issei bachelor as a cook. To take his place, a middle-aged couple was employed since the former employee wished to return to California.

A potato farmer at Girard, Pennsylvania, located approximately 17 miles west of Erie has employed four family units consisting of a total of 23 persons. The slowness with which people chose to leave the centers made it necessary for this farmer to employ other people. This farmer has one of these families consisting of a husband and wife and six children working at Sherman, New York, a community somewhat isolated.

Fredonia,¹ New York, in the heart of the fruit region of Western New York, attracted two farmers from Poston who worked for a vineyardist and winery operator. Both quit, one after having moved his family of five and in-laws. Job opportunities and housing appeared to be more desirable in Detroit.

A young Issei and his Kibei wife and American-born children, ages 5 and 3, accepted the offer of the owner of a fruit farm at Ontario, New York, located on Lake Ontario, approximately 16 miles east of Rochester. This farmer previously at different times had employed three Nisei; all left his employ because of the lure of the city, one staying only a few days.

Some other resettlers have been in various parts of the district but the details in regard to what they did are not known, other than that they worked on a farm.

1. W. A. Russo, Fredonia, N.Y., referred to above was the only person who employed resettlers.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

"The verdicts of small towns are swift, sure, unshakeable . . . ,"¹ states William E. Barrett in the opening sentence of one of his stories. It seems that the part that leaders in communities, small or large communities, played in the relocation program came with little or no hesitation. And, after the decision was made to cooperate with the government, nothing could shake them from giving all they could. It was a challenge, undoubtedly, an opportunity to satisfy the "wish" that Ellsworth Paris speaks of--the wish for being part of a cause larger than oneself.²

Buffalo Resettlement Committee³

A letter from the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. asking what the Buffalo Y.W.C.A. was doing in regard to cooperating with the government in its relocation program, the newspaper articles about the program, and a personal letter from Miss Ethel Bird caused Miss Edith O. Sawyer, Executive Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. of Buffalo, to become concerned about the program of the WRA and to do something about it. The first obstacle that she was confronted with was the matter of clearance and Eastern Defense Command Clearance. She communicated by mail and visited in person the WRA officers in New York City and Cleveland. At the time, there seemed to be no answers to some of her questions. Nevertheless, two girls did arrive in the summer of 1943 to be counselors at the Y.W.C.A.

1. William E. Barrett, "Never Half a Heaven," Red Book, Dec., 1944.
2. Ellsworth Paris, reported by his students from lectures.
3. See Appendix Pages 51 - 55.

To call together a group of interested citizens in the summer was a difficult undertaking, however, on August 18, 1943, "whoever was in town at the time was contacted and a meeting was held."¹ Ten persons and Miss Sawyer were at the meeting; six others had expressed an interest but could not attend. They wished to be informed of future meetings. At this meeting, there were three clergymen (two Protestant and one Catholic); the Executive Secretary of the Buffalo Council of Church Women; a retired psychiatrist; the Executive Secretary of the International Institute; the Executive Secretary of the New York State Committee Against Discrimination in Employment and Industry; a person of Jewish ancestry; a person known for her ability to raise money; and a young Issei² who was attending the University of Buffalo. Miss Sawyer states that the latter was very helpful in helping the Committee to see and accept the challenge.

The people who attended this first meeting wanted information; some had been interested in the evacuation and relocation through the organizations that they belonged to that were nation wide. The newspapers carried a story of the meeting; for several days afterwards, the Y.W.C.A. received calls in regard to the possibilities of securing domestic help.

In September of 1943, George Rundquist and Harold S. Pistere, then of Cleveland, visited Buffalo and met with a representative group of those who were interested in the program.

As a result of the community interest and the work oppor-

1. Statement made by Miss Edith O. Sawyer.

2. Frank Hijikata, who has been referred to previously.

tunities, in November, 1943, the WRA office at 1126 Rand Building, Buffalo 3, New York, was opened.

An interesting side issue that should not be omitted is the reaction of the Negro leaders when they learned of the formation of a Citizen's Committee in the interest of persons of Japanese origin in this country. Miss Sawyer stated that the Negroes were resentful of the fact that so small a portion of the population was getting so much attention. It is quite possible that as they secured accurate information they became cognizant of the vital issues involved. One of the leaders, in a conversation with the writer during the summer of 1945, commented favorably on the efforts of the government on behalf of the evacuees.

Membership - The membership of the Buffalo Resettlement Committee at first totaled twenty-seven; now eighty-six men and women in all walks of life are listed as members of the Committee. The Chairman (male) is the Headmaster of Park School of Buffalo, located at Snyder, a suburb bordering on the city limits, and was formerly of California where he lived as a youth and then attended Harvard University. The Vice-chairman (male) is the Manager of the Social Security Board located in Buffalo. The second Vice-chairman (male) is a Catholic priest. The Secretary (female) of the Committee is the Executive Secretary of the International Institute of Buffalo. The above mentioned and persons in the following walks of life made up the Executive Committee: a banker (male), a retired psychiatrist (female), Executive Secretary of the Children's Aid Society (female), housewife, Executive Secretary of the Council of Church Women, Buffalo representative of the State Committee Against Discrimination, a lawyer, and a judge.

Members of the Committee at large consisted of a storekeeper, 9 housewives interested in community activities, 9 Protestant and Catholic clergymen, case worker at the International Institute, personnel manager at Curtiss-Wright Corporation, Chancellor of the University of Buffalo, Head of the Department of Sociology of the University of Buffalo, C.I.O. leader, President of Canisius College, Erie County Agricultural Agent, Director of the City Health Department, teacher at the State College for Teachers, newspaper reporter, Executive Secretary of the Council of Churches, general secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Executive Secretary of the A.P. of L., Judge of the Children's Court, representative of the Jewish Federation, Executive Secretary of the Council of Social Agencies, former missionary to Japan, and other interested persons. A few members of the Committee had at one time lived in Japan. A Negro was also a member of the Committee.

Objectives - In a brochure published by the Committee, the objectives are stated as follows: "to help relocatees get settled happily in Buffalo and to acquaint the city with the needs of its new residents." In addition to the foregoing, the objectives were also to broaden community acceptance by acquainting the public with the WRA program and then to act as a transitional group getting ready for the day when the WRA no longer exists and the centers are closed.

Activities and Achievements - Not unlike committees in general, the Buffalo Committee acted as a potent factor in the wielding of public opinion. The actual work that was done was more by individuals as individuals rather than as members of the Committee. Specifically, the Committee did raise funds to pay the rent for a

five-room furnished apartment located on the third floor of a converted residence which was used as a hostel. The Committee had hoped for a hostel and all that it implies; however, they had to be satisfied with the apartment which has served very well as a temporary place for resettlers to stay.

The sub-committee on housing has been a very active committee in its endeavor to find housing and to locate a suitable building for a hostel. Problems of transportation were serious handicaps. Nevertheless, housing was found and in the attempts, many Buffalonians became acquainted with the program.

The sub-committee on hospitality carried on correspondence with center residents in an attempt to encourage them to leave the center and come to Buffalo.

Individual members of the Committee made contacts with employers and solicited their cooperation with the government in this program that had no precedent.

Failures - To use the term "failures" in connection with a volunteer committee that had such a big job to do and they themselves busy folk is somewhat difficult. True, there were things that were not accomplished; yet, one can hardly say there were failures. The Buffalo Committee did not get the type of place it had hoped for for a hostel; neither did it raise the funds for it. Seven Hundred dollars were raised out of a goal of \$3,500. Some Committee members stated that more money was not raised because the possibilities of a building were remote and the availability of a director was also remote. Had more resettlers come to Buffalo to utilize the interest and willingness of Committee members, a hostel

might have become a reality.

Rochester Resettlement Committee ¹

Individuals in Rochester were interested in and followed the evacuation of people of Japanese ancestry from the first. Dr. Henry Williams,² house physician of the General Hospital, was the first focal point of that interest. It was he who made attempts to learn just what could be done by people somewhat remote from the scene of the evacuation. During the same period, Mrs. Robert Corbin wrote to the Federal Council of Churches in New York City to learn if anything of a constructive nature was to be undertaken by that organization or any others. In time, she and Dr. Williams learned of each others interest and joined in their efforts. Slow was the progress for no one knew just how far individual citizens might go in assisting evacuees; however, as 1943 passed and the leave program got under way, something more tangible took place. The policy of the government became known. Information was available. More people in Rochester were becoming concerned.

During the summer of 1943, as a result of the efforts of Dr. Williams, a committee was assembled. Among those present at this meeting were: Dr. Henry Williams; Mrs. Robert Corbin; Dr. Edna Acheson; Miss Ernestine M. Klinzing, a Friend and member of the staff of the Eastman School of Music; Mr. Sumner Forward of the War Manpower Commission; the Rev. Robert Horton, a Methodist

1. See Appendix Pages 56 - 57.

2. Left Rochester, N.Y., in December, 1943, to take up a position at the State Home for Boys at Jamesburg, New Jersey.

clergyman; and Mr. Richard Hart of George B. Hart, Incorporated, wholesale florist. The Fellowship of Reconciliation was active in an endeavor to accomplish something. Persons of Jewish ancestry were interested; however, the problems that leaders of that ancestry face concerning members of their group absorbed their time. The Negro leaders, too, were absorbed with the situation facing fellow Negroes and also had certain reservations in regard to so much attention being directed toward people who were not present in the local community. To quote Mrs. Corbin, "The Negroes appeared hurt that the Japanese were being championed."

For the time, communications regarding what could be and should be done by this interested group in Rochester were directed to the Federal Council of Churches in New York City. In the fall of 1943, George Rundquist and Robert M. Cullum, then of the WRA office in New York City, visited Rochester. It appears that this was the first that the group of interested people really learned of the WRA and its program. Following the visit of Messrs. Rundquist and Cullum, members of the group felt more secure in their endeavors; yet they felt thwarted because they were without official sanction. Furthermore, being busy people, they were not able to meet too well the problems they were confronted with in securing jobs and housing.

Chiefly through the efforts of Dr. Henry Williams, girls who were interested in becoming nurses were admitted to the General Hospital, the Genesee Hospital, and the St. Mary's Hospital in the order named. The Strong Memorial Hospital also accepted workers. Students were admitted to the University of Rochester. Miss Peters

of the Red Cross and at one time the head of nurses at St. Luke's Hospital at Tokyo and at the center at Topaz, was instrumental in making it possible for a group of girls to come to Rochester to accept domestic positions.

When the WRA office was opened in the spring of 1944, the Committee felt that resettlement to Rochester could go forward, for they believed the directing of such an enterprise was a full-time task of a person who could not only assume the technical details involved but spend time job hunting and securing housing.

Located in a small community on the outskirts of Rochester is North Chili where Roberts Junior College is located, formerly known as Chesbrough Seminary, an institution supported by the Free Methodists. Several boys and girls attended this school and then went on to other institutions for more schooling. The students who attend Roberts Junior College were among those evacuees who first came to the district. The last student attended in the summer of 1945.

Membership - Forty-four public-minded people make up the Rochester Resettlement Committee. The Rochester Committee chose to function with co-chairmen, one a member of a well-known wholesale flower establishment in Rochester, the other a housewife who took her place in industry during the war and who at one time with her husband lived in Japan where she was a school teacher. Among the members there are twelve clergymen, five church workers, two C.I.O. leaders, the Executive Secretary of the Federation of Churches, the Director of the Rochester Council of Social Agencies, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the staff of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, three members of the Fellowship

of Reconciliation, member of the staff of the Monroe County Farm Bureau, the Director of the Monroe County Department of Public Welfare, representatives from the War Manpower Commission and the United States Employment Service, representative of the Committee on Social Action, representative of the Y.W. and Y.M.C.A., members of the American Association of University Women, a representative of the University of Rochester, a representative of Family Service, representatives from five industrial concerns, the president of Roberts Junior College (formerly known as Cheshbrough Seminary), two resettlers, and other interested persons.

Objectives - The Rochester Resettlement Committee stated their objectives as follows:

1. To act as liaison between the WRA and the community.
2. To inform fellow citizens about the relocation program.
3. To combat discrimination against resettlers; in housing, employment, educational opportunities, social adjustment, and other tension areas.
4. To advise with WRA on plans and progress of relocation.
5. To actively assist resettlers in securing housing, educational opportunities; services such as counseling, furniture pool, speaker's bureau, etc.
6. To provide for funds to support the activities of the Relocation Committee. To consider subsidizing a hostel, aid in the securing of agricultural and business loans, provide arrangements to take up options on available housing accommodations, etc.

Activities and Achievements - To list the activities and the achievements of the Rochester Resettlement Committee would be to repeat in part the objectives. Members of the Committee are willing and ready to assist wherever necessary. The fact that there was a Committee has been important. Even at this late stage of the program, the Chairman facilitated the placement of two men who recently arrived from Tule Lake who wished specialized employment. Members have helped a family that faced quite unfore-

seen difficulties. Their readiness to be of service had been a definite help to WRA. Their achievements are not tangible factors--yes, this and that resettler has a job today because of the efforts of some Committee member. The interest of the Committee undoubtedly made it possible for the First Baptist Church to offer facilities for a hostel which is located next to Plant Z of the Camera Works of Eastman Kodak, a plant that is reported to have done significant war work. The necessary authorities were informed that resettlers were to live there. No incidents ever took place.

The Committee held a Christmas party for the resettlers in 1943. The Fellowship of Reconciliation, during those early days, worked to bring the resettlers, Negroes, and people of Jewish ancestry together. A dinner was held at a Negro church. In time

bring these groups together
~~the efforts to offset misunderstanding were given up.~~ *It is to be noted that there were no evident antagonisms between these groups during the remainder of the program.*

Civic Officials

For the most part, elected civic officials did not take part as officials in the program. They did, however, take part as interested citizens. They believed that the evacuees had as much right to come to their communities to look for work and a place to live and remain there as anyone else and that there should be no official sanction per se.

Unions

The unions that were contacted in the district were very cooperative. In Buffalo, representatives of the C.I.O. and the

A.F. of L. were members of the Resettlement Committee. The minutes of the meetings indicated that neither attended the meetings; nevertheless, they were interested. In Rochester, the same was true. Whenever there was a person interested in work as a baker, the Bakers' Union Local 16 of Buffalo was always contacted and placed the person. Recently a resettler came to Buffalo to investigate the possible employment as a motion picture projectionist. The representative of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union of Buffalo stated that a resettler would be considered the same as any other person. The Painting and Decorating Contractors' Association of America was very much interested in the program. Several of their members provided job offers. The Painters' Union accepted a resettler into membership. The group he worked with gave him a farewell party before he left for California.

In Rochester, the Rochester Typographical Union Number 15 facilitated the placement of three resettlers in linotype positions. Other unions have been accepting resettlers to membership. This is particularly interesting when one considers the incident¹ stated below:

The Central Trades and Labor Council had a resolution for consideration ^{Spring 1944} which stated that no person of Japanese ancestry would be employed in any of the unions that were controlled by the Council. Anthony Capone, their leader, asked Mr. Cornwall to appear before the meeting at which the resolution was to be considered. Harold S. Fistere, then Relocation Supervisor, located in the City of New York, also attended the meeting. The details

1. As related by Claude C. Cornwall, former Relocation Officer at Rochester, N.Y., in an interview on November 14, 1945.

of the WRA program was presented. No action was taken. Some days later, a committee from the Council visited Mr. Cornwall at his office to discuss further the program and the proposed resolution. The committee after this discussion decided that the resolution was to be tabled and that each union would be informed to make its own decision as to whether or not persons of Japanese ancestry would be admitted to membership. Although there have been only a few resettlers who have been employed in positions where Union membership would eventually be considered, no problems have arisen.

At this time, it may be appropriate to mention another episode. When Abe Chatman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America was asked about the opportunities for resettlers in the needle trades, he stated that he would be willing to help place them. When asked what would happen if there might be some trouble in the plant where a resettler might be placed, Mr. Chatman replied that he would go to the plant personally to take care of the situation; Amalgamated could have no part of intolerance.

When the Relocation Officer sat in a meeting of union members and talked with them about the newcomers in the community and the feelings toward all newcomers whoever they may be, they understood and without fail indicated a willingness to cooperate.¹

1. The writer noticed this in his contacts with labor in Detroit, Michigan, which was during 1943. He recalls particularly three meetings: (1) the meeting of the Wayne County Council of the C.I.O. which had on its agenda the consideration of a resolution passed by one of its unions, asking the President of the United States to abolish the WRA, etc.; (2) the meeting of the members of the A.F. of L. who worked for the Johnson Milk Company; and (3) the very cosmopolitan group that worked for a rendering concern.

Church Groups

The church has, for the most part, been an important factor in the integration of the resettlers of the community and the formation of a favorable sentiment. Quite naturally, this integration has taken place in those churches whose pastors have been untiring in their efforts to promote the relocation program. One notes that it is not the large church that has made the resettler welcome and provided him an opportunity to share experiences with their parishioners as one might expect but usually the small neighborhood church.

The writer was recently told by a lay church woman in Niagara Falls that the Manager of the U.S.E.S. in a conversation after a meeting at a church at which was held a discussion of the relocation program stated that apparently he should go to church more. He was asked why. He replied that heretofore had one of these men (meaning a resettler) come to his office, he would have spat in his face. The writer found this U.S.E.S. Manager extremely cooperative, understanding, and willing to do whatever possible to find the right type of work for those interested in coming to Niagara Falls.

One should stress that the part that many churches may have played in the program will go unknown, for unless one makes a careful study of that participation, it will not be known. Nevertheless, it appears that none of the larger churches of Buffalo participated to the extent, for example, that Central Church of Detroit did from the first.

Among those churches in Buffalo that did participate, and

this means particularly through the activity of their clergy, are the Emmanuel Baptist Church which has resettlers as members and elected one a deacon as well as one a member of its Christian Center staff; the First Methodist Church; the St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral; the Trinity Episcopal Church, and the Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church. In the latter church, one of the members did hire a family to do truck gardening. At the end of a year's work, they terminated their employment relations because of his shrewd dealings. The same member also employed girls to work in his vegetable store but the girls did not continue long in his employ. The writer did try to encourage the participation of this church by presenting definite opportunities for them to find housing. Nothing was forthcoming. In the course of a conversation with the pastor about the above incident and the participation of the resettlers in the church activities, the writer felt that the whole idea about integration and the part that this church might have in the resettlement program was missed. In several other churches, groups were interested in having a speaker about the program and in seeing the film, "A Challenge to Democracy."

Miss Sawyer when indicating the reason for the presence of one of the Protestant clergyman on the committee stated that it was because it was hoped that he would have influence with the larger churches in Buffalo in giving support to the program. She stated that this support never came although one of the large churches, the Asbury-Delaware Methodist Church, did come through to some extent.

The resettlement program in Rochester is chiefly associated with two churches: The First Baptist Church, where the

hostel is located, and the Brick Presbyterian Church, which operates an Institute, where there is a dormitory for men. The former made it possible for a member of their staff to be available after June 1, 1945, to assist resettlers who had problems that might arise during the week when the Relocation Officer was not in Rochester. The latter provided office space for the Relocation Officer after the office in Rochester was closed. Other churches have resettlers among the members of its congregation; in one case, two young men are members of an Episcopal church choir.

The Asbury Church on Route 20, west of Erie, Pennsylvania, has the members of two families on its membership roll. The pastor¹ and one of the resettlers had a program in dialogue form, giving information about the WRA and Americans of Japanese ancestry which they presented before interested groups.

Throughout Western New York, it was a clergyman in most instances that was the point of contact when the Relocation Officer explored communities for relocation possibilities. The District Superintendent of the Methodist Churches of the Genesee Conference whose office was located in Buffalo was of considerable assistance in suggesting the clergyman or the layman to contact in various communities. It was a Methodist clergyman in Albion, N.Y.² who in cooperation with some laymen arranged for an evening meeting

1. The Rev. Arthur Crawford, R.F.D. #2, Erie, Pennsylvania.

2. The agricultural interests in Albion, N.Y., became interested in securing seasonal labor. The group that met organized a committee to do whatever was necessary to develop community sentiment; the mayor was a member. When it became known that seasonal labor was not available and that WRA was concerned about permanent resettlement, the agricultural interests indicated that they were not in a position to house the workers. They wanted 500 workers.

at which time the program was presented.

The communities in which clergymen were not the initial point of contact were: Erie, Pennsylvania, where the Family Service and the International Institute were the points of contact; Niagara Falls, N.Y., where the International Institute referred the WRA to the War Council; Jamestown, N.Y., where the contact was the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. Interestingly enough, however, in the latter two, the clergy was the group that was ready in the spring of 1945 for action. In Niagara Falls, the Ministerial passed a resolution in regard to the program.¹ In Erie, the ministers were willing and ready, however, the other two groups, especially the Family Service, were willing to assume the responsibility. Their participation will be indicated under the next heading.

Social Agencies

When social agencies knew that there was a favorable climate of opinion, there seemed to be no hesitation on their part to provide service. In Buffalo, for example, when the program of assistance for buying furniture was established in early 1945, the District Director of the New York State Department of Social Welfare stated that the least that could be done for the resettlers was to get them firmly established in their home and if that were done, very little, if any, financial assistance would probably be required in the future.

His office paved the way for meetings with the county departments of social welfare in each county, where resettlers had

1. See Appendix Page 58.

gone and assistance might be needed, and they in turn paved the way for meetings with the local agencies in different communities for the purpose of interpretation of the program.

Space should be given to mention the work of the welfare office at Sherman, N.Y., located in Chautauqua County which was still using the system of voucher relief. This worker, a man, upon very short notice bought household furniture to equip a home for a family of eight resettlers--not an easy task when material was scarce and in a somewhat isolated community. In his endeavor to secure the furniture, he also did his part in developing favorable community sentiment, for there would be a number of children entering the local school in the fall. The oldest daughter of this family is secretary of the freshman class at school.

In Erie, Pennsylvania, it was the Welfare Bureau of Erie in cooperation with the county and state agencies that planned the meetings at which community leaders were invited to learn of the program. Before the meeting closed, key persons were appointed to be responsible for the organization of a community committee should a substantial number of resettlers come to that vicinity.

Other Community Agencies

The International Institutes in Buffalo, N.Y., Erie, Pennsylvania, and Niagara Falls, N.Y., have been ready to assist wherever necessary. The Institute in Buffalo provided a worker whose responsibility was to visit each resettler after arrival to welcome him, learn of his needs, to discuss family reunions and to help him become a part of the community. The Niagara Falls

Institute, we believe, did much to overcome some of the misunderstanding that officials at the "bridge" in Niagara Falls had about citizens of Japanese ancestry who were interested in viewing the Falls from Canada.

The Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. have provided temporary and permanent housing for resettlers. They have also employed resettlers. Only the other day, the Y.M.C.A. in Buffalo was contacted in regard to employment of a young man who arrived from Tule Lake Center. As a result of the interview, a visit was made to the Good Will Industries, Incorporated. This inexperienced young man was employed and is probably on his way to learn a trade and at the same time a living. With the "Y" returning to some of its former functions, it may be looked to by the young folk for counseling.

In Rochester, an institute somewhat unique is the Brick Church Institute which provides housing for men and is conducted similar to a Y.M.C.A. Its registry contains the names of Americans and non-citizens of many origins. Several unattached male resettlers have lived there.

The agencies of the federal government were most cooperative. The U.S.E.S. was outstanding in its efforts. It had something quite different from that of other agencies. Through the U.S.E.S. jobs were available and placements made. The office of the U.S.E.S. was usually one of the first offices that the writer visited when attempting "to open up" a new community. It was the U.S.E.S. who knew the liberal employer and where resettlers might be employed. It was the U.S.E.S. that made the contact for the Relocation Officer to visit an employer to explain the WRA program.

In Batavia, N.Y., the manager offered office space and telephone service should there be a need as a result of interest on the part of employers and resettlers. The lack of adequate housing precluded the possibilities of any resettlement in Batavia, N.Y.

The Legal Aid Society in Rochester, N.Y., had one opportunity to relieve the anxiety of a family who for no apparent reason was threatened by the landlord to be put out of the house they were renting or have the rent raised. The family was referred by the WRA to the Legal Aid Society which intervened for the family. The family did not have to move.

Outstanding Individuals

To mention all of the individuals who have done outstanding work in fostering the resettlement program would be almost an endless task; nevertheless, an attempt will be made. In part, it may be a repetition of what has already been mentioned. Many persons who may have done much may not be known.

Buffalo, N.Y.

The Rev. and Mrs. John Annas, First Methodist Church, housed one of the first families to resettle in Buffalo during the time when their first child arrived. In the summer of 1945, a family of four shared their home, for no other housing was available. The Annas' worked on the sub-committee on housing.

Miss Garana Bedrosian, Case Worker at the International Institute and a member of the Resettlement Committee, organized periodic get-togethers for the resettlers, visited resettlers, and helped in facilitation of family reunions.

Mr. M. Adolphus Cheek, Jr., Chairman of the Resettlement

Committee and Headmaster of Park School, a private school, has his own resettlement center. He employs five families at the school and houses a number of them.

Mrs. Isabelle Dorsey of Family Service took personal interest in families who needed financial assistance.

Mr. Frank Hijikata, a young Issei who came to Buffalo to attend the University, helped in the early days when the Committee was trying to find its way and trying to find something tangible to do.

Rev. Canon Robert Merry of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral had a group of young people work on housing. He recruited volunteers to assist in painting the interior of a house that was hoped to be available for a hostel.

Mrs. Elisabeth Ponafidine, Executive Secretary of the International Institute and Secretary of the Resettlement Committee, should be among those mentioned.

Miss Edith O. Sawyer, Executive Secretary of Y.W.C.A., was instrumental in getting a citizen's committee organized and in interesting WRA in establishing an office in Buffalo.

Dr. Clara Harrison Town, a retired psychiatrist and Chairman of the sub-committee on housing, has worked to secure housing and visited relocatees.

The Rev. and Mrs. William A. Van Arsdale, Emmanuel Baptist Church, housed a couple temporarily. It is to their home that a resettler in the service returns when he is on furlough. Rev. Van Arsdale worked on the housing committee.

Erie, Pennsylvania

Miss Doris M. Cangney, Executive Secretary, Welfare Bureau

of Erie, Pennsylvania, should be listed among those outstanding individuals who aided the program. Miss Cangney, upon receipt of a bulletin from their National Agency, communicated with the Great Lakes Area office stating:¹

"We understand a few Japanese families have been relocated here. We are interested in giving service to them should they need and desire it."

Members of her staff have visited the families that are located in the vicinity of Erie. Concerning one family, a letter has just been received from the office of Miss Cangney stating in part:²

"We have continued our contacts with the Osugi family as we feel that they are in need of some assistance in learning of community resources and in adjusting to their present situation"

* * * *

"We shall continue to work with Mrs. Osugi. We feel that should any further difficulty arise with Mr. Barney,³ Mrs. Osugi will refer this to us."

The Rev. Arthur Crawford, R.F.D. #2, Erie, Pennsylvania, mentioned before on Page 22, has been instrumental in developing favorable community sentiment.

Jamestown, N.Y.

Mr. Earle Champ, Executive Secretary, Y.M.C.A., has been the point of contact in Jamestown. During the summer of 1945, a Nisei was in an accident enroute from Cleveland, Ohio, to Buffalo and was taken to a hospital in Jamestown. It was he who communicated with individuals in Jamestown to visit the Nisei at the

1. From a letter dated June 21, 1944.

2. From a letter dated November 7, 1945.

3. Mr. Barney is their employer.

hospital.

Lockport, N.Y.

The Rev. Stephen Palmer, First Presbyterian Church, provided a home and a place to earn a living for two girls who were among the first to venture in to Western New York. These girls later went to Ohio to attend college, with Dr. Palmer supplying a portion of their tuition.

Rochester, N.Y.

Rochester, too, had many interested people who were willing to give their support to the program. Some have been more active than others, possibly because of availability, something difficult to determine. There are those already mentioned: Dr. Henry Williams, Richard Hart, Mrs. Robert Corbin, Miss Ernestine M. Klinzing, Dr. Edna Acheson, Sumner Forward, and the Rev. Robert Horton.

Miss Myrtle Leslie of Family Service has been interested and active from the time that the committee took definite form. Miss Leslie spent two months at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

Clergymen who have been active in the activities of the Committee are:

Rev. William F. Davison, the First Baptist Church.

Rev. Harold E. Nicely, Brick Church (Presbyterian).

Rev. Murray A. Cayley, First Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Hugh Burr, Executive Secretary of the Federation of Churches.

The members of the staff of the U.S.E.S. who have helped in placing resettlers in positions have been Carmon Tyner, Joseph Sugden, and Charles H. Howard.

Mrs. Garrett Hondelink, wife of the Rev. Garrett Hondelink;

Mrs. Clinton Fish, a Friend and Member of Fellowship of Reconciliation; Jack Kerridge, an interested layman, were also active. Mrs. Fish has opened her home to the young resettlers and has helped in finding housing. Benjamin E. Solin of the Legal Aid Society has had an opportunity to be of assistance to the resettlers.

It goes without saying that this list is incomplete. Other people have been called upon at one time or another, particularly those who represent the Y.W. and the Y.M.C.A.

Miss Mary B. Hynes and her staff at the Monroe County Department of Social Welfare, although not members of the Resettlement Committee, have been helpful in meeting the problems of those resettlers who were referred to them. This was especially true of a family of adults in which some continuing assistance appeared to be necessary. Miss Hynes took charge of securing housing and all details. Although eventually unsuccessful in her efforts to find permanent housing, temporary quarters were found.

With the closing of the WRA office in Rochester, Mrs. James W. McBride, wife of a chaplain overseas and part-time worker at the First Baptist Church, indicated that she would be willing to assist resettlers with their problems in the absence of the Relocation Officer. Mrs. McBride also took a number of resettlers in her home where they remained until other housing was available.

Reasons for not Organizing Committees in Certain Communities

Most of the communities in the district whose population numbered above 5,000 were contacted quite often through the clergy in regard to informing interested citizens about the program. Usually this resulted in a meeting either with the clergy or with

clergy and other community leaders. Hence, there was in each of these communities, a group of informed citizenry from whom a committee might be selected depending upon whether or not a number of resettlers arrived. Communities were ready but the resettlers did not arrive. Elsewhere is mentioned how responsive the group was in Albion, N.Y., when there was just an interest in the possibility of securing center residents for seasonal labor.

PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE

Information as provided by the Authority was a potent factor in the acceptance of the relocation program by the public. Until the Authority was able to provide the facts, most people were influenced by what they read in the newspaper which was all too often supplied by those opposed to the program.

Problems Encountered

Lack of information on the part of the public was one of the chief problems encountered in public acceptance. Misconceptions had to be overcome. Few people had ever seen a person of Japanese ancestry, much less known one. Caricatures, gossip, hearsay, the war, and unfounded statements read in school textbooks and literature influenced many people in their attitude toward persons of Japanese ancestry. The facts, documented wherever possible, helped in the formation of public acceptance.

One incident took place in Buffalo. A relocatee wished to purchase a house on Dodge Street. He, the owner of the property, and the Relocation Officer visited the neighbors. Two sisters, following the visit, proceeded to prepare cards for neighbors to send to their Congressman protesting the purchase of the property. The assistant to the Protestant minister whose church was located in the neighborhood was among the objectors. In a discussion of the situation with her, she expressed popular misconceptions and closed the conversation with the statement, "We must have Christianity plus some common sense." The resettler did not buy the property since he did not want to live where there might be any opposition to his presence. He now rents in a more favorable part

of the city.

Once in a while, when looking for housing, resettlers have faced discrimination. Efforts to offset the attitude of these owners were not worthwhile. Yet again, when it was possible to talk with them, an endeavor was made, at least to give them the facts which is a first step to get attitudes changed.

Newspapers

The concensus of opinion indicates that, in general, community acceptance in Western New York has been good. It is quite true that the Authority did not come into contact too much with the man in the street; nevertheless, the fact that housing is still being found and resettlers are still being employed and are accepted by their fellow workers gives evidence that there is acceptance.

The newspapers in both Rochester and Buffalo have carried stories relating to resettlers as well as items of a general nature. These have, without a doubt, had an influence in community acceptance.

Activities of the Relocation Officer

To build favorable acceptance, the Relocation Officer capitalized every opportunity to appear before groups. Church groups appeared to be the most interested, however, service organizations and unions were "willing to take a chance"; the unions usually as a result of the need of some employer for employees.

Above, it has been stated that the clergy were the initial point of contact in most communities. The key clergy in all of the communities, located in given part of the district, were con-

tacted by a letter written by the Relocation Officer. The letter stated pertinent facts concerning the program and asked if they would assume the responsibility for assembling a small group of representative citizens who might be interested in the program. Sometimes this letter opened ways to meeting with clergy groups only, which in turn led to meetings with groups in their individual churches as well as with service organizations. Much depended upon the social consciousness of the individual clergyman. For example, in Medina, N.Y., a minister who was interested in the program and concerned that a group of citizens know of the program arranged for the writer to speak to the Rotary Club. It was the clergy who opened the way. Another example was an alert leader of the Painting and Decorating Association of America in Buffalo who believed that his fellow members should know of the program of the government.

In another instance, a letter of inquiry to the Secretary of a Farm's Loan Association resulted in an opportunity to speak before the Erie County (N.Y.) Dairymen's Association.

Activities of The Office Staff

The field office in Buffalo had during its existence four office secretaries: three Nisei and a Negro. The former were called on frequently to speak particularly before church groups. Mrs. Shizue M. Asai, who was office secretary from April 17, 1945, until the close of the office gave fourteen talks; four included the showing of the films: "A Challenge to Democracy" and "Nisei Soldiers in Italy". This face-to-face relation had no small part

in public acceptance.

In Rochester, Miss Miwako Yanamoto, former WRA office secretary and now in the WAC, frequently appeared before groups. It will be mentioned on Page 44 that she was a member of the Business Girls' Association.

Activities of the Resettlers

The appearance of the resettlers in a wholesome atmosphere not only helps the resettler but helps those in the group to become more objective in their attitudes. It is a first step-- people having their emotions aroused by a keen, alert, dynamic speaker of a particular ancestry. Then when these people also have a chance to meet and talk personally with the individual whose origin stems from a people toward whom there is prejudice, another step in the direction of objectivity is attained.

The resettler has done much to develop a favorable climate of opinion among the folk in a community. The sharing in community enterprises whatever it may be--leader of a "Y" group, singing in a church choir, going to church, participating in Sunday School or in young people's work, speaking before groups have and will continue to mean much in regard to public acceptance. Again, being a part of and sharing experiences on a basis of equality makes much for a community relation.

The far-reaching influence that came about as a result of the art activities conducted by Miss Riyo Sato at the Buffalo Y.W.C.A. will not be fully known, neither will the influence of Charles Sawabe on those who come in contact with his leadership

of a club at the Rochester Y.M.C.A. That sharing, that participation, and acceptance are to be accomplished regardless of the background of the individuals involved.

EMPLOYMENTDevelopment of Employment Opportunities for Evacuees

With the need for manpower, with a working citizen's committee, with the appearance of items in local newspaper about the formation of a citizen's committee to cooperate with the WRA, and a statement about how local citizens and agencies might also cooperate, opportunities for employment of evacuees developed one by one. Telephone calls and letters of inquiry were received. Visits to the WRA office were made by those who needed workers.

The U.S.E.S. was a source of information for work opportunities for direct contact by WRA or referrals by the U.S.E.S. itself. The unions, in general, as has been related above, were also a source for placement. Then, too, word just got around about the availability of workers through the WRA. Particularly was this true for household help.

Requests for workers also came after a presentation of the program to groups whatever that group might be. The clergymen and interested citizens were on the alert to discuss with their acquaintances the employment of evacuees.

A portion of a letter will indicate how one clergyman proceeded:¹

"Under force of a sermon in which I accused my farmers of being theoretically brotherly to Japanese-American Christians but unwilling to take them on their own farms (which for three years has been true), Mr. Elias W. Hammer of Bethel Church (father of _____

1. From a letter from the Rev. David L. Taylor, minister of a Methodist Church in Hydetown, Pennsylvania, to the Rev. Sherman H. Epler, minister of the First Methodist Church in Dunkirk, N.Y.

and Harry--the latter, head of homiletics at Temple) stuck his hand during the sermon to say, 'I'll take one'."

* * * *

"This section has so much anti-Jap feeling on the part of those who have never seen a Jap except in the movies and comic books, it would be the best way to dispel the prejudice if we could get a desirable one in the community. I realize the risks in view of public opinion, but Mr. Hammer is willing to take the risk, and he's such a potent influence in the community that I think people would stand behind him."

Unfortunately, no one accepted the offer. This portion of the district was not "worked" because of the flow of people elsewhere.

There has not been a lack of jobs; particular jobs, possibly. Employers were willing to hire resettlers.

Nature and Variety of Jobs Offered To and Occupied by Resettlers

Opportunities for the resettlers in both the skilled and unskilled jobs, just to list a few, include: artist to do painting in churches, poultryman to work on an experimental poultry farm, accountant, teacher in private schools, Y.W.C.A. secretary, instructor in health education, landscape gardener, janitor, cabinet makers, church workers, welders, dietitians, dictaphone operator, typist, paper hanger, painter, lens grinder, dental technician, stenographer, butcher, cooks, bakers, machinists, salesmen, mechanics, radio technicians, seamstress, florist worker, domestic worker, and the general run of unskilled jobs in factory and outside.

Jobs Held By Resettlers

Would that there had been center residents to have accepted only a small portion of the jobs that were available for them. A perfunctory listing of the known jobs held by the resettlers may suffice: auto body worker, bakery worker, boilerman, cook in restaurants and private schools, engineers, draftsmen, factory worker, carpenter, farmer, gardener, houseworker, linotypist, instructor in health education at the Y.W.C.A., meat packer, mechanic, nurse in hospitals, practical nurse, hospital workers, office workers, package wrapper, painter, radio technicians, seamstress, school-girl job, and florist work.

Resettlers in War Industries

In the Western New York District, the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, as far as is known, was the only concern doing war work that employed Americans of Japanese ancestry. Four men worked there as engineers and draftsmen. They secured their positions through their own efforts. Henry Nagamatsu, a voluntary resettler, went to work during the summer of 1942. He has recently been assigned by the Corporation to some phase of foreign service, approved by both the Navy and the Army Departments; however, his leaving the country to date has been held up by the State Department. Frank Yamaguchi came to Buffalo in the winter of 1942. Bill Takei came on September 25, 1943, to work for Curtiss. Mamoru Masaki, who was never at a center and who is now in the armed service, was employed at Curtiss Wright.

Riyo Sato and Alice Saito, who came to Buffalo in the summer

of 1943 to be counselors at the summer camp conducted by the Y.W.C.A., secured their own jobs at Curtiss Wright in August, 1943. The former was employed as an industrial artist, the latter as a secretary.

George Furutani, who is mentioned on Page 4, was also employed for a short time at Curtiss Wright.

Relationship with Employers and Union

The illustrations presented under the heading of "Unions" indicates the relationship of the resettlers with the Union. One may well say the relations were favorable.

Relationship with the United States Employment Service

One of the first agencies to be contacted when efforts were under way to explore the opportunities for resettlers in a community was the U.S.E.S. The U.S.E.S. has been helpful in placing relocatees and interpreting the program to employers.

A working arrangement was made with the U.S.E.S. offices whereby resettlers might be referred directly by the WRA to employers. In order that no employer would be violating War Manpower Commission regulations, the WRA would have the resettler go to the U.S.E.S. for a referral card, or the WRA would inform the U.S.E.S. that a given person had been employed by a certain concern. When concerns were given a quota of employees, it was very important that an employer did not secure a resettler except according to regulations.

Types of Agricultural Opportunities Developed

Farm opportunities came slowly, possibly because farmers

were reluctant to accept the resettlers as workers. Requests for general farmers, fruit growers, dairymen, poultrymen, and others were made by farmers throughout the district.

Methods of Finding Farm Opportunities

The Farm Placement Agencies, the County Agricultural Agents, and the farm representatives of the U.S.E.S. when contacted by farmers were often told to communicate with the WRA as a possible source of workers. Others learned of the possibilities of employing resettlers through other farmers, through attending meetings of farmers where the program was explained, from clergymen, and from other persons interested in the program.

Difficulties Encountered in Finding Suitable Employment and Methods Used to Overcome those Problems

In the state of New York, how much influence the presence of a state committee, known as the Committee on Discrimination in Industry, had on employers will not be known. There has been anti-feeling, not so much on the part of the employer, but according to the employer on the part of the workers. Often the employer would say that he was fearful of his workers. Our reaction has been to go ahead; if the employer wished us to talk with his workers we were glad to do so; if he hired some one and then something arose, we would help him face it. We stressed the point of placing people and saying nothing but taking them in and placing them in the same manner as anyone else.

Now and then resettlers have accepted positions for which they were not qualified. One situation has just been called to

the attention of the writer: a widow of a Protestant clergyman with grown children accepted a position in a home where she was expected to cook. Were it not for a sympathetic and an understanding employer, it would have been necessary for her to have found work elsewhere.

In Rochester, for example, in order to house their family some member of the resettler family would do household duties. A number of their employers have found these resettlers inexperienced in household duties. One family after trying to take care of their housing in this manner gained sufficient experience to hold the third position, a position in which no cooking was required and a minimum of English to speak.

The possession of a tool kit, we have found, does not result in a person being a mechanic. Some resettlers have accepted positions with the hope that fellow resettlers may be able to teach them sufficient details to get by. Apparently, some of the resettlers before evacuation had been accustomed to having someone near by who would give them pointers and thereby be able to get by after accepting a position for which they were not fully qualified. Recently, two men who stated they could take care of shrubbery and lawns accepted a job and then did not show up for the job. It had been learned that the fellow resettler upon whom they were depending to give them pointers was not available. There has not been much that could be done to help the employer except to tell him that they decided not to accept the work and that we hoped that we might be able to find someone else.

The low pay for unskilled workers, the only type of work some resettlers could do, was often a difficulty. A conference

with the resettler indicating the opportunities ahead would lead him to often accept and to continue a job. A recent arrival from Tule Lake, a twenty-three-year-old lad and just married, accepted a position with the Good Will Industries, Inc., in Buffalo in which he can learn and earn. Fortunately, his wife was willing to work. Their combined incomes make it possible for them to maintain a comfortable home.

Occasionally, an experience would be had with a resettler who wanted only a particular type of work and a certain wage and would look at nothing else. More often than not within a few days he would leave for another city. Another difficulty encountered, although not very often, was the resettler who would not look for work but would stay in his room instead. Eventually, he would go on to another city. There is also the resettler who would not keep his appointment and the one who would change his mind, possibly to avoid facing the fact of getting to work and meeting the world. Fellow resettlers would often help in getting them into the scheme of things or they would drift away like those previously mentioned.

B U S I N E S S E S T A B L I S H M E N T S

Some resettlers in the district have been interested in establishing a business. Five in particular are known to the writer: a restaurant, a gadget factory, a laundry, a florist shop, and a radio shop. To date nothing has developed.

In Buffalo, a real estate broker has indicated his willingness to advise resettlers and follow through with them. The Legal Aid has stated a willingness to help them in regard to the legal problems.

From observations, it seems that four of the five mentioned above do not have much of a conception of what is required to start themselves. One can understand this, when one realizes that some people who may have had a well-paying florist shop may have started selling flowers across an orange crate.

COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENT

Much depends upon the resettler in becoming a part of the new community. If he does not choose to leave his fireside during the evening and on Sunday to be among the folk of the new community, little or no adjustment can be possible. Many of the resettlers do not seem to realize that they need to have no fears in their going and coming and that they should mingle and appear in public.

No information is available on the participation of resettlers in civic affairs. Because of the concern of losing resident rights in states in which they lived prior to evacuation, resettlers, as far as the writer has been able to find out, have not registered to vote in the elections held in November, nor do they vote by absentee ballot in their former home communities.

Social

The church has been one place where adjustment gets under way for many resettlers. Many Nisei find their way to the church, more than the Issei. The Issei, not at all unlike other first-generation folk, are slow in getting into the social life of the community. They don't let themselves use the English language as much as they might. The experience of the writer has been that conversations may be carried in English if the effort would be made by the Issei. The lack of fluency in English should be no deterrent. The responsibility remains with the individual, for communities do provide opportunities for social activities.

Some indications of social adjustment in the community may be cited in Rochester where participation is in accordance to in-

dividual interest. Charles Sawabe is a leader of a group at the Y.M.C.A. Miwako Yanamoto, former secretary in the Rochester WRA office, was a member of the Business Girls' Association at the Y.W. and was sent as a delegate to a conference held in Buffalo. The nurses are finding their natural association with the nurses' groups. George Seno and Tom Chino are members of an Episcopal Church choir.

What is true for Rochester is similarly true for other communities.

Educational

The writer has endeavored to encourage all parents of children who attend school to go to school to become acquainted with the school, its staff, program and organizations. Again, this is something that only a few parents in this country do with any degree of regularity; hence, the children of the resettlers go to school but the parents do not share in their experience. Something very typical of Americans.

The writer has knowledge of two young men in Rochester attending evening classes--one a Kibei and the other a Nisei.

Organization of Resettler Groups

In Rochester, the resettlers have organized for social activities which take place periodically. The Brick Presbyterian Church or the First Baptist Church are their meeting places.

In Buffalo, there is no organization; however, the resettlers do meet twice a month for a social evening at the International Institute.

Cooperation of Public and Private Welfare Agencies

Public Welfare Agencies - Through the public welfare agencies in Chautauqua County, Erie County, Monroe County, and Wayne County of New York State, assistance has been forthcoming in one form or another. In Erie County and Chautauqua County, assistance in the purchase of furniture and for those who have required emergency hospitalization has been provided. In Wayne County, assistance was given in an attempt to locate a foster home for two small children whose father worked on a fruit farm and whose mother required hospitalization.

The Monroe County Welfare Department cooperated in the latter case, since it seemed best for the father to give up his farm job and move to Rochester where he would be near the hospital. This County Department also accepted a continuing dependency case. To date, no request has been made by the dependent; however, should the need arise, the Department will take care of it.

The Private Family Agency - In Buffalo, N.Y., Erie, Pennsylvania, and Rochester, N.Y., the Family Service Society has assisted families in counseling as well as in providing emergency funds, the latter being true only of the Society located in Buffalo.

Travelers' Aid - In both Buffalo and Rochester, the Travelers' Aid has accepted messages from the WRA for resettlers who may arrive when it was not convenient for any one to meet them.

Legal Aid Society - The Legal Aid Society in Buffalo advised a Nisei following an automobile accident. The Society in Rochester also advised a family; the circumstances have already

been related on Page 26.

International Institute - The part played by the International Institutes located in the District has already been mentioned. In Niagara Falls and Erie, Pennsylvania, they have been willing and ready to be of assistance if there was need. In Buffalo, much of the social life of the resettlers has centered about the Institute.

Red Cross - In Buffalo, the Red Cross has cooperated with the International Institute in providing transportation for social activities arranged for the resettlers. They, too, have been ready to assist if there was need.

The Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. - The "Y's" have served as places for resettlers to be housed either temporarily or permanently. They also have been a source of contact when jobs were needed. Now that the "Y's" are readjusting their program to post-war activities, their counseling service will be available.

Church Groups - A number of times, it has been stated that the church has been a vital factor in the progress of relocation.

Buffalo - In Buffalo, it was the various church groups that came forward with money for the hostel. Then, too, through the church, resettlers became acquainted with people which facilitated community integration.

Rochester - It was the adult study group at the First Baptist Church in Rochester that accepted the challenge to make ready a suite of rooms in the Parish House for a hostel. The hostel was opened on November 30, 1944. Although only a few families have lived in it, it has been occupied most of the time. At the present writing, this hostel is serving as a home for a

father and two children who had to leave their home because of the
extenuating circumstances resulting from the hospitalization of
the wife and mother.

H O U S I N G

Truly good housing for everyone who came to the district has not been available. The better housing required a rent too high for the resettlers to pay. In Buffalo, more housing units were available than in Rochester. Untiring efforts to locate housing were required. In Buffalo, the families of two men working at Curtiss Wright were housed at the Tiorunda Housing Project, a federal project.

The Relocation Officer and interested citizens spent much time in locating housing, following every possible lead, and just going out to look for vacant places.

Each of the housing projects, municipal and federal, located in or about Buffalo, were contacted. The regulations never seemed to be relaxed sufficiently to house any except war workers. The remoteness of the federal projects from possible places of employment caused resettlers who might have qualified not to place an application. When resettlers were told that there were no vacancies at housing projects, they would not be optimistic enough to fill out an application.

Real estate agents were interested and willing to do all they could but usually nothing was available. One afternoon, in Rochester fifteen real estate agents were called by phone. This resulted in receiving information concerning one place which upon investigation was not available. The real estate agents had any number of places to sell but nothing for rent. Resettlers registered with the Real Estate Board of Rochester. No one received housing as a result of registering.

One problem that added to the housing situation was the

slowness with which the resettlers would decide to accept a place. For some resettlers in Rochester, housing was solved either permanently or temporarily with the wife doing house work.

The better types of housing have not been secured by resettlers because the rent was high. Housing had to be accepted wherever it was available. In Buffalo, two families do live in a two-story conversion which provides a nice home in a changing neighborhood. The rent is sixty dollars a month for each family. Often housing is available in neighborhoods populated by people of Italian ancestry. None of it at best may be considered grade-one housing.

ADMINISTRATION

In November, 1943, a district office was opened in Buffalo with the work to be carried on by a Relocation Officer and an office secretary. In the course of the first year, at least four persons acted as Relocation Officers; secretaries changed also.

The district office located in Rochester opened in April, 1944, with a Relocation Officer and an office secretary. As of June 1, 1945, this office was closed, and the district divided between an office located in the City of New York and the office in Buffalo, the latter having relocation to Rochester under its direction.

WRA OFFICE PERSONNEL IN BUFFALO

<u>Date</u>	<u>Relocation Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Office Secretary</u>
11/43 - 7/44	John L. McCormick	6/44 - 7/44	Virginia Pollard (?)
6/44 - 9/44	Harry Weiss	7/44 - 10/44	Rose Sakata
9/44 - 10/44	Louise M. Noble	10/44 - 4/45	Tsuyako Yamashiro
9/44 - 12/45	George E. Graff	4/45 - 12/45	Shizue M. Asai

WRA OFFICE PERSONNEL IN ROCHESTER

4/44 - 5/45	Claude C. Cornwall	4/44 - 5/45	Miwako Yanamoto
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A P P E N D I X P A G E

**THE
BUFFALO COMMITTEE
ON RESETTLEMENT OF
JAPANESE AMERICANS**



Objectives

Organized in 1943 by a group of civic minded Buffalo residents from all walks of life who volunteered to help relocatees get settled happily in Buffalo and to acquaint the city with the needs of its new residents.



APPENDIX PAGE

ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Helped secure housing by informing landlords and the community of the WRA program. *Interviewed* employers to explain the program and how it could fill local employment needs through the hiring of qualified evacuees. *Interpreted* the government's policy of relocating loyal persons of Japanese ancestry.

☆ ☆

ITS FUTURE PLANS

To broaden community acceptance by acquainting the public with the WRA program, to act as a transitional group getting ready for the day when the War Relocation Authority no longer exists and the Centers are closed.

☆ ☆

THE IMMEDIATE NEED

To establish a Hostel in which relocatee families may live at a minimum charge until permanent housing is found. To do this, funds are needed in order to meet a budget of \$3500.

☆ ☆

HOW TO DO IT

It has been proposed that shares at one dollar each be sold. A modest number of shares purchased or sold by each person who has expressed an interest in this program would make our task easy to accomplish.

Make checks payable to C. Edward Berryman, Treasurer, Buffalo Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans, Marine Trust Building, Buffalo 3, New York.

M. ADOLPHUS CHEEK, JR.,
Chairman.

THE BUFFALO COMMITTEE ON RESETTLEMENT
OF JAPANESE AMERICANS
610 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo 2, New York
GARfield 1900

☆ ☆

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Victor Einach
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Judge Charles B. Sears

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Rev. William T. Heath	Judge Cecil B. Wiener
Mrs. Louis Jaffe	Rev. R. F. White

BRIEF FACTS

Relocatees are those persons of Japanese ancestry, citizen and alien, who lived in the West Coast states prior to Pearl Harbor and were evacuated to relocation centers where they resided until they were able to make plans for living outside of the evacuated area. The problem of war necessitated the mass evacuation. These folk are facing many problems of readjustment when relocating in new areas.

The War Relocation Authority is a Federal agency established by Presidential Executive Order 9102 on March 18, 1942, whose task is to relocate the evacuees now living in Relocation Centers. Many families remain to be relocated. Although in January, 1945, the Western Defense Command rescinded the mass exclusion order relating to the West Coast states, nevertheless, many evacuees prefer to relocate in the east. Only those evacuees that the government is convinced are loyal to the United States are eligible for relocation. They are the parents, brothers and sisters, wives and children of men of Japanese ancestry who are fighting Japan and Germany and in many instances are making the supreme sacrifice.

☆ ☆

The last leaf may be used for sending in your contribution.

Mr. C. Edward Berryman, Treasurer
Buffalo Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans
Marine Trust Building
Buffalo 3, New York

Date

Enclosed find dollars for shares in the establishment
and operation of the Buffalo Hostel.

.....
(Name)

.....
(Street)

.....
(City)

A P P E N D I X P A G E

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Niagara Falls Gazette

Friday, March 9, 1945

MINISTERS FAVOR LOCATING NISEI IN THIS SECTION

Fellowship Urges that Americans
of Jap Ancestry Be Employed Here.

The Niagara Falls Ministerial Fellowship yesterday went on record as encouraging, within limits, the employment of Americans of Japanese ancestry on farms and in factories and homes on the Niagara frontier, "to the end that the employment problem may be eased and the Nisei situation helped."

A fellowship resolution also stated that, in the event such persons are hired, they should be treated with the same respect by the community as any other American citizen and that their employers should be upheld in their efforts to collaborate in meeting a problem of national importance.

The resolution pointed out that additional labor is needed on this frontier, that Americans of Japanese ancestry are seeking employment and that it is the policy of the United States government to encourage relocation on the part of these people who have heretofore been concentrated on the Pacific Coast.

Post WRA

WRA is leaving the work that it started in Western New York with a belief that all persons of Japanese ancestry will have their needs met whatever those needs may be. There is in each community a group of interested citizens who in many cases knows many of the resettlers personally.

Efforts have always been under way to help the resettlers to become acquainted with each other and the community.

Buffalo, N.Y.

In Buffalo, whatever problems may confront a resettler, unless he already has a contact, he should take that problem to the International Institute. The Institute will "see him through". A nucleus of the Buffalo Resettlement Committee is to become a Committee of the Institute. The bringing about of this is indicated in the letter which follows:

In response to your letter of October 12, I would like to inform you that your letter has been presented to the Board of Directors meeting of the International Institute on October 19.

At that meeting the board members agreed to have the International Institute act as a clearing house on problems connected with the resettlement of Japanese Americans in Buffalo. It was felt that this problem falls within the scope of regular International Institute activities.

It was therefore felt that upon the closing of the WRA office on or about January 1, 1946, the International Institute will originate a sub-committee for consultation on problems of relocation, and that this committee will remain in existence for one year from that date.

A meeting was held on November 30, 1945, to inform resettlers and committee members of the action. The committee voted to provide

temporary housing until the closing of the Tule Lake Center for any resettler who may need it. A letter is to be sent to each resettler before the close of the district office, giving information in regard to the future point of contact.

Rochester, N.Y.

The Brick Church Institute of Rochester, N.Y., has been designated as the point of contact for resettlers in Rochester. The office of the Rev. Harold E. Nicely will follow through for those who may have problems. The Rochester Resettlement Committee will continue to exist and be ready to assist the Institute should there be need.

Resettlers in Rochester are to receive a letter and a leaflet that will give information on some of the problems that they might be confronted with.

On November 29, 1945, a meeting was held to inform the committee and the resettlers of the post-WRA program.

Erie, Pennsylvania

The Welfare Bureau of Erie will be the point of referral for the resettlers in Erie County, Pennsylvania. Representatives of the Bureau have, since their relocation, had contacts with the families located there and know of their needs and are attempting to facilitate their adjustment. On Page 28 is quoted a portion of a letter to the district office at Buffalo which reflects the interest of the Bureau.

Other Communities

In other communities where there are only a limited number of resettlers (one, two, three, or so), both the resettlers and the

local department of social welfare have been appraised of the closing of the program. The agency has been given the names and addresses of the resettlers. The resettlers and their employers have been informed of what to do in the event of an emergency.

The communities will continue with their tasks of meeting the needs of its residents. The resettlers are considered among the residents and their needs will be met.