

DOCUMENT TL-10

THE ISHIKAWA FAMILY

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Sources of Information:

1. Case record on the Ishikawa family in the files of the Social Welfare Department in Tule Lake. Permission for the use of this data given by supervisor Naoko Hoshino. Record Face Sheet included in Appendix I.
2. Interview with Mrs. Sawano Ishikawa.
3. This case was handled by three workers, Mrs. Sada Murayama, Miss May Miyamoto, and Shibutani. Frequent conferences were held with both Miss Miyamoto and Mrs. Murayama and notes were exchanged.
4. Individual Record Forms: WRA-26 for both Mr. and Mrs. Ishikawa and for Mr. Nakamura--the three individuals involved. This data made available through cooperation of Miss Montgomery and Miss Hannah Uyeno of Housing Dept.

Evacuation and Resettlement Study  
Family Organization and Disorganization  
Tule Lake Project, Newell, California  
Shibutani, 3/7/43



THE ISHIKAWA FAMILY1. Composition and Characteristics of the Family

The Ishikawa family, which caused considerable disturbance in Ward V during the ~~late~~<sup>summer</sup> of 1942, consists of Monojo (61), his wife Sawano (50), and their three children--George (18), Kimiye (16), and Hisako (14). The family came from Loomis where they ~~worked~~<sup>worked on</sup> a farm.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ishikawa were educated in Japan and because of their limited contacts with Caucasians since coming to this country they can speak only Japanese. Their children, on the other hand, were all educated in the United States and speak to each other in English. They address their parents in Japanese, however. The Ishikawas are Buddhist.

For the past three years Mr. Ishikawa has been paralyzed and has been unable to work. A handy-man, Mr. Nakamura, has been operating the farm ~~for~~ them. Mrs. Ishikawa has been working in various farms to earn enough to take care of her three children.

The family has never been well off financially. Since Mr. Ishikawa was stricken, they have been worse off than ever. The family ~~had~~ been working as tenants and migratory workers for several decades.<sup>1</sup>

2. The Individuals in the FamilyMonojo Ishikawa

Monojo Ishikawa was born on May 3, 1881 in Yoshikawa mura, in Nagasaki ken,

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1. Individual Records, WRA-26 and CWD files, case 144.



Japan, where his father was a grain farmer. He attended the Yoshikawa grammar school from April, 1889 until April, 1893. He then helped his father on the family farm.

In April, 1900, at the age of 19, Monojo came to the United States. He worked as a migratory worker in California and saved his money. On two occasions he returned to Japan for a visit--from November, 1906, to March, 1907 and from November, 1917 to May, 1918. In November, 1922, he returned again to Japan and when he returned this time, in May, 1923, he brought back his bride, Sawano.

He continued to do odd jobs until 1930 when he went to work for Joe Kisster in Newcastle, California, as a fruit-contractor. He worked pruning, plowing and irrigating until 1934, when he quit because of the financial loss. From November, 1934 to November, 1938, he worked at the Banome Fruit Company in Penryn for \$50. a month. In 1938 he went to work for Mr. Nakai, who operated a large fruit ranch in Lincoln, California. He worked for Nakai until March, 1939, for \$35. a month. At that time the left side of his body suddenly became paralyzed, and he has been unable to work since.

Monojo is 5'3" tall and weighs 125 pounds. At present, he is still partially paralyzed.<sup>2</sup> He looks old for his age and seems very feeble. He has a reputation of being hot-tempered and easily disturbed. His friends are of the opinion that he is overly suspicious of the motives of others.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Ishikawa can read, write, and speak Japanese, but cannot understand English. His faith is Buddhism.

#### Sawano Ishikawa

Sawano Taira was born on April 2, 1891 in Kuchinotsu machi, Nagasaki ken,

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2. WRA-26

3. Interview with Mrs. Murayama.



Japan, where her father was a carpenter. She attended the Kuchimoto Daini grammar school from April, 1898 to April, 1902. At the age of 32, she married Mr. Ishikawa and migrated with him to America.

Sawano had her three children early in her marriage and went from ranch to ranch with her husband. From 1930 to 1939 she worked with Monojo at the Kisster, the Bannone, and the Nakai ranches with him, earning the same pay as he did each month. When her husband became paralyzed, she continued to work for Mr. Nakai until July, 1939 and then was unemployed until November, when she went to work for the Singer Fruit Company in Lincoln. There she earned 25 cents an hour as packer. During winters she went to Lodi to Mr. Kubo's grape orchard where she picked grapes for \$40. a month. From November, 1941, until evacuation she was unemployed and cared for her husband at home and looked after her children.<sup>4</sup>

Sawano is 4'7" tall and weighs 93 pounds. She is soft spoken and very pleasant and gives the impression of being very easy to get along with. Although she is now aged, she shows traces of having been rather attractive in her youth. She is a very conscientious worker, although physically weak.<sup>5</sup>

Mrs. Ishikawa can read, write, and speak Japanese, but cannot understand much English. She is Buddhist in faith.

#### Ginzaburo Nakamura

Ginzaburo Nakamura was born on December 20, 1901, in Ikekiwa mura, Hiroshima ken, Japan, where his father was a farmer. He attended grammar school there from April, 1908, unto March, 1916. He did odd jobs in his mura until September, 1922, when, at the age of 21 he came to America.

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4. WRA-26.

5. Interview with Miss Miyamoto. Mrs. Ishikawa is now working as a visiting housekeeper for the Social Welfare Department, and her work has been very satisfactory.



From the time that he arrived in America Ginzaburo has been wandering about as a migratory laborer. His employment history for the past ten years indicates his mobility:

- 5/32 - 5/34 Worked as a fruit picker and tractor driver at the Earl Fruit Orchard in Walnut Grove, California, for \$4.00 a day.
- 5/34 - 7/34 Unemployed.
- 7/34 - 6/36 Worked as a pruner at the Pearson Fruit orchard in Marysville, California, for 30 cents an hour.
- 6/36 - 8/36 Unemployed.
- 8/36 - 8/39 Worked as fruit picker at the Penryn Fruit Company in Penryn, California, for 30 cents an hour.
- 9/39 - 11/39 Picked grapes in Lodi, California for the Wingham Company for \$4.50 a day.
- 11/39 - 8/40 Picked fruits for Mr. Nakai in Lincoln, California for 30 cents an hour.
- 8/40 - 11/40 Picked grapes for Wingham Company in Lodi, California for \$4.50 a day.
- 11/40 - 12/41 Worked as a foreman for the Singer Fruit Company in Lincoln, California, for 35 cents an hour.
- 12/41 - 4/42 Picked fruits in an orchard in Newcastle for 35 cents an hour (name of owner unknown).<sup>6</sup>

It was during the latter part of 1939 that he became acquainted with the Ishikawas. He did not always work at the same place that they did, but he did manage to be near the family. He became very friendly with them and helped them out financially.

Mr. Nakamura has never been married. He has no relatives at all in the United States. He can read, write and speak Japanese only, and is a Buddhist.

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6. WRA-26. Mr. Nakamura's employment history is rather interesting since it indicates the type of work that thousands of single men have been doing in the fields of California for the past 40 or 50 years.



Ginzaburo stands 5'2" tall and weighs 133 pounds. He is rather handsome and looks much younger than he is. He is quiet and soft spoken. Physically there seems to be nothing wrong with him, although he claims that he has a weak heart. He is a skilled carpenter. His hobbies are playing a violin and a harmonica. He has a reputation of being a skillful gambler--so skillful that he can easily make a living by playing cards.<sup>7</sup>

### 3. The History of the Family

Mr. Ishikawa became paralyzed in March, 1939. Mrs. Ishikawa managed to work at the place where they happened to be until July and then was unable to find any work. In November, 1939, Mr. Nakamura went to work for Mr. Nakai, the owner of the farm where the Ishikawas were staying. Nakamura took over much of the work that Ishikawa was supposed to do and helped out the family financially.

During Mr. Nakamura's stay at the Nakai farm, he had sex relations with Mrs. Ishikawa. Mr. Nakamura had often gone to town to get drunk and visit houses of prostitution and sometimes did not return for several days--especially if he were jailed. His relations with Mrs. Ishikawa managed to keep him at the farm where he was badly needed.<sup>8</sup>

This relationship continued until evacuation. Mr. Nakamura and the Ishikawa family evacuated from Loomis to Arboga Assembly Center On May 13, 1942.

In Arboga the family provided idle tongues with seed for gossip when the Ishikawa's 18 year old son, George, caught Nakamura and his mother together

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7. Interview with Mrs. Murayama.

8. This section contains only the verified data. Much more is presented in section 5, which contains the stories of the three participants. There is considerable discrepancy in the three stories.



in the women's shower room at 3 a.m. in the morning. George attacked Mr. Nakamura and beat him severely. Nakamura suffered a broken nose. He claimed that he broke his nose when he ran into a door, and even today he is subject to jests about doors.<sup>9</sup>

Mr. Nakamura was transferred to Tule Lake on June 28, 1942, and the Ishikawas came here on the following day.

#### 4. Developmental Account of the Family in Tule Lake

Mr. Nakamura was placed in room 4001-C with some bachelors; while the Ishikawas were in 4606-C. Both blocks are in Ward V; in fact, both blocks face the same firebreak.

Nothing happened for a few weeks. About the middle of July Mr. Nakamura happened to be passing by the Ishikawa's room and happened to look inside. He did not cross the threshold, for Mr. Ishikawa saw him at a distance and came running after him. When Nakamura saw the old man coming, he ran away and was chased by Ishikawa for some distance. Ishikawa then returned and went about asking his neighbors whether Nakamura had been around before; his contention was that Nakamura and his wife knew just when he had to go to the hospital and kept their rendezvous at that hour.<sup>10</sup>

The disturbance continued for some time, for Ishikawa then went from block to block, room to room, looking for his adversary. He finally asked Mr. Nakaya, block manager of 40, to arrange a meeting for him and Mr. Nakamura. Mr. Nakaya did not know what to do so he reported the case to the Social Welfare Department. This was on September 23.

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9. Testimony of Mr. Nakaya, block manager of 40.

10. Ibid.



Finally, on September 29, the Social Welfare Department managed to get the three individuals together. Mr. Ishikawa was very excited and grabbed his walking stick several times so that the workers had to stand between him and Mr. Nakamura. Finally, after some discussion, Mr. Ishikawa promised not to disturb Mr. Nakamura, and Nakamura in turn promised not to see Mrs. Ishikawa. Ishikawa was warned that in the future he would have to answer for any disturbance that he caused.<sup>11</sup>

Apparently this conference solved the family problem. Nakamura went about gambling as usual, but stayed away from Mrs. Ishikawa as he had promised he would do. Mr. Ishikawa's paralysis gradually became better, but he was still unable to work. Finally, by November, the family had no money left, and had to apply for relief. They received a Public Assistance Grant for the month of November.

Toward the end of November, Mrs. Ishikawa was offered a job as a visiting housekeeper for the Social Welfare Department. Since the family needed money badly, she accepted the job rather than remain on relief. George, who had left camp in October, to work in the sugar beet fields, returned and tried to help out financially.

Mrs. Ishikawa worked steadily until February 22, 1943, when the Registration crisis came to a head in Ward V. Even at that time, she managed to sneak out of the ward to report to the office for work.

#### 5. Conflicting Accounts of the Difficulty

##### Mr. Nakamura's story:

"When I went to work where the Ishikawas lived in 1939, I found that the

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11. CWD files, case #144, September 29, 1942.



father of the family was sick in bed and that the mother was having a very difficult time caring for the family. I felt sorry for the family and did everything to help them. Mr. Ishikawa was at first appreciative and very friendly. As he became better he made many occasions for me to be alone with his wife. He often went to a show and left his wife home when he knew that I was there too. I was often tempted to think that Mr. and Mrs. Ishikawa were working together to use me to their profit.

"Once Ishikawa told me not to go to town for my diversions because that might mean the loss of two or three days of work. 'If there is anything my wife could do . . . .', he told me.<sup>12</sup> I had relations with Mrs. Ishikawa in the past, but we have had none since coming here to Tule Lake. I resent the fact that Ishikawa insists on bringing up a past issue to oust me from the project. I cannot leave now because that would be like admitting my fault.

"Certainly I gave her money, but when I gave it to her I had no thought of return, and I don't want it back now. Of course, if Mr. Ishikawa insists on paying me, I will accept it. Confidentially, I would return the money to his wife again because she needs it.

"I have no wish to continue the relation and wish to have the whole matter dropped. I wish that Mr. Ishikawa would stop going around telling the neighbors about the past affair in his effort to have me ejected from the project. I will promise to leave them alone.

"I feel sorry for the children. I will stay away. If Mr. Ishikawa divorces his wife, I would hesitate to marry her but would feel morally bound to care for her for the rest of her life and that I would do."<sup>13</sup>

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12. Ishikawa claims that it was his wife that made such a statement and denies that he ever said that to Nakamura. Mrs. Ishikawa confirms Nakamura's statement.

13. CWD files, case #144, September 26, 1942. The statement was translated by Mrs. Murayama from Japanese and has been partially paraphrased.



Mrs. Ishikawa's story:

"When my husband became paralyzed, I found that the responsibility for the whole family fell on me and I was in a panic as to how to meet it. At this time Mr. Nakamura came to work at our place and realizing our situation helped me in many ways, even giving me money to meet my needs. My husband encouraged me to do everything to please him as he was indispensable to us. Our relationships were the result of the family's need of Mr. Nakamura's help. Mr. Nakamura has been more than kind to me and the family and I weep to think that such a scandal and ill fame should come to him as a result of the situation. My husband would not give me money and I was forced to accept it from Mr. Nakamura.

"Now and then my husband becomes excited and brings up the past and becomes violent. See, here is a big black and blue mark on my underarm. My husband bit me and would not let go. (There was a big mark where she pointed)

"I think that what has happened was partly due to my desire to care for the family and now that the economic worry is not here, I won't have to see Mr. Nakamura any more."<sup>14</sup>

Mr. Ishikawa's story:

"Nakamura came to work for me in 1939, and taking advantage of my sickness, he established a relationship with my wife and ran everything to please himself. I was helpless. I have often asked my wife to discontinue the affair because it would be reflected on the children but it has gone on until coming here. I don't think there have been any relations since coming here. Since the incident in Arboga<sup>15</sup> the couple have confessed to the relationship and have signed a promise that they would discontinue their relationships.

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14. Testimony of Mrs. Ishikawa on September 25, 1942. Translated by Mrs. Murayama from the Japanese. CWD files, Case #144.

15. When George attacked Mr. Nakamura.



"I would like to pay back the money given by Mr. Nakamura to my wife but I hesitate to do so because I have no way of knowing what the amount is. I think Nakamura and my wife are working together to get my money."<sup>16</sup>

"As for the incident of Mr. Nakamura's looking into my doorway, I think that Nakamura knew that it was time for me to go to the hospital and seized the opportunity to visit my wife. It is true that he did not enter the house."<sup>17</sup>

"I went out tapping the windows in block 45 because I knew that Nakamura always gambled there with the men in the block. I thought I could find him.

"I don't think there is anything going on since coming to Tule Lake. I wish I could be moved away from my family. I don't think I ought to stay in the hospital because I don't think it is necessary. Maybe it would be a good thing if I were away because then Nakamura and my wife would be free to meet."<sup>18</sup>

#### 6. Summary, Analysis, and Tentative Conclusions

It is rather difficult to define the objective situation with only a maze of conflicting statements as the source of data. However, all the workers and the ~~writer~~ are inclined to feel that the stories of Mrs. Ishikawa and Mr. Nakamura were much more consistent and rational than the rantings of Mr. Ishikawa. At times, Mr. Ishikawa became so irrational and unreasonable that no one could speak to him. There is no way of verifying any of the statements concerning past relationships. Our hypotheses are based upon plausibility--which does not necessarily mean accuracy.

It is quite obvious, not only from the stories but also from observations

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16. Testimony of Mr. Ishikawa on September 25, 1942. This statement is probably made for face-saving and for no other purpose. Investigations in November (when the family applied for relief) indicated that he had no money at all.

17. CWD files, case #144, September 25, 1942.

18. CWD files, case #144, September, 29, 1942.



of her behavior in Tule Lake, that Mrs. Ishikawa is very attached to her children. When her husband became helpless in 1939, she went to work to support him and the children, who were then too young to work. In August, she lost her job and was unemployed until the next packing season opened. It was at this time that Mr. Nakamura came to her rescue.

Handy-men are an accepted institution among the Japanese in the United States--accepted in the sense that it is tolerated but also talked about. It is also not unusual in Oriental countries for women to sell their bodies for the support of their families.<sup>19</sup> It is therefore not unusual that Mrs. Ishikawa entered into relationships with her benefactor, who seems to have taken a real interest in her and in the children.

From his own testimony, we can conclude that Mr. Ishikawa knew about the relationships long before the evacuation. And yet, he did not take any drastic steps until he came to Tule Lake. He may or may not have objected, but he certainly did not make a public issue of the matter. The question arises, therefore, what factor or factors peculiar to the centers caused the pattern of behavior to be so drastically changed? Is there any correlation between the changed behavior pattern and anything peculiar to the camp life?

It is quite possible that the incident in Arboga, when George attacked Nakamura, had a great deal to do with the change of Mr. Ishikawa's attitude. What had previously been unknown to the people or what had been known only to a few people suddenly became a subject for conversation in the entire camp. The gossip naturally placed Mr. Ishikawa in an embarrassing position in which he had to do something to "save face". The fact that people live so close together so that informal modes of communication are unusually efficient probably caused Mr. Ishikawa considerable distress.

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19. Witness the arrangements made for geisha girls in Japan. See also document of Chinese slave girl in Park and Miller, Old World Traits Transplanted, 1925.



On the other hand, it is quite possible that Mr. Ishikawa realized that Mr. Nakamura was no longer necessary economically. All parties admit that Nakamura contributed a considerable amount of money to the family's support. In a center where food and shelter are provided by the government and where hospital treatment is free, handy-men are no longer necessary. It is quite possible that Mr. Ishikawa had condoned, or perhaps even encouraged, his wife's relations with Nakamura since the man's services were indispensable for the support of his family and for his own medical care. The new economic system in the camp changed the entire situation.

Handy-men relations were rather common in the pre-evacuation Japanese communities in both California and Washington. Almost invariably they took place among the Issei. This may have been due to the abnormal sex distribution of the Issei population. Discrimination against Orientals--even in houses of prostitution--and the scarcity of Japanese prostitutes may have been factors that brought about this institution. The extreme cupidity of the immigrants probably contributed too.

In this particular case, we might note that in rural Japan ways existed for the care of families in which the breadwinner had been incapacitated. Neighbors came to the aid of the family and planted and harvested their crops. This was done, not for financial gain, but rather because such treatment was expected by everyone should he suddenly have an accident.<sup>20</sup> In California, however, such arrangements had not been worked out. Such was not the common expectation and women and children were often left helpless when the man passed away. Had the Ishikawas lived in rural Japan, Nakamura's services may not have been necessary.

Thus, in the Ishikawa family, we find a long series of "deviant" patterns of behavior. The handy-man's services became necessary when Ishikawa became

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20. Cf. J.F. Embree, Suyemura, University of Chicago Press, 1939.



paralyzed. He tolerated the relationships as long as he profited by the arrangement. However, in the Assembly Center his son attacked the man and suddenly made a public issue of the matter. In order to maintain his status in the community, Ishikawa had to take steps. He made the situation extremely disagreeable and forced the relationship to stop.

Mrs. Ishikawa did not seem too grieved when the relationship was terminated. She probably had little attachment emotionally to Nakamura although naturally she was thankful for what he had done in the past. She continued to live with her irritable husband and to rear her children and work for their support.

Mr. Nakamura likewise did not seem heartbroken at the termination of the relationship. He could probably gain sexual satisfaction in any of the several houses of prostitution operating in Tule Lake. He had ample time to gamble and seemed to enjoy his stay on the project. During his contact with the family, he had become attached to the children and when the social workers asked him to stay away from Mrs. Ishikawa because of the danger to the children's reputation, he agreed wholeheartedly that the welfare of the children should come first.

Thus it seems that the desire to maintain status in the community and the absence of the means to satisfy economic ends were the factors leading to the changes in behavior patterns.



Surname	Man's name	Cross reference	File	Case #
ISHIKAWA	Monojo	Nakamura	CWD	144
	Woman's name	Other names used		Family #
	Sawano			24511
Present address	4606-G, Tule Lake Project, Newell, California			Classification Internal-Domestic
Previous addresses				Referred by Bl. mgr. Nakaya (40)
				Date Sept. 23, 1942
1. Evacuated from	Rt. 1, Box 149, Loomis, California on 5/13/42			
2. Relocated from	Arboga Assembly Center on 6/29/42			

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Citizenship status	Occupation		
				Past	In project	Registered
ISHIKAWA Monojo	5/3/81	Japan	Alien	--Paralyzed--		No
Sawano	4/2/91	Japan	Alien	Farm	Housekeeper	Yes
George	18 years	California	Citizen	Farm	Farm	Yes
Kimiye	16 years	California	Citizen	School	School	No
Hisako	14 years	California	Citizen	School	School	No

Legally responsible and other relatives	Relationship	Address	Number dependents
None			

Others in household	Relationship	Address
None		

Visited Japan	Who	When	Period
Religion	Buddhist		







Appendix III: Warden's Report

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July 13, 1942

Dear Dr. Jacoby,

This is my report on information I collected on my investigations of that Ishikawa-Nakamura case. The information was obtained from a few persons I felt could reliably give facts. They were the manager of the block in which the family live, a minister who has known this case, and another woman who has known Mrs. Ishikawa for quite a period of time. But I must stress here that I have not drawn any conclusions. I feel that this sort of matter cannot be settled by just putting together information or opinions given by third persons who may be misinformed or biased. Fortunately there seems to be a lull at the present time and nothing unusual seems to have taken place since their entry into this center. Rather than aggravate a condition which may take care of itself or to add to the unhappiness and embarrassment of the children, I feel it wiser to keep a careful watch instead of making a definite move at this time. I have asked the block manager of 46 to inform me if anything unusual should occur.

It seems that Mr. Ishikawa was aware that his wife had been untrue to him. Mrs. Ishikawa told a certain Mrs. Yamada that some person had reported to her invalid husband a situation she claims did not exist and that this had caused her husband to be insanely jealous. According to another source, her words cannot be trusted and she is quite glib.

There is some talk of securing a written agreement and that Ishikawa was making threats against Nakamura. Mr. Okimura, block manager of 46, seems to think that such a paper does not exist. Rev. Kawashima, a Methodist minister who has at times been connected with the case, said that he knows Mr. Ishikawa quite well as Mr. Ishikawa had rented at one time a building on his church property. The Rev. said Mr. Ishikawa is not irrational but he is a naturally quick tempered man and does become quite enraged when he sees Mr. Nakamura because of his jealousy. But Mr. Ishikawa says if Mr. Nakamura wished to speak to his wife he is welcome to do so in his presence.

Mr. Ishikawa was seen searching for Mr. Nakamura by tapping at windows and doors. But this is not a frequent or continuous occurrence.

The children have been placed in (a) embarrassing position (sic). Mr. Okimura, the block manager, says that he is trying to divert



Warden's report  
Continued

public attention from this case by organizing social gatherings for the women of the block and by encouraging social gatherings and entertainment programs for the younger people. I tried to contact the son George by going to the 46 mess hall where he is supposedly working, but I learned he has never worked there and that his sister had helped there for only a short while when the group moved into the center.

Mr. Nakamura and Mrs. Ishikawa were found at 2 a.m. (sic) in the shower room and the son fought and broke Mr. Nakamura's nose. It is true that the son used force and injured the man when he found the two there. One story is that he found the door locked so rushed to the other side of the building and entered by another door.

Thus I find there are many versions to the story. So far I have not contacted any member of the family or the man in question. As the matter seems to have calmed down for the present and the block manager is being very careful not to let the parties meet, I feel that it is wiser to let the matter alone for the time being.

If you wish to have me continue in the case, I am willing to try my best to attempt becoming further acquainted with the conditions.

/s/ K. Yoshida

Taken from the files of the Social Welfare Department, CWD files, case #144. Some grammatical errors corrected by someone--possibly Dr. Jacoby. Copied with corrections.



DOCUMENT TL-12

THE PRINCE FAMILY

CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains no disguises other than names. All dates, places, and events are accurate to the best knowledge of the investigator. No part of this document may be used for any purpose whatsoever without further disguises to conceal the identity of the persons involved and without the consent of the director of the Evacuation and Resettlement Study.

*Sources of Information:*

1. Case Record at Social Welfare Dept.  
in Tule Lake.
2. Interview with Mrs. Prince
3. WRA-26 for Mrs. Prince.

Evacuation and Resettlement Study  
Chicago, Illinois  
Shibutani, 7/20/43



THE PRINCE FAMILY1. The Life of Moto Prince

Moto Shimada was born on September 16, 1877, in Tokyo where her father was a shopkeeper. From April, 1883 to March, 1891, she attended St. George Convent grammar school in Shanghai. Her family had moved there in 1881 when her father transferred his business to China. In 1891 her family moved to Hokodate, Japan where she attended private school for three years. On June 1, 1893 she married Edward Julliard Prince who was working with the American Consulate. She visited the United States on several occasions with her husband.<sup>1</sup>

Three children born in Hokodate were registered as American citizens and sent to the United States to be educated.

Upon the death of Mr. Prince in April, 1923, Mrs. Prince came to San Francisco to live with her three children.

At present all of Mrs. Prince's three children are married to Caucasians and none of the four have ever mingled with Japanese in America. Mrs. Prince has always been with the Caucasian group and has no relatives and no family ties in Japan.

Mrs. Prince is 4 feet 11 inches in height and weighs 115 pounds. She has had a defective ear since 1935. She is always having trouble with blood vessels. Her fluent command of both English and Japanese enabled her to speak both without an accent. Her religion is Catholicism.

The attack on Pearl Harbor brought many anxieties to the Prince family. Mrs. Prince, in spite of the fact she was married to an employee of the United States government, was still a Japanese citizen. In spite of the fact that she

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1. Visit to the U.S. from July to September, 1913, April and May, 1915 and in 1923.



and her three children had never mingled with Japanese, they were investigated by the F.B.I. In March, 1942 when evacuation was first announced, Mrs. Prince moved from her home in San Francisco and went to Oroville, California. There she intended to live on her savings for the duration of the war. On July 10, 1942, she was evacuated from Oroville to Tule Lake Project. Her three children, Mrs. E.P. Kerwig, Mrs. F.J. Green and Jonothan Prince, were all still in San Francisco bay region with their spouses.

Once in the center Mrs. Prince had a difficult time in adjusting to the new environment. Throughout most of her life she had lived in considerable comfort and in the circle of the American Embassy and had almost everything she wanted. In the Project where each person had to make his own furniture she was at a loss as to what to do. Since she came alone she was assigned by the Housing Department to room with another widow, an old issei woman. The two managed to improvise furniture with the assistance of the block manager. On several occasions Mrs. Prince went to the Social Welfare Department to request that she be released to join her daughters in San Francisco. She had a letter from the sheriff of the San Mateo County who had been a personal friend for the past 20 years. She stated that she had no particular sympathy for Japan in spite of the fact that she was a citizen of that country and that she thought much more of her own children. Furthermore, she could not see what a 65 year old feeble woman could do if she were out. Her request was rejected, however, by the Western Defense Command and she accepted the decision and adjusted herself to the life in camp.

Her block manager once remarked that Mrs. Prince was, by far, the most intelligent and most helpful person in the whole block. His one regret was that he could not help her in the way she had helped him and the others in the block. According to him, in spite of her high status, she would not look down on the other residents and always did all she could financially and otherwise for the people in need.



2. Comments

The case of Mrs. Prince was, by far, the most unusual case in the files of the Social Welfare Department. Not only did she have an unusual life, but she also made an unusually good adjustment to a very trying situation. It seems that evacuation worked a very unjust hardship on her but she maintained dignity and made a very good adjustment.



## Appendix I

Surname	Man's name	Cross reference	File	Case #
PRINCE	Woman's name	Other names used		Family #
Present address 4414-F	Mrs. Moto	Clemenu		27137
Previous addresses	895 29th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.			Classification Mixed marriage Referred by Self Date July 22, 1942
1. Evacuated from	Oroville, Calif. on July 10, 1942			
2. Relocated from				

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Citizenship status	Occupation		
				Past	In project	Registered
Prince, Moto	9-16-1877	Tokyo, Japan	alien	none	none	no

Legally responsible and other relatives	Relationship	Address	Number dependents
Kerwig, Mrs.	daughter	San Francisco	
Green, Mrs.	daughter	San Francisco	
Prince, Johathan	son	San Mateo	

Others in household	Relationship	Address
Issei woman	none	

Visited Japan	Who	When	Period
Religion	Catholic		



CONFIDENTIAL BOMB

DOCUMENT TL-13

THE CASO OF MAE KAWASAKI

CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains no disguise other than names. All places, dates, and events are accurate to the best knowledge of the observer. No part of this document may be used for any purpose whatsoever without the addition of further disguise to conceal more fully the identity of the persons involved and without the consent of the director of the Evacuation and Resettlement Study.

Sources of Information

1. Case record from the files of the Social Welfare Department, Tule Lake Project.
2. WRA-26.

Evacuation and Resettlement Study  
Chicago, Illinois  
Shibutani 8/21/43



## 1. Introduction

The Kawasaki family has been separated for the past ten years. There were three children, Mae who is 17, her brother John, and her sister Rose. They had lived in <sup>Kent</sup>Kingston, Washington, but many years ago Mr. and Mrs. Kawasaki died, leaving the three orphans. A Tagawa family adopted John; a Serizawa family adopted Rose; and Mae was adopted by a Caucasian family. After several months, however, the Caucasian family returned Mae, and she went to live with her brother John at the Tagawa.

## 2. The Life of Mae Kawasaki

Mae Yayoe Kawasaki was born on March 14, 1925, in Seattle, Washington where her father operated a hotel. She attended the El Gonna Grammar School in El Gonna, Washington from February 1933, to May 1940. She then went to the Renton High School in Renton, Washington from September 1940, to May 1942, when she left with the Tagawas to Caldwell, Idaho. In high school she majored home economics and was active in the girls' reserve in the girls' club. During her last semester in school, Mae worked in a private home in Seattle for \$2 a day. She also attended the Renton Japanese Language School for four years.

Mae has a sparkling personality and is called Honey-Mae by her friends. Mae is four feet eleven inches tall and weighs ninety-four pounds and has no physical defects.

She can read, write, and speak English and can speak Japanese. Her hobbies are dancing, sports, stamp collecting, ex-



changing photographs, and collecting odd menus. Her faith is Buddhism.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Mae Kawasaki in Tule Lake

When the evacuation was announced, the Tagawas with John and Mae left voluntarily for Caldwell, Idaho. On August 7, John sent Mae to Tule Lake to live with the Serizawas who were already in Tule Lake. Rose, however, did not want her sister to live with her. Soon after her arrival in Tule Lake, there was much trouble, and Mae found it almost impossible to remain with her sister and the Serizawas. Finally, a Mrs. Okubo (an Issei woman) offered to take Mae in with her. There was another Nisei girl who was married to a Caucasian living with Mrs. Okubo - Mrs. Mary Tefft.

On September 28, Mae and Mrs. Tefft decided to leave because they were unable to get along with Mrs. Okubo. In the meantime Mrs. Serizawa has asked Mrs. Okubo to persuade Mae to return to Idaho. Mrs. Okubo was very gossipy, and the girls were very much afraid that the authorities would compel them to live with her. They finally got a room of their own. On October, a Mrs. Chang who was married to a Chinese joined the two girls in their quarters.<sup>2</sup>

On October 23, Mary Tefft left to work in the beet field, and Mae and Mrs. Chang was left alone. Mrs. Chang was so upset because she could not join her husband. At that time, a

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1. WRA-26

2. See document TL-4.



Reverend Kitagawa became very concerned over Mae's welfare. Reverend Kitagawa, who was known as Father Dai, took a personal interest and made contacts with his friends. In October, Mae received a gift of \$10 from a Bishop Nichols who Father Dai contacted.

On November 5, Mrs. Chang left for the beet field, and Mae was all alone. On the 17th, she moved in with the Mr. and Mrs. Mikami who were very kind to her, and Mae decided to remain there. In the meantime, her brother became very up-set about her and tried to get her to return to Idaho, but Mae remained there.<sup>3</sup>

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3. It is not quite clear why her brother wrote the letters that he did, and additions will be made to this document as soon as Miss Montgomery or Miss Hoshino send the information. All his letters are in the Appendixes.



## APPENDIX I

Surname Kawasaki	Man's name Mrs. Chang	Cross reference Other names used Honey-Mae	File	Case # 91001
Present address 5815-D Tule Lake Project Newell, Calif.	Woman's name Mae Yayoe			Family # 91001 Classification
Previous addresses Caldwell, Idaho 1. Evacuated from Caldwell, Idaho 8/7/42 2. Relocated from				Referred by Rev. Kitagawa Date 7/10/42

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

Name	Birth date	Birthplace	Citizenship status	Occupation		
				Past	In project	Registered
Mae Yayoe	3/14/25	Seattle, Wash.	Citizen			

Legally responsible and other relatives	Relationship	Address	Number dependents
Mrs. Chang		Idaho	
Mrs. Tefft		Idaho	

Others in household	Relationship	Address
John Tagawa	Brother	Caldwell, Idaho
Rose Serizawa	Sister	Tule Lake Project

Visited Japan	Who	When	Period
Religion			
Buddhist			



Rt. 1, Caldwell, Idaho  
August 29, 1942

Mr. Elmer B. Shirrell  
Camp Manager  
Tule Lake, W.R.A.  
Newell, California

Dear Sir,

This is to ask a favor of you regarding Mae Kawasaki, a 17 year old girl who recently came to your camp all by herself. As you might have already found out, she is an orphan and we have been taking care of her as her guardians. She left our home without letting us know anything about her plan of coming to Tule Lake and we surely were surprised to learn that she was there a few days later.

The only reason why she came to your camp seems to be that some of her girl friends in the camp wrote to her about nice things of the camp and she was very much attracted by them. We as her guardians, of course, are anxious to keep her under our wings, and especially we don't like to have her stay in a camp as much as it could be helped, for we know a girl of her type can not help being spoiled outside of a family influence. Knowing her past, we are extremely anxious to have her back here with us, so that we can keep our eyes on her until such time when she really can stand on her own feet.

We are writing to the Rev. Daisuke Kitagawa, an Episcopalian priest in your center concerning Mae. He incidentally is not in any way related to Mae, even though he has the same family name. He knows the complicated background of Mae's life and will be able to explain to you all about it. We will appreciate it de-ply if you would call upon Father Kitagawa and then make arrangements for Mae to join us once more.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ K. Tagawa  
S. Tagawa



C  
O  
P  
Y

APPENDIX III

Caldwell, Idaho  
998042

Rev. D. Kitagawa  
5013-B  
Tule Lake, Calif.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of September 3rd. Circumstances and conditions here, which I am unable to divulge because of obvious reasons, forced Mae's desire to go there and forced my decision to send her there.

I have done months of thinking on the matter before acting. Although some people have thought otherwise.

It seems, Togawas have written hazy, distorted facts concerning the matter. One of them, which is untrue, that Mae doesn't get along with me.

Legal obligation of Serizawas has often been mentioned in letters to Togawas and in one received from you myself. I have never had the intention of her staying with the Serizawas. As its my legal obligation. Because of this fact, Mae went there without the knowledge of Serizawas or Togawas.

At present, there is only one solution. Mae will live outside of Serizawas. She will not return here under any offers, promise or conditions offered by Togawas or anybody else.

Trusting you understand the situation and thanking you for your time and effort in regard to the matter, and would appreciate very much if you can help solve the problem.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Hiroshi Kawasaki



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APPENDIX IV

Tule Lake Project  
Newell, California  
September 9, 1942

Mr. K. Togawa  
route 1  
Caldwell, Idaho

Dear Mr. Togawa:

I have your letter of August 29, relative to Mae Kawasa who is a resident of Tule Lake Project. I asked Reverend Kitagawa to come in to discuss the case with me and together we have made some investigation.

I asked Mae Kawasaki to come in and discussed with her her living situation here and her work at Tule Lake. She seems to be very happy and from all I can find out she is doing well and behaving herself.

She is not at all interested in her sister, Rose Serizawa. Rose and her foster mother are much concerned about the girl but I do not believe there is anything I can do about it. As long as she does her job, behaves herself and goes to school, I have no grounds to return her to Idaho inasmuch as she has no legal guardian.

Should any occasion arise which would need your interest or influence, we will keep you informed.

At the present time she understands that she is under the protection of the War Relocation Authority.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Elmer L. Shirrell

Project Director



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APPENDIX V

Caldwell, Idaho  
9-14-42

Rev. D. Kitagawa  
5013-B  
Tule Lake, Calif.

Dear Sir,

I would appreciate very much if you can help obtain Mae's permit for her return to Idaho. For the best interest of people there.

It is but for her to return, when, always some people there think about themselves only and don't understand the situation here.

I know the many bad conditions, influences, and the demoralizing atmosphere there. But there was no other choice.

Before her return. I will attempt to secure a job for her. Where she can both work and attend school. But if I can't find a job for her. She will have to live with the Togawas, which will be heartbreaking on Mae's part. I think.

Mae can stay with the Togawas, as long as I am staying with them.

But circumstances will compel me to leave them definitely in the near future.

Please advise when the permit is received, then the train fare shall be sent immediately.

Hoping that you understand.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Hiroshi Kitagawa

P.S. Please apply for Mae's permit soon as possible. I have written Mae, to return, whether she desires to or not. So there is no further need, attempting to 'iron out the difficulties.'



DOCUMENT TL-14

THE KOYAMA FAMILY

CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains no disguises other than names. All places, dates, and events are accurate to the best knowledge of the observer. No part of this document may be used for any purpose whatsoever without the addition of further disguises to conceal more fully the identity of the persons involved and without the consent of the director of the Evacuation and Resettlement Study.

Sources of Information:

1. Case record of the Koyama family in the files of the Social Welfare Department in the Tule Lake Project.
2. Discussion of the case with Mr. Fukuzo Obayashi, who handled the case in the Social Welfare Department and who translated the various documents and testimonies.
3. Discussion of the case with Miss Dorothy Montgomery, supervisor of the Social Welfare Department.
4. WRA-26, Individual Record Forms, for the three parties involved in the triangle.

Evacuation and Resettlement Study  
The Evacuee Family in Tule Lake  
Chicago, Illinois  
Shibutani, 8/9/43



THE KOYAMA FAMILY1. Introduction

The Koyama family consists of Mr. Musaku Koyama (46), his wife Ayako (37), and their two sons. Akio (17) is stranded in Japan, and Minoru (11) is with his mother. Both Mr. and Mrs. Koyama were born in Japan, but their children are American citizens.

Prior to evacuation Mrs. Koyama operated a boarding house in Sacramento. Her husband worked in the nearby farms as a laborer, and occasionally visited her in the city. Both were educated in Japan and have little knowledge of the English language. Both are in fairly good physical health. The Koyama family is Buddhist.

The Koyama family did not enjoy too respectable a status in the Japanese community of Sacramento. Both had reputations of questionable character, and they were sometimes avoided by the so-called respectable elements of the population.

2. The Individuals in the FamilyMusaku Koyama

Musaku Koyama was born on October 1, 1896, in Kakugawa, Hiroshima ken, Japan, where his father was a farmer. He attended the Kakugawa grammar school from April, 1903, to March, 1911, and then attended the



Kakugawa High School from April, 1911, to March, 1913. In the meantime his father had migrated to the United States and had been working as a farm hand in various sections of California. In 1922 he married and on the following year, in November, 1923, he migrated to America to join his father.

After his arrival in the United States, Musaku did odd jobs in various farms throughout the county of Sacramento and finally settled there in 1930. His wife opened a boarding house and he began working at the Lambert Fruit Company in Clarksburg. He also worked with asparagus for the same firm. He claims to have earned \$150. a month while he was with this firm.<sup>1</sup>

Musaku is 5 feet 1 inch tall and weighs 118 pounds. He has no physical defects. He can read, write, and speak Japanese, and he claims that he can read, write and speak English.<sup>2</sup> He also claims that he can understand Spanish.<sup>3</sup> His hobbies are repairing machines, fishing, and playing go. His religion is Buddhist.<sup>4</sup>

#### Ayako Koyama

Ayako Taketani was born on March 20, 1905 in Miui mura, Hiroshima ken, Japan, where her father was a farmer. She attended the Miui Grammar school from April, 1912 to March, 1920, and then attended the Kawaramachi High School until September, 1921. After her graduation, she married Musaku Koyama and the two migrated to the United States in 1923.

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1. WRA-26. This seems to be much too high for a farm laborer. The statements below would seem to indicate that his income was lower.

2. WRA-26. Kobara can understand only very simple English and speaks it very poorly.

3. This is quite possible, especially if he worked with Mexicans.

4. WRA-26 for Musaku Koyama.



In July, 1931 Mrs. Koyama opened a rooming house in Sacramento and did everything to take care of the place while her husband worked elsewhere. She also worked now and then in various cafes as a waitress.<sup>5</sup> She remained at her rooming house until evacuation.

Mrs. Koyama is 5 ft. tall and weighs 112 pounds. She has no physical defects. In spite of her age she is still rather attractive and dresses quite well. She can read, write and speak Japanese and has no understanding of English. She can sing and plays the samisen. Her religion is Buddhist.<sup>6</sup>

Nobutaka Tagawa

Nobutaka Tagawa was born on February 23, 1902 in Riomon-mura, Wakayama, Japan where his father was a farmer. He attended Riomon-ku grammar school from April, 1909 to March, 1917 when he migrated to the United States with his father. Between the years of 1917-1922 Nobutaka helped his father on the farm and attended night school for 2½ years in Sacramento. In June, 1922 he operated a vineyard in Loomis but gave up the job in June, 1924 and went to work for a Buddhist Church in Sacramento as an executive secretary. In this job he received \$100 per month. He was married in the meantime and had a daughter, Edith, who is now 14 years old. In September, 1929 he went to work for the Japanese American News as business manager in Sacramento. In that position he received

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5. One of the cafes in which she claims to have worked is a rather notorious place, which it is reputed that all the waitresses are prostitutes. See text below for further details.

6. WRA-26.



\$80 per month. It was while working for the Nichi Bei that his wife died and he started to visit Mrs. Koyama.

Nobutaka is 5 ft. 2 in. tall and weighs 122 pounds. He has a weak heart. He can read, write, speak both Japanese and English. In spite of the fact that he worked for a Buddhist Church at one time, because he was a newspaper man, he attended both Buddhist and Christian churches in Sacramento.<sup>7</sup>

### 3. History of Family

Mr. and Mrs. Koyama were married in Japan in 1922. Their marriage was arranged by a baishakunin and a few weeks after their wedding they migrated to the United States where they both worked in the rural district. In 1930 they settled in Sacramento where Mrs. Koyama ran her rooming house and Mr. Koyama continued working in the country. He never had enough money for personal use and consequently never paid toward household expenses and quite often she had to give him money for incidental expenses. The couple never did get along and she claims she had thought of leaving him quite often but because of their child she remained with them. From about 1937 on she lived at the hotel and he in the country. Whenever he came to town he stayed at the hotel in a spare room and never had marital relations. They did not live together until the time of evacuation.

On May 15, 1942 the Koyamas evacuated to Walerga Assembly Center where some difficulties ensued. On June 21 they were relocated to

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Tule Lake Project. A few months later they began fighting and by October relations reached a crisis.<sup>8</sup>

#### 4. Family in Tule Lake

Even in October after Mr. Koyama had beaten her, Mrs. Koyama went to the Legal Aid department to ask for advice in getting a separation and Attorney Walter Tsukamoto referred her to the Social Welfare department. On October 15 Mrs. Koyama went to the Social Welfare department with a friend, Mrs. Sato, to request that her husband be forced to move out or that she be permitted to move in with Mrs. Sato. She insisted that her husband had a violent temper and struck her on the evening previous to her visit to the Legal Aid department. She claimed further that he had beaten her before and Mrs. Sato substantiated Mrs. Koyama's claim and stated that she would be glad to have her move in. Since Mrs. Sato's children (Hideo, 18; Haruko, 16 and Yaeko, 14) got along very well with Mrs. Koyama's 11 year old son, Minoru, the move was acceptable. At that time Mrs. Koyama was told by the social worker to consider the fact that the boy needed his father's influence. Mrs. Koyama objected and said that her son was happier away from his father. She was advised to return after thinkin the matter over.<sup>9</sup>

On October 26 Mrs. Koyama returned to the Social Welfare department and told the following story:

My husband's name is Musaku Koyama. He is 46 years old.

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8. This brief account contains about the only information on which all participants are agreed. For details of conflicting accounts see next section.

9. Community Welfare Department files on October 15, 1942.



He was born in Japan. I have a son, Minoru, 11, who is with me and another son, Shigeo, 17, who is living with my parents in Japan.

"Our marriage which took place in Japan in 1922 was not a happy one. It was mostly arranged by my husband's parents and against my will. About six months after our marriage, while waiting in Yokohama for our embarkation to this country, I attempted to run away from my husband but was caught and decided to stay with him when he begged me to do so.

"In Sacramento I bought a hotel and operated it by myself while my husband was a fruit packer. During this period he became afflicted with a drinking habit and often took my cash earnings and spent it on drinks. Sometime he drew money from my son's bank for drinks. Quite often he beat me when I objected. He even stole money from me. It is true he has no particular vice aside from his hot temper and addiction to drink. My son like it much better when his father is away and of often told me so.

"At the time of evacuation we both realized we had to live together for the first time in five years. I made him promise not to resort to physical violence before I agreed to go with him to the assembly center. He has not kept his promise.

"I wish to have separate living quarters from my husband although he strongly protests against this. I am now living with my friend, Mrs. Sato, at 3516-B."<sup>10</sup>

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10. Statement by Mrs. Koyama on October 26, 1942, taken from CWD files. Statement paraphrased from translation by Mrs. Sadako Murayama.



On the same day Mrs. Sato was interviewed and she gave the following story:

She had never met Mrs. Koyama but while in Walerga Assembly Center got to know her quite well because Mrs. Koyama frequently ran into her room and asked for assistance whenever her husband beat her. Mrs. Sato disclosed that Mrs. Koyama was carrying on an affair with Nobutaka Tagawa long before evacuation and as a result Mrs. Koyama was now pregnant. Mr. Tagawa is now block manager of 36.<sup>11</sup>

On the same day the social worker interviewed Mr. Koyama and asked him what he ~~thought~~ of separation from his wife. He stated bluntly he would reject consideration of separation or divorce from her. He recognized that his wife was pregnant as a result of an affair with Mr. Tagawa and stated that he was planning to get even. He claimed that both in Walerga and Tule Lake Mr. Tagawa had arranged living quarters in such a way that he could live with Mrs. Koyama. He claimed further that Tagawa often had given money to his wife without telling him about it.<sup>12</sup>

Two days later Mrs. Koyama once again went to the Social Welfare office and told her story all over again and begged to have an apartment separate from her husband and added the following information: The hotel business in Sacramento was bought by Mrs. Koyama with her own funds. Her father-in-law had lived in the hotel until he returned to Japan in 1932 and he too depended on the hotel's earnings for his drinking. She then added, "I am now pregnant, seven months as a result of a love affair with Mr.

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11. CWD files on October 26, 1942.

12. CWD files on October 26, 1942.



Tagawa. After the war I intend to go back to Japan taking both my husband and son. I am going to get a divorce there and will marry Mr. Tagawa and shall place my son under the custody of my parents.<sup>13</sup>

On the same day the Legal Aid department gave the following opinion: It was advisable though not necessary to have Mr. Koyama's agreement before arranging for separate housing quarters for his wife. The child to be born would ~~not~~ be illegitimate if not accepted by Mr. Koyama and the whole responsibility rests upon Mr. Tagawa.<sup>14</sup>

The following day a social worker called on Mr. Koyama to see if he agreed to his wife's moving to separate quarters. Mr. Koyama stated at that time as follows:

"About five years ago my wife took a job as a waitress in a chop suey house, Wakamura-ten in Sacramento in spite of numerous protests from me. As you know, that cafe had a bad reputation. She worked for about one year and it was during that time she became intimate with Mr. Tagawa.

"As for separate quarters, my wife and I agree to it provided she does not take any personal belongings except those she is wearing with her. I solemnly promise if she will stay with me I will never inflict any physical violence on her."<sup>15</sup>

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13. To many issei marriage and divorce laws of the United States did not make sense, for example, when they wish to separate they simply lived apart without taking legal action. For similar definition see Doi, TL-9. Statement from CWD files on October 28, 1942 with translations by Mr. Fukuzo Obayashi.

14. CWD files on October 28, 1942.

15. SWD files on October 29, 1942 with translations by Mr. Fukuzo Obayashi.



On the following day the Legal Aid department was consulted again and this time Mr. Tsukamoto advised Mr. Koyama that he had no right to interfere with his wife if she wanted to move and she could obtain a warden's help to remove all her belongings. He stated further that she could be transferred to another relocation center if she desired and that her husband had no right to interfere with her transfer.<sup>16</sup>

On November 2 permission was obtained from the Housing department for Mrs. Koyama to move into 5815-D with a Mrs. Okubo. The Internal Security department was contacted and Mr. Kristovich agreed to send a warden if necessary.<sup>17</sup> On the following day Mrs. Koyama told the social worker she had spoken to her husband the night before and he agreed to her moving. Arrangements were made to send a truck for her personal belongings and a warden sent to see that no disturbance take place. Later in the day Mr. Koyama came into the office and agreed that his wife could move.<sup>18</sup> Unfortunately, however, the truck went to 3613-A where Mr. Koyama lived, rather than 3516-B where Mrs. Koyama was staying at the time. Two days later arrangements were made again for a truck and a warden to get Mrs. Koyama's belongings.<sup>19</sup>

On November 7 Mr. Koyama went to the Social Welfare department and told the worker that he objected to his wife's leaving and had gone to the Housing department and made a strong protest against her leaving on the grounds that a few weeks before the Housing de-

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16. CWD files on October 30, 1942.

17. CWD files on November 2, 1942.

18. CWD files on November 3, 1942.

19. CWD files on November 4 and 5, 1942.



partment announced that no moving would be permitted for a month. He stated furthermore that Mr. Kristovich told her that she could not move out without his consent. When asked about his attitude a few days before, he stated that when he agreed to her moving he really meant that he wife could move from her temporary stay with Mrs. Sato to his own room. So the matter came to a deadlock.<sup>20</sup>

On November 10 Dr. Harold Jacoby, Chief of Internal Security, Mr. Tsuda, head of the wardens, Mr. Koyama and a social worker held a conference at the Internal Security headquarters. At this time Dr. Jacoby ordered Mr. Koyama to allow his wife to have separate quarters at least until the baby was born. To this Mr. Koyama acquiesced and arrangements were again made for Mrs. Koyama's moving of her belongings.<sup>21</sup>

On November 20 Mrs. Koyama once again appealed for help at the Social Welfare department. She complained that her husband locked his apartment all the time and it was impossible to get her belongings because it was difficult to find his whereabouts. Arrangements were made with the Internal Security department to have a warden find Mr. Koyama and force him to give up his wife's personal effects.<sup>22</sup>

In the meantime Mr. Koyama went about his block and aired publicly his problems. He told issei friends that the block manager, Tagawa had stolen his wife and that she was now pregnant by him. He made derogatory remarks and incensed the block people so much that Tagawa was forced to resign as block manager. The issei in the block banded together and threatened him with physical violence unless he

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20. CWD files on November 7, 1942.

21. CWD files on November 10, 1942.

22. CWD files on November 20 and 23, 1942, see also Appendix IV.



moved out of the block. On November 30 Mr. Tagawa could no longer remain in block 36 and moved to an empty room in 7404-A.

When Tagawa went to live in 74 he had additional difficulties for Mr. Ninomiya, whom he had expelled from 36, was living in 72. As soon as Ninomiya learned that he was also expelled from 36, he became active and organized resistance to the acceptance of Tagawa in block 74. It became very difficult for the Housing department to find a place for Tagawa to stay for all block managers objected to his living in their blocks for fear that the residents would complain.

On that night Mrs. Koyama called on Tagawa in his apartment to make arrangements to get essential things she needed since she had no money. While she was there Koyama and four men broke into the apartment and beat her and threw her on the floor and engaged in a brawl with Tagawa.<sup>23</sup>

On December 2 the block manager of 74 went to the Social Welfare department and made the following request: "About midnight I was aroused by some people in my block of fighting occurring in Tagawa's apartment. I dressed hurriedly and rushed to the scene where Mr. Koyama and three or four men had broken into the apartment where they found Tagawa and Mrs. Koyama making love together. I jumped in and stopped the fight with the assistance of men from my block. The heat is on me. I want Mr. Tagawa removed from my block.

"I have a report from representatives of my block that Tagawa

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23. It was later discovered by the Internal Security department that the four men who assisted Koyama were Tom Kikawa, block 36; Ben Miyamoto, warden, block 36; Mr. Miyata, block 31 and Ninomiya. It was also learned that Ninomiya's wife was a spectator at the brawl. CWD files on December 1, 1942.



has been given 48 hours to move. I have contacted the Housing department but the man there said that it was impossible to move because all other blocks refuse to take him."<sup>24</sup>

That night at 9:30 p.m. a social worker went to block 74 and met with the block manager and representatives of the block. He asked for an extension of the deadline for removal but had to leave without a definite answer. It seems that the pressure was being placed on both sides, for and against Tagawa.<sup>25</sup>

On December 5, the block manager of 74 went to the Social Welfare department and insisted vociferously that Tagawa be removed from the block. Since the issei were becoming very impatient arrangements had to be made immediately to transfer Tagawa. After a conference between the Internal Security and Social Welfare officials it was also decided that Koyama should be transferred for the safety of his wife. Wires were sent to Minidoka and Topaz explaining the situation and arrangements were made at once.

On the following night travel permits arrived by wire from the Army and the Internal Security department acted swiftly. Warden Ben Miya-

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24. CWD files on December 2, 1942.

25. It seems that Tagawa had the backing of several influential people in block 36 who did not like Koyama and were familiar with his background. Among the three influential people were Mr. S. Abe, S. Tanaka, C. Shimoda. Miss Mary Kawasaki, also of block 36, was also a staunch supporter of Mr. Tagawa. When the Internal Security interviewed Kikawa, Miyamoto and Ninomiya in connection with the brawl, both Kikawa and Miyamoto denied being involved. Ninomiya claimed that he was just coming home from work. His wife joined him later, but neither participated in the fight. The three men were unanimously of the opinion that Tagawa should be transferred to another center since he was the cause of the brawl and was setting an undesirable example to the young people in the community. Taken from the CWD files of December 3, 1942.



moto, who had denied he had any interest in the case, was given the assignment of informing Koyama of his transfer. (It seems that Dr. Jacoby gave Miyamoto the assignment to see if he was really involved in the case.)

At 1:00 a.m. in the morning Ben Miyamoto and three men from block 36 and Mr. Miyata from block 31 awakened the social worker and notified him that Miyamoto was ordered to make arrangements for the transfer of Koyama and Tagawa. The five men could not see any reason why Koyama should be moved since, in their opinion, Tagawa was ready to move. They concluded that the social worker was the reason that Koyama was also being moved. This order had not been known and they wanted an explanation and threatened to beat him up. A heated argument ensued for over two hours. The social worker explained that Koyama was being moved to protect his wife who was in a delicate condition.<sup>26</sup>

Just before his departure to Topaz Mr. Koyama requested that his son, Minoru, be left in care of Mr. Saika of 2714-A since he felt that his wife was not of sufficient moral character to care for a 11 year boy. It was discovered, however, that Mr. Saika was 64 years old and a bachelor who was hardly suitable as custodian of the boy. When Mr.

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26. This 1:00 a.m. raid was made at block 40 where Mr. Obayashi lived with an unusual group of bachelors. They had a rather strong group feeling among them and had a fight started the other men in the room would have joined in and given the five men a bad time. The fact of the matter was that Mr. Obayashi was entirely ignorant that Koyama was being moved at all. The decision was made by Mr. Montgomery and Dr. Jacoby and Obayashi had yet not been informed. Obayashi, however, felt that if Koyama were permitted to stay he might injure his wife in spite of his promises since Mr. Obayashi did not trust Koyama anyway. He felt further that by breaking into Tagawa's apartment Koyama also committed a serious offense and should be punished. Data taken from field notes from an interview with Haruo Najima, room-mate and Mr. Obayashi on December 7, 1942. Apparently satisfied the 5 men left the room after 3:00 a.m.



Saika was interviewed it was proved that he had intimate knowledge of Koyama's background and substantiated Mrs. Koyama's claim that he was dissipated and disorderly. Saika had a low opinion of Mr. Koyama.<sup>27</sup>

On December 7 Musaku Koyama was sent alone to Topaz Relocation Center and Tagawa and his 14-year old daughter were transferred to Minidoka.

As soon as Koyama arrived in Topaz he contacted the Social Welfare department there and asked that he be allowed to return to Tule Lake. He wrote several letters both to the Social Welfare department and Miss Montgomery and various officials in Topaz. His request, however, was turned down.<sup>28</sup>

On December 11, 1942 a baby girl was born to Mrs. Koyama at the base hospital at 11:20 a.m. She was christened Michiko Koyama.<sup>29</sup> Several visits made after the birth of the baby indicated that both were well. Mrs. Koyama stated that she did not need help because Mrs. Sato was attending her.<sup>30</sup>

##### 5. Comments

It seems that we can safely say that evacuation had a great deal to do with the course of disorganization the Koyama family had taken. It is true that the child was conceived before evacuation and some trouble may have taken place ~~anyway~~. However, when we consider the fact that the Koyamas had been separated for five years and were forced

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27. CWD files of December 7, 1942.

28. For complete text of exchange of letters see Appendices 9-12.

30. CWD files of January 28, 1943.

29. Tulean Dispatch of January 14, 1943.



to live together with evacuation, it seems doubtful if the difficulty would have been so great.

Mr. Obayashi's opinion was that Koyama was not in the least interested in the offense of his wife but was intent on getting revenge on Tagawa. Mr. Obayashi felt that Tagawa and Koyama had probably fought before and that the situation merely gave Koyama the opportunity he had been seeking to get even with an old enemy.<sup>31</sup>

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31. There is much more information on this case in the field notes which have not yet been written up. Additions will be made as soon as possible and a more careful analysis will be made later. The letters in Appendices 9-12 were translated by Mr. Fukuzo Obayashi and are, in my opinion, about the best material that we have been able to get from the Social Welfare files.



Surname	Man's name	Cross reference	File	Case #
Koyama	Musaku			10027
	Woman's name	Other names used		Family #
	Avako			28060
Present address	3613-A, Tule Lake			Classification
				Dom.
				Referred by
Previous addresses				Date
	1111 1/2 Third St., Sacramento, Calif.			
1. Evacuated from	Sacramento, Calif. 5/15/42			
2. Relocated from	Walleriga Assembly Center 6/21/42			

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Citizenship status	Occupation		
				Past	In project	Registered
Musaku	1896	Japan	Alien	Farmer	?	?
Ayako	1905	Japan	Alien	Hotel	?	?
Minoru	1931	U.S.	Citizen	School	None	No

Legally responsible and other relatives	Relationship	Address	Number dependents
Akio	Son	Japan	

Others in household	Relationship	Address

Visited Japan	Who	When	Period

Religion
Buddhist



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APPENDIX II

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
TULE LAKE PROJECT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Social Welfare Department

From: Legal Aid Department

Subject: Separation of Living Quarters

Mrs. Ayako Koyama, who resides with her husband, Musaku Koyama, at #3613-A, states that due to marital differences and the physical cruelty of her husband she does not believe it safe or wise to further live with him. She states that she had not lived with him for several years prior to evacuation, but that the evacuation practically threw her in his company. It would be appreciated if you would look into this matter further, and if the circumstances justify a separation, that this be accomplished.

Walter Tsukamoto



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APPENDIX III

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Tule Lake Project  
Newell, California

November 2, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Housing Department

FROM: Social Welfare Department

RE: Koyama, Ayako (Mrs.) 3613-A

Confirming our conversation at your office this morning, we reiterate as follows:

Mrs. Ayako Koyama now living with her husband, Mr. Musaku Koyama, and her son, Minoru Koyama, requests to have a living quarter apart from her husband's. On Investigating the matter to the best of our knowledge, we found that Mrs. Koyama's request is the only means by which her safety as well as the tranquility of the neighborhood could be maintained.

We ask, you, hereby, for your prompt attention to the matter so that Mrs. Koyama could live in safety as far apart from her husband as possible. This procedure has been approved by the Legal Aid.

F. Obayashi  
Social Worker



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APPENDIX IV

1608 Tule Lake  
Nov. 23, 1942

Internal Security Division  
Tule Lake, WRA.

Dear Sirs,                      Attention: Dr. Jacoby.

In consummation of our conversation in your office under the date of November 12, Mrs. Ayako Koyama has moved to another apartment from Apt. A, 3613. She has left, however, in the apartment her clothings and other articles that duly belong to her, and she is in dire need of them at present. She also claims that her Alien Registration Book has been taken from her and held by Mr. Musaku Koyama. On the other hadn Mr. Musaku Koyama has stubbornly refused to return those articles and the said Registration Book over to Mrs. Ayako Koyama. The situation has reached to such a stage that it has become impossible for us to handle it peacefully and amicably.

Social Welfare Division, therefore, appeals and requests hereby your Division to exercise your influence and authority in assisting Mrs. Ayako Koyama in taking her belongings out of Apt. A, 3613, and carrying them safely to her present residence.

Thanking in anticipation of your prompt attention to the matter, we are

Yours truly,

Social Welfare Div.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker



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APPENDIX V

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Tule Lake Project  
Newell, California

December 11, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. Jacoby  
Internal Security Division

FROM: Social Welfare Division 1608

Mrs. Koyama, Ayako, 3613-A, came up to our office and disclosed to us that the bulk of her clothings and personal effects which had been held by her husband, Mr. Koyama, Musaku, before his departure, are now held by one of your wardens, Mr. Ben Miyamoto. She asked us to convey to you her request that the aforementioned articles be returned to her at 3512-A as soon as possible. She also claimed that her "Alien Registration Book" has not yet been given back to her.

We will highly appreciate your earliest possible attention to the matter. Thank you.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Worker

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APPENDIX VI

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT  
Topaz, Utah

In reply, please refer to:  
Community Services  
Welfare Section

December 12, 1942

Mr. Elmer L. Shirrell  
Project Director  
Tule Lake Relocation Project  
Newell, California

SUBJECT: Musaku Koyama

Dear Sir:

Mr. Musaku Koyama, escorted by Mr. Lewis from your Center, arrived here safely on Tuesday, December 18, 1942, and immediately after his arrival to this Center, he was brought to our Community Welfare Section for assistance.

As a result of our first contact with Mr. Koyama, we gleaned a few facts from his case. However, we feel that we are definitely lacking many vital factors pertinent to his particular situation which are urgently needed for our rendering of utmost assistance.

If your Welfare Department can provide us with such necessary information or finds regarding his past history, his character, references, his wife's history, character, her story, her desire for or unwillingness towards reconciliation, their children's care, plans for their future, and all other matters relevant to this case, we will appreciate your forwarding same to us at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Charles F. Ernst  
Project Directory



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APPENDIX VII

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Tule Lake Project  
Newell, California

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Harry L. Stafford  
Project Director

ATTENTION: Social Welfare Department

SUBJECT: Transfer of Mr. Nobutake Tagawa & Daughter

We are writing to you in regard to our recent transfer of Mr. Nobutake Tagawa and daughter to your Project.

In order that you may have a more clear understanding of the reasons for this transfer, we are enclosing a copy of a summary which we are sending to the Central Utah Project.

We trust this information will be of assistance to you in your work.

Elmer L. Shirrell  
Project Director

Enclosure

DM:FT  
12-29-42

cc: CHRON.  
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APPENDIX VIII

Tule Lake Project  
Newell, California

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Charles F. Ernst  
Project Director

ATTENTION: Community Service Welfare Dept.

SUBJECT: Transfer of Mr. Musaku Koyama

We received your letter of December 12th in which you requested information regarding Mr. Musaku Koyama whom we transferred to the Central Utah Project.

Attached is a report from the Social Welfare Dept. which we trust will be of assistance to you in your work with Mr. Koyama.

Elmer S. Shirrell  
Project Director

Enclosure

DM:FT  
12-29-42

cc: CHRON.  
DESK  
CASE



CASE SUMMARY

KOYAMA, Musaku - 1896  
Ayako - 1905  
Minoru - 1931  
Akio - 1925 (In Japan)

BACKGROUND

Mr. & Mrs. Koyama were married in Japan in 1922. Mrs. Koyama states that the marriage was arranged by the parents and that she, Mrs. Koyama, was never happy with her husband.

Shortly after the marriage, the couple came to California where they settled in Sacramento. Mrs. Koyama operated a small hotel on Third Street in Sacramento which she states was purchased from her own personal money. Mr. Koyama did agricultural labor all over the San Joaquin Valley. Mrs. Koyama says that he rarely came home and when he did, it was only to get money to continue drinking. At the time of his occasional visits, he was usually drunk and he has repeatedly beaten her because of her unwillingness or inability to give him the money he requested.

Prior to evacuation she discussed the possibility of a divorce with Mr. Tsukamoto, attorney from Sacramento; however, she did not actually start proceedings because of the "disgrace" of such action. Information regarding Mr. Koyama's personal habits have been corroborated by other persons from Sacramento.

On the other hand, there have been several reports regarding Mrs. Koyama's actions. About six years ago, in spite of her husband's objection, Mrs. Koyama became a "waitress" in a chop suey house. (This is apparently equivalent to a house of prostitution.) During her year of work in the chop suey house she became acquainted with Mr. Tagawa, a widower with a thirteen year old daughter. Mr. Tagawa worked for a newspaper in Sacramento.

Mr. & Mrs. Koyama have two children, Akio, age 17, who is in Japan and Minoru, age 11, who is with his mother here in Tule Lake.

EVACUATION

At the time of evacuation, Mr. Tagawa made arrangements so that he and his daughter and the Koyama's were evacuated together as one family unit and they lived together in the Wallerga Assembly Center. The first violence broke out during their stay in Wallerga; in spite of which, they were all transferred together to the Tule Lake Project.

SITUATION LEADING UP TO TRANSFER

In October, Mrs. Koyama requested living quarters separate



her husband and moved into the apartment of one of her woman friends. She also asked assistance of the Legal Aid Dept. in securing a divorce. Mr. Tagawa was then a Block Manager. About this time it became known that Mrs. Koyama was pregnant and that Mr. Tagawa was the father of the expected child. Mrs. Koyama expects her baby in January or February of 1943.

The colonists began to "take sides" and Mr. Tagawa was forced out of his position as Block Manager. Mrs. Koyama refused to be "discreet" and would often appear for breakfast with Mr. Tagawa in the mess hall in his block rather than returning to her own mess hall.

One night shortly before the transfer, Mr. Koyama learned that his wife was at Mr. Tagawa's apartment about 1:00 am, and with the assistance of a baseball bat, he entered the place where he proceeded to use violence on both Mr. Tagawa and Mrs. Koyama.

Since the entire colony had become insensed over the situation, it was felt that some drastic step was necessary. Mrs. Koyama was not physically safe with Mr. Koyama on this Project. We also felt that due to the illegality of the situation as well as to the colony's feeling, we could not transfer Mr. Koyama without also transferring Mr. Tagawa. Therefore, Mr. Koyama was sent to your Center; Mr. Tagawa and his daughter were sent to Minidoka and Mrs. Koyama and her son remained here.

#### OBSERVATION

Mrs. Koyama wishes a divorce. It is doubtful that she will ever return to Mr. Koyama. She objected strenuously to Mr. Tagawa's transfer.

Mr. Koyama does not wish a divorce. Because of Mrs. Koyama's present condition, it is doubtful whether she could obtain a divorce, were it contested. Mr. Koyama stated he was willing to accept the child if his wife would return to him.

Mr. Koyama is a small, rather ineffectual appearing person and seems to try to offset this appearance by physical violence.

Mr. Tagawa is better educated and "smooth" in appearance and attitude. In his words, he is always the "non-belligerent." He will be the cause of the disturbance, but according him, not a participant.

#### SOLUTION

We do not feel that Mrs. Koyama will return to her husband. If he ever desires to obtain a divorce or allow her to obtain a divorce, it will probably be the best solution to the situation. When we decided to make the transfer, we did not feel that it was either a permanent solution or a "good" solution. However, it seemed to be the only one possible when we considered the good of the colony.

We trust the above information will aid you in your work with Mr. Koyama. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free



to call upon us.

Dorothy Montgomery, Supervisor  
Social Welfare Department

DM:FT

January 25, 1943

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Respectfully presenting this letter:

After the New Year began, the climate has become worse, I beg to ask you if you are living without any change. I deeply regret to write to you so abruptly regarding my family affairs. I am ashamed that I have brought so much trouble and care to you and your staff about my wife and son. May that you will pardon me for those matters. In Social Welfare office at Topaz I have been told that Miss Montgomery wrote if the matter between my wife and myself was settled smoothly, I shall be able to return to Tule Lake. But I do not know how many years it will take before the matter is settled. Although I feel that it is impolite to write such a letter to you, yet in my mind this matter cannot be considered so lightly as it is thought by some outsiders. As it is taught in Buddhism as well as in Bible of Christianity, man's offense should be punished, but for that man should not be hated. Probably you and your office staff are wondering why I have written such things. Even though my wife, incited by some people in Tule Lake Project, some lawyers, the people whom my wife is associated in some way or other, and also by Tagawa, through writing, may attempt to get divorce-, and by every means, I will absolutely oppose against it. In Japan she has a mother and a son of her own flesh and blood. In this country, as you know, she has a boy.

When I and my wife bade good-bye to her mother after we had secured clearance to depart, what her mother told me, my wife does not know. As I am very poor in writing, it is quite difficult to make you understand what my wife's mother said at that time. The most important thing she stressed at that time is that we, as man and wife, should live harmoniously and peacefully, and that she will be always be glad to hear that all's well, and to sometime see both of us in good health. When I remember that, I feel very miserable.

If my wife had never trespassed human virtues, I would say nothing. I have said something against her only on occasions when she stepped out, or broken away from moral path. Otherwise I have said nothing against her. Please be kind enough to understand my mind.

I have heard that lusty, dissipated man, Tagawa, is still corresponding with my wife, even though he knows why he has been transferred to Idaho. If this goes on, how many days will elapse before the matter between my wife and myself, no one can know. So I beg you that you will please use your influence and authority to stop it. Although it may seem unreasonable, I wish to ask you to help me return to Tule Lake. Please let me know what kind of procedure I should take for that. Please permit me to add that you will take good care of yourself as it is becoming colder and colder.

From Koyama, Musaku

(Translation of Mr. Koyama's letter to Miss Montgomery.)



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APPENDIX X

January 28, 1942

Respectfully presenting this letter:

As the first month of this year has already passed and a part of February has elapsed, I wish to ask you whether or not you are living with good health as ever. Although I have not been feeling quite so well as I should, on account of the bad climate here at Topaz, my appetite has not noticeably changed, and for that matter I beg you not to be concerned to any extent. Now before I was sent to this center, I had given you much trouble on my account. However, I understand that you know the reasons why I have been thus disposed. If you know them, please favor me with a few line informing me those reasons.

I humbly beg you to write to me regarding the above.

Yours respectfully

From Koyama, Musaku

To Mr. Obayashi

P.S. I wish to return to Tule Lake but I have heard the procedure for that is very difficult. I sincerely beg you that you would help me out in regard with this matter.

(Translation of Mr. Koyama's letter.)

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APPENDIX XI

February 8, 1943

Respectfully presenting this letter:

When the climate is so changeable nowadays, are you living as usual? Since I was transferred to this center in Utah from Tule Lake, I have been indisposed and receiving doctor's examination and medical treatment at the Base Hospital here. Please pardon me that I have taken liberty to ask you for explanation and for your helping me out on the following matter. I have been informed that my wife has been taking a procedure to go to the Center in Idaho where Tagawa was transferred; will you kindly restrain my wife to do that. Here in Topaz, I have heard that Tagawa, although he appears very mild and soft in expression and in conversation, is sharp and subtle in evil affairs and licentious and dissolute. He also killed his own wife, so have certain people told me. Why they have told me such thing, I cannot understand. Whatever kind of character Tagawa may be, whatever a right my wife may have to join Tagawa, I implore you that you will please exercise your influence to interrupt my wife's action to go over there.

As the weather is nowadays very unhealthy, please take good care of yourself.

To Miss Montgomery

From Koyama, Musaku



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APPENDIX XII

Omitting usual salutation:

Received on Feb. 10 your letter dated Jan. 28. My mind is in peace on hearing that you are living as usual despite the climate there is not suitable to your constitution. Here Miss Montgomery and others are living peacefully, and your wife Ayako, is also quite well, so please have your mind in peace.

Now regarding the matter between Ayako and Tagawa, we are unable to do anything as it is entirely their personal affair. However, you should be aware that under such circumstances as we are in these days, gossips and rumors afloat are many and various. It is advisable that you should understand this situation; it may probably do good in keeping your mind and body healthy not to worry yourself concerning superfluous matters. Next, as to your return to Tule Lake, it is an exceedingly important matter and anyone except WRA cannot well afford to say this or that. It is more profitable to you to avoid feverish anxiety and calmly wait for an opportunity.

As you probably know, just now registration is going on in every center. Soon parents have to be apart from their children; young wives from young husbands; and the boys and the girls who are in love just taste bitterness of being apart. In such a time as this, is it not proper for us to look upon ourselves seriously, to be more careful of our own daily conduct, and to share the burden of sorrow with all the people of this world? If we have such a spare time to make a fuss of other people's shortcomings, should we not utilize such time in reflecting upon our past and to reconsider whether or not we have been treading a righteous path as a father and husband?

Miss Montgomery is sending you her thanks for your letter. As she is very busy these days, I think it is quite difficult for her to write to you.

Hurriedly yours,

Feb. 12

To Mr. Koyama, Musaku

From Obayashi, Fukuzo

(Translation of Mr. Obayashi's letter to Musaku Koyama.)



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APPENDIX XIII

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Tule Lake Project  
Newell, California

2/20/43

In reply, please refer to:  
Community Social  
Welfare Department

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Charles F. Ernst  
Project Director  
Central Utah Project

SUBJECT: Mr. Musaku Koyama

We are writing in regard to Mr. Musaku Koyama whom we transferred to your project.

Mr. Koyama has written several letters to various members of the Social Welfare Department in this project expressing his desire to return to this camp.

Considering the attitude of Mrs. Koyama as well as Mr. Koyama's tendency to use forceful measures when his ideas differ from those of his wife, we feel that it will not be wise to allow him to return here. Mrs. Koyama is determined that she will never live with Mr. Koyama again. She wants a divorce but is afraid that she cannot secure one because of her own situation.

Will you please discuss the matter with Mr. Koyama again and try to explain to him that he cannot return to this project under present circumstances. His letters indicate that as long as he is married to Mrs. Koyama, he will continue to try to make her "obey" him regardless of what means he must take to enforce his will. If he could agree to a divorce, it would probably be a better solution to the situation.

We regret the necessity of appearing arbitrary in this matter, but the situation will involve too many other persons for us to agree to his return.

We will appreciate your co-operation in discussing this matter with Mr. Koyama and help him to adjust to the present situation.

Harvey M. Coverley  
Project Director

DM:sy  
2-19-43



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APPENDIX XIV

Report

12/4/42

This case involves Mr. and Mrs. Koyama, a married couple, and Mr. Tagawa, a widower. Mrs. Koyama is pregnant and Mr. Tagawa is the father of the child.

The present situation was brought to a head by a fight which occurred Monday, Nov. 30, around midnight. Mrs. Koyama visited Mr. Tagawa in his apartment. Mr. Koyama learned of this meeting and came over to Mr. Tagawa's apartment demanding entrance. When he was refused admittance he used force finally getting in where he attacked Mr. Tagawa and Mrs. Koyama. The fight aroused the other residents of the block, when, according to reports, several other persons joined in the fight. The results were that the Block Manager and a committee gave notice to Mr. Tagawa that he must arrange to be moved out of that block within 48 hours. That time has been extended to Saturday, Dec. 5 at noon. The Housing Dpt. states that all other blocks feel the same and that there is no place in camp where the man can be moved without the same reaction from his neighbors.

The attitude of the three persons involved is as follows:

Mrs. Koyama is willing to be moved to another camp but is determined that she must be with Mr. Tagawa. She says she must be protected from Mr. Koyama's violence. She would like to get a divorce from her husband.

Mr. Koyama will not divorce Mrs. Koyama and will fight any action that she may bring. He resents violently Mr. Tagawa's "stealing" his wife. He has refused to give up Mrs. Koyama's personal possessions.

Mr. Tagawa insists that he is "non-belligerent" and will not precipitate any fights. However, he states that he must protect Mrs. Koyama both from her husband's violence and from the "loneliness" that she will feel away from him. He will move to another camp if we will send Mrs. Koyama with him.

It appears that a large number of the colonist's have taken sides in the matter. Many complaints have arisen on the basis of the disturbance of peace. There also appears to be a strong feeling that Mrs. Koyama and Mr. Tagawa are setting a bad moral example before the young people of the community. (Mrs. Koyama has appeared with Mr. Tagawa in his mess hall for breakfast rather than returning to her own mess hall.)

To further complicate matters Mrs. Koyama has an 11 year old boy and Mr. Tagawa has a 13 year old daughter. The present situation cannot allow for a very satisfactory home life for the children.

Although Mrs. Kobara would like to divorce Mr. Koyama and marry Mr. Tagawa, it does not appear to be possible since legally it is doubtful if she could prove grounds for divorce, considering her condition.

There appears to be no solution which will satisfy all parties. Considering the feeling in the colony and the legal aspects for the case, it does not appear wise for the W.R.A. to transfer Mrs. Koyama and Mr. Tagawa together to another camp. Considering Mr. Koyama's past actions, there may be foundation for the feeling that Mrs. Koyama needs protection from him.

The only solution that the Social Welfare Department can suggest is that Mr. Koyama be transferred to one camp and Mr. Tagawa transferred to another, leaving Mrs. Koyama her to have her child.

If it appears that this action would be too drastic, we would appreciate suggestions as to a substitute. Some action will have to be taken immediately.

Fukuzo Obayashi



DOCUMENT TL-15

THE OBAYASHI FAMILY

CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains no disguises other than names. All dates, places, and events are accurate to the best knowledge of the investigator. No part of this document may be used for any purpose whatsoever without further disguises to conceal the identity of the persons involved and without the consent of the director of the Evacuation and Resettlement Study.

Sources of Information:

1. Case record of the Obayashi family from the files of the Social Welfare Department, Tule Lake Project.
2. WRA-26, Individual Record Form, for Mr. Obayashi.

Evacuation and Resettlement Study  
The Evacuee Family in Tule Lake  
Chicago, Illinois  
Shibutani, 7/19/43



## THE OBAYASHI FAMILY

### 1. Introduction

The Obayashi family consists of Robert Obayashi (47), who is living in Tule Lake, and his common-law wife, Mary Curtiss, a Caucasian living in Oakland, California. Ever since the evacuation, both Obayashi and his wife have been doing everything possible to join each other again.

Obayashi was born and reared in Honolulu and has visited Japan on several occasions. He has a fluent command of English, Japanese, and German. His wife was formerly a bank cashier in Louisville, Kentucky and is, at present, employed as a bookkeeper for the New Region Company in Oakland.

The couple have no children, and Miss Curtiss has never used Obayashi's name, even though they have been living together for the past twelve years.

The two have been almost completely isolated from the Japanese community. This is understandable in view of the fact that inter-racial marriage has been frowned upon by the Japanese.

### 2. The Life of Robert Obayashi

Robert Obayashi was born on May 15, 1895 in Honolulu where his father was a contractor; he spent his early life

in the outskirts of the city among people of various racial extractions. From September 1902 to June 1910 he attended the Kelea Grammar School in Hawai. At that time his parents decided to go to Japan, and from July 1910 to March 1914 he attended the Kumamoto Kenritsu Chugakko in Kumamoto, Japan. In August 1914 he returned to Hawai and attended the Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu. Following his graduation in June 1917, he went into Intelligence Service of the United States Army and served in the army until December 1918. In January 1919 he went to Japan again; at this time he returned after a brief visit. From September 1920 to June 1922 he attended the University of Hawai. He never finished, however, because of lack of funds.

In September 1922 Obayashi went into Civil Service work. He served as postal clerk in Honolulu until August 1927 for a salary of \$2,300 a year. It was in 1927 that Obayashi came to California as a special representative of the Shell Oil Company at the salary of \$350.00 a month. While he was working with Shell, he attended the University of California at Los Angeles and studied petroleum engineering. In June 1928 he left the Shell Company and went into business for himself in San Francisco. He gradually built up his trade.

In 1930 he met Miss Curtiss and began to live with her in Oakland. In June 1933 he left for Japan but returned in July 1937 when the international dues became higher. He returned to his business in San Francisco and remained there until the evacuation. In May 1942, just before the moving



orders were issued, he managed to get out to Jackson, California. From there, however, he was sent to Tule Lake. Obayashi is five feet five inches tall, weighs 136 pounds, and has no physical defects. He can read, write, speak English, Japanese, and German.

Financially, Obayashi is well off, for he not only has his savings but also received \$5,000 in 1936 from the United States Military Pension Board. He is still receiving pension.

He has no religious preference.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. The History of the Family

Obayashi met Mary Curtiss in August of 1930, and the two became very attached to each other. They began living together and often thought of being married but were unable to do so in the state of California because of the restrictions to inter-racial marriage. In 1933 when Obayashi went to Japan, Miss Curtiss stayed at his home. In the time that he returned in 1937, the two were steadily together.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was one of the first major crisis in this relationship. As a trader, Obayashi was naturally suspected, and the two experienced some uncom-

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<sup>1</sup>Data taken largely from WRA-26 and supplemented by case record.

fortable situation. When the evacuation was announced in March 1942, Obayashi felt that he might be exempted because of his marriage to a Caucasian. When they recalled, however, that they were not legally married, they made plans to go elsewhere for the ceremony, but a military order freezing all traveling made this impossible. Finally, in May Obayashi moved to Jackson to escape the evacuation. Mary had to remain in Oakland to work since Obayashi's trade and income had stopped. The military orders freezing movements in the white zone caught Obayashi off guard, and before he could do anything, he was evacuated to the Tule Lake Project. He arrived in Tule Lake on July 13, 1942.

After his confinement at Tule Lake, Obayashi tried to secure permission to leave but was refused. Finally, on August 17 he applied at the Social Welfare Department to secure permission for his wife to join him at the center. Legal complications made this impossible since he was not married to Mary Curtiss. He stated at this time that he was willing to marry her if such an arrangement could be made in the center; however, this was impossible because of California laws. He wrote to the Washington counties to see whether there was any possibility of getting a marriage license in the state of Washington, but this, likewise, was impossible. The couple finally decided to let the matter drop.

#### 4. Comments



Obayashi's story, though unusual in many respect, indicates to some extent the affect upon Japanese caused by the uncertainty of military orders. Had the orders been announced in advance, many of the difficulties encountered by Obayashi and many others like him should not have occurred.

It is very rarely that one finds a Nisei living in common-law to a Caucasian woman; and when we examine Obayashi's background, we can see some of the factors involved in the forms of a sense of values quite different from those held by most Niseis. He is born and reared in a community where inter-racial marriage was sanctioned. His wife, likewise, was born and reared in a community where anti-Japanese sentiment did not uprise. A case study of Obayashi personally would probably reveal that his entire life organization, his concentration of himself, and his whole career are quite different from those of most Niseis. We unfortunately do not have sufficient data for an adequate analysis.

Surname	Man's name	Cross reference	File	Case #
Obayashi	Robert		CWD	
	Woman's name	Other names used		Family #
	Mary	Curtiss		38886
Present address	3104-A Tule Lake Project			Classification
	Newell, California			Mixed Marriage
Previous addresses				Referred by
	2601 Myo Ave, Oakland, California			Himself
				Date
1. Evacuated from	P.O. Box 364, Jackson, California			
2. Relocated from				

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

Name	Birthdate	Birthplace	Citizenship status	Occupation		
				Past	In project	Registered
Robert Obayashi	5/15/95	Hawaii	Citizen	Trade	None	No

Legally responsible and other relatives

Relationship	Address	Number dependents
Mary Curtiss	Wife	2722 E. 10th St. 0 Oakland, Calif.

Others in household

Relationship	Address

Visited Japan

Who	When	Period
Yes	Obayashi	7/10 - 8/14; 1/19 - 8/20; 6/33 - 7/37
Religion		
None		



THE MURAYAMA FAMILY

CONFIDENTIAL

This document contains no disguises other than names. All dates, places and events are accurate to the best knowledge of the investigator. No part of this document may be used for any purpose whatsoever without further disguises to conceal the identity of the persons involved and without the consent of the director of the Evacuation and Resettlement Study.

Sources of Information:

1. Case Record of the Murayama family in the files of the Community Welfare Department in Tule Lake Project.
2. WRA-26, Individual Record Form, for Mr. Murayama.

Evacuation and Resettlement Study  
Chicago, Illinois  
Shibutani, August 30, 1943



THE MURAYAMA FAMILY

1. Introduction

The Murayama family consists of Kenzo Murayama, 29; his Caucasian wife, Maybelle, 27 and their daughter, Joan Kiyo, 2. Murayama was born in Burlington, Washington. He was an oyster packer prior to evacuation. Maybelle was born in Blanchard on February 20, 1915 and worked with her husband in the oyster plant. In Tule Lake Mr. Murayama's father, Zensaburo, 65, his mother, Kuni, 56, and nine other children lived in the same block as Ken and Maybelle. One other son is in Puyallup.

2. Life of Ken Murayama

Ken Murayama was born on May 13, 1913 near Mt. Vernon, Washington. He attended Blanchard grammar school in Blanchard from September, 1919 to June, 1927. It was at that time that he met Maybelle when they attended the same school. Ken attended Burlington high school from September, 1927 to June, 1931 majoring in science. He was president of the Boys' Club, president of the Junior Class and a member of the football team. He also found time to help his father as an oyster man.

Following his graduation from high school Ken went to work for Rock Point Oyster Company, wholesalers as a bed worker, receiving \$95 per month. He and Maybelle continued to see much of each other and on January 26, 1936 they were married. Immediately



following her marriage Maybelle also worked in the oyster plant. Rock Point Oyster Company was a cooperative organization and in January, 1937 Kenzo became a member of the cooperative and began earning \$200 per month.

Kenzo is 5 ft. 7 in. tall and weighs 160 pounds. He wears glasses. He can read, write and speak English and speak Japanese. His hobbies are baseball and fishing. His religion is Methodist.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. History of Family

Mr. and Mrs. Murayama had been childhoos friends, attending school together and lived in a community where there were few Japanese. After their marriage they both worked in the oyster plant until early in 1940 when Marybelle had a baby. On June 4, 1942 they came to Tule Lake directly from Blanchard with relatives and friends.

Once in the project both adjusted themselves fairly well. They stated that they were satisfied in staying there. Kenzo's brothers and sisters lived in the same block and everyone got along well. On July 22 Kenzo went to the Social Welfare office and inquired about the possibility of his wife's and his leaving the center. He was quite sure of having a job. He stated he received a job letter from his former boss regarding the shortage of workers. Maybelle had received a letter indicating that her mother had undergone an operation and she wanted to be with her.

Soon afterwards a letter of recommendation came to the center from friends and these were forwarded to the registration office.<sup>2</sup>

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1. WRA-26.

2. CWD files of July 22, 1943.



(COPY)

Appendix II

THE CLEVELAND CLINIC  
Knutzen Building  
Burlington, Washington

H.E. Cleveland, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Major F.W. Baugh, M.D.  
Wm. V. King, Jr., M.D.

W.D. Knipe

September 1, 1942

Project Director  
Mr. Elmer Shirrell  
Tule Lake Project  
Newell, California

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that I have known Mr. Ken Murayama ever since his birth, and I have attended his mother in confinement. Ken Murayama looked after my oysters. He planted about two and one half acres for me one year before he left.

For nine years his folks with their family ran the S.C. Scott farm, and Mrs. Scott stated that they were the best renters they have ever had. They are absolutely honest and reliable.

Before Ken Murayama left, I brought the matter up to the high school instructors where there were five of these children attending school. They were all willing to write letters to try to keep the family from being sent away. I talked with Mr. Trueax, and he stated that it was no use. I talked with some other officials, and they stated that all the Japanese would be evacuated regardless; citizens or not.

Now we believe in this community that these American born Japanese children believe in the life we live and have no leaning toward Japan whatsoever. I would like to see these children that are old enough to work allowed to go somewhere where they have a gainful occupation. They tell me that they were treated fine and conditions are good where they are living, but it is terrible for one who has always worked hard to lead a life of complete idleness.

I hope this will aid the welfare board in placing these children where they can work.

Sincerely yours,

HED/hsg

/s/ Dr. H.E. Cleveland  
Cleveland Clinic



(COPY)

Appendix III

Blanchard, Wash.,  
July 27, 1942

Mr. Elmer Shirrell,  
Manager Tulalake Project,  
Newell, California.

Dear Sir:

I have been asked by Ken Murayama to give you a statement of my views in regard to their getting a release from the project and returning to Blanchard. Now I wish to state that I cannot speak too highly of this couple. Ken and his American wife were born and raised here and are well liked by everyone.

He owns his house and car and both are good workers and would have jobs waiting them if released.

Ken's loyalty has been demonstrated time and again and I consider them both a credit to any community.

I have known and done business with Ken for the last fifteen years and am sure no mistake would be made by their release.

Respectfully,

/s/ W.H. Fenno  
General Merchandise



(COPY)

Appendix IV

ROCK POINT OYSTER CO.? INC.

July 25, 1942

Mr. Elmer Shirrell, Project Director  
Tule Lake Project,  
Newell, California.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Ken Murayama, one of the guests of your project, has written me indicating that he has talked with someone or someone has informed him that he may be able to get a release from the camp because of his peculiar circumstance.

He has therefore asked me to write you in relation thereto, and in consideration of the following information which I may give you, as well as that you may receive from others of his neighbors, we hope that it may be possible for your consideration and recommendation in the matter.

Ken has worked for this Company practically all of his life, or for almost the past 20 years, in fact his whole family has been closely connected with this Company for that time, and we have likewise known him since babyhood.

His loyalty to this Country is without question, this he has indicated to me in many ways, a good number of times, and he has exemplified this I believe when he took upon himself an American wife, in preference to one of his own race. They are I believe the most agreeable and happiest couple I have ever known. He owns his own property in Blanchard, and is a most respected citizen. His manner of life and his inclinations are American, in preference to the Japanese way, and I can give you absolute assurance that if he released he will carry on and can be trusted as a true American, which he not only is by birth, but deep in his heart.

Upon his release his place in this plant is waiting him, and both we and our employees will be more than pleased to see his return. In fact, due to the labor shortage, his services are decidedly wanted, and he will be given a good berth and a good salary. Our plant is rather isolated in its location, as is Blanchard, and I do not think his presence here will cause any comment or criticism. He will more than likely be heartily welcomed in the community.

Trusting that there is a possibility of his release with his wife, that you will use every effort possible to obtain it.

Yours very truly,

Secretary-Treasurer



## Appendix I

Surname	Man's name	Cross reference	File	Case #
MURAYAMA	Kenzo		CWD	
	Woman's name	Other names used		Family #
	Maybelle			17921
Present address	1819-E, Tule Lake Project			Classification
				Mixed Marriage
				Referred by
				Self
Previous addresses	Box 136, Blanchard, Washington			Date
				July 22, 1942
1. Evacuated from	Blanchard Washington on June 4, 1942			
2. Relocated from				

## FAMILY COMPOSITION

Name	Birth date	Birthplace	Citizenship status	Occupation		
				Past	In project	Registered
Kenzo	5/13/13	Washington	Citizen	Oyster	?	?
Maybelle	2/20/15	"	"	"	?	?
Joan Kiyo	5/31/40	"	"	None	None	No

Legally responsible and other relatives	Relationship	Address	Number dependents
Mr. & Mrs. Z. Murayama	Parents	Block 18	9

Others in household	Relationship	Address

Visited Japan	Who	When	Period

Religion  
Christian