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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For release to project newspapers NOT for outside release

NISEI GIRL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CO-OP HOUSE IN MADISON, WISCONSIN

Project Press Release No. 78

June 10, 1944

MADISON, WIS.--Under the title words: "Ruby Kubota, American Girl: Co-Op Leader Is of Japanese Descent, But Her Heart and Mind Are American," the Sunday issue of the Wisconsin State Journal on May 21 presented a guest editorial by, a picture of and a story about this 19-year-old Washington state nisei girl.

She was honored by fellow students when they elected her, a freshman, president of the Groves Womens' Co-operative House, a rooming house for women students on the university campus.

In her editorial about the co-operative house, Miss Kubota of Metaline Falls, Wash., declared: "The Co-op housed 23 girls this semester of different races, colors and creeds, and we've lived together with no disruptive elements that would indicate non-cooperation except for a few purely feminine idiosyncracies.

"...The idea to the women in Groves House is this: A co-operative provides low-cost living, inter-racial and inter-mixed living, promotes the co-operative movement by training future leaders, and permits us to become educated to our fellow beings."

Praising the co-operative way, she stated: "Co-operation removes the cause of war, promotes economic equilibrium, paves the way for real democracy without distrubing society, without undergoing secretive methods that arouse public suspicion, without subverting any other order."

The personal sketch about Miss Kubota revealed that she has a brother in the Army. He tried several times after Pearl Harbor to enlist and finally through a direct appeal to President Roosevelt and the War Department he was accepted.

Her father, George Kubota, came to this country from Japan when he was 15 and worked in Seattle until he had enough money to buy a hardware store in Metaline Falls, a little town of 700 above Spokane and near the Canadian border. Later he bought a furniture store. After Pearl Harbor the townspeople stayed away from the store for two months, but then they came back and the period of anxiety was over. The people remembered how Ruby, during her school days in Metaline Falls, had won two medals awarded by the American Legion post for Americanism.

She is studying journalism at the University of Wisconsin and outside of classes works for the Red Cross and Russian War Relief. In her spare time she swims and plays golf. This summer she is going home to Metaline Falls, which is outside the evacuated area, to work in her father's store.

The story about the nisei student leader ended with the observation: "Like other citizens with a foreign background, especially a background of tyranny, she appreciates our way of life better than many of us who are too familiar with it and have sensitivities blunted by too much contact."



COPY

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Luther Hoffman  
Director, Central Utah War Relocation Project

FROM: WRA - Milwaukee

ATTENTION: Reports Officer

DATE: July 15, 1944

We are enclosing copies of two letters which appeared in the readers' column of The Milwaukee Journal on July 13, 1944.

Mr. Satow is a former resident of the Granada center.

/s/ John H. Putz  
Relocation Officer

38883

C O P Y

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL  
July 13, 1944

From the People

Race Prejudice, War Hysteria

To The Journal: I'm commending the stand taken in your editorial of June 14, entitled "Mistreating Fellow Americans," quotations from which I have read. War hysteria must not force gross injustice upon citizens of Japanese blood after the war.

Alton L. Holtz

Route 1, Huntington, California

C O P Y

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL  
July 13, 1944

From the People

The Japanese Americans

To The Journal! For some time I have noted the consistently fine attitude of your paper toward the whole situation of Americans of Japanese descent. Your understanding articles and vigorous editorials have been a lift to our spirits and a factor toward reaffirming our faith in America. Now that I have recently become a Milwaukeean, I am proud to live in the immediate area served by your fine paper.

It does seem strange that in a democratic America, in the midst of a struggle for the ideals of democracy, a newspaper should be commended for its stand on what is right and decent and American, but we have learned that democracy required energetic encouragement and eternal vigilance, lest we who believe in it forfeit it by our own indifference.

Democracy is not a commodity which once achieve we have forever. It is a process involving continuous effort. Although we evacuees constitute only one-tenth of 1% of the total population of this country, we are aware of the significant contribution we are making to help make America strong--an America built by the hands and hearts and minds of many Americans of many ancestries.

We have faith in democracy. But people must be enlightened as to the facts. Some of the most rabid racists have sons fighting in the south Pacific. But they do not know that their sons are safer because many of our Japanese American boys are out there with them in the intelligence service.

Many thanks to your paper for giving the people the facts.

/s/ Masao W. Satow

National Council YMCA, Service to West Coast Evacuees  
3209 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee 8

C O P Y

From the People

The Milwaukee Journal  
September 7, 1944

Fair Play in California

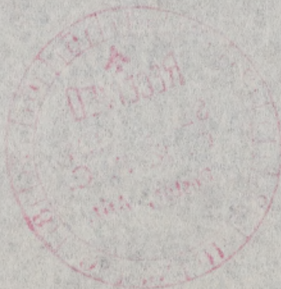
To The Journal: We have just read of your excellent editorial, "Is This the American Way?" concerning the 800 who voted Illinois Central workers/to strike in protest against the employment of Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The fact that the strike was called on the same day that Mark Clark conferred the unit citation on Japanese Americans is certainly a commentary on American democracy.

We on the west coast who are used to the bias of the Los Angeles Examiner as well as the Los Angeles Times find it a pleasant relief to read of an American newspaper which courageously takes a stand for upholding the ideals of democracy for which American soldiers are dying each moment.

R. Priscilla Beattie

Pasadena, California



1-2-1

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the above mentioned article.

For the purpose of this list, the names of the persons who have been named in the above mentioned article are listed in alphabetical order.

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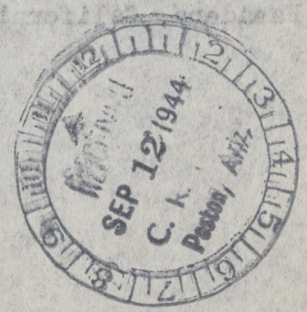
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R. P. Sullivan, Secretary



*Attention: Reports Officer*

C O P Y

8698

The Milwaukee Journal  
September 11, 1944

From the People

From a Japanese American Soldier

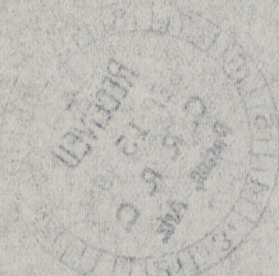
To The Journal: I am a wounded soldier, a member of the 442nd combat team, now fighting on the Italian front. I wish to join with other fellow Americans of Japanese ancestry in thanking you for the fine editorial, "Mistreating Fellow Americans," which appeared in the June 14 issue of your paper.

We are trying to do our share in this war, by fighting hard against the enemy, but above all to prove to some people back home who doubt our loyalty to the United States that we are Americans, too.

Yes, "Let's be honest. Let's face the facts."

Staff Sergt. Fred S. Ida

Somewhere in Italy





*Proven*  
4468  
COPY

*Colorado River  
Reports Officer*

Editorial - DEATH COMES TO MRS. OHKI'S SON

The Milwaukee Journal  
September 15, 1944

Mrs. Yaye Ohki is a widow. She lives, with thousands of other loyal Japanese Americans, in a concentration camp--because American communities are too prejudiced and full of race hate to accept her.

Let's be honest about it--it is a concentration camp, even though it is fairly comfortable and the "prisoners" are well treated. To call this place a relocation center is a travesty. It was meant to be that, but the refusal of most American communities to accept Japanese Americans, even after their loyalty is proved, forces them to remain in such camps, year after year.

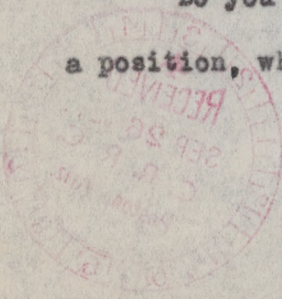
Mrs. Ohki's son, Arnold, was killed in action July 7; the second son, Edwin, was seriously wounded; there is a third boy also in the army.

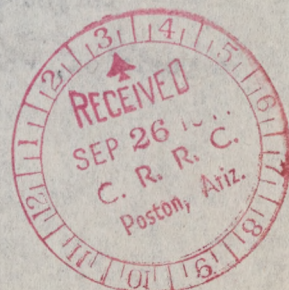
Memorial services were held in the camp for Arnold Ohki; 45 such services have been held for American heroes whose next of kin are forced to live in concentration camps. Arnold Ohki's mother said of her boys after Arnold's death:

"This is their country. This is their home, and my sons are working toward the betterment of their motherland and fighting endlessly to win their place in the United States as loyal citizens whose faith in America will not die, and will grow even stronger. My son, Arnold, proved that by sacrificing his life on the Italian front?"

Do you know of any American, especially an American in so difficult a position, who has put it better?

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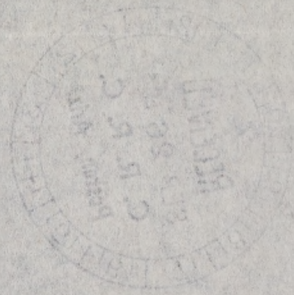
REFERENCE MATERIAL ON PFC. ARNOLD OHKI

He was 23 years old at the time of his death on July 7.

The son of Mrs. Yaye Ohki of 9H-7F in the Granada War Relocation Project at Amache, Colorado, he volunteered for service in May, 1943, with his brother, Pfc. Edwin Ohki, 20.

Survivors besides his brother and widowed mother are two other brothers, Robert and Kenneth, and a sister, Anne.

The Ohkis had a farm in Livingston, California, before the evacuation.





*Brown*

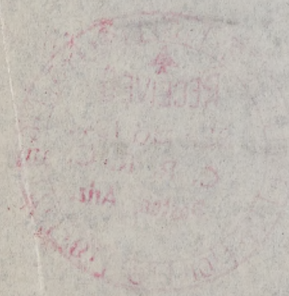
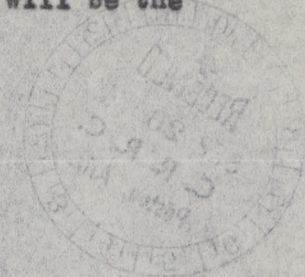
Milwaukee, Wis.--To honor Capt. Mitsuyoshi Fukuda of the U.S. Army's famed, Wisconsin-trained 100th Infantry and recent recipient of the Silver Star, who is spending his furlough with his wife and infant son at their home here, the Milwaukee Nisei Council is sponsoring a dinner on Wednesday, September 27, at the City Club of Milwaukee.

Mr. Elmer L. Shirrell, former Chicago area supervisor of the War Relocation Authority, will be the main speaker of the evening.

Invitations have been sent to members of the relocation advisory committee and leading townspeople, as well as to all resettlers in the district, and a good response is expected.

Mr. Henry Sakemi, formerly of the Colorado River Project, chairman, is being assisted by Miss Maki Ichiyasu, Colorado River, decorations; Mr. Sam Minami, Rohwer, program; Mr. Rio Kashiwagi, Granada, general arrangements, and Mrs. George Saito, Manzanar, finance. Mr. Masao Satow, Granada, a member of the National Council of the YMCA, will be the toastmaster.

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attention: Reports Officer

C O P Y

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL - Editorial Section - October 10, 1944

8441

BETTER TO REMEMBER CASSINO

A group of farmers and business and professional men of the White River and Puyallup valleys in Washington have organized a Remember Pearl Harbor League. It is designed to prevent the return to these valleys of any of the Japanese Americans who formerly farmed there, some operating extensive truck farms.

It would be difficult to find a more flagrant example of race prejudice and of plain economic greed than this. And it is a disgrace to the nation that this group seeks to capitalize a patriotic American phrase to help perpetrate one of the most un-American acts that could be imagined.

In a recent list of 240 honored war dead from the Hawaiian islands, at least 163 were unmistakably Japanese. They didn't just talk about Pearl Harbor, they died trying to avenge it. They died for the United States. Up to a few weeks ago, there had been memorial services for 45 Americans of Japanese ancestry whose next of kin are still forced to live in relocation camps because places cannot be found for them to live in American communities. Unreasoning, war inflamed prejudice is too strong.

Americans of Japanese ancestry have proved themselves loyal and courageous soldiers, inferior to none. Their deeds in Italy will never be forgotten by the Caucasian American GI's who fought side by side with them.

When Gen. Mark Clark conferred the war department's distinguished unit citation on the 100th Infantry Battalion - composed of Americans of Japanese descent - he said:

"Your record in battle has been marked by one outstanding achievement after another. You have written a brilliant chapter in the history of American fighting men."

Yet a group of Washington state farmers and businessmen have the gall to persecute such men. Let the bigots remember that the 100th Infantry Battalion has fought in almost every major battle in Italy. It has not had a single desertion, nor a single case of absence without leave. The nearest to AWOL occurred when two of these soldiers left a field hospital before their wounds were healed and hitchhiked back to their outfit on the battlefield.

Among the soldiers in this battalion - perhaps, 1200 men - there are 1,000 Purple Hearts (for wounds), 44 silver stars, 31 bronze stars, nine distinguished service crosses and three legion of merit medals. Fifteen enlisted men have received commissions on the battlefield for displaying outstanding leadership.

Remember These are our fellow Japanese Americans! These are the men against whom "Remember Pearl Harbor Leagues" would forever discriminate. The small, mean souls in this league would do well to drop to their knees and prayerfully remember - not Pearl Harbor - but Belvedere and Assesta and Cassino. For there, and in a hundred other places, Americans of Japanese ancestry have won, with their blood and their lives, the right to the admiration and respect of their fellow Americans.

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Attention: Reports Officer

C O P Y

12418

EDITORIAL

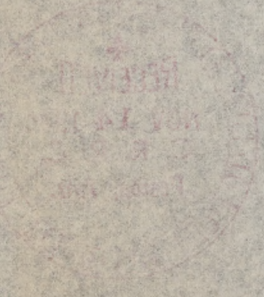
THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL - November 9, 1944

ONCE AGAIN, OUR HEROIC NISEI

A battalion of American troops of the 7th army was cut off for a week near St. Die in France. All its attempts to break out were stopped by superior German forces. Nor could American relief get through. The situation grew steadily worse. There was no food for five days.

At the last minute, relief troops got through. Who were they? Japanese Americans of the famous 442nd regiment--the outfit that had already blazed its way to glory in the toughest spots in Italy. What the relieved Yank soldiers think of their Nisei buddies is best expressed by one grateful private who said: "Boy, they are real Americans!"

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8118



*Attention: Reports Officer*

*Drury*

Madison, Wis., December 7--Mochiu Ishida, 25, who was recently inducted into the U.S. Army and placed in the Enlisted Reserve Corps, is the fifth member of his family to be called for military service. Until summoned for active duty, Ishida will continue working here as an auto mechanic at Pyramid Motors.

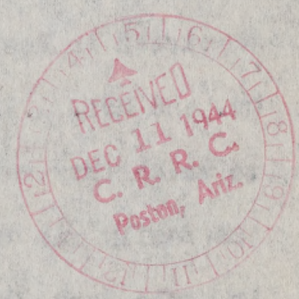
His oldest brother, First Lt. Hiraku Ishida, 29, is a surgeon stationed at an army hospital somewhere in England. His other brothers in service are his twin, Pfc. Sonau Ishida, in Fort Meade, Maryland, awaiting overseas orders; Pvt. Masuru Ishida, with the Japanese American unit in France; and Pvt. Sodatsu Ishida, in training at Camp Blanding, Florida.

Two brothers in civilian life are Dr. Itaru Ishida, a practicing physician in Boston, and Mitsuo, 16, who lives with the boys' parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.S. Ishida, in the Central Utah Project in Topaz, Utah, to which they were evacuated almost two years ago. Before the war, the family was engaged in an extensive nursery and greenhouse business in Menlo Park, California.

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10000

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Attention: Reports Officer

20024

Milwaukee, Wis.--The story of the Japanese and the Japanese Americans--"people without a country"--was effectively told<sup>recently</sup> by Lt. Masayuki Matsunaga, of Hawaii's famed 100th and veteran of Salerno, to the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee and local Nisei.

Speaking at the Kiwanis luncheon, at which he was introduced by Gen. Paul Clemens, an assistant superintendent of the Milwaukee public schools, Lt. Matsunaga said:

"Here, in our democracy, we have a class of people who have been denounced and disowned by their families in Japan for coming to America and who have been denied the rights of citizenship in their adopted land. Yet they are loyal Americans, hoping for an American victory.

"My parents in Hawaii, I might boast, have contributed to making Hawaii the American community it is today. But they can never become American citizens. In the Heart Mountain relocation center in Wyoming, there is a mother who has given six sons to the service and whose seventh son has volunteered and is ready to be called up. Yet she can never become one of us."

Lt. Matsunaga, who wears the Purple Heart with a cluster, indicating that he was wounded twice, and other service ribbons testifying to service before Pearl Harbor and to combat in the Asiatic and European theaters of war, recited a number of instances from the combat record of his fellow members of the 100th infantry.

In his talk at the YWCA before local resettlers, Lt. Matsunaga emphasized the seriousness of purpose which characterizes ~~the~~ Nisei fighting men:

"The boys in the 100th were 200% American, because they were

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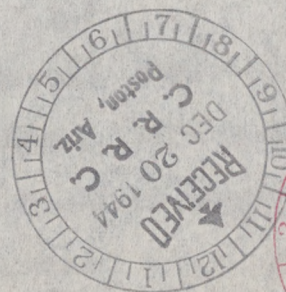


Page 2

fighting for American ideals, as were members of other units, and because they had to prove that they were worthy to be called Americans. I watched many of the men die. The dying thought of each was about making a better life in a better world for the people back in America."

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*Attention: Reports given*

Milwaukee, Wisconsin--The enthusiastic response of Milwaukee resettlers to the call for Christmas gifts for the Rohrer project was warmly praised recently by Mrs. Helmut Sieverts, secretary of the Milwaukee Sewing Committee, which assembled and mailed the presents through the American Friends Service Committee, Midwest Branch.

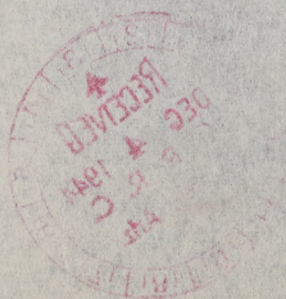
"Nothing in recent years," she said, "has given me so much real pleasure as the quick and generous way in which the Nisei responded. We are sorry only that lack of time made it impossible for us to get in touch with every resettler here."

Mrs. Sieverts, who is a fairly recent emigre from Germany and speaks English with a delightful accent, also paid high tribute to the work being done by the Nisei girls who are sewing and knitting for her committee.

"The girls do such neat work and so much of it. It is a beautiful thing when human beings do not forget the kindness shown them by others and, in this country, we can in turn do our share."

Nami and Lily Shio, formerly of Seattle and Minidoka, have been in charge of the sewing group and Mrs. Henry Sakemi, Indio, California, and Colorado River, in charge of the knitting.

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00213  
Reports Officer ✓  
Relocation Program Officer

June 2, 1945  
~~SECRET~~

33629

Milwaukee, Wis.--The Milwaukee Nisei Council and the local JACL chapter will combine their efforts to extend a warm and helpful welcome to new resettlers.

Members of the two organizations stand ready to assist with the many questions and problems, with the exception of permanent housing, which naturally confront every newcomer. Three college students, who are working in town for the summer, were recently helped by their fellow Nisei.

Resettlers and visitors are invited to telephone either Masumi Kaneko, JACL president, or Sam Minami, Council chairman. Both are listed in the latest Milwaukee telephone directory.

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33823

Attention, Sir--The following is a copy of the report

of the committee on the subject of the proposed

amendment to the constitution.

Members of the committee are: Mr. [Name], Mr. [Name],

and Mr. [Name]. The committee has the honor to

submit herewith the report of the committee.

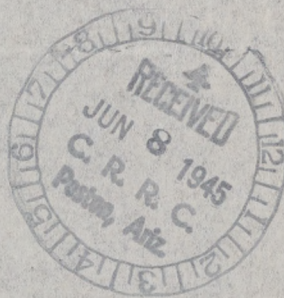
The committee has the honor to submit herewith

the report of the committee.

The committee has the honor to submit herewith

the report of the committee.

The committee has the honor to submit herewith



16270

7 ✓ ATTENTION: REPORTS OFFICER

C O P Y

EDITORIAL

The Milwaukee Journal - Sunday, December 17, 1944

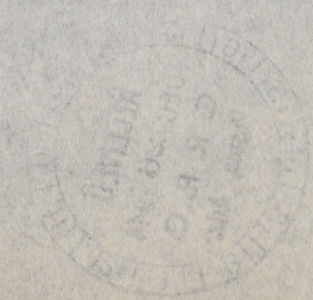
The Hood River 'Black Eye'

The Capt. Belvidere Brooks post No. 450 of the American Legion in New York City has invited 16 American soldiers of Japanese ancestry to join the post after the war.

This action was taken by the New York post to offset the "black eye" given to the legion when the Hood River (Ore.) post of the legion caused the names of these 16 servicemen to be stricken from the local war memorial. Unfortunately, not all of the 16 will be able to take advantage of the invitation of the New York post--because death on the battlefield has already broken the ranks of the Japanese Americans from Hood River.

How can the legionnaires in Hood River look each other in the eye?

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01001

C O P Y

16313

*Attention: Reports Officer*

Editorial  
THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL  
December 19, 1944

LOYAL JAPANESE AMERICANS FREED

After a 30 month exile, a majority of 100,000 Japanese American men, women and children are to be freed from camps where they have been detained and allowed to return to their homes on the west coast.

The army has decided that the changed military situation in the Pacific and a careful checkup of all detained Japanese Americans has made it safe to change the earlier policy. All those known to be pro-Japanese will continue to be detained. The decision of the army to release the loyal Japanese Americans comes almost at the same time as a unanimous supreme court decision that loyal Japanese Americans must be freed from war relocation centers. A simultaneous decision justified the original exclusion of the Japanese Americans from the Pacific coast areas as an emergency war measure.

The war relocation authority wisely will not attempt a mass return of the Japanese Americans to their homes, but will aid them to move back gradually to prevent dislocation. This decision to free the loyal Japanese Americans is, of course, right, but long overdue. They should be returned to their homes and their properties should be restored in the same condition as when the evacuation was ordered.

If there is trouble caused by any of the groups opposing the return of the Japanese Americans to their former homes, the United States government should use whatever means are necessary to protect them. If this nation had the power to take them away from their homes for security reasons, it has the power--and the moral obligation--to return them to their homes now that the emergency is declared to be over.

A circular red ink stamp. The outer ring contains numbers 1 through 15. The center text reads: "RECEIVED" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it, "DEC 26 1944" is stamped. At the bottom, "C. R. R. C." is stamped, with "Boston, Att." written in a smaller, cursive-like font underneath.

Milwaukee, Wis.--The Milwaukee Journal, well known to resettlers for its many editorials and news stories in their behalf, was awarded a scroll for "outstanding work in promoting interracial amity during the past year," at the first annual meeting of the Interracial Federation of Milwaukee on December 16. Miss Elizabeth Campbell, executive secretary of the International Institute and Federation president, presented the award to J.D. Ferguson, president and editor of The Journal.

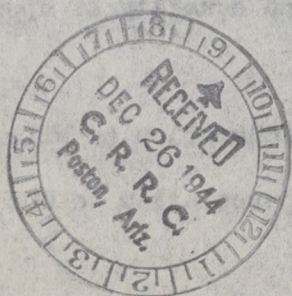
Dr. Robert Weaver of Chicago, director of community services of the American Council on Race Relations, was the principal speaker of the evening.

Immediately preceding the presentation of the scroll, several excerpts from a number of Journal editorials and news stories, some of them discussing the Nisei, were read by James Doyle of the interracial committee.

The text of the scroll awarded to The Journal was as follows:

"In recognition and acknowledgment of its effective and continued leadership and valuable contribution to the promotion of better understanding and good will among the different racial, cultural and ethnic groups in Milwaukee; for its insistence that adequate housing be made available to all of our citizens; for its constant endeavor to remind the people of Milwaukee of their community duty and responsibility in the maintenance of decency and dignity and equality of opportunity among its citizens;

"We, the members of the Interracial Federation of Milwaukee County, do hereby offer this testament of appreciation to The Milwaukee Journal."



Graham

Relocation Program Office

July 31, 1945

Milwaukee, Wis.--Moved to quick action by the imminent closing of the WRA centers, the Milwaukee Citizens' Committee on Resettlement is holding frequent meetings to devise means of assisting newcomers, particularly with housing.

With a present resettler population of approximately 400, it is expected that 400 to 600 others will come to Milwaukee, according to the Rev. Justus Olson, committee chairman.

Specific services which the committee hopes to provide were outlined at a recent meeting by Masao Satow, Los Angeles and Granada, a member of the National YMCA program council. Satow stated that the group does not propose to duplicate the functions of existing organizations in the community.

In explaining the program of the committee, Mr. Olson said:

"We are not trying to cause any influx of Nisei to Milwaukee, but we have helped those who did come to find jobs and places to live and they have undoubtedly passed the word along that Milwaukee is a friendly city.

"Those who have come here so far came mostly as individuals," he continued. "From now on, we expect a larger influx of families, Nisei and older Japanese, many of whom will be coming here to join sons and daughters.

"These later arrivals will present a little different problem than those already here. The younger ones were more easily able to readjust themselves. The older ones after almost three years in the centers will probably need more assistance. I believe it presents a distinct challenge to the community to realize that these new Milwaukeeans have a part to share in the making of our community life."

more

82732

Committee services suggested by Satow include the following:

Temporary housing  
Assistance in finding permanent housing  
Establishment of a pool to provide furniture for those whose belongings have not arrived, or for those who have no furniture of their own  
Aid in finding jobs  
Introduction to schools, churches and other social groups  
Establishment of a central storehouse where resettlers can ship their belongings and store them until they find housing.

Two other Nisei who have been active in assisting the committee are Sam Minami, Rohwer, Milwaukee Nisei Council chairman, and Masumi Kaneko, Minidoka, JACL president. Both are ex-officio members of the committee's executive body.

Besides Mr. Olson, the officers of the group are: Miss Elizabeth Campbell, International Institute, secretary; D. Oakley Thompson, American Legion, vice-chairman, and Henry O. Stenzel, president of the H.O. Stenzel Co., treasurer.

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