

EL CENTRO OFFICE
435 BROADWAY

BRAWLEY OFFICE
137½ SO. 8TH ST.

IMPERIAL COUNTY CITIZENS WELFARE COMMITTEE

SPONSORED BY

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

BRAWLEY CHAPTER

Block 26, Building 14
Poston, Arizona
July 9, 1942

Mr. Philip Neff
Grannine Hall
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Neff:

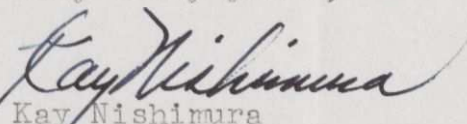
It is quite some time since I had the pleasure of meeting you in Poston through Mr. H. A. Mathieson, Farm Administrator in our community.

At the time of our meeting, we conversed regarding the Colorado deal which the people of Imperial Valley had been working on prior to evacuation to Poston. May I inquire as to whether you were able to make some progress in this project?

Also, we had you take back with you two files consisting of various communications and datas regarding the Colorado deal. If you are finished with them, would you kindly send them to me as we would like to keep all our files together.

Thanking you very much for all your kindness, I remain,

Very truly yours,


Kay Nishimura

July 18, 1942

Mr. K. Nishimura
Block 26, Building 14
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

We received your letter of July 9 addressed to Mr. Philip Neff. Mr. Neff has left our University and I am taking over his work. I have gone through your file that you so kindly loaned Mr. Neff and I find it extremely interesting. Naturally, several questions occur to me.

First, what happened to the project to settle on Broad Acres Farm. I notice that the War Relocation Authority refused to grant permission for voluntary evacuation of your group there and also refused to use this site as a relocation center. Do you know the difficulties involved in their refusal. I do not have in your file a complete statement of the plan which you were going to carry out if you were able to take your group to Broad Acres. Would it be possible for me to have a copy of such a plan.

I am particularly interested in the Agricultural side of the Japanese evacuation and any further information that you might have on your locality -- Imperial Valley, would be greatly appreciated. I understand that the J.A.C.L. in the southern region carried on a survey of property losses. So far, I have been unable to get a hold of any of these data. Do you know anything about this.

I have almost finished looking through your file and shall probably send it to you some time next week. You have been very kind in allowing us to do this.

I should very much appreciate any correspondence between us and any information that you might be able to give me on the Imperial Valley evacuation.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Galbraith

VG:rj

August 3, 1942

Mr. Kay Nishimura
Block 26, Building 14
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Nishimura:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 22nd. Your project holds a great deal of interest for me.

In your letter you state that you are enclosing copies of the survey made of the land farmed by the Japanese and the census of the people who resided in Imperial County. You did not enclose the survey, probably as has often happened to me out of forgetfulness. I would not remind you of it did it not interest me as much as it does. I know very little about the Imperial Valley situation but am rapidly becoming acquainted with it and find it even more interesting than other areas. The situation there pre-evacuation is also very interesting.

It's a terribly shame that after all the expense and work you and your friends went to in order to set up a cooperative farm that you have not been able to get permission. I hope that something may come of your plans.

Because you seem to be well acquainted with the farm area and people of Imperial Valley I have called on you for a great deal of your time. I hope that you have not been put out and I do appreciate all the help you might give me in trying to unravel the threads of the evacuation process.

I should like to have the opportunity of talking this over with you in the future. Until that is possible I trust my correspondence with you is not unwelcome.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Galbraith
Research Assistant, Giannini

LETTER

Kay Nishimura
Poston, Arizona

July 22, 1942

Dear Miss Galbraith:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 18th, and for your interest in the work we had been carrying on previous to evacuating to Poston.

I am enclosing copies of the survey made of the land farmed by the Japanese and the census of our people who resided in Imperial County. From the survey of the farming land, you will note what a large amount of money was involved, and a large percentage of this resulted in losses for the Japanese. Besides the acreages shown, there were other products grown such as lettuce and larger acreages of cabbage, squash and tomatoes, but which had already been harvested when our survey was made. The people who took over the farms from the Japanese were unaccustomed to the growing of many of the vegetables and were not able to show very good results.

As to why we were refused permission to resettle for ourselves, we have been unable to get any definite reason. After running into considerable expenses, approximately \$1000.00 plus time, and not being told at the beginning that such a project would not be possible, to be refused with no definite reason is a great disappointment to us. The Japanese people are of the progressive type. Those from Imperial Valley, especially, are accustomed to the hardships involved in resettlement, for are they not the people who opened up the vast desert land of Imperial Valley to make it known as the Winter Garden of America. These people would rather suffer hardships to make good than to stay on the same level all throughout life with just the assurance of food, a place to sleep, and a little spending money. If there is any way in which you can investigate as to why we were refused permission to resettle for ourselves, we shall appreciate your doing so and letting me know.

If we were granted permission we had planned to form a cooperative, but no definite set-up for this was made. Before we went into too much trouble and expenses of building up a cooperative, we wanted to make sure that we could settle on Broadacre Farms.

We shall appreciate your letting us know any information you may be able to obtain as to why we were not granted permission and where there is any possibilities of resettling for ourselves in the future, as there are many other groups besides our own with the same plan in mind of resettling in some other localities. And, if there is any other matters pertaining to resettlement on which we may be able to assist, I shall be glad to help.

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Answered Aug. 19

Block 26, Building 14
Poston, Arizona
August 7, 1942

Miss Virginia Galbraith
207 Giannini Hall
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Miss Galbraith:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 3rd. I am sorry that I did not enclose copies of the surveys on the farms and of the census of the Japanese people in Imperial Valley. I am enclosing them with this letter. I want to say again that I appreciate the interest you are taking in our project and in the evacuation of our people.

There are a great many of our people now living in Poston desiring to obtain employment in some free areas, but having been placed in a center where they cannot go out and look for work, they are at a loss as to how to go about it. I have heard that there are some farm work available in states such as Idaho and Utah, but there are a few wishing interpreting or secretarial jobs. Can you suggest any way in which these people might be able to obtain such work? Any assistance you may be able to give us will certainly be appreciated.

If there is any other questions you may have in regard to our project or about our people, I shall be more than glad to try to answer them. Your correspondence will be always welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Kay Nishimura
Kay Nishimura

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Poston, Arizona
July 22, 1942

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Copies

2.

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