

COPY

LETTER

*Mary Okazaki*

Mari Okazaki  
Perkins, California

May 25, 1942

Civil Control Station  
Perkins, California  
May 25, 1942

Dr. Dorothy S. Thomas  
Giannini Foundation Rm. 349  
Giannini Hall  
University of California  
Berkeley, California

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Perhaps this delay in sending to you a written account of my background has made you feel that I was not enthusiastic about the project you are about to undertake. However, I do want you to know that I am sincerely interested and anxious to be one of the workers to be included in the research study. It is that one finds it rather uninteresting and rather hard to sketch one's background not knowing just what needs to be included.

Starting with a factual outline based on the preliminary registration form of the U. S. Employment Service, I offer the following:

Mari Okazaki, S.S. number 549-24-6748,	1860 Washington St.
U. S. born Japanese, age, 26.	San Francisco, Calif.
Birth date: January 20, 1916.	TU 5212

University of California;	Major: Education (Vocational)
A.B. May 1939.	Minor: Decorative Arts
Extra-curricular activities:	International and Race Relations groups of the U. of C. Young Women's Christian Association,

Counseling as Junior and Senior.

U.C. Japanese Women's Students Club.

During July, 1939, following graduation, in order to follow up theoretical work in economics and education courses, participated in a "Summer Service Laboratory in the San Francisco Bay Area" conducted by the Pacific Southwest Intercollegiate Christian Council under the local direction of the Univ. of California Y.W. and Y.M.C.A. Lived cooperatively and worked as a volunteer in the Alexander Community House, Oakland, which serves as a community center for West Oakland Mexican and Italian people. Helped with recreation, craft, and folk-dancing, as well as taking cooperative charge of excursions of youngsters to the Fair. A grand opportunity to observe how other nationality or economic minorities "take it". Mrs. Eileen Watkins, Supervisor of this center for many years and who had herself grown up in the neighborhood, had watched different nationality groups entering into the community and after reaching a certain economic status move out to other areas.



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Mari Okazaki  
Perkins, California  
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May 25, 1942

September and October, 1939. Employed at Japan Pavilion as one of the guides. Characterized by not knowing who in the world was issuing policies and instructions. Cured me of working for "Japanese bosses".

November 1939 to October 1940. In order eventually to earn means of going through social service curriculum as well as to help younger sisters to continue studies after high school, after consulting with the campus YWCA secretary, I decided to go through a secretarial training course and entered the California Secretarial School in San Francisco. Became slightly acquainted with Nob Hill apartment life while cooking my way through rather uninteresting commercial courses, although I enjoyed bookkeeping. Made some very good friends with a second generation French, an Italian and German descent college graduates as well as others of old American stock. The school was like other private commercial "all out for the students' money" schools, but the contacts with the students attending there, all middle class Americans, was very stimulating and lasting. (Every week a small group of us has a "farewell" supper at one or another's home fearing that I may have to evacuate any day.)

November 1940. Volunteered services to International Institute, an organization offering information and services to foreign born and new Americans and placed on part-time work, but was also referred by Miss Robson of the San Francisco YWCA to the Alto Psychologic Center, where I worked part-time while continuing brush-up shorthand courses at the "Y".

Until April, 1941, concurrently with part-time work at the International Institute, stenographer and secretary to Miss Annie Clo Watson, Executive Secretary, and for the technical case worker, worked at the Alto Psychologic Center as combination office secretary, receptionist, librarian in charge of circulating library on psychologic and related publications, assisting with administration and scoring of various educational and psychologic testing. Fine chance to catch up on serious reading and taking of some of the tests for my own interest; also for obtaining insight into vocational and psychologic guidance work.

In April 1941, the International Institute was awarded a Rosenberg Foundation Grant to carry on a Citizenship Project, and I started to work as office secretary for both the creative writing in connection with the educational project and the following adult groups: Council for Unity Among the American People (no direct connection with Louis Adamio's) including many programs in cooperation with other community and civic groups; the Committee of Americans of Oriental Ancestry, which were sub-headed, The American Filipino Committee and the Committee on American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry, both inter-racial.

The educational project involving a coordinated use of government, industrial and cultural community, and teacher-student resources, all fresh direct material uncontaminated by previous publication, was a lesson in the creative use of every-day experiences. Working with adults in the various community groups substantiated a vague theory of mine, that, in spite of differing nationality backgrounds, many of the peoples who have come to know San Francisco as their home have parallel interests and that each of them have



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slightly divergent but rather patterned way of reacting to certain situations, fortunate or unfortunate as the instances may have been.

Since December 7, 1941, having some acquaintance with various community groups, family members belonging to both Buddhist and Christian Church groups, with myself strictly belonging to neither although active in the Japanese Business Girls YWCA group, I have been functioning as a Japanese community worker. Although on excellent terms with the National President, Mr. Kido and National Secretary, Mike Masaoka, of the Japanese American Citizens League, I have been the constant thorn in the side of the San Francisco chapter of the JACL, in which I have been the rather ineffectual minority opinion among the Board members who think agreeably on almost all issues. However, I am on good personal terms with all of them and enjoyed observing what they thought necessary procedures. At the same time, one can sympathize very heartily sometimes with anti-JACL people, while considering them very inadvised and childish at times in their methods of objection. These other groups really have something to offer, if both sides could only learn to give in a bit. As a whole the youthfulness of the leaders in the Japanese communities may have a great deal to do with the clashes of opinion of so-called "conservatives" versus "radicals". Given entree into either side, I can see that they have a great deal in common and much of the mud-slinging on either side is really unwarranted. Sometimes, I wonder whether or not I am too much on the fence about being neutral, but as an observer, sometimes it has been most revealing though possibly not the most comfortable while trying to be diplomatic. Trying to reconcile the JACL to opposers while being its most articulate minority is rather trying on one's spirit at times, however; and when case work became too heavy with constant phone calls even in the evening at home, I began to skip JACL Board meetings with the result that the local JACL people think I have utter disregard for them. However, the national JACL people understand my position and see where there is a great deal of work to be done in public relations outside of the inner mechanics of running their organization.

Since being employed by the Wartime Civil Control Administration in the Social Assistance Division, there has been very little time between Civil Control Stations to do much extra-curricular activities, but in going about from one town or city to another, it is interesting to notice how much the small-town JACL groups have been able to coordinate with authorities and to interpret the mechanics of evacuation to bewildered community people. Being authorized to issue disbursing orders, one does have the chance to ascertain the relative economic status of rural and urban communities as compared to each other at this time.

One of the main reasons why I did not want to go directly into social work was that it seemed almost predicated that I work only in the nationality group into which I had been born. Somehow resentful of segregating myself even in a professional line, I was very glad to be permitted an opportunity to work with an inter-racial organization such as the International Institute and not to be always with the Japanese. It was particularly valuable to



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observe the methods by which Miss Watson, the I.I. Executive Secretary was able to use existing community resources for the accomplishment of certain objectives the organization was working toward in inter-nationality and inter-racial community attitudes. I treasure especially the experience of being the secretary of the American-Filipino Committee, with whom I worked through several projects in public relations, and felt just as strongly about their relative position and observed the public reaction to them before and since the outbreak of activities in the Philippine Islands--and rather disappointed that the Filipinos in the United States still have so far to go in gaining a measure of equity in their rights. Perhaps, one does get rather impatient for them.

Another means of keeping a wider perspective has been my membership in the YWCA Business and Professional group, the San Francisco B. and P. group keeping close touch with the Japanese Center group. An interesting experience I am now having is working with the larger Western Area Business and Professional YWCA Council as finance chairman, although travel restrictions have hampered carrying out my functions. Would that more of our Japanese women would take more interest in the position of the "working Gal".

Have also been part of an informal discussion group of college graduates but am afraid they have been rather sterile as far as social consciousness and even intelligence is concerned. However, they seemed to enjoy being "cultural" and I suppose that one did enjoy some of their social activities, at least I enjoyed the latter. They 'petered out' when war was declared, however.

Looking over the above account, I have come to the conclusion that instead of sticking to objective facts, I have strayed into quite a subjective attitude, and perhaps this may dismay you. However, it makes writing about oneself slightly less boring to do so and may prove a little more enlightening to you. I have written to Sam Hohri about the possibilities of being part of your project and have suggested his writing directly to you if he is interested. Being away from the city, I cannot know what he might have written to me regarding this matter.

The main attraction is participating in this project to me is the opportunity of directing one's effort into the professional field in which I hope ultimately to function; namely, vocational guidance or rehabilitation, which is so dependent on knowing the psychological background of those concerned. Later opportunities to continue graduate work may be directed and assisted a great deal on the need which will be evident from the type of observation that will be done in these centers.

With all wishes that no matter whom you select to assist you on the research, that you will have a most successful study, I am sure that any of the workers whom you choose should put a great deal of interest and energy into such a significant project.

Very sincerely yours,  
(signed) Mari Okazaki  
Mari Okazaki



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Perkins, California  
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May 25, 1942

P.S. When I return to San Francisco from this assignment, I shall hope to know what Sam thinks about it; and in any case, I shall communicate with you immediately by telephone.

M. O.

(This must have been very difficult to read indeed. I tried to sandwich this typing in between doing my job at the Civil Control Station with the M. P's in the background tsk-tsk-ing every time it was evident I'd made a mistake.)



Japanese Evacuation Study

207 Giannini Hall  
June 4, 1942

Miss Mari Okazaki  
Case Worker, W.C.C.A.  
Reedley, California

Dear Mari:

I was much interested to hear that you are in Reedley and hope you will let us know how things are progressing. No news here as yet.

I am enclosing a list of missing copies of the Nichi Bei. If you can help us locate any of these through your friends or family, we should be grateful.

Virginia and Morton send regards.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas  
Professor of Rural Sociology

DST/dr

Enclosure



COPY

LETTER

Mari Okazaki

*Revere, Calif.?*

June 16, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas,

You were probably rather startled by the wire I sent you yesterday regarding my being part of your research staff to work at Manzanar. Having heard that the authorities were probably ceasing to send into Manzanar any more occupants from northern assembly centers, I became a bit apprehensive about our getting there. Since I was told on such notice of the Reedley assignment, it seemed impossible to communicate in person with the W.R.A., as suggested by Mr. Vernier before I left, to make sure of being sent there.

Last Sunday, Kimi Mukaye, the other Japanese worker sent down to handle the rush of interviewing & recording, and I had a surprising chance to go into Visalia where we splurged at Sim Togasaki's Mutual Supply Co. and sent all sorts of Japanese tidbits into Tanfo. and Manza. There we met several friends from the Bay Region. Kelly Yamada, the optical lens worker, formerly for Wekard's in Oakland, Dr. Teru Tozasaki (both K.M. and I radical "shot" dodgers flinched as she offered to give the needle to us--neatly avoided her offers), the Takao family, the Fukushima family etc. etc.-- Then going across the street as we tried to catch at 2:00 o'clock bus to Tulare camp--we met Mrs. Kenji Kasai, YWCA Board member and head of the International Sewing School in S. F. (the nearest thing to a "Bride's School" here in the U.S.) who used to teach us "o-sako" or etiquette to us Camp Fire Girls. She was so glad to see us that we missed the bus.-- which was fortunate as she begged us to take her '36 Packard for the ride down to Tulare where Kimi had friends from Oxnard, Santa Maria and Guadalupe. I went for the ride but decided to try to see some college friends, but couldn't remember their married names and had to ask for one of the brothers, a total stranger to me, except for what I knew of this JACL connections, Ken Utsunomuja, whom I later discovered had been appointed welfare commissioner. While waiting for what friends could be found, he told me of conditions there. It was interesting to hear that here the JACL still retained most of its prestige and that their "big-shots" had responsible active work to do. He did express keen disappointment that a Pasadena leader, Nobu Kawaii had been beaten by 7 votes in favor of an Issei after several recounts of the vote and that 4 out of 20 elected as block \_\_\_\_\_ ? s were Issei. I commented that since Issei did compose a good portion of the population, it was a healthy sign they were taking interest in democratic voting procedures. Altho, from the little I remember of my year's visit in Nippon, it is quite evident that the ballot meant a great deal to the Nipponese over 12 years ago. Perhaps, now their influence as voting citizens may be as ineffective as ours is here in the United States. Soon, his sister Kiyo, who had been one of the liveliest coeds--both mentally and intellectually as well as socially until she left after her J. C. from the university came to meet us with her husband, a member of the police staff, evident from his star. She shook her head and her bright eyes shapped once or twice but said that on the whole outside of the heat and boredom, it wasn't so bad--that she wasn't working. She seemed glad not to be. Then told me of Ada Okamoto, who wasn't married as I'd expected. Ada had been one of the popular Nisei coeds, majored in Art but had always hankered for a Low Angeles or a back East "art-school" background, had been given a nurse's aide job but got tired of taking orders from an 18 year old squirt and left the job. She is happier now helping a friend doing recreation work, and is busy making colorful, attractive signs for the recreational and other programs. Before I could ask anymore, one of the Los Angeles YW girls, whom I'd been greatly impressed for her "up-to-date"ness regarding legislation and attitudes concerning business women and girls hailed me.



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Mari Okazaki

June 16, 1942

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One of the unusual, very attractive, but willing to use her brains Nisei girl, Dorothy Wada. Incidentally, in asking for her address, I found she had become Mrs. Ken Utsunomiya. I think she had been doing some of Los Angeles JACL secret-ary work--probably did the work for the exec. sec. there. She was enjoying a honeymoon at government expense as she jokingly put it and seemed content to give up "Y" work for a while. I'm afraid she's one of us who've been rather overworked during the last year or so, trying to avert what the others were too willing to let trap all of us. That doesn't sound right, but I'm writing after a full-hot day and still lacking stenog help although our S.O.S. is partially answered. I understand from Tulare people that James Sakoda was able to go to Tule Lake from Tulare through the fact that he is a project staff member.

Right now we commute 23 miles each way every day into Reedley, where they estimate 3000 have come from coastal regions to add to the approx. original 1000 Japanese in Fresno County. (These are not actual but merely approx. guesses.) Our main job is trying to get cases written for summaries to be considered by Army authorities at Hotel Whitcomb so that people may leave California (you should see the questions they have to answer) or to join families in established camps. It's a disheartening job, especially the later because the Army is really not concerned with joining people from similar communities or members of what the Japanese consider to be family groups. (Brothers and sisters who have married--in-laws and cousinships which have been very closely associated altho living at different addresses). They are so disappointed and resentful since they thot they had done the govt. a favor by voluntarily evacuating at their own expense. The order came out so suddenly that those who had planned eastern moves were really just struck. Usually a day or two have been given, but this time the 12 noon June 2nd order was posted after the stated time.

I try to work on cases at night, but having to leave at 7:15 a.m. and getting back to the hotel between 6:30 and 7:30 every evening leaves little time, especially as the valley heat is so enervating.

Many of our friends would like to have us visit them, but we get so weary from discussing "evacuation", finally ending in a very resentful mood that Kimi and I have to just refuse and that's the reason why we commute.

Somehow, not given definite assurance yet that the Okazaki family will be admitted to Manzanar gives me a feeling of sitting on the edge of my seat--a very good mood as I try to tell people not to depend on having their case considered. It's funny, but I deliberately have to break down their faith in the U.S. Govt.--or the Army--so few realize that we are controlled just as much as any enemy country--by our military authorities. The fact that exclusion orders have not been announced is a source of great discomfort and uneasiness. Valley people I understand are petitioning to have the Japanese stay until Sept. when the grapes are harvested--If this War lasts until then, I know one Public Assistance Worker who will just melt away both mentally and physically. "It's 6:30, good-mornign" says the phone. I hope this doesn't read too confusedly-but that's the state of affairs now.--

Most sincerely yours,

(signed) Mari

P.S. MY best greetings to Virginia and Therston--

Mari.



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REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

For

F.FOA27 53 NL=REEDLEY CALIF 17  
DR DOROTHY S THOMAS=

[1942] JUN 18 AM 8 15

GIANNINI HALL UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY CALIF=  
DISAPPOINTED REGARDING REFUSAL OKAZAKI FAMILY TRANSFER TO  
MANZANAR. COULD YOU ARRANGE THRU NASH MANZANAR HEAD OR DR CARTER TWO  
SISTERS GOOD STENOGRAPHER TYPISTS, OFFICE WORKERS. COULD TRANSFER  
BE MADE EFFECTIVE TERMINATION WCCA ASSIGNMENT? THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
IMMEDIATE COMMUNICATION WITH BANNISTER HAVE WRITTEN BANNISTER  
INQUIRING WRA ANGLE. HOHRI RESERVING MANZANAR HOUSING OKAZAKI  
FAMILY=

MARI OKAZAKI.

WRA.

NO asm 6000 TO Col  
BY H AT 1040 TO BE M  
CALLS \_\_\_\_\_



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F.FOA60 60 NL=REEDLEY CALIF 18

DR DOROTHY S THOMAS=

GIANNINNI HALL UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY CALIF=

YOUR OFFER ACCEPTED WITH THANKS. GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTACTING  
BANNISTER. TODAY PHONE CALL FROM NEWTON SAME OFFICE INDICATED  
REFUSAL NOT IN ORDER FOR OKAZAKI FAMILY TRANSFER TO MANZANAR IF  
CONFIRMATION OF MARI OKAZAKI APPOINTMENT WITH REQUEST HAVE FAMILY  
ALSO SENT MANZANAR SENT BOTH ADMINISTRATIONS AND HOUSING AVAILABLE  
IN MANZANAER. ADVISED BOTH HOHRI AND OKAZAKI FAMILY TO ARRANGE  
THROUGH RESPECTIVE MANAGERS=

MARI OKAZAKI PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WORKER

BY

B

AT

9:30

TO BE

M

CALLS

[1942]

JUN 19 AM 8 27

Ash 6000 BS  
TO  
BY B AT 9:30 TO BE M



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# Postal Telegraph

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*File*

LONG.F.FOA43 99/103 NL XU=REEDLEY CALIF 15

DR DOROTHY S THOMAS, ROOM #338=

JUN 16 AM 7 45

=GIANNINI HALL UNIVERSITY OF CALIF BERKELEY CALIF=

:WCCA HEADQUARTERS INDICATES NEED WRITTEN EVIDENCE ASSIGNMENT  
OF MARI OKAZAKI WITH HER FAMILY TO MANZANAR AS PART OF YOUR  
PROJECT STAFF. NECESSARY TO GET FAMILY COMPOSED OF FATHER,  
FUMIO, 53, MOTHER, ASANO 47, SISTERS, SACHIKO, 24, EMI, 22,  
CHIYE, 19, YURIKO, 18, SENT FROM BARRACK 129 APARTMENT ONE,  
TANFORAN TO MANZANAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. URGENT AS HOHRI  
INDICATES MANZANAR RAPIDLY FILLING WITH TRANSFERS OTHER  
CENTERS. COULD YOU HELP NEGOTIATE THROUGH PHOEBE BANNISTER,  
SOCIAL SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE, 785 MARKET STREET  
SANFRANCISCO? LACK OF COMMUNICATION FROM ME DUE TO RUSH OF  
WORK AND INADEQUATE INTERVIEWING AND STENOGRAPHIC STAFF.

THANK YOU. PLEASE WIRE REPLY COLLECT POSTALTELEGRAPH:

=MARI OKAZAKI, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WORKER.

JUN 16 1942	
ANS'D BY	DATE

WCCA 53 47 24 22 19 18 129 785.



ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S BEST  
ABSOLUTELY FIRE PROOF

THE HAMILTON HOTELS

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. HOTEL SAVOY  
FRESNO, CALIF. HOTEL FRESNO  
MARYSVILLE, CALIF. HOTEL MARYSVILLE  
MARYSVILLE, CALIF. WESTERN HOTEL  
TRACY, CALIF. THE TRACY INN

OFFICIAL HOTEL



FRESNO



EVERY ROOM AIR CONDITIONED

**HOTEL FRESNO**

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

CHARLES B. HAMILTON, PRESIDENT  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
HOTEL SAVOY, LOS ANGELES

GEORGE R. EDWARDS, MANAGING DIRECTOR  
EDWIN C. WHITE, SECRETARY  
HOTEL FRESNO, FRESNO

*(If you send this back  
I'll type it over for you -  
m.o)*

32-11-4

Manzanar R.C.  
Tuesday Aug 11, 1942.  
11 - A.M.  
4th Post Office

Dear Dr. Thomas,

The machinery of Manzanar existence seems ready to make allowance for another cog. And all before I feel quite adequate to take up "24-hour" life with some 9 to 10,000 other Japanese inhabitants.

As it is, having roamed about on my own away from the family and being fussy about a green tub or a lavender tub in the above pictured hotel - I was prepared to make a terrific adjustment. I think I can take it - the community life really doesn't irritate me too much. I'm having fun listening to the comments about me. The laundry tubs which would otherwise be inaccessible if I start cooking downtown reveals "I don't want my girl to be a Manzanar baby - that's why she

SEE AMERICA FIRST



needs to have her dress changed . . .  
 6 times a day and her gauties  
 12 . . . " says a young wife as  
 she keeps on scrubbing away after  
 I've done my own laundry bag's  
 worth — The dust and heat require  
 constant laundering of clothes but  
 the water here is so soft and I suppose  
 full of borax that there is no excuse  
 for rattle-tale gray even without a  
 washboard!

Actual physical existence seems  
 to take up so much time — Right now,  
 the "Y" national organization is just  
 winding up with a series of visitors  
 who have come in to assist with  
 organization of group work — Interestingly  
 enough, the boys have shown ~~an~~ considerable  
 enthusiasm about being included &  
 are asking for correlated leadership  
 training — And, from my Tanforan  
 transferred sisters — This center

Shall write more  
 after tonight's  
 "big meeting"  
 The "Y" program seems to hit  
 the need here — But they've  
 got me roped in — too!  
 I suppose once a Y'er — always one!



ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S BEST  
ABSOLUTELY FIRE PROOF

THE HAMILTON HOTELS

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
FRESNO, CALIF.  
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MARYSVILLE, CALIF.  
TRACY, CALIF.

HOTEL SAVOY  
HOTEL FRESNO  
HOTEL MARYSVILLE  
WESTERN HOTEL  
THE TRACY INN



CHARLES B. HAMILTON, PRESIDENT  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
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**HOTEL FRESNO**

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

(2)

certainly lacks enthusiastic & Trained leaders. However, they probably have not had time to investigate far enough. We are living in a relatively new block and before the residents moved in various Church and interest groups monopolized our 'block' recreation hall which <sup>fact</sup> cramps our block "program." The craft program seems to be well under way, and the craft "hall" is a good place to see Issis, Kibis & Nisis all helping one another. Otherwise, there seems to be a great deal of friction between the groups although the administration and the more far-sighted leaders are trying to avoid serious conflicts.

SEE AMERICA FIRST



As a "Catholic liberal" chap put it  
the "<sup>(J.A.C.L.)</sup> Rover boys" are still not in control  
here as elsewhere. It seems as if the  
concept of a J.A.C.L. leader <sup>among</sup> Los Angeles  
and San Francisco is very different -  
as Sam says "it's all economic".  
Down south, the Niseis were self-  
sufficient and were selfishly accused,  
of slighting their parents and rejoicing  
in the "alien business" closings so that  
the "citizens" could buy them out  
cheaply. (This is a comment from a  
young matron - evidently very anti J.A.C.L. -  
part of the ~~at~~ "Catholic liberal" group) -  
echoed by a young "issei" of distinctively  
Nisei cultural background.)

You see, so far I'm just  
feeling my way around this camp.  
Physically the immensity of the  
area is quite wearing as I never  
seem to pick the roads where the



ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S BEST  
ABSOLUTELY FIRE PROOF

THE HAMILTON HOTELS  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. HOTEL SAVOY  
FRESNO, CALIF. HOTEL FRESNO  
MARYSVILLE, CALIF. HOTEL MARYSVILLE  
MARYSVILLE, CALIF. WESTERN HOTEL  
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**HOTEL FRESNO**

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

(3)

trucks are travelling my way. When we get out of these centers, all of us should be quite expert "hitch-hikers" — altho I suppose the "20-mile" speed limit is an advantage we won't have when the rubber supplies ~~are~~ will more be adequate for the road-eaters.

What amuses me is that my family seems to need more adjusting than I. They have been spoiled by the little luxuries at Tanjrau — Stall divisions for showers are none here — you democratically exchange sprays of ~~the~~ shower water with your neighbor. "In Tanjrau, we have benches, we don't have to balance on two toes to get our feet dry . . . . " etc, etc. "No better here — no deserts . . . . "

SEE AMERICA FIRST



so the rest of the "Okies". I just have  
discovered that our Mess Hall has an  
exceptionally long line & if I notice  
the second ~~line~~ ~~line~~ line winding  
around "Mess 33" where we eat - I  
decide I've enough time for a shower  
& miss the crowd both ways - I've  
become quite brazen about being  
the "467th" click - why should I  
feel like a worm if our hall insists  
on eating 15 minutes earlier?

The "Okies" in between meals are  
busy fixing up the ~~house~~ apt. - The  
great scarcity of lumber is evidenced  
by the fact that the most serious  
crime there is "lumber-switching".  
I've gone on several "good-will tours"  
to wrangle some lumber - and  
perhaps I can get some from the  
construction work going on the  
"Kachers' quarters". I was looking  
at one piece of discarded lumber  
& asked a workman for some  
scraps and he wryly remarked,



ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S BEST  
ABSOLUTELY FIRE PROOF

THE HAMILTON HOTELS  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. HOTEL SAVOY  
FRESNO, CALIF. HOTEL FRESNO  
MARYSVILLE, CALIF. HOTEL MARYSVILLE  
MARYSVILLE, CALIF. WESTERN HOTEL  
TRACY, CALIF. THE TRACY INN



CHARLES B. HAMILTON, PRESIDENT  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
HOTEL SAVOY, LOS ANGELES

GEORGE R. EDWARDS, MANAGING DIRECTOR  
EDWIN C. WHITE, SECRETARY  
HOTEL FRESNO, FRESNO

EVERY ROOM AIR CONDITIONED

## HOTEL FRESNO

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

(46)

"This wood is jō-tō (high-classed) even  
the scraps are too good for the Japanese  
to use... I'm sorry you can't have it"  
However, I've contacted Mr. Crites who is in  
charge & he took our address. I hope we  
can have some shelves to place our sundry  
articles that seem all tumbled <sup>about</sup> ~~apart~~.

The only card table we have is in  
constant use — sprinkling clothes —  
visitors — letter writing of <sup>six</sup> others, etc.,  
etc. that I've been driven to using  
the Post Office ledges — Remarkably  
the coolest place in the Center —  
Perhaps, after I send for my desk  
I can take it to 28-8-4 which is  
being reserved for Sam — There is  
some indication that the MD's don't  
want to be bothered with even

SEE AMERICA FIRST



prospective TB cases & want to ship  
the 3 dubious ones away - They  
have a most forbidding sign outside  
of their ward - & the MD's insist it  
is too hard to keep personnel altho  
the staff there is quite happy because  
these patients do not require much  
personal care - 3 out of the 4 being  
ambulatory - In fact none of them  
are in the communicative or contagious  
stages - A stomach muscle MD is  
trying to read the plate that even a  
tried TB expert sends out to a  
"reader". The hospital intrigue fascinates  
but terrifies me as the patients so often  
are the victims of the conflicts between  
personnel - aides & MDs & hd nurses &  
administration & drivers, <sup>orderlies</sup> etc etc, etc.  
The plant itself is quite adequate -  
in fact a letter from Sen's friend in  
the "San" to which all Japanese cases  
are sent indicates that they are  
getting worse care than he would



ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S BEST  
ABSOLUTELY FIRE PROOF

THE HAMILTON HOTELS

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.  
FRESNO, CALIF.  
MARYSVILLE, CALIF.  
MARYSVILLE, CALIF.  
TRACY, CALIF.

HOTEL SAVOY  
HOTEL FRESNO  
HOTEL MARYSVILLE  
WESTERN HOTEL  
THE TRACY INN

OFFICIAL HOTEL



CHARLES B. HAMILTON, PRESIDENT  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
HOTEL SAVOY, LOS ANGELES

GEORGE R. EDWARDS, MANAGING DIRECTOR  
EDWIN C. WHITE, SECRETARY  
HOTEL FRESNO, FRESNO

EVERY ROOM AIR CONDITIONED

**HOTEL FRESNO**

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

(5)

ever yet if they would allow informal  
convalescence here. The patients at  
the L.G. "san" have to clean their own  
rooms + even prep are their own meals.  
Here - Sam's sister, Kay, one of the nurses  
aides, very much interested in the profession,  
could do - and is doing a very  
thoro + intelligent piece of nursing.

Right now, I'm in the fingers-crossed  
stage hoping that the vagaries of the MD  
staff won't send Sam off just to satisfy  
their own egos + expediency - blaming  
it on a Public Health measure - which  
seems perfectly unnecessary. It would  
certainly cramp getting your work done  
as I depend a great deal on having  
him give me the background of the various  
people I meet and talk to in and  
about my rambling. —

SEE AMERICA FIRST



Spencer - next seems to have been good  
The diet + next seems to have been good  
Hodge - his regards  
My best to V.C. - Sam sends

Dr. Carter says there will be no terrific  
hurry to start in earnest until Sept 15  
altho she wants me to administer 50-60  
Stanford Binets for practice! before  
commencing the "Community Guidance"  
program - Emi will probably work  
in it too - I'm now trying to gather  
biblios + manuals on testing -  
Perhaps I could use some good books  
on clinical psych - It will be good  
to get in on an objective program -  
It is supposed to coordinate <sup>with the</sup> personnel -  
hospital - hi-school - + vocational -  
+ community welfare programs. It is  
still hazy in my mind. Dr. Gen. is so  
busy now - but looks charming + efficient  
in spite of the heat - Her little girl has  
a playhouse just outside of their apt.  
I'm glad to be with the "Ed" program as it  
means continuing Caucasian contacts - One  
of my classmates from hi-school + "ed" courses  
at Cal is on the program - I already  
have plans for seeing her refrigerator! -  
(This is all the paper I have - so shall continue more  
formally + less sampling in my subsequent reports.)  
Sincerely - Mari Okazaki



August 21, 1942

Dear Mari

Your letter came while I was on an alleged four-day vacation, which was not much of a vacation because the telephone (long distance as well as local) rang almost all the time. I was much interested in your news and the story of your adjustments. I certainly hope things work out well for Sam.

The darnedest thing has happened: WRA approved Gila for a further part of my study but refused to OK Manzanar for "spot studies." I may be able to straighten things out later so that we can go on as planned. I feel that they have a complete misconception of what we were planning anyway, and that the objection lay in the fact that they thought a great deal of interviewing was to be done. As far as I can see, the objection is entirely centered in the Regional Office. Mr. Nash has been consistently cordial.

As far as you are concerned, there are jobs that you can do for me, for the time being, which, I am sure will in no way violate my agreement with WRA. In the first place, write up your family history in some detail, and your own autobiography. Cover their background in Japan, reasons for immigration to America, adjustments to America, your own childhood, your trip to Japan, adjustments to racial and economic problems, etc. Send me a first draft, and I will criticize it and ask you to supplement certain details, etc. Second, translate and edit those letters of your mothers, and ask her questions about points which could be elaborated while the situation is fresh in her mind. Third, edit your and Sam's letters which give the early history of Manzanar and the history of your own job with WCCA. Third, collect any series of letters you can for me (particularly from Ssei), translate them if in Japanese, edit them, etc. Fourth, keep a personal journal in some detail of just what you observe and what is going on around you, and send it to me rather frequently so that I can ask you to supplement and fill in gaps. What you should avoid is interviewing people (which had never been my idea of how to carry on the study anyway). You must, in other words, operate as a lone wolf, and the study, as study, cannot for the present, be carried on to get any complete picture of the Manzanar situation. It must be Manzanar as seen through the eyes and ~~experiences~~ based on the experiences of the Okazaki family with Mari as recorder and with Sam giving her the benefit of his observations and experiences.

Bob Spencer is now at Gila and is getting some good work done. Charlie Kikuchi and Earle Yusa go to Gila soon. Spencer will, I think, visit Manzanar in the course of the next couple of months. I don't think there is any prohibition on our visiting Manzanar, in fact Mr. Nash asked me particularly to come.

Don't worry about this: I will keep you informed.



August 31, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas

Getting wound up in Manzanar existence with very little recording done except for casual notes. Believe some progress can be made into getting things shaped up better when my status regarding employment--hours, duties, etc. with WRA is definitely worked out. Finally getting together with Dr. Gen. and understand that the head of Personnel (Caucasian) does not wish any "split" or part-time assignments. Fortunately, Dr. Gen. is very much interested in our study and also since Ed and Blanche Carter are supposed to be in on it, they are allowing me to use this study as a "sociology" course or elective in the Teacher Training program which is being instituted here for the Nisei who wish their Teacher's Certificate. Personally, I'm not so keen on spending extra energy and effort on this phase, but as I'm now assigned to work with Ed. Chester in the Counseling and Guidance division as a "Psychometrician and Guidance Worker" on a "C" or professional and technical rating, they believe policies make it necessary for me to take the teacher training. However, it means that while other student teachers fuss around with education courses, I only have an hour or so of practice teaching with one make-up course in Child Behavior (which I started but dropped at Cal since they would not give me any more additional "Ed" credits even if I'd finished the course!) In the "Workshop" or study time, Dr. Gen. felt I'd be perfectly justified to do my "sociology".

Perhaps, by then, we can patch up things with the Manzanar Hospital MD's who are using us as the football for their petty power politics, and maybe I can be allowed to work with Sam for a couple of hours during the day instead of the rather distracting one hour during "visitor's time". Think I'm supposed to work in the A.M. with Ed. on clinical case work, home visits and testing. Dr. Gen. is interested in having this division not only for the education department but also as a "Community Guidance Clinic", so we are both in the throes of drawing up forms and procedures. Currently, we have two cases of students with hearing difficulty, who of course will have to be placed in institutions outside of this Area.

You'd be surprised to know how tightly all our lives <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ scheduled especially with regard to community affairs which range from "Block" activities ("Block 32 Sunday Social" conflicting with a wedding, Sunday night Symphony at 32-15, Fellowship meeting--all going on at the same time last night. During the afternoon, Sam's sister, Saeko, was wedded in true Manzanar fashion at the Protestant Church (15-15) rice, tour of the camp in a wine-coloured limousine, ice cream and cookies reception and useful "Manzanar Canteen" bought presents showered on the couple. Our family had to spend the whole morning trying to find suitable "going to meeting" clothes....1½ hours looking for my next to last nylons!



Just now we are caught between recording summer time work done by Jr. and Sr. High School students and the registration of all of them as their transcripts come in. We've helped with program planning, using a core or "required" curricula with "electives" -- those in higher grades gradually allowed more leeway. We are going to have a problem with the students who have been heretofore employed on various projects such as the Camouflage--some having just received and earned their "S" rating rather feeling abused. Immediate aspects of "pay" and spending money is naturally more alluring than some vague "when you get out of this center and have to earn a living, you will certainly have to compete with people who've finished their high school education." At first, we could not assure any of them that they could do part-time work although some planning in regard to vocational apprentice training is being done. Believe Ed. is trying to work out a constructive and agreeable way to reconcile the "tough" Terminal Island youngsters who've been working on the linoleum laying crew and doing some very good work there.

Another techy community problem has been raised because the high school program makes it necessary that the school be in a central location (i.e. not scattered around in different Mess and Recreation Halls as has been the practice with summer and night school make-up classes) and one of the residential blocks has to be used for this purpose. Unfortunately, the block picked happened to be one in which a great number of Terminal Island people had thought they had finally made their last move. Having been among those who were rushed out, thrown out shall we say, from Terminal Island by the Attorney General's order and been pushed around Los Angeles as a whole and when they did get to Manzanar before it was adequately equipped and subjected to the worse aspects of the first evacuation crowd, they are more than a little upset at having to move--some for the third time even inside of Manzanar. They were supposed to have been promised, in a very elegant speech by one of the authorities, a whole block in the newer section; however, they've discovered that the so-called "reserved" block is already completely occupied by "squatters" who are already permanently settled there. A young nurse's aide who dorms with Sam's sister is the daughter of the "block leader" of this group was telling me that she'd moved four times since arriving at Manzanar. She says her father understands about the need for the education department but he just doesn't feel justified to explain it to his block people who just feel too pushed around and misled by false promises. A meeting was apparently held where representatives of the administration and others interested placed the problem before them, the Caucasians dismissed the incident as an "emotional demonstration" while the residents declared it another verification of the fact that they were being fooled and taken for a ride on the Manzanar Merry Go Round. So far, there seems to be little actual moving done as the folks say, "Where can we move?" It really is too bad the WRA does not have priority in the matter of lumber, for if the people could actually see piles of lumber and some preliminary work being done on the proposed location, they will not think plans for the schools are but pretty pictures thought up to keep a Nisei architect occupied and happy.



I suppose I'd told you of all the possibilities for doing or getting work in this Relocation Project. Unfortunately, too many of the eggs are hatching. The "Y" is all too ready to have me help with their Business or Employed girls program. They would like me to be on part-time status with them too. Confidentially, it may be a good thing that Dr. Carter wants me to stick full time with the Education instead of the Social Service Dept. I get case work experience right in the Ed. Dept. anyway. If she allows the teacher training program to include my work with you and insists on my doing "Y" as an extra-curricular activity, I shall be only too happy.

The "Y" here rather reflects the Los Angeles community organization life in that it, too, wants to have "council" upon "council" for all sorts of levels. In San Francisco, one big "Inter-Echo Council" used to have us all working as democratically as could be expected and with the minimum amount of committee time essential for a good ~~me~~ all round and all inclusive program. Somehow <sup>here</sup> no regard seems to be taken in scheduling an organization's activities to see whether or not it might conflict with other group activity in which an individual may also be interested. As a whole I don't see them being any more receptive to new ideas than San Franciscans, whom they claim to be smug, self-centered individuals. They do say that San Franciscans seem to be less "cliquey"--although "Clique-ishness" was one of the main criticisms I'd always made about us.

② Our Block 32 is one of the few which has a Nisei block leader, who is very enthusiastic about having us be sociable and neighborly. Several projects have been sponsored. The older women have met to discuss the Nursery School situation which was introduced to them a week previous through the Manzanar Women's Association (actually "Y" sponsored, but not stressed as joining a young women's group as it is translated in Japanese would scare off half the attendance who are the older women...and men! )

Last night, our Block 32 had its "social" at the Mess Hall which is not serving yet as they claim the stove is in San Bernardino of all places! Sachi, the sister next to me, helped the Block Leader's secretary canvass the Block for all the young folks above 16, according to the Census about 63 in number. They were charging about 20¢ for each person--not all the money to go for that evening but a "reserve" to be set aside for signs, etc. according to the Block Leader who came around the night before to pep us up into joining with the rest, using the well known device of telling us San Franciscans not to be so anti-social. He apparently forgot that on Sunday evening is scheduled ~~xxxxx~~ the 32-15 music, etc. Personally after my hourly visit to the hospital, I had to stop in at the Crafts exhibit, which had been showing all week with everyone raving about the ingenuity of some of the residents, but which I never seemed to find time to view. Our front-of-the-house neighbor is the woodcraft teacher there and a young art student in the next barrack helps with the handcraft. Artificial flower making seems to be the thing here and you just cannot avoid them. The women practice their flower arrangements with them but personally I've seen some very interesting weeds in the picnic grounds opposite us that ought to make very effective



8/31/42

displays. Some craftsmen have done wonders with the dead trees and their branches. Children, too, have made miniature wooden clogs, book ends and games. One pair of wooden clogs had a face drawn on each foot with "I save rubber" on one, and "I save leather" on the other. In one of the other craft halls a great deal of knitting and crochet work is being done--the most popular part of the "dry-goods canteen" is the yarn and knitting needles section. (However yarn mail-order houses are certainly doing land-rush business if all the sample cards are any indication.) One man must spend his whole day doing bending over exercises around the canteen, for from pop~~st~~le sticks he has made screens, blinds and using empty cans and facing them with these flat sticks made vases and trays. San Pedro evacuees have expressed their homesickness or shall we say seasickness in this desert by making faithful replicas of their vessels in which they sailed and fished the Pacific.

I then ditched the "social" by going late to the "symphony at 32-15" sponsored by Earl Kondo and Bill Saito, who between the two of them have practically anything one would wish in musical works from symphonies and piano concertos, Back to Shostakovich, to Armenian songs and Filipino records. This is more "intellectual" one is competing with the one in the large firebreak and attracts the older Nisei (you don't find the thirty-to-forty-five group *Manzanar* tho) and the hospital workers, since we are relatively near the Hospital. They are going by "cycles" but are very flexible and accede to "requests" -- last Thursday being "Bristan and Isolde" and Dvorak's "New World Symphony" -- the Sunday before was a mixture too. This Sunday, I'd missed the March Slav and the 1812 Overture and arrived in the middle of the Nutcracker Suite --all of these are properly introduced by Earl or Bill--and stayed to hear the Fifth of Tchaikowsky. Their having announced that his First Concerto was to be played by Rubinstein, I went up to "verify" the fact and was asked if I knew anyone who owned the Horowitz record. It happened that Mike and Sam had given us that version last Christmas, and I'd carefully had it carried into Tanforan and out and treasured my small "collection" into Mr. Nash's car. Unfortunately, I'd not been too careful with my player and the spring in its lever broke after we'd played most of the records and we were just going to play "You're a Sap Mr. Jap" which Sam had bought for fun before the evacuation. It's a good thing the player broke down when it did, for the whole of Manzanar is greatly addicted to playing Japanese records much to our unhappiness. (In fact I'm quite amused to hear the little kiddies singing the "hayari-uta" or popular Japanese lyrics as well as some of the good old pre-war battle songs of the Japanese, which I understand were verboten at Tanforan. Right now, Mother and Dad are out at Mess 27 to hear the Naniwabushi, a continued series of records (or singers, I'm not sure) which sound like an exaggerated chanted drama.to us.)

After the music, I wandered into the Mess Hall and discovered about 50 young people, out of which perhaps five couples were jitter-bugging to the portable wireless record player. The rest were either playing rummy or poker with kibitzers and about thr~~ee~~ games of mah-jong going on. I was liberally helped to pun~~h~~ served out of the familiar large drum from which morning, noon and night our beverages are poured at the Mess Hall. (The block secretary's father being one of the main~~y~~ cooks at the Mess Hall, he had helped them judge almost to the last drop what the quantity of the collective thirst of Block 32 and its guests would be.) Somehow, it was not the hilarious



My best regards to U.S. and Norton -  
Missed meeting Spencer when he came thru -  
Believe Sam met him tho.

The M.D.'s here have finally come thru to let us know they have us authority for final dispositions  
of cases - seems as if "previous record" is the only basis for their sending Sam out since they feel the Army they had

"several cases of T.B." of which all have fuzled  
out in final diagnoses including Sam's  
but it's "face-saving" again for them! No -

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gathering I'd been lead to believe Los Angeles Nisei were addicted to. However, I was assured that they were properly "ganged-up" on by the "Dunbars" who were properly ousted by our block leader without too much trouble. I shall have to find out more about the "Dunbars". So far I've met only one in person and he seemed somewhat normal, altho I've been assured that they are the noisy articulate and rowdy bunch--especially when it comes to asserting their rights egged on by a notorious leader in the camouflage project. Shall have to write up the so-called "strike" and "sit-down" of which I got a daily verbal account from our friends across the way who work there. The day they went "on strike", the sister, who stays home and usually launders their trousers went "on strike" and made them scrub their own jeans!

By the time the work of the Education Department somewhat settles down to a normal routine (such things don't exist in Manzanar administrative departments tho) I hope I can get myself oriented and centralized with respect to myself. Every morning I get up with a pre-exhausted view of the day's happenings, knowing full well that somewhere I've just got to sandwich in some decent recording. My chief problem will be to adjust myself to using every spare moment, heat or no midday heat. Our pre-meal and shower gyrations around our one-room mansion <sup>are</sup> certainly distracting. As it is, I've exceeded the voluntary 10:30 p.m. quiet edict of the Block Leaders Council to continue pounding away. One of the boys who is studying says that he goes to the recreation hall after 10:30 to study and type-- but he can do it as his sister is the Recreation Hall and Nursery Hall keeper and has the key.) Our Mess Hall opens at 6:45<sup>a.m.</sup> and all my good intentions can't get me to the doors when they pound the gong. Walking to work is a pleasant task these cool mornings but the ~~evening~~ late afternoon sun just about has us melted before we reach 32-11-4. If one bothers to shower before going to supper we get strange foods not met on the main menu. If one showers after, then only  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour of the precious 1 hour of visiting can be done. Anti-social tho it is, I've finally had to resort to reading my magazines and newspapers during meal hours for good conversation just doesn't really exist in the Mess Halls. I remember when Fred Fertig came to our hall one supper and started to discuss about Manzanar life and its possibilities in general, even the most enthusiastic discussers gently tried to urge him to eat and "get out of here as soon as we can".

And that remark seems to be the ~~same~~ theme song of the more capable Nisei, and is really the chief source of conversation of those who exchange possibilities while they stand in line and meet each other after a day's hard work in the administration offices, library or storage department.

The work-furlough had many young girls enthusiastic about going out and earning some money to continue school as they are being told that upper-division students and those with wherewithal are those considered for student relocation first. However, it is the current belief, unverified as yet, that single girls without families will not be allowed out. Sam's sister Kay was one of the enthusiasts who were turned down by anxious mamas. I suppose the prospects of getting out are just as intriguing, but until I know whether or not they will allow Sam to stay here, I cannot make any special plans one way or the other. The work with Ed. Chester fascinates me very

much and I see all sorts of possibilities. 11 p.m. and I'd better say

adieu

I'm afraid of this ~~hospital~~ <sup>intrigue</sup>.  
Sam's sister says the hospital is just rife with it -  
Don't want to type this year as I don't want Sam to worry. He was disappointed not to be able to attend his sister's wedding from which even his father had to be absent -  
pp. 5. Showed Ed. Chester - Dr. Sen. the menu of the 27th which was terrific -

M.D.

Mari



32-11-4 MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA

September 8, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas: (or should it be and/or Morton?)

For once the apartment is deserted and am practically barricading myself in as the dust winds that seem to choose all these relocation centers seems to have picked Manzanar for today. Am supposed to be doing my so-called "sociology" in the afternoons after the discussions in the secondary teachertraining group.

Had to skip them today as a discussion with Ed Chester and Dr. Gen. on how, why, where our guidance division is to fit into the picture had to be followed thru this afternoon. (We'd actually gone to her to find out how much we could tell the Family Counseling group of the S.S. staff regarding the educational set-up.) While we talk about the need for 18 year olds to finish or seriously consider finishing schools or the problem of adjusting work and school relations when asked out of the clear in their staff meeting for a "report", the family counsels, many of them parents themselves of the students we talk about, want to know where the benches and tables for students are--will school start on the 15? We assure them that Mr. High says the only policy we can be sure of is opening on the 15th. Checking on this "rumor" with Dr. Carter, Ed and find that elementary and nursery schools will open on schedule, but that high schools may have to wait for complete registration, perhaps until the first of October. We have 25 teachers so far spread out on all levels. Mr. Hesse, the V. Principal told the student teachers there were to be 40 for the secondary level alone. This is all slightly confusing when one is trying to answer direct questions. But after all, when one comes down to it, "Everything rests on the mattresses," as Dr. Gen says. As soon as quarters are available and mattresses for teachers to be found, we can have personnel.

One advantage of working in the Counseling and Guidance Division is the fact that Ed is supposed to represent the Education Dept. at the S.S. staff meetings. He and I have an understanding about our "mutual friend" and a carbon is prepared. Perhaps, the almost verbatim accounting of the meeting makes it too verbose. But until I can find time to break down and cubbyhole all the "significant" items, shall send them in--typing errors and comments included. (Believe my own thoughts on the matter are usually in parentheses.) Many of these meetings are conducted almost in Japanese since Mrs. D'ille is fluent in a gracious charming way and most Nisei working with this group necessarily have to have sufficient command of the language to carry on their work.

Boy oh boy, shivers are going up my back. This is the biggest dust storm. I can't see the tree between our barrack and the next. Such a roaring and darkening and a dustiness. But it's over now. The heat is matched by the sunlight again. The room, though every window and the door was closed is waiting for the fine dust particles to settle. The neighbor next door and others caught out in it shout how frightened they were. (Personally it was getting just a little stuffy and I felt a slight lifting of the roof across the way wouldn't be such a bad idea. It's a good thing water is plentiful here, for we always keep some in the apartment, and can keep wetting towels to relieve the chokiness.) People are again out in the wind now. I think it's possible to get slightly seasick indoors for the wind ~~xxxxxx~~ has the sound of the ocean from a steerage bunk.



Last night was the first open meeting of the Works Corps Assembly to which representatives from the various projects were to be elected from the project employees themselves. Supervising personnel from each unit were to be present also. Since there seemed to be no indications of interest regarding the matter-- it had been publicized for three or four weeks in the editorial columns of the Manzanar Free Press-- as far as the Japanese workers in Education were concerned, I did venture to remark to Ed that such a meeting was afoot. (I find out more things by going to the S.S. staff meetings--and wish that's all I had to do--and so observed them going thru the motions of choosing a representative during work hours.) The Education Department which has grand ideas about being aware of the Community is singularly blank when it comes to really knowing what is going on. Of course, right now the tremendous problem of administration and functioning of actual school units is the greatest problem and must ignore all sorts of basic changes going on now in community relationships.

One of the causes for a greater restlessness evidenced in rapid turnover in personnel as well as changes made is the long waited for OK from the WRA regarding possibilities of Nisei's leaving camp on definite work or educational assignments. It is rather unfortunately reflected in the attitude of some of the student teachers on the secondary level. Many of these college graduates were necessarily specialists and feel that with the right "contacts" they should be able to find a job outside. One chap with whom I was supposed to discuss the implications of John Dewey's educational philosophy in regard to commercial courses, facetiously remarked that it just would not have any place in his "accounting" because "certain facts are all you need and you need to know those well." The real young liberal with bright ideas seems to avoid the education department and the "teaching" aspect since during our first interviews we were told that social sciences were not to be touched by Nisei, as a WRA policy. That it would be too hard on the Nisei teachers to reconcile inconsistencies and that the WRA would be open to criticisms for using those of Japanese ancestry to interpret or even teach U. S. History and Civics. However, there are three student teachers on the secondary level who seem to be signed up for these courses. They seem more inclined to be interested in Dewey's philosophy. Evidently our Japanese students who have specialized in the physical sciences have very little imaginations or have not allowed themselves to get a good very many of the social-consciousness awakening type of courses. In their outlook they seem so young and immature. Some of them haven't gotten over the shock of what they allowed to happen. Of the thirteen odd fellows and seven women, there are one or two chaps who seem to take it seriously, while the girls really seem interested and do go into comparisons between the so-called "old-fashioned" and the "progressive". The L.A. ~~Times~~ Hearst news had an article on why the "progressive" method failed. And several of the fellows agreed. Should be interesting to see under which "system" they studied.

Everybody is coming home from their work assignments all excited about the terrific sand storm and all the spreads have to be shaken out. And mama had been so excited this morning about getting everything dusted off from yesterday's wind! Well what's a little sand without the spinach!

I had better send in some samples of what I've been able to do around here - Please give me some ideas as to where I can start cutting down on recording time. It's so limited - Every meeting starts at 7 - house is always begging with people before - after meal times! - - - Mari

*Sorry. I didn't hold up the entire payroll - That I should get some reports in with the affidavit - M.O.*



September 1, 1942

Sachi and Yuri and Emiko next door signed up for nursery work.  
They had to get materials from 21-15 for workshop.  
Home after Heffner lecture and visit to canteen on way.

Somehow we've had a whiff of the outside world, totally unrelated to any WRA aspect, nor due to the U.S. Mail service. Perhaps getting up early has its rewards for I made the kitchen before everybody but Dad, and even managed to wangle a cup of milk meant for probably another dozen mush bowls. Mama had not joined me soon enough for me to give her the milk so I had to gulp it down after the figs, toast and butter, and indifferent ham (boiled?); and since we are trying an "off the rice" diet to see if we can get rid of some of our "hives" that we've developed here, decided to eat the oatmeal mush with the sugar and butter supplied. Perhaps in our enthusiasm to get all the butter we can when they do serve it, we may be overdoing our consumption of what we consider in the Okie household to be such a necessity. 1 pound to 2 pounds daily in our S.F. diet was not unusual.

Getting back to the outside world.... As I was getting caught up with some correspondence to AOW, Sears Roebuck, Blanche, etc.etc. and getting round to working out the hectograph copies for our Guidance and Counseling face sheets (see copies) I heard someone shouting "Mari..." and looked out and saw Tom Hatanaka, personnel clerk ~~driving~~ at the wheel and a Caucasian face. Thought perhaps they were checking up on the Education class for Teacher Training to be started at ten this morning and that Dr. Gen. was going to give me a lift. The hair atop the beaming face a shining red halo! Cecile Mackota and soon after piled out Sir Thomas of Ross, and Otto. How many times had I wished to see that brilliant shock of hair and to hear efficiency in action. In spite of her being so quickly and sincerely able to sense the feelings of the potential evacuee in a given situation and ~~being~~ knowing how to get to the question which the Japanese would always go around and around, Cecile ~~knew~~ to go into action and get results. It was certainly a treat to hear her tell of the last hectic days in Reedley and the accusing voice that asked "and why aren't these records in chronological order?" I could just hear Cecile answer, "Well, without adequate stenographic help, adequate office equipment, etc. etc. we had to collect all the data and then brief the case for immediate action to be submitted without additional questioning..." "But we did get the best results!" Cecile and Otto looked rested and refreshed after their Catalina week and were headed for the lakes 50 miles away to the north of Bishop for a fishing session. Cecile in jeans and high-topped boots, Otto, with his grand out-doors look, explained on the choiceness of our apartment location, on the end avenue, not facing any barracks but instead looking out towards the mountains and valley over the tops of the cottonwood groves across the way. There's beauty and grandeur here. Asked Cecile about the Reedley folks and the entrainment. Heard that out of every train that left from Sanger there was some complication--folks missing, etc. After all, the U.S.E.S. insisted on handling it, we both pophpohed. Reedley was quite smooth except that it was so hard saying goodbye to the girls who had helped in the office, Yone Minami and Mae Iwahashi, both A-1 stenogs and secretaries who pulled us through so many hectic days. Cecile says she had a letter from Mae at Colorado River saying that water was so scarce that it was being rationed out. (Must check with Mr. Lanpher to see whether or not he had a chance to meet the people I mentioned at Poston.)

They had not notified me they were coming and no permit had been arranged and it seemed to have been a difficult job for them to get in, but trust Cecile. They both insisted that matters of business of high import had to be discussed with me. The girl at the desk suggested that their official business should be something to do with Mrs. D'Ille since we had all been on the same program. They were in an extreme hurry to get on their way but stopped long enough to exchange greetings with mother and father and Sachi and Yuri. Could not accompany them to the entrance of the camp as I hadn't completed my work on the elite Corona.

Visited Takagi family for necessary face sheet data after 33 MH lunch. Takako Saito asked my opinion about having a general mixed group for discussions and study up our way. Reported to office and found that afternoon attendance at Teacher Training course expected. Good to hear John Dewey's credo discussed by Miss Heffernan. Students all enthusiastic. Mrs. Adams spoke, gave status to Nisei teachers



Monday, September 7, 1942

The mornings are getting colder. 47 degrees, says Papa. We bundle up to breakfast. The afternoons are scorches still with the wind coming up again.

S.S. Staff meeting. They elect their representative to Work Corps Assembly. Asked Ed about it when I returned to our department, but evidently they are not aware. Sachiko, Mrs. Hesse's secretary who sits back to back ~~with me~~ from me on her bench says the constitution, general policies, etc. etc. was being discussed for weeks here-tofore in the Free Press. Her account seems to indicate some more from the Caucasian administration and veiled as worker's wishes doings. Used her as feeler and found little interest. Ed. thought I'd better go and represent our department. Did not know whether or not I was to represent supervisory or project workers side, so decided to go as observer. Transcribed meeting of S.S. Staff.

Lunched with sisters and Joy Soeda, girl who is heading Japanese workers in Nursery Education. Joy of Hawaiian background with some college training at Montreal, Canada seems enthusiastic about her work--is in charge of workshop where various odds and ends are being shaped up for children's use.

Miss Fairman late for 1:30 discussion class. Talked with Miss Izumida, daughter of a Buddhist priest here. About 36 years old, but does not seem that age. Was supposed to be signed up to teach chemistry or physical sciences since she is a pharmacist. Had heard someone mention that she had done dance work so started talking to her about some girls who had expressed interest in doing some modern dancing. (Fukuda girls mention it while we were listening to the Sunday symphony and wanting to "give" to the music.) She had done some work in it at UCLA and mentioned another girl who had done considerable dancing there and the excellence of the UCLA dance courses. Asked her if she would care to work with a group of girls, maybe in the Y at posture and dance work--perhaps some relaxation. So many of the workers here seem to be getting tired and extra-sensitive and edgy about everything that we need to have some help to learn to relax. Miss Izumida told about the morning's demonstration class and said she overheard the fellows in the secondary level saying that they did not see the point and were distinctly disinterested. Evidently Mrs. Ferguson has her class (4th) from ..... again with her and is trying to demonstrate the Dewey principles when conducting her class. Said Miss Fairman would be late and expected someone to start discussions while she was gone. No indication, and since kitchen is deepfatfrying as usual, decided to stay out altho wind ~~was~~ coming up again. Miss Fairman divided class into various subject matter groups. Went to business or "commercial" group--T. very determined that Dewey principles cannot be used anyway. and went off for interview with Mr. Holland who is taking applications for those wanting to leave camp. Miss F. comes back and starts discussion on physics "core" gets all excited about it, students contribute obvious necessities for good physical science work--general look of Blankness and lack of energy except from one or two of six or seven. Next, Social Science--more interested in applications of Dewey's principle--starts with immediate environment--Indian flints, study of Indians who once inhabited valley--applications of American way of government in community set-up--comparisons between American way and other--of three ~~in~~ in group--one, Ancient History, one Sociology and one American history background. No time for the rest. Couple of us did buzz around a bit on comparing "progressive" and "old-fashioned" techniques. One girl impressed by Mr. Hesse's statement that some teachers do better under the latter and if one wanted to, why not, if it got the results and the children did learn the three R's perfectly at the expense of "personality adjustment" why let them go "wild", Tried to reason with her that Dewey's goal was toward a disciplined mind as an instrument for a well rounded personality adjusting to life situations. She was a product of the old method and liked it. Another was from the "progressive", an art major, and was in favor of "progressive" education because personality adjustment to her was so much more important. Having experienced both, I know that I had more fun and learned more and was motivated to learn more during my semester in a "progressive" elementary school, than in the rest of the five years at ~~Raphael Weill~~, which most S.F. teachers regard as "old fashioned."

Kerry Durant



Back home  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 4. Showered. Letters to Benjamin F. Priest (still eking out my tuition payments....M.O. purchased Aug. 4th but not sent until now.) and Sears Roebuck regarding material which we returned and about which we are still getting correspondence but no signs of remuneration or satisfactory replacement. Fukuda girls in addition to Masae here. Interested in our lipsticks, etc.etc. They like to buzz around with Sachi. They are very friendly and seem to get along nicely among themselves too.

Supper. Crossticked. Up to visit Sam. told him about necessity for going to Work Corps Assembly--another name for the Labor Council. Sam gave me three copies of the Saturday Review of Literature. I let him read the letter I received from Yone Minami, now of Poston Camp #3.

Arrived at meeting at Mess Hall 20 at about 8:35. Not as many as I'd expected from the number of project employees and units which should have been represented. Find Hiro Neeno, our Block 32 leader, is chairman for this meeting. Wish again that we Nisei were better public speakers with more control over our grammar and choice of words. Seems as if Hiro is another example of perpetual gyrations on the Manzanar Merrygoround. Supervisor of distribution of mail, chairman or some such bigshot on Community Enterprise (came around asking for one of us to be secretary--cannot find qualified one thru personnel--several days ago.) Block leader, and now on the Work Corps Assembly. Wouldn't be surprised if he isn't going to be one of the Nisei who will expend every energy towards getting out of camp just to be relieved of having to chase from one meeting to another. (Sam says Hiro was the first student body president at Roosevelt Hi School in Los Angeles--~~XXXXXX~~ --reminds me of Dave Tatsuno when he became president of student body at Hamilton Jr. Hi where my Caucasian friends were just too enthralled by his "frie---nds, facul---ty, and fel---low students!" approach and campaigned for him.) Sat in rear apart from other groups who had apparently gone to represent their divisions. The Community Services (outside of Education) and Camouflage seemed well represented with Koji Ariyoshi, tried and true Union member, carefully followed the chairman and brought up corrections and amendments in true parliamentary style. Hiro knew his parliamentary procedure and so did most of the representatives. Am afraid since they were almost too smooth in their parliamentary technique, only one type of interested person was represented. Did see Mr. Matsumoto of Children's Village supervisory staff Sho Onodera, Alice Sasaki --all of community service. Koji seemed to have a fine attitude towards allowing the greater ~~XXXXXX~~ body of workers to make their wishes known and did not want final ratification of the constitution until all units and representatives were consulted. Difficulty of determining the representing "units" mentioned. This time, it was left up to departments to decide. The personnel department was to be asked to help make the divisions several months back for some other reason and had not done it yet. Somehow there is a general sentiment that "personnel and placement" is not functioning as it should. Hiro was using the blackboard technique. Unfortunately left my glasses at home and could not see. Later walked back to the block with him and since he was carrying the board home <sup>now</sup> ~~see~~ it was merely a diagram sketch of the Assembly, its various committees, etc. H.N. said it did drag out. Did keep noticing that many left in time for the "POLICEMAN'S BALL" a farewell party for the popular ~~Mr~~ Capt. Horton who is to be replaced by one who meets the Civil Service standards for the Federal Govt. Noticed before I went in that several Issei were leaving as the meeting seemed to be conducted in English. (See notes from meeting.)

Home with general feeling of depression about hospital situation and wishing more than ever to get out of Ed. department and being able to concentrate on either Resettlement Study or Y work. Still do not feel as if every moment was being used most profitably. Irrked at own feeling of tiredness and procrastination. Would altitude have any effect? Realize now how much one can get done when family is asleep --that is, when one has one's own room and does not keep regular meal hours. Early morning-pre-breakfast activity just doesn't exist since I can't get back to early rising.



September 8, 1942. Tuesday.

General enthusiasm for early morning pre-breakfast walks with the Fukuda sisters seems to have waned. Only Sachi went.

1. To the Ed. office. Work on forms for cumulative school records with Ed. C. Find that getting info needed for peculiar problems due to Manzanar situation cannot be incorporated in form approved by secondary principals. We need to know number of people living in the same apartment, whether family members or not and if there are any living elsewhere, interned, going to school or in another part of camp. Language difficulties need to be spotted.

Told Ed that the S.S. staff wants report from us. Went to Dr. Carter regarding status of nation and were granted 11:30 conference appointment. At 11:30 Dr. Gen. no more surer than we of the actual status, but he wanted to know what the Guidance Division was doing. Ed. started to elaborate. Conflict regarding procedure in view of fact actual policies not actually stated. Started planning vocational counseling and guidance policy forming conference to include various administrative departments such as personnel, public works, community service, etc. to include also Mr. Kondo, to help interpret and extend public relations of Ed. department. Dr. Carter wanted our division to start compiling descriptive booklets on the various occupational opportunities available starting with natural administrative divisions. Slight differences regarding when counseling and helping to interpret hi-school policies regarding part-time and apprentice training work. Ed. and I had been carefully working on plan of interview in such cases referred from registration department. Had been working on a case ~~work~~ record technique and M.O. took verbatim notes on question and answer technique. (See example, case of girl asked to work with hospital laundry crew.) Dr. Gen. did not believe that until system of memo referrals worked out such cases should not be sent to Guidance even if it is more expedient at the moment. (Ed. described how he had gone into conference with Mr. Heath, of personnel; Mr. Hesse, viceprincipal; Mr. Brown of Public Works in regard to linoleum crew and also how he interpreted situation as Mr. High wanted: All students to be enrolled on full time basis until registration and course changes are completed before such adjustments can be made.) Dr. Gen. wondered if limited amount of tools could be used more effectively on the Adult Education level--the City College vocational extension courses being considered. --All this carried on over to 12:15 --almost 30 minutes after all other Japanese workers had gone to lunch. ---many dirty looks from kitchen crew for coming in at 12:25--last one in messhall. Went back to Ed. building as there is no girls' or women lounge for Japanese workers. Caucasian personnel can go back to their apartments right next door practically. Tried to take nap on bench in Ed. building. So did ~~XXXXXX~~ six others.--conference with Dr. Gen. continued until practically 2:30 on same vein. Ed. wanted transcription right away and a general plan for the conference to be worked up--by me? Also case of paralyzed girl brought in and given to M.O. Dr. Carter said it did not especially bother her. Since Ed. and I given "hands off" actually counseling and working on cases, were not exactly sure if we should handle her case, especially as it involved actually finding her work.--cannot let our work go outside--and she does clerical work, tho her typewriter is now in C. Kondo's hands for repairs--when it will get done, who knows? I think we shall start a memo merry-go-round until "procedure" is established in conference with....when can we get them together?

Left Ed. Dept. headed for home in whirl of dustwind. Evidently Father Lavery is in camp--saw him tooting in front of an erstwhile parishioners' home descriptively titled "Whirl Inn." Started weekly report to DST. amazed at "total" duststorm entering every crevice of house. Family comes in and starts typical Okie cleaning up hullabaloo. Masae comes in with Yuri. Showered. Supped. Crossticked. To see Sam with letters brought half-hour ago by Sae. Caleb is coming. Dr. Fisk has addressed both of us. Glad to



to hear he and his family are having a retreat and enjoying their month's vacation. As usual Dr. Fiek encourages us to hold on to our convictions and ideals for a better world. And he means it too in his actions, not like ~~xxxx~~ the Chapmans and Frank H. Smiths neither.

Sam has edited the letters through April. I suppose they need to be typed. When that time will be found qu'en sabe?

Sam confirms that the latest is that he is to be sent to the Los Angeles Sanitarium. Wants me not to worry or fret. But how can that be helped.

Yuri has used her discretion and bought me some candy and cookies from the canteen which I cannot visit in the evenings as do the others because of my hospital visits. Masae is not with her. Everybody is already in bed. It is only 9 p.m. Typing would disturb them. Sachi is getting a cold and is very fretful at having to listen to mama and papa discuss why papa did not hurry and get the "getas" finished sooner--also why should he always procrastinate on the score that "the tools are not adequate" when so many examples of what has been done under limitations were visible at the last handicrafts exhibit. This can go on forever with papa getting crosser, but Sachi puts her foot down. I try to be diplomatic and say we should be glad dad's getting all four pairs done and ask about my  $\frac{1}{2}$  pair started. Evidently that had to be given up and dad's started a new one. Thanked him, and read "Tomorrow" especially depressed by Stuart Cloete's "The Son of the Dressmaker". (Tomorrow Apr. 1942 sent into Sam by Fred Fertig. Also S.R. L. 2) Saw Summer issue of COMMON GROUND and find that ACW has sent it in to Sam, too.)

Wondering whether it would be cricket to ask to ~~be resigned~~ resign from Ed. Dept. job. Seems like just too much to do good work anywhere--guidance work--so much transcription and setting up to do--dull discussion ~~XXXXXX~~ group in secondary field--"Y" work and own insecurity regarding hospital situation--just a bit too much for any kind of integrated work. Seem to be fussing around too much and procrastinating. Riding the Manzanar merry-go-round all day, a person gets that attitude too easily. Must see Holland regarding outside relocation. Am trying to avoid telling family about Sam--know they will raise a fuss about why they came here, etc. Am very sorry they were not more articulate about not wanting to leave friends since I would not have minded being on my own. If I were Yuri I would break down and sob in front of everyone as she did the other afternoon when she was particularly discouraged since our parents did not seem too enthusiastic about financing her way to college. Our family nest egg has dwindled alarmingly without any steady source of income. Nobody pays any attention to demonstrations of self-pity in this family, however. And we studiously avoided Yuri's predicament at that time. I would hate to let anyone in my family know how much upset I am about Sam's going away. I think just having him go would not be so bad except for what my parents will think since we've been told he is supposed to be steadily improving. We are such a "health" family, altho mama's bronchial asthma seems to have been intensified somewhat from her early morning coughing. (We do not have very easy feelings about the hospital since K.I.'s incident and the I. family dramatizing the situation so much. By the way K. has gone to work since the last week and must be better altho he is trying to get out on the language instructor's phase of the U.S. Army.)



SOCIAL SERVICE STAFF MEETING; September 2, 1942 8:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Mrs.  
Present: D'Ille; S.S. Block Staff; Mrs. Matsumoto, C.V.; Sister Susanna; Mrs. Naito and Mrs. Sakai from Sewing Project; Ed. Dept. Representative, MO.

Agenda: Not specifically stated or outlined to whole group.

I Introduction of Sister Susanna, (formerly of Maryknoll group)  
She and another Sister from the Catholic group are both to be considered on the staff of Family Counselors.

II Meeting Procedures discussed:

A. One general meeting a week to include representatives from all groups concerned: Warehouse as well as others  
Sewing Project

B. Wednesday morning meetings for family counseling group alone to discuss case work technique, clearing regarding conditions in the different blocks and bringing all to the attention of the director of Social Service. At this meeting members of block staff, one or two representatives from the ministerial and a representative from the counseling and guidance service of the education department to be represented.

1. Possibilities of getting an extension course for social work training to be discussed with Allen Blaisdell, formerly of Berkeley, I. House, now on leave <sup>and</sup> with the WRA on student relocation and training through extension courses from Colleges.
2. Necessity for discussing procedures with regard to meeting the situation of those physically and mentally handicapped.
3. Stressed need for recording of cases for relief to meet Temple's requirements for having each case reviewed monthly....particular notice to change of status regarding employment of family members... reminder that cases have to be certified every month.

III Letter from Dr. Kikuchi of Dental Staff.

A. Immediate attention to emergency cases assured.

B. Emphasis also made on need of those with infected gums of pyhorrea to get dental attention as soon as possible for early treatment can arrest it. Social workers asked to send such cases to the Dental Clinics. All broken dentures, extractions, filling of cavities should be referred to the clinic. (In spite of limited facilities staff is anxious to take care of all such needs.)



#### IV WAREHOUSE

- A. (Present confusion regarding distribution of clothing explained: Mrs. Harada and S.S. depts had worked out a systematic plan for the job, starting with the night crews, volunteers, etc.etc. Unfortunately, when the other crews heard of the situation, they handed in their requisitions through their foremen who should have cleared with the S.S. but instead during the confusion surrounding the moving into new offices, had Mr. Temple's signature affixed and therefore felt justified in storming the warehouse with their men before their turns.)

Alice

- B. Requisition procedure outlined by Asaka (? exact name)

1. Requisitions made out in triplicate: first copy retained by S.S. dept; other two to be taken by foreman to Mr. Harada of the Warehouse to arrange when the men would go for their clothes to the Warehouse.
2. A. explained that due to the great numbers in certain projects such as the camouflage, Free Press and the agricultural workers, until some smooth system of distribution worked out, their orders would be held up. Discussion regarding possibility of distribution to crews in order of requisitioning held. Mrs. D'Ille suggested dividing crews according to alphabet or stations to facilitate such large crews' getting their clothes as soon as their turns were indicated by the order of requisitions made.
3. Policy to be explained to those asking about such distribution to be as follows: Distributions to crews shall be in the order of requisitions made by crew foremen; i.e. after the night-workers and first volunteers have received theirs.
4. Question of women and girls obtaining similar clothing. In the event the small sizes run out (girls like the same jackets and hoods) the sewing project would be requested to supply the clothing.
5. Rumour regarding availability of khaki-coloured trousers to be squelched--there are none, only khaki coloured breeches. Also no coats are lined with leather--there are, however, coats and caps lined with wool. These O.D. jackets lined with wool as well as soldiers coats of dark blue are at Warehouse 9.

#### V HOUSING:

- A. Matter of checking on beams stressed. Each worker to be as unobtrusive as possible in checking number of residents to number of beams per apartment. Notations in small figures suggested. (Procedure of Issei woman in obtaining this information described. Hid her confusion when client followed her eyes as she counted beams by asking about ironing!)



VI KIBEI NISEI and their social acquaintance problems:

- A. (rather confused as direct opinion asked of Ed. Rep. which rep. did not feel was her place to give at this meeting.) New Chairman of Block Leaders Council is very much interested in the problem of the Kibei Nisei who would very much like to get acquainted with other young people and not dancing or being rather socially backward have difficulty in making co-ed friendships; also in Dan Cupid's area...asked for help in making arrangements, etc.

~~XXXXXXXX~~

VII NEW HEAD OF POLICE FORCE

- A. Description of the new head of Police Force by Mrs. D'Ille as a man who is considered one of the best men to be trained under August Vollmer of Berkeley Police Force who has been asked to Chicago and Los Angeles to help train efficient staff and also head of courses in criminology for police force. With such excellent background the new head should be able to share his training with the present force, who in order to show their honor to the resigning Captain and Lieutenant would greet the new head with dignity and respect.

VIII EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR KEEPING WORK CONFIDENTIAL

- A. Awareness that certain confidential matters have been broadcast mentioned by Mrs. D'Ille. Certain things have been discussed outside...relief lists should be considered absolutely confidential. "Never say, 'we are going to help so and so' in the event a case is referred to a worker, but 'I shall report the case if action is necessary!'"

IX REPORT ON NICHOLSON MEETING by Mrs. Naito

- A. Short notice regarding the possibility of families of those interned to have their messages taken by Mr. Nicholson to the various camps in Louisiana and New Mexico should have been a handicap, but Mr. Hirami, Mr. Murakami and two others worked hard to get notices posted on every Mess Hall by five minutes of twelve, yesterday morning.
- B. From 100 to 150 came to have their messages taken. Messages were translated and written in English by those assisting and each family member was given short interview and handshake by Dr. Nicholson who was to come back in a month or two with answers to these messages.
- C. This service very greatly appreciated by even those who were not directly served as direct communications with those in internment camps are so difficult to obtain.



X REPORT ON SEWING PROJECT by Mrs. Naito;

- A. Personnel now composed of 10 persons...all very busy
- B. Judo boys are very happy. (one Judo costume takes five days to complete) but they are strongly made to be sewn by hand.)

XI INCIDENT OF MAN WANTING TO TELL HIS STORY.

- A. Mrs. D'Ille had considerable difficulty asking him to confer with her first before spilling his story to the whole group which he was apparently very anxious to do. (continued later)

XII LIBRARY AT MISSOULA to be requested by Dr. Carter for Manzanar.

(Evidently no staff member can speak out in meeting about any new matter until it has been thrashed out with Mrs. D'Ille previous to the staff meeting.)

XI (continued) MAN GETS TO TELL HIS STORY. (in Japanese)

- A. Situation: Evidently man was asked by block leader and resigning block s.s. worker to take over the case work.
- B. Reaction: Went into a huddle with his conscience and with the aid of prayer came to the conclusion he was unworthy of such a job. God told him that this was not to be his chosen job in camp. Very happy to have his decision made for him and woke up next morning for the 6 a.m. prayer meeting where he thanked the Lord for the guidance.
- C. Members of group doubted whether or not he might have more temporal reasons for declining the job and asked him to clarify this point. Man was able to convince them that he was truly sincere and was willing to help in what humble capacity he may be called. Two men in group nodded approval, one of the workers going up to shake hands with the declining one.

XII QUESTION OF FUNCTION OF MINISTERS as part of S.S. work.

- A. Mr. M. asked for clarification regarding when these ministers had been appointed. Seemed to want to make sure whether or not Mrs. D'Ille had wanted them. Said they understood that the jobs were merely nominal so that the clergy could be recompensed for the work they were doing, and that the clergy were not supposed to have any social service function.
- B. Clarification on lines of demarcation on functions requested since the policy of follow-through by one worker conflicted with having the religious worker and the s.s. worker on the same case.



XII (Continued) FUNCTIONS OF MINISTERS.

- C. Necessity for counseling advice of ministers stressed by Mrs. D'Ille and suggested that they were therefore to be represented at the Wednesday family counseling meeting.
- D. Buddhist priests and their lay workers mentioned. Mr. Oda part of Buddhist group; one other also on staff.
- E. Ministers schedules for the day explained and examples of written skeds shown to staff.
- F. Impossibility of having clear line of demarcation between those working in "DEN-DO" and direct social work stressed by Mrs. D'Ille.
- G. Fact brought out that there are between 15 to 20 ministers in camp; one or two had declined to sign work-orders saying that they did not need any extra salary and wished to continue their functions on their own.
- H. Point stressed by Mrs. D'Ille that this group was part of the Community Services Division and as such was to coordinate with all phases, Educational, Social Welfare and Religious.

(Comment of observer: Believe both Mrs. D'Ille and spokesman for S.S. staff were talking about the same thing but that each was misunderstanding what the other was driving at.

The S.S. staff probably felt that they were not being consulted by the religious workers who seem to be continuing their policy of getting followers through what could be done for them materially...

Some discussion as to when a religious worker would turn to a family relations worker in handling certain situations. Theory as outlined by Mrs. D'Ille was that in the religious field the clergy might stumble on to some problem with which may be quite adequately handled by him and there would be no need of others going into the problem.



SOCIAL SERVICE STAFF MEETING. September 4, 1942. 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Present: Mrs. Dille, Family Counseling Block Staff members, Mrs. Naito of Sewing Project, Mrs. Matsumoto from Children's Village, Dr. Redfield, anthropologist, Education Department representative, mo.

Agenda: Not specifically presented in writing or orally to those present. (Believe Mrs. Dille was following an outline.)

#### I INTRODUCTION OF DR. REDFIELD

- A. Adjustment and conflict areas of relationship between Nisei and Issei the principal interest of Dr. Redfield, who is not in any official capacity with the WRA and is making this study as a University professor.
- B. Staff of family counseling group introduced and explained to Dr. Redfield to include, besides the block social service visitors and workers, two Catholic sisters, four Buddhist priests and ten Protestant ministers; the warehouse representative, who had to take a vacation because of overwork due to the rush in handling the clothing situation; the sewing project; ~~and~~ the representative from the Counseling and Guidance division, of the Education Dept; the representative from the Children's Village; the representative from the new Community Hostel.

#### II COMMUNITY HOSTEL

- A. Need for setting off one barrack to take care of blind people and a few of those with mental difficulties who cannot be institutionalized but also cannot stay with their families....to be met by the Community Hostel, located near the hospital for adequate medical care.
- B. Care of these people to be in the hands of two couples (one of them Mr. Hiram, who had been one of the Block workers.)

#### III LOSS OF STAFF MEMBERS

- A. Transfers to other departments--educational, Community Hostel makes necessary the addition of 4 Issei and 3 Nisei block staff workers.

#### IV LETTER FROM DR. TOGASAKE RE: TYPHOID SHOT EVADERS

- A. After the last appeal 20 of the 100 immediately went and had their shots but there are still 80 inoculation evaders loose. Social service block workers assistance requested to make 100% the inoculation of the center in view of the fact that school is soon to begin and every child must be inoculated before registration.
- B. Any special reason for avoiding the shots should be explained to Dr. Togasaki in person and not to be relayed by staff worker.



V CERTIFICATION OF "RELIEF" CASES:

- A. Last month 229 individuals had been certified for grants-in-aid due to the following causes: (1) head of family interned; (2) head of family ill; (3) none earning money here, and without previous resources.
- B. All cases are on a "payroll"
- C. Time for re-certification for month of August, necessitates checking on number of workers. (One man had reported that he no longer needed aid as three other members had obtained work.) Workers asked to have complete re-certification by Monday or Wednesday of next week.
- D. Difficulty due to fact of under-staffing. (Later workers asked to take on extra blocks in addition to the two they ordinarily cover.)

VI EXPLANATION OF THE WORKS CORPS ASSEMBLY: (Mrs. D'Ille)

- A. Membership: Every person that works automatically becomes a member of the Manzanar Works Corps Assembly.
- B. First meeting: Monday evening, 8 p.m. MH 20/  
(1) Chairman and constitution--agenda. (see "a")
- C. Purpose: To unite all workers regardless of the work they are doing.

To discuss matters of labor policies: Hours, conditions, etc.--outside volunteer groups, formation of educational and investigation committees, vocational counseling and guidance services.

- D. Representatives from different work units to be selected from the workers themselves. An executive automatically goes to the first meeting so there is to another elective member besides.

From the ~~Unit~~ Social Service group the following units would send representatives and executives: Sewing Room, Family Counselors, Children's Village, Office staff, Community Hostel, Warehouse.

VII LISTING OF CRIPPLED CHILDREN AND OTHER HANDICAPPED ~~TOXER~~ EMPASIZED.

VII WAREHOUSE SITUATION:

- A. Mr. Muro and Mr. Hayashi assisting in the absence of Mr. Harada who overworked and needs vacation.
- B. 342 individuals were served on Thursday, Sept. 3, 1942.
- C. Policeman asked to keep line in order.



VII DISCUSSION FOR DR. REDFIELD'S BENEFIT:

A. Redfield: The Nisei hope lies in the accomplishing of the purpose of becoming part of American life. For this some support must be given him. In giving this support, complete demarcation between him and the Issei resulting in loss of present balance between the generations should not be allowed to happen. Some degree of confidence between groups is necessary. To what degree have there been areas of conflict or adjustment between the two groups? (Going back to Washington next week. Who in the world is Dr. Redfield and why asked by Government to make these investigations when he is not on the payroll?)(my own question in parenthesis)

B. Mr. Murakami formerly of Terminal Island gives first answer upon request of Mrs. D'Ille: (Issei leader)

"Terminal Island is a small place, crowded. Nisei chiefly concerned with going fishing with parents; therefore close relationship obtained. Trouble may develop, tho not much when the young person wants to take up some other vocation against wishes of parents."

Did not think much friction between generations. ( Usually Issei have less cognizance of the conflict faced by the Nisei himself and minimize Issei Nisei friction areas especially when questioned by Caucasians, since it is really a techy question with them, more than they are willing to admit.)

"Two-thirds approximately from Terminal Island who had been interned elsewhere have returned to their families. (did not know whether 500 referred to was number including all family members or actual individuals, but out of that number between two and three hundred had returned with more expected.)

In answer to Dr. Redfield's question regarding the sentiments of those returned here, the answer was that "They are happy because they have been tried and given chance to prove that they had not been disloyal." Their status had been verified; i.e. compared to the rest of those ~~xxxxxxx~~ sent by mass evacuation. "The government knew they had done no harm and had released them."

C. Younger staff member asked about returned father's reaction: "Very glad to be with family again. Did comment on better treatment because there are less people there. Rather still cannot understand why we Nisei have to be interned though he can reconcile



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*position of* and  
themselves ~~to~~ their own forced internment at  
Manzanar. "

In answer to question whether older people wanted their children to go out: "Majority want their children to stay here; afraid of the attitudes outside and the rumors regarding what is happening outside." *Very young Nisei's answer - not much thinking behind it - disclosed by discussion*

D. Dr. Redfield stressed that relocation outside was the desired goal and would depend on public opinion. ~~There were some reactions~~ Reaction obtained from young Nisei woman staff worker: "If they would allow the Nisei to go out, it would build up the morale. ...the older group think it should be done, especially in the case of my own father."

E. An issei staff worker stated that he was the father of two Nisei, 14-15, and did not see any need to worry about any conflicts or friction. He was not going to worry.

G. Issei worker from Bainbridge: Echoed Mr. Murakami of Terminal Island saying that their community did not sense a great deal of conflict. More cooperation was received in their homes.

H. Buddhist worker, Maeda, asked from more of a religious aspect, said that he did not feel there was any special friction from the religious angle. However, brought out the fact that some young people were very much loath to leave their family groups and did not like the prospect of leaving helpless older members behind. Some young people on the other hand are very tired of living with their older folks or perhaps some who do not belong to their families in the same apartment and are using the beet assignments to get away from friction and responsibilities. Some of the older people are afraid that they will lose all communications with their children who are going out into unknown areas with unknown companions in many cases. There is a delicate relationship to be considered as the older folk get sensitive and feel as if they have been pushed away "oya-sutete" while the younger person probably may not have that attitude in reality and is hoping to earn something for post-war adjustments. Where so much security has been lost, the parents are apt to cling to their children, for whom they cannot give any economic assistance or have any other definite ties in the form of counseling. Both sides somewhat have lost caste in the eyes of the other.

"oya-sutete"  
literally  
"throwing away  
parents"

I. Mrs. Tayama brought out the fact that the issei are disappointed and even resentful of the fact that the Nisei could not have exerted more influence or power to prevent the internment of citizens and aliens en masse. Perhaps too much was expected of their children's "citizenship status". (Mrs. Tayama's husband had been one of the responsible Nisei JACL leaders prior to evacuation.)



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Mrs. Tayama: Personally, in spite of tremendous antagonism against anyone of the Japanese race, she might have tried to stick it out, others were probably getting apprehensive and might have gone on with their parents to camp.

one from Area #2 WCCA experience,  
(When/considers/the many younger generation who went into Area #2 to continue their businesses although their parents and relatives were in various Assembly Centers, there is some doubt whether or not the majority would have gone into the various centers if they were given a choice. The numbers of families and groups which had made very constructive and practical plans as well as those who were not worn out by continual moving and were still desperately applying to get out of California indicates that given the opportunity, they would leave their Japanese communities and try out in a new area.) m.o.

O. New Ruling of the WRA explained to Dr. Redfield by Mrs. D'Ille regarding necessity of citizenship status for elective offices. Council and advice of Issei to be sought by Nisei elected officers through appointment of Issei to some responsible administrative positions. A policy to be followed in order to strengthen the position of the WRA with the public opinion which influences the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ way in which evacuees are to be handled. A discussion of the camp government was to be the subject of the next meeting.

P. Mrs. D'Ille tried to explain that through her many years of experience in Japan and studying the people as well as the culture there, she believes this war to be a war between ideas of life and not a conflict between races, since she does not believe that the Japanese character is definitely militaristic. The future of the Japanese here is in the hands of the younger group. There was a necessity to push them forward, not necessarily an idea to push the Issei away, but to give the Nisei responsibility now. If we keep them down all the time, we will never come to the time when we can be proud of them. The Family Counselor Group should have more understanding of this vital concern than any other group in the camp. It was not an idea but a practical problem that the government is trying to get the Nisei out of camp and to have them spread out into the country instead of crowded back into little groups.

#### VIII WAREHOUSE SITUATION rehashed.

IX SEWING PROJECT report: Necessity for changing type of work since the Judo costumes are very hard on the sewers hands, especially since the quilting is done by hand through two layers of canvas material and it takes five days to do all the work on one person's costume. Women would like to do the sewing on the material given to the first workers and volunteers.

X RELIEF CHECKS...checks dated July 31, were for July. Clarification. (Next Wednesday, Family Counselors Meeting ..complete staff.)



J. Mrs. D'Ille: Each case of persons leaving for work outside is supposed to be referred to the Family Counseling Service before any volunteer goes out in order to ascertain whether or not a hardship is worked on those remaining behind.

Approximately 100 men went out to Idaho beetfields from which 60 came back and 40 remained. A few went just for the ride or for prospects of gambling and drinking parties and jeopardized the position of other sincere workers, therefore it became apparent that some preliminary selection be made of the people who would go out and represent the camp.

K. M.O. asked to give some opinion on the Nisei Issei relationship from experience gained in WCCA and other pre-evacuation case work. Expressed that many instances were evident where Nisei had given up their own desires to follow the wishes of their parents. Some awareness that they were the lone remainders of any sense of security that the parents had. So much had been sacrificed by parents in order to give their children advantages of education and to start them off that there was a feeling of obligation on the part of the younger to share the less pleasant aspect of going into the camps instead of pursuing their goals out in the Middlewest or the East. However, not all Nisei were motivated in the same way, many were genuinely influenced by fear of what would happen to themselves in a constantly hostile growing world.

L. Mrs. D'Ille: So far, no mention has been made of the influence of the citizenship status of the Issei and the fact that the Issei might have wanted citizenship status in the past but were denied.

M. Mrs. Tayama: Another source of conflict is the fact primarily that most of the Nisei do not understand the Japanese language and the inability to accept some of the old world customs which could not be reconciled with those of the greater American group.

Dr. Redfield's new question:

N. Had there been an alternative for the Nisei of staying behind because of their citizenship status and or of evacuating to camps with their parents, what would have been the decision of the Nisei?



Comments:

Sept. 4th  
S.S. Staff  
meeting.

In discussing these areas of conflict between the Issei and Nisei, no mention was made at all about the Kibei-Nisei. Several very serious situations of more than just friction can be found in apartments where non-family members have to live together, where some are Nisei, others Kibei and others Issei. Usually one of these groups cannot claim the place as "home" and goes about griping about being "thrown out" figuratively. The language situation seems to be the worst. Nisei generally cannot stand the continual loud playing Japanese records while the Issei and Kibei cannot understand why the dances in "36" have to extend to 10:30 or after!

m.o.



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m.o.



September 4, 1942 Hesse, V.P. (Mess Hall 7 very hot...deep-fat frying of fish)

Question of subject fields of student teachers.

Distribution of curricula not yet completed.

Operation of the schools.

7th grade: social living double period.

Study halls: 2 or three to minimize homework or cut it out entirely.

Activity period: after 4:15, to include hobbies, special interests, vocational apprenticeship.

Books: Muzzey and Magruder for American Institutions and Life  
World Writers for 12th grade English.

Explanation of some of the courses: Aeronautics and mechanical Age.

Paul Hanna, expert on curriculum expected for three days next week.  
Tabulation of the number of students who want to take certain courses and classes.

Routine--Admittance slips

Teachers Request for supplies

Revolving use of books.....ration 40 books to 300 pupils in history courses.

Roll Call

Absence lists: 8:30, after lunch, 4:30.

Alphabetized according to grade

3 or 4 girls working at a time

Excuse blanks.

Expectation of program changes--new students missed in registration--changes in courses.

Program card for each student and duplicate in office before students enter Sept. 15.

School records for A.D.A. \$750 for each grade of high school maintained...plus A.D.A. (Ask Mr. Hesse ?)

Approval of California Legislature to be obtained on appropriations in January, so that Manzanar Unified School District may exist from next September. (Independence had been receiving \$66X \$6000 a year taxes from Los Angeles for Independence School District) CUMULATIVE RECORD...Mr. Hesse worked on Calif. School Principals conference to make it. Changes to be made to adapt it to Manzanar Printed by Mr. Savage, (Free Press and owner of several valley papers). Reports on personality traits. Grades every 6 weeks. AB(College Prep)CDUF. reasonable amount of discretion in holding to the normal grade curve.

Discussion of Unit System of teaching....depends on the right teacher. Uses Aeronautics and Machine Ages example .... Specific and General Objectives, knowledges and learnings desired, Activities (to develop the rest) Use of Double System. Specific objectives...those upon which to quiz students. Ramifications of starting with one unit and elaborating. Printing; understanding of history, record of lives of people, communication, etc. etc. history of printing, development of mechanical, etc. etc. BIBLIO.



SOCIAL SERVICE STAFF MEETING....September 7, 1942 8:30-9:40  
Monday

I COMMUNITY HOSTEL report asked of Mr. Hiram. So far, Mr. Temple has not been asked about how and when materials will be available.

II YM-YW MEETING with MR. TEMPLE, Saturday, Sept. 5, 1942.  
m.o. asked for report.

A. Present: Mrs. D'Ille, Mrs. Kikuchi, Mrs. Naito, Mrs. Sakai; Mrs. Nishikawa, Mrs. Kito, Jr. Matrons; Secretaries and advisors of Business Girls (Employed girls groups) and G.R.'s; about seven fellows interested in YM work.

B. POLICY discussed regarding calling the organization a "YM" or "YW" without using the "C" as there are several religious groups here and the purpose of the organization is not just for religious reasons.

C. EXISTING ACTIVE GROUPS asked to give reports.

1. "Manzanar Fujinkai" or Women's Association composed of older women (some men seemed to have been interested in the Education Discussion several weeks ago sponsored by this group.) do not want to be a highly organized "membership" but when matters of vital interest which need to be interpreted come up in the community, some qualified person is asked to interpret or lead the discussion.

MRS. KIKUCHI  
devoting great  
part of her  
time to  
advise all  
groups and  
is ready for  
consultation.

Chosen as  
"temporary  
chairman"  
looks as if  
she will have  
to continue  
since she is  
doing such a  
fine job as  
a coordinator  
although she  
is officially  
on "retired"  
status.

Office secretary  
appointed thru  
administration  
Mary Wada.

2. "Jr. Matrons" not a very large group (i.e. only one club compared to Employed Girls, G.R.'s) including both Japanese and Caucasian members. Already planning activities, have theme song, etc. etc. No special full-time secy necessary. (Mrs. Nishikawa)
3. Employed Girls: Six or seven "older" or Senior Clubs and two Junior groups. "Junior" groups composed of girls still in their teens and on first work assignments or just out of high school. "Senior" those girls who have had working experience before coming to camp, who feel more mature in their attitudes, who have attended college and may not have worked before. Still in process of forming more groups among girls who indicated interest by coming to some of the introductory and organizational meetings held while Miss Flack and Miss Briesmeister from the outside "Y" were visiting Manzanar. Fumi Shimizu, full time secretary. m.o. advisor.
4. G.R.'s: approximately 8 groups started under Esther Naito while in Rec. Dept. Have had several rallies. Sally Kusayanagi and secretary full time. Esther Naito, advisor. Looking for individual club advisors.



II YM-YW meeting(continued)

5. YM groups: So far, nobody to act in the capacity of Mrs. Kikuchi for the fellows. "Brother Rats" one group organized. One chap, of Buddhist background, very much interested in Y work asked about the "C" proposition. Felt he knew many who would be interested in a "YB" group as have existed heretofore and does not feel it advisable. Whole group agreed that some way to make it a Manzanar "YM" group should be devised. Very much need experienced advisors. Several Caucasians from teaching personnel suggested.

D. WRA POLICY of OUT OF PROJECT PERMISSIONS discussed.

1. Greater opportunity for Nisei to leave camp on Midwest and Eastern jobs explained by Mr. Temple.
2. Necessity for parents as well as children to understand that those with qualifications should be allowed to leave and open way for others to follow. Assimilation in greater areas to be sought. No more returning to "Little Tokyos" or community segregation. Mr. Temple stressed that California deserved to lose their Japanese neighbors and workers who have contributed so much to the State of California. Said even New York was open to Nisei. Lack of workers or need for so many in defense industry opens many kinds of jobs for Nisei. Parents and other members of family to be allowed to join Nisei as soon as practical adjustments are made.

E. BOARD OF DIRECTORS....necessity for interpretation by persons with influence in camp.

1. List of possible names to include ~~those~~ <sup>those</sup> representing several groups; religious, locality (Bainbridge, San Pedro, Los Angeles, Stockton, Sacramento, etc.etc.) parents of secretaries(?); Caucasian personnel--Mr. Temple, Mrs. Nash; occupational groups.
2. Combining of both "YM" and "YW" boards discussed. Question of having both Mr. and Mrs. on board....Weighing of advantage of having both....not definitely decided.

(in making report m.o. touched briefly on "S. Pelley" those present and policies, both of giving only YM or YW and not "C" connotations as well as the WRA policy on letting out residents on job opportunities also touched on Board.)..thought I might just as well get this report on the "Y" into the community picture.)



III WEDNESDAY, TECHNIQUES MEETING:

- A. Personnel: All of the Buddhist Clergy, Protestant Clergy, Case Workers, Family Counselors, one of the Catholic Sisters, Guidance and Counseling Division.
- B. Purpose: To get complete picture of the camp as a whole and the place and the functions of the various workers in the counseling division. Careful consideration of the overlapping areas and why such overlapping is necessary. "We should realize that the camp expects that we should be the stabilizing influence in the camp." Mrs. D'Ille.

IV BEAMS (again!)

- A. Reports asked. (Most of them seemed to have counted the number of beams by apartments without considering them against the number of people occupying each of them. E.D. rep. understood the purpose was to check one against the other!) However, the Bainbridge man made an over-all check and found 320 people living in 306 beams. (4 to 5 persons are supposed to live per 5 beam apartment. There are 25 beams in a barrack ...answer to Mrs. D'Ille's query... There used to be four apartments per barrack but now they are insisting on five apartments per barrack. Special permission required to enlarge or make smaller any apartment depending on number of persons in the family, but no less than 4 can live in one apartment.

V CRIPPLED CHILDREN

- A. Emphasis made to family counselors that they should note all children who need aid.
- B. State grants available for those below 18 years of age.

VI STAFF MEETING LECTURERS OR DISCUSSION LEADERS available

- A. Mr. Clive Greenley, blind member of faculty, very much interested in Social Service, suggested by Mrs. D'Ille. Also,
- B. Mr. Brude, of the Community Coop. Enterprise, former Stanford University professor, interested in the functions of social work in a large community, who believes that many large communities make the mistake of not seeing the whole community at once; i.e. different departments tending to be centred in themselves and forgetting coordinating functions.

VII RECERTIFICATION for those obtaining GRANTS-IN-AID:

- A. Workers asked to finish survey by Wednesday.
- B. Method of answering query of those to be certified who want to know for certain whether or not the July grant is coming to them. Visitors slightly at disadvantage when they have to continue asking questions without being able to promise some kind of result. Policy of not giving definite promise agreed upon. Delicate matter of giving assurance in spite of delay.



September 7, 1

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WORK

VII ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO XXXX CORPS ASSEMBLY:

- A. Alice Asaka to represent office staff.
- B. Mrs. D'Ille asked to sit in on meeting.
- C. Various units of Community Services under Mrs. D'Ille asked about member elected: C.V.; Warehouse; Sewing Project; Protestant ministers. Only Protestant Ministers seemed to know actual name of representatives, Mr. Abe executive? and Mr. Nishikawa.
- D. Explanation of the Works Corps Assembly committees and set-up by Mrs. D'Ille drawing on constitution and other reports found in the Free Press. Stressed phase of "out-of-camp" work and job movement. m.o. asked by Mrs. D'Ille whether or not new regime of sending out people sensed--that the government plans for the future--getting people out into different parts of the country requires a lot of courage on the part of the younger people going into new situations as well as for the older ones to let them out.
- E. Family Counseling or Block Staff group representatives nominated were Mr. Muro and Mr. Murakami. Group not ready for voting. Both nominated absent. Alice Asaka suggested since no others nominated that the two gentlemen be asked which had the time. (Sort of sloppy, so one Mr. Matsuyama asked to know whether or not a representative of a group should not clear with the group, so as to be adequately instructed on their wishes.) Mrs. D'Ille said that until perhaps units are determined, only one representative would be fairer. No decision was made yet.

F. Caucasians not members.

Educational

VIII XXXXXXXXXXXX REPORT from Counseling Division asked.

- A. Some of the problems in connection with Program Planning mentioned: part-time work, over 18, drop-out wishes, indications that parents not interested in further schooling, mid-term credits, etc.etc.
- B. Block workers declare parents are more interested in actual opening of school. Can they really open on September 15th, and where are the desks and benches? Parents have been investigating on own and see no indications of physical set-up of school. Where are the teachers, how many? Pictures are nice, but where are the actual classrooms for these first few months?
- C. Number of teachers in secondary schools from outside given, some indication that school library is constantly receiving additions and is being set up to supply students with books told to group. Group vastly relieved to know these facts and asked for concise report from Education Dept. regarding present status of the school. They are constantly being asked by anxious parents and believe they should be able to interpret the present educational system to the parents.

Design Course from Frank Wiggins on correspondence basis since he had only four or five months to go. Mrs. Yamane, block worker, was going to send student to office of Director of his Guidance training.) over the situation and possibilities for continuing.

(Worker asked what to do about certain youngster wanting to complete



September 15, 1942

Miss Mari Okazaki  
32-11-4  
Manzanar Relocation Center  
Manzanar, California

Dear Miss Okazaki:

I have the honor to inform you that, under a grant from the Columbia Foundation, you have been awarded an honorarium to enable you to participate in the University of California Evacuation and Resettlement Study. Your activities in this connection should in no way interfere with your performance in the Work Corps of the War Relocation Project to which you have been assigned.

The honorarium has been awarded you, in the expectation that it will be used by you for the continuation of your research training at the graduate level after you are released from the Relocation Center. Funds will accumulate for your use for a period of 6 months, beginning September 1, 1942 at the rate of ~~\$32.50~~ *anywhere* per month. This accumulation will cease upon your departure from the Relocation Center unless the senior staff decides that, because of your usefulness in preparing reports, the honorarium should continue. In this event, additional funds will be awarded to you. If you remain in the Relocation Center longer than 6 months, the honorarium is subject to renewal. During your residence in the Relocation Center, the senior staff may, at its discretion, release funds to you from time to time.

Very sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas  
Professor of Rural Sociology

DST:vp



September 18, 1942

Dear Mari,

I have been a bit negligent about answering yours of September 8th. The status re ~~prxjx~~ research at Manzanar has still not been determined, but there will, I am quite sure, be no objection to your doing certain specific things for me. Keep your diary, by all means, and send it in to me often enough so that I can begin to synthesize and to ask you specific questions which can be filled in. Aside from that, let the community activities go for the present as a field of research.

What I want from you at present is (1) a detailed account of your experiences with WCCA. From what you told me, these are pretty well covered in your letters to Sam. But you will want to supplement and fill in gaps, describing the types of cases that came to your attention, methods of handling the cases by the several government agencies, differences noted in the various communities, etc. I am particularly interested in problems concerned with the acceptance of or resistance towards accepting relief, evidence of economic distress, types of questions asked by the evacuees, the problems of mixed marriages, etc.

What I want you to do also is (2) prepare a family history of the Okazaki "clan" and write your own autobiography. Where did your parents come from in Japan, when did they come, how did they happen to marry (was it an arranged marriage) what were their occupations in Japan, what sort of work did they do here, how did they get along, what were your childhood experiences, conflicts and adjustments between family members, religion, political activities, accommodation to Caucasians, reaction to evacuation, etc. Included here will be the story of your family's adjustment to Tanforan (built up largely from the letters you have on hand and supplemented by discreet questioning.) You realize of course that you should feel perfectly free to use pseudonyms if you prefer and that everything you give us is considered "confidential". If you can give me a draft of a manuscript of this sort, I will then ask you questions (pertinent and impertinent) and suggest points that should be further expanded.

You raised the question of how you were ever going to manage to get the letters which Sam has edited typed up. I could easily arrange to have my confidential secretary here type them up if you were willing to submit them as is. Or I could pay for stenographic assistance at Manzanar if you could find someone you could trust. Or have you anything else to suggest?

I assume that Sam's letters to you will sketch in his experiences at Manzanar, which will be valuable material. I may



want him to supplement some points there, too. If he is allowed to do any work at the sanitarium( I suppose writing should not be too burdensome). If he could manage this, I would offer him a modest honorarium( I can pay for the "output" but not for the "services" of an alien---just a screwy University rule, but it does give us some leeway). As you know, he was kind enough to write me a brief autobiography. It might give him some intellectual interest to expand this during his convalescence. Maybe, too, he could take over the job of translating your mother's letters.

So much for the work at present. I know how upset you must be that Sam has to leave for a sanitarium. But your report on his condition suggests that convalescence ought to be rapid. I certainly hope your family does not make it too hard for you.

Confidentially, I hear that Nash is leaving. Have you picked up anything about it there? What did the colonists generally think about Nash. I liked him. But I have heard that he did not understand how to handle the Japanese, that they regarded him as a little Napoleon, etc. What reactions have you noticed to the administration?

Let us hear from you soon again. My best to you.



November 13, 1942

Miss Mari Okazaki  
32-11-4  
Manzanar Relocation Center  
Manzanar, California

Dear Mari:

I haven't heard from you for so long that I am beginning to worry about your welfare. Do let me know how things are coming along. In my letter of September 18, I gave you some suggestions about the work you have promised to do for us. Regarding the WCCA report, I have structuralized these suggestions into the following outline which I have sent to Deki Nakazawa who has promised to prepare a similar report. Your report in approximately the same form would be helpful to us. It is very important that this material be worked up as soon as possible. I suggest December 15th as the deadline. Will you let me know your reactions to this?

1. Types of cases handled (document with specific examples)
2. Methods of handling cases
  - A. By public assistance workers
  - B. By Federal Reserve agents
  - C. By Farm Security Agents
  - D. By other agents (specify)
3. Community differentials in types of cases and methods of handling. (urban-rural, regional differences, especially)
4. Hardship cases. (mixed marriages, family separations, property losses, poverty cases, etc. It is very important to document these.)
5. Attitudes of evacuees. (This can be documented through the types of questions that were asked, their reluctance toward accepting relief, etc.)
6. Attitudes of Caucasian personnel including army, officials of the FSA, Federal Reserve Bank, SSB, etc.
7. General description of physical set-up, personnel, and procedure of the evacuee stations.



Okazaki  
11-13-42

2.

I am also looking forward to receiving the series of letters that you have promised me as soon as it is possible for you to get them in shape.

With very cordial regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Swaine Thomas  
Professor of Rural Sociology

DST/vp



Maryann

Dec. 8, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas,

Am going to attempt to have this mailed outside of camp since we have been informed that no mail will go out until martial law is lifted from the center. I have more than just my conscience on my hands to send up to you. Much of it is still in shorthand form and in various scribbled notes on a spindle. Quite a sheaf of edited letters (when will they ever be completed) are ready to be sent. Now I know that the dire prediction I should have been more conscious of has finally descended and they cannot go out. (I hope that some of my recent reactions to what seems to be the opinion of the most articulate and rowdy elements will not get me involved.)

Although I sometimes slip in keeping a faithful daily record--in spasmodic moments I again err on the side of minuteness and have tried to keep tab on the general attitudes and reactions of those living directly around me. Have followed with interest the block developments--instances of cooperation--conflicts and general sentiments. Also have many of the family visitor staff meeting notes which are indicative of camp sentiments.

The report in the Herald Express and other LA papers are slightly garbled tho essentially giving the facts. This morning a person who said he was chosen as one of the three to represent this block gave me an account of the reasons why they believed the administration was at fault. One of the more level-headed, tho Japan-partially educated chap who could get the idea over to me in his English, He stated that it all started with the assist. director's personally evicting a trouble-maker whom the camp describes as the only one with the nerve to tell on the asst.p.d. and taking said chap into Independence, ostensibly as the ring-leader of the hooded gang which attacked the prominent jac1 leader the nite before. The mob's contention was that the wrong person had been taken out of camp--that until the trial was held the man should have been left in the camp jail--that the Police Department nor the Legal Aide Department had no knowledge of this act on the part of the Assist. p.d.--and that it was a totally unauthorized act on his part. The mob had demanded through their representatives that the chap be returned at once. They asked to have a meeting with the Proj. D. and his assistant dir. at 6 p.m., at which time a committee was supposed to talk over the <sup>were</sup> matter. They also demanded that the chap be returned by 6 p.m. \* Meeting ~~was~~ held in various blocks and all adult makes told to go down to the station by 6 p.m. One of the young fellows on this block refused to go since he was not told the reason. The mob also stormed the hospital and searched thru it to finish up the job on the jac1 leader. They were unsuccessful and seemed to have congregated later down at the police station. This is the riot that is written up in the papers. The papers do not mention that all were shot from the rear. The hospital people say that they shots all entered from the rear. The camp feels that the two (altho only one person is known dead) dead are martyrs and that everyone is to wear mourning. We all are told to stay away from the offices or else. We are supposed to keep near our blocks and not go wandering about. (All this is announced in Japanese in our messhall--when we do wander down toward the education buildings we find some students and other workers, but as a whole the camp has an ominous silence. The canteens closed except for ~~the~~ newspaper selling.)

The chap who came to give me "fair warning" got up to follow the block manager's Japanese speech but he did not translate, merely stated that anyone not understanding could ask for a personal English explanation.

believe

Personally, the Administration has lost a lot of "face" with the way they managed the 6 o'clock meeting. The p.d. and a.d.p. were not at the meeting with the representatives and tried to carry on negotiations by telephone from Lone Pine. This is just a garbled way of letting you know what is really going on, and that I do try to keep on the job.....others are afraid for us because we are not sufficiently impressed at times. Mari.

Have to get this out in a hurry -  
so finish the confusion

Mari



December 2, 1942

Dear Dr. Thomas,

I am so sorry that I didn't write sooner, but I have been rather busy in the last few days. First of all, I spoke with Mrs. Joe Goodman, who said that the possibilities of North Carolina are rather slim, so she advised me not to expect too much from it. As a matter of fact, I had been corresponding with Western Reserve U. in Cleveland, so she said she would recommend me to that college. It seems that none have been accepted there to date, but my girl friend there has been speaking to Miss Grace Coyle, the head of the group work division, and she feels that there is a need of workers from our group, so that I may have an opportunity. I have also written to Miss Annie Clo Watson of the National Board of the YWCA, and she said she would speak to Miss Coyle about me, when she is in Cleveland, which will be very soon. I myself have written to Miss Coyle, giving her some details of my background, and a few references, and she has already begun to correspond with them, because my employer received a letter from them, asking for recommendations about me. I think you will be hearing from them shortly, since I gave you as one of my references. I am really very anxious to get started by February, and it will be only a year's program, so that it won't take as long as I had anticipated in the beginning. I must get my application in as soon as possible, and then wait with my fingers crossed.

Before I forget, I want to thank you for sending my coat and shoes-- they will certainly come in handy when I leave. At present, I am waiting for a job opportunity in Chicago. I have an offer in SLC, but that place is so crowded with J. now, and the pay is very low, that I am rather dubious about it.

I am enclosing my diary. I do hope you won't be too disappointed, but I have attended very few meetings, and I have been very restless to leave, so that my observations are very limited.

It seems that the restrictions will be very great for workers to leave, so I hope I can leave very soon. If I do obtain my educational pass, I will be able to leave on that.

Well, I guess there's nothing for me to do but to wait patiently. Do write to me when you have time, because it gets pretty lonesome here.

Sincerely,

*David Hayashi*





THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. Dorothy S. Thomas  
Giannini Foundation  
Rm. 338  
University of California  
Berkeley, Calif.



Manzauer

Dec. 11, 1942

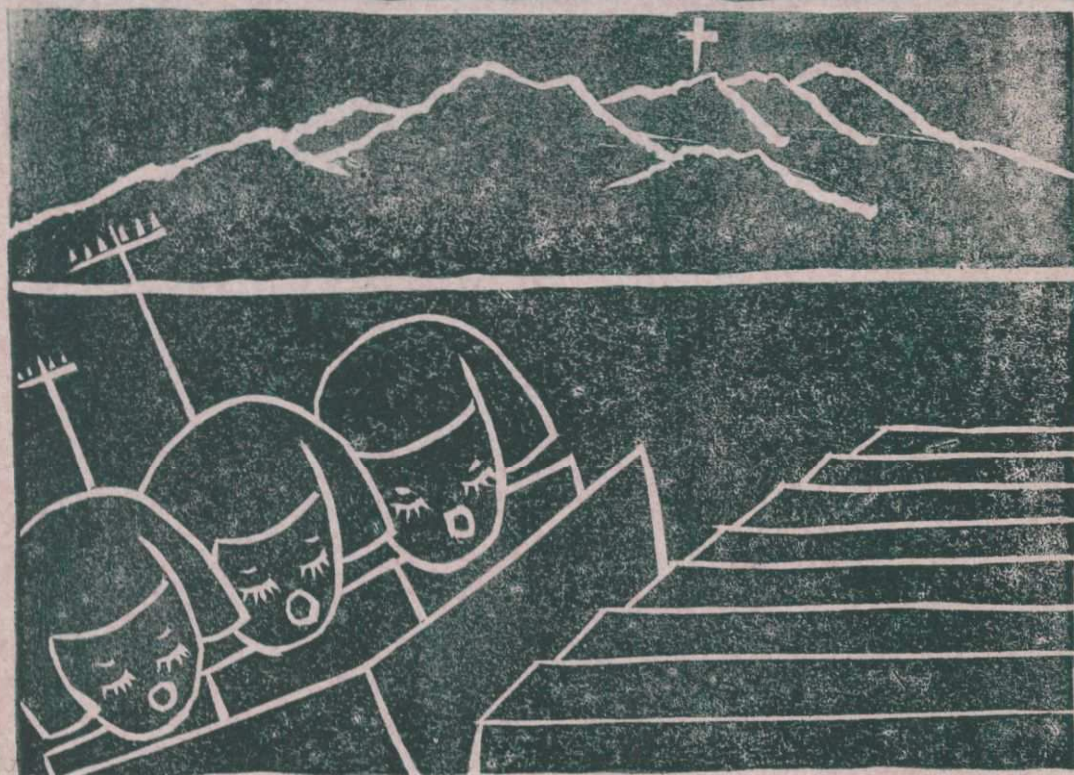
Dear Dr. Thomas:

In spite of current "siege" mail seems to be coming in and acknowledge your messages thru the comptroller. Am holding on here with various visitations from so-called representatives telling me not to go to work--not to send first-class mail since incriminating information may be included. Said I could write a post-card so here it is. It riles me no end since everybody insists on hush-hushing one so completely. Even continuous typing seems noted and untactful outbursts from one definitely ~~is~~ misunderstood. Try to control my sentiments re representation without my asking for it. Hope they will learn to put up signs in English and talk in English at the mess meetings once <sup>wonder where the censorship comes in?</sup> in a while for the benefit of the nisei English ~~shpe~~ speaking. m.o.



PEACE ON EARTH + + + + +

+ + + + GOOD WILL TO MEN



MAN ZANAR GREETINGS FROM MARI





Dr. Emilio Salinas  
Carmichael Hall

Dr. Emilio Salinas

Carmichael Hall

University of California

Berkeley, California





January 1, 1943

Dear Mari,

I have of-course been terribly anxious about you. I received your letter and card, and also had a detailed account of what had happened to you from MMs. Adams.

Please write immediately. I am trying to get permission for Morton Grodzins to come to see you and Togo Tanaka. So far it is impossible, but I have hopes that we can get it shortly. He will come at a moment's notice. Am sending this to Mr. Merritt to forward.

All send affectionate greetings, and please write immediately.

Yours,



February 16, 1943

Dear Mari,

I received your letter, and am delighted with two news items: first that you are going "out", for I think you have had more than enough of Manzanar, second, that Sam is so much better.

I am returning the three checks you sent. I appreciate the way you feel about the matter, but do not agree with your solution. You are decidedly not to blame for our lack of success at Manzanar. It was just part of what everyone calls "Manzanar bad luck." Our greatest difficulty was in not getting Manzanar "approved" in time to do us any good. We were not able adequately to give you directions as to how your time could most profitably be employed. We appreciate what you have been able to do for us under very difficult circumstances. We cannot and will not return the money to the University, but we will take you off the payroll, if that makes you feel better. What you must understand is that this study is full of uncertainties, and that your case is not the only one we have had in which, for one reason or another, we were not able to accomplish what we wanted. So don't feel any personal sense of failure about it.

We hope you will keep in close touch with us, and we all send you our very best. Give my regards and good wishes to Sam.

Sincerely yours,



32--11--4 MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA..... February 10, 1943

Dear Dr. Thomas:

If one could have foreseen the kind of neighborly relationships and heightened interest of everybody in everybody else's use of his time, I should not have taken the responsibility of being one of your field workers nor have submitted you to so much trouble in helping me get my family here with me. You might have had more complete and better written reports if it were not for my sensitiveness to the constant goings in and out of the many friends we have made here and the reaction it might have toward their feelings towards my family should they become aware of what I wished to do. Objective though the recordings were to have been, I have failed at the job because I could not keep myself from getting the feeling that by invading their private lives and thoughts I was only too likely a candidate and deservedly for their "lists".

Such a matter as typing in the barracks does not escape anyone's attention. Even very obvious typing of minutes by one of our neighbors while at his workdesk has been construed as typical "spy" work. What one does at the office is just as much the messenger boy's business and therefore the camp's. Fortunately or unfortunately, some of us have made friends with the Caucasians or AP's which keeps one from blending in with the normal community life. Too much interest in community activities by a girl is definitely not done and makes one stand out like a sore thumb. All these and my own reluctance toward recording or making known even to people I am most congenial my private frustrations and lack of inner stability with which I met this situation here has disturbed and made me evade doing a good job. Sheer inertia and lack of concentration on my part probably also are causes.

I am afraid that I cannot get any more on the various groups and their identities which had any bearing on the commemorative commotion. From the material Morton has from us, I believe you may be able to find more than some of the official reports which Sam and I were able to read. (Sam has been discharged from the hospital since last week and Mr. Brown, *acting project director* has been more or less requesting that Sam take over or assist with the Togo job.) Mr. Brown wanted us to do a similar job on nisei, issei and kibei opinion. Probably he has more in his files....they must be available to you. There is a factual/day by day diary by one of the "negotiating" committee.

*the slightly colored*  
As to the list from the Children's Village and other mixed marriage, etc. people, I confess all I have is the C.V. and one or two others. One doesn't feel so easy about talking with strangers any more and *can't* do it normally.

Right now, in addition to the general feeling of uncertainty and questioning regarding the "mass registration" our family has been having some excitement. For about two weeks we have been waiting to hear momentarily, first for the clearance from Washington for our youngest sister's ~~release~~ clearance and then her San Francisco release and travel pass. She finally left yesterday afternoon after being notified that morning of her departure time. Overlapping the unofficial proddings to get Yuri going, one of my other sisters, Emi, and I had unexpected telegraphic offers to work in the



February 10, 1943

middlewest. Since they wanted us immediately, we have been living through a maze of telegraphic correspondence and appeals. (The Interstate Wire system here is a racket!) We are told that since our Washington clearance has come we may expect to leave any time now as soon as the travel permit comes from San Francisco.

From a long range point of view, probably it is the best thing to do. I have somehow given up trying to plan anything for myself and let circumstances happen. Our general plan is to get the rest of the family out although it looks as if father is going to be hard to plan about. He has become almost too well saturated with the Japanese influence here. We have become so disappointed in him because he used to deliberately hold himself away from the gossip Japanese community and used to be ~~more~~ fairer and with more perspective about ~~the~~ current events. He has now just become another rumor passer and disbeliever in the strength of democratic ways. Mother would like to relocate but since father won't sign the papers (Form 126) she will not go out of her way to do so either. This mass registration and application for clearance may get them passed the first step. Mother is good potential resettlement material but I am definitely worried about our father. The final effect of this mass evacuation seems not only to be a dispersal of the Japanese population but breaking up of families as well. In most cases it is the father of the family who seems the most reluctant about resettling outside and mothers more willing to accompany their younger ones or follow them later.

We are trying to keep Sam from wearing himself out on the many interesting and responsible positions offered him in camp. If he could only learn to take it easy and refrain from typing, he may be able to leave camp without too much concern by summertime. There being a lack of stenographers and secretaries (most of the good ones can get jobs outside) he will probably have to do considerable typing on any of his jobs. It seems rather inconsistent after making such a fuss about coming to Manzanar, and then leaving Sam behind; still, most of our friends advise that someone should get out first if we can't do it together right now.

If it were not for Miss Watson's having gone to so much work in getting us placed in the same city, I'm sure I should let myself reconsider more than once the decision I made about going out. I am more or less forcing myself out before I can be sorry about again postponing our plans. We shall probably work harder on getting the rest out then. Sam already has a sister who left on two hours' notice for Michigan. Kay is very happy and working in a household in a suburb of Kalamazoo. On the whole, all the messages we get from friends who went out ahead are happy ones.

Most of the nisei girls with office experience are waiting clearances and writing to prospective employers. In the Education Department administrative offices alone, all the key secretaries are planning to go away within a week or two. The training program as far as replacing them has not been quite adequate. I have been drafted to teach beginners' shorthand for the Jr. College evening classes and have been enjoying it although I get impatient at times because so many things happen to keep the attendance constant. The shorthand students take a beating because the faculty (?) keeps changing everytime a teacher leaves on relocation! Such things as the commotion, wind and rain storms, additional classes added to Jr. College schedules affect the enrollment and the progress of the students. *from being*



Frankly I do not think I have earned the stipend that has been coming so regularly. The teasing from my family and Sam about being an "informer" was not meant seriously but it has made me very uncomfortable. If I had done it without any obligation and with the assistance I had hoped to get, the work might have been done under more favorable influence. Although Sam thinks I am being foolish since others are reported (even here people pass the word around as to the hundreds that others are getting for their work for different "foundations") I should like to return some of the checks which were sent. Two of them may I keep to give to Sam for the letters which he wrote about Manzanar during the weeks and months before we came here.

Most of the rough material I have will be taken with me to be worked over when I get out. Some of it may come into your hands later, but I cannot promise anything. It is a terrible feeling to know that one has broken faith on either side and this experience will be a lesson to me. I hope you will understand. It is a disappointment to myself that I could not just be objective and academic (although I was accused of being negatively objective and academic by Mrs. D'Ille) about this whole situation here.

Perhaps we can no longer enlarge our perspectives anymore after these months of rather introspective evaluation of ourselves. Getting lost in the anonymity of the outside world will probably help.

Please give my greetings to the staff and remember that though I have failed you, I hope that the others on the project will be producing as you expected.

Cordially yours,

*Mari Okazaki*

Mari Okazaki