

Charles Kikuchi  
Saturday & Sunday, May 1 & 2, 1943

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This has been a very quiet weekend. We slept most of the time as all that walking has been rather strenuous. On Saturday afternoon, we did all the laundry that has been accumulating ever since we arrived in Chicago. It took four lines in the basement to hang up all of our stuff.

Later in the afternoon, we went on a food shopping tour in order to stock up for the weekend. Emiko has taken the food situation under control. She says that we are spending too much for food so that we will have to budget more carefully. Since we have been out here, I have spent almost \$300.00, most of it for transportation and to get settled. We have not spent very much on entertainment or luxuries. In order to live within my income, we will have to do some planning. I only hope to save enough to pay income taxes.

I was thinking to myself about the resettlement for the rest of the family. This looks out of the question for the present because of pop's illness and the fact that I would not be able to support them. A greater worry is that I would not like to take the risk of bringing them out here and then leaving them stranded when the draft comes. I hope to get Emiko and Bette well started in college before I go and then they can assume the responsibility when they finish up. If I brought the family out now, they would not be able to go to school, but would have to work at some dead-end job in order to support the family. Alice is pretty well out of the picture now and she does not wish to get involved. I'm glad for her that she has made this definite decision as she should live her own life. She plans to move out on Mariko soon and go live in a small city near Camp Grant where Mark is stationed. She doesn't know that I know



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this yet. Alice may plan on marrying Mark and I wouldn't be surprised if she took a domestic job in order to be near him. I wish that she would get out of that Salvation Army job. She should be able to get a better secretarial position than that. If Mariko is successful in getting a better paying job when she comes back, I think that Alice will be more willing to take a chance. Until she actually gets married, I won't believe that she is serious. She has fooled us too many times before. This time, it looks serious although it appears to be a case of lonesome Nisei soldier meeting a girl on the rebound.

Alice has a lot to do with Emiko's attitudes about the necessity for a social life to an intensive degree. She used to take Emiko on double dates to all sorts of night clubs in the period before evacuation just for her convenience. Emiko was just 17 then. Alice didn't realize that Emiko was at a very impressionable age then. Emiko doesn't particularly care for night clubs, but she still yearns for a vigorous social life. Once she gets started here, I can't keep her from it. After all, she is almost 19 now. But I don't think it would be the best thing for her to run around like Alice and Mariko. That's why I have tried to encourage her to go to school. Mariko thinks that Emiko will be bored by the social life here and she will be more than willing to go to school by fall after she works a couple of months. I think that this is the best way. I just can't push her any more or else she will react against school altogether. In the next few months, Emiko will know her own mind better. She has so much possibilities that it would be a shame if she did not develop her talents. The most I can do is to help her find the opportunity to continue her



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education and try to encourage her in every possible way. The problem is not so difficult with Bette because she has a definite objective and the only obstacle would be finances. >

I had been speculating in my mind about doing a limited amount of work at the U. of Chicago in the Social Service division, but I may as well give this up for the present. I should be more understanding of Emiko's perplexities about what vocational field to follow, because I haven't the slightest idea of where my future lies. In the back of my mind, I hope to get into some sort of Civil Service position for the government, but I rebel against the thought of doing any sort of routine work year after year. I want to be doing something that is interesting as well as something that has some value to it. I can't plan on a thing until after the war, I suppose. In my moments of depression, I feel that my only future is to be a soldier in a combat unit from which I will never return. However, since I have been in Chicago, I have been on a high level of optimism and I think I am enjoying myself too much.

< It's been exactly one year since I stepped off the bus into the barbed wire enclosure of Tanforan. How Time does fly! It certainly feels great to be living a free life once more. The camp life seems to be so long a thing of the past. Much as I resented being confined, I do have to admit that it was an interesting experience that I can look back on. But I most certainly don't want to go through anything like that again.

< We had a very quiet Sunday. It was the first real breathing spell that we have taken. Bette studied, Emiko wrote letters, and I dabbled around. The day passed very quickly. It rained hard this morning, but the afternoon was nice. Bette and I took a little walk & got a coke. Emiko is still not feeling too well. Maybe we have been eating too much. From next week we intend to cut down.



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Monday, May 3, 1943

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[ Received my first months check from U.C.--\$150.00, minus 5% Victory tax. It seems like a fortune. Instead of feeling like going on a spending spree, I feel guilty about receiving the check. I just haven't done a thing and I feel most uneasy in spite of Dr. Thomas' orders to take it easy. < I haven't been around the Nisei so I hardly know what is going on. The process of adjustment is slow and eventually we will have to get detailed case histories to see how individuals are coming along. > All I have been doing since arriving in Chicago is to make a few contacts. I just don't feel like plunging into a Nisei society yet. It's a relief to get away from a mass of yellow faces for awhile. < I hope that a closely knit Nisei society does not develop here because it will only create a new Japanese problem. I don't know what the ultimate solution will be, but I definitely do not think that a self segregated Japanese community is the answer. Yet these Nisei do need social contacts and I suppose it is difficult to break into the wider American community at a time like this. But these Nisei come out of camp knowing this and it certainly will not hurt to make the effort. A good public relations program is up to each Nisei that comes out. Only in these personal contacts can favorable publicity be built up. >

~~Another day spent in sitting in offices trying to find out about the tuition fees.~~

Another day spent in sitting in offices trying to find out about the tuition fees. I can't be reconciled to the fact that these Nisei students should pay \$18.00 a month even though most of the Nisei have accepted this as final and are paying the fee. But it would not hurt to keep pressing the matter. Today I got to see another man in the Board of Education. He was not too encouraging. My strongest point was that



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I intended to settle and reside in Chicago & that I have assumed responsibility for Bette <sup>and</sup> Emiko. The man finally softened up and he said that there may be a chance to get this regulation waived in my case although he did not wish to take the responsibility for setting a precedent.

Just then Huffman of the Salvation Army phoned about the same thing for me. The man turned around and he jokingly said, "You certainly have gone around to see enough people about the matter. Maybe persistence will get you results." <sup>not</sup> Anyway an affidavit form will be sent to me. After Mom <sup>and</sup> Pop fill it out, I have to return it to the Board of Education, which will then decide if I will have to pay the \$18.00 a month fee for Bette.

Bette received a letter from Vallejo High School. Mr. Crabb, the principal, was most willing to give Bette a Vallejo Diploma if she completed the courses which they required. The situation looks much brighter now and Bette may graduate with only a loss of 6 months. As it looks now, Bette will have one more year of H.S. work to do. She could get out in one more semester if she took a heavy load, but there is no sense of rushing her that much.

Emiko and I went shopping some more this afternoon and we got some canned goods to stock up. I had a headache after lunch so I rested most of the afternoon by taking a long nap over in Alice's room. Emiko wants to go shopping this evening with Alice in order to look around for a coat so she is staying over this evening. When I got home, Bette was running around wringing her hands because she thought that she was not cooking the stew right. She has a lot of studies to catch up on so that she has been pouring over her books all evening!



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Tuesday, May 4, 1943

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Slept all morning in order to shake off the slight cold that I have. I started to go downtown, but I got so interested in watching the young negroes jitterbugging that I changed my mind and went shopping instead. Splurged and bought myself a pair of shoes. Then I walked all around for a few hours to break them in.

Our freight should be here soon. I received a bill of lading for the boxes today. Emiko can hardly wait to get her phonograph as she has some new records that she wants to play. Bette is also impatient for the radio as she can't study well unless she has music. Fortunately our apartment is furnished so that we do not miss the other things so much.

The lady upstairs decided not to take the basement apartment that we had our eyes on so our landlady asked us if we still wanted it. We held a conference and decided to make the change. The apartment is better furnished & cozier than ours, but it does not get the light like this one. However, we decided that we could fix it up much better than this one. It rents for \$30.00 a month, which will save us \$5.00 a month. When we first came here, the landlady said it rented for \$28.00, but it has gone up since. We are in a very good district so we are well satisfied. It's pleasant out here. There's a park out front and the lake is not over a mile to the east of us. As soon as our freight gets here, we can get settled. It's taken us longer than in camp to get the routine underway. I suppose it is because there are more things doing to detract us.

Emiko stayed downtown and she went shopping with Bette. She bought a skirt and a blouse. They were not able to find a coat to their liking. It's good for them to take such an interest in window shopping as it keeps them from getting bored. Emiko has very good taste in clothes and she is very particular about getting good material.



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Wednesday & Thursday, May 5 & 6, 1943

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Yesterday, it was 86 here. We expected it to rain! It was very hot outside, but our apartment was cool. That's the advantage of a basement apartment. Emiko and I worked all day cleaning up the new apartment. The black soot made the room very dark so we took a cloth and brushed all the ceilings and walls off. Emiko scrubbed out the kitchen utensils while I scrubbed the rug. By the time Bette came home from school, we had it pretty well cleaned up. Bette scrubbed the dinette and dusted the furniture.

It was so warm in the evening that we went for a walk after Bette finished up her homework. We ended up at a show.

The Marengo incident came to a satisfactory conclusion. Shinell announced thru the papers that the Curtis Candy company would reemploy those Japanese removed on their farms after the town voted about 3-1 in favor of letting the loyal Japanese Americans come in. Shinell stated that his faith in Democracy was restored. It now appears that the way has been opened for many other Nisei to come into the Midwest, especially for farmwork. If the same opportunity could be granted for defense work, there would be a definite speedup in resettlement.

Tomorrow Dr. Thomas arrives & my vacation will be over. I hope that I will be able to sink my teeth into the work. If we can formulate a definite program, there is no reason why this cannot be done. Bette's status for the public schools is at a standstill right now, but I think we may be able to get her in tuition free. The way will be clear for me to devote full attention to my work after I get Emiko started in work. She is just about ready to go job hunting now, although she still needs some rest from the physical strain of the camouflage work. Emiko definitely will start school in the fall. By that time she feels that she will have enough money on hand to take care of buying her clothing & other incidental needs.



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Today we just took it easy. Emiko is still exhausted from the hard days work yesterday so she is taking a little nap now. She has been making plans to have Dr. Thomas & W.I. out for dinner Saturday evening if they can make it. Emiko wants to show them how well she can cook. We also feel rather proud of our apartment and would like to show it off. Too bad that our freight has not come in yet.

Friday, May 7, 1943

Today was a real busy day. I crawled out of bed early so I could meet Tom <sup>and</sup> Tomie. He lives in the hardest place to find. I had to wander around for about a half hour before I could find his place. He lives in a cooperative with about twenty-six other people. Same old Tom. We went downtown on the streamliner and had to wait only about twenty minutes before the City of Denver pulled in with W.I., D.S.T., Frank ~~and~~ Michie Miyamoto. While we were waiting, Tomie spied Jimmy Sakoda's sister who was a little frantic because they could not find train accommodations for Cleveland, where her husband is taking a job with an airplane company. On top of that, they could not find a hotel to stay overnight. After a lot of phoning, they finally got settled. W.I. and Dr. Thomas looked fine as ever. It was good to see old friends once more, even though I haven't known them too long. Frank Miyamoto & his wife are also nice. I can't make up my mind yet whether she had a henna rinse or whether her hair is that color naturally. She is what could be described as a charming personality. Frank is more quiet; more on the intellectual side.



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We had lunch at the Station and talked about the going ons at the camps. Bob is reconciled to Gila now and he turned down the Intelligence school offer. He is getting excited about camp developments once more. D.S.T. said that he has a Desert Rose, a Kibei girl, on the line now. He has even taken up Sumo. Maybe he wants to wrestle with her. Bob has some swell plans for a block study & Jimmy Sakoda may go down there for a few weeks, since the Tule situation is still hot. One third of the citizens refused to register up there. According to Bob's letter, the political situation is getting interesting at Gila. The Issei are now permitted to hold elective offices in the Council and they will undoubtedly firmly entrench themselves in the driver's seat. It's just too bad for the Nisei who will be further handicapped by not being allowed to develop leadership. The argument will run like this; the Nisei were a fizzle in center government; the Issai have had more experience and they know what it is all about. Therefore, the Nisei should follow the Issei lead closely. This only means that the Nisei will become even more conservative than before. Bennett pulled a damn fool stunt by restricting all leaves at the time of the Tokyo executions of the American flyers. I hope the WRA gives him a boot.

Lieberman's editorial also appears to have had some further repercussions. The Denver Post is carrying on a deliberate propaganda campaign against the Japs and it uses that article as an example of how disloyal the Nisei are. The funny part of the whole thing is that it was written by an American of the majority caucasian variety.)

Emiko and Bette are all excited. They have invited W.I. & Dr. Thomas out for dinner tomorrow evening in order to show off our apartment



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and their cooking. Emiko has gone to a great deal of trouble to fix up a suitable menu.

We had another good piece of luck today. The landlady moved away to manage an apartment house on the North side. Mrs. Blumfield (?) arrived to take over last night. She is the real owner of the building and her sister was only managing the place for her. Mrs. Blumfield is equally as nice as her sister. She came down to call on us. When I told her that Emi & Bette were going to school, Mrs. Blumfield wondered if they would be interested in doing a little work around the apartment to make some spending money. As it works out, Emiko will work for two or three hours a day next week at .50¢ per hour and then Bette will take over. The work is easy: cleaning out the bathrooms & vacuuming the hallway. Emiko and Bette are to keep their own time and schedule. This works out swell for us as Bette will have a chance to save up a little for clothes. The small allowance I give her doesn't go very far. The landlady also loaned us some more kitchen utensils.

I also opened up a bank account today & put it in Bette's & my name so that she can go to the bank and withdraw money when we need it. The bank is just around the corner from her school. There isn't any bank near our neighborhood.

We have been fortunate in getting the breaks so that it is no use to worry about things. We'll make out O.K. Next week Emiko will start her job hunting and I am sure that she will be able to get a job easily. Dr. Thomas knows Mr. Shiffell of the WRA well.

Went to the show in the evening and we got soaked coming home because it rained hard. Emiko just waded through the puddles.



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Saturday, May 8

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Went out to the University and I had the honor of meeting a number of Professors connected with Chicago. < Prof. Ogburn took all of us to lunch at the Quadrangle Club where the faculty members eat. Afterwards Tom, Frank, D.S.T. and I went to the WRA office. >

no 4 Some sort of regional meeting has been called and all of the WRA field representatives and members of interested organizations discussed the problem of how to get the Japanese out of camp. < There were about 50 people at the meeting. Mr. Shinell presided while Mr. Holland, head of the WRA employment division was the chief speaker. The group did not impress me as knowing too much about the evacuees although they were greatly interested.

The main problem now is to get the people out of the centers. Officially, the WRA is not doing anything about the housing situation, but it is leaving this most important phase of the problem up to the church groups and to the individuals involved. >

no 4 [the chief speaker.] Holland made the statement that the WRA was most anxious to relinquish its wardship position and he was of the opinion that it would be up to the individuals once he left the camp. < There was a little clash over this point with the Church groups who felt that it was a definite responsibility to help the evacuees find organizations which would assist them in the assimilation process. > The whole question of whether there should be segregation or dispersal then came up for airing. Holland said the WRA was not attempting to keep all Japanese apart; but for their own good, he felt that they should disperse as far as possible and avoid getting into groups. < It is difficult to conceive of how they are going to keep the Japanese apart. Even though most of the Nisei give lip service



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to the dispersal solution, few are willing to actually go out and try it themselves. There is a strong pull for social congregation. The Church groups have acted on the assumption that social get togethers are desirable and from time to time social functions have been sponsored by the Friends, Brethren & the "Y's". > I doubt if any agency will be successful in preventing some congregation. The segregation of housing can be controlled, but not of people meeting, ~~muhh~~ as the dispersal idea is desireable. The Nisei are not willing to make the expansion on the one hand, for fear of rebuffs; while, on the other hand, the caucasian groups have not let the barriers down yet.

The more I think about the problem, the more I become convinced that the final assimilation and accommodation of the evacuees will in large measure have an important bearing on just what line the U.S. will follow on the international scene. It thus becomes a symbol of how a democratic nation will treat the color issue and it is important in this respect. At present there is too great a tendency to shift the blame to the evacuees and this country has not firmly attempted to find a workable solution for this world wide problem of minority adjustments.

< Holland is fairly confident that 25,000 people will be the maximum that will resettle although he admits that this is an open opinion subject to the war conditions. He figures that Chicago could absorb 5,000 although he picked this number out of the air. > In order to get the people out of the camps, the WRA is about to embark on a very foolish program. Instead of "pulling" them out of camp with lucrative offers, the next method proposed seriously is that the people should be "pushed" out. This will be done by lowering the case allowance for



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clothes and putting the standards of living on a lower scale. Such a thing would be impossible. It would be an open invitation for further strikes and disturbances. By a trick of fate, the rising cost of living on the outside has resulted in a standard of living which is now lower than that for the camps.

Holland recognizes the fact that there is no resettlement incentive for many of the Issei who formerly operated small service businesses.

However, he feels that these opportunities will open up. The WRA is not prepared to subsidize the evacuees yet in order to get a start in business but this is a possibility that is not closed. There is even talk now of permitting some Japanese to go back to California. Even if the area were unqualifidely thrown open, I hardly think that the masses of evacuees would take it up. At most it would be only a small trickle of property owners. The majority of the evacuees do not have anything to go back to. Of course, the next cry would be for a financial settlement. The whole trouble lies in the fact that the people just don't want to leave camp for the duration, especially the Issei element. Anyway, the central problem at the present time is to find out how to change the people's mind so that they will be willing to come out and take a chance. If a man has 5 or 6 dependents, it will be pretty tough for him to make a go out of it. The WRA still permits the people to go back to camp, but it is contemplating the idea that they should be charged for room and board if they return. This will only slow up resettlement, not help it! There are enough fears in the people's mind already. It's going to be a tough grind no matter what is done -- the evacuees may as well face that now. Holland indicated that 75,000 people would probably remain guests of the government for the



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duration. The Chicago papers are creating a fairly good public opinion, but it is almost all destroyed by the propaganda which the Denver Post is dishing out right now. It ran Tieberman's article on the Military Registration as an example of the Nisei mind. Pegler also had something to say about the nurse who was said to have reported that the patients at the hospital in Gila cheered when the news of the Doolittle flying execution was announced. The Denver Post is going full blast. It must have a bone to pick. The American Legion is still going strong. The people in camp believe more of this stuff as typical of the expression of the American public than they do the favorable articles. As long as this exists, there will continue to be a strong obstacle in the way of resettlement. On top of that there are many rumors about the Tokyo radio broadcasts which caution the evacuees not to resettle because Japan will take care of them. Many Issei honestly are convinced that Japan will be victorious, poor misguided souls.

The WRA is still talking about segregation, but I haven't heard of much being done on that score, although a camp at Doop, Arizona, is supposedly in operation now for the "difficult" cases. >

It's difficult to figure out just where the WRA stands. At one time they follow a "punishment" theory. Then overnight, it turns around and follows the theory that the Japanese have had a great wrong inflicted upon them and that it is up to the government to make amends. No wonder, the Nisei are getting a strong persecutionist complex. The meeting this afternoon dragged on for over two hours on the subject of resettlement and we had a bull session for another hour afterwards.



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QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE  
NEWLY PROPOSED INDEFINITE  
LEAVE PROGRAM OF THE  
W.R.A.

By Ralph E. Smeltzer  
May 8, 1943

A. At the Project:

1. Is there going to be any selection of evacuees for relocation? If so, what standards must evacuees meet before being allowed to leave the center?
2. What Education and guidance is going to be given those who desire to relocate concerning: what community to resettle in, what kind of job to go into, how to get to the destination, what agencies in the new community to go to for assistance, how to find the job, how to find living quarters, and how to become an assimilated part of the new community?

B. At the New Community

1. Will there be some friendly person at the train to welcome new residents, make them feel at home, show them to a temporary living place, advise them concerning the new community? Cannot the WRA provide hospitality arrangements-hostels or otherwise-in the new communities?
2. How is the job to be found? Is the evacuee to find it himself or will there be an agency in each community of any size to aid the new-comer in finding the employment desired? Will it always be the W.R.A.? If not, what other agencies are expected to do the job?
3. How is he to find a place to live-door to door canvass, real estate agent, W.R.A. assistance or private agency assistance? What agency can he turn to for assistance if he is asked to move continuously because of his racial ancestry?
4. How can the new residents become accepted as equal members of the community? How can they become members of churches, service clubs, professional and social organizations?
5. What follow up will there be to insure right public relations and real assimilation?

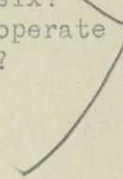
C. Additional questions for consideration.

1. How can relocation be made attractive so that the bulk of the evacuees will desire it?
2. Cannot representative Issie be sent out from each Project to survey the relocation possibilities and report their findings to the Project?



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3. How is the flow and drift of evacuees toward or away from certain cities to be controlled or avoided?
  4. Who will counsel the younger element that relocates to insure public acceptance and personal integrity?
  5. Will not many request indefinite leave in order to see the country, spend some money and attempt to return to the Project?
  6. Is it possible at the present time for those who own property on the west coast to return?
  7. Is it wise to encourage such persons to go east to resettle?
  8. What plan is proposed to get larger and agricultural families relocated?
  9. Who is going to subsidize farmers and business men in order to get them back into productive life?
  10. What is the answer to the chief question among family men: "Can I be sure of an income sufficient to care for my family of six?"
  11. What assurance does the W.R.A. have that the O.W.I. will cooperate more fully on new releases affecting our relocation efforts?
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This evening, W.I. & D.S.T. came over to our apartment for dinner. Emiko and Bette worked hard on the menu and they had a very successful dinner. Alice and Mark also came over for dinner. Alice held dinner up because she forgot the directions on how to get out to our place. Later they went back downtown to go to a dance. After the Thomas' left we read the Sunday papers and fooled around until 2:30 A.M. Bette and Emiko got hungry again because they said that they took the smallest pieces of meat. This was a hint for us to have bologna and french bread sandwiches.

Sunday, May 9, 1943

We slept until 2:00 P.M. this afternoon! The past few days have sort of worn us out. I got up first and cooked a huge brunch. We had intended to go to the museum but it rained. Since there was nothing else doing we went to a movie for the third time this week.

The day was very short for us because we slept ghrough most of it. It was dreary today so it was just as well that we did.

Monday, May 10, 1943

It rained all day today again. I went down to the University but nothing much was doing since W.I. and D.S.T. still had to continue social talks with all the professors that they knew.

I had lunch with Forest L.(?) who is an Associate Professor at McGill University in Canada, and Prof. Hughes who is teaching at the University. Also met Prof. Burgess & Kimball Young, who are noted sociologists. Forest is taking a six months job with the WRA. He will be the social analyst at Heart Mountain. He is a big, good natured



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fellow & I think he will be able to give the WRA many good pointers on how to solve the Japanese problem. He has already written several articles on the Nisei in Canada. Forest is also interested in making some sort of comparative study of the Canadian resettlement program with the U.S. program. He knows his stuff and he is thoroughly in sympathy with the evacuees. Prof. Hughes is also interested in making some sort of a study for the U. of Chicago group. I didn't think that so many of the university professors here were aware of what was going on in the camps. They see the whole problem as a significant phase of the larger problem of general race relations. It's the first time that there has been such an enforced mass migration on such a large scale in this country. The professors in the university **here** are very democratic and I have been quite impressed with those I have met. Most of these men have books written and a reputation in the academic world. *insert*

[ I had to wait until 8 o'clock before Emiko & Bette came home. They went shopping for a coat. I almost liquidated myself in the interval. I had the oven on in order to heat the food. It was chilly so that I closed the windows. I kept getting drowsier and drowsier as I sat on the sofa, but I couldn't figure out what was wrong. Just then Emiko & Bette came home. As I stood up, my knees sort of buckled. Emiko yelled, "I smell gas." She went to the oven and turned the gas off. The flame had been blown out by the wind <sup>and</sup> I didn't know it. Right after that I had a terrific headache <sup>and</sup> I had to lie down for a while. It was a narrow escape, but it teaches us the lesson that we should never leave the windows closed tight while the gas is on. ]



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Emiko & Bette did not get their coats, but they purchased a suit and shoes. They hunted all around downtown and were able to get the suit at a reasonable price at a sale. They still have to get a coat. Just like a woman!

Tuesday, May 12, 1943

Bette had some funny stomach pains this morning so that she did not go to school. Emiko was tired out from walking around for five hours on her shopping tour so that she rested most of the day. She works about three hours cleaning the hallway & bathrooms upstairs. She could do the work faster but she does a thorough job and takes her time. Besides she has plans of buying some clothes with the money she earns this week. The poor girl only has 28 skirts, 25 sweaters and 3 coats! We don't know where to put all of her clothes as we do not have much closet space. Emiko is going through the want ad section this week in order to get some sort of idea of what sort of work she wants to do. Dr. Thomas will speak to Mr. Shinell of the WRA about job possibilities for her day after tomorrow. Emiko has been busy up to now so that she is not bored yet. She has heard that the net worker's production has fallen way down due to the different changes in net size and the heat so that she no longer feels that she has lost anything by not staying in camp for another month. I've let her take her own time about making her mind up about work and school as I don't want to push her more than necessary. Emiko has been giving the matter of her future a lot of thought these days and she is fairly set on doing dental hygiene work. Now I hope that we will be able to find a college that will train in this field. By then Emiko should enough saved up to take care of



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clothing purchases. She also plans to work part time this fall. Bette's incidental expenses will be taken care of when she takes over Emiko's present work. She should be able to get an income of around \$20.00 a month for this part time work. It fits in very well with her program.

The staff of the Study spent most of the day in planning some sort of tentative outline for the work which we will be doing here.

Tom is taking a tough course at the University so that he will be pre-occupied for a few weeks. He also has a lot of Tule Lake material which he plans to work up. Frank also has to do a lot of this stuff.

I'll have a lot to do in writing up the Gila material, but it won't take long to drain myself dry of all ideas. I certainly do take my hat off to Tom and Frank. They have read widely & they know their sociological concepts and books in the field. It's all greek to me. I'll have to do a little reading to get background on the subject.

Frank arranged to get library privileges for all of us and we will also have access to the stacks. The Social Science Dept. has been most cooperative with Dr. Thomas. I will also be able to rent a typewriter shortly.

no 11 Besides studying the results of the resettlement, a great deal of our time will have to be spent on obtaining personal documents. The Nisei are all scattered out, but it should not be too difficult to get in touch with them since there is a tendency for them to seek each other out on a social basis. However, there is the problem of actually seeing them. Most are working so that our contact work may have to be in the evenings. At first I was worried about not having enough to do, but I think by the time we make an outline, we will have



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plenty to keep us busy. <The whole thing is very educational and a lot of valuable information can be obtained.> Maybe I'll change my field again and go into Social Research for a career. I've only changed my field of interest about five times so that another change won't make much difference. Perhaps I may be able to combine it with Social Welfare. <The only catch in this plan is that I have absolutely no background in statistics. I'll have to see how things work out during the next six months before I'll be able to make up my mind for sure. There still is the draft situation and I haven't made up my mind yet whether that is my primary duty at this time.>



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I'm getting restless not doing anything although the planning for our work is essential. Frank advanced a theory, or rather hypothesis, that the evacuees are now in a state of flux in making adjustments to collective behavior, which occurs when a whole group are thrown into a state of disorganization. To him, the psychological element will be a most important factor in the resettlement of the Japanese. Dr. Thomas feels that the economic factor will be the most important for the voluntary migration. These views gives us a framework of reference for our research work on this end. We still are thinking about our outline. Tom is buried under in a course on Social Organization so that he hasn't been able to concentrate fully on the Outline. He will probably draw it up shortly.

We met with Prof. Hughes in the afternoon. He is interested in doing some sort of a book on individual case histories. However, he expected all sorts of data to be floating around, and he was greatly surprised to learn that there was none. U.C. has a great deal of data on hand and I am beginning to suspect that some day the Study will be an important publication in this field. The WRA now suggests that U.C. have a member of the Study in Washington to "advise" them on certain policies, ie presenting the evacuee attitudes on such matters. Dr. Thomas is considering sending Morton to Washington for a couple of months since the WRA has a great deal of statistical data available. This will be a development for future consideration.

Although Professor Hughes has a great deal of interest in the Japanese problem, it is not likely that he will be able to do much since he has little time for field work. Dr. Thomas, following through with her plan of cooperation, suggested that a meeting be held next week to



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discuss these problems more fully. Hughes is interested in finding out chiefly about the caucasian attitudes towards the Japanese as he feels that there was a great deal of friendly human relationship existing between the two groups prior to the war.

Dr. Thomas has been in such great demand by the University Sociologists & the WRA officials that we have not had time to concentrate upon working up our program for field work in the Midwest. It is so surprising that these individuals and groups are so ignorant of the problem, especially the WRA officials who are responsible for these evacuees. Of course, men like Hughes, Blumer & Redfield are busy with greater problems so that they do not have a great deal of time to devote to a thing of this sort. Hughes is in the midst of studying Negro & Industry in this area at the present time. >

Woff Although we have not gotten started yet, our main problems will be in contacting people. We have decided to make up some sort of a card catalogue with addresses and other identifying data. It will be much more difficult to contact people than in camp where the community was bounded by a barbed wire fence. Frank and Tom have had a great deal of sociological background, especially Frank, so that they have developed some concepts to work with. I'm at a loss on what to do and am developing some guilt feelings about not being able to produce. ~~Dr.~~ Thomas apparently has no worries; she does not want me to read too much about sociological theories which in many instances are not applicable to the present situation. >

Woff Frank showed Tom and I around the University Stacks and we browsed around looking for interesting books for about an hour. Since I had no particular books in mind, I did not get any out for further perusal.



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We have been thinking about the lunch problem. This week it was not acute since we were invited to the Faculty Quadrangle Club several times. However, we decided that we may have to bring our lunches eventually if most of our work centers around the University. Lunches cost from 50¢ up and this is a considerable expense when added up over a monthly period. In addition I will have carfare expense. Frank won't have much of a problem since he will be living near the University and he will be able to go home for lunch. There are only a few eating places in the vicinity of the University and most of them are crowded.

Frank still is unable to find a suitable apartment. They are so scarce in the University neighborhood. He plans to take a day off tomorrow so that he and Michie can concentrate on apartment hunting & try to get settled. I think that we were lucky in getting our apartment for \$30.00. It's not too inconvenient and the neighborhood is excellent.

Emiko has been keeping herself busy and she is making a better adjustment than I thought possible. In a day or so, we will begin to hunt for a job for her in earnest. She works about 3 hours a day now cleaning upstairs. She has been doing a lot of shopping for clothes and fixing them up keeps her from getting restless. She now has purchased two new suits, a heavy coat, and a pair of shoes. She feels that she should do this shopping now as she will not be able to do it once she starts working. Emiko is now drawing up a list of jobs that she would like to do so that she won't have to stumble around when she is interviewed by the WRA employment office. Right now she does all the housecleaning, shopping and cooking. I didn't know that she was such a



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good cook. Emiko is very worried that she is gaining too much weight.

May 13, 1943 (Thursday)

One month since we left Prison! The days always fly by fast.

We didn't make much progress at the office today. D.S.T. started out to write a letter to Meyer in regards to the school situation for students who come out of camp. If the WRA can forget about all the red tape for a while, perhaps something can be done about the tuition fee of \$18.00. D.S.T. feels that the WRA needs to have such things pointed out to it as it probably is not even aware of the situation now.

Professor Bloomer was the first one to interrupt the writing of this letter. He asked many questions about Gila, leading us to suspect that he may have been offered the position of Social Analyst there for the summer. The WRA could use a good man like him, if he is considering the position. The way the local WRA has been blundering around with policies is the cause of some of the unrest in the camps. The Natn'l. office is much better but it does not keep in close enough touch with the camps. The Social Analysts may be able to fill this gap.

By the time Bloomer left the office it was almost noon. D.S.T. invited Tom and I to have lunch with her and W.I. at the Quadrangle Club. After lunch we went over to the bookstore and rented a typewriter for three months. The afternoon was almost over by the time D.S.T. got it to working and the letter to Myer type. We did get the card index fairly well worked out.

I'll have to get my eyes examined. For the past few days I've been getting those kind of headaches that seem like gremlins are pounding at one's temples with an axe. At first I thought that the headaches may



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have been caused by the near 'gassing' the other night when the oven was left on. But the headaches only seem to start after I have been reading for a while. I'll wait a few more days to see if it continues. Ever since I have been a college student, I have been told that I needed glasses but I never got around to it. Perhaps it's just plain laziness or maybe it is male vanity. I don't see how I will be able to keep glasses on. I have one of those flat, pug noses with no bridge. I'll probably look like Mr. Moto!

Friday, May 14, 1943

Took the afternoon off as D.S.T. had to attend an interview with Shinnell. We met again in the evening for several hours in order to put the finishing touches on our tentative outline. However, it had to be revised at the last minute because W.I. pointed out that we should emphasize resettlement on the Study & not the background. It's such a big field to cover that sometimes we lose track of our main objective. We still don't have established techniques or methodology since the Study is in such a new field. We finally arrived at an agreeable framework for an outline and it should be completed early next week. D.S.T., Frank and Tom did most of the thinking. I just sat and listened and was acutely conscious of the fact that I don't have much background in Sociology. Frank loaned me an "Outline of the Principle of Sociology" by Park & Burgess which he thought would be helpful. He particularly recommended the chapter on "Collective Behavior" by Bloomer and on "Institutions" by Prof. Hughes. I started Bloomer's chapter this afternoon but my eyes got heavy and I went to sleep. I have a list of



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recommended readings which I hope to get around to shortly. There's nothing like continuing one's education. Most of my readings will be in the practical field. ] I still have vague feelings of doing further work in the field of social work and I have not given up that idea yet. }

I haven't really stopped to seriously think about my future since coming to Chicago. The draft occupies a foremost part of my conscious thinking, and I don't know what I will do next. At times I think my only place is in the Army; other times, I feel that this would be a futile gesture in spite of the fact that certain principles are involved in this war. The question arises as to where I would be of the most use. In connection with the Study, I feel disorganized at present and don't know where we are headed for. Sometimes I feel that I could do better work in a more practical field where results are concretely and immediately measureable. Maybe I am on one of the lower cycles of moods right now.

I haven't tried to plan out the future of the family yet; I feel helpless about it so I keep postponing the issue. I certainly could not bring them out here now. Bette will be straightened out with her school problems soon, I hope. Emiko is looking for a job now, but she is not sure of what she would like to do. Emiko has no specific skill, but she can learn easily. D.S.T. referred her to a job opening with a Scale company this afternoon, but Emiko isn't sure that she can do the work. The position is a Receptionist, and it pays \$20.00 a week. <sup>S</sup> She will mull over it until Monday. Togo also said that the U. of Chicago had an opening for a file clerk at \$85.00 per month. Emiko has to make up her mind about what sort of work to do. She could



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no doubt get a job as a factory worker which will pay more. However, an office job will be more interesting for her. It's quite a letdown for a networker who was making \$200.00 a month to start out at \$80. - \$90.00. Since Emiko will be starting school in the Fall, one of her desires is to save as much money as possible. <I think that she could do well either in the receptionist job or at the University, if this position is still open, but I don't want to urge her for anything.> Emiko has an idea that she would like to get a list of job openings from the help wanted section and then pound the pavement. She has worked part time this week in order to get used to working again.

[Last nite, after the conference we went over to Geo Yosukochie's to meet Larry Tajiri. Geo. is working as an accountant for a cooperative. He never was evacuated as he fled to New York before the freezing order went into effect. Tom believes that George has "lost fight" and settled down to a comfortable married life here. Geo. is still vitally interested in the Nisei problem, but the old spirit and zeal is gone. He used to do a lot of crusading on the U.C. <sup>Western</sup> campus.]

Bessie came out last September from Tanforan to marry him. She is an highly efficient secretary and at present she is working for the Chicago Round Table. She likes her job very much and she finds a certain security in being among friends in case the Japs "bomb a coast city and there is a repercussion against the Nisei." Bessie acts as a sort of mother to a lot of lonely Nisei girls who come into town and can't find housing facilities. <Mary Koboyoshi is staying with them now.> The Yosukochis has a nice apartment on the top floor of an old looking building in the Hyde Park residential district. Their place has become



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a sort of social center for the "intellectual" Nisei. Bessie does a lot of entertaining in this "high" society. She says that she seldom goes out and that she believes it is better for the Nisei to stay indoors and visit each other instead of being conspicuous in public. She is particularly distressed at seeing so many of the "zoot suit" type of Nisei coming into town now. She feels that they will create an incident that will react harmfully upon the sincere Nisei who honestly is trying to make a go out of it.

Geo. and Larry came in late as they were visiting Hoyakawa, a Canadian Nisei professor who is noted for writing a book "Language in Action." ~~The room was crowded after their arrival with all the people in that one room (Frank & Michie, W.I. and D.S.T., Tom and Tamie, Geo & Bessie, Mary K, Larry and myself.)~~

~~Wf~~ Larry is just passing through on his way to Washington to meet with Mike and other JACL officials. ~~Mike is going into the Army after attending the Nat'l. Conference of Social Workers and they wanted to get other members of the inner circle acquainted with friendly individuals and organizations in the East before he goes.~~ ~~Right now the test case (Yasui-Hirabayashi) upon the constitutionality of the curfew & evacuation regulations is going to be heard before the U.S. Supreme Court. Attorney Wirin of the ACLU is going to present the brief on behalf of the Nisei. Larry felt that things were "too hot" right now for a favorable decision to be made, but he is hopeful that there is enough favorable public sentiment to bring about a fair decision.~~

~~Wf~~ The JACL has been pretty well broken up with so many of the leaders going into the service and there is little possibility that the



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organization will be able to make replacements. The salaries are small & most of the capable Nisei who could help out are not willing to fight for a cause, but would rather lose themselves in the general American scene. Fortunately the Pacific Citizen remains in liberal hands with Larry, Bob Tsuda, and Dyke Miyogowa on the staff. I suspect that they are much more liberal than the "Little Capitalists" who determine the policies of the organization. Those with firm convictions are going into the service. The JACL is in a state of flux right now. It is concentrating mostly upon associate memberships and it is more or less leaving the centers alone due to the disrepute of the organization among the people. Larry said that the JACL makes no claims to representing any large portion of the Nisei, but it is doing what it thinks will be helpful to all of the citizen group. He believes that Kido has lost some of his "fight" due to the severe beating which he received and Larry was a little bitter at the reactionaries in camp.

Over a cup of coffee, Larry said that these were exciting times and that anything could happen. "For example, look at the Chinese. They occupy a most favored position right now, but they are only lulling themselves into a false sense of security. If China makes a negotiated peace with Japan after she is exhausted from lack of allied support, there is bound to be an immediate reaction against the Chinese in this country. There would immediately be an increase of "Oriental" agitation. and they would get it in the neck. The intellectual Chinese know that their position is hazardous and they are concerned about the evacuation of the Nisei, but none of them want to stick their necks out, especially those with economic interests on the coast who feel that their position may be disturbed if they showed any sympathy towards the Nisei. There



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is one Chinese restaurant in Salt Lake (the biggest in town) that has hired Nisei waitresses over the protests of the Chinese community. The owner has taken a personal interest in the problems of the Nisei, but he is an exception."

Larry feels a little misgivings about the concentration of Japanese into "Little Tokyos" in Denver and Salt Lake. Denver is the more serious situation with the Post on its present race baiting campaign. Larry hopes to combat this propaganda by doing a series of articles on Camp Selby where the volunteers are now in training. Larry has also had an article in "Asia" magazine recently. He and his staff are certainly doing a damn good job on the "Pacific Citizen." The paper is extremely pro-America, sometimes a little too much on the flag waving side. It is by no means a reflection of the total Nisei mind, only of the extreme liberal or the "dogs" as they would be called in camp.

It was about 2:30 A.M. before I pulled in. Emiko was imagining all sorts of things that had happened to me as I had only expected to be gone for a couple of hours. She dragged Bette out of bed, and she was just on the verge of phoning all the Dr. Thomas' listed in the phone book when I came in. She sure was mad at me for not phoning or letting her know why the long delay.

Emiko opened a bank account today, causing a sensation. The woman who interviewed her ran around the bank to tell the other employees about the "pretty Japanese" girl who made camouflage nets for the Army before coming to Chicago. The guard at the door told her to be sure to come every week to make a deposit.



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Bette also made a decided impression in her speech class this afternoon. She gave a talk on her experiences in camp. Bette said that the class looked at her so intently and full of sympathy that it made her choke and feel like crying. They wouldn't let her sit down. Finally the teacher suggested that Bette continue the talk at the next class. Most of the students are older and mature. One woman has two sons in the Army. Bette said that they were all so surprised to learn that the Nisei were so Americanized.



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

April 29, 1943

Official Business

This is to notify you that your leave  
clearance application has been approved.

Henry C. Freeland  
fy



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D.S.T. was quite disturbed this morning by the telegram that Kroeber of the U. C. Anthropology Department sent. He wants to hire Bob Spencer at a higher salary to train for Colonial Administration. It starts in July. Kroeber put it on a patriotic basis as a service more needed by the U. S. instead of just saying he wanted to hire Bob. I think Bob will take the position as he wants to keep out of the draft. It will be quite a loss to the study and D.S.T. is not going to try and hold Bob. She phoned to Berkeley to get further details. She now feels that either Tule Lake or Gila will have to be closed since there is no chance of getting new workers. She thinks that Jimmy may be interested in going to Gila. They may get full Research Assistant salaries in camp. I think that Jimmy deserves it. He certainly produces enough. I have more respect for *Tomie* T also. In spite of the fact that she has such a prima donnish temperment, she is very objective in her reports.

*Tanaka*  
Togo ~~Toraco~~ came over this morning to our office. He is also a collaborator on the Study. He wrote an excellent account of the Manzanar riots. Togo was formerly editor of the Rofu Shingso. He is also one of the smartest fellows ever to graduate from U.C.L.A. Togo was marked for a beating by the Manzanar Blood Brothers so he was removed to Death Valley after the Riots. At present he is helping the Friends in the Resettlement work. He is in a position to do some swell work for the Study.

Togo has been in contact with many of the evacuees who have resettled and he has a good understanding of their problems.



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A couple of the success stories which he told were most interesting. He said that an Issei by the name of Taniguchi came out here to take a domestic job. He could hardly speak English. He didn't like the idea of waiting on people so he quit his job. The WRA does not place people once they leave the camps as it feels that their responsibility is over once they leave. Taniguchi then went to the Friends but they could not help so Taniguchi started to pound the pavements. He came to a National Tea Company store (a chain store) & he saw that the vegetable stand was very ill kept & in need of a man. So he walked in and propositioned that he would work for two weeks for nothing and at the end of this time, they could either hire or fire him. He was taken up and at the end of the two weeks they made him the manager of the department at \$40.00 a week. Taniguchi used to manage a stand in L.A. at \$35.00 a week. The National Tea Co. was so impressed with Taniguchi that a call for 30 more workers for its chain stores has been sent out to the camps.

Eddie Yono is another example. He came from Gila to the Hostel. He went right out to look for a job. A defense company offered him a job at \$1.15 an hour if he had machinest tools. Eddie didn't have the \$100.00 to buy the machinists tools. An anonymous Quaker loaned him the money. Eddie is now making better than \$60.00 a week. He met a young Swedish fellow & now he rooms with him. He has been able to meet the Swede's family and friends and he is making a very good adjustment.

Alice and Mark came over for dinner this evening. Unfortunately, it was the poorest meal that Emiko has cooked yet. It was raining very hard outside so that we spent the evening here making small talk. We



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walked them up to the streetcar about 11:00 P.M. and then we went to the show to see the last part of it. After we came home, we made sandwiches and fooled around until 2:00 A.M.

Emiko and Bette are hoping that it will not rain tomorrow for the "I am an American Day" at the Soldier's Field. >

Sunday, May 16, 1943

Today was a very complete day. < It looked threatening so that Emiko & Bette did not wear their new suits after all. They wore slacks. Emiko did have some consolation by wearing her new coat. > We got up about 10:00 A.M. with great difficulty, and arrived at Soldier's Field about 11:45. <sup>[to attend the I am an American Day "celebration"]</sup> < The streetcars were all jammed on the way with the people who were going early in order to get good seats. Emiko had a pain in her back and she worried that she might be getting infantile paralysis. But she forgot all about her aches when we got there. >

no 41 There were 100,000 people jammed into the stadium. It was an inspiring sight to see the mass of colors, and the American flags all around the field. Somehow I felt I was back in America again, something I keenly felt the lack of while in camp only a month ago. The flag-waving patriotism was kept at a minimum. We got the impression that the vast crowd were sincere in making this event a shrine. The emphasis, of course, were on the war, but it sounded a bit out of place when one of the high ranking military officers was introduced as a "soldier who knew how to kill Japs." It was a little on the vulgar side. But that is war. It didn't seem to fit in with all the high ideals that were pronounced by the other speakers.



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The audience was composed of plain Americans of all varieties. There was a sizeable representation of Negroes and Jews. We didn't see any ~~other~~ Oriental-Americans at all. The Nisei must have been too pre-occupied with their little social group at the Hostel. <There was a very gabby Jewish woman sitting behind us who amused us with her gossiping. We got a great deal of the history of the City from listening to her. She was very proud of the fact that one of her daughters was being inducted into the WAACS. A ceremony was held in the misfield for this induction.

One of the most inspiring sights was the the Navy flyers who stunted over the stadium. It stole the show. When they first started to zoom down, many of the women screamed. Even nature added to the setting as the Thunder boomed in the distance. Although it threatened to rain several times, the rain held off. It was very windy. Many of the people on our side of the Stadium got sunburned from the rays of the sun which filtered through the clouds. More got windburned. Bette's face got as red as a ripe tomato and she can't even smile now because it hurts. >

with The whole program lasted for seven hours and we sat there to the bitter end. <With all of our sandwiches, we did not get hungry. Bing Crosby was the MC. for the entertainment side of the program & he presented a lot of radio, screen & stage stars. The event was climaxed by a review of various military organizations & a regiment from Illinois which was reviewed by Governor Green, who is said to be an isolationist. Burgess Meredith read a message from Churchill which was very favorably received. In spite of the emphasis on the war, I got the impression that the people of the Midwest are not as conscious of



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the War as they are on the Coast. The Treasury Women Aides (1,000 of them) sold  $\$3\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars of war bonds during the afternoon, which was surprising. There were thousands of the military personnel present, but war seemed to be a distant thing in spite of them because only the glorified aspects of it were mentioned. What impressed me mostly were the thousands of representatives of various racial groups who are more conscious of what it means to be an American. They reflected something more than an attitude of hate. It made my blood tingle to hear 135,000 people singing the national anthem. Even the hard boiled man selling "I am an American" buttons stopped his commercial activities. It was the only time during the afternoon that he stopped his profit motive. He bullied a lot of Negroes into buying the badge by saying "Show your colors" and then looking hard at them. I was most surprised to see the man sing the anthem and he even swallowed a hard lump in his throat. The event was sponsored by the Chicago Herald-American, which sold patriotism along with its yellow rag.

After the program, we went downtown to a show and ate. We got lost on the "L" coming home so that we did not arrive out here until after 2:00 A.M. Bette & Emiko enjoyed themselves thoroughly so that the day was well worth while.



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Monday, May 17, 1943

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It rained again today and the weather was miserable. We did not get anything done at the office. D.S.T. has to spend so much of her time in public relations work with the WRA that she is interrupted all day long with the various men seeking her advise & information on the evacuee situation in the camps.

$\frac{1}{2}$  Most of the morning was taken up with Mr. Switzer (?) who is Embree's Assistant. The man seemed to have greater insight on the problems of the Japanese in camp than does any other WRA official that we have met. He is on his way to Tule to help set up the Social Analyst office there. DST gave him several suggestions on how the Study could cooperate with the WRA. There is a possibility that she will work closely with them on an advisory capacity on a study of public attitudes towards the Japanese on the West Coast. The WRA is just dying to get at the written material of the Study but DST steers them away very diplomatically without making them feel slighted. She is perfectly willing to let them have the data second hand, but not in the original. This has to be done to protect both the data and the Study. Frank and I had lunch with DST and Switzer so that we could give him some idea of the attitudes of the evacuees. As usual I got in several digs at the incompetency of some of the WRA administrators in camp.

In the afternoon Prof. Obata and Mary Takahashie were over so that this took up the remainder of the day. Frank has to get settled so he is taking a leave for a few days, and Tom is up to his neck in Wirth's course on Social Organization.

Prof. Obata is trying to get some sort of art work out here. He has a lot of drawings of camp life and he has an idea that he may be



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able to publish a book. He hasn't recovered from his beating yet. From what he says, he doesn't feel bitter against the people, but Mary got a little worked up. She thinks that the people in camp are getting to be savages. Obata says that the people has changed greatly in the one year of enforced confinement and that they are mentally unbalanced. He compares them to the beautiful snow on the mountain peaks that has melted, making the waters of the Sevier River (in Utah) all muddy & swollen. He says that although he has the interest of the people at heart, he can't wait until the water settles as he has to look after his family also. He wants to get a job and then bring them out. Kim, his oldest son, has volunteered into the Army.

Obata claims that he was hit over the head with a leaden club because of the stand he made on registration. He spoke up in favor of it at a time when several blocks absolutely to register. His block (5) registered 90%. Before that he had acted as the chairman of the committee to meet with the Spanish representative. Obata took the stand that this was wartime and that the only request the people should make was for an adequate school system for the children in camp. He arbitrarily crossed out several requests for minor things, which incurred the wrath of some of the Issei men.

Obata also said that certain elements in camp resented the fact that he went out to give illustrated lectures on art at the surrounding universities. They felt that he was playing up the white man. The fact that an FBI official sent him a gift from Hawaii gave rise to the rumor that he was an informer. Obata claims that he only knew this FBI representative on a social and artistic basis. He says that the group



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which came in from Hawaii spread the "inu" rumor about him.

Behind the facts of his stand on such issues as registration, there appears to be personality clashes with other Topaz residents. Obata has a sort of superiority attitude (dictator) and he expects people to bow down to the Great Professor. Tom says that a lot of wives were also sore at Mrs. Obata, who is not the best flower arranger teacher in Topaz. She was allowed to head the school because of her prestige. This also caused a lot of friction. There was some ill feeling against Obata even before evacuation.

Many Takahashi belongs to the Berkeley Takahashies. They are an aggressive and conceited lot, but they have something on the ball. All eleven of the children were put through U.C. by the parents and they are almost all optometrists. They also have a superior attitude towards the other Japs.

The whole clan plans to come out here to resettle. Five came on ahead, and Ernie came yesterday. There is a strong family solidarity in the clan and Mary said that they were going to try and buy a house so that they could all live together cooperatively and help one another out. This should be an interesting family situation to follow up.

Mary is working as an optometrist for a large company in Hammond, Indiana. She commutes to work every day. Ernie evidently is going back into this field in spite of the fact that he dislikes it. DST will have him in her hair within the next few days. Ernie, through no deliberate fault of his, was instrumental in getting the Study in the doghouse at Tanforan with all his meddling.



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Emiko went job hunting today. She thinks that she will take the job as Receptionist for the Howe scale company. It pays \$20.00 a week. She should be able to do the work satisfactorily. Dr. Thomas said that Prof. Ogburn was looking for a clerical worker at \$80.00 a month, but I suppose it is too late now. The university job would have given her educational contacts, but Emiko doesn't particularly care for a routine filing job.

Bette had quite a conversation with an old man on the "L" this morning. She told him all about the program yesterday. She was a little disappointed that none of the people she talked to today were there. She says that they are as bad as the Nisei for being so disinterested. Bette has adjusted herself nicely to school. She is rapidly catching up on all of her courses. Spanish gives her the greatest difficulty because the vocabulary is all new.

Mark had an extra day leave this time so he & Alice brought Emiko home after they ate. Alice said that all social agencies were listed as essential industry so that she feels she will be getting a raise shortly. Emiko will be making more than her if she does not get the raise. I hope she doesn't, because it may spur her on to seek a better paying position as a secretary. She should try to get into civil service. Alice is just marking time now. She has more or less withdrawn from the Nisei social whirl since she started to go around with Mark. We think that she wants to marry him because of some of the things she says, like moving away from Mariko to a town near camp, withdrawing completely from the family scene, etc. Mark is a nice enough boy, but Alice could do better than hook a reformed zoot suiter. >



Emiko was washing the dishes tonight and she says: "If I tell you something, will you get mad."

"Why should I?"

"Well, you may be surprised. It's a secret and I can't tell you."

"Don't tell me then. Is it personal?"

"Uh-huh! But it's a secret and I can't tell you."

"Well, why mention it!" I could see that Emiko was just bursting to tell me something, but I didn't pump her because I knew she would break down.

Emiko: "Well, I'll tell you. I've just got to tell somebody."

"It better be good. Come on, what have you got on your mind."

Emiko: "Well, Alice got married Saturday nite to Mark!"

Me: "Is that so?"

Emiko: "Yes, Brigadier Huffman of the Salvation Army married them just before they came out to eat with us. It's a secret though. Alice wants to tell Mariko first, so act surprised when she tells you."

I don't think I was too surprised at the news. Emiko would not have been told except that she stumbled in on them the other evening. Alice was in bed and Mark was there so a strained silence followed. Alice then told her that she was married. Emiko didn't say anything. "Well aren't you going to congratulate me?" Alice says. She then showed Emiko the ring and the marriage certificate.

The story then came out. They want to keep the marriage a secret until Mariko comes back at the end of the month. Then Mark will telegram his mother and Alice will inform mom. For a Nisei, this is a



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breach, of the conventional way of doing things <sup>and</sup> I think that mom is going to feel hurt. They didn't want to bother with a go-between or any of the other Japanese methods. In pre-evacuation days, a marriage of this sort would have created very ugly rumors. As time goes on, the Japanese custom of baishakunin will completely disappear outside of the camps since there are only a few Issei out anyway. At most, it was a mere formality even before Pearl Harbor in most Nisei marriages.

no 4 Bette was let in on the secret yesterday by Emiko. Bette had suspicions that certain irregularities were going on at Alices. She goes there for lunch every day. Emiko told her so that she would not get the wrong idea.

< Alice should write Mariko & tell her because it may leak out before if she waits until her return from camp. Mariko would be hurt if she did not know first. > Another Jap custom went by the boards because the oldest daughter is supposed to get married first. Mom has always told them not to observe this so that is ok. < I wonder how excited mom will be. Mrs. Sato is a good friend of hers and the marriage should draw them even closer together. > We didn't discuss it very much because it wasn't completely unexpected. Emiko said that it may sound catty, but she thinks that this is what is known as the 'rebound'. Alice has only known Mark for a couple of months <sup>and</sup> he was the first boy she met after breaking her engagement to Angelo. I guess it was because we knew that Alice came out here to get married that we were not too surprised.

Mrs. Alice Sato--what a funny name! Alice makes adjustments fairly easily and maybe it is for the best. She should make a good wife.



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She can cook good. Mark is younger than Alice. Now that he is our brother-in-law, Alice definitely will be out of the family picture. She will have to go his way. I think that Mariko will also be stimulated to marriage now that the ice is broken. Alice won't worry us no more with all of her broken engagements - about six or seven times!

Anyway Congratulations, Alice, even if I am not supposed to know yet!

-----

Emiko got the job as Receptionists today. She will start work next Monday. Her salary is \$20.00 a week or about \$87.50 a month. She came home late today because she stayed downtown to get a permanent. Our economic problems will be practically solved now. This evening, Bette made an arrangement to do the bathrooms <sup>and</sup> hallways upstairs in lieu of the rent. The work only lasts 1-2 hours daily, excluding Sundays. I will pay Bette weekly. This should take care of her clothes problem. All in all, we are adjusting nicely to Chicago.

< Another day that we didn't get much done. DST spent most of the day getting Prof. Obata fixed up. The U. of Chicago seemed to have given him a brush off. The profs. are too busy. DST arranged for him to meet "contacts" at lunch. She certainly did out of her way to help him out. Obata gave us some interesting slants on Japanese art. The main emphasis is on feeling & the drawings are simple. Obata comes from a family of artists. His father started his training at 7 yrs. of age. Under the direction of some well known Japanese artists, Obata got to travel over most of Japan. He came to America because he "was adventurous." Obata says he is a lover of nature and he believes in a strong body. He was never in a hospital in his life until the beating.



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*omit*

May 19 - 1943

1.

My Dear children C.E.B.

How are you?

I am <sup>r</sup>very glad to see Mariko. She came here yesterday. She is all right, but I ~~am~~ very surprised.

We are O.K. and Everyday is happy now. You know that!!  
<sup>was</sup>

Thank you for the candy. how you get this much candy? My - my T. & M.

very very glad now

I make hiding so hard. Everyday I found another place because you know why I do so? I say thank you again. Tell Chas mam go to work Mr

Hutchigson everyday to one hour now. I made \$17.50 two time. Charles know that and ten dolles next time seven dolles for lase week so this week is \$7 too I guess

Well!!!! How is new house? and how is cooking? (Zuibun mendo kusai desho)  
(Means: A lot of trouble, isn't it?)  
Emiko don't get sick any more

Bette do not so hard stady and Chariae don't you do fight to Emi any more.

Gover-ner Kikuchi is all same so do not worry much for papa

good by

From Mamma



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I wondered around the Stacks in the University library this afternoon and I got lost in the dark corridors. Frank came to my rescue as he was hunting for me to help him move some bags to his new apartment. He has a nice place on 61st Street. The rent is reasonable (\$42.50) a month. They have a couple of extra little rooms on a porch. The apartment is on the 3rd floor. Michie made some tea and we sat around and talked for a couple of hours.

May 19, 1943 Wednesday

Another day of rain. It's "unusual weather" according to all the natives. It is now the 16th day that it has rained this month. A lot of the middle western states are getting flooded. The Ohio River has gone over its crest and the Mississippi will soon go over its banks if the rain does not let up. I don't mind the rain too much, aside from the misery that it is causing. We missed the winter season in Arizona & this sort of makes up. It's quite hot there now. We have heard rumors that Mariko is shocking the camp by going around in shorts. Most Nisei girls have turnip legs so that they don't dare wear them.

Our "outline" is coming along slowly & we shall be able to start the field work soon. Met Prof. Blumer on the elevator as I was coming home. He has just returned from Washington. He said that he went to the WRA offices and after giving them the information he knew as we hinted to him, the WRA officials admitted confidentially that Gila had the worst WRA administration & Tule was next. They realize that Bennett is a business man but it will be difficult to ease him out. However, Coverly may well be removed from Tule. The registration of the evacuees in that center is still in a mess (2,000 haven't registered yet.)



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Ran into Bob Kinoshita & Yuksan, the boy with the fallen face. They got fired from their defense job yesterday. Bob said that there were too many workers there, but this does not sound very convincing, especially in these times. Bob & Yuk were on their way to the Negro section to purchase a zoot suit. Bob may try to get into the entertainment world. He has won two amateur hours by his singing since coming to Chicago.

Emiko got \$11.50 for her part time work last week so she took us to the show after Bette finished her homework. We miss the radio very much. Our freight has not arrived yet and we have no idea when the stuff will finally come. DST says it may take as long as 3 months. I hope not. The recent rains may be holding it up. I didn't pack the things for rainy weather so I hope that they do not leave any of our boxes out in the open. Emiko will be most happy when the boxes arrives as she is anxiously waiting for her phonograph & records. She has bought some new records since coming here.

May 20, 1943 Thursday

We spent all morning trying to figure out the future of the Study in camp. Bob will be leaving Gila soon as he is almost certain to take the job with Kroeber. He is getting married to the "Lady of the Lake" tomorrow. He will go back to Gila to wind things up next week. This leaves DST with the problem of either closing up Gila or Tule. It will largely depend upon Jimmy S. He is not in good with certain elements of the Tule group due to his stand on registration, whereas the Study has a good standing at Gila. DST is going to suggest that he



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think it over about transferring to Gila as a full time replacement for Bob. Jimmy knows the Tulare group and he could easily pick up the contacts which we made. The problem of personell for the Study is going to get more serious if the draft comes through. It will be almost impossible to train new people for the study. The only hope is for Jimmy to do this either in Tule or Gila. For this reason, the emphasis of the Study will become heavier on the resettlement end. Since there is no community to study, we will have to approach it more on an individual case study basis, meaning that quality rather selectivity, will be stressed more than quantity. This worries me quite a bit. It's taken longer than I thought to "feel" our way into this end of the Study. I'm getting impatient about getting started, but I don't know where to begin. It takes so long to lay the groundwork.

May 21, 1943 Friday

We finally received news of our freight. It arrived on the 18th at the station. The cashier at the Chicago Rock Island ' Pacific Railway Company wanted to be sure that he would get his \$25.00 before he delivered the things out here. I phoned and told him that we had a government bill of lading. He was finally convinced so he said that we would get our things the first of next week.

The weather cleared up at last and we had a warm spring day at last. DST worked on the outline all day so that we can have it out of the way and begin the real work. Tom stayed at home all day as he was waiting for Hanno to come in from Tule. I passed the time reading some books on sociology which Frank recommended. I had a severe headache



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this evening so I just loafed around. Emiko was busy all day with shopping and cooking. She got a late start as she did not get up until noon. She writes letters until way late at night. Right now she is reading a Thrilling Love Story. I wish that she would read something on a higher level occasionally. Bette is writing letters home. She doesn't have so much time for letter writing as she has a lot of school-work to do during most evenings of the week.

Sat. & Sunday, May 22, & 23, 1943

Very quiet weekend. I think I have caught a cold. For the past few days, I just haven't had any pep at all. It started to rain again Saturday night so we just went to a movie. Emiko & Bette were busy all day catching up the loose ends for their schedule this week. No matter how much time, one has, there's always something that is left undone. I did get around to reading a couple of sociology books this weekend.

Emiko developed a boil on her leg so that she had to apply heat pads all day Sunday in order to bring it to a head. From her groans it was quite painful. She got up to get her clothes all arranged for work tomorrow. Much to her sorrow, she washed one of her suits and it shrunk. Now she only has six suits to her name! She worried more about her suit than the new job.

We slept rather late on Sunday. The rain spoiled our plans to go to the Museum, which we have planned to do for quite a while. Alice and Mark were supposed to have come for dinner but at the last moment they called it off due to the weather conditions. We went out for a while to watch the mock air raid. All kinds of planes came flying



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around dropping paper bombs. The way those sirens were going, it sounded like the real thing. The people in Chicago don't take these air raid drills very seriously. It's more of a novelty to play around with. It is hardly likely that Chicago will ever be bombed, but one never knows.

We finished off the week by going to the show for the second time this week. Bette ~~g~~reated us because she got her first \$5.00 pay for the work that she is doing. We don't find time dragging on our hands yet, but Emiko & Bette would like to catch up on a few movies and I suppose that's all right. Emiko has started in with a new hobby. She is making a lot of animated cartoon drawings to hang on the walls. She even bought a paint box to color them. Now she can't yell about the way I mess the room up. She has her paint things all over the room.

Monday, May 24, 1943

Another rainy day. DST <sup>and</sup> I ~~w~~alked all over town and I am exhausted. We went down to call on Togo and Mr. Shirrell but got sidetracked. with Mr. Rundquist <sup>and</sup> Dr. John Thomas. The Baptist Home Mission was having some sort of a convention on the Japanese problem & what its part would be in the resettlement program. The greatest concern right now is the matter of "assimilation." Nobody ~~seems~~ to know to what extent dispersal should be pushed. DST was of the opinion that in order to prevent complete disorganization of the Nisei personality, some degree of cultural unity was necessary. From a sociological viewpoint, if the Nisei are cast adrift now and urged to eliminate all Japanese culture,



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the only result would be a complete personality maladjustment. D.S.T. felt that dispersal geographically would result anyway due to the housing problem. >

It finally developed that Rundquist & John Thomas were not advocating complete assimilation (to the extent of intermarriage being a "must") but they were concerned about how the Nisei could be integrated into the community life here. We arrived at the conclusion that it was mostly a matter of "softening" up the public opinion so that the Nisei would be socially assimilated. To urge the Nisei to expand without a solution to this factor would only mean that they would be continually bumping heads against a stone wall. < The Nisei do suffer from a feeling of insecurity which was intensified by evacuation and there is a tendency to draw back into the "shell" and limit contacts to only the Nisei group, feeling that in this way they would not get hurt. Also we concluded that the factor of social isolation was a prime importance to most of the Nisei, especially the girls who have hopes of getting married. The term "assimilation" to them is interpreted as "intermarriage" which is not necessarily the case. Eventually it would mean biological assimilation but that's jumping a little ahead of the immediate problem. >

Dr. John Thomas was quite concerned about the "zoot suit" boys who were making very inadequate adjustments. He did not know how to find means so that they could release their pent up feelings in more useful channels. He said that 12 fellows were sent back to camp from Cleveland because of some disturbance that they made. It was his firm belief that organizations like the Friends should fill in the gap until the Nisei could make social adjustments. The WRA here have



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different views on this point. It believes that the Federal responsibility is removed once they are placed in a job. Nothing is done for those who quit work to seek a better job. Shipnell feels that this constant "mothering" of the resettlers will only make them more dependent and less inclined to stand on their own feet.

Thus, there is a wide difference of opinion over this issue of responsibility to the evacuee. I think that Shipnell's approach is the soundest even if it is hard boiled and even harsh in some instances. But there is the other side to it that has many strong points that cannot be ignored. The danger of aiding in social adjustments is that it contributes to self segregation and encourages the Nisei to become introvert. It provides an easy means for them to congregate. Even the Friends do not think that this is advisable. At the same time, they feel that it is up to them to make the opening wedge in housing, employment, and social contacts. It may be necessary for the social contact end for a while, but how are they going to know when to draw the line and stop? Once they initiate the movement of social segregation, nothing will stop this trend. The Friends certainly will not be able to control it. It seems to me that they would be wiser if they let the Nisei solve this problem for themselves--that is, not attempting to adopt an official attitude of encouraging either segregation or complete dispersal. It's a very complicated situation. Personally I believe in complete dispersal, including the social life but I can't be sure that it's the solution to everything. I know damn well that it isn't. It becomes more of a personal matter and it certainly is not the answer for everybody. At a time like this, however, it does seem that everything possible should



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be done to prevent the growth of a little Tokyo in Chicago. I can't stand the thought of such a possibility. <It would be the crowning defeat of the whole relocation program in my opinion. But these Nisei can't be forced out. They will have to do it through their own free will, and they will never make the break unless there is a possibility of community acceptance, socially as well as economically. Since none of us can control the international picture, it would not be practical to force the Nisei either one way or the other. The most that can be done is to present the alternatives and then let them decide thru experience.>

We are getting dispersal in the Mid-West now, but only because of fear of the consequences. The final answer of whether they want to stay dispersed or to segregate will depend largely on the community attitude. Actually the Nisei will have little room for his own decision <which sounds like a contradiction of what I just mentioned previously.

However, he does have a "free" decision since community attitude is a factor that can't be easily controlled.> All of the Nisei may decide to disperse, but it won't do any good if the majority public drive them into segregation. <In most cases of minority groups in America, the second generation can disperse out without serious difficulties; but the racial element looms large for the "colored" groups -- Negroes, Japanese, Chinese, etc. Thus, an additional barrier is placed in the way of the Nisei which would not exist for Americans of European stock. On top of that, we are at war against a Fascist country & many Americans mistakenly think of the Nisei in terms of a "Jap", or a subject of Tojo & Hiroshita. For a young group of Americans like the Nisei, this naturally is a fearful handicap & it explains a lot of the feeling of



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insecurity. The "Japanese" problem was not created in a day & it most certainly will not be solved in a day. A lot of Nisei are going to get battered around, but they have to keep on fighting for the American principles as there is no other alternative. But there will be many who will become discouraged & crawl into the shell of frustration. How can groups like the WRA & Friends control the situation so that the weaker Nisei will not be placed in a situation where the road leads to the pits of frustration. This is a problem that nobody can answer right now. Maybe that's what this was is about. It gets so that one reasons in a circle the more one tries to find an answer.

Rundquist believes that there is a chance that Emiko & Bette can get some sort of a scholarship from a Congregationalist Church group. This group used to give scholarships to young girls going to college in Japan, but the war cut this work short. Rundquist thinks that if he prods them enough, they may unfreeze some of the funds to help Nisei girls get an education in this country. This is a definite possibility although I don't know if any large amount of money in the scholarship would be granted. I hardly think that a church group would have much finances for this sort of thing. Bette's status for the public schools is not settled yet. Mariko hasn't sent back the application form for tuition exemption that I sent for mom to sign so that the whole matter is pending yet.



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We had a lot of excitement last night which interrupted our sleeping. Unfortunately, Mr. Rice <sup>[a neighbor]</sup> is addicted to Demon Rum. ~~He~~ is a defense worker, very ordinary. His wife also works. We haven't had many contacts with him since coming here. They have the room in the front and we are the only other occupants. Rice is a sort of rough looking fellow, no culture there. >

no 77 We were just going to bed when we heard some loud voices and a crashing of plates and a banging of walls. Mrs. R. started to scream and some choice language was thrown around. The struggle pushed out into the hallway. Mr. R. was slapping his wife silly. She tried to run out, but he would not let her. My first impulse was to rush to her rescue, but then I thought that it would not be such a wise idea to rush into a domestic quarrel, especially if the husband was drunk. In many cases the wife turns on a would be defender, I rationalized. But I was also thinking that the drunk husband would start swinging on me. Being a peace loving individual, I did not relish the possibility of bodily assault. While I was thus deliberating like a coward, the noise all stopped. We thought that this was the end of the battle so we went to bed.

no 77 It turned out that it was only the beginning. Mrs. R. would first scream for mercy and then she would turn right around and tell him to hit her again. <Mr. R. obediently obliged with more resounding wacks, calling her all sorts of vile names. She ran out once but she came back for another beating. She had a pretty good vocabulary too. > When we woke up this morning they were still arguing. <Mrs. R. is taking up temporary residence in the front room we vacated, over the violent



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protests of her loving husband. Act two in this drama of the domestic family may be enacted tonight.

I'm not too happy about the whole situation. It brings our environment down to a little lower level and it isn't too good for Emiko or Bette to hear such vulgar language. The landlady apparently is not taking any action. It may be that she was not home last night as it is hardly possible that anybody could sleep through such a commotion. If this sort of thing continues I shall most certainly lodge a formal protest.

We were groggy all day from lack of sleep. I did not feel very alert at the office. It didn't make too much difference as our progress on the outline today was very slow.

George Rundquist came out to have lunch at the club. He lost his way so that DST waited at the office for him while I went to join W.I. The hour of waiting was not too difficult. W.I. entertained me with a brief history of his life.

W.I. has lived a very full life and he is still mentally wide awake. He was reared in the South (Tennessee). Originally his father was of the Pennsylvania Dutch (?). W.I. taught language at Oberlin College and he was also an instructor of English. He became interested in the field of social theory so he came to the U. of Chicago. After getting the school of Sociology started, he traveled extensively in Europe. Most of the well known sociologists have been his students. W.I. and the Chicago group broke away from the theory approach to sociology and entered the practical aspects. At that time a million immigrants a year were coming into this country. Chicago was a particular mecca



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for many of these racial groups. W.I. became interested in their adjustment process so with a \$50,000 fund he studied the Polish groups for ten years. "The Polish Immigrant in America" was the 5 volume work which resulted from this stupendous research. Many of the principles of sociology now accepted by Sociologists were developed through this work. W.I. says that the object of writing a book is to make it so difficult that there will always be a controversy over its merits. In the "Polish Peasants" he succeeded in this very well as there is still a great deal of discussion and interpretation going on yet about the book. Prof. Blumer wrote the most searching critique of the book. After the War, the "Polish Peasant" will be published in a one volume book. W.I. established the case history method of sociology in this work. He has also written a number of other books in such fields as anthropology, psychology and child behavior.

Rundquist believed that there was a good chance that Emiko could get some sort of scholarship through Mrs. Grace Wilson who was closely connected with church college prior to the war. I phoned her this evening but could not get in contact with her apartment at her hotel.

Rundquist wanted to ask D.S.T.'s advice on an article which will be released to many church groups. In it he makes an appeal for assistance in housing for the resettlers. At the same time, the article is intended to be educational in nature. D.S.T. suggested that less stress be place on the Christ appeal and more on specific incidents of successful adjustment of the Nisei who have already gone out. Rundquist is a practical man and he seems to get things done. Right now he is



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spending most of his time in an unofficial capacity of "keeping an eye on the WRA."

Our freight finally arrived. Much to our dismay, one box was missing. Bette was here to receive the freight. She said that the man claimed we owed \$5.50 for one box which was not listed. I had told Bette not to give any money so she insisted that the government bill of lading would cover all the expense. Unfortunately, a mistake had made in Casa Grande & one of the boxes was not listed. However, \$30.00 has been authorized so that would have taken care of the extra \$5.50 charge for the one box. Tomorrow I will have to battle with the freight company to see what can be done.

My books all arrived in good condition, and none of Emiko's records were broken. The radio also works swell and it certainly is a welcome addition to our household. We got most of the things unpacked and we were just settling down to a peaceful evening of music and radio plays when a knock sounded on our door. Who should enter but Ernie Takahashie! "How I suffer for science!") He completely disrupted our evening and I had to listen patiently to what a great <sup>man</sup> he is and how much he did in camp. I was never so bored in all my life. He just hung around for hours and even when Emiko came down and started the vacuum cleaner on our rug, he did not take the hint. Finally in desperation I made a comment that our clock had stopped running and expressed great surprise to find out that the hour was so late.

I have a guilty conscience in that I encouraged him to look up D.S.T. Ernie was full of remorse at the way he botched the Study up at Tanforan. He didn't think that D'S.T. would ever forgive him. I



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hinted that she had a forgiving heart and held no personal grudge. Then I suggested that I would pave the way for him to see her! D.S.T. will probably chop my neck off, but I figured that she should share my burden of suffering for silence. Besides she needs to set him straight so that he does not interfere in our program again.

Ernie is a very conceited egotist. However, he is aggressive and he has certain plans that we may as well get on the ground floor with. What he proposes is a sort of coordinating council, composed of JACL, Friends, WRA, YMCA, etc. which would work out plans for social resettlement of the Nisei. Ernie actually believes that he is the first one to think up this approach. He believes firmly in his community organizing ability, of which he has some in all fairness to him, and he wants to take some positive action. He honors the **Study** by putting us in an advisory position to this coordinating group. I told him that we could not take an active role of leadership since that would tend to make our research work less objective.

Here is Ernie's plan of attack: Get in touch with key people in the Y's and I House. Get them to sponsor activities for the Nisei in all the branch "Y's". The coordinating committee would then issue invitations to small groups of Nisei to come and join the caucasian groups. Disperse them all over the city in order to prevent self segregation and to encourage assimilation & interpretation into the community life. Ernie naively believes that he is the first one to think of this plan and he wants introductions to Shinell, etc. to get his approval. If D.S.T. can chase him on to Shinell, that means that we get an "in" into this group (will probably be composed of old line JACL'ers.) The JACL



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will not enter the "social" field as such but will confine it's activities to protecting the Civil Rights of the group.

I think Ernie is aggressive enough to get something started and it is a good program (which most everybody has thought of as necessary) The point is that Ernie will take action. I promised him all sorts of cooperation on behalf of the Study. D.S.T. only has to have him in her hair until June 7th, but C.K. will have to stand this egocentric personality for a long time! Ernie actually believes that he is going to do this work for the sake of the Nisei. But from comments he let slip it becomes clear that he has a very selfish motive. He looks on this program as a "Five Year Plan." At the end of that time, he hopes to be recognized as the leading light and the most representative Nisei in the caucasian eye. In this way he hopes to build up his optometry practice. He then proposes to open up an "eye, ear, & nose clinic" and "roll in dough." Ernie is ambitious and he may reach his goal, but he won't make many friends along the way unless he radically changes his attitudes.

In order to feather his ego, I feigned that I was greatly impressed at the magnitude of his plan and of his ability to act. This inflated his ego some more so he confidentially told me: "The Nisei need to be led by the nose and I think enough of my ability to believe that I can lead them. They were so stubborn before the war. Hell, you know, it's the fault of the Nisei themselves that they were evacuated. If all the Nisei followed the policy that I laid down for the Fresno group, all of this would never have happened. I knew what was coming so I went around and made public relations speeches to caucasian groups to let them know that we were good Americans! Not enough of this was done so we were



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greatly misunderstood by California & they kicked us out. This time I'm not going to let them make the same mistake."

Ernie is full of contradictions & it is difficult to figure out just what his true motives are. He poses as the Moses of the Nisei, but he indicates that he is scared for the future & he wants to entrench himself into a Nisei group. At the same time, he advocates a dispersion program. In order to reconcile these two divergent views, he has taken the position that he will foster the dispersion more by working through a Nisei group. In this way, he hopes to gain prestige in both the Nisei and the larger caucasian group.

Ernie apparently is most dissatisfied with his present position. He is a professional optometrist but he has never liked the field. He feels that he has a wider goal his mission in life. At Tanforan he thought he had the answer -- the field of education. He did a good piece of work there in spite of his personality. The fact that the caucasian head of education at Tanforan \* Fitzpatrick - was a misfit, of course, added to Ernie's feeling that he was heads & shoulders above any trained caucasian in the field of Education. He therefore elected to make this his new lifework. For this reason he did not join the rest of the Takahashie clan at Poston - a family which has a very strong group solidarity.

Topaz did not meet his expectations and he became disillusioned. He said he got the "bump" because the caucasians in the Education Department were jealous. Later he admitted that Topaz had the best school system of any of the camps, because they had the best teachers, including the caucasians. Ernie was also disappointed that he was not appreciated.



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He became discouraged when any Nisei who advocated liberal ideas (Americanism) were put on a black list by the more conservative Issei -Kibei element. At this point, he decided that the WRA centers were hopeless & that he was wasting time by trying to do anything for the Japanese there. He therefore turned his eyes towards resettlement. Since he was an optometrist, it became almost imperative that he re-enter this field if he hoped to get anyplace. He reasoned (quite correctly) that he would have to spend several years in college & graduate work if he wanted to enter the educational field. However, the prospects of optometry alone was not of sufficient incentive to get him out of camp. Therefore, he suddenly developed the view that his work was in "community organization" of the Nisei on a wide basis such as I have indicated previously. With this goal in mind, Ernie became very enthusiastic about resettlement. He feels that this work will prevent him from becoming lost in the crowd and an insignificant member of a large group of resettlers. It is the element of prestige which is a great driving force in Ernie's plans for himself.

Ernie has fond memories of his Tanforan experiences, but he is disappointed with the events of Topaz. However, he could never admit that he was a failure so he projects the blame upon an incompetent staff. Then he adds that the Topaz schools only became the "top" center school through his & other Nisei efforts.

Ernie is ambitious and he has some good ideas. But he has to learn to give more credit to others. If he really has done so much, it would not be necessary for him to blow his own horn; his reputation would be recognized by others and due credit given. A clue to Ernie's personality may be the fact that he was brought up strictly according to



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a Puritan code. His mother has been a Quaker for 50 yrs.(?) and she received her education in a Friends School. Maybe his childhood training gave him certain inhibitions. He is so afraid that he isn't being given the proper recognition. >

Wednesday, May 26, thru Friday, May 28, 1943

< Things are in a lull; or maybe I am getting lazy. Have been going out to the office regularly, but it is all routine. It's been getting warmer during the past few days which may account for the general tired out feeling.

Emiko likes her work very much. She is learning to operate a telephone switchboard which is a little complicated right now. She also does a little typing and general clerical work. There really isn't too much for her to do so she types her letters. She still hasn't made her adjustments yet so that she writes countless letters to get news of the camp. A lot of her former gang are resettling now. < The girls of that social crowd are coming out to this area while the fellows are scattered out more in farm and other types of general labor. Some of them have joined the Army. > A few of that group dropped in this evening. They are the so-called "rah-rah" boys; nothing particularly interesting about them. They spent the whole evening talking about "personalities" & the social activities of camp. These fellows are on the way to Camp Shelby to join the Nisei combat team.

Emiko, like most of the Nisei, has not gotten established here yet. There is quite a problem in her case. Until she actually gets started in school, she will tend to seek out the "social" group. I



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can't very well tell them not to come so often. The next time they bring  
a friend <sup>and</sup> the first thing you know, the apartment is overrun with a lot  
of fellows who have no other place to go. This sort of thing gets out  
of control, and it doesn't give one any free time to do anything in  
one's own home. It is in this way that the Nisei informal group will  
develop during the initial milling around process. It is from these  
groups that a Nisei society will emerge, more or less limited to Nisei.  
Since I do not think this is a good solution for the Nisei "problem,"  
I don't particularly care to see our apartment becoming the breeding  
grounds for a Nisei clique. <sup>no #</sup> I suppose that was the reason in the back <sup>in</sup>  
of my mind for wanting Emiko to start school during the summer quarter rather  
than wait until the Fall semester. Emiko will do much better for herself  
if she expands out into a wider circle on a collegiate level.

*intent*  
→  
Bette's term will be over in a couple of weeks so that she  
may find time on her hands during the summer unless she goes to a summer  
session. Bette doesn't particularly care to go to summer school right  
now, but she may change her mind later. She may be able to get a summer  
job.

→  
The school setup here is not so easy. We did not reckon  
on all of those high tuition charges. Some of the colleges are good,  
but they are much too expensive. Mr. Rundquist referred us to Mrs. George  
Wilson so we went down to the Knickerbocker Hotel to see her this evening  
after eating dinner at Alice's.

Mrs. Wilson is connected with a church group which used to  
send Exchange students to Kobe College in Japan. The government froze  
all of its money at the outbreak of the war. Mrs. Wilson is on the



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advisory committee for the Resettlement of the Japanese, the church group. She belongs to the upper middle class, if the swank room at the Knickerbacker Hotel is any indication of her social status. She is very sympathetic towards the Nisei. Unfortunately she does not know too much of the group. She has a concept of a Nisei as a Japanese from Japan. In her work connected with the Kobe College, she only came in contact with Japanese girls who were in this country on an exchange student basis. Somehow she has the idea that getting the Nisei a domestic job constitutes resettlement. She has even offered to take a Nisei girl on a vacation at her summer home up North on Lake Michigan.

Mrs. Wilson is a very sympathetic woman and she really wants to do something for the Nisei. She believes that some of the Kobe College money could be used for Nisei girls who wanted to go to college. She asked Emiko if she wanted to go to a small denominational college in Michigan, but Emiko wasn't too receptive to the idea in spite of the fact that Mrs. Wilson built it up. She also thought that Bette could go to a high school in a small Michigan town and do domestic work to earn her way through. I explained that we had a twofold purpose in coming out here -- education and future resettlement for the family. I did not think that it would be necessary to send Emiko & Bette out to different cities when they could be together here. Mrs. Wilson suggested we fill out an application form after finding out the most suitable school in Chicago & she promised to see what she could do after she returned from New York. It sounds like a good lead. I'll have to get busy on finding a school for Emiko now.

Alice "broke" the news about her marriage to me. I gave her



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an opening when I curiously asked her what the jar of pennies was for. "For my baby," she says. "Baby! what are you talking about?" I asked in great surprise.

"Well, you now have a brother in law. We were married that Saturday we came out." Alice then went on to tell me the whole story. She hasn't broken the news to mom yet. I thought this was strange and I asked her why. There is no reason for her to keep it a secret since Mom certainly would not have objected. I pointed out that psychological she may react with a feeling of hurt if the news was presented as an accomplished fact. However, I did not feel that this was any of my business. Alice said that the only reason why she has not told mom yet was because she wanted to tell Mariko first. She said that they planned to get married while Mariko was gone so that they would avoid an elaborate wedding. Alice felt that Mariko would insist upon a conventional & <sup>and</sup> elaborate ceremony. It came out later that the real reason was because Mariko did not exactly approve of Mark. She told Alice that they should not rush the matter, but should get to know each other real well. It also came out that Alice thought that Mariko would resent her getting married now & would object to it.

On the other side, Mark was not entirely sure how his mother would take the news. He had written to Tashie, his sister about possible matrimony and asking advise. Tashie told him that he was younger than Alice & perhaps they should just go steady for a while longer in order to make sure. She pointed out that they had only known each other for a few months & that they only saw each other on weekends. Mark felt that his family would be quickly reconciled if presented with an accomplished fact.



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However, the greatest fear of both of them was Mariko's reaction. Alice does not want to tell her until she comes back from Gila. She says that Mariko may make some adverse comments in front of Mom, influencing her to get a wrong impression of Mark. She said that Mark had reformed since joining the Army & that he no longer was a joot suit "rowdy." Alice then got a little worried that wrong rumors would spread in camp. The block people knew that she came out to marry a "Keto" because Angelo had been in camp. She felt that mom would be susceptible to the gossip attached to the news that she had suddenly married a Nisei soldier. I suggested that she should not worry too much about these things, but that she could save mom's feelings by sending a telegram and saying that she was getting married this weekend. In this way Mom would have the satisfaction that she knew her daughter was getting married. The narrow minded Japanese can start some ugly rumors which may effect mom <sup>and</sup> Mark's parents. Alice did not care about herself but she did not want to hurt mom.

The family future was then brought up. Alice said that she had about \$600. which she was reserving for her family <sup>until</sup> & she wanted to turn it over to the family fund. She felt that it was up to Emiko to take the family responsibility for the next two or three years. Alice wanted to set up a \$500. goal as Emiko's share to the family future. I did not think this should be done as Emiko should not have this responsibility put on her in such a way that it would be binding to a financial goal. It did not sound like a good plan to put it on a lump sum money basis since her contribution to the family solidarity had an intangible element to it & it was not simply a matter of buying her "freedom."



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Alice agreed that I was right in this. It would be most unwise to "tie" Emiko down like this. It is generally understood that I will try to get her through school and then she will look after the family welfare for a period after that. Then Bette could assume the responsibility after that. Our family situation is such that it could not function in an independent economic role now. It places a burden on Emiko & Bette, but it won't be a permanent thing. And it would not be fair to tie Mariko down with this "burden" since she has contributed to the family for the past ten years. Alice will eventually become fully occupied with her own family. She does not plan to have a baby "for a while". Now that I think about it, Alice should make the plunge now. I still feel that her choice may possibly have been better, but who am I to judge. Alice has broken about ten engagements in the past four years. She attracts fellows like flies. Her only fault is that she tries to "reform" them. It's funny, but she has a terrific drive & ambition for her boy friends. Perhaps it is a projection of her own lack of intense initiative. Alice was attractive enough to get away with it, but she often pushed it beyond the saturation point. Most of those fellows didn't have enough (intellectually) to view life in its broad visions, and they were contented to drift along being "socially" popular. In the Nisei society of the pre-war vintage, a great emphasis was placed upon one's social status. There were few social classes, but the cleavage was distinct between the groups ("Social", intellectual, radical, rowdy, etc.) I suppose this was a development caused by the lack of economic opportunities.

We went to the show this evening and I'm dead tired. On top



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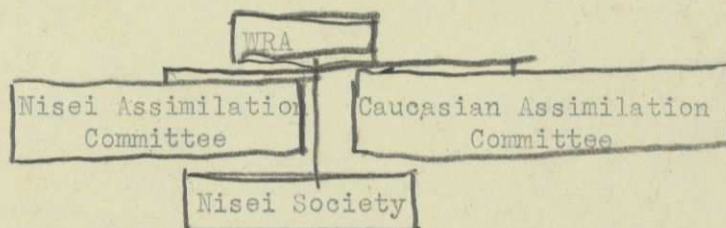
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of the warm weather, I had to develop a very painful blister on the bottom of my feet.

Saturday, May 29, 1943

Another warm day! Bad as Gila. It's a sort of sticky heat, but not unbearable - yet. We didn't do much in the way of mental activity today. Bette slept all morning, but Emiko had to get up to go to work. She went shopping this afternoon so that she was exhausted when she came home. There were so many things that we wanted to get done, that the evening passed before we realized it. I approached them on their attitudes about going to church tomorrow but they were not receptive. They want to rest & to get things done over the weekend as the rest of the week they are too occupied. Emiko washed one of her suits recently & it shrunk. She is trying to get it stretched out this evening. If her efforts are successful, Bette won't get a suit gratis.

Dr. Thomas went to the WRA yesterday & she ran across Ernie in deep discussion with Sherrill. Ernie certainly does not let any grass grow under his feet. He proposed to organize the Committee on Assimilation immediately. His plan of organization was like this



D.S.T. did not think that it would be a good plan to have two committees and she suggested that they be combined. Ernie is very ambitious and he is playing a definite role. He craves recognition &



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his plan, of course, was to place himself as the head of the Nisei Committee. He wants to get recognition for his efforts. Since the Takahoshis are netting about \$400 per month, Ernie informed the WRA that he was willing to devote his full time to this noble effort. Sherrill does not know too much about this Nisei striving for prestige and he was impressed. He is willing to let Ernie have a free hand.

Ernie has received the support of the old line JACL'ers (Dr. Yotobe, Tashino, etc) so that the JACL comes to the fore again as a pressure group with Ernie acting the role of Moses who wants to lead the Nisei out of the desert into America (at the same time keeping the group together). In order to insure the old-line JACL control, Ernie suggests that only the "older" Nisei be allowed on this Committee. For the sake of science, I will suffer and string along with Ernie, but I rebel at the thought of having him over more than once a week. He is like a leech and all he wants is an audience that will appreciate his grandiose plans for the Nisei future.

There is a definite split growing between the WRA and the Friends' group. It has been WRA policy to drop responsibility for the resettlers once the evacuees get out here. For this reason, it is not very much concerned about social assimilation although it wants to get the Nisei dispresed. The WRA feels that this program will be successful if the resettlers are scattered out geographically. Ernie and his group fits in since they will be moving into an area where open conflict can be avoided. Sherrill evidently does not fully realize that this committee is the nucleus of an exclusive Nisei society. It will serve to bring Nisei together, and once this is



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done there can be no control of the situation. This would have happened eventually anyway in an informal manner. If Ernie's committee gets going, it will hasten the process on an organized basis and actually work out so that it's purpose of getting the Nisei integrated into the wider community life will be defeated. The Friends groups believe that an organized approach is necessary in order to get the Nisei socially adjusted so that it is in favor of this plan. Ordinarily, this would be a correct approach, but I wonder if this present crisis does not change the situation a little. The Nisei will not get completely disorganized if let alone, but it will be a little harder for them to make adequate adjustments. In the long run, the Nisei will be better off to become completely independent and not in a position of dependency to a caucasian group, dominated by the church influence. The WRA should do a limited amount of this work through trained social workers on the staff to help out the more maladjusted individuals. The present conflict is over the issue: to what extent should the Nisei be offered "assistance" in making social and economic adjustments.

The Friends group are particularly griped because it feels that the WRA is letting the Nisei down with its present employment policy. It feels that more field work is necessary in order to "soften up" possible employers. The WRA takes the position that a few rebuffs <sup>are</sup> not going to completely disorganize the Nisei. It feels that the Friends are pampering the resettlers too much. It does not believe that this excessive coddling is the correct approach.

The Friends group cannot agree with this charge. It answers that complete adjustments are not made with the first job since many of the Nisei took domestic jobs merely to get out of the centers. For this



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reason, the Friends do not agree with the WRA that only one job opportunity will be offered through the WRA. It feels that the WRA should be more selective in offering the jobs in the first place. The Friends groups do not offer domestic placement at all anymore. It does look after those Nisei who come around after being rejected by the WRA.

Shirrell feels that this procedure is undermining the WRA work. The WRA is in a difficult position. It has to deal with a mass of people, while the Friends can afford to be more selective and intensive in its work. The WRA is also responsible to Washington groups, whereas the Friends are autonomous. Interpreted from this basis, some of the Friends' accusations and criticisms are not quite fair. The WRA certainly is not following a policy of deliberately neglecting those in need of assistance. For one thing, the local WRA does not have an adequate staff and I don't believe that the workers in that office know too much about the complex problem, with which it is faced.

The Friends claim that the resettlement process is being hindered by all the red tape and numerous forms which the WRA insists upon filling. This is probably justified. Another reason for the conflict is over the matter of getting freight out here. The WRA will only transport it by freight cars. If done any other way, the evacuee will have to bear the expense. The Friends take the view that if the WRA could send the personal furniture by car, the resettlement process will be speeded up even more. With the present housing shortage, the Friends feel that one of the solutions would be to get unfurnished apartments. However, it takes months to get



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personal furniture out here by freight. The expense of living in a hotel until the stuff arrived would be too much for a family. The Friends correctly assume that it would help the families if the furniture could get here in a shorter period of time. The WRA still hasn't taken any official notice of the housing problem. The Friends are griped about this as they feel that the WRA should assign two workers to devote their entire time to the housing situation. This WRA - Friends split is really not necessary as there is plenty that both groups could do in cooperation with one another.

It is official that General Emmons is leaving the Hawaii command. It is still unofficial that DeWitt is out. I hope that Emmons replaces him as he has followed a very liberal policy in Hawaii. There may be some vital changes in store for the Nisei very shortly. The WRA project directors all met in Washington for a conference this week. It probably was a discussion on both resettlement and the draft. I expect the announcement to be made anytime. So it looks like the Army for most of the Nisei fellows and the WRA may just as well forget about resettlement if the bulk of the manpower and breadwinners are taken out for the Service. Not that I am bitter too much, but I now wonder if Army Service will help much. The Nisei will serve well for the duration, but there is no guarantee that this will solve the problem. The resettlement program will be lost sight of when the mad scramble for jobs begins after the war. There is much better prospects of a future if resettlement was carried out as much as possible before



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the boys are <sup>drafted</sup> ~~settled~~. In this way at least some families will be given a start.

< Alice just phoned and said that she will receive a \$50 dependents allowance as Mark's wife. She plans to save all it for the post war period. She will continue working, but she was a little vague about seeking a better paying job. There is no reason why she could not get into Civil Service -- she is a good enough secretary. >

Tuesday, June 1, 1943

< The Memorial Day weekend was rather quiet and little of interest happened. < We got a sample of the sticky hot Chicago weather and it takes all the energy out of a person. In between, it would rain furiously for a short spell. It gets so warm that one does not feel like taking an overcoat. The weather here may explain the casual and sloppy way that the people dress. The frequent showers discourage dressing up to a certain degree. I rarely see any of those sharply dressed women like in S.F.

This was our first experience with this sticky heat. It's quite a contrast after the hot dry Arizona weather. Fortunately, a wind blows through frequently so that we can get outside to cool off. >

no H Sunday, we slept most of the day. In the afternoon some Nisei soldiers came through from Gila on their way to Fort Selby. < They were rather disappointed with Chicago. The boys wanted a last fling. Yesterday Emiko had the day off so that <sup>Emiko</sup> they took her to the zoo and then out to dine and dance at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. < I hope that all of the rest of that Red Hot gang does not come to this city. It will create quite a problem. I can hardly deny her the opportunity of seeing her