

YATSUSHIRO'S DAILY REPORTS FROM DENVER AREA *

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INTER-RACIAL HOUSING PROJECT
Meeting of NOR committee

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On the invitation of Mr. Gordon Connolly of the NORC, University of Denver, I attended the NORC FOR Housing Committee meeting tonight held at the Brotherhood house (1220 Corona; telephone CHerry 3571). The meeting began at 6:45 p.m. and lasted until 8:00. FOR (Fellowship of Reconciliation) is a pacifist organization which is interested in social and economic problems, especially as they affect minority groups. They believe in action and not merely lip service. This was one of numerous meetings held by the committee during the past few months with regard to the establishing of a community, or a city block, in which people of various races, as negroes, caucasians, and orientals, can live together and plan and execute community activities together. This project under consideration is the direct result of the state's (Colorado) and city's restrictive covenants on real estate now in existent and because of numerous attempts in the past by real estate agents to exclude orientals and Negroes and Mexicans from purchasing residential homes in most sections of the city.

The discussion revealed that there were several caucasians, some present at the meeting, who were interested themselves in purchasing lots in this particular ~~meeting~~ ^{block}. The general plan is for a group of them to approach the real estate agent for possible purchase of a whole block in some section of the city ~~which~~ which is desired by the group. The real estate agent is not to be told that this particular block would be an inter-racial community. The problem of purchasing the block indicated that there was a need for a substantial loan. Philanthropist as Marshal Field III was mentioned as possible contributors. The question of where this community should be located indicated that some of the committee felt it should be in the rural area, while others favored an urban or suburban area.

INTER-RACIAL HOUSING PROJECT (continued)
Meeting of FOR committee

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Discussion on various other phases of the problem, which is not important for ~~us~~ inclusion in this report, took up much time.

General impressions:

This is a very bold and challenging project undertaken by the FOR organization. They ~~f~~ members--there were about eight present--were all very enthusiastic about the project and eager to commence on the project immediately.

The idea back of this movement--that of combatting restrictive land covenants now existing in the city--sounds very noble and appealing. However, such a project can backfire if it is not planned carefully. That is to say by trying to set a fine example of an inter-racial community, opponents of such a project may become even more rabid in ~~their~~ their opposition. On the other hand, however, it must be said that there is much more weight in demonstrating a principle/~~an~~ ^{by} action than by merely describing it in words.

Such a project as this needs careful observation, as it will be something new to the community and relatively new any where in the country.

There are ~~an~~ a number of Japanese residents of Denver, I've been told, who are also back of this movement, and therefore this should be important for this study from this standpoint.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS
JAOL
Interview with Min Yasui

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Interview was conducted with Min Yasui, attorney by profession and representative ~~XXXX~~ of the JAOL for this section of the country (Tri-State representative).

He is officially first vice-president of the local JAOL chapter.

His own office is adjacent to that of JAOL. Address is: ⁶¹⁵ /Ernest & Cranmer Bldg., 17 & Curtis Streets, Denver 2; phone CHerry 5990.

Because of a barrage of phone calls, it became almost impossible to conduct any sort of interview. Interview was held between 3 and 4:30 p.m.

Min is ~~about~~ a nisei of about 35 years of age. He originates from Portland, Oregon, but has done a lot of travelling about the country. ~~XXXXXX~~ He is famous for the ~~XXXXXX~~ incident just after war broke out (in 1942) in which he refused to comply with the curfew law imposed on all persons of Japanese ancestry and thereby was imprisoned. He intentional ignored the curfew in order that ~~has~~ may be a test case, in which ~~the~~ not only the curfew restrictions but the delegation of powers to impose curfew regulations ~~can be made~~ by the President of the U.S. to the military commander of the West Coast area, ^{may be tested.} Much has been written up on this case; ~~and~~ The Supreme Court ruled against Yasui. (Refer to literature on Yasui for more detailed information)

Because the analyst wanted to gain the acquaintance of Yasui, he ^{first} permitted ^{Yasui} to review his experience since the war broke out. ~~He~~ ^{He} was extremely bitter about the whole incident, ~~XXXX~~ not because he had spent 8 solid months in prison, but because the Supreme Court refused to ~~XXXX~~ deliberate on the issue he wanted raised. This is, namely, that it was unconstitutional ~~XXXXXX~~ for the President to delegate powers to the military commander on the West Coast to impose restrictions on Americans of Japanese ancestry. He stated that there was no martial law on the West Coast, and therefore it was unconstitutional for the Military commander

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to have had the powers he had. He admitted that he was guilty of breaking the curfew regulation at that time, but that he curfew regulation was not important in itself. The more important issue was ~~kk~~ "the unconstitutional delagation of powers ~~fxn~~ by the President to the military commander".

He stated: "The damn D.A. in Portland wouldn't cooperate. Otherwise, we could have won our case."

He admitted having had worked for the Japanese consul in Chicago doing some study of the Japanese population in that city. When asked if this was ~~mak~~ a factor in ~~kk~~ having lost the case in the Supreme Court, he stated this had very little to do with that.

Names of good references

Min offered a list of names whom analyst might contact in the course of his study:

1. Dr. Takashi Mayeda, JAOL president of local chapter.
2. Yoshiki Arika, local JAOL chapter membership committee chairman.
3. Denver Unity Council; Louise Evans (on vacation now)
exec-secretary
438 E. Colfax; phone KE 8423
(see Ann Waring)
4. Charles Graham, president of the Denver Unity Council
5. Dr (Miss) Prudence Bostwick; of Denver Public School; Adult education; also member of Unity Council; phone TA 7151
6. Dean Paul Roberts; ex-President of Denver Unity Council.
St. John's Cathedral (Episcopal)
7. YWCA -- Miss Lorna May Tuttle; Exec-Director
1545 Tremont Pl; Denver 2
8. YWCA -- Miss Arline Brauer; group worker; leader YPS; conductor of Thursday night dances at the Y.
9. Rev. Russel Nakata -- 1551 So. Humboldt; telephone R.V. Gildner
10. Director's Club (formerly "Stensho") Eddie Matsuda of Modern Foods.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

JACL

Interview with Min Yasui

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11. George Furuta; 1775 W. 35 Avenue; phone GL 4949
12. Takky Domura; Luna Apt; 1110 -19th Street; formerly fish importer in S.R.
13. Cathay Legion Post; 2025 (?) Market Street; ~~ask~~ Ed Chin one of leaders. This is supposedly the biggest gambling group with many Japanese as members.

Books on Denver

Min suggested reading of "Solo in Tom-Tom" by Gene Fowler in order to get some historical background of Denver. Fowlers book "Timberland", which is a story of The Denver Post was also suggested.

Housing and Real Estate

Min showed analyst an unfinished paper he had written on the history of the land movement in Colorado and Denver, which he had hoped he would use as his master's thesis in sociology. He stated analyst could use it freely.

Min also showed analyst a letter written by a "Mr. O'Brien", presumably a real estate agent, to a Japanese resident informing the latter that he was definitely ~~at~~ not wanted in a certain district that he intended to move into. The letter was very blunt with such ~~xxx~~ phrases as "the residents of this neighborhood definitely do not want any Japs living here." ~~The~~ Attached to the /letter was a long list of names of residents, presumably, (caucasians) who lived in that district and who opposed this Japanese from moving in. Min said the JACL and he are ~~winning~~ ^{fighting} the case out in court, and he believes they have a strong case, as the oldest son in the family is a veteran of this war.

Min was told that we are very interested in securing a list of all such discriminations against Japanese in Denver.

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JACL
Interview with Min Yasui

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Description of Yasui

Min is a friendly, pleasing individual. He has strong convictions about individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution, and he is one who will go to the limits, as use of the courts, in fighting an issue in which he believes. He has a sympathetic heart and a keen mind. He is very alert.

He was very cooperative, and even volunteered to make available space in the JACL office for this analyst if he wanted a desk space. This offer was accepted.

General comments:

Because analyst will be in close touch with Yasui, more about the latter will be written up later on. Many subjects were discussed during this interview, but as none was explored in any great degree they will be touched upon later on in various interviews with Yasui.

BACKGROUND DATA

Interview with Mr. Jackson, Denver Welfare

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Interview was arranged with Mr. C.W. Jackson of the Denver Bureau of Public Welfare. (Address: 650 Cherokee; phone MAIn 7181) It lasted from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Interview was first set for 9:30 a.m. but because this analyst had a nasty nose bleed just as he was about to leave the hotel, the time was delayed half an hour. (Analyst was forced to hire a taxi cab to make appointment.)

During the interview with Mr. Jackson, who is a high Welfare official, the Welfare Director Miss Redd~~l~~ dropped in a few minutes just to get acquainted.

Mr. Jackson was extremely friendly and cooperative throughout the interview and offered to help in any way he could. When asked whether the Welfare would be able to provide personnel in our study he stated they were not able to at present. He was extremely interested in the study undertaken by the Interior Dept., and confessed that they (Welfare) were thinking of making another study similar to the one they made in February 1944 on the Japanese population in Denver. Therefore, he was elated to learn that the Federal gov't was doing it instead.

He gave this analyst a list of names of people and organizations whom I should contact for aid in providing information pertaining to our study.

He was very proud of the study they made in February 1944, stating a number of times that the study was most accurate as they had several trained people doing the work and actually making house to house canvas of the city.

We reviewed some of the findings made in the Welfare's 1944 study. Mr. J. was very hesitant about making statements concerning the present situation, stating he hasn't been close to it since the last study was made.

BACKGROUND DATA
Interview with Jackson of Denver Welfare

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He showed me a study the Welfare conducted on the "Spanish-Speaking Population in Denver". He said I could a copy of this report at the Denver Unity Council.

He also showed me a "Housing in Denver, June 1941" report, which he stated I could secure from Dr. Carmichael of the School of Business and Social Research of U. of Denver.

Concerning the problem of getting population statistics, he suggested that the postmaster ~~xx~~ (Mr. J. O. Stevie, 18 and Stout Streets) be contacted for aid in getting all the names of Japanese residents in Denver. He stated in the Spanish-speaking study they were able to get ~~xxxx~~ similar assistance from the postmaster.

Regarding maps of Denver he suggested contacting the city and county Engineering office.

He suggested looking into a dance hall which was formerly used by the Japanese young people for their dances. He thought the name was "Rainbow Dance Hall" or something that sounded like it.

He informed that the local I.B.M. firm punched the results of their 1944 study interviews on to cards, and that this firm had the cards if we wanted to use them for any purpose. He wasn't sure whether the firm destroyed the cards or not.

He informed, after phoning and investigating himself, that the Welfare office still had all of the original interviews of the 1944 study, and can be used for our study.

He suggested seeing the Unity Council regarding personnel assistance for this study. Mr. Graham was mentioned as the individual to contact.

Regarding office space for this analyst, he stated the Welfare was crowded for space at present. He suggested the post office as a possible place to inquire.

BACKGROUND DATA
Interview with Jackson of Denver Welfare

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When pressed about the present situation compared to the 1944 period when their study was made, he stated he didn't think there was much of a change.

General comments:

Although Mr. Jackson was not able to furnish any reliable statistics on the present Japanese population, he will be an invaluable individual to refer to in the various problems that will inevitably arise in the course of this study. He is extremely interested in the study and asked that he be kept informed and offered assistance in a consultative way at any time.

FAMILY
Sawada
Brief visit with / family

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A visit was made on Mrs. Sawada as she had informed me that there was a vacant room which I/could occupy in the apartment house she operates. When I got there I was told that the room had already been rented. She, however, was very helpful in finding me a room at the Silver Dollar Hotel. She invited me in and I had a short chat with her 22 year old son who is now attending the business college of the U. of Denver.

Sawada Apartment

The Sawada family, which ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ includes the issei couple and their son, live in the Apartment they operate. Address is 934 21st Street, phone CHerry 4363. The building is detached from others and is ~~xxxxxx~~ extremely old. The outside appears to need a coat of paint and ready to fall apart. The inside, however, is nicely fixed up.

Sawada family

The father works for some one, while the mother works as chambermaid at the Brown Palace. The 22 year old son was just discharged from the army and is now attending Denver U. business college taking up business economics.

Economically the family seem to be on firm footing and quite happy.

Attitude toward Chicago

The nisei, son, related to me that he had visited Chicago recently and ~~xxxxxx~~ stated: "I don't see how Japanese continue to live in Chicago. I just couldn't stand it there. The place is dirty, noisy, and hot. They can have Chicago. I prefer to live here in Denver."

FAMILY
Brief visit with Sawada family

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NISEI SON

The nisei served with the 442nd nisei combat unit and was just discharged. He was interested in studying business in college. When asked what he intended to do after college, he wasn't quite sure.~~xxxxxx~~ He was simply interested in operating a business in some field.

General comment

Further interviews will be conducted with this family as it will be a good case study.

BACKGROUND DATA

Interview with Dr. Carmichael of Denver U.

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Interview was arranged with Dr. Carmichael between 9:45 to 10:45 o'clock this morning. Dr. C. is head of the School of Business and Social Research of the Denver University. (Address: 1425 Cleveland Place; phone MAIN 4237) Dr. C. served as consultant in the Welfare 1944 study of the Japanese population. It was thought that he might be able to provide some information ~~and~~ or some ideas pertinent to the study.

Dr. C. didn't show any great interest in the study, nor did he know very much about the Japanese population in Denver. He was valuable only in that he provide analyst with some names of people who'd might give some assistance or information. He provided the analyst with several reports prepared by ~~the~~ his department pertaining to housing, business activity, and employment in Denver. These will be useful background data for the study.

SPECIAL LEGAL AGENT *or Broker*
Kamakura "Yamato Service Bureau"
Interview with Mr. Eddie Yamato

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Office: 1221 -19th Street; phone KKeystone 6358
Home: 2919 Lafayette; phone KKeystone 1078

I met Mr. Eddie Yamato's oldest daughter, Peggy, on the street a few days ago and learned the whole family is now living in Denver. I have known the Yamato family since the days of evacuation, as we lived in the same block (#30) in Poston relocation center, Arizona. I arranged for luncheon date with Mr. Y. today. We ate at one of the Japanese restaurants nearby.

Family situation:

Father: Eddie Yamato; nisei of about 42 years; owns and operates "Service Bureau"
Mother: Mrs. Y; nisei of about 37 years; assists husband in office.
Children: 6 daughters and 1 son
Age ranges from 17 to 2½ yrs.
Oldest daughter, Peggy, assists in father's office as secretary
Next eldest, Mary Jane, I believe works for the Lincoln Community Center.

Housing:

The family lives in the Japanese residential district of the city. Mr. Y. stated that he had to buy the house in order to be able to live in one. They rent their office building which is located in the Japanese business section of town.

Relocation history:

Mr. Y. first left Poston center himself about 3 years ago (1943) and ~~has~~ ^{has} established his business. A year later his whole family joined him here.

Permanency of Residence:

Mr. Y. stated he plans to stay here about 3 years or so and then probably return to the West Coast, probably Los Angeles. About others he stated: "You know if any one stays here about 3 or 4 years, he will like the place and will probably stay."

SPECIAL LEGAL AGENT
"Yamato Service Bureau"
Interview with Mr. Eddie Yamato

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Past and Present Occupation:

Prior to the evacuation, Mr. Y. operated his own freight business/ owning in Los Angeles, a fleet of trucks which hauled goods from one place to another. He is reputed to have been a very successful business man.

At present he is merely an agent for a variety of services, as, freight movers, carpenters, painters, Western Union telegraph, real estate, horse racing, notary public (he is one himself), Japanese translation, employment, etc. He has the most versatile occupation of any one I have ever met. His wife and oldest daughter assist him in the office.

Business situation:

Most of his clients at present are Japanese, although he gets a number of Mexican clients. He feels rather satisfied with his business and admitted he made \$6500 last year (1945). He stated the first year he suffered a loss making only about \$200 or \$300. He stated:

"I make a little here and there. If you are smart you know how to make money. Now I have a group of painters and carpenters who are hakujins. They actually work for me in that I find customers for them. Anyone wanting such services would come to me and I all I do is sit here and refer them to my carpenters and painters. I get 10% of whatever the carpenters and painters make. Just think I get this by just sitting at my desk and answering phone calls. Now with the races on I act as the agent for bookies in the east. I have racing forms here and people come in daily to fill out the forms picking the horse they want and betting on it. I wire their choice and money ~~via~~ Western Union to the bookie in the East, and first thing next morning winning betters get their money. I make about 2% on any winnings and get a commission from the bookie in serving as an agent for him."

Mr. Y. didn't touch upon other aspects of his occupation, but in later interviews an effort will be made to get this.

Evacuation losses:

Mr. Y. was very bitter about the losses he suffered and was very interested in the Evacuee Claims Commission Bill. He said he still owns his house in

SPECIAL LEGAL AGENT
"Yamato Service Bureau"
Interview with Mr. Eddie Yamato

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Los Angeles, but that all of his furnitures which he had stored with friends (he says "supposedly friends") were stolen by them and now he doesn't know where these friends are. He thought they were worth several thousands of dollars. Then he lost heavily in selling his business, especially ~~in selling~~ his ~~his~~ cars. An effort will be made to enumerate in detail his losses.

Japanese businesses:

He thought that the Japanese in Denver ~~city~~ were making out all right. He pointed out on a map in his office the section ~~which~~ which is primarily the Japanese business district. This is namely on Larimer Street between 16th and 20th street. That is the center, and around it are various scattered businesses operated by Japanese.

General comments:

Further interviews will be conducted with Mr. Y.

Monday, 19 Aug 46

11:45 a.m. (Chicago standard time)

Left Chicago by United Air Lines plane.

Trip was extremely rough. High altitude, nearing Denver, made me feel miserably dizzy and nauseating.

Stop-over at Omaha, Nebraska for 5 minutes.

4:30 p.m. (Denver standard time)

Arrived Denver airport.

Caught taxi cab to Denver downtown section.

Got room for one night at the Denver Hotel.

Felt nauseating all night; couldn't eat.

Short visit with Gordon Connelly and family at their home.

Tuesday, 20 Aug 46

a.m. All morning in moving from Denver Hotel to Brown Palace Hotel.
Limited 5-day reservation at B.P. Hotel

p.m. All afternoon spent at National Opinion Research Center.
Met all the staff members, many of whom I knew from before, and they were all interested in the study I'm conducting in the city. Lengthy chats had with Gordon Connelly and few other people at the University of Denver, and I was given many names of people who might be helpful to me.

Had dinner with the Connelys.

Immediately after dinner, I accompanied Gordon to a meeting of an inter-racial committee on housing held at the Brotherhood House (1220 Corona; telephone CHerry 3571).

After this meeting, which lasted about 1½ hrs, another meeting followed at the same place. This was a discussion meeting of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), which is a rigid pacifist group.

Met numerous people, caucasians, Japanese, and Negroes.
Rev. Tsutomu Fukuyama, a Baptist minister, nisei of about 30 years or so, is working with the nisei in Denver.

PERSONAL TRAVEL LOG (cont.)

Wednesday, 21 Aug 46

- a.m. (10 to 11:30) (Had a nasty nose bleed which delayed appointment)
Interview with Mr. C.W. Jackson and Miss Reed of the Denver Public Welfare Bureau. Talked mostly with Mr. Jackson who was extremely interested in the study. Admitted they were thinking themselves of doing a follow-up study since the Feb. 1944 study which they conducted. (Address: 650 Cherokee; phone MAIN 7181)
- p.m. (3 to 4:30)
Interview with Mr. Min Yasui, JAQL Tri-State representative in Denver, and attorney by profession. (615 E & C Bldg, 17 & Curtis; Cherry 5990)
Mr. Yasui kindly offered use of his office to me as my headquarters.

Thursday, 22 Aug 46

- a.m. (9:45 to 10:45)
Interview with Dr. Carmichael, head of ~~the~~ Denver U's School of Commerce and Business Research.
(1425 Cleveland Place; tel, MAIN 4237)
- p.m. Visit NORC office to pick up mail.
- Met a Mrs. Sawada who operates a hotel in the Japanese section of town. She works at the Brown Palace Hotel as maid. She stated she may have a room vacant. Suggested I see her at her home tomorrow.
- Evening spent visiting with Sammy Hasegawa, teacher, and Kazuo Ueno.

Friday, 23 Aug 46

- a.m. Office work at home.
- Forenoon and noon spent moving out of Brown Palace Hotel into the Silver ~~Katnix~~ Dollar Hotel, (address: 1860 Lawrence St; phone, MAIN 9970)
- Rocky Shimpo called (a Miss Kawamoto?) to state they were interested in publishing a story of our study. Much surprised that they haven't received our official press release. Write Bob Cullum about this.
- p.m. Visited JAQL headquarters where I expect to make my headquarters. Spent much time calling up various hotels inquiring about hotel reservations for Cullum, Sasaki, and the Hansens. Finally got Roosevelt Hotel for the period August 31st to September 4th. This will be a suite, double rooms.
- Met Mr. Roy Takeno of the Denver Post staff.
Browsed through P.O. issues and other literature.

TRAVEL LOG

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Saturday, 24 Aug 46

a.m. Office work at home.

Met Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Yamoto, who runs the "Yamato Service Bureau" and have their office very near my hotel. They invited me to lunch with them.

m. Lunch with Yamotos.

p.m. Visit with Gordon Connolly (NORO) to pick up mail, etc.

Sunday, 25 Aug 46

a.m. (from 6:45 to 3 pm.)

Planning to visit Mt. Evans on car with the Connollys.

Tonight while having a cup of coffee at the "Nikko Low"
operated
Japanese/restaurant, I had a casual conversation with the only
waiter there, ~~xxxxx~~ an issei who speaks good English and who can
as
pass/an elderly kibeï. The conversation was carried on inter-
mitently, that is in between his waiting on customers who coming
in sporadically.

Economic Outlook

~~xxx~~ It is believed that for some reason or another I impressed
this waiter as a businessman or a business speculator. When I
asked him how business was, he said things were "slow". He
immediately advised me not to go into any kind of business here
in Denver, as business prospects for any Japanese were very dim
here in Denver. He explained:

"Wages here are cheap. For instance, I am suppose to
be getting pretty good wage. I make \$25. a week plus
tips which are very small. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Most of the
waiters or waitresses get about \$18. per week plus tips.
The Japanese owner of this restaurant is not ~~xxxx~~ making
very much. But since he lives in the back of the res-
taurant he saves on house rent. He at least breaks even
I guess, I don't know for sure.
Our cook here (pointing at the cook in the kitchen) used
to own and operate three restaurants in Los Angeles
before the war. Now he is working as a cook.
I used to work for a big Chinese restaurant in Denver
before I came to work here. I quit my job there because
of a quarrel between the Chinese owner and his wife. ...
I used to make good money there, more than twice I make
here.
You said you visited Chicago. How are things there?
I've been thinking of going there to work. You know my
common-law wife with whom I am separated now lives there.
She wrote me some time ago and asked why I didn't come
out there. She's remarried now. She's a hakujin.....
You know when I left camp I had \$5000. cash with me.
Another Japanese ~~xxxxxxx~~ who also had \$5000. cash and
I decided to go into some kind of business together.
First we thought we'd have a good time so, we visited
Florida and played the horses. I lost all my money and
so did my friend. We even had to sell my friend's car
to make transportation money."

Impressions:

This waiter appears to be a ^{shifting} shiftless individual with very little responsibilities. He stated he has a mother ~~XXXX~~ now living in Los Angeles, but that he didn't want to go there because he couldn't get along with her. It is not believed that evacuation and relocation had much to do with his ^{shifting} ~~shiftless~~ nature. He was married ~~to~~ (common-law marriage) to a caucasian woman before the war and became separated from her a few years ago. This seems to underline his atypical nature.

The possibly significant thing about this individual is that a number of nisei have acquired this ^{shifting} ~~shiftless~~ trait, jumping from one job to another and gambling a lot. This is quite evident in big cities, especially Chicago and to some extent here in Denver. It is also true that this is somewhat true of a good segment of the ~~XXXXXX~~ country, especially in this transition period from war to peace time operation.

Personal notes

This waiter is an issei of about 35 years of age. He appears to be quite aggressive, but has a pleasing ~~xxx~~ appearance. He was very friendly. Further interviews with him might provide some pertinent information about the Denver Japanese community.

ATTITUDE OF LARGER COMMUNITY
Interview with Denver Postmaster (Stevic)

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T. Yatsushiro

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A brief visit was made with Mr. Stevic, Denver Postmaster. The purpose was to elicit the cooperation of the post office here in getting the names and addresses of all people of Japanese ancestry registered with the Denver post office. This is to secure some data on the ^{Japanese} population here in Denver, number and geographic distribution especially.

A letter of introduction written by Bob Cullum was shown Mr. Stevic. The letter explained the purpose of our study. Mr. Stevic expressed willingness to cooperate but admitted that he was not at all acquainted with the method used previously in getting the names and addresses of the Spanish-American population in Denver. He suggested that I contact the people who made this first survey, as Mr. Jackson of the Denver Welfare. I promised to do this.

There were few remarks made the Postmaster which seem pertinent to the study. When I first introduced myself and explained the purpose of our study that it involved the ~~xxxxxx~~ Japanese who evacuated from the West Coast and those who resettled from relocation centers, he quickly retorted:

"Those are the people who ~~xxxx~~ should have been kept in the camps, but who were released. Don't you think so?"

It is believed that the postmaster didn't know that I was of Japanese ancestry when ^{he} made the remark.

In another instance he expressed himself unfavorably toward the Japanese population. In general he had a hostile attitude.

ATTITUDE OF LARGER COMMUNITY
Interview with Denver Postmaster

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Toward the end of the interview, it is believed that he tried to cover up his prejudice toward the Japanese by relating the following story.

"You know, I had a Chinese boy working for me as a postal clerk. He was inducted in the army and recently was discharged. He and another fellow, a Japanese, got together and formed the Cathay Legion Post (veterans organization) here in Denver. Now, that's something isn't it. Just a little while ago their countries were at war with each other."

The postmaster's attitude toward the Japanese and minority groups in general seem to be based on purely an emotional level. He seem to associate the Japanese and Chinese born in this country and therefore U.S. citizens with their ancestral countries, very little thinking that they are Americans by birth and upbringing and in most cases strangers to their mother countries. However, this is not an uncommon attitude and way of thinking among many Americans, some supposedly very intelligent.

NISEI BUSINESSMAN
Interview with George Furuta

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Denver
28 Aug 46
T. Yassushiro

W 10

A luncheon interview was arranged with Mr. George Furuta at the "Manchu Grill" ~~xxxx~~ on Larimer St. near 20th. After a few minutes of conversation with George, some of his friends appeared on the scene and disrupted the whole interview. They began playing cards on the same table we were eating and began talking to George continuously. Consequently this interview was practical useless. However, some facts were learned in the beginning.

Brief background data on George

George is a nisei of about 35 years of age. He is roly poly in appearance and quite a jovial character. He is very pleasant and interesting. He hails from Los Angeles where he had some kind of business. He was evacuated to Santa Anita (I believe) and then was relocated to Poston relocation center Camp ~~xxx~~ Three. He left camp in May of ~~1942~~ 1943 and came to Denver where he has been ever since.

Japanese business district:

He stated that when he came to Denver the Larimer (the present Japanese business district) district was slowly emerging as a Japanese district. There were many Jews and Mexicans who were operating business ~~xxxxxxx~~ many of which were taken over ~~it~~ by the Japanese when they came.

He stated that when he arrived he surveyed the town and decided the 20th and Larimer corner was a nice location, so he bought up the whole area (corner) there which includes many business establishments. He operated the Manchu Grill himself

but recently he turned over the management and ownership to his relative (brother-in-law or something).

Although he didn't have time to go into it, it is assumed in the form of rent or lease that he gets an income from the several business establishments that operates business on the property he owns.

He stated he was one of the first to go into business in that neighborhood. He related that the pool hall across the street from his property was operating in early 1944 when he came here.

He thought the Japanese businesses were doing satisfactorily.

Japanese population

He stated he didn't know accurately how many Japanese were in Denver, but guessed there were about 4000.

Land Restriction

He stated most of Denver's real estate is restricted to the Japanese as well as the Mexicans and the Negroes. He stated the Japanese are living and working or operating business adjacent to the Mexican and Negro districts.

Japanese owned leased theater ("Kiva" theater)

This theater, "Kiva" is on Larimer ~~Street~~ Street near about 17th street. From other sources it was learned that George and five other Japanese have bought the lease on the theater for the next five years or so. They rent the theater at \$80. per night. The Nisei danseuse, Miss Kansuma, who is an exponent of ~~the~~ Japanese classical dancing, is performing on ~~the~~ August 30th and 31st (evenings).

NISEI BUSINESSMAN
Interview with George Furuta

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Other ~~facts~~ pertinent personal facts:

From his card playing friends, it is believed that George plays card quite frequently and bets rather heavily. After our lunch he joined one of his friends in playing "gin rummy" and lost \$11.90 in a period of about half an hour. He stated he won about \$150 the other night.

He and his friends talked a great deal of going fishing in the state of Wyoming. One friend exclaimed that Wyoming was an ideal place to go to fish as they allow you to catch 4 to 8 pound fish.

General comment:

Further interviews will be arranged with George.

COLORADO COMMITTEE FOR FAIR PLAY
Interview with Rev. Clark P. Garman

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Denver
28 Aug 46
T. Yatsushiro

#711

Interview was arranged with Rev. Garman today between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. at his office. Rev. Garman is a former missionary to Japan, having lived there from 1906 to 1941 (summer). He is rather elderly, but appears rather energetic. He was very friendly and interested in the study. He is one of the directors on the Colorado Committee For Fair Play.

He stated he goes out in the rural areas occasionally to do some work on the Japanese. At present he is trying to get the Issei to fill out the first papers for naturalization. He stated they are not eligible for citizenship at present, but that ~~the~~ filling out the first papers would indicate their intent and might be helpful in impressing the gov't.

He furnished me with names of Christian ministers and Buddhist priests in Denver and their addresses. He also furnished me with some literature of the Fair Play Committee.

He was very proud in relating the fight the Committee put up in defeating the amendment which would have barred alien Japanese from owning land in Colorado state.

He offered to take me to the rural areas when he plans to do work out there, and I indicated I would be interested in this arrangement.

Rev. G. was not very useful in furnishing up-to-date data on the Japanese population. When asked if he thought the population now in Denver would ~~be~~ continue to remain here, he said many of them would probably return to California. He said first some would go back and this would encourage others to do likewise.

NISEI ORGANIZATION
YWCA Young People Society
(Thursday night dances group)

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T. Yatsushiro

#12

Interview and luncheon was had with Miss Arline Brauer, YWCA groupworker and one in charge of the Nisei Young People Society which ~~has~~ stages dances every other Thursday at present. Dances ~~was~~ used to be staged every Thursday night ~~xxx~~ throughout the war and until June 13th, 1946, when it was held every other Thursday. The whole visit/lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

At least one-third of the interview time was lost, as ~~the~~ Miss Brauer's office files and reports were scattered here and there and many were not completed, and it took Miss B. some time gathering them and compiling some of the statistics I was interested in. Only the attendances^{figures} at the Thursday night dances were obtained. They cover 1945 and 1946 (through August), by month.

Group History:

Thurs day night dances were staged for Nisei in Denver and surrounding counties even before the war started, as YWCA felt there was a need for it. The group was very small then as the Japanese population was small here in Denver. Right through the war and up until the present these dances have been staged regularly. At present until the middle of September (1946) there will be no dances staged due to the polio epidemic in Denver. As young people began trickling out of the relocation camps and as many came to Denver, the dances grew in size and popularity. They have attendances ranging from about 70 people to about 5-600 people. The average has been about 250 or so. Lately this average has decreased, and partially due to this Miss Brauer stated the group decided to stage dances every other Thursday

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YWCA Young People Society
(Thursday night dance group)

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instead of every Thursday from June 13, 1946 on. An orchestra is hired for every other dance, while at other times ~~the~~ recordings furnish the music for the dancing. At practically every dance there has been about 3 men to 2 women attending.

Miss Brauer came to Denver from Seattle in December 1945 and has been directing the work since then. Before her there has been about 2 or 3 different workers since the outbreak of the war. For this reason it was difficult for Miss Brauer to provide a historical account of the group and many of the facts concerning the period before she took over the work.

Membership:

Although the YWCA sponsors this group, it is surprising that there are more men registered as members than women. The ratio is about 3 to 2. It seemed that anyone who attended the dances more than 2 or 3 times was registered as a member. However, anyone who does not come to the dance for a period of four months is automatically dropped as a member. Miss B. was just in the process of going through her membership files and culling out inactive members.

Organization:

The group is formally organized with officers who meet occasionally to plan a program and discuss various problems. Miss B. stated nisei are very reluctant to accept the responsibility of an officer. Miss B. explained the membership is composed largely of "anonymous members", that is ~~the~~ nisei who come to the dances ~~to~~ to have a good time but prefer to remain anonymous.

NISEI ORGANIZATION
YWCA Young People Society
(Thursday night dance group)

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With regard to the larger number of men over women, Miss B. though that this was so because of the women's cultural background, namely, the strict parental control exercised over women and not men.

GROUP Reputation:

Miss B. confessed that the group does not have a very good reputation among the Issei and some Nisei. Many of these people feel that the Thursday night dance is a ~~xxxxx~~ rowdy affair with many hoodlums and zootsuiters attending. Miss B. stated that it is true that they occasionally find beer and whiskey bottles ~~xxxx~~ strewn about the dance hall and occasionally nisei zootsuiters do attend attired in a T shirt and ~~dirty~~ corduroy trousers. She stated she opposed in principle to barring these zootsuiters from attending their dances, although she definitely wants the dances to be orderly. In general, she believes that the group is not as bad as ~~the~~ some of the Issei and intellectual nisei picture them to be.

Group attitude toward relationship with caucasians:

Miss B. stated she was quite puzzled at the fact that the nisei, especially girls, just won't mix with caucasian groups no matter how hard she tries to integrate the nisei into the latter groups. Instead, she stated, the nisei prefer to be among themselves and stage activities among themselves. Then, on the other hand, some of the nisei ~~xxxx~~ dislike any nisei who becomes too intimate and popular with the caucasians. She ~~xxxx~~ explained that there is one nisei girl who has become very popular with Caucasians and is a leader in her own rights, and now this

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YW/CA Young People Society
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same nisei girl is very much disliked by the other nisei girls. Miss B. stated this may be due to the fact most of the nisei girls themselves want to associate with caucasians but are unable to because of lack of opportunity or shyness on their part. (This may ~~be~~ also be attributed to a Japanese cultural trait in which one should not, especially a woman, make ~~himself~~ herself too conspicuous or prominent.)

Cliques:

Miss B. stated that the old time resident very much resented the influx of the Japanese evacuees from relocation centers and elsewhere since the war started. One girl confessee to her that she never ever thought of herself as being of Japanese ancestry until the evacuees came streaming in to Denver. Until then she and her family was very happy and experienced hardly any discrimination. With the coming of the evacuees they experienced more and more discrimination. For this reason some of the old time members of the group ~~infix~~ resigned. However, many of the old members have continue on and have taken a tolerant attitude.

At the ~~dances~~ ^{the} the group invariably form into little cliques. (Some of this ^{is} inevitable because of the large attendance.)

Friends tend to ~~group~~ congregate into their own group and dance among themselves. Some of the girls ~~in~~ complained to her that some of the fellows just dance and don't say a ~~word~~ word during the whole dance. Most of the fellows keep very much to themselves, and some of the girls complained (to Miss B.) that they weren't getting dates.

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YWCA Young People Society
(Thursday night dance group)

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JACL

When I mentioned that I had my office at the JACL headquarters Miss B. asked if it were true that the JACL was an organization for the "upper crust". I asked her why she felt that way, and she stated many of the ~~group~~ girls in the group thought so. One girl confessed to her that she refused to join the JACL because they were always asking for money, and she couldn't afford it.

Dance, meeting a need of the Nisei

When asked if she thought the dances were meeting a real need of the Nisei, Miss B. answered in the affirmative. She stated that this was the only regularly staged dance for the nisei. The JACL and school sponsor big expensive dances only very occasionally, and that because they are formal and expensive many of the nisei could not attend. The YWCA dance admission fee is: 25 cents for girls and 40 cents for boys. The reason the price is higher for boys ~~ix~~ and lower for girls is to discourage some boys from attending and encouraging the girls to come, so that the boy-girl ratio would be more even. She proudly stated that the Thursday night dances have proven to be the most popular among nisei and continues to be.

Attendance

Attendance during the winter, spring and fall months is the highest, while during the summer the attendance is lowest. This is due to the fact that most of the nisei farmers and those in the rural areas work during the summer and are unable to attend.

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YWCA Young People Society
(Thursday night dance group)

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Religious affiliation of members;

Miss B. showed me statistics showing the religious affiliation of the ~~members~~ members, and it was surprising to learn that the ratio was 2 Christians to 1 Buddhist. There were some whose religion ~~was~~ ^{were} not known. It is interesting to note that there is a considerable body of Buddhist who are attending the Y. dances. Miss B. stated that the dances were open to all, and no attempt is made to get only Christians. It would be of interest to the study to learn the attitudes of the Buddhist to the Y. dances, especially the Buddhist leaders. Miss B. stated the Buddhist young people's group leader is a regular member of the Y. dance group. ~~ixxxxix~~
This may indicate that the dance is ^{fulfilling a real need of} ~~providing~~ the young nisei, regardless of religion,

NISEI BUSINESS WOMAN
Interview with Yoshiki ~~xxxx~~ Ariki
(Beautician)

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Visited Miss Yoshiki Ariki ~~xx~~ tonight at 7:30 at her place of business, the New York Beauty Salon which she owns and operates. The Salon is located at 830 18th Street, phone KE 9412. After chatting for about half an hour or so, Miss Ariki invited me to her home as she hadn't had dinner and she wanted me to meet her younger brother, Joe, who just got his degree in sociology. Joe came on the family/^{car} to pick us up. The Ariki live at 2631 Curtis Street; phone Tabor 7388.

~~Business~~
Personal facts

Miss A. is a nisei of about 27 years of age. She has finished high school and possibly a year in college. She has^a keen and alert mind. She is very enterprising and ambitious, and appear very capable. She is very active in various young people's activities -- as church (Christian), YWCA, and JAFL. She was very pleasant and friendly.

Family

Father: deceased, about 13 years ago
Mother: issei, about 50 years; not employed.
Children: Yoshiko; nisei, about 27 years.
Joe; 22 years; just finished college, sociology.
son; 18 years; just finished high school.
^{Sam}
daughter, just below Yoshiko; is married and living in Cleveland.

^{son, below Yoshiko, about 24, married, lives in Denver.}
From various remarks made by Yoshiko and Joe it seemed rather apparent that this family experienced some hardship probably after the father's death. Yoshiko has been operating her beauty business for the past six years, and Joe informed she has been the sole breadwinner for the same period. Joe stated he is anxious to

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Interview with Yoshiki Ariki
(Beautician)

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find a job, something along social work or young people's work. He stated he wanted to save some ~~money~~ money so he can continue on schooling and get his master's in sociology.

Joe informed that Yoshiko is anxious to enter college. Apparently Yoshiko feels very dissatisfied about the amount of education she has had. Many people, Yoshiko and Joe related, has asked Yoshiko in the past whether she is taking graduate work or what college she graduated. All these experiences have aided in giving Yoshiko an inferiority complex regarding her educational background. She impresses people as being a college grad. She is very interested in young people activities and possibly she may press her education along these lines if she does enter college. Her brother, Joe, and her married sister have both earned degrees in sociology.

Business:

Miss A. was not too anxious to talk about her business. Her shop is located in a very nice business district. She is probably the first nisei to open a beauty shop in Denver. There are about three other ^{nisei} beauty shops, but ~~xxxxxxx~~ they are operated by evacuees. She stated she caters to the "middle-class" whites and a considerable number of nisei girls. After first she stated she had many nisei customers, but with the opening of other nisei beauty shops her nisei customers dropped. She works long hours, opening her shop until 7:30 p.m. She said it is very hard work. When questioned about how she was faring in business she gave a vague reply saying she didn't know what the future

NISEI BUSINESS WOMAN.
Interview with Yoshiki Arika
(Beautician)

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held for her. She said she wasn't sure whether she'll continue her business for very long. This is probably due to her interest in continuing her education. When asked casually about her prices, she laughingly stated "Oh, I'm going to boost my prices. I'm not getting enough". She charges \$1. to \$2. for finger waves and anywhere from \$5.50 to \$25.00 for permanent. She said her work is largely a personal service one and that it becomes very tiring waiting on people and trying to be pleasing all the time.

Attitude toward Nisei girls

Y. stated she couldn't understand the nisei girls. She complained that the YWCA in which she is very active has tried very hard to get the nisei girls to join caucasian groups and to mix in with them in an attempt to integrate the nisei girls into the larger community. These attempts have been unsuccessfully mainly because the nisei girls refused to mix with the caucasian groups. Y. herself is very active in caucasian groups. ~~As~~ As a matter of fact she was selected by the YWCA business women's club (caucasian group) of Denver to represent the club at a national convention held in Atlantic City, N.J. held in February of 1946. Y. strongly believes that nisei ought to integrate themselves into the larger caucasian community as fast as possible and not to continue in their own groups exclusively.

NISEI BUSINESS WOMAN
Interview with Yoshiki Ariki
(Beautifician)

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Denver Japanese Population

Y. was very vague about the exact figure on the population here. She thought many were leaving Denver for the West Coast. She thought there were about 3,000 now in Denver, but added this was only a guess.

She admitted she hasn't been very close to the Japanese district of the city, so couldn't give any reliable figure or information on the Japanese.

Christian Church (Rev. Sasaki)

She teaches^a/Sunday School class, and stated the attendance is about 150 at the Church service. She thought lately there has been a drop, probably due to some returning to the West Coast.

Family home & Housing

Y. stated they bought their home several years^{ago,} after living in a rented house for many years. She stated many Japanese were purchasing homes or apartments in the district she now lives. She confirmed ~~stated~~ remarks made by others that one just had to purchase a house if one ~~one~~ wanted to get into a detached house.

Y's home is a fairly old one, and is heated by a huge stove in the living room. The house was quite in disorder as they were preparing to put up storm windows in preparation for bad weather.

General:

Further interviews will be had with Miss A.

NISEI NEWSPAPER REPORTER
Interview with Roy Takeno

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30 Aug 46
T. Yatsushiro

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A luncheon interview was arranged with Mr. Roy Takeno, who is one of the two nisei employed on the Denver Post staff. (The other nisei is Bill Hosakawa, Pacific Citizen columnist also) Roy joined the Denver Post as a reporter just a few months ago when the Post editorial staff was revamped and Mr. Palmer Hoyt, former editor of the Oregonian and a liberal, became publisher and editor. Prior to this change the Post was probably the most rabid anti-Japanese newspaper in the country. (It is believed that there is much data in the WRA files on the Post, therefore this report shall not go into this.) It should be stated that the Denver Post is now a very liberal paper. The employment of two nisei ~~xxx~~ by the Post has literally shocked many people familiar with the Post's reputation.

Background on Roy:

Roy is a nisei of about 34 years or so. He is slightly bald and gives one an impression he is much older. He was formerly on the staff of the Rafu Shimpō in Los Angeles--this prior to the evacuation. Over two years ago he came to Denver and became the English editor of the Rocky Shimpō. About two months ago he joined the staff of the Denver Post. He loves his newspaper work and throughout the war, though he had other better paying jobs offered him, he decided to associate himself with some newspaper. He has an air of aloofness about him, but when one gets to know him he is very friendly. He admitted that he hasn't ^{been} very close to the Japanese population here in Denver, and therefore was very reluctant to make any generalizations on the situation, probably for fear that his remarks may be used by the study.

Because of this attitude on Roy's part, it was very difficult to get anything useful from this interview.

Objections to Denver:

When questioned about some of the major problems facing the Japanese, especially evacuees, in Denver, Roy listed the weather as the first. He said many of the California farmers who are farming here complain because they have only a few months during the summer in which to farm, whereas in California they could farm all year round. The winter is severe here and many people haven't become accustomed to it. He felt that California's weather is better than Denver, but he also felt that these farmers weren't making an effort to adjust their farming methods to the conditions here. He thought the farmers "ought to learn to play along with the weather instead of trying to fight it."

Another problem he ~~mentioned~~ listed was ~~mentioned~~/housing. He stated people were having difficulty in finding a suitable housing. There are restrictive covenants to cope with and one just had to purchase a house in order to live in one.

General comment:

There other subjects covered in the interview ~~xxx~~ but because Roy was very cautious and reluctant about talking about them, they will not be included in this report.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dance recital by Miss Fujima Kansuma

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Denver
1 Sep 46
T. Yatsushiro

#15

Tonight on our way back from dinner to the Oxford Hotel (where our staff conference was in progress) we passed by the Japanese leased "Kiva" theater on Larimer Street, ~~xxxx~~ between 17th and 18th streets. Mr. Arima, one of the six Japanese controlling the lease on the theater, saw the entire staff passing by and he asked me if we would be interested in witnessing the dance recital. We said we were and he escorted us into the theater, free of charge, and found seats for us in the back rows. The ~~xxxxxx~~ admission was \$1.50 per person. Those on the staff included Bob Cullum, Dr. and Mrs. Hansen, John deYoung, Tom Sasaki, and Tosh Yatsushiro. We were told the ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{recital} began from 7:00 o'clock that evening. We came in about 8 o'clock and stayed until about 9:30. We were told the ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{entire program} would end at about 11 o'clock.

Miss Fujima Kansuma, danceuse (see newspaper articles)

Miss Kansuma's real name is Sumako Hamaguchi. She adopted her professional name following her training in Japan under the famed Japanese dance instructor Fujima Kanjuro. She studied Japanese classical dancing, (kabuki) and is reputed to be the exponent of same in the U.S. She hails from Los Angeles originally and is now on a tour of the United States. Tonight was her second performance in two days in Denver. She is a very attractive woman and appears to be under 30 years of age.

Kiva Theater

Kiva Theater is an old small theater on Larimer Street. It generally shows third or fourth run movies. It has a seating capacity of about 400 people.

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Dance recital by Miss Kansuma

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Attendance:

The theater was practically filled by the middle of the evening's program. More than half of these present were issei men and women, and the rest were mostly nisei. There were a few caucasians who had been invited. It is guessed at least a fourth of those present were from the rural areas of Colorado. One issei couple and 2 daughters ~~xxxx~~ sitting behind me informed they came from Morgan County, which is about 100 miles from Denver, driving all the way in their car. The crowd was very generous in their applauses which resulted in enchoe numbers.

Dance Program

Beside Miss Kansuma there were about five other Japanese women dancers, a Japanese woman singer, and about 4 "shamisen" (women) players, all of whom performed in between the performances of Miss Kansuma. Miss Kansuma probably performed about a dozen times. We saw her perform twice, once in the Japanese classic "Ura-shima-Taro". From the applauses and expressions on the faces of people nearby, her dances were very well enjoyed.

Meeting a need for ^{issei} entertainment:

This series of performance by Miss Kansuma is probably the first big pure-Japanese entertainment in Denver. There have been Japanese movies staged at the same theater (Kiva) about once a month for the past several months, but many of the movies are old ones as none are coming from Japan at present. Although classical Japanese dancing is comparable to the ballet, and therefore not appreciated and understood by all the issei, it is felt that it does fulfill a ^{issei} ~~xxxx~~ need for Japanese entertainment.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dance recital by Miss Kansuma

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Especially is this ~~ix~~ true when one realizes that all during the war all forms of Japanese entertainment was practically prohibited on the "outside" (outside of camps). The dance not only met a need but it provided a deep sense of satisfaction among the issei and nisei in the knowledge that Japanese art can once again be exhibited without public pressure/against it.

One elderly issei man was speaking to ~~xxxxix~~ another issei and I overheard this remark: "Personally I don't enjoy Japanese dancing very much, but the fact that Miss Kansuma ~~xxx~~ is reputed to be an expert in classical Japanese dancing made me want to come to see her." This same issei was very proud of Miss Kansuma's training in Japan and her talents. He went in great detail in relating the life story of Miss K.

The issei man from Morgan County, sitting behind me, was also proud of the fact that Miss K. had her training in Japan. When I remarked that Miss K. was very talented, he quickly retorted with a smile, "Oh, sure, she's had her training in Japan." To have travelled over 100 miles in his car and bringing his entire family, itself indicates ^{the} great interest shown by this issei.

Many of those who came from the rural areas were whole family units. On such big occasions as this ~~ix~~ families come out en bloc not only to find entertainment but to meet friends.

Sponsor and JACL

JACL had agreed to assist the sponsors of Miss Kansuma in inviting some of the more prominent Denver caucasians, both public and private figures. Through some mix-up in reporting the Denver Post featured Miss K. picture and a story on the recital

ENTERTAINMENT
Dance recital by Miss Kansuma

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to the effect that JACL was sponsoring the series of dance recitals. An agent of the actual sponsor (reported to be an issei man) appeared in the JACL office two days ago and made known his indignation, and asked that another story appear in the Denver Post correcting the mistake on the sponsorship. Apparently the actual sponsor was not angry at the JACL but that he felt he had been robbed of some honor which was rightfully his.

Public Relations

Both the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News (2 biggest newspapers in Denver) carried pictures of and stories on Miss Kansuma before and after the performances. The articles were definitely favorable to the Japanese.

The sponsor also invited prominent Denverites to the recitals.

September 3, 1946

A special recital was ~~gix~~ staged by Miss Kansuma for 50 prominent Denverites on September ~~2~~³ at the Cathey Legion Post. Among those present were the commander of the Legion Post No. 1, former governor Ralph L. Carr, Lawrence Hinkley, Colorado attorney general, Brig Gen. Thomas M. Lowe, commanding general of Lowry Field, and other dignatires. (see news article)

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION
Cathay Am. Legion Post No. 38

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T. Yatsushiro

Tonight, between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m., the entire staff (Cullum, Sasaki, Hansen, deYoung, & Yatsushiro) visited the Cathay Legion Post and had Chinese dinner. (The staff is staging a staff conference in Denver at present.)

The Post is located on Market Street near 20th Street. Chinese waitresses dressed in Chinese dress waited on us. From other sources I was told that one of the girls is a nisei. One looked like a nisei but we weren't sure.

Description of the establishment:

The Cathay Post is situated in a ~~xx~~ two-story building which was probably an apartment house in former years. On the first floor, the front room (which is rather big) is fixed up as a bar room, and the back room is devoted to serving Chinese food. The second floor is devoted strictly to gambling--poker, black jack, and Chinese dominoes ("pai-kyu").

Bar room and Restaurant

Most of the patrons were caucasians when we were there, and ~~ix~~ I have been told this is the case usually. The bar tender is a nisei fellow who is assisted by a nisei girl.

The cook and most of the waitresses are Chinese. The food was fair, and the prices relatively high.

Organization:

The Cathay Post is a legally a veterans' organization. The founder and leader is a Chinese-American named Ed Chin. It is reported that a nisei is regarded as a co-leader and co-founder. (Check will be made on this.)

The membership is reported to be overwhelmingly nisei veterans, but a check need to be made on this. The total membership is believed to be relatively small.

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Cathay Am. Legion Post No. 38

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In an interview with Mr. Stevic, Postmaster of Denver, it was learned that Ed Chin has been employee of the Denver Post Office for a number of years. The Postmaster very proudly related how Chin, returning from service in the armed forces, founded the Cathay Legion Post. He also mentioned a Japanese (nisei) ~~XXXX~~ veteran who assisted Chin in forming the Cathay Post. He indicated with some glee how a Japanese and a Chinese in this case worked together, when the countries of their ancestries were at war.

Gambling:

From personal observation and through Min Yasui and Tosh Ando and few others, the Cathay Post establishment is mainly a gambling house.

A few nights previously I accompanied a young nisei to the second floor where gambling was in full swing. There were four octagonal tables being used with about 6 to 8 people at each table. Two tables were devoted to playing ~~xxx~~ a Chinese game akin to the dominoes ("pai-kyu"). Two other tables were devoted to playing black jack.

About 95% of those present at that time were ~~xxxx~~ Japanese, the rest Chinese. There were about 30 present in all. One of the tables in the middle was the "big table" where ^{"pai-kyu" was being played} heavy betting prevailed. I stood around for about half an hour watching the betting in progress. ~~xxxxxxx~~ A middle aged Chinese (alien) was the dealer (or represented the house against the field). A game lasted not more than one minute. In each game bets ranged from \$10. to \$175.

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The Japanese gambling were mainly nisei with only a few issei. The nisei's age range was from 25 to 35. It is believed that most of the nisei gamblers are bachelors with relatively little family responsibilities.

It is reliably reported that this gambling group at Cathay Post pays a healthy protection money to the police and to Mr. William Graf, acting chief clerk of the U.S. District Court in particular. Mr. Graf was one of the 50 prominent Denver guests attending the special dance recital of Miss Kansuma staged at the Legion Post on September 2nd.

Both Min Yasui and Tosh Ando (both attorneys) were very critical of the Cathay Post stating they are doing the Japanese no good and eventually will foster community ill-will toward all the Japanese in Denver. In a discussion on remedial measures Ando stated, "Oh, you can't do a damn thing about that bunch."

Impressions:

Although outwardly the Cathay Post seems to be a reputable organization with a good purpose, there are many bad features operating in the establishment which, in the end, will not prove at all helpful to the Japanese who are attempting to adjust themselves in the new community. The bar and the gambling operation will only aid only in increasing ~~the~~ delinquency among the Japanese population.

Further study should be carried on this organization.

NISEI RECREATION

Baseball game between Ordway & Denver Nisei

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This afternoon (Sep 2nd) the staff relaxed from the conference currently in progress, and some of us attended the championship baseball game between the Ordway Niseis and the Denver Bussés. During the past two days (Sep 1 and 2) about 13 nisei baseball teams from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Wyoming^{Nebraska} participated in a Tri-State Baseball Tournament. Ordway nisei and Denver Bussés emerged as finalists and played each other for the championship. The game ended with a 15 to 6 victory for the Orway nisei team. (Get Japanese newspaper story on this tournament)

The game was played at the race track grounds of the city Park. Numerous other ball fields were engaged for the entire tournament.

Attendance:

There were about 800 people who witnessed this final game. They were mostly younger nisei, but there were a good many issei present. There were a handful of caucasians.

In general it seemed that the crowd enjoyed the game, although both teams ~~were~~ displayed ragged form in spots. The pitching was rather poor on both teams. One nisei fellow stated this was due to the fact these two teams had had to play four games in two days.

Many of those present were from the rural areas of Colorado, although the bulk was probably from Denver city. In walking through the city park to the race tracks where the game was held we passed numerous Japanese groups either in cars or sitting on the grass, many of whom were enjoying a picnic lunch. There were some family groups which had come out to spend the day. Today being Labor Day there were hundreds of other people (caucasians) scattered throughout the park.

NISEI RECREATION

Baseball game between Ordway and Denver Nisei T. Yatsushiro

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Meeting a need

The ball game appealed largely to the nisei. Participants were exclusively young nisei. There/~~was~~^{was} a fair number of issei attending, but not too many. This type of recreation definitely meets a nisei need, not only/the players but the Japanese spectators. It provides an occasions when players and spectators from/~~parts~~^{various} of the city, state, and other states/~~can~~^{can} come together to make or renew acquaintances. It may be argued that an exclusively nisei baseball tournament will only tend to weld the nisei, and the issei, tighter in their own group and impede the assimilation process. This may be true to some extent, but the important thing at present is that it does fulfill a need for ~~XXXX~~ wholesome recreation. Furthermore, participating/ⁱⁿ and witnessing a baseball game is much better in terms of assimilation than not doing anything, for after all, baseball is one of the most popular sports in America.

Umpires

An interesting aspect of the game was that the umpires (there were four of them in all) were all caucasians. They are probably paid a fee for their services. It was not learned why caucasian umpires were used.

Admission

Admission was free, however, the hat was passed around for contributions. Two issei men ~~was~~ made the rounds of the grandstand and laughingly persuaded the spectators to contribute as much as possible.

NISEI NEWSPAPER MAN
Visit with Bill Hosakawa

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Between 4 and 6 this afternoon Bill Hosakawa, copy writer on the Denver Post newspaper, visited Cullum, Sasaki, and me/ at the Oxford Hotel. Cullum was anxious to meet Hosakawa and consequently this meeting was arranged in advance.

Cullum did most of the talking on various problems of the Japanese in U.S. and his experience in the relocation program. Bill was rather reticent and spoke very little. Sasaki left for Los Angeles about 5 p.m. and I stepped out for a while to bid him goodbye.

Des Moines

Bill stated he thought there were about 250 Japanese in Des Moines when he left there about two months ago. He stated they were all doing very well in Des Moines.

JACL

Probably the most significant statement he made was this: "I would very strongly oppose the formation of a JACL chapter in Des Moines." His reasoning is that where there is a relatively small Japanese population in one area and where they are having little difficulty in adjusting in the/caucasian community a formation of a nisei or issei organization will ~~only~~ tend only to create unnecessary problems by making the Japanese populace prominent and possibly arouse unnecessary/antagonism toward the Japanese.

Assimilation

From various remarks made by Bill at this meeting and at another meeting and through his writings in the Pacific Citizen Bill's philosophy with respect to assimilation is in general this: the sooner the nisei lose their identity as Japanese, as

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Visit with Bill Hosakawa

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using English exclusively in daily conversations and mixing freely with caucasians (groups and individuals), etc., the better will the future of the nisei be. Although he himself is a strong member and supporter of the JACL, it is my impression that he would prefer to shy away from participating in exclusively Japanese activities and organizations.

(It is recalled that Bill was an out and out supporter of the fundamental WRA policy of getting the evacuees out of the relocation centers on the basis that ~~prolonging~~ their detentions in centers would only prolong their reabsorption into the American community and ~~xxx~~ result in greater difficulty in resettling on the "outside".)

General

Bill is not very well acquainted with the Denver Japanese population and therefore will not be too useful in this respect. However, because of his analytical mind and his ability to express himself on various subjects he would be a very useful person to confer with on various phases of the study.

Relations with Larger Community
Meeting with Gordon Connelly

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A meeting was arranged with Gordon Connelly, acting director of the National Opinion Research Center at the U. of Denver and strong KKK Fellowship of Reconciliation member (pacifist group). Bob Cullum was anxious to meet him and as I knew Gordon as an old friend I arranged for the meeting tonight, between 8 and 10.

Attitude of the larger community toward Japanese

Gordon thought that in general the larger community was indifferent toward the Japanese population in Denver. He related that the FOR organization of which he is a member is actively trying to combat race prejudice and discrimination. He stated the JAACL had recently informed him that a George Yamaguchi and family had purchased a house and lot for about \$17,000 in a solid white district and that they were being threatened by the real estate agent and the white residents of the district from moving into this property ~~xxxxxxx~~ the family bought. Upon hearing this he personally made a house to house/^{call} on all the 30 or so white families whose names appeared on a letter written by ~~xxxx~~ Robert O'Brien, real estate agent, which bluntly advised the Yamaguchi family not to move into the house. His mission, he explained, was to try and find out exactly what the attitude of each family was and to try to persuade those who were definitely prejudiced to change their views. He reported in many case either the husband or the wife was not opposed to the Japanese family moving in. In about a third of the cases the white families were anxious to get their names off the petition, explaining that they were misinformed. Another third he felt soften^{ed} their attitude or were generally iddiffèrent.

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It ~~ix~~ was assumed that about a third were definitely against the Japanese moving in. He thought that if the case was put to court test, Robert O'Brien, real estate agent, would not be too anxious to push the case against the Japanese family.

There was a general discussion on what tactics would be best in combatting such discrimination, whether formal or informal action should be adopted. Belonging to a pacifist organization, whose basic policy is non-violence or passive resistance, Gordon thought the informal person-to-person technique should be used before proceeding with a court case. He was not against resorting to the court if there is a need and especially if it involved a basic principle.

Inter-racial Community

Gordon informed that the FOR ~~ix~~ has for the past six months been contemplating ^{the} ~~of~~ purchasing/a complete city block in which people of various races, as whites, Negroes, Spanish-Americans, and Japanese-Americans, can live and work together. The main purpose of this project is to combat the restrictive covenants~~g~~ on real estate which is widely prevalent in Denver city. The plan is to set this particular inter-racial community as an example to the city people,~~g~~ hoping thereby that the idea will become infectious and gradually tent to eliminate all forms of restrictive covenant on real estate in the city. The FOR group is very serious about this project and have had many meetings discussing all phases of the problem.

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Meeting with Gordon Connelly

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Ignorance of American Public regarding Japanese in U.S.
recently

Gordon informed that in a poll taken/by the NORC it was discovered that most of the American people still feel that the Japanese-Americans acted as spies for Japan and committed sabotage during the war. He pointed out that the public is not only ignorant but many misinformed and some just prejudiced. (The Denver Post had an editorial on this in the August 25th issue and the Rocky Mt. News carried a story on the same day. Pacific Citizen carried a long story on it also on about the same date)

General Comment:

Cullum suggested to me that possibly the NORC might cooperate to the extent of conducting a brief poll on the attitude of the American public toward the Japanese now in U.S. It is doubtful that the NORC will conduct any sort of poll free of charge. ~~xxx~~ Being a non-profit organization it charges a fee ~~xxx~~ on a cost basis. However, Gordon will be contacted again to inquire into this possibility.

JAPANESE NEWSPAPER/
Rocky Shimpo (Editor, Mr. Takeuchi)

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Bob Cullum and I paid a very brief visit to the Rocky Shimpo and met the editor Mr. Takeuchi. Rocky Shimpo is located at 1941 Larimer Street, telephone KE 0883.

Bob was interested mainly in paying a courtesy call on the editor and therefore very little was gained in this visit. ~~KATHER~~
A future visit will be made on Mr. Takeuchi. Few facts about the paper can be reported at present.

The Rocky Shimpo is a four-page bi-lingual daily paper. The English section covers only half a page and therefore very skimpy in news.

There has been considerable turnover in personnel during and after the war. The present editor has been on the job for the past four months only. He was in Topaz relocation center formerly. For about two years during the war Roy Takeno, presently on the Denver Post staff as a reporter, was the English editor. He was succeeded by Katherine Kawamura for worked for several months and just recently resigned.

Mr. Takeuchi was very friendly and asked Bob some questions concerning other cities in which Japanese have resettled.

Bob Cullum and I made a brief visit to the Colorado Times and met the editor, Mr. Kaihara. This was merely a courtesy call and therefore no effort was made to interview the editor in any intensive way. The Times is located at 2017 Lawrence Street; telephone Tabor 6690.

Mr. Kaihara is believed to be an issei of about 50 years of age. He speaks English very fluently. He appears very intelligent and is quite outspoken. He has been the editor of the C. Times for many years, and it is believed he is one of the old timers of Denver and Colorado. He indicated he knew the history of Denver and the state quite well, especially that pertaining to the Japanese population. Further interview will be arranged with him, as he appears to be a very good source of information.

It is believed that Mr. K. was interned for a period during the war.

Denver Japanese population

Mr. K. stated that the Japanese population in Denver is fastly dwindling and predicted that eventually there will be hardly any left in Denver. I believe he said that the population will dwindle to a mere 200 or so. (Have Bob Cullum check on this prediction.)

Japanese in Rural Colorado

Mr. K. confirmed the fact that ~~xxxxx~~ considerable number of Japanese now farming in the rural areas of Colorado. He mentioned the Arkansas Valley region and other areas known to the study where they are located. He stated some of the Japanese farmers were doing very good, like Mr. Minami, but that many were experiencing some difficulty especially with respect to the severe winter.

JAPANESE NEWSPAPER
Colorado Times (Interview with editor)

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He reiterated the remark made by others that Japanese evasuee farmers were very dissatisfied with Colorado's severe climatic conditions and that many felt California's climate which permitted all year farming was definitely superior. He thought many of the farmers will pack up and return to California.

Colorado Times

The Colorado Times is a four-page bilingual daily newspaper. The English section covers only half a page. It is believed that the paper was founded many years ago. Formerly the papers appeared only 2 or 3 times a week. The plant itself appears to be much bigger than the Rocky Shimpo's.

ORGANIZATIONS (Religion)
Buddhist Church

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Through the cooperation of Dr. Takashi Mayeda, JAACL (Denver) president, dentist and a Buddhist church member, and his cousin Frank Hiraoka, also a strong Buddhist member, arrangements were made for Bob Cullum and me to meet with the issei and nisei Buddhist ministers of Denver. The meeting was held between 3 and 4 in the afternoon. Frank Hiraoka drove us from the hotel to the Buddhist temple, which is located at 1942 Market Street, KE telephone KE 9009.

Buddhist temple

The temple is located in a very poor section of town in between big warehouses and factories of all kinds. The building is rather old and the inside is rather simply furnished. The main meeting room is long and narrow and contains folding chairs. The only attractive thing in the otherwise drab room is the altar section located in the front of the room. It is believed that the Buddhist have used this building for many many years.

Buddhist Priests

Rev. Tamai is the issei priest. He appears to be young, but Frank informed us that he has a son who has finished college, therefore it is ~~xxx~~ guessed that he is about 38 or more. He has a very pleasing appearance, is rather short, and speaks hardly any English. Throughout the interview which was conducted in English he didn't say a word and in fact dozed off a number of times.

Rev. Tsunoda is the nisei priest. He informed he was formerly in Poston III relocation center. He appears to be about close to 30 years of age. He is slightly taller than the average nisei, has a very cheerful disposition, and is quite outspoken.

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Rev. Tsunoda appears to be very intelligent and speaks English fluently. The entire interview was carried on in English between him and Bob Cullum.

Role of the Issei

Rev. Tsunoda in a general discussion about the present role of the issei in community activities/^{laughingly}stated: "The issei still have control of the pocket book and so the Japanese community still has to rely on them for financial backing."

Relationship of Buddhist Churches in U.S. and to Japan

Rev. Tsunoda explained that the Buddhist Churches in U.S. are formally all under the jurisdiction of the Buddhist Church in Japan. There are 3 high priests in Japan who comprise the ruling board. A Buddhist Bishop, now in San Francisco, is the highest Buddhist official in the U.S.

Pre-evacuation fear among Buddhists

During the period after the outbreak of war between Japan and U.S. (Dec. 7, 1941) and before the actual evacuation (around April-May, 1942), Rev. Tsunoda frankly related how the Buddhist members were cajoled by some Christian leaders (issei and nisei) to abandon their faith and become Christians on the threat that all Buddhist members were going to be interned by the U.S. Gov't. Rev. T. spoke very critically of this action on the part of the Christian leaders. He probably had ^{in mind} one particular issei Christian minister in San Diego where he had lived formerly, but he did not go as far as mentioning his name. He went on to explain that the relocation center life ~~again~~ permitted them to carry on their religious faith and activities without fear or intimidation.

ORGANIZATIONS (Religion)
Buddhist Church

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Church services

Rev. Tsunoda informed that there is one Church service a month for the issei group. This is to permit Rev. Tamai, issei priest, to visit the rural areas of Colorado and to conduct services throughout these areas. It was not learned how often the nisei group met, but it is believed it is more often than once a month. It is believed that the services for the nisei group are conducted in English with Rev. Tsunoda, nisei priest, conducting.

General comment

The main purpose of this meeting was to have the Buddhist priest (head) in Denver write a letter of introduction for Bob Cullum to the Buddhist Bishop in San Francisco, as Bob was scheduled to visit San Francisco during the ^{coming} ~~xxxx~~ week. Not very much was learned about the Denver Buddhist Church. Much of the discussion was random in nature and touched on the origin of Buddhism and Buddhist beliefs.

Rev. Tsunoda will be interviewed further concerning his church.

ATTITUDE OF LARGER COMMUNITY
Interview with Vaughn Mechau

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I accompanied Bob Cullum on a call on Vaughn Mechau, who is presently with the Interior Dept's Bureau of Reclamation. His office is located at: 535 Continental Oil Bldgs, 17th and Glenarm; his home address: 1337 E. 14th Avenue, Apt. #3.

Mechau (who is called "Bobbie" by his friends) was formerly the reports officer at Heart Mountain relocation center (Wyoming). He knows Bill Hosakawa very well, as the latter was the editor ~~fax~~ of the Heart Mt. Sentinel (newspaper) for some time.

Attitude of larger community toward the Japanese

Mechau thought that the attitude of the caucasians toward the Japanese in Denver was one of indifference. He expressed jubilation over the change in policy of the Denver Post, from one of bitter opposition to the Japanese in U.S. ~~xxxx~~ to one of a sympathetic attitude.

General

Bob suggested that Mechau be consulted when necessary in the course of the study here in ~~ix~~ Denver.

Meeting with some ^{Japanese} ~~XXXX~~ leaders

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On Bob Cullum's request Min Yasui, JACL representative, ^{Denver} arranged for a meeting of some ~~XXXX~~ Japanese leaders. It was held at the Yokoe residence at 2714 E. 12th Avenue, phone EA 6987. Those present I remember were: Mr. and Mrs. Gard Yokoe, Min Yasui, True Shibata (of New York), Bill Hosakawa, Clem Oyama, Mrs. Miura, Yoshiko Arika, a couple, a married nisei woman, and Bob Cullum. The meeting lasted from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Refreshments were served afterwards. In general the discussion was very lively touching upon a wide range of subjects regarding the Japanese in the U.S. Bob attempted to steer the discussion along the subject of assimilation. Only the pertinent phases of the discussion will be recorded. It should be added that all those present, with the exception of one middle aged issei who can pass as a nisei, ~~XXXX~~ can be classed as intellectual nisei. Most of the quotes are paraphrases.

JACL

Cullum: "Mike Masaoka told me that the aim of the JACL was out to work itself out of a job in five years."

Yasui: "He's crazy. JACL can't do its job in five years time. It ~~might~~ will take much longer than that."

Employment and Business prospects

Yasui: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
"Most of the Japanese in Denver are dependent on the Japanese community in the way of trade, one way or another, for their livelihood. You take me for example. My business (law) is 99% with the Japanese people. If it weren't for the Japanese I wouldn't have any business. Therefore, if the Japanese move out of Denver and go to the West Coast, I probably will follow them. The Japanese can't help but live together in a tight ~~XXXXXX~~ economic community because of rigid restrictions laid down by the city and real estate. It's practically impossible to crash into the better district of the city."

Nisei woman: "But there some nisei who have established businesses in the better business district of the city. Take Yoshiko Arika who has her beauty shop,....." (she enumerated a number of nisei who have been successful)."

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Mrs. Miura: "Before the war we used to operate a Japanese hardware store. We never had any trouble. We sold out just before the war started. I'm sure glad we did as we would have had to go out of business anyway as we wouldn't have been able to get Japanese goods."

Yasui: "But actually there have been only a few cases of nisei establishing businesses in the white business district."

Hosakawa: "Isn't that what the nisei ought to do?"

Yasui: "But you just can't do that, Bill. They won't let you enter the white district."

Oyama: "As long as you have ^a Japanese community you're going to have Japanese businesses catering to Japanese. Especially Japanese food stores. The issei and many of the nisei just can't live without eating Japanese food. Many of us are going to continue eating rice, tsukemono (pickled vegetables), and ocha-zuke (rice and tea mixture which is eaten toward the end of a meal). For instance, the only reason I went into a strictly Japanese business retailing Japanese food products is that I feel that there is and will be ~~xxxxxx~~ a demand for Japanese food. I could have gone into some other line of business catering to hakujins."

Pacific Northwest and California Nisei

Cullum: "I've been told that the Pacific Northwest nisei are much more advance in the process of assimilation than the California nisei. I wonder how true that is."

Yasui: (who comes from Portland, Oregon) "I think Bill Hosakawa (who hails from Pacific Northwest) will support me when I say that it is true that the Pacific Northwest nisei are more assimilated than the Californians. Los Angeles, especially, attracted many of those who ~~xxx~~ were failures, economically or otherwise, in the Pacific Northwest or other coastal areas."

Denver nisei woman: "Even here in Denver before the war Los Angeles was looked upon as a place to go. Many who failed here went there."

Meeting with some Japanese leaders

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Assimilation

The group felt that it will be the third, fourth, or fifth generation before the Japanese in U.S. will be completely assimilated into the American society.

When I raised the point that assimilation was largely an individual matter, Oyama retorted that economic and social forces in the community were more important considerations.

Miss Ariki related that the nisei girls in the YWCA group were very reluctant to join and mix with caucasian clubs. She stated they preferred to cling together in their own group.

General Comment

Clem Oyama and Min Yasui were the most outspoken members in the group. The impression gathered is that they don't see anything particular bad in having a Japanese community as there is going to be one wherever Japanese have resettled in any large numbers.

In general the meeting was a successful affair.

Bob Callum ought to write his recollections and impressions of the meeting.

JACL
Luncheon with Dr. Mayeda and others

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Today between 12 and 1 p.m. a luncheon was arranged with Dr. Mayeda, dentist, Buddhist leader, and Denver JACL president. ~~Unexpectedly~~ Min Yasui, Mits Kaneko, and John deYoung also joined the luncheon. Due to various factors little effort was made to carry on any intensive interview with Dr. Mayeda.

Takashi
Dr./Mayeda

Dr. Mayeda is an old time resident of Denver and Colorado. He is a nisei of about 32 years of age. He is a popular dentist and has his office in a fairly nice district. Address: 301 Interstate Trust Bldg., 1130 16th St.; phone TA 6961. As he is a strong Buddhist I asked him about the Buddhist group. He replied, "I don't know much about the Buddhist group ~~xxx~~ since I was elected president of the JACL a few months ago. I've been too busy working with JACL." He has a very pleasant appearance and is very friendly. He is one of the popular nisei leaders in Denver. His parents and family live ~~inxx~~ nearby Denver and operates a farm. He stated his family is doing all right, but didn't know too much about farm conditions in general.

Mits Kaneko

It is believed that he now goes by the name of George Mits Kaneko. (Address: 1669 Erie St.; phone GL 1618) Mits was formerly in Poston where I knew him as head of the housing unit. He related he left Poston in early 1943 to work in the sugar beet field and that upon completion of his harvesting work he came directly to Denver where he has been since. Mits is now ~~ix~~ an insurance salesman and an accountant, looking after the books of various firms.

JACL
Luncheon with Dr. Mayeda and others

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General comment

The luncheon was staged at the Manchu Grill on Larimer street (1956). When Dr. and Mits learned I had gone to Japan after the war they pumped with all kinds of questions, and I had difficulty dodging them and turning the conversation to the Japanese in Denver. Further contacts will be made with Dr. Mayeda and Mits Kaneko.

A YOUNG NISEI

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About a week ago while enjoying a dish of ice cream at the Moritz Drug Store located at 2001 Larimer Street I made the acquaintance of a young nisei who was sitting next to me at the counter. From all appearance he impressed me as a "happy-go-lucky" individual with very little worries and responsibilities. He looked to be about 26 years of age. At present he is living with his mother here in Denver. He lost his father some time ago. His brothers and sisters are either married or living elsewhere.

Employment

At present he is working as a cook at the Denham ~~xxx~~ restaurant. He went into a long story about the good job he held in Detroit after he left the camp and before he was inducted into the army. He ~~xxx~~ proudly stated he was a mechanical engineer and toward the end he was put in charge of a unit. He claimed he was paid over \$500 a month. He admitted he had no~~x~~ college degree or school training in/^{the}mechanical field, but that he had done some work along the line. ~~xx~~ He worked here for about a 1 year until 1944 when he was inducted into the army and served with the 442. He ~~xxxx~~ was in service for about 2 years until a few months ago when he was discharged. When asked why he didn't reenter the mechanical field instead of working as a cook, he shrugged his shoulders and indicated ~~xx~~ indifference.

Drinking & gambling habits

He freely related to me how he drank and gambled heavily throughout his service experience. He admitted that he lost about \$150 a few nights previously at the Cathay Legion Post in gambling. He seemed to express pride in the knowledge that he has been able to spend money excessively in the past.

A YOUNG NISEI

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Cathay Legion Post

He invited me to visit the Cathay Legion Post with him. As this was a good opportunity to observe the gambling operation I tagged along. We first visited the bar on the first floor. He ordered drinks (beer) and we had a couple of rounds and I had to call it ~~quit~~ quits. There were 5 or 6 caucasians around the bar and two other nisei. One of the two nisei was pretty far gone and was speaking incoherently/and in a ridiculous fashion. This same nisei claimed he was from Hawaii. He opened his coat and showed us a flask of whiskey protruding from the inside coat pocket. He called the whiskey his "girl friend" and that he was going to sleep with her.

In time we left the bar and went up stairs where the nightly gambling takes place. At the top of the stairway on the second floor were two nisei fellows who were presumed to be guards who tipped off the gamblers in the ~~the~~ gambling room in case of ~~xxxxix~~ an impending raid.

We entered the gambling room after walking through a long hall way. There were about 30 people, 95% of whom were nisei and issei. The others were Chinese. (A description of the gambling operation is given in another report.)

COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH
Interview with Rev. K. Sasaki

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An interview was arranged with Rev. K. Sasaki, pastor of the Community
Colorado
Methodist Church. This church was formerly called the Japanese Methodist
Church, but during the war this was changed to the present name. The change
was a voluntary one on the part of the church membership, who probably
felt it would be wiser in terms of community relationship. The interview
was held in the afternoon, between 4 and 6, at Rev. S's home located at
2538
2515/California Street, phone MAX 3719 TA 6033.

Rev. Sasaki is an issei of about 32 years of age. He has a good deal
of his education here in America. He speaks very good English, although
there is an accent. He is married to a Stockton nisei girl and they
have a two year old son. Rev. S. appears rather intelligent, and from
others it is reported he has been studying for his doctors degree.

The Church

The church is located at 2515 California Street, phone, MA 3719.
Rev. Sasaki is the pastor for the English-speaking membership, which is
largely nisei. Rev. Uemura is the pastor for the Japanese-speaking
membership which is exclusively issei.

Rev. Uemura has been the pastor of this church for many years.
Rev. Sasaki was appointed pastor for the nisei in August 1945, therefore
he has been with this church for only about a year.

Church service for the nisei is conducted every Sunday morning from
11:15 to 12:15. Church service for the issei is conducted every Sunday
alternately at ten in the morning and two-thirty in the afternoon. The
afternoon service is mainly to accommodate issei members from the rural
areas.

Nisei Membership

Rev. S. stated that there were about 100 nisei members in his church. He stated the average attendance is about 100. The reason for this apparently 100% attendance is that many nisei who attend his service are not official members. Many of them still hold membership with some California church and have done very little to have their membership transferred. He stated he sees new faces practically every Sunday.

Nisei Dislike of Responsibility

Rev. S. complained that one his greatest problems is trying to get the nisei in his church to accept responsibility. He stated:

"The nisei just won't accept responsibilities, as assuming church office or supervising church activities. Miss Brauer of the YWCA, who has charge of the nisei dance activities, told me the same thing the other day."

Psychological Maladjustment

"One of the main reason for nisei dislike of responsibility is that the nisei is psychologically unsettled. They are not certain they want to stay in Denver permanently. Many of them are still hoping that some day, soon, they can return to California."

Return to California

"Practically every week, in fact every day, people are leaving Denver for California. Just last week we staged a farewell social for three Japanese families leaving for California."

"Many farmers are leaving Colorado for California. The main reason is that Colorado's severe winter permits them to farm only one crop during the year, and if this crop fails they lose everything for the year. Several weeks ago the Brighton, Greeley, Ft. Lupton area experienced a hail storm and Japanese farmers there lost everything."

"You see in California the weather is not a problem. They can farm practically year round and the risk is not as great."

Japanese Residential District

Many Japanese families have bought homes and are living in the district Rev. S. is. This district is roughly from 25rd street on the southwest and 29th st. on the northeast, and Welton street on the southeast and Larimer St. on the northwest. He stated most of the homes, however, are on Champa and Curtis streets in this district. Rev. S. stated what others have also stated that Japanese have had to buy detached homes in order to be able to live in them.

Rev. S. stated that this district is largely a Spanish-American district. Some Negroes live in it, but the main Negro residential district is just northeast of the Japanese district. Rev. S. stated that many of the Negroes have very nice homes.

Japanese and other minority groups

Rev. S. believed that the relationship between the Japanese and the Negroes have been very fine. Mrs. S. thought that the Negroes in Denver were economically better off than the Japanese. She related meeting a very fine looking Negro woman at a Women's Club meeting this afternoon, and stated this woman was worth millions.

Rev. and Mrs. S. both agreed that the relationship between the Japanese and Spanish-Americans (Mexicans) were not too good. Rev. S. thought this was due to the fact that the incoming Japanese evacuees have so well established themselves economically and have far excelled the Spanish group, that the latter group resented this. Rev. S. implied that the Spanish were poor economically. He also stated that the Spanish have been discriminated against here in Denver and Colorado for many many years, and this may account for their dislike of the Japanese. Rev. S. further stated that the Spanish voters voted for the State alien discrimination bill on land ownership, which bill ~~was~~ was put to a referendum in 1944 and which specifically discriminated against Japanese aliens. (The bill was defeated.)

Minority groups (continued)

Rev. S. reported that in an apartment house nearby their home Japanese families are living with Negro and white families, and that they were getting along very nicely.

Inter-racial housing project

While on my way home from I ran into a housing project, which appeared to be very nice, and I notice Japanese children playing with Negro and white children. Further check on this housing project will be made.

Employment

When asked about the kind of work Japanese are doing in Denver, Rev. S. stated they were in all kinds of employment. He was unable to go into any detail about any aspect of the employment situation.

Since he operated as a visiting pastor in the San Luis Valley region he was able to report that many issei and nisei were working in a steel mill in that region.

Farmers

During the summer months the farmers are very busy, working from early till late in the day, but during the winter months they have nothing to do as farming is impossible. Many of the nisei farmers come into Denver and find some jobs here during the winter. Many of the issei farmers remain on their farms and do nothing in the way of income-producing work. Rev. S. stated they visit each other, play cards, and gamble.

Rural Areas of Concentration

Rev. S. informed that there are three major rural areas of concentration in which Japanese are found. He was unable to furnish any statistics. When asked if he thought there were about 2000 Japanese in the rural areas of Colorado, he thought it was a good guess.

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Rural Areas of Concentration (continued)

One is the Brighton, Greeley, Ft. Lupton area, which is located just north of Denver. The second is the Arkansas River Valley area located in the southeastern part of Colorado, and includes Pueblo, Rocky Ford, La Junta, Ordway, Las Animas, Lamar, Granada, etc. The third is the San Luis Valley region which is located near the middle of the southern ~~border~~ border of Colorado, and includes Alamosa, ~~an~~ San Acacio, etc.

(These areas of concentration will be checked with other informed Japanese) ~~an~~

Rev. S. stated that Grand Junction city region had a number of Japanese but was not too important.

General Comment

Considerable time was spent in getting basic data on the rural regions of Colorado, in order to prepare myself for a visit in these areas several weeks from now. Names and addresses of people who will be most helpful to me in the rural areas were given me by Rev. S.

A visit will be made to Rev. S. church service at an early date.

JACL
Conversation with Min Yasui

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I had lunch with Min Yasui, JACL regional representative, today. He complained about the lack of interest among members of the Denver JACL. He showed me a list of names of people who have indicated they are definitely attending the forthcoming JACL ~~meeting~~ dinner-meeting. This meeting is to be held on September 20, the dinner at the "Manchu Grill" and the meeting at the YWCA. ~~xxxxxx~~ The list contained only about 8 names and half of these were caucasian/ guests. Min stated:

"Our greatest problem is trying to interest our nisei members in attending our regular monthly meetings. My god, we have to throw in a movie on top of having State Senator Brooks and another prominent Denverite appear in a forum discussion. Then we have a social dance hour after the meeting and movie. We have to put on a big show in order to attract the nisei members. I guess we have to call up all the members and try to persuade them to come. I wish the nisei have more ~~xxxx~~ active interest in their organization."

Min appeared rather discouraged ~~xxxx~~ and disgusted about the lack of interest shown/ in JACL by the nisei members. When asked about the attendance at regular meetings, Min stated about 50 to 60, sometimes more and sometimes less. He ~~xxxx~~ stated: "At one meeting we had only ~~xxxx~~ 4 or 5 members attending" with a very despairing look on his face.

Just before our luncheon conversation, Min showed me a short mimeographed questionnaire which is going to be used to question a number of nisei in the city with respect to their attitude toward JACL. Min stated ~~the~~ about five nisei, members of JACL, have volunteered their services in interviewing a number of nisei in the city. The survey will be a ^{random} crude/poll with very little attempt to conduct it on a/ scientific basis. The ultimate objective of this survey is to improve the JACL so it will appeal to more of the nisei.

JACL
Conversation with Min Yasui

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Issei Deportation

Min spoke very disparagingly of the issei's attitude ~~xxxx~~ and behavior with regard to the the padding deportation of issei from U.S. to Japan.

He related:

"This morning an elderly issei came in to discuss the deportation situation. He wanted JACL to help the issei in fighting their deportation. When I asked him as an individual if he had done anything about it, he said 'No! How in hell can we help the issei when they themselves have done so little ~~xxxx~~ to fight the deportation. ~~xxxxxx~~ These damn issei are so damn indifferent. Now when they are really in a jam they want JACL help. My god.

"Well I told this issei that if he really wanted JACL's help he go back to his community and raise some money from the other issei. We got to have money to fight a case like this. ~~xxxxx~~ This issei stated he will go back to his community and do what I told him, but I bet he won't do anything."

JACL leaders

While talking about nisei lack of interest in JACL, I led Min to discuss JACL's stand on the evacuation. He related:

"Evacuation was inevitable, and whatever JACL may have done would not have prevented evacuation at that time. Now Mike (Masaoka) and the other JACL leaders took the ~~xxxxxxthaxk~~ position of cooperating with the government. I fought that position, you know. I would have accepted that position, providing ~~xxxxxxx~~ certain conditions were met by the government, especially those pertaining to civil liberties. I had a big fight with the JACL ~~xxxxk~~ leaders in Portland as they tried to make me change my views.

"Now there were some things that certain JACL leaders did which weren't exactly on the level. There is one leader who told the farmers in his district they should continue ~~xxxxxxx~~ planting and farming, because if they didn't the country would think they were disloyal. Well, the farmers did that and just when they were about to harvest their crops they had to evacuate and lose everything. ~~xxxxxxx~~ The worst thing about this was that this particular JACL leader was given special consideration and voluntarily evacuated the place before the others. Now, I can see why a man like that is hated by some people."

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Conversation with Min Yasui

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Personal notes on Min

Min spoke very bitterly about the attempt of the Minidoka camp police (evacuee presumably) to make him testify about the evacuation.

He related:

"Those damn young bitches wanted to force me to testify. Now I wouldn't have minded if there was a government order ordering me to testify. Then I would have testified. But there wasn't anything official about forcing me to testify. I told them (the ~~gooks~~ evacuee police) off, that they couldn't make me testify. Those sons of bitches. They' were just young kids, you know."

Min is very sensitive about civil rights and privileges and any attempt to trespass upon them gets him boiling mad. This is illustrated by his refusal to obey the curfew regulation in Portland, just before evacuation took place.

ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT
Conversation with a young Nisei (Paul Uyeda)

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#29

Tonight while having supper at the Manchu Grill I struck up a conversation with a young nisei who sat beside me. He is probably about 25 years of age. He informed his parents left for Japan just before the war and he's not sure how they are doing now. They lived in Kumamoto ken. He stated he and his family lived in Los Angeles before the war for a number of years. Before this his family lived in Colorado.

He stated he is working at the Lunch Produce in the Denargo Market. Asked about how wages were there, he stated "They're very cheap!" When asked what the average wage was he stated, "Oh, about 78 cents^{an hour}/plus time and a half." He stated he worked from 10 to 14 hours per day. "If you work on a straight time basis," he stated, "You make more per hour, but you only work 8 hours, so you actually make less."

When asked about ~~how~~ where he lived he stated he has moved from one hotel to another a lot in the past. He now lives at the "Wyoming Hotel", which is located at 2044 Larimer Street. This hotel is Japanese-operated and practically all the roomers are Japanese.

He is a bachelor and separated from his family he lives by himself. He has a sister, but she lives elsewhere.

From various remarks made by him it seems that he is far from satisfied with his present economic status. His parents in Japan are worrying him somewhat.

He invited to visit him if I wanted to.

CASE STUDY
Visit with Jiro Sasada (nisei)

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#30

Visited with Jiro Sasada^{this evening} at his home located at 934 -21st Street. Met Jiro's mother very briefly. The family operates an apartment house in which they live.

Apartment house:

The building, as previously described, is very old. The house is heated by coal-burning stoves which are placed in each room or apartment. There are nine individual apartments occupied by nine family units, ~~most~~^{all} of whom are Japanese tenants. The apartments are two-room units, so the family units are small, mostly couples. The building is a ~~two~~ two-story structure, and the basement ~~is~~ ~~also~~ so have apartments. Most of the tenants here are permanent ones.

The Sasada family has been operating this apartment since 1942 when they voluntarily evacuated to Denver from Los Angeles.

Pre-evacuation history:

The Sasadas operated an apartment house for many years in Los Angeles on ninth street near the Japanese district. They leased the apartment.

Evacuation:

They voluntarily evacuated Los Angeles and came to Denver in March 1942, just before the freezing order went into effect. They shipped their household belongings and drove out here in their car which they still have.

Losses:

The family suffered relatively little through evacuation, as they owned very little ~~real~~ property. Their apartment they operated was on a lease basis. Most of their personal belongings

CASE STUDY
Visit with Jiro Sasada (nisei)

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were shipped to Denver.

Denver Adjustment in general:

The Sasadas were one of the first to evacuate to Denver and one of the first to begin operating an apartment house. They learned about this apartment through the owner (caucasian) who also owned and operated a hotel nearby in which they lived the first few weeks after arriving in Denver.

Jiro attended Denver U. for about a year and a half until 1944 when he was inducted into the army. He was discharged recently and is back at Denver U.

Mr. S. (father) soon began working as a pressman in a dry cleaning establishment.

at
Mother S. is now working ~~xxxxxx~~ Brown Palace Hotel as a maid. It is not known how long she has been working here.

With the father's and mother's income from their respective jobs and with the income derived from the operation of the apartment house, this family is economically secure and quite happily adjusted.

Permanency of Residence

Jiro reiterated what he had said previously about Chicago, that he hated the place and didn't see how the Japanese prefer to live there. He was not particularly interested in returning to Los Angeles. Of Denver he stated:

"I like Denver very much. It's not too big and not too small. One can find all the fun one wants here as one would in Chicago. The nisei in Chicago are mainly attracted by the big city lights and bright neon ~~sign~~ signs. Denver is quiet and in general a nice place to live."

"When I want to go dancing I usually go to the Elitch Garden (amusement center) in North Denver. Or I go to the Lakeside amusement center. It only costs 40 cents per head and you can have all the fun you want."

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Visit with Jiro Sasada (nisei)

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Permanency of Residence (continued)

From all aspects Jiro and his family will remain in Denver permanently. Economically they have rooted themselves here. They have no housing or family problems. In general they are very contented here.

Education:

Jiro is very anxious to continue his education, but he is at a crossroads as to what field he should enter. He has two years to his credit at Denver U., and just recently after his discharge from the army he reenrolled. He stated he began with electrical engineering as his major, changed to architectural engineering, and has been uncertain as to what he really wanted to take up. At present he is majoring in business and accounting. He is very pessimistic about entering a professional field as engineering as he feels very strongly that opportunities for nisei in this field is very limited. He explained:

"Don't you think the changes for nisei in the engineering field is very limited? I can't see how I can find a good job in this field after I have completed my education. That's why I changed from engineering to accounting. At least in accounting I will be able to find some kind of job."

In spite of encouragement given him by me that he should go into the field of engineering if he really was interested in it, and in spite of cases I detailed where nisei have advanced themselves in this field, Jiro maintained that the field was closed to nisei. It seemed he was still thinking in terms of the pre-evacuation era in which very few nisei who majored in engineering ever got very far after finishing college. Job prospects after finishing college is his primary concern in selecting a major at present.

CASE STUDY
Visit with Jiro Sasada (nisei)

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Nisei Veterans Organization:

When I mentioned the fact that a number of nisei veterans have joined the Cathay American Legion Post (138), he practically turned over in his chair and very disparagingly stated: "OH, THAT! They tried to get me to join, but I didn't care to join that outfit. What is the American Legion anyway--is it a social club?" I informed him that it was legally a veterans organization. "Well, the Cathay is nothing but a gambling joint. One thing I don't think too much the American Legion. They haven't been too friendly to the nisei during the war. I think we nisei ought to join a veteran organizations like the AVC. I don't know why they called the organization 'Cathay'. Only a few Chinese are members. Most of themembers are nisei. Then the ~~man~~ commander is a Chinese. I think the Chinese are taking advantage of the good record established by the Nisei in Italy."

When asked what he thought about establishing a pure nisei veterans organization, Jiro stated he thought the nisei ought not to do this but ought to join already established local veterans organization. He preferred the AVC.

Asked about how most of the nisei veterans felt about forming an organization or joining one already established, he stated most of the nisei were indifferent. Jiro himself is rather indifferent.

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Personal notes on Jiro

When he and his family first came to Denver in March 1942 Jiro worked at various jobs for about a year. In early 1943 he enrolled at Denver U. and continued school for about a year and a half when he was inducted into the Army. He spent about two years in the army, never going overseas but stationed at Camp Snelling (language school), and was just recently discharged. He is now back at Denver U.

Jiro is a nisei of about 24 years of age. He is single and very much engrossed in finishing ~~his~~ college before anything else. He is rather handsome and of average nisei stature. He is very friendly but more on the quiet side. It was necessary to literally pump information out of him, as he is prone to sit and listen rather than do the talking.

It is not believed that he associates too freely with the nisei in Denver. From his belief that nisei ~~ought~~ veterans ought to join already established veterans organization than to form one of their own, it can be concluded that he prefers to dissociate himself from any exclusively Japanese organization.

Jiro likes music and plays the piano. The family bought a piano after they arrived in Denver. The piano ~~is~~ is prominently located in the living room where our visit was held.

(The following is taken from the September 3, 1946, issue of The Progressive News, page two, lower left corner. This paper is a bi-lingual 4-page newspaper, which is published daily except Sunday. The publisher is Michi Onuma, a nisei girl who used to live in Denver. That is the reason a number of Denverites receive complimentary issues of the paper at present. The paper is published in San Francisco, California.)

"JAPANESE, CHINESE NAMES IN VET POST

"DENVER--The only veterans organization of its kind is the Cathay Post 185, composed of Japanese and Chinese American veterans of World War II, which dedicated its memorial home at 2015 Market Street here early this month.

"Its officers are: William C. Chin, commander; Harry K. Kawasaki, senior vice-commander; Eugene Lung and Henry T. Teuchiyama, junior vice-commanders; Gilbert W. Woo, finance officer; Edward L. Chin, adjutant; Henry K. Saiki, chaplain; Shigeo G. Teraji, athletic officer; Jerry Fujikawa, historian; Yoshio G. Kanegai, service officer; and Joe Lung and Dong Wai Fong, sergeants-at-arms."

NISEI BEAUTY SHOP OPERATOR
Conversations with George Ohashi

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#32

I had a half hour or so ~~xxxx~~^{visit} with George Ohashi, who ~~is~~ operates a beauty shop and is himself an expert hair stylist. His shop is located in the Florenz Bldg. at 830 18th Street. Phone is KE 9412. The shop is named "Ohashi Beauty Salon", and is in a fairly nice section of the city. There are several other professional nisei men who have offices or shops in the same Building. I recalled ~~xxxx~~ the names of Kitaro Iwasaki, who is a photographer, Dr. Suenaga (physician), Mr. Chicasuye (lawyer who just left town), Dr. T. Ito (dentist), and Dr. Y. Ito (dentist). Across this building is Denver's main post office.

I had met George once before and he immediately recognized me as I entered his shop. He was very friendly and was very interested in talking. I was introduced to his wife who was busy working on two customers who were there. Toward the end of the visit a caucasian school principal (woman) came in and George introduced me to her. She said she had about 8 Japanese (nisei) students in his school during the last term, and spoke very favorably about them. She was very friendly and had a very friendly attitude toward the Japanese. She is George's regular customer.

Personal Notes

George is a nisei of about 35 years of age. He is of average nisei stature, probably ~~a~~ thinner than the average. He has a quiet appearance but is quite articulate in a person-to-person situation. He ~~xxx~~ is very ambitious and optimistic with regard to his business future.

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Conversation with George Ohashi

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Pre-evacuation economic history

Before evacuation George operated three beauty shops, two in Los Angeles and one in San Diego. He was very well established. He showed me pictures of his salons and they ^{appeared} ~~were~~ definitely to be of first class calibre. Most of his shops were situated in fashionable first class hotels. His trade was mainly of the upper class caucasians. Near the entrance he has a large ^{autographed} picture of Rita Hayworth, movie actress, who was one of his customers. Without question he was one of the foremost hair stylist, Japanese or caucasian, in California. He proudly showed me a whole collection of trophies and medals which he had won at various hair styling contests sponsored in southern California. All of them were for winning first place. They were won in 1939, 1940, and 1941. All of these trophies are proudly exhibited about the shop, and George expressed in winning them.

Evacuation and Losses & JACL

He was evacuated to Poston relocation center in Arizona in 1942 and lived in camp three. He stated he lost about \$17,000 through evacuation, but didn't seem particularly bitter about this loss. He left Poston in 1943 and ever since has been living here in Denver.

He was rather bitter about his relocation center life experience, esped ally with respect to the hostile attitude harbored by some people toward him. He informed that he was the president of the JACL in Los Angeles and was very active in the organization. Right after December 8th and before evacuation he stated he left the West Coast to come to Denver to survey resettlement prospects here in an effort to assist

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the issei mainly. He informed when he relocated in Poston camp ~~XXXXXX~~ some of the evacuees threatened to beat him, because of a suspicion that he was an informer for the government.

He stated:

"Here I had been trying to help the Japanese and they threatened to beat me up. That's why I'm not going to stick my neck out for any one no more. ~~The~~ Saburo Kido (past JACL president) tried to get me to be president of the Denver chapter, but I turned this down. I told him I would contribute to JACL but am not going to take any active part in it."

He went to relate how for some strange reason he was put on the "stop list" in camp and that he couldn't resettle for some time. He was bitter toward Miss Nell Findley, high camp administration official, who he claimed deliberately held ~~him~~ up his leave. He stated:

"I don't know why they put on me on the 'stop list'. I had strong recommendations from the Navy. May be it was because of my connection with the Japan-America goodwill organization to which I belonged and was active in."

He expressed strong dislike for Naval Captain Zacharias, who was very active in American radio propoganda to Japan especially toward the end of the war with Japan. He said most of the naval officials he knew were very friendly to him and wrote letters of recommendation for him.

Present economic status and future prospects

George now has one beauty shop which he described as "really nothing--just keeps me busy". He is very anxious to open up branch shops in the east and even overseas. He explained he tried to get passage to Paris, France, for business purpose but the government is not permitting orientals to visit Europe at present.

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Present economic status and future prospects (continued)

He is very interested in going into the import-export business field, trading goods with Japan. He has doing a lot of spadework along this line, and he claims that he has some very prominent men who are backing him. With regard to financial backing he stated:

"I can raise about \$20,000 to \$30,000, but I can't put up \$100,000. That's why I ~~max~~ need some big men with money to back me up."

He stated already he had demands from Japan for about \$20,000 worth of American goods, as fishing tackles, etc.

Of his beauty shop business he is particularly interested in establishing shops in Chicago and New York. He stated he wanted to enter the state hair styling ~~max~~ contest that is to be held there. He said he tried establishing a shop in Chicago, but they city refused him license to operate.

General comment

Although George is financially well established he is ~~not~~ not completely happy about his business situation at present. Until he can establish several branch beauty shops in some of the big cities in the East he will not be satisfied.

He has bought a house here in Denver.

Further visits with George will be made.

GENERAL

two nisei
Conversation with ~~Bill Hosakawa & K. Iwasaki~~

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Had dinner tonight with Bill Hosakawa and Kitaro Iwasaki at the "Pelican" restaurant. Bill is with the Denver Post while Kitaro is a photographer who has his own studio. Kitaro is a young nisei, probably about 23 years of age, who was WRA photographer for over two years and who travelled extensively during his WRA employment (visited 44 states) taking official pictures of evacuees who have left camps and resettled on the "outside" throughout the country. (More will be written about Kitaro following further interviews.)

The whole dinner-chat took about 2 hours. Kitaro and I did a lot of reminiscing about people we both knew. Bill spent a considerable portion of the evening probing me about my Japan experience with the Strategic Bombing Survey. I finally got ~~shaxkx~~ toward the latter part of the evening around/to question them about various aspects of interest in the Japanese population in general. (Bill's ~~is~~ my Japan experience was because he wanted to write a news story on it.)

Issei Attitude toward Japan

Both Bill and Kitaro stated they weren't well acquainted with this subject but both had some opinions on the matter. Bill stated he thought the issei now don't hold as strong a political attachment to Japan as before, but that the attachment is now more on a family and relative basis. That is to say, issei here are concerned about their relatives in Japan. Of course some of them have severed all connections with Japan or their relatives for some time now. Of his parents Bill stated:

"You take my folks now. They don't give a damn about Japan or their relatives there."

Bill's parents came from Hiroshima. Kitaro's ~~xxx~~ didn't know where

GENERAL
Conversation with two nisei

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his folks came from (ken in Japan) and didn't seem to care particularly.

Both agreed that the issei definitely don't want to go back now, especially in view of the difficult period Japan is going through. Many, of course, are seriously concerned about the pending deportation to Japan, and are fighting this.

Issei-Nisei Relationship

Bill had definite ideas about the role of issei and the role of the nisei. He stated:

"Leadership passed on from the issei to the nisei on December 7, 1941. Due to their lack of English and due to the fact that they aliens the issei was forced to rely on the nisei for leadership and especially with respect to dealing with the larger community and the government. You take Portland for instance. There the issei came to ask for aid of the JACL and the nisei in general. ... I don't believe that this change-over was due to the advanced age of the issei. ...

Economic future of the Nisei and Issei

Bill continued:

"I don't give a damn about the issei now. As far as I am concerned they are non-existent. In about ten years the issei will all die off. The average age of the issei is about 60 or 70 now isn't it. The main problem now is the nisei. The future of the Japanese in America is dependent on the nisei. Oh, I don't grant that in many instances the issei still hold the purse strings."

Reemergence of Japanese Communities

When I asked what the prospects were of Japanese communities reemerging, Bill quickly retorted:

"Well, we have it already don't we. Take Denver for instance. The Japanese here are living off each other. I think this is bad. ... The sooner the Japanese break away from Japanese communities the better it is going to be.

GENERAL
Conversation with two nisei

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Reemergence of Japanese Communities

Kitaro agreed that this was bad. ~~xxxx~~ It is to be noted that both Bill ~~xxxx~~ and Kitaro have succeeded in breaking away from dependence on the Japanese community for their livelihood. Most of Kitaro's photography trade is with Caucasians. This weekend (Saturday and Sunday) Kitaro informed he had a big job, that of taking pictures of a big two-day Caucasian wedding and celebration. Bill, of course, works for the Denver Post, leading Colorado and Rocky Mountain region newspaper.

Economic future of the Nisei (continued from page 2)

Bill felt very optimistic about the economic future of the nisei. He felt that the nisei "will be able to hold their own" come what may, depression or general hard times.

Nisei Unsettleness

When this subject was broached by me, Bill stated he felt the nisei was not unique in this but that it was generally true of the country. All agreed that this was natural following a war.

Center Experience and Vocational Opportunities

I posed a hypothesis that center experience was an aid to finding jobs on the outside, and asked Bill and Kitaro to express their views on the matter. Bill strongly felt that center experience was not particularly an aid in finding similar jobs on the outside. He thought that if there had been no evacuation and confinement in relocation centers the Japanese on the West Coast would have found just as good jobs in plane factories and various war industries on the Coast as they have during and after the war.

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Conversation with two nisei

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Tule Lakers and Repatriates

When the Tule Lakers (evacuees who expressed loyalty to Japan) and repatriates were casually mentioned, Bill stated:

"I feel very strongly about them. I think the less we are associated with them the better it is going to be for us here in America. I think those of age in Tule Lake, who consistently disclaim their U.S. citizenship and expresse loyalty to Japan ought to be shipped to Japan. I feel strongly about treating them very severely. After all, they made it very tough for us in the relocation centers."

Bill asked me whether I had met any repatriates in Japan and how they were faring. I said I met a few and heard various stories about them through nisei GIs stationed there. When I stated that the ~~the~~ nisei GIs were hostile to the nisei repatriates and didn't want to have anything to do with them, Bill said:

"I am glad to hear that. I think that is a healthy attitude to take towards the repatriates."

General comment:

Bill is a nisei of about 30 years of age who is very intelligent and possesses a keen analytical mind. He is very strong for the ~~integration~~ breaking up of ^{the} Japanese community influence and the integration of ^{the} nisei into the larger American society at the earliest possible moment. It is not believed that he mingles too freely with nisei or issei as prefers not to.

Kitaro didn't say too much during the whole chat, but he impressed/ generally, and an attempt will be made to see him again soon.

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Quarterly meeting of the Denver chapter

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The quarterly meeting of the JACL Denver chapter was held tonight. The whole affair began at 6:30 p.m. and ended at 11:30 p.m.

From 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. a dinner was staged at the Manchu Grill. There were 21 in all that attended. Of this number seven were caucasians: Senator and Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Graham, Mr. Gifford Phillips, Miss Louise Evans, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith. Fourteen were nisei and included Mr. Min Yasui, regional JACL representative, Dr. T. Mayeda, president Denver chapter, and other members. It was purely a dinner affair with no speeches. Background notes on some of the caucasian people at the dinner might be pertinent:

Senator Brooks: He is a state senator who is very liberal and has been actively interested in the Japanese in the city and state. He led the fight against the anti-alien land discrimination bill which was before the state legislature in 1944. He is a Republican and has two more years in the senate. He is probably about 38 years of age.

Mr. Charles Graham: President of Denver Unity Council; attorney; politician representing Democratic party; very liberal and interested in the Japanese. About 50 years of age.

Miss Louise Evans: Executive-Secretary of the Denver Unity Council; very active in community activities. About 30 years of age.

Gifford Phillips: reported to be a publisher; Gordon Connelly reports he is heir to some oil fortune. His interest in the Japanese is not known.

A variety of Chinese dish were served. Manchu Grill seem to be the most popular Japanese-operated restaurant in town. It was formerly owned and operated by George Furuta, big businessman, but is not operated by George's brother-in-law.

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Quarterly meeting of the Denver chapter

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Following the dinner the group left for the YWCA located at 1545 Tremont Place, rooms 605-606, where the meeting was held. The program for the meeting followed very much the mimeographed program sheet which is attached.

Political Debate:

The main item on the program was a political debate in which Senator Brooks, Republican, and Mr. Charles Graham, Democrat, participated. Each discussed the various candidates of their respective parties for the coming general election. The candidates ranged from the governor's office to the lowest elective political office. Issues were discussed briefly. It was a regular debate with time allowed for rebuttal.

There was some horse play in the debate, especially by Mr. Graham, with humorous cracks thrown at each other, but in general the debate was on a serious level.

President Mayeda explained that the debate was staged for the purpose of clarifying in the minds of the nisei party candidates and issues so that they can vote intelligently in the coming general election.

Business:

Following the debate a short business meeting ensued with President Mayeda still presiding. The items taken up are listed in the program sheet. There seemed to be very little interest among those present as indicated by the lack of discussion.

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Movies:

Several short sound movies were shown. One was titled "The House I Live In" starring Frank Sinatra. It was purely an anti-racial discrimination movie. Another was a short on Franklin D. Roosevelt, a brief history of his life. Another ^{Japanese} was a picture ~~of~~ with a commentary in English--a story of gangsterism in Japan. The last was a cartoon.

Social Hour

A lottery was conducted with a ticket selling for 50 cents. It was explained that the money raised from this lottery ~~xxx~~ would be used to defray the movie expenses. About 55 tickets were sold and about 7 prizes were given away. (I won a 50 cent fountain order prize given by the Howard Doi pharmacy.)

Dancing and refreshments took up the rest of the evening until 11:30. ~~By~~ There were only few remaining toward the end.

Attendance:

There were about 45 people in all who attended the debate and the rest of the meeting. Of this number seven were caucasians. The rest were nisei, but of these some were not JACL members. Actually there were about 32 members or less in attendance. The president, Mayeda, apologetically remarked at the beginning that some of the members "forgot to come".

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Quarterly meeting of the Denver chapter

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Impressions:

The meeting appeared to have been wellplanned with an excellent program offered the membership. However, there seemed to be lack of active participation among the membership. The attendance was relatively small, and those present were not especially interested in the business end of the meeting. Half of the people, mostly the leaders, left when dancing and refreshments commenced.

There seem to be excellent leadership in men like Min Yasui and Dr. Mayeda, but there seem to be a wide gap between them and the membership. It is probable that the leaders are doing all the work and thereby the members are apathetic and inclined toward sitting in the background ~~waiting~~ having things done for them. It seems that possibly the distribution of responsibilities to a greater number of the members might stimulate more active interest among more of them.

DENVER JACL MEETING
8:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20th
Rooms 605-606; 1545 Tremont Place

8:00 BUSINESS MEETING

Dr. Takashi Mayeda, Presiding

SPEAKERS:

Arthur A. Brooks, Jr., Republican state senator
Foremost in fight to defeat anti-Japanese
land agitation in 1944
Charles A. Graham, outstanding liberal Democrat
Candidate for U.S. Senate in 1944; present
president of Denver Unity Council

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD
DISCUSSION

9:00 BUSINESS AGENDA:

1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
Allow cabinet to appoint in case of vacancies of
office, rather than special election
2. BLUE CROSS FOR DENVER JACL
Vote to adopt, authorize Cabinet to proceed
3. NOMINATIONS FOR 1947 OFFICERS
Nomination committee to meet in November
4. PROGRAM FOR WINTER QUARTER
Oct. 31 - Nov. 1. Bazaar and Carnival with NWAA
Nov. 7th or 8th. Meeting with Palmer Hoyt
Thanksgiving Dance
Christmas Ball
General Election
5. DENVER JACL BULLETIN:
Introduction of Staff members
Katie Kawamura, editor
Ben Miyahara, make-up editor
Saburo Tani, artist (heads)
Rosa Higashi, artist (cartoons)
Bill Hosokawa, columnist
Roy Takeno, feature writer
Hikaru Iwasaki, photographer
Min Yasui, editorial consultant
6. 1947 DENVER JACL MEMBERSHIP DUES: (Proposed)
National fees \$ 1.00
Denver Chapter 1.00
Denver Bulletin. . . . 1.00
Total Membership Fee \$ 3.00
7. TRI-STATE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT
 - (1) Finances
 - (2) Report of Activities of Denver Office
 - (3) Legislative Program of JACL
 - (4) Reactivation of Tri-State Council

8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- (1) Manchu Grill
- (2) Saburo Tani of Ace Hi Studio for Posters
- (3) Rosa Higashi for Signs
- (4) Roy Takeno, for taking care of movies
- (5) Yoshiko Ariki, for acting as M.C.
- (6) Ben Miyahara, for Records
- (7) Mas Takata for PA system and phonograph
- (8) Hikaru Iwasaki, for photos
- (9) and all the merchants who donated prizes

SOCIAL HOUR

9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES. Yoshiko Ariki

9:15 1. DOOR PRIZES TICKETS Frank Hiraoka
 Charge of .50¢ for defraying expenses
 Additional tickets for drawing may be purchased

9:30 2. MOVIES. Roy Takeno
 "The House I Live In," Frank Sinatra
 "Life of Franklin D. Roosevelt"
 "Travelogue in Japan" (Pre-war)
 Newsreel shots of 442nd (if available)
 Cartoons and other features

10:00 3. RECORD DANCE
 Records thru courtesy of Ben Miyahara
 Phonograph thru courtesy of Mas Takata,
 of Universal Radio

10:45 4. DRAWINGS FOR DOOR PRIZES
 Shampoo and Finger Wave. Yoshiko Ariki,
 NY Beauty Salon
 1 Pair Nylon Stocking. T.K. Pharmacy
 Free Hair Cut. Jack M. Fuji
 \$.50 Fountain Order. Howard Doi,
 Pharmacy
 1 Box Senbei Frank Torizawa
 Granada Fish
 1 Corsage. Lottie Lee
 Hartnett, Exclusive Florist
 1 Watermelon Farm Fresh
 Garden

11:00 5. REFRESHMENTS
 Punch, doughnuts and cookies

6. DANCING UNTIL CLOSING TIME AT 11:30 p.m.

~~XXXXXX~~
SINGLE NISEI GIRL
Various talks with Bessie Onishi

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Bessie Onishi is the secretary in the JACL office, and I ~~XXXXXX~~ see her quite often inasmuch as I use the JACL Office as my headquarters. The following has been learned from these various contacts.

Family Set-up:

Father: issei; works at some hotel (caucasian) as storeroom clerk.
Mother: issei; housewife.
Children: Bessie; only child; about 24 or 25 years of age; secretary in JACL office.

Housing:

Bessie and her family bought a house which is located in the so-called Japanese residential district, somewhere around 32nd St. and Arapahoe. (check this). At first when they relocated in Denver--over a year ago--they lived in an apartment, but Bessie's father didn't like this set-up a bit as they had to be so considerate of the other, as being quiet, and not coming home too late, and not having too many guests. In their disgust over this restrictive living, they decided to buy a house of their own where they can do as they please. They are happy in their present house, which is old but substantial.

Pre-evacuation history:

Prior to evacuation the family lived in Los Angeles and ~~XXXXXX~~ and Gardena, California. The father owned a grocery store in L.A. and one in Gardena. The family first lived for a long time in Los Angeles, where Bessie grew up most of her life. But a few years before the war the father sold out their Los Angeles store, ~~XXX~~ but kept their Gardena store. The family decided to move to Gardena inasmuch as their only store was located there. Bessie protested this move very much, inasmuch as she ~~was~~

SINGLE NISEI GIRL
Varioustaka with Bessie Onishi

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Pre-evacuation history:

like Los Angeles and was used to the city life and didn't particularly like living in the country. She had just finished her high school education, and she didn't want to transfer to a country school. Her dad permitted her to continue at Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles, but he refused to take her in the family car. Therefore she caught the bus every school day. Before long this became very inconvenient and she quit Roosevelt High and transferred to a local high school. She then attended Compton Jr. High School for a while. About 1940 her dad influenced her to take a trip to Japan as some of his relatives were old and ill. She made the trip with her mother. They stayed in Japan about a year. She complained about being gawked at by the Japanese people who were experiencing a difficult time due to the war between Japan and China. Whenever she wore good shoes and good clothes, people just stared at her. She didn't like this a bit. Neither did she like having to play the restrictive woman's role, of having to be so polite, of having to take the back seat in her relations with men, etc.

Just before evacuation the father sold their grocery store and many of their other possessions as the family automobile. Bessie is very regretful that they sold their car, as they sold it for practically nothing, and as they could make good use of it now.

SINGLE NISEI GIRL
Various talks with Bessie Onishi

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Evacuation & Center Life

The family was relocated to Amache, Granada Relocation Center. Her father became the block manager for their block. The block persuaded her to become ~~the~~ a candidate for ~~the~~ councilman, or representative of the block to the community council. She stated she refused, as she didn't want to get involve in politics. However, the nominating committee included her name with two others. At the election she and another person got the most votes and a revoting was scheduled. But she declined the post to the other person.

Bessie spoke critically of camp life, that there was so much petty quarreling among the evacuees.

They left camp in 1945 and resettled in Denver.

Bessie's occupation in Denver

Bessie worked for about a year, until about two months ago, for Mr. Takamine, who is the biggest potatoe distributor in town. She worked as a bookkeeper. She quit that job as she thought her present job was more interesting, and possibly it may have paid more. She is quite happy in her present job, although this has been the first she ever worked as a secretary.

Permanency in Denver

Bessie stated about going back to California:

"All my friends are back in California. None of them are here. Friends of my folks are all back there also. Gee, I sure would like to go back. I know my mother wants to go back. But I don't know what will happen."

Because the family has bought a house in Denver just a year or so ago, it doesn't seem probable that they will leave Denver in the next two years or so. They have no property there to go back to.

NISEI HAIR STYLIST
Visit with George Ohashi

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Residence: (continued)

George stated that his neighbors are all caucasians. He states that he is accepted in that community and that there has been no antaganism displayed.

Family ~~xxxxxx~~ background:

George Ohashi: head
Mrs. Ohashi: wife; about 30 years of age.
Others: Mrs. O's younger unmarried brother who was recently discharged from the army. He is thinking of enrolling at Denver U. He's about 21 or 22 years of age.

George ~~ix~~ has been parentless since he was about 17 years of age. He lost his mother when he was about 5 and his dad when he was about 17. He has many belatiwas, many of whom are living in Hawaii. He himself was born in San Francisco. He has no active relationship with any of his relatives. His parents came from Hiroshima I believe.

Mrs. Ohashi's parents are farming in Ft. Lupton. They were big time farmers in the Guadalupe region in California, farming over 300 acres. They ~~xxxx~~ farm 160 acres at present of a all kinds of vegetables. There seems to be a very close tie between George and his wife's parents. I believe George assisted in getting the farm land for his parents-in-law. George stated they are doing satisfactorily. He claimed that the price of onions is now about 25 cents per sack, and complained that it doesn't pay to raise onions for that price. George also mentioned the unfavorable weather of Colorado which is always a risk the farmers face. He stated how many of the farmers in the northern area lost their crops in the recent hail storm that struck that area.

MXIR NISEI HAIR STYLIST
Visit with George Ohashi

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Evacuation

George spent considerable time reviewing the events just before evacuation. He told of how he and many other JACL leaders left San Diego to explore prospective farm lands for Japanese farmers in the Colorado and Utah areas. They drove their own cars all the way from San Diego to Colorado and back. The whole trip took about 10 days. With some retrospective amusement ~~xx~~ but a good deal of seriousness he related how he and his friends were arrested and questioned by police officers almost all the way from the West Coast to Colorado. He stated especially in Colorado every town and city law enforcement agencies were on the lookout for Japanese wandering in from the West Coast and they were spotted in every stop-over they made and were arrested and held several hours. In Denver, he stated, he talked to Gov Carr who was very friendly. The group surveyed farm lands in one or two areas in Colorado and one area in Utah ~~and~~ but felt none of the areas were good farm lands. Commenting on the whole trip George made, Mrs. Ohashi stated: "The trip was actually useless. Next time I am going to keep you (George) home."

When they started the journey, George stated there were 10 car load of people but toward the end there were only two car loads.

Because of the huge losses he suffered and because of the countless times he had been arrested and questioned by the police George feels rather bitter about the whole evacuation.

He stated that if he can reclaim his losses he will contribute the money to some worthy organization, probably the JACL.

NISEI HAIR STYLIST
Visit with George Ohashi

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Recreation:

George likes fishing and hunting. He took me to the basement where he showed me his hunting rifles and fishing outfits. He talked of going fishing with his neighbor the following morning. He stated he goes fishing on Sunday usually with his neighbor, and asked if I would be interested in going with him one of these days. Generally, he leaves home about one o'clock in the morning and drive out into the country for about 4 or 5 hours before they come to any fishing grounds.

I joined the family for dinner and the main entree was fish (trout) which George had caught himself the previous Sunday.

George wants to establish his beauty shops in New York and Chicago, but he stated he likes fishing and hunting and since this is found in Colorado he didn't want to leave Colorado especially.

Automobile:

George stated he bought his present '41 Nash from a GI who was going overseas in 1943 for \$1000. He stated he was lucky he bought it, as he can still sell the car for that price or even more. Of his car which he had prior to evacuation he stated:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

"Goddamit, I sure was a fool to sell my car. It was a 1940 model and in perfect condition. I sold it for \$200. Gee, I sure lost money on that deal."

NISEI HAIR STYLIST
Visit with George Ohashi

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Attitude toward Repatriates and Tule Lakers

George feels very strongly that they ought to be severely dealt with. He feels this/^{way}especially because of the rough time he had in camp where he was threatened to be beaten up by many of the pro-Japan anti-America group of Japanese.

George's brother-in-law, who served as an occupation in Japan for about six months until very recently, related how none of the nisei & GIs would have anything to do with those nisei and issei who went back to Japan as repatriates. He related how many of the nisei, dressed like "pachooks" (zoot suiters), came to the NYK building in Tokyo where many of the nisei & GIs^s were billeted trying to get sympathy and help from the latter. He went to say the nisei GIs simply ignored them and were simply sore at them, especially because of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ attitude and behavior of these repatriates while in the camps in America.

Economic Adjustment :

Much of what has been written in the previous report on George was reiterated in tonight's visit. Generally he is happily adjusted in his work ~~xxxxxxx~~ which provides him with a fair income. He is looking into the ~~the~~ future and thinking of expanding his business in the East and even to Japan. He is also interest in entering the import-export business with Japan.

JAPANESE METHODIST CHURCH
Visit with Rev. Uemura, issei pastor

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I visited Rev. Uemura and his home located at 2515 California Street, just next to the church, and had dinner with the family.

Family set-up:

Father: Rev. Uemura, about 58 years of age, Colorado pastor for about 17 years.

Mother: Mrs. U, about 55 years of age.

Children: 6 daughters, 3 of whom are married, two of whom are the youngest and attending Manual high school in Denver, and one of whom died just after graduating from high school in 1943.

1 son, Joseph, 20 years, just completed Denver U, and now enrolled as a ministerial student at Denver U's Elliff Theological Seminary.

(The two daughters now living with the family are Yayoi or Elizabeth, 17 or 18, and Kiyo, 15 or 16)

The Church

Rev. Uemura has/ been pastor of this church for the past 17 years now. During the first few years he used to travel from one rural area to another in Colorado, ministering to the rural people as they were without a church. Now he confines his preaching in Denver, although ~~xxxx~~ people from the ~~xxxx~~ neighboring rural areas come into Denver every other Sunday to attend service. To accommodate the rural people just about every other Sunday church service for the issei is held at 2:30 in the afternoon. The first and third Sunday the service for issei is held at 10:00 in the morning. Rev. U. explained that the Denver people, many of whom are Californians, prefer the morning service and the present afternoon-morning arrangement is a compromise ~~xxxx~~ between the urban and rural people.

nisei and issei,
Rev. U. informed that the entire church membership/ is about 500, which includes the rural people. At his issei service there is an average attendance of about 60 to 70 in the morning service and about 65 to 75 in the afternoon service. The ~~xxxx~~ age of the issei members range from 55 to 80.

JAPANESE METHODIST CHURCH
Visit with Rev. Uemura, issei pastor

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Permanency of Japanese residents in Denver

Rev. U. felt that the population (Japanese) in Denver will decrease appreciably, as a number of people are continually leaving for California. Of the farmers, he reiterated what had been said by many others, namely, they are having a hard time trying to cope with Colorado's weather. California farmers are used to year-around farming in relatively good weather conditions, but here in Colorado they are restricted to farming only during the summer months. He related how the recent summer hail storm ruined many farmers in the Brighton area.

Economic status of Japanese in Denver

Rev. U. thought that the Japanese in Denver were faring satisfactorily in the various jobs and businesses they are in. He did not go into any detail in describing their economic future.

General:

Rev. U. was very much interested in talking about his family and about world political, economic, and social problems. He talked about Russia and it's world policy. He was interested in Japan's present condition and her future. He felt Japan should not be so stripped of all her possessions that her population of 70,000,000 will have to be crowded in an area not bigger than Colorado. Considerable time was spent in discussing these various subjects in which Rev. U. was interested.

Assistance to Japanese

Rev. U. has done a great deal toward assisting evacuees resettle in Denver and Colorado in general. During the war when the evacuees began trickling into Denver, his wife prepared dinner every night for about 15 nisei students at their home. In various other ways he has assisted the evacuees.

JAPANESE METHODIST CHURCH
Visit with Rev. Uemura, issei pastor

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Impressions:

Rev. U. and his church is serving a useful purpose in fulfilling certain needs of the issei. However, with the age of the issei as it is and the age of Rev. U., the usefulness of an issei ~~pastor~~ pastor and an issei church service will no longer exist ~~in~~ after about 10 years.

VETERANS

"Bull-session" with 3 veterans (nisei)

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Tonight in the lobby of the Silver Dollar Hotel I participated in a "bull-session" with three nisei veterans. Yosh Mamiya, co-owner of the Silver Dollar Hotel, was the principal character who did most of the talking. The other two were not as vociferous as Yosh. One of these two is Hoshi (don't know his first name), who is the brother of Paul Hoshi who in turn is the co-partner of Yosh Mamiya.

The session first began between Yosh and I, with Yosh relating in some length his army and war experience in Europe.

Army Service

Yosh was first inducted in early 1944 and was discharged about July 1946. He was a member of the 442nd, and was one of the 500 who paraded in D.C. and were reviewed by President Truman. He was an infantryman.

Self Confidence Regained from Army Experience

Yosh took great pride in relating how his army experience restored self-confidence in him.

"You know when I first came out of the relocation camp to resettle in Colorado, boy, we sure got discriminated against. I remember Paul (Hoshi who is Yosh's partner) and I first got off in La Junta and went to the nearest restaurant to get some food. Paul and I sat down and waited for the waitress to take our order. Well, we waited and waited and the waitress wouldn't come. I told Paul, 'Come on, let's get the hell out of here', but Paul wouldn't go. He said, 'Let's sit until the waitress come take our order'. Well, we waited some more and I insisted to Paul 'Let's leave', but you know how Paul is. He was stubborn and wouldn't go. I wanted to get the hell out of there. Well, we finally waited for hour and half before we finally left the place without being waited on....

"Well, when I got out of the army a little while ago and on my way home to Denver, for the hell of it I stopped off at La Junta and went to the same restaurant. I was going to raise hell if I got the same treatment as Paul and I did three years ago. Boy, this time the moment I went into the restaurant and sat down at a table the waitress came to wait on me. It's a damn good thing she waited on me. I wasn't scared this time with my uniform on." "Now, if any hakujin or anybody try anything funny on me I'm going to tell him off. I don't care where I am, nobody is going to discriminate against me."

VETERANS
"Bull-session" with three nisei veterans

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Self-Confidence (continued)

Yosh went to relate a story about another discharged nisei GI, whose name was "Roy" and whose family lived in Grand Junction, Colorado.

"That guy Roy is a rugged guy, all right. He's the kind of guy whose always looking for trouble. You know in the battlefront he was always volunteering for front line combat service. He's a typical guy from the "inaka" (country). You know they always want to be front line troops.

Well, he was banged up in battle and had to have one leg amputated. I saw him the other day in Denver and he told me this story. When he got home (Grand Junction) the other day, ~~being~~ being discharged from the ~~us~~ army, he noticed a big sign in front of a hakujin restaurant, ~~saying~~ "No Japs allowed". He was sore as hell. He went down to the restaurant without his ~~leg~~ one leg--he intentionally left his artificial leg off--and with his crutches and stormed into the restaurant. He demanded 'Where is the manager of this joint?' The manager came out and he cussed the hell out of the manager for putting up such a sign as 'No Japs Allowed' in front of his restaurant. He went on to tell the manager, 'What do you think I went to war for' and about he being an American and about his right to be treated fairly. The next day the sign was taken off."

Veterans Organization:

~~xx~~ "You know the nisei veterans ought to join some veterans organization. But I don't think we ought to form a segregated unit. We ought to join an organization already established by hakujan. I hear that the AVC is very good."

of

When I mentioned the Cathay Legion Post ~~in~~ which many nisei veterans are members, he said:

"Ah---that'. (very disgustedly). That's nothing but a gambling joint. Furthermore, I don't like the American Legion. They were against us throughout the war."

When asked why he didn't make any effort to join an organization, he stated:

"My brother-in-law and I always talked about joining a veterans organization, but I don't know we never did. I don't know, I'm not sure about whether I should or should not join an organization."

NISEI BUSINESSMAN
Silver Dollar Hotel --Yosh Mamiya

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#39

Yosh Mamiya and Paul Hoshiaz, as ~~ex~~-partners, took over the operation and ownership of the Silver Dollar Hotel, located at 1860 Lawrence Street, in 1943 ~~when~~ after they left the relocation center. They were in Poston relocation center. Paul is now in San Diego back in his old job as radio operator on a fishing boat. Yosh is managing the hotel, but they still maintain their partnership of the hotel.

While Yosh and Paul were in the army the past two years until July of this year (1946), Yosh's parents operated the hotel. Just recently Yosh's parents took over the operation of another hotel on Larimer street, near 20th street, and live there.

The Hotel:

The hotel was formerly the biggest and most famed house of prostitution. Yosh informed that the whole district on Lawrence Street was a "Red Light District" having about 20 houses of prostitution. Every other night or so some caucasian drops in to inquire if there ~~was~~^{are} any girls doing business. Yosh stated when he first took over the hotel he used to lock the front door so he won't be bothered by undesirable visitors. However, the police forced him to keep the front door unlocked all the time. He stated this was probably due to fire hazard regulations.

About the time Yosh and Paul took over the hotel in 1943 the city government began cracking down on prostitution and cleaned out the whole Lawrence Street "Skidrow". From all indications it appears that the gov't did an effective job.

The hotel has about 17 rooms, but only 14 or 15 are actually rented out. Yosh and his partner's (Paul Hoshi) brother occupy one room, which was occupied by Yosh's parents until recently when they moved to their own hotel on Larimer Street. One room was formerly occupied by the "Silver Dolls Sewing Salon" which was operated by Yosh's married sister

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Silver Dollar Hotel --Yosh Mamiya

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The Hotel (continued)

and another relative. They closed up shop about three weeks ago, and Yosh's married sister and her husband left for San Diego where they are living with the husband's parents. The husband of Yosh's sister is a veteran, who spent many months in the hospital ~~and~~ because of complications resulting from an appendectomy performed while he was in service.

There are some caucasians living in the hotel but most of the tenants and are nisei ~~of~~ issei. There are about 20 to 25 people in all living here.

Since the time Yosh and Paul took over the operation of the hotel, they have renovated the hotel completely. They have installed an air-conditioning system to the heating system already established. The place in general is very clean and nicely kept up. The rooms are cleaned every day. It is generally regarded by the Japanese as the best Japanese-operated hotel. The rates are nominal ranging from \$1.50 per night per room to \$2.50. ~~It~~ The hotel is almost always filled to capacity.

GENERAL
Visit with James Curtis, Relocation Officer

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T. Yatsushiro

#40

Visited Mr. James Curtis, former Denver Relocation Officer, tonight at his home. Mr. Curtis is a man of about 55 years of age, who is deeply interested in the Japanese problem. He didn't impress me as one who has any particular outstanding abilities, but he did impress me as one with sincere and deep convictions about the Japanese problem. He loves to talk but his speech is very dry and drawneut.

Attitude toward evacuation:

Curtis ~~thought~~ felt very strongly that the evacuation was a big mistake. He is very interested in seeing the wrong rectified. He inquired if there were any Federal jobs available in connection with assisting the evacuees resettle or claiming losses they suffered.

Economic status of evacuees

Curtis felt that the evacuees in Denver have adjusted very well, economically speaking. He spoke of the numerous business established by the evacuees. However, because he felt that many more evacuees will return to California and that the Japanese community will shrink considerably more, many of the Japanese business which are catering mainly to Japanese will gradually go out of business. Especially Japanese food stores and restaurants, he thought would not all be able to continue if the trend toward returning to California continues.

He spoke of the farmers who are experiencing a hard time trying to cope with the severe Colorado climate. He thought most of the farmers will leave first, if they haven't left already.

Return to California

He called my attention to his final report in which he ~~states that~~ predicted that the population here will continue to decrease considerably this year. He thinks this trend toward returning to California will continue until next spring (1947) when the population will level off.

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Visit with James Curtis, Relocation Officer

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Return to California (continued)

In explaining the reason for this trend toward returning to California he thought the main influencing factor was psychological in nature, that is people want to do what they are ~~not~~ prohibited/^{or have been prohibited}from doing. Because they were denied freedom to return to California during the war and are not permitted to do so, he thought many people are just returning to California just because they can do so. He thought many of them are ~~not~~ having a harder time there in trying to get a house and a job than they are here or in the East. Further, many of them have nothing to go back to but are going back any way.

He is very interested in making a study of the adjustment the returning evacuees are making in California.

Population:

He referred me to his final report of early this year (1946) in which he estimated the the population for Denver county and counties of Adams, Jefferson, and Arapahoe to be about 7200. He thought the present population is now only one-half of that. By Spring of 1947 he thought the population would ~~be~~ even be smaller than the present.

Relocation problems in Denver --Discrimination

Curtis related many stories about ~~the~~ the assistance his office gave to evacuee resettlers. He related of how two young nisei attempted to enroll at Aurora High School and were bluntly turned away by the school supervisor who called the city police ~~and~~ believing that the two nisei were escaped "prisoners" from the nearby Granada "internment camp". The relocation office upon hearing of this incident made arrangements for the nisei to enroll at the Englewood High School whose principal was very friendly and welcomed the nisei as he had had other nisei students for many years. In the end the Aurora High School supervisor called Mr. Curtis and apologized.

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Visit with Mr. James Curtis, Relocation Officer

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He also related the story of how a nisei couple found a house for rent near the Methodist Church to which he (Curtis) belonged. He called the minister of the church and explained the problem to him. The minister's first reaction was "Why does he (nisei) want to live in this district for?" Mr. Curtis went into a long explanation about the nisei right to live anywhere he wanted to, etc. etc. and with much delight Mr. Curtis related how he got the minister on his side and preaching about minority rights in Sunday sermons.

Mr. Curtis explained that trying to combat discrimination was a long and tedious process, and that one had to be patient. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

Attitude of the Community:

Mr. Curtis thought that the attitude of the larger community now was one of indifference. He thought the change of editorial personnel and policy in the Denver Post ^{is} definitely contributing ^{toward} creating a favorable attitude among the public.

TWO SINGLE NIS
Visit with Harry & Bob Kohama

Denver
24 Sep 46
T. Yatsushiro #41

Visited Harry and Bob Kohama at their apartment (No. 2)
located at 1944 Larimer Street, phone KE 9474.

Background & Family:

Harry Kohama: 24 years; single; discharged from army in July 1946; working at a Denver furniture company; served 27 months in army.

Bob Kohama: 22 years; single; discharged from army in February, after serving about two years; working at Toner's Inc. in the egg distribution department.

Parents: Both parents are living in Ft. Lupton, in Gov't Labor camp, house #40. They are farm laborers. Right now Father is in Denver working in some restaurant as cook, as there is no farm work due to the recent severe hail storm which wiped out the farm crops.

Siblings: There are 4 children all below Harry and Bob, the youngest being 2 years old. All living with parents in Ft. Lupton.

There does not seem to be a very close tie between the two boys (Harry & Bob) and their family. When I commented that it was a hardship on them to be separated from their family, Bob, younger of the two and more articulate than Harry, stated, "Oh, no, we visit them every so often." When I asked where ~~his~~ their father was working, Bob said: "Oh, somewhere in town at some restaurant, but I don't know exactly where."

Brior to evacuation, the Kohamas lived in Winters, California, in the Sacramento Valley region. The parents worked as farm laborers on an apricot farm. With seven children (the youngest was born in Amache camp) to support, and only one or two breadwinners in the family, the family must have struggled to eke out an existence. Even at present the family is struggling for a livelihood, although with the two oldest boys, now returned from the army, working it must not be as hard as prior to evacuation.

TWO SINGLE NISEI
Visit with Harry & Bob Kohama

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The family was evacuated to Mercedes Assembly Center about May, 1942. Then about September, 1942, they reevacuated to the Granada Relocation Center (Amache). Both Harry and Bob were inducted into the army in early 1944. The family left Amache and resettled in Ft. Lupton in 1945.

Harry's Occupation:

Harry, the older of the two, is working for a furniture (children's) store in town (located about 2000 block on 15 street I think). There are 4 or 5 other nisei working in the same place. His relations with his employer is very good. Asked about ~~max~~ wages paid there, he stated, "Oh, not much." He seems to be fairly satisfied in his job, although it was apparent that he would like to get a better paying job. Harry has been working here since his discharge in July, 1946.

Bob's Occupation:

Bob works in the egg division of ~~the~~ Toner's Inc. which is a distributor for various other food products, as mayonaise, etc. In the egg division there are about 30 employees, of this number 25 are issei and nisei both men and women. As yet the issei and nisei are non-union members, although there has been some talk about forming a CIO union. He informed that the nisei-issei relations with the employer is very good. Asked about the wages paid, Bob stated, "Very cheap." Asked about whether he intended to continue working there, Bob stated he would like to get out of the place as "I don't see any future working there." He is satisfied to the extent that the job pays him some sort of income. He has been working here ever since his discharge in February 1946.

TWO SINGLE NISEI
Visit with Harry & Bob Kohama

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Housing:

Both Harry and Bob live together in a one-room apartment located on the second floor. The buildings in this district on Larimer Street are all old, and the district is ~~xxxxx~~ the worst business area intown. The room has a double bed which is about to fall apart, an old dresser, a table, few chairs, an open closet, and a gas range (stove). Bob and Harry eat out ~~in~~ for breakfast and supper, but they prepare their own lunches which they take to work with them. They prepare the lunches the night before. The room is fair in size, not too crowded or too spacious. The hallway leading to their room, which is in the corner, was so dark that I couldn't see the number on their room. The room is definitely unsatisfactory or sub-standard, and only because the two are young and not inclined to be too particular are they satisfied with their housing.

Social contacts

Both boys are extremely shy, Harry more than Bob, and reserve, but they are extremely friendly and likeable as one gets to know them. They have very few close friends, and in general pal around together. When asked what they did during their leisure, ~~that~~ Bob said, "Oh, go to the movies---I guess that's about all." They are very well liked by the wife of ^{the} manager with whom I had a short chat. They are not members of the JACL, but I met them at the recent JACL quarterly meeting held on September 20th. Aside from talking to me at the meeting they kept very much to themselves. Their farm background probably accounts for their shyness.

TWO SINGLE NISEI
Visit with Harry & Bob Kohama

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JACL

Asked about what they thought of JACL in general, both of them approved the JACL and its policies. As Bob said:

"I think JACL has done a lot for the Japanese. They have helped us in various ways. I think their policies are okay.

"I know overseas we used to read the Pacific Citizen. I enjoyed reading the paper. Some of the boys were opposed to JACL but they read the paper. They called the paper 'Propaganda paper'."

Bob became an associate member of JACL while he was overseas, but he claims he is not an official member at present. Neither is Harry a member at present. Neither of them could quite explain they weren't members ~~xxx~~ at present. At least they are interested in the organization, as indicated by their presence at the last JACL quarterly meeting.

Army Experience:

Asked if they benefited in any way from their army experience, Bob stated: "Well, at least we had a chance to see Europe. Probably we wouldn't have this chance if we hadn't been in the army. I don't regret having served in the army. I guess if we didn't have to serve we might have gone ahead further in our jobs and education...but I don't know."

Veterans Organization:

Bob and Harry were ^{what} some/indifferent to joining a veterans organization. They mentioned the Cathay Legion Post. Asked if they had been asked to join this organization, they said "No". If they were to join a unit, they would prefer to join a non-segregated veterans organization. They casually mentioned AVC as a good outfit to join.

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Visit with Harry & Bob Kohama

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Education:

Both Harry and Bob have graduated from high school. Asked if they had ever thought about continuing their education, Bob stated: "Yes, I'd like to take advantage of the GI Bill of Rights and go to school.I'd like to take up bookkeeping or accounting. Don't you think there are many opportunities in this line?"

Harry was ~~an~~ indecisive about whether he wanted to continue school or not. He is 24 years of age, and probably feels that he is a bit old to go to school.

Impressions:

Both Bob and Harry are not completely satisfied with their social and economic status. They are mentally unsettled as to what they want to do in the near future. Their jobs are merely something that provides them an income. Although they seem to be detached from their family, it seems that they contribute to their support and they do feel some obligation and responsibility in this respect.

Socially, they seem to be maladjusted. Their shyness has hindered their association with other people, the Japanese community and the larger community. However, they seem to be relatively happy in their limited social sphere.

They seemed rather shy about ^{my} visiting their family in Ft. Lupton when I make the rural study. This is probably due to the fact they are ashamed that their family ~~ix~~ members are farm hands and they are not having an easy time ~~sk~~ maintaining a livelihood.

ASSIMILATION
Meeting of Christian Young People

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25 Sep 46
T. Yatsushiro

#42

Tonight I attended a meeting of the young people's group composed strictly of nisei of the Community Methodist Church. The meeting was held at the home of Rev. and Mrs. K. Sasaki, between 8 and 11 p.m. There were about 18 in all that attended. Bill Hosakawa, Pacific/Columbian and Denver Post staff member, was the principal speaker. His topic was "My Impressions of the Nisei". Min Yasui, JAOL Tri-State regional representative, was also present. Others who attended and whom I remember are:

- Miss Yosh Arika: chairman; beauty shop operator; Denverite.
Mr. James Hirayama: Church leader; nisei who is leaving Denver to re-settle in Palo Alto, California, his former home town.
Joe Arika: grad. of college, majored in sociology; about 22 yrs; interested in working for welfare dept. here for a while than do graduate work in sociology; Denverite.
Carl Amano: 3 yrs at College of Mines in Colorado, dropped out recently because of poor eyesight; Operates family gift shop called "Dragon Gift Shop" at 625 15 St. (between California and Welton) Denverite.
Charles Kamayatsu; former Los Angeles resident; older nisei; very jovial individual, very intelligent; works at a mountain resort as butler on weekends. Not known what his regular work is.

I didn't have a chance to talk very long with any of the girls as they were busy serving food or preparing it in the kitchen.

The principal participants in the discussion were Bill Hosakawa, Min Yasui, Yosh Arika (Miss), Charles Kamayatsu, and myself. Bill first gave a half-hour or so informal talk.

Successful Adjustment in Des Moines:

Bill spoke about the 200 or 250 nisei and issei in Des Moines, Iowa, who have successfully adjusted themselves in their new community. He illustrated this by citing numerous cases of which he personally knew. He pointed out that the problem there of assimilation wasn't as great as say Denver or Chicago, because the population of the Japanese was relatively small. However, he felt very strongly that the success there was largely due to the fact that the individual nisei or issei made a

Successful Adjustment in Des Moines (continued)

an individual effort to integrate him or herself into the community. The various church and civic organizations were of great help in general, but in some instances these sympathetic organizations were a hindrance toward ^{on assisting} nisei assimilation due to their overemphasis/~~on assisting~~ the nisei.

Assimilation an Individual Matter:

Bill main's thesis ^{was} ~~is~~ that organizing segregated nisei or issei organization is a hindrance toward speedy assimilation. He felt that the sooner the nisei dissociated himself from the Japanese community and Japanese organization and lost his identity (mentally) as a Japanese, and the sooner the nisei found employment among caucasians and with caucasians, the better will it be for the nisei in their quest ~~to~~ toward assimilation.

Min Yasui disagreed on this point and stated:

"But Bill, you must remember that there are 110,000 Japanese in America, and that not all of them, in fact very few, can break away from ~~the~~ ^{the} rest of the Japanese people and ~~successfully~~ assimilate themselves ~~in~~ among caucasians.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

"The Nisei, in general, still need the assistance of some organization to help them ~~in~~ in this process of ~~in~~ becoming assimilated.

"You know what the objective of the JAOL is. We~~re~~ are trying to work ourselves out of a job as fast as we can.

"No one will question the fact that we as nisei, a minority people, are still experiencing discrimination. In order to combat this there got to be some organization representing the nisei. An individual nisei just can't fight the battle himself."

Effect of Relocation Center Life on Assimilation:

Yosh Arika raised the point whether the confinement in relocation centers was not a barrier or a retarding factor in the process of nisei assimilation. Bill replied he didn't think so, that prior to evacuation the Japanese on the West Coast were confined in their own Japanese communities and activities and they were going round and round in a vicious circle without an opportunity to break away from Japanese ties and establish themselves in the caucasian communities. He thought if anything the ~~xxxxxx-~~

Effect of Relocation Center Life ... (continued)

relocation center experience provided an outlet, through the dispersal policy expounded by the WRA, to the nisei in becoming more readily assimilated in the America society.

Need to work with other Minority Groups

Min Yasui raised the point that the nisei as a group ought to be represented in activities involving minority groups in general. He mentioned the FEPC as a program in which the nisei definitely ought to be actively interested and ought to work hand in hand with other minority groups. Bill Hosakawa was not in complete agreement, but he thought there ought to be some form of cooperation on all the various minority groups.

10% Nisei

Min Yasui raised a very interesting point with regard to how the nisei should conduct themselves from now:

"Not only because we are a minority group but because it is human nature, we ought to be a little better than the other fellow--maybe 10% better.

"As a minority people faced with problems of skin color and oriental features, we face more obstacles than the ordinary caucasian. That is why we must always ~~exert a little more effort~~ exert a little more effort than other guy in order to keep up with him. We can't just sit back and be contented with being an average American."

Bill Hosakawa strongly disagreed with this point of view stating that we ought to very quietly take our various places in the American society and in general try to become an average American.

Forced assimilation not desirable

Bill spoke very critically of the constant pressure put on by interested individuals and organization on the nisei toward becoming assimilated. He attributed the unsettledness and frustration being experienced by many nisei largely to the forcing of assimilation down the nisei throat. He again reiterated his belief that assimilation is an individual matter.

Assimilation Largely a Mental State?

Rev. K. Sasaki felt that the process of assimilation was largely a mental process. Bill seemed to have concurred in this. I raised ~~an~~ ^a objection stating that it was not only/mental but just as important a behavioral process. I pointed out the fact that a ~~xxxxxx~~ nisei may ~~xxxx~~ think he is happily assimilated because he is accepted by his ~~xxxx~~ neighbors, but if he behaves largely in the ways and custom of the Japanese, as speaking Japanese only instead of English, etc, he cannot be regarded as being assimilated in the American society.

Cultural Contribution to America

Rev. Sasaki asked as nisei what can we do in way of contributing to American culture. Bill replied he thought it wasn't necessary for the nisei to be thinking in terms of "What contributions can I make to American culture?" but that he ought to take his place in the caucasian community and just become one of them.

Min Yasui felt that the nisei, being of Japanese ancestry, can contribute to American culture in some ways. He related that Mack Easton, Colorado U. sociologist, had talked on American Cultural Heterogeneity at the citywide conference sponsored by the Denver Social Agencies, and had explained that culture and world civilization had always advanced, new inventions had always ~~xxxx~~ emerged when various cultures diffused with each other. He thought the nisei in some small way can make some kind of contribution to America. He related how the JACL, Denver chapter, is planning to sponsor the art work of a Colorado nisei in a public exhibit. He said he hadn't heard of this nisei artist, but because he thought it was a step toward the right direction ~~in~~ the matter of nisei contribution to American culture the JACL chapter here is going to sponsor this nisei's art work.

~~Contribution~~ Nisei in a Transition Period

I stated that for this present generation we nisei are not going to be able to lose some of our identity as Japanese, as having Japanese physical features and ~~having~~ carrying ~~it~~ with us some of the influence of our issei parents. Our children and their children will not have as difficult a time as we have had and will continue to have with respect to assimilation. I further stated that we should never be ashamed of ~~it~~ our Japanese ancestry or our Japanese features, because we are Americans in our thinking and our behavior and America is composed of various racial and cultural groups.

Impressions:

The meeting in general was very stimulating and lively, although about half of the group did not actively participate in the discussion. Min Yasui and Bill Hosakawa were on the opposite sides of the fence on many of the issues discussed. Bill is ~~a~~avid proponent of the theory that the nisei ought to become assimilated on an individual basis ~~without too much~~ close a tie with the Japanese community and organizations. Min on the ~~other~~ other hand feels that the nisei in general are not prepared to undertake the task of assimilation individually, that an organization like JAOL is essential to assist the nisei at present.

Yosh Arika and Min Yasui were interested in enumerating the ways in which the process of assimilation can be accelerated, while Bill felt that the evening's meeting ~~should~~ should not be devoted to solving problems but merely discussing them.

JAPANESE BUSINESS
Modern Food Products Co.--Ed. Matsuda

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T.Yatsushiro

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Lunch was had with Mr. Edward Matsuda, one of three partners operating the Modern Food Products Co., today at the Manchu Grill.

Personal Notes:

Ed is an issei of about 44 years of age. He was born in Osaka, Japan, and came to America in 1924 and has been living in U.S. ever since. He speaks very good English with very little accent, and can easily pass as an older nisei. He is very friendly and speaks very freely. He is married to a nisei girl.

Prior to the evacuation he worked for a Japanese produce firm in Los Angeles for many years. Firm was located on 7th Street.

Modern Food Products Co.

This firm is strictly a whole sale establishment for Japanese food products or a Japanese food broker. The firm is owned and operated by Wes Oyama, Nishi (I think), and Ed Matsuda. Wes Oyama is the ~~the~~ biggest investor having established the firm in 1942 when he voluntarily evacuated from San Francisco. Ed was in Heart Mt. relocation center in early 1944 when he was urged to come out to Denver to assist Wes Oyama. He has been in Denver ever since.

This firm ~~is~~ handles Japanese food products manufactured in Denver and distributes them to retail stores throughout the U.S. and Hawaii. Hawaii is one of their biggest customers. Not only do they ship out food from Denver, but they handle Japanese food products manufactured elsewhere and distributes them in Denver.

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Modern Food Products Co. --Ed. Matsuda

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Modern Food (continued)

Ed. took me to his business establishment located at 103 Wazee Market, phone TA 8191. It is located in the heart of Denver's manufacturing and wholesaling center. I noticed brewing companies, a dry ice company, warehouses, and various other wholesale business establishments. Modern Food rents a number of warehouses in which they store their cased food products.

Business Prospects

Ed stated that his firm is doing fairly well, although not as well as a year or two ago when they had the business of the various relocation centers.

When asked what the prospects were for Japanese/^{food}business in Denver, he thought that they would be good for 2 or 3 more years after which Japanese food products from Japan will replace the local businesses. He said he had heard some people say prospects for Japanese/^{food}business in Denver were good only for another year, while some returning nisei GIs from Japan seem to think that prospects were good for 5 more years. He believes however, that when Japanese food produced in Japan ~~ix~~ begin to be shipped to U.S. regularly in large quantities local Japanese food business ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~(manufacturing) will go out of business. He feels local products can't compare with food produced in Japan.

He informed that he and his partners are thinking of entering the import-export business with Japan as soon as trading with Japan is permitted. Wes Oyama, one of the partners, is now stationed in San Francisco representing their firm.

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Modern Food Products Co. --Ed. Matsuda

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Incorporating Modern Food

Ed informed that he and his two other partners are thinking of incorporating their firm. He stated there are numerous advantages in this especially with respect to the payment of income tax. He stated on a corporation basis the tax is only about 35% to 40% , but on their present partnership basis their income tax run up to 70%.

~~xxxx~~
Japanese Food Processors

Ed took me on a short ~~xxxx~~ visit to the Rocky Mountain ^{Pickle} ~~xxxx~~ Company located at ~~xxxx~~ 1225 Wazee Street (phone CH 0066) and Denver Seaweed Company located at 1416 Blake Street (CH 7866). He introduced me to Mr. Johnny Miyazaki, operator of the Pickle Co., and Mrs. Okuno whose husband operates the seaweed company. Separate reports on these two visit will be made.

After visiting these two food companies, Ed remarked to me on the car, "These operators are just shirota (amateurs)"

Impressions:

^{da}
Ed Matsu/ is one of the big businessmen in Denver. His firm appears to be operating very successfully. Realizing the shortcomings of locally processed Japanese food products, he and his partners are preparing for the time when Japanese food produced in Japan begin to arrive in U.S. and to replace local processors.

JAPANESE BUSINESS
Rocky Mt. Pickle Co. --Johnny Miyazaki

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Visited the Rocky Mt. Pickle Company with Edward Matsuda of the Modern Food Products acting as my guide. The firm is located at 1225 Wazee Street (phone CH 0066). Met the operator, Mr. Johnny Miyazaki, an issei of about 55 years of age, who was not disposed to talking very freely. Johnny was formerly a farmer in the Guadalupe region in California.

The factory:

The factory covers the street floor of a big brick building. There were about a dozen workers, most of whom were issei women. The food that was being processed ~~XXXX~~ was a vegetable of the cucumber family (uri). The raw vegetable is first cut in half, the seed taken out, and compressed in several huge barrels containing a vinegar-sugar-salt-water solution. The vegetable is allowed to stand in these barrels for several days. They they are taken out and made ready for packing. They are packed in a small wooden barrel which probably holds about 15 gallons or water. The vegetable, now pickled, is packed very tightly with a by-product of mizo (kagu actually, which is made from soy beans originally). It is really a bean paste which is supposed to further cure the pickled vegetables. The filled ^{and covered} barrel is then permitted to stand for several days before they are ready for shipment to the wholesaler (Modern Food Products Co.).~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

The work is allhand labor and is a slow process. It is not believed that their production is very great.

Impressions:

As Edward Matsuda stated with the arrival of Japanese food processed in Japan this factory will go out of business, but this will not be for a couple of years probably.

JAPANESE BUSINESS

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Denver Seaweed Company --Okuno, proprietor

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Y. Yatsushiro

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Edward Matsuda of Modern Food Products took me on a visit to the Denver Seaweed Products Company located at 1416 Blake Street (CH 7866). The firm is located in the Denver market area where numerous wholesale firms are located. Mr. Okuno, the proprietor, was out but I was introduced to his wife who was busy cutting up already processed seaweed.

The Factory:

Seaweed ~~ix~~ ("nori" in Japanese) is a very popular Japanese food. It is generally used in making sushi, which is rice with other food products (as fish, egg, meat, or vegetables) in the center all rolled up in the dried and flattened out seaweed. Sushi is a delicacy usually served at parties or special occasions. The finished product looks black and as thin and as big as ordinary typing paper. The finished seaweed product is used in other ways also.

This firm buys raw seaweed which is dried and packed in huge sacks from the West Coast. The Modern Food Products handles this distribution of the raw products, as well as the finished or processed product that the firm puts out.

The raw and dried seaweed is first boiled thoroughly in a huge boiler. Then the mass of the boiled seaweed is ~~ix~~ allowed to cool in a container. The seaweed is dipped out and placed on a wooden tray ~~xxxx~~ which has wax paper. The workers with the use of a tool used ~~by~~ in masonry spreads the seaweed ^{very} thin over the wax paper in an oblong shape. The wooden tray with the seaweed spread thin on it is taken to a drying section and placed on shelves. There were rows and rows of these trays, vertically

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Denver Seaweed Company --Okuno, proprietor

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which were being dried. There were two huge electric fans which were being used in the drying process. After the seaweed is dried they are taken off the trays and the wax paper separated. These are then cut into varying sizes and packaged in wax paper ready for casing and shipment to the wholesaler (Modern Food Products).

Workers:

There were about a dozen workers in the factory, all of whom were women except one nisei fellow and an issei man. Most of the women were nisei.

Production:

The factory is relatively small in size and output. It is not believed they are faced with a demand that they are not able to meet.

Impressions:

As Ed Matsuda (my guide) stated I believe that this factory will probably continue to operate successfully for a few more years, but when Japanese food products commence to be imported from Japan it will probably go out of business due to demand for products processed in Japan.

NISEI BUSINESSM
Mas Takata, Radio Repair Shop

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46-

Had lunch with Mas Takata, owner and manager of the Universal Radio Service, located at 1108 18th Street, phone KE 3910. Ate at the Sarashina Noodle Parlor, 2154 Larimer St. Mas's friend, Sam Sakamoto, an elderly issei who operated a radio shop in the San Francisco area before the war and who speaks good English, joined us. Sam uses Mas's shop as his headquarters. Sam is the Denver agent for Japanese records which come from California.

Family & Background

Sam is a nisei of about 30 years of age, is married, and has two children, ages 5 and 3. He lives with his immediate family in a house which he bought a few years ago and which is located in North Denver where a number of other nisei families are living.

He has some relatives here in Denver.

He came to Denver in early 1944 and has been here since. Just prior to this he was in Chicago for about a year. Prior to this he was incarcerated in ~~the~~ Amache, Granada relocation center. He hails from the San Jose region.

Business:

He owns and manages the Universal Radio Service, which is located on the periphery of the main Japanese business district. He has two nisei working for him.

Most of his trade is with caucasians, but he has a good deal of Japanese trade. He stated his relations with the caucasians have been very good. He has not experienced any unpleasantness with his caucasian customers or the larger community in general.

He is quite happy in his business. He stated he is kept quite busy, and that it is necessary to have two nisei helpers. Neighboring shops are all caucasian operated and he is on very

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Mas Takata, Radio Repair Shop

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Business:

friendly terms with an immediate caucasian shop operator.
From all indications he ~~ix~~ appears to be quite well adjusted
from an economic standpoint.

Housing:

He informed that he ~~ix~~ bought a house when he first came
here. He lives not very far from ^{where} George Ohashi (hair stylist)
lives in the North Denver area. This is largely a Caucasian
residential district with a number of Italian residents.

Social Activity:

He belongs to the Denver JACL and appears to be fairly active.
He ~~ix~~ supplied the P.A. system at the recent JACL quarterly meeting
and he was there himself to operate it. The P.A. was used ~~ix~~
during the social dance hour.

Other than the JACL he ~~ix~~ does not belong to or is active in
any organization.

He likes fishing and informed that he goes fishing practically
every Sunday with his friends.

He does not have too many intimate nisei or issei friends,
and doesn't seem to go around with them too much.

It was not learned whether he is a Christian or a Buddhist but
he stated he doesn't go to church.

Impressions:

Mas appears to be quite well-adjusted in the Japanese and
larger community. He has a good job, his own house, his family is
intact, and his relations with caucasians and Japanese are good.
He will probably be in Denver for several years if not permanently.

NISEI BUSINESSMAN
Visit with Mits Kaneko
(Insurance agent-accountant)

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On the invitation of Mits Kaneko, Occidental life insurance agent and private accountant, I visited their home located at W. 1669 Erie Street, (north) Denver, phone GRand 5000. The visit which began with dinner at 6:30 and ended at two o'clock the next morning was interrupted at various stages by various events. Immediately after dinner a Pete Furuta (brother of businessman George Furuta) and his wife and family plus his brother's (George) children all made a surprise visit. The house was a mad house for about an hour with the children running, screaming, playing, etc. After they left Mits had to do an errand on which I accompanied him and during which he decided to fix his car headlights and this took over 1½ hours. A revisit by Pete Furuta and a visit by another friend resulted in a talk about fishing. A "Gin Rummy" ~~xxxxxxx~~ card game ensued and took some time. The short time in which Mits Kaneko and wife and myself were left alone was largely spent in reminiscing about our Poston camp days. From this discussion and at various times during the evening a good deal was learned about Mits and his family.

Family:

Father: Mits Kaneko, about 30 years of age.
Mother: Alice K.; about 27 years of age.
Children: Mich-an, daughter, 5 years of age, born in Poston.
Darrel, son, 10 months old, born in Denver.

Housing:

The family lives in a rather old one-story wooden-framed house. There is a basement which has been fixed up into a regular apartment and ~~xxxx~~ Mrs. M's married brother and family live here. There are two bedrooms, which are rather small,

NISEI BUSINESSMAN
Visit with Mits Kaneko

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Housing: (continued)

a dining-living room combination, kitchen and bath. The dining room section is ~~xxx~~ used ~~by~~ as Mits' office. The house is very simply furnished. There is a piano.

The family is now purchasing the house on installment plan. The house is rather inconveniently located in that it situated ~~at~~ at the extreme angle of a street "fork" and consequently car traffic passes both the front and the back of the house. ~~is~~ There is a street car line on the street facing the back of the house.

Because of the ~~ge~~ location of the house and its ~~xxxxxx~~ undesirable location the price Mits had to pay for the house is probably not very much. The neighborhood is mainly caucasian with many Italians.

The house location is just a little north of the Japanese business district across the Platte River. This district was tabbed a poor housing district by a housing survey made several years ago, as I recall it.

Economic Adjustment:

Mits is both an accountant and an insurance salesman. He looks after the books of several small firms and his income from this occupation is probably greater than that from his insurance business. He ~~is~~ is an agent of the Occidental Life Insurance. Up until about a year ago, Mits worked for the OEM which was transferred to the Treasury Dept. He worked for OEM and Treasury Dept. from 1943, when he left Poston camp, and until a year ago. He has been at his present job ever since.

NISEI BUSINESSMAN
Visit with Mits Kaeko

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Economic Adjustment: (continued)

From all ~~the~~ indications it appears that Mits and his ^{family is} ~~his~~ faring satisfactorily as far as making a living is concerned. Mits likes his insurance work very much, and hopes to advance himself in this field and make it his primary job.

Pre-Evacuation Occupation:

Mits was formerly connected with the import-export business in San Francisco with ~~some~~ some firm. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ He and his wife stated that if he can continue in this business during the war and not have to evacuate, they could have made a lot of money. Asked if he ever thought of going back into this business Mits replied he might in the future, but that at present he is deeply interested in the insurance business.

Evacuation: & Center Life :

Mits and his wife were married just before evacuation. They lived in San Francisco for many years. They were evacuated to Poston Relocation Center in Arizona where Mits was put in charge of the Housing Dept. Mits as head of Housing stated that in his final report he predicted that some crisis as the strike ^{critical} ("Poston Incident") would occur if the/housing situation was not improved. He said the place got too "hot" for him so he left camp himself, leaving his family behind, the first opportunity he had. He went on a seasonal leave and worked on the sugar beet farms. He never returned to camp after that, calling his family out after about a year.

Mits and Alice were both very bitter about their relocation center experience, and hardly bitter about their evacuation.

NISEI BUSINESSMAN
Visit with Mits Kaneko

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Attitude toward the Pro-Japan issei and kibel

Both Alice and Mits were extremely interested in what caused the Poston strike and the various groups in camp. Alice was particularly bitter toward the pro-Japan issei and kibel, who she feels were the leaders instigating the strike. She and her parents and brothers were all against participating in the strike, as they all felt that there was no justification for creating such a situation. They refused to cooperate with their block strike leaders and consequently they were ostracized by the block. In desperation she said she went to see Rev. Morikawa to inquire what the strike was all about and whether she ought to join it. Rev. Morikawa informed her that he thought the strike was a "good thing" as the real cause was righteous, namely, that of improving the living conditions in camp.

The Effect of Relocation on Resettlement

Both Mits and Alice thought that the evacuation and relocation and dispersal throughout the U.S. have aided the nisei in securing good jobs in various fields of endeavor. Mits stated: "Some nisei who majored in engineering for instance got good jobs in engineering with firms in the East. Before the war these same nisei would never have been able to secure jobs for which they trained in college."

For the issei they both thought that ^{center life} ~~it~~ was a good thing as they were old and of age to retire and the camp afforded them a good vacation. ~~from~~ They got free housing and free food and didn't have to work if they didn't want to.

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Visit with Mits Kaneko

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The Effect (continued)

When asked if he thought the nisei could have advance as far as they have in the way of ^{good} jobs if there had been no evacuation, Mits stated that the nisei would have anyway because there was a big demand ~~for~~ for labor on the Coast and because there were numerous war industries established.

Social Adjustment:

They seem to be happily adjusted in the Japanese and larger community. Mits is a type that makes friends rather easily, and he has numerous nisei friends and probably a number of caucasian friends. I believe he is a member of JACL, & though not very active. Other than this he ~~xxxxx~~ probably does not belong to any organization.

He has taken up fishing and likes it very much. On Sundays he usually goes on fishing trips with his nisei friends. He also likes hunting and likes to talk about it.

He seems to be happily settled in his immediate neighborhood and know some of the neighbors (caucasian) quite well.

NISEI VETERANS' BULL SESSION

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Tonight at the Silver Dollar Hotel where I have a room a bull session involving six nisei veterans ensued and I ~~sit~~ sat through about an hour and a half of it. The nisei were all relatively young, between 24 and 29 I'd say, and were all unmarried. Some of those I knew were Yosh Mamiya, owner-manager of the Silver Dollar Hotel, Hoshi, brother of Yosh's ^{hotel} ~~ss~~-partner, and Ben ? , who ~~is~~ has one artificial arm and was a member of the original 100th Bn with 5 years of service. All of them had seen service in Europe with the 442nd or the 100th.

The bull/session was carried on over several bottles of beer and whiskey hi-balls.

Sex:

The most popular topic of conversation was sex. With Hoshi as the principal speaker, all the nisei with the exception of two very freely related their various sex experiences during their service in Europe. ~~sxxx~~ Their stories were told with the greatest delight and with brutal frankness. They talked about the prices in various countries, about having to stand hours in line, comparison of women ~~of~~ various countries. "Them were the days" stated one veteran and this seemed to have echoed the sentiments of the other veterans.

Combat Experience:

The other ^{tales} topic of conversation was on their combat experiences, their harrowing/ of escapes from near death, of seeing the dead strewn in the battlefield, and the heroic exploits of their respective units

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One veteran related a bull-session he participated in with his nisei buddies. The main topic was "What are we Nisei GIs fighting for?" This veterans related one nisei GI believed we were fighting for democracy and the American way of life, ~~and~~ and for the thousands of other Japanese in the United States. This same veteran thought that the best answer to the main question was given by an old-timer, a veteran of many battles with the 100th Bn. This old-timer stated when you're in ~~haxxxx~~ the thick of battle/~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{one doesn't} think about things like democracy and american way of life, but that one is preoccupied with fighting for oneself and one's buddies. One's life is dependent on one's buddies and this is the primary thought in the minds of any one in battle.

Impressions:

The bull session continued on far into the night, but I left before it ended. The session would strike a moral-minded individual as simply disgusting, but it seems to me that the nisei GIs were no different from the other GIs. Many of those ~~at~~ this session had just returned from the service, and it is natural that they would talk about their ^{war} experiences. Looking at the session from the standpoint of nisei assimilation it certainly cannot be called a constructive endeavor, especially the drinking and sex habits of the nisei veterans.

NISEI GROCERY EMPLOYEE
Conversation with Tad Nomura, veteran

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#49

I visited the Victory Market, owned by George Matsumonji, today as I had a prearranged interview with George M. George was very late for his appointment and while waiting for him I struck up a conversation with Tad Nomura who works for George.

Army service:

Tad was discharged from the army only recent after serving several years, a good part of this in the Pacific, ~~in~~ Philippines and Japan. He was a member of the First Cavalry Division which boasts of ~~entering~~ being the first Allied unit to enter Manila and Tokyo. While as an occupation troop in Japan he related an interesting story of how he found his mother in Hiroshima apparently in good health.

Employment:

Tad stated he had a chance to accept a U.S. civil service job in Japan, getting his discharge there and working as a translator-interpreter for the Allied gov't. But since ~~his~~ all his friends were returning to the U.S. he didn't have the heart to remain in Japan himself.

After returning to the U.S. a few months ago he has been wandering about California and Denver looking for employment. Just about a month ago he learned about his present job and has been working at it ever since.

He is far from happy in his present job, which probably doesn't pay him very much. He inquired what I was doing, and when I stated I worked for the Gov't, he immediately asked if he would have a chance to get a Federal job if he applied. He distinctly stated he didn't want a job as translator-interpreter in Japanese.

NISEI GROCERY EMPLOYEE
Conversation with Tad Nomura, veteran

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When asked why he chose Denver to find a job, he stated:
"Oh, I don't know; I just happen to visit Denver and found this job."

From all indications ~~it~~ Tad will be looking for another job possibly in some city in the East.

Background notes:

Tad is a nisei of about ~~28~~ years of age. He ~~was~~ lived in Long Beach, California where he had a grocery store of his own before the war. He was inducted into the army before the war broke out with Japan. Before entering the service he gave the store to his brother who sold out when evacuation became necessary. He is single and detached from the rest of his family. His mother is in Hiroshima at present, and it is believed he lost his father.

He has a piece of property--that is his family does-- in Fresno, California. He didn't seem anxious to return there to reclaim it. He has no property in Long Beach, as his brother sold out the business. During his youth he spent about five years in Japan, and consequently he is fairly fluent in Japanese. He talks and behaves like a typical nisei, and can hardly be classed as a kibe.

Impressions:

Tad represents the vast number of discharged GIs who are trying to adjust themselves in the various communities throughout the country. He is very unsettled generally, and rather dissatisfied in his present job and situation.

NISEI BUSINESSMAN EMPLOYEE
Visit with George Matsumonji

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#50

Visited with George Matsumonji and his wife at their home and grocery store combination located at 724 East 17th Avenue, phone ~~MAXXXXXXXXX~~ KE 7738.

Family:

Father: George Matsumonji, about 30 years, nisei, born Colorado
Mother: Mrs. M., nisei, about 25 years, Denverite; 7 mo. pregnant
Children: Daughter, Vicki, about 2 years.

Housing:

The family live in the back of their grocery store which they have leased. The living quarters ~~XXXXX~~ is very simply furnished, there being a bedroom, a large living room, small kitchen and bath. They seem to be comfortably situated.

Business & Occupation:

George ~~XXXXXXXX~~ owns the grocery store but the store is operated by three nisei workers most of the time, as George has a full time job as buyer of the Crews Fruit Company located in the Denargo Market, phone TA 8114. He helps around the store in the evenings when he return from his regular job. He is reluctant about giving up his job with the Crews Fruit Co. as apparently it is a good-paying job.

"Victory Market"

The store is nicely situated in a caucasian community with many office workers and government employees living in the numerous apartment houses nearby. His customers are almost exclusively caucasians.

He carries fresh fruit and vegetables plus can goods, meat, and other usual grocery products. When I visited the store there were a steady stream of caucasian customers, lower middle income group I'd say, and the three nisei workers, two young girls and a discharged nisei GI (Tad Nomura), were kept busy right along.

Visit with George MatsumonjiHistory of Grocery Store:

In early 1943 George and his young bride were looking for an apartment or a house to live in. They stumbled on the present grocery store, and it was then that they ^{decided to} ~~entered~~ the grocery business. However, they faced an obstacle in the Police Dept which issues licences to sell various products, as milk, tobacco, etc. O'Donnell of the Police Dept, who issues the license informed George that the Dept. would not issue the license to him. George saw a lawyer who informed him that there was nothing in the Colorado law which prevented him from obtaining a license, or permitted the Police Dept. to discriminate against Japanese. George thought of fighting the case in court if necessary, but he was told it would cost him \$500. in lawyer's fee. He thought the price wasn't worth the fight, that he'd have to "sell a helluva lot of milk" to net him \$500. Just about that time he heard about the Denver Unity Council and so he called them up, and the Council agreed to back him to the limit. With the Council's backing, financial and otherwise, he felt more secure, and he went ahead and made application for license to sell milk, tobacco, and various other grocery goods, which require license. He stated he got the license without any difficulty, that the Police Dept. didn't put up a squawk. He didn't know whether O'Donnell knew that the Council was back of him or not. Anyway, he opened up his grocery store, starting from scratch with only a few commodities. Some of the people he bought goods from laughed at him at didn't think he could make a go of it. He stated, little by little he got more and more stock and pretty ~~he~~ soon he had a full-size grocery store.

NISEI BUSINESSMAN-EMPLOYEE
Visit with George Matsumonji

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Prejudice by Nearby Caucasian Grocery

George and his wife went on to relate that the first several months were difficult days as they not only had to start from scratch trying to stock up and build up a trade, but they faced severe prejudice from a nearby Jewish grocery operator. He was an old Jewish man who spoke with a distinct foreign accent which even his customers couldn't understand. During the early period this man would yell to George's caucasian customers and say, "Why do you have to buy from the Japs." In spite of ~~thix~~ the efforts of the Jewish grocer to undermine his grade, George gradually built his trade up and many of the customers who used to trade at the Jewish grocery came to him because he ^{offered} ~~gave~~ good service and good quality food products.

This Jewish grocery went out of business before too long, and an Italian bought the store. There is no such prejudice prevailing now.

Prejudice by the Police Dept.

Although the Police Dept. at first advised George that it would refuse to ~~him~~ ^{it} issue him food licences, ~~they~~ issued the necessary licences to George when he applied for them. However, ^{the} this was not/end of the discriminatory practice of the Police Dept. For the first several weeks George informed that various city officials and inspectors, as health officer, etc., visited him to find ways and means to close his grocery store. The Police finally ~~charged~~ charged him with illegally displaying ~~food~~ fresh food on the city side walks. This charge was dismissed on the grounds that George bought the side walks in front of his store when he bought the property.

NISEIBUSINESSMAN--EMPLOYEE
Visit with George Matsumonji

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Additional notes on the Grocery Store

George never operated a grocery store (retail) before, although he worked in a wholesale produce firm in Los Angeles for a number of years ~~xxxx~~ prior to their voluntary evacuation to Denver. Mrs. M., however, has had a good deal of experience as her parents, who are now deceased, used to operate a retail grocery store. During the first year or so, George and his wife both worked full time in the store. For a time, after George began working as buyer for the Crew Fruit Company, Mrs. M. operated the store herself. Although she had a ~~xxx~~ young baby at that time, Mrs. M. stated she was able to manage as trade was slow at that time. However, from about a year ago, George began hiring nisei store clerks to carry on the bulk of the work in the store. Mrs. M. is now about 7 months pregnant and does not help in the store at all. She likes sewing and does a lot of this during her spare moments. She has been thinking very seriously about going into the sewing business.

The Ms. are now very nicely situated ~~xxxx~~ in their business. With three nisei employees it is not believed that the Ms. net any ~~appreciable~~ ^{sizable} income from their business. The actual operation of the store is largely in the hands of these three young nisei employees. However, the Ms are maintaining the grocery to serve as a security if George loses his job, or decides to quit the job.

Private Employment:

George, apparently enjoys his full time work as buyer for the Crews Fruit Company, for he does not want to give it up at present. It probably pays him a good deal. Not too much was learned about this work.

NISEI BUSINESSMAN---EMPLOYEE
Visit with George Matsumonji

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Background notes

George was born and raised for the large part his life in some rural area of Colorado. About 1936 thereabouts he and his parents and family members left for Los Angeles, where they worked as gardeners and wholesale produce employees. In 1942 before the freezing order went into effect, he and his family (parents side) voluntarily evacuated to Denver where he has been living ever since. He was married to his present wife immediately after evacuating to Denver. She is a regular resident of Colorado.

~~xxxx~~ Before working for the Crews Fruit Company and owning his own grocery store, George worked for about a year or so ~~xx~~ driving trucks hauling farm products from the farms into the city.

Recreation:

All of George's spare time is devoted to learning ~~xxx~~ to fly. He stated he has close to 100 hours of flying to his credit and has received his first license. Just recently he began soloing. Now he is working for his pilot's license. In time, he hopes to qualify as a pilot of commercial passenger planes.

Associations:

Both George and his wife are trying to dissociate themselves from the Japanese and the Japanese community and desire to identify themselves ^{with} ~~with~~ caucasians and in ^a ~~in~~ caucasian community. Mrs. M. stated all her life her friends were largely caucasians, and that she wasn't particularly fond of associating with Japanese.

NISEI BUSINESSMAN--EMPLOYEE
Visit with George Matsumonji

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Associations (continued):

The location of their business-home combination was largely due to their desire to get away from the Japanese and the Japanese residential and business districts.

However, it is not believed that they associate with caucasians very freely on an intimate basis. Their contacts with caucasians are largely business relations. The business, his private full-time work, and his fondness for flying keep George pretty much occupied and leaves him little time to participate in other activities.

But they seem to be rather happy and contented. Their main interest now is to establish themselves economically, and they seem to be doing a good job of it.

Desire to Return to California

Last year (1945) the Ms made a trip to Los Angeles for the purpose of surveying business and job prospects, as George was very interested in returning to L.A. They came back as they felt prospects were very poor at that time. Mrs. M. confided that she prefers to stay in Denver, although George has a soft spot in his heart for L.A.

Impressions & Comments:

George was rather late in meeting me, and when he did arrive he didn't have too much time to talk to me as the store became busy and it required his help. But he was good enough to take time out to talk to me. Much of the information was gained from Mrs. M.

George is a good example of how an evacuee successfully established a business during the height of the war in the face of prejudice and discrimination. It illustrates how a nisei,

NISEI BUSINESSMAN--EMPLOYEES
Visit with George Matsumonji

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Impressions (continued)

who was determined to make a successful economic adjustment ~~in~~ in the local community, was able to accomplish this largely through his own determination and his own effort.

^{early}
The/establishment of his grocery business in the Caucasian community, which was ~~strictly~~ forbidden to Japanese, is all the more spectacular when one realizes that this was in early 1943 ~~at~~ during the height of the war and during the vicious campaign ~~against~~ carried on by the Denver Post against evacuees and Japanese generally.

George is a friendly but very aggressive individual with a lot of initiative and determination. Even Mrs. M. in speaking about the attempts by the Police Dept. to deny him food licences stated that George refused to give in and was determined to fight the case. She stated: "George is very aggressive. He's just like that. He just won't give in."

NISEI PHARMACIST--DRUG STORE OPERATOR
Visit with Howard Doi

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#51

Tonight I visited the Doi Drug Store to get something to eat and I had a nice chat with Howard Doi, pharmacist and operator of the drug store. The store is located on the corner of Larimer and 22nd Streets.

Background notes

Howard D. is a nisei of about 28 years of age. He formerly lived in Sacramento, California. Prior to evacuation he had 3 years of pre-medical college education at the University of California(I think). He was evacuated to ~~the~~ the Tule Lake Assembly Center first and then relocated to some relocation center (Amache I believe). He was confined in the camps for only a brief spell, for late in 1942 he enrolled at the St. Louis pharmacy college. He tried getting in the medical college to continue his medical training, but the school refused to admit any Japanese. Consequently he decided the next best thing, from a vocational standpoint, was pharmacy. Last December (1945) he graduated from the school of pharmacy and earned his degree. He is a classmate of Edward Koyama, brother of my wife. He knows few other nisei friends of mine.

Drug Store history:

Upon finishing he decided to come to Denver. He came here about January, 1946, and found his present drug store location as a promising site. At that time the building on the site was a warehouse and in a very shabby condition. He succeeded in getting the lease on the property and immediately commenced in renovating the whole building. He hired carpenters and painters who did most of the interior decorating, but he himself did a lot of work.

NISEI PHARMACIST--DRUG STORE OPERATOR
Visit with Howard Doi.

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Drug Store (Continued)

The store is very attractive inside. He carries the usual variety of goods found in any ~~xx~~ drug store and has a nice fountain service counter plus a couple of booths. He was proud of the fact that he ~~ix~~ has been able to get practically any line of goods, and that he has some goods which are unobtainable at other drug stores as lighter fluid, certain brand of shampoo, etc.

The store is fairly large, and covers the whole street floor of the building. He ~~has~~ and his parents live in the second and third floors of the building. Most of the rooms on these floors are rented out as rooms or apartments.

He opened the store only about a month ago (August, 1946), and there were a number of potted plants placed about the store representing gifts from friends at his opening.

Business prospects:

"Business is slow," Doi admitted, but he stated, "You've got to expect this ~~xxx~~ in the beginning." He continued: "I plan to operate this store in Denver at least for ten years. The first two years I expect to be slow." He is very optimistic about his business prospects.

Return to California:

On this he stated:

"I don't want to return to California. Prospects are much better out here. Why out in Sacramento there are about a dozen nisei pharmacists. There are not very many out here. I can't see how some of these nisei and issei are going back there. Most of them have nothing to go back to. "Sure deep down in my heart I am dying to go back there, but when I think of business opportunities I think Denver or out east ~~is~~ much better."

NISEI PHARMACIST--DRUG STORE OPERATOR
Visit with Howard Doi

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Family:

His family consists of his father and mother, and I don't know if he has any brothers or sisters. His father and mother operate the rooming house or apartment on the second and third floors of the building. From others I've learned that Howard's father is financially fairly well-to-do, and that he is responsible for either purchasing or leasing the building ~~where~~ they ~~are~~ have their businesses and home.

(Further check will be made on his family.)

Recreation:

Howard goes fishing occasionally with his friends. He likes tennis as a sport and asked if I would play with him one of these days.

Associations:

Howard is a converted Catholic, previously being a Methodist or an Episcopalian. He stated that he became a Catholic while in college in St. Louis, Mo. There he stated, Catholic members impressed him tremendously. They were very serious ~~ly~~ about their religion. Many of the Catholic medical students would pray in the Cathedral before ^{performing} an operation. In church the congregation took a very serious attitude during the entire service. He complained that in the Protestant churches the members are not serious enough. Here in Denver he has attended several Catholic churches. He named a number of high Catholic officials with whom he has become acquainted.

He is interested in the JACL and attended the last JACL quarterly meeting held early September, 1946.

He has a number of Caucasian friends and numerous nisei friends

NISEIPHARMACIST -DRUG STORE OPERATOR
Visit with Howard Doi

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Drug Store--Additional :

His store is ~~xxxxxxx~~ slightly detached from the dense Japanese business district, and is situated among the Spanish-American business district. Consequently, his trade is with Spanish-American and Japanese, plus some Negroes. He is not particularly concerned about whom he trades with. He has one nisei girl working for him.

Impressions:

Howard is a friendly individual with a cheerful and optimistic disposition. It is felt that economically, socially, and psychologically he is making a good adjustment in the community. He is probably not making anything in the way of profit from his drug store business, but his parents' apartment and rooming house brings a steady income to the family. He seems rather happy and contented living in Denver, and he doesn't seem to be confronted with any major problems. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ He is psychologically well-adjusted in that he has accepted Denver as his home for at least the next ten years, and he is not plagued with the unsettleness characteristic of some of those who are anxious to return to California and just living in a state of "temporariness" in Denver.

COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH
Young People's Picnic

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About 50 or 60 young people of the California Street Community Methodist Church attended a church retreat and picnic held at the Frank Kerchof summer resort atop Mt. Falcon. Mt. Falcon is located a little west of Denver and stands close to 8,000 feet above sea level. Mr. Frank Kerchof is the president of the Denver Banks and he bought his present estate from John B. Walker, former owner of the Cosmopolitan Magazine and a pioneer of Colorado. The Kerchof mountain resort is very historic with a ruined castle nearby. Many years ago ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the site was chosen by many wealthy Coloradans to be the home of the presidents of the United States. This was about the time Teddy Roosevelt was president. Millions of dollars were collected for the erection of luxurious homes for the presidents, but due to local politics the whole plan was abandoned. Mr. Frank Kerchof, one of the wealthy contributors, still has a marble slab on which is inscribed "The Home of the Presidents of the United States". Originally he had planned to make this contribution to the project, but now he has it proudly displayed in his garden.

A big truck and about half a dozen private automobiles carrying about 50 or 60 young people made the trip. We left the church where we met at about 10:30 a.m. and arrived at our destination at about noon time, covering about 60 miles of steep, rough roads. The scenery as we gained altitude and from atop the Kerchof estate was beautiful, especially at this time of the year when the pines and the spruce are ever so green and when certain type trees are changing from green to bright yellow to hail the autumn. The countless mountain peaks which catches one's vision as far as one can see, patches of lakes here and there, all make for a breathless panoramic view.

COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH
Young People's Picnic

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Composition of Group:

Of the 50 or 60 attending the age ranged from 15 to 30 years in general. There were a few issei and a number of small children. There were a little more girls, who were in their late teens or early twenties, than boys. Rev. and Mrs. K. Sasaki were the official chairmen for the whole affair.

Activity:

The days activities began with an outdoor church service in English led by Rev. Sasaki. He spoke on the theme of "Nature and God". The whole service lasted about an hour. This was followed by lunch. Most of the people brought their own lunches, but for those who didn't the church provided the food, consisting of weenies, salad, drinks. The others formed small groups and ate their lunches.

Following lunch the group broke up into various groups and engaged in various activities. Some of the older members with I became associated went horse back riding. Most of the younger set went hiking and exploring the ruined castle nearby and other areas. Some played softball, some badminton, and some cards, checks, etc.

The group I went along with ~~hired~~^{rented} horses at a nearby horse ranch. We found the caucasian ranch owners very friendly and asking us to come again. The fee is \$1.00 an hour per person. Yosh Arika thought the ranchers were so very nice that she stated she is going to tell her friends to go to them if ever they go horse back riding.

COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH
Young People's Picnic

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Activity: (continued)

The group reconvened at about five p.m. when a vesper song service was conducted. There were lively group songs, solos by tenor Tom Masamori, ukulele renditions by Charley Kamayatsu (employee or butler of Frank Kerchof), trios numbers by Joe Uemura (son of issei pastor), Joe Arika, and a third member, and general merriment. The group concluded the day's activities with the formation of a handclasp circle, the introduction of each person, and the singing of vesper songs as the setting sun slowly slumped behind the distant mountains.

The group scrambled back into their respective cars and trucks and left the resort at about 7 o'clock. We arrived home about 8:30 or so.

Impressions:

It was apparent that everyone enjoyed the outing immensely. The significant thing to me was that the ^{private} Kerchof resort was opened to the nisei. Frank Kerchof is the president of the Denver Banks and a very influential businessman in Denver and Colorado. Mr. Charles Kamayatsu; who is Kerchof's private butler, has been working for Kerchof for the past four years and informed me that he is a very nice man to work for. He also informed that this was first time that any nisei group has been to this resort.

NISEI LUMBERJACK-STUDENT
Conversation with George Morimoto

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Tonight I met a George Morimoto, a nisei of about 30 years of age, who is now enrolled at the Denver University. He informed he is majoring in sociology with the hope of doing social service work. He has only ^{one} year of college to complete his undergrad work and earn his A.B. degree.

Former Residence

Prior to evacuation he lived in Monrovia, southern California, where he and his family operated a small store.

Family:

One of his parents (I believe his mother) died in the relocation camp. His other parent (father) is now back in Monrovia living with another member of the family. I believe they are living in their old house.

George himself is single and has no relatives here in Denver.

Evacuation:

He and his family was evacuated to the Granada Relocation center (Amache) in Colorado. He left camp before too long and headed East to look for employment.

Post-evacuation employment

He did various odd jobs out in the East, in Cleveland and various other areas in Ohio. About 1944 thereabouts he got word that his mother was seriously ill so ~~she~~ he returned to camp. His mother died soon after. Thereafter he decided to stay near his dad and family and selected Denver and Colorado to live. For the past year or so he has been working as a lumberjack in the western slopes of Colorado, east of Grand Junction.

NISEI LUMBERJACK-STUDENT
Conversation with George Morimoto

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Post-evacuation employment:

This lumberjack work lasts only during the spring, summer, fall months. During the winter ~~the~~ he came into Denver and found odd jobs.

He informed he and 11 other nisei and issei ^{lumberjacks} worked and lived as a group, working for a caucasian owned lumber company. One of the group kept house while the others worked. He said the work was hard but the wage was pretty good.

Just about a week ago he quit his lumberjack work to come to Denver and enroll at D.U. He stated he is looking for a part time job, while he is going to school full time.

Comments & Impressions

George looks very serious-minded. He is ~~fx~~ very friendly when one gets to talking to him, but otherwise he keeps very much to himself. He gives one the impression that he is depressed and quite broken up. The evacuation, death of his mother, not being able to find a job that satisfied him, separation from his family members, economic difficulties, desire for more education, and pessimism with regard to the future, all are contributing factors.

However, he is determined to finish his last year in college and go into social service work. He wants to go back to California as soon as he completes his college work here. He talked of wanting to go to U.C.L.A. in southern California.

He is very uncertain as to ~~h~~ his future.

NISEI--FORMER BUSINESSMAN
Conversation with Takky Domoto

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Japanese businesses (continued):

All this shipping back and forth mean additional freight cost to Denver's firms. Japanese firms on the West Coast will not have this freight cost and will be able to sell their products at a much lower cost.

Furthermore, before too long Japanese food stuff from Japan may be coming into the U.S. and replace those produced locally.

Import-Export Business

Takky said he could talk a lot about this as this his field of business. He was very bitter toward the Jews who he claims have already cornered the market in Japan and are now waiting for the time when trade can be resumed between U.S. and Japan. He said the Jews have a strangle hold on 90% or so of the exportable goods manufactured in Japan, and that the nisei haven't got a chance now.

The Domoto business firm prior to the war was called "Hokubei Shokai" or North American Trading Company.

He is very anxious to regain possession of his dad's assets now frozen by the government, and is anxious to resume his import-export business with Japan at the first opening of trade between U.S. and Japan.

He was rather ~~optimistic~~ ^{pessimistic} about the resumption of trade with Japan, feeling it would be several years before this will come about.

NISEI--FORMER BUSINESSMAN
Conversation with Takky Domoto

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Mr. Takky Domoto, a nisei about 35 years or more, dropped in the JACL office today, and I was able to talk to him for a while.

Background:

Domoto's dad, who is now deceased, was head of a big-import-export firm in San Francisco, trading goods with Japan, prior to the war. He has inherited much of the father's wealth. The business assets have been taken over by the gov't and Takky is now trying to regain possession of his father's assets. From others it is learned that the Domoto family was one of the biggest import-export firms and was famed for their fish products that came from Japan.

Takky's wife and children are in Japan, having gone there to visit prior to the war and being stranded there.

Takky has been living in Denver, Colorado ever since May 1942, not having lived in a relocation camp. He has been loafing ever since. Because of this Takky thought he was a poor subject to interview. However, because of his long residence here I felt he might have some pertinent information about the Japanese community and economic situation.

Japanese businesses:

Takky thought that most of the Japanese businesses, especially those in the food ~~products~~ manufacturing business, will not last very long. This is because he feels Los Angeles, Chicago, and Hawaii are already establishing their own manufacturing firms and taking the trade of Denver firms away. He stated Denver has to ship in much of her raw products which are used to manufacture Japanese stuff and then have to ship the finish product out .

Issei-Nisei Relationship

He thought that the issei still have a strong influence over the nisei and are hanging on to their role as leaders over the nisei. He didn't think that the issei feel the time has come when the nisei ought to take over the leadership and assume the responsibility as family head.

Effects of Evacuation

Although he thought that the dispersal was good from the standpoint of Americanization, he thought the greatest tragedy of the evacuation was that it split up families. He was greatly concerned about family members living scattered all over the country, about single sons and daughters leading carefree lives without proper parental guidance. He stated:

"The Japanese are funny. The greatest thing they treasure is the family. The family does everything as a unit. The members depend on each other. When you break up the family you break up the lives of each member."

Japanese community in Denver

Takky was unable to estimate the Japanese population in Denver. He thought the population peak was reached about the end of 1945, but that it was considerably less now.

Takky felt that gradually as Japanese businesses close up shop many of the evacuees will begin to trek back to California. With regard to declining business, he informed that the Western Fish Market on the corner of 20th and Larimer was going out of business very soon and that a jewelry shop will be established in its stead. He stated that the Granada Fish & Poultry Store will be the only fish market remaining in Denver.