

Ch 28 Chiyoko Araki (pseud) - (not a complete case)

Only point of interest here is in regard to domestic work. Gets job, doesn't like it, leaves while woman is out. This pattern has been observed in other Uisei girls: they hate to offend and don't like to face a Shudon.

Charles Kikuchi
Evacuation & Resettlement Study
Jan. 27, 1944

Chiyoko Araki (Pseud.)
CH-28

The following case document is taken from the records at the American Friends Service office. Mr. Walt Godfrey was the case worker with this individual. He is the student adviser to the resettled pupils out here. Mr. Godfrey has worked quite intensely in trying to help nisei students finding adequate adjustment. It is his opinion that the nisei students are finding it more difficult to get adjusted than out here than nisei who are in the employment field. He stated that the reason for this was these young people were lonesome for their family life.

This document is the case of a young college student who has not made satisfactory adjustment here primarily due to difficulty with her older sister who she feels picks on her all the time unnecessarily.

Jan. 12, 1944

CASE OF CHIYOKO ARAKI (Pseudonym)

Chiyoko Araki came into the office in September to meet John Thomas. He had known her parents before the evacuation and had met them since in Poston. She had left Poston largely, I think, due to his efforts and had come to Chicago for the purpose of going on to school. She came out late in the summer and worked as a domestic in Hinsdale, full time, to earn money for school.

As I recall it, though I am not positive of this, Chiyoko had been in tears through this interview but John T. had calmed her down. I never knew the details of the situation except that she had had some unhappy experiences while working at this domestic job. John T. called me in after they had talked for some time and told me that Chiyoko was interested in going to school, and that her main interest seemed to be in group work. I immediately suggested George Williams College. We looked over the catalogue together and decided we should explore the possibilities of her going there. From that point, John T. left the matter in my hands. I promised to go down to George Williams the next day to see whether she might be admitted for the fall semester.

I talked with Mr. Boorman at George Williams and he accepted Chiyoko's application pending her file from the Student Relocation Office in Philadelphia. Chiyoko then came to talk with me about her financial situation. John T. had said that she should do this and that ~~we~~ we should arrange for a scholarship through the Baptists to take care of what she did not have and could not earn.

We sat down together and worked out a budget taking into consideration what money she had on hand, what she could earn, and

what she would need. It was decided, agreed upon by both of us, that through she rather felt she didn't want to do domestic work by preference, she could cut her expenses most by working for her room and board. We figured on her earning \$5.00 per week at a part time domestic job, in addition to her earning her room and board, she had money enough of her own for books, clothes and miscellaneous expenses, so she said, and the rest, for tuition and fees at the school, we were to get from the scholarship fund. That was taken care of.

Chiyoko was referred to a Mrs. B. for a room and board job. They both seemed to like each other and so she took the job. Temporarily, Chiyoko had lived at a co-op on the southside. Chiyoko moved in with Mrs. B. after a few days. Mrs. B. went to the station for her baggage and also told her that she could wait a few days after school started before she had to go to work.

Three or four days later Mrs. B. called to say that Chiyoko had left. Mrs. B. came home the night before and found that Chiyoko had gone, taking her baggage, leaving nothing but a note saying that her sister was coming soon from the relocation center and that the two girls were planning to live in an apartment together. And that the older sister was going to help her with her expenses. It just so happened that Mrs. B.'s father died that day and so she was doubly upset.

I called the co-op and found that Chiyoko had gone back there. She said that her sister was coming out soon and that they were going to take an apartment together. She thought that this would work out better for her sister could help her and also she wouldn't have to do domestic work anymore. I pointed out to her

that it wasn't quite fair of her to leave Mrs. B. without any notice as she did, mentioned that Mrs. B's father had died, and that thought it was only by accident that such a thing happened at that particular time, it did emphasize how she should show consideration for other people when we make hasty decisions which affect others.

A few days later John Thomas was back in town. He had written that he was coming, had written to Chiyoko, and she and her sister came to the office to him. He told me that she was coming, I told him the story, and we decided that it would be wise for them to talk about it to re-emphasize to Chiyoko her responsibilities. After speaking with her for a while he again called me into the conversation. She was in tears again, but he was very reassuring to her, telling her that this was just a mistake that she had made, that we all make mistakes, but that hereafter when she got into a difficulty of this sort she should always tell me about it so that I could help. He told her that it was perfectly all right that she should have left the home, but that she should have told me in order that I could try to make other arrangements for the employer so that we would not cause bad feelings. In this conversation, she brought out other things concerning her relationships with this employer. It appeared now that it wasn't that her sister was coming alone which caused her to leave, but that she just didn't feel that she could get along with this lady, and that she just didn't feel she could be happy doing domestic work. Mrs. B. had been very nice to her, but she was fussy about some things, about Chiyoko sitting on the edge of the bed and mussing up the bed spread, about Chiyoko not keeping everything in her room just

as it had been. And Mrs. B. didn't give her adequate closet space. In general she just felt that she couldn't be comfortable there and that she ought to leave. She agreed that she had been quite inconsiderate to Mrs. B. and she seemed to feel very, very sorry, overbearingly so, to an extent that John T. had to take special pains to tell her that she shouldn't feel that badly, that we loved her just as much as ever, that we still felt she was a fine girl. By the end of the interview, which lasted perhaps a half to three quarters of an hour she seemed to be in pretty good control of herself.

By this time the two sisters had decided to remain at the co-op. Chiyoko was going to fire the furnaces there in exchange for her room, the sister was to work outside and live with her. Chiyoko, I think, also had a part-time job at Hillman's at this time and so she felt that they would be able to do as well in saving that way as if she had a room and board job.

Sometime later I learned through a mutual acquaintance that Chiyoko and her sister had taken domestic jobs. The older sister was working as a full-time domestic and Chiyoko was doing part time work, setting the table, serving, helping with the dishes and Saturday cleaning.

The week before Christmas I called Chiyoko and asked her if she were going to be free Christmas day since I knew of some people who wanted to entertain some resettlers in their home for Christmas. She didn't know yet whether she was going to be expected there all day, but called the next day to say that she would and that she was sorry but that she couldn't accept the invitation.

On January 12, 1944, Chiyoko came to the office. She said

that she wanted to talk some things over with me, that she had talked with Rev. X, and that he suggested she talk with me. It was about family troubles, she said, and Rev. X. knew the family well so she had talked with him. He had suggested she stay out of school a few days and think about it. Also that she talk with me, and then go over to his place for dinner tomorrow night and have another chat with him.

She gussed that she was going to have to leave school. She was having trouble with her family at home. Her oldest sister who was still in the center dislikes her very much. And now she has a lot of influence over her parents. When she first came out she used to send things home which she thought they would like and she used to write every day or every other day. After her next oldest sister, there are three of them, came to Chicago with her she didn't write so often because the sister wrote frequently. During mid-terms she had not written for ten days because she had to study hard and she was going outside work, and she wasn't getting enough sleep. The oldest sister had then written back that she didn't think Chiyoko was doing any work or any studying; and that it was too bad that the middle sister had to stay there and help her through school. The oldest sister had never had any kind words for anyone in the family except the middle sister. And she knew that she was influencing her parents against her so that they wouldn't want to have anything to do with her. They thought she was a disgrace. She was a failure. Her sister had talked of leaving to go to Philadelphia where she had other friends and so she was going to have to leave school. She liked school and she was getting along all right, her grades were all right. But some people think

that the material side of things are the important things rather than your grades and what you do at school. Her parents had never encouraged her to go to school, but they had never said anything against it. And she ~~was~~ always thought that they wanted her to do the thing which was what she thought was best. But now they don't care, and they don't write to her. And, although she has been trying to take the blame and say that it's her fault it just seems as though it's all because her sister dislikes her so much. And she doesn't know why either. She had sent her parents a picture of ~~*****~~ -----'s head of Christ and they hadn't thanked her for it and she doesn't know whether they didn't get it, or what. She gets along very well with her middle sister who has done so "awfully much for me, I don't know what I would have done without her." But sometimes even she says things which hurt. All the time she talked with me she cried and cried. I proposed that it was quite possible that we could arrange to have her scholarship increased to take care of an increased need and she said that she just couldn't think of that at all. She simply wouldn't take any more help, even though Rev. X. told her that Dr. Thomas would feel hurt if she wouldn't take help from him when he was able to give it to her. She just couldn't take anything more than the bare minimum which was what she was getting now. She knew that Dr. Thomas thought a lot of her father, and she knew that her father liked her and she was sure that her mother liked her too--it just must be a misunderstanding of some kind which she couldn't figure out except that her older sister was turning her parents against her, ~~and she was sure that~~ Her parents don't write to her directly for the older sister does the writing for the family most of the time. They must think that she's a

disgrace and a failure, but it must be a misunderstanding because she knows her parents like her, and she has tried to take the blame herself, and say that it's her fault, yet it's her sister who dislikes her who is doing all this to her. Rev. X. told her that she should think it over and then do what she thinks is right, and so she thinks that she ought to quit school now, though she doesn't know for sure that it is right and she is sure that if she does she will regret it later. I tried to reassure her after a while. Mostly I let her talk and she repeated most of these things over and over as I have reported. Then I asked her what she wanted to do if she quit school. She said she guessed she would try to get a job and save money so as to help her parents relocate because she would like to do any little thing for them which she could. Later she said that if she dropped out of school she would try to consider that ~~she-had-gotten-a-ke~~ just as a postponement of her education, that she thought that she had gotten a lot out of the short time she had been in school and she would like to go back again. But this was a failure! And Dr. Thomas and her parents and everyone would know that she had failed. She was the youngest in the family and she came out alone and started to school and worked on the side more than she should have maybe and didn't get enough sleep,--so it had been very difficult for her. I told her that neither Dr. Thomas nor I would consider her a failure, that we would respect her just as much, think just as much of her, think her just as fine a person, if she dropped out of school and went to work now as if she stayed in school. I told her that people often had to change their plans and adapt to different ones but that there was no disgrace in that. I also re-emphasized her own statement, that I was

sure her parents loved her and that this was mostly a misunderstanding which would be cleared up one of these days as most misunderstandings are.

I asked her at one point in the conversation whether or not she might not like to talk the whole situation over with a friend of mind with whom she could be free to tell the things she had told me, and anything else which she might want to talk about. I pointed out that this friend was a girl who knew other girls who had problems similar to hers and that she was sometimes able to help them. She said that no, she didn't want to bother anyone else. I didn't know how to push this any further so I dropped it for the time being.

When she began to calm down to a considerable extent I suggested that she talk with Rev. X. tomorrow night as she had planned and then she might plan to come in to see me on Friday. She said she couldn't come Friday morning since she thought she ought to stay at home and do some of the housework, since her sister did all the heavy work and her sister always did so much for her. So she said that she would be in Friday afternoon between three and four. I added that we could talk things over again and if she liked she might talk with my friend. Then I suggested that she might like to rest awhile before leaving. She sat down on the couch in the room and I told her that she could just get up and leave whenever she felt she wanted to, and that she wouldn't be interrupted while she was there. I turned the light off and left and I imagine she stayed in there ten or fifteen minutes when she left, looking in the door of our office to say thank you and good-by as she left.

Chiyoko Araki, 36-7-A, Poston Relocation Center. Female.

Born July 15, 1924 in Seattle, Washington. Lived at 54 Penrith Drive, Los Angeles, prior to evacuation.

Citizenship: U.S.

Religious affiliation: Baptist

Health: Good, near-sightedness corrected by glasses. Height: 5'3"

Weight: 112 pounds

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| Father: | Suyekichi | born in Japan | age 64 |
| Mother: | Tamiyo | born in Japan | " 56 |
| Children: | Hideo Kenneth | born in U.S. | " 40 |
| | Isamu Sam | born in U.S. | " 31 |
| | Sachiko | born in U.S. | " 30 |
| | Hiroshi | born in U.S. | " 28 |
| | Makoto | born in U.S. | " 24 |
| | Chikako | born in U.S. | " 20 |

All except Makoto were living in Poston 5/43
He was at Granada

Education: Seward School, Seattle, Wash. 1930-34
Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif. 1934-36
Berendo Jr. H.S., Los Angeles, Calif. 1936-39
Polytechnic High, Los Angeles, Calif. 1939-42

Employment history: Census population Bureau - typist-clerk, typed
Poston, Ariz. 11/42-5/43 forms, filing

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|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mess hall, Poston | Dietician's aid. |
| 6/42-.../42 | Helped prepare special diets |

Hostel application references:

Miss Geraldine Krage, student, 801 Higard, Los Angeles, Calif.
Miss Charlotte Lord, teacher, 4542 W. 18th, " " "
Dr. John W. Thomas, 212 Fifth Ave., New York

January 12, 1944

I talked with Mr. Boorman at George Williams College. He says that she has been doing very good work there. Her average is B or B plus. She talked with him one day and said that she wasn't satisfied with her work, but at that same time he had told her that he thought she was going very well.

She was called in once about a part-time job available in the library at the college, but she turned it down. He felt that she didn't want to take on anything further which might interfere with her studies.

January 13, 1944

I talked ^{with} ~~ti~~ the minister with whom Chiyoko had talked about her problem. He thought that the ~~crux~~ of this situation revolved around our urging her to do something definite at this time. He tried to encourage her to stay in school at least for the next week or two until something definite might develop.

I asked him what he knew about the oldest sister whom Chiyoko talks about. He said that it was his impression, and emphasized that this was just an off-hand impression he had, that the oldest sister was a disgruntled maiden woman of about 30 years. Her personality conflicts ~~that~~ with that of Chiyoko who is socially more capable than her sister. This oldest sister thinks that the younger sister off in the city away from her family can't be trusted.

Mr. X thinks that the home life is certainly not ideal. The father and mother are very active in public affairs, "and you know how it is in families like that, here isn't so much home life." The home relations just haven't been very happy ones. Mr.

X thinks that this is all mainly a case of little misunderstanding.

Chiyoko's sister here with her writes him every day telling all the details of what goes on during the day. She is very quiet. The kind of person any family would always trust anywhere. Chiyoko doesn't write every day, she is busy with her school work, she isn't so quiet, she likes to go out with boys, and the family wonders because they don't hear from her so often. And when the oldest sister wrote a rather nasty letter this last time, Chiyoko, who was pretty well tired out from her work, blew up.

The first thing the other sister said when she spoke with Mr. X was that they ought to help get Chiyoko's parents out of the center as soon as possible.

I suggested to Mr. X that it might be wise since it was pretty obvious that Chiyoko was bothered by a number of personal problems, that we suggest she talk with a girl, with whom she might be free-er in conversation, about some of the things which are troubling her. I suggested that this person might be someone from the family service bureau. He said that he would be pretty cautious about that since Chiyoko was a pretty intelligent girl and wouldn't want to feel that she was being "psychologically or psychoanalytically" examined. I then suggested that she might talk with a friend of mine who could meet her here in the office as my friend, and he thought that we ought to be pretty cautious about anything like that and only as a last resort bring in one of these experts to a conference. He did repeat several times, however, that he thought that this problem was something much deeper than anything which Chiyoko had actually expressed to us and that it would require a good deal of care in handling.

At the end, he suggested that he talk with Chiyoko tonight again before we do anything more. And he said that after talking with her again he might agree with me that the best thing would be for Chiyoko to talk with someone skilled in handling girl's problems.