

Interviewer's code

(Akina Sumatani)

Evacuation and Resettlement Study,
February, 1944 (Revised)

SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUAL RESETTLERS

Date of interview April 14 Interviewer CK1. Case number #37 2. Sex, (M) F 3. Marital stat. (M) S D W O4. Present address Welford St Entered Nov '43 Left —

5. Later addresses _____ Date _____

_____ " _____

_____ " _____

_____ " _____

_____ " _____

6. Birthplace Amoy, China 7. Birthdate Aug 17, 1910

8. Alien or Citizen _____ 9. Nisei, Kibei or Issei _____

10. Addresses between Dec. 1, 1941 and evacuation

(a) Amoy, China Date 1942 Entered 1942 Left 1942

(b) _____ " _____

(c) _____ " _____

(d) _____ " _____

(e) _____ " _____

11. Assembly Center Intern Date May 1942 Left Sept 4212. Relocation Center WRA Date Sept 42 Left Aug 30, 194313. Addresses since leaving Relocation Center
(prior to "present address")(a) Clifton St, Chicago Entered Aug 43 Left Nov 1943

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

(g) _____

14. Family members living together on December 1, 1941.

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	Religion
(a) <u>Asi.</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Amoy, China</u>	<u>Radio Technician</u>	<u>Xian</u>
(b) <u>Wife</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Amoy, China</u>	<u>Housewife</u>	<u>Buddhist</u>
(c) <u>G.W.</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Amoy, China</u>		"
(d) <u>daughter</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>F</u>	"		"
(e) <u>daughter</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>F</u>	"		"
(f)					
(g)					
(h)					
(i)					
(j)					

15. What members of family listed in 14 evacuated together to Assembly Center?

Give symbols # 14

What other related persons?

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (as of Dec. 1, 1941)
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
(d)				
(e)				
(f)				

16. What members listed in 14 or 15 above went together to Relocation Project?

Give symbols # 14

What other related persons?

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (as of Dec. 1, 1941)
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
(d)				
(e)				
(f)				

17. Family members living together in Chicago

Address

symbol (see 13)	Entered	Left	Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (at date of interview)
(a)							
(b)							
(c)							
(d)							
(e)							
(f)							
(g)							
(h)							

18. Educational history of resettler

Grammar schools (name and location)

Dates	Grade completed
<u>1916-22</u>	<u>6th</u>
<u>1922-26</u>	<u>8th</u>

High schools (name and location)

Dates	Grade completed
<u>26-30</u>	<u>12th</u>

Colleges, universities and vocational schools, (name and location)

Dates	Grade completed	Degree
<u>1930-31</u>		

Attendance at Japanese language school, location

Dates	
<u>4 yrs (1924-30)</u>	

2. Gila 9/1/42
3. Tulare 5/9/42
4. P.O. Box 591 Arroyo Grande, Calif.
5. Kinzo Saruwatari Japan
Momoju Kozuma Japan
- 5a. U.S. Truck farmer Abroad Farming
7. Grammar school Arroyo Grande, Calif. 1915-1926
High School Arroyo Grande Union, Calif. 1926-1930
- 7a. Majored in Gen'l Science.
8. None
12. 70 150 lbs.
13. Wears eyeglass- Correction of eyesight.
18. Married
19. head
20. 8/17/10
23. no.
24. High 4
25. Speaks Japanese
27. Radio repairman
- 27a. ---
28. 9/42- WRA Education, Rivers, Arizona
Sr. Repairman and Maintenance, repairing typewriters and
mimeographs \$16 mo.
6/42-8/42 W.C.C.A. Corporation Yard, Tulare, California
Electrician (Radio Repair)
repaired radios, typewriters, and other electrical
appliances. \$12 mo.
1931-1942 Aki's Market and Radio Service, Arroyo Grande, Calif.
Radio Repairman--repaired radios, watches,
typewriters, adding machines, washing machines,
jewelry, optical goods, and other electrical
appliance. \$200 mo.
29. Hobbies - Radios, sound amplifiers
30. Christian (Methodist)
31. E. Education- Hiles Watch Making School 1930-1931

Akira's wife, Masako Saruwatari see CH#49

Akira's daughter, Aiko Barbara Saruwatari

2. same
3. same
4. same
5. Akira Saruwatari Calif. USA
Masako Fukamaki Calif. USA
- 5a. US Radio repairman Abroad none
7. Grammar school Arroyo Grande, Calif. 1938-1942
- 7a. none
8. none
12. 54 58lbs.
13. No major defects
18. single
19. daughter
20. 8/28/33
23. yes
24. Grammar 3rd year
25. Speaks Japanese
27. ----

27a. ---
28. 1938- student
29. none
30. Buddhist
31. ---

Akira's daughter, Motome Kay Saruwatari

2. same
3. same
4. same
5. Akira Saruwatari USA
Masako Fukamaki USA
5a. US radio repair Abroad none
7. WPA Nursery school Arroyo Grande, 1941-1942
7a. none
8. none
12. 48 40 lbs
13. No major defects
18. single
19. daughter
20. 12/14/36
23. ~~Q~~ ~~Q~~ yes
24. 0
25. speaks English
27. ---
27a. ---
28. 1941- student (Nursery school)
29. none
30. Buddhist
31. -----

Akira's daughter, Yukiko Dianne Saruwatari

2. same
3. same
4. same
5. same
5a. same
7. None (not yet)
7a. none
8. none
12. 41 38lbs.
13. No major defects
18. single
19. daughter
20. 5/3/38
23. no
24. 0
25. speaks English
27. ---
27a. ---
28. none
29. none
30. Buddhist
31. -----

Evacuation & Resettlement Study
Charles Kikuchi
Chicago, Illinois
May 9, 1944

CH-37 Eiji Shimosaki (pseud.)
Cross reference CH-35, CH-36

Eiji Shimosaki is a 33 year old nisei. He was the owner of a combined grocery store and radio repair shop in a small town in California before the war. At present he is working as a radio repairman.

Eiji is rather reserved so that it took a considerable period to draw him out. His greatest problem is the resettlement of his wife and 3 children who are still in the center. He has been unable to find adequate housing. Eiji has been living with his sister-in-law. An arrangement has been made whereby he pays \$35 a month for room and board. The case illustrates the difficulties of family settlement because of the great feeling of uncertainty in regards to the draft.

Eiji Shimosaki, 33, was born on August 17, 1910 in Arroyo Grande, California. Most of his life was spent in that town up to the time of the evacuation. He was removed to the Tulare Assembly in May, 1942 and in September he was relocated to the Gila WRA center in Arizona. Eiji remained at Gila until August 30, 1943 when he came to Chicago to take a job as a radio repair man. Since coming here he has worked at two radio shops. At present he is employed in Andy's Radio Shop and he receives a salary of approximately \$260 a month for a 42 hour a week. In December, 1943, he quit his first job after resettlement at the Burstole's Shop where he was also employed as a radio repair man for \$200 a month for a 54 hour a week. In the relocation center at Gila, Eiji did similar work, for which he received \$19 a month. He only received \$12 a month for similar work at Tulare.

Eiji has been operating his own stores since 1931. He operated a jewelry store in Arroyo Grande from 1931 to 1936, averaging approximately \$3500 net profit per year. In 1936 he bought out a grocery store and in a years up to evacuation he gradually branched out into a radio store in his home town. He was netting approximately \$5000 a year at the time of evacuation. Most of this business was lost when the military orders were imposed.

Eiji's family consists of the following members:

Eiji, 33

Setsu, 30, wife

Joan, 11, daughter

Mary, 8, daughter

Martha, 5, daughter

Eiji has a Christian religious background but his wife is a

Buddhist. The children were given a Buddhist training after evacuation to Tulare Assembly Center. The larger family unit have a strong degree of solidarity. They were all evacuated together except for Eiji's parents who are in Poston. Eiji received his elementary school education at the Barris grammar school from 1916 to 1922. He then transferred to the Arroyo Grande elementary school where he graduated from the eighth grade in 1926. He was kept back a couple of years for academic deficiencies. Eiji graduated from Arroyo Grande high school in 1930. He then went to the Hikes watch making school in San Francisco for one year, after which he started his own business. Eiji's education in the Japanese language school was obtained from 1926 to 1930. He has voted in all of the State and Presidential elections since 1932 in the Republican ticket.

Eiji is about 5 ft. 10 in. in height and he does not have the usual Japanese characteristics. He appears to be rather conservative in most of his characteristics, but strangely enough this does not affect his identification with America. This was due, in his opinion, to the fact that he lived independently of the Japanese community in the valley since all of his business was with Caucasians in his home town. He was very well established in that town and it is probably true that he was one of the few nisei who was financially independent before the war. At the present time he doesn't mind working for another person because he has no intention of permanently residing in Chicago. He has hopes of returning to California to start out all over again, altho he realizes that this will be a difficult procedure since his 14 years of work has been eliminated.

Eiji's greatest worry is about his family resettlement and this was the subject that he wanted to talk about mostly throughout the interviews. His story gives a very good picture of the problems of family resettlement. Eiji's wife is very hesitant about coming out to Chicago with the 3 children since she feels that her husband will be drafted shortly. The reason she did not come out before was because of all the rumors she heard about the severe Chicago winter and she felt it would be too dangerous for the young children.

Eiji did not mind this so much since he had a problem of getting personally adjusted to his work out here and this took several months. He was not satisfied at all with his first job because he felt that the working conditions were sub-standard. Now that he is adjusted in his present job, he is extremely anxious to get his wife out as soon as possible. He has had a great deal of difficulty in locating suitable living quarters for his family. He was willing to pay up to \$75 a month for an apartment because his wife was quite particular. Just when he had all of the arrangements for his wife to come out, he received his Army reclassification so that his wife dropped all resettlement plans as she didn't wish to be left stranded out here. Eiji then managed to get an occupational deferment until August, 1944 so that plans for family resettlement were renewed. The wife got all of the train reservations ready when her father was suddenly returned from the internment camp. Since she had not seen him for 2 years and since she felt that she would not be able to see him for the duration she cancelled the reservation.

"At the date of the interviews, Eiji was again renewing his

plans for resettling his family. He has not been able to find suitable housing yet and this is his greatest worry at the moment. Every night he has been walking the streets to find a vacancy and on Sundays he borrows his brother-in-law's car to search for an apartment all day long. He doesn't particularly want to lease an unfurnished flat because he is uncertain of his draft status. He is quite willing to be drafted when he gets called but he would like to get his family adjusted first. He is quite uncertain about the present prospects and he tends to be a little discouraged about the future possibilities. He hesitates to set up a radio shop here because he has a little farm back in California and he feels he could fall back on this as a last resort in the event that he cannot get his radio business started again in California.

Because of his environmental background, Eiji sincerely believes that ~~edge~~ integration is the only solution for nisei future but like most nisei he is confused when it comes to the practical implication of it. He has not made an Caucasian contacts at all out here; in fact, he is in a more nisei society now than he was over in before the war. Eiji feels that the big city is not the most suitable place for integration and he would rather start his own business in a small town in the midwest if he is unable to return to California. His hopes of returning to California fades as the months go by even though he has a place to definitely return to.

Eiji is quite satisfied with the salary he is making out here. He mentioned that before the war radio repair men were a dime a dozen out here and that he could not make any more even if

he were a Caucasian. He hopes that he will be able to hold his job for a while after the war as he may not be able to return to California immediately. His original plan was the resettle in Salt Lake or Denver but he gave this up because of the lack of opportunity. He would like to be fairly close to California since it is expensive to move a family about the family. Eiji is saving approximately \$200 a month from his salary at the present time and he is investing this total amount in war bonds. He has been doing this for the past few months since he would like to build up a reserve fund in order to take care of heavy expenses which he anticipates will develop when his family arrives.

Eiji sincerely does not realize that the pre-war Japanese community has contributed to his conservative tendency. He believes that these forces had not affect at all on him and that he was able to break away completely from the Japanese community life. This was true for his economic connections, but his story indicates that a great deal of the Japanese culture influences has unconsciously been accepted by him throughout his life. This was particularly true at the time of his wedding which followed the Japanese patterns entirely. From the story which Mrs. Mizuno, his sister-in-law tells (see CH-36), it would seem that his wife has had a great deal of the more traditional Japanese customs instilled in her.

A more detailed story in Eiji's own words will follow and this will reveal the influences of his environmental background upon him to a greater degree. His story will also include a detailed account of his camp life and his present resettlement problems.

Eiji's life story follows:

"I don't know very much about my parents and what they did before they got married because they never told me much about these things. I don't exactly know when my parents got married. I was born in 1910 so my folks must have been married a short time before that. I do know that they got married in Japan and they went to Hawaii and worked in the sugar cane plantations for two years. They had a close relative in Hawaii and that's why they went there. They also had another close relative in America and that's why they later came to California. Originally they left Japan in order to make money because all of the people in Kumamoto ken were rather poor. They couldn't make a living in agriculture so that whole villages left for work in Hawaii. It was mostly men because the women followed later on.

"Come to think of it, (My parents must have been married for quite a while before I was born because they arrived here in California around 1900. (I know my father told me once that he was here a few years before the earthquake.) They came out to join one of dad's relatives in farming. My dad started farming on his own in Oceana, California after he got here.

"After a few years my parents moved to Harris, California which is only a few miles from Arroyo Grande and they lived there right until the time of evacuation. My father started farming there and he was rather successful. He was one of the first Japanese farmers to go in for strawberry growing and that proved quite profitable. Later on he started to raise flower seeds.

< All of us were born in Harris. I am the oldest one in the family and I don't know why my parents didn't have any children during the first 10 years they were married. They just don't talk about

those things. I think I have two sisters who were born before me but they both passed away and my parents never mentioned them to me. I have two younger brothers now and that's all there were.

"After my parents came to California ~~they~~ they made a good living. They had quite a tough time during the period they were working in Hawaii. Being so poor, it was natural for them to be careful of the money they earned so that they were able to save quite a sum in the following years. My father built a nice home near Arroyo Grande around 1922. He also raised vegetables for a couple of years and he had another small farm near Hallayon. They went into truck gardening there and this was quite profitable too. My father bought a 22-acre farm there and it was put into my name. The other farm is in my brother's name. In comparison with other Japanese, my dad was a very successful farmer and he didn't have a hard time at all after he got started. Such things as the depression didn't bother him very much. He was a natural born farmer and all of his hard times had been passed through when they first came to America. My parents were never the spendthrift type so that they have saved up quite a sum of money up to the time of evacuation.]

"The reason I don't know anything about my family background is because my parents came over so many years ago and they never returned to the old country. When they first left their ken, they told everybody that they would be back in a year or so after they got rich. They never made any money during the first few years over here and even after they started to make money they didn't feel like giving it up to go live in their poor village in Japan. My mother always wanted to go back for a visit but dad

kept postponing the trip because he always got so seasick whenever he got on a boat. My parents only had a few relatives back in Japan anyway.

"My father was only of average size and my mother was quite small so I can't understand where I get my height. It must be in the family line some place because my brothers are also quite tall for nisei. My father has always been healthy and he has only had one serious operation in his life. He is 73 years old now and he still gets around pretty actively in camp. My mother was also fairly healthy up until the time she died a few years ago. Both of my parents were always hard working people and they earned their money the hard way with their hands. My mother got right out there and worked along with my father. Maybe that is why she lost her health after raising us kids. In 1918 she almost died in the influenza epidemic and my parents went all over the state in order to escape it. After it was over, they returned back to our home town. My mother had some sort of female trouble when ~~hm~~ she got to be past 50. On top of that she got asthma and she had to have a couple of operations. She never was too well from 1937 to the time of her death in 1940 from the asthma.

"I think that one of the reasons why my dad was successful as a farmer was that he had a good business head and he knew what crops paid the most dividends. He was always on the go and thinking of new types of ~~d~~ crops to experiment with. Most of the time my father was easy going and a sort of a good natured type. It wasn't this way in the family affairs though because he tended to be dominating like most of the issei. He used to have many argu-

ments with my mother because she wasn't the submissive type. On the whole my parents got along very well and they never had any real serious arguments. My mother always knew when it was best to give in and she didn't get stubborn after that. Dad was not a drinking or smoking man and he was extremely fond of the home life. He never went out too much for social affairs because he was too busy working on the farm. He didn't take an active part in many of the Japanese clubs in the area, but he was a member of the Japanese Association and the Kumamoto Kenjin Kai. He hardly ever went to the meetings though.

["The reason that my father didn't have interest left in Japan was because he was in America all those years and he lost his desire to go back. He always told my brothers and me that we would live in this country and he always had the intention of remaining permanently here with us. Mother gradually gave up her ambitions to go even for a visit because of her poor health. My mother was more of a typical issei woman. She was much more conservative in her ways than my father. My folks spoke very little English but this didn't seem to be any handicap for dad. He understood enough English to get by in his farm dealings.] Neither one of my parents ever read the Japanese newspapers or magazines regularly as far as I know.

["When I was a child, I had a life just like any other farmer boy. I had to help out before and after school on the farm. In a farm family all of the members work long hours so that my brothers and I didn't see much of our parents.] They always got up real early in the mornings to go work in the fields and they had to go to bed early to get their full rest.

["We always ate Japanese food at home and we spoke Japanese to our parents. Later on~~x~~ as we went to school we began to use more English but not too much. We just used it among ourselves and we talked Japanese to our parents. I didn't go to a Japanese language school until I went to high school so I can't carry on a Japanese conversation now. I don't understand it very well neither. My parents were too busy to teach me the language and I didn't have very many occasions to use it after I started my own business.]

["I started school in the Barris grammar school < but I don't remember much of those days since it was many years ago. > I do remember that there were a few other nisei going to that school. At that time there weren't as many nisei children as there is now.

< I suppose I am one of the older group and we are rather scarce. > I never cared much for school studies as all I wanted to do was to play with the other kids. I flunked the third grade, I know and there were a couple of other times that I failed also. Our school was located about one mile from my home and I used to walk every day. All of my playmates were Caucasians and I don't believe I ever talked to the other nisei in that school. I wasn't conscious that I was anydifferent from the rest of the kids and I was inclined to chum around with the less studious pupils. The other nisei all studied hard so I didn't have any occasion to want to know them.

"After I was in the sixth grade my father built a home near Arroyo Grande and I started to attend school in that town. I became very quiet after that and that was because I was a stranger. When I was in the eighth grade I got interested in mechanical

things. I started to monkey around with watches about that time and by the time I got out of the eighth grade, I was able to take a watch apart and put it together again. It was also about then that radio started to appear on the ^{market} American public. I was interested in it right from the beginning and so I began to dabble with it. I bought a small home-made radio and I started to experiment and build little radios from then on.

"In high school I took up the usual courses. Science and math were my major courses. I was earning my own spending money by then by repairing the watches of my friends. In my classwork I was best in math and I used to beat everyone in that. I also took some commercial courses and this came natural for me too. I got my best grade in these subjects. I didn't care very much for English and history.

"In high school I never was much of an athlete. The only thing that I ever got recognition from was in the annual type-writing contest. All of the schools sent the best typist to this contest and I represented my high school. I took third place for accuracy. The other nisei fellows went in mostly for sports but there weren't many of them when I went to high school. For this reason I had to mix mostly with hakujin students. I still had to help out the folks on the farm so I didn't have too much time to play. I didn't pal around with any special person. It wasn't that I was shy but I was more interested in mechanical things which I could do by myself. A lot of the other fellows weren't interested in the same thing as I was so I didn't join them too much. I had a regular work shop of my own at home and I spent a great deal of my free time there tinkering with watches and radios.

"When I graduated from high school in 1930 I was already 20 years old because I had been kept behind a couple of times.] I wanted to go into the watch business right away and start a shop of my own since I already had a long list of customers who were used to coming to me. [My parents insisted that I attend a watch-making school in San Francisco for a year so I went there. I didn't have any trouble at all in the watch making school and I learned everything in six months instead of a year as the other fellows required.] I had my own car at that time so I enjoyed my experiences in San Francisco greatly. I was boarding with a married Caucasian couple during this time.

["While I was in San Francisco I went to visit the Japanese section a great deal and I made some friends there. I took an interest in tennis and I used to play a lot after school with some nisei fellows I got to know. I went to many movies during the time I was there because this was the first chance I had to do that. < I was always a movie fan. > I didn't have any girl friend at that time and I didn't know any of the nisei girls in San Francisco.]

{ "After I finished the watch making school, I went back to my home town to start out on my own. I started to look around for a good location for a jewelry shop. In the meantime I helped out the folks on the farm. After about a month, I bought out the home town jeweler who was a Caucasian and my folks gave me the money to make the payments. It was just a small shop located in a drug store but it was good enough for me. I had no trouble at all getting business as I had fixed a lot of watches for my friends for many years and they brought me all the trade that I could

handle.

"After I got a little experienced I found that watch sales were a little limited because the town people went to the two larger cities nearby to buy a greater variety of watches. I found that I was limited in buying my merchandise and through inexperience I often got stuck with a lot of stock which I couldn't dispose of very easily. I made plenty of mistakes during this time. However, I was making good money in comparison to other nisei fellows in the valley. About 95% of my customers were Caucasians and I never had any trouble with them. In spite of the fact that I worked up to a net income of around \$3500 a year in a period of 3 or 4 years, I was not entirely satisfied. This was during the depression time too. However, my expenses were rather large as I got married during this time.

["I first met my wife in Santa Barbara in 1932. It was love at first sight so we decided to get married. Jesus, what a wedding we had. We had to go through all of the Japanese forms for the sake of our parents. The older nisei didn't think so much of rebelling like the young kids do nowadays. We thought we had to go through all of these forms because everyone else had done it. Our wedding was held in a Buddhist church in San Luis Obispo because my wife was a Buddhist. We had to go through all of that formal baishakunin stuff as that was about the only way nisei could get married at that time. It was a pretty expensive thing and my folks had to help me out on some of the bills. The Japanese had the idea that you had to spend a lot of money at your wedding to show that you were successful in business.] We had to invite all of our Japanese friends to the wedding and I also in-

vited all of my Caucasian friends. After the wedding we gave them all a big dinner. I think we had to spend over \$3000 just for this wedding. This is where all of my profits went, but we also received a lot of gifts from friends because that was Japanese style too.

"After our honeymoon we rented a home in Arroyo Grande. From then on it was more and more expense for me as I soon had three children. At first we lived near my shop. We both liked shows a great deal so we went quite often. We also entertained a lot of friends and they were mostly Caucasians. It was a little hard for my wife at first because she didn't have so many Caucasian contacts in her home town and she wasn't used to it. I had gotten to know most of my Caucasian friends through my school and business contacts. Fortunately my wife had a very friendly personality so that she soon got to know all of my friends and she enjoyed it quite a bit. She had an open personality while I was more reserved in disposition.

"After I got married I had to work harder than ever in order to increase my business. Year by year it did improve. My family and I lived a very good standard of living and we never had to skimp or anything. We just spent what I earned and I didn't want my wife and children to lack for anything that they needed. After the children started to come, we moved to a much larger house. Then as my income grew, we moved a couple of times more and each time it was a better place. We had to get larger places as the family was increasing.

"In 1935 we moved into a large place and we stayed there until the evacuation. It was a brand new stucco house with 5 rooms. We

only paid \$22 a month rent, believe it or not. I certainly wish I had that place right now. We put in over \$2000 worth of furniture in that new house to begin with and everything was quite modern. I was also able to buy a new car and we felt that we were living in class.

["About 1936 the drug store where my jewelry shop was located moved to a new location. It was about then that I started to sell and repair radios. When I did this, my income went even higher. I had been keeping up my interest in radio all along and I read all of the latest radio magazines in order to keep up with the newest developments. I found radio work much more intriguing than watch repairing so I began to spend more and more time with it. I found that radio repairing and selling was much more profitable than watch repairing. The radio business kept increasing all the time as more and more people were buying radios during this time.

"I decided that I needed a larger shop of my own so I finally bought a grocery store. It was the oldest established Caucasian grocery store in town and I thought I could handle it on the side because I had been good at the commercial courses in high school. I thought I could run it along with my radio and watch work. I was the only nisei or Japanese business man in town during all of these years.

"When I took the grocery store over, I expanded my radio section much more and I gradually began to drop the watch repairing work. There was no other watchmaker in town so that my former customers kept on bringing their watches to me. I took them home and fixed them at night. From then on, my annual income went on up to \$5000 net a year and my family was well off. By the time of

the war I felt quite prosperous and ~~xxx~~ established for life.

"I didn't know a thing about the grocery business when I started, but I soon learned. It turned out to be a successful venture too. The grocery store had been quite shaky when I first took it over, but when I finally had to close it, it was one of the busiest establishments in town. I made a pretty good margin of profit because I bought my vegetables from my father and a few other Japanese so that I didn't have to deal with the middle man. However, as business increased, I gradually bought most of my produce from the wholesale Caucasian firms. I did quite a business with one of the large Caucasian produce companies in Los Angeles. After I got established in the grocery business, I bought a lot of new equipment for the store in order to modernize it. I had my sister and wife help out and I hired one other nisei in the store. I spent most of my time on the radio work and I let the others take care of the grocery section.

"By the time the war broke out, I was ready to be on easy street. My radio business had boomed way up all during this time. I guess I was making anywhere from \$5000-6000 clear a year and I was able to save quite a bit. During this time it was my ambition to get the exclusive rights to the Philco Radio agency but I was not successful in this for a long time because another man in town had it. Finally in 1940 the Philco people asked me to take over their agency in town so this ambition was realized. After that I had tremendous radio sales and my radio business more than tripled.]

"I got to thinking about then that radio business was the best for me. It had the greatest margin of profit. The grocery store was also doing a good business but it was taking a lot of my

time and I began to debate on whether or not I should close it up and devote my energy to radio sales and repair exclusively. I was just getting ready to do this when the war changed everything around. After the war started, all of the short wave radio parts had to be removed from the enemy alien's sets. They had to turn in the radios to the police station and the police sent them up to my place to get the short wave removed. The first thing I knew I had a whole store full of radios. I took out all of the short waves and then returned them to the Japanese customers. This was actually the first time in my life that I had any amount of business dealings with the Japanese people. I found out then that I couldn't get along too well with them in business because they were too critical and I also learned that I couldn't speak to them in Japanese too well since my language had gotten rather rusty from not using it for many years. Yes, life really did change for me when the war broke out. I never figured that anything like this would happen.

"Before the war, I figured that I was well established and I was making up my mind to go into radio work exclusively for the greater profits. I was planning to become a permanent part of that town and devote my time to bringing up my kids in the right way. I figured on sending them all through college and to give them the best of everything I possibly could. I had a life insurance policy for all of my kids which would mature in time for them to go through college with. I had been paying ahead on the premiums and that was taken care of for five or six years ahead. I also was putting quite a bit of money into the bank so that I had a fairly comfortable reserve fund for my family.

"The reason why my wife and I were saving our money was that we were planning to buy our own home. Several times we even went as far as to draw up the building plans and have all of the estimates made. We would have built a home in the spring of 1942 if the war did not come along. I was well established in town and I thought I had no worries at all for the future. I was a member of the town's business men's club and I was the only nisei in it. I never had any discriminations in business against me and I got along well with most of the business men. The reason for that was I had grown up with a lot of them and these fellows had taken over their father's business after finishing school. I felt I was quite accepted there and everyone knew me. The town only had a population of around 1200 and the people were all friendly. It never occurred to me to think of the situation of the other Japanese because I wasn't particularly aware that they had any special problems. I thought that the Japanese in Santa Maria valley especially were doing quite well in farming and a lot of families were pretty rich. I knew that the nisei in Los Angeles were having a little harder time but I thought it was because of the depression. I didn't understand that the nisei had limitations in looking for a job.

"I didn't have the occasion to have too many contacts with other nisei because I didn't deal in business with them. However, my wife and I were charter members of the San Luis Obispo chapter of the JACL. Our contacts with the other Japanese were very limited. We entertained Caucasian friends mostly at our dinner and card parties. I was a member of a card club in town and we used to get together about 2 or 3 times a week. We would take turns

being the hosts. Later on it got to be more of a poker club. My wife belonged to a couple of clubs in town because she was the mother of several children. Once in a while we made trips to Los Angeles and occasionally we would visit my wife's folks in Guadalupe. That was our only real connection with the Japanese community and even then my wife's folks didn't mix too much in the Japanese society. Often in the summer time we went out on picnics with our Caucasian friends. I was quite happy in that life and I didn't have any worries at all, except business worries. We had a nice home, we ate good food, we attended a lot of parties, we had an opportunity to travel, our social relationships with the Caucasians were good, our children were starting to get a good education, and I had a very good business. We didn't lack a thing in the way of comfort.

"In fact, I was so complacent about everything that I was already looking forward to a life of ease when I retired. I was unaware of any political activities because those things did not interest me. Once in a while I heard talks of war, but I never dreamed that Japan and America would go to war. I thought that there was a chance of America going to war against Germany after 1939, but it never occurred to me that Japan might be included too. We were just living our own lives in a small town and everything seemed to be running smoothly. We didn't take part in any of the church activities since my wife and I had different backgrounds. Neither of us thought about religion seriously. We never made our kids go to church and they only started to go to the Buddhist church after they were evacuated to the assembly center. There were a few other Japanese living in town but we

didn't have any contacts with them. We didn't attempt to avoid them but our paths did not cross. The same thing was true for the large number of Japanese farmers who lived in the surrounding areas. It was a rich farming community and the Japanese farmers outnumbered the Caucasian farmers. My family didn't have very much to do with them as these Japanese farmers hardly ever traded with me. They patronized the larger Japanese stores in Santa Maria mostly.

"All of my peaceful life was suddenly disrupted by the war and it only took overnight to do it. I was in Los Angeles on Pearl Harbor day with my dad and brother. We were sitting in a Japanese record store, getting some Japanese records for my dad when the news of the Pearl Harbor attack blast over the radio. I only heard a part of it and it just didn't register in the minds of any of us. I wasn't sure of what it was all about and I didn't believe that it was true. We had the impression that it was only a radio play when we started home in our car. I turned the car radio on and it was then that we really realized that Pearl Harbor had been attacked and that it was not a play. The whole thing took me completely by surprise and I just couldn't believe a thing like that was possible. I didn't know what to think or say.

"I had no immediate fears at that time as I couldn't imagine that it would affect me very much. My dad was just as surprised as I was and he just wouldn't believe it. When he finally realized that it was true, he thought that if the United States declared war that Japan would not be able to last very long. He didn't think that Japan was strong enough to attack and defeat a powerful nation like America. When he left Japan, it had been a

backward country and he didn't think that Japan was strong enough to ever battle such a powerful country as America. He thought that Pearl Harbor had been bombed by some madman in the Japanese Army and that the Japanese government really knew nothing about it. ~~xx~~ Dad had a strong sentimental attachment for Japan, but he didn't know anything about the politics. He was quite worried because he didn't like the idea of Japan fighting the United States. He always tried to think of America as his home but he knew that he would be in for a hard time. We talked about it all the way home but we didn't get stopped once.

["I thought that it would only be a very short war and Japan would be licked in short notice. I had no sympathy for Japan as I had never seen it. I didn't even think of the possibility that the nisei would fall under suspicion at all. At that time it didn't occur to me that my business would be affected because I knew all of my Caucasian friends were life-long friends and that they would not turn against me in spite of any war.] I was justified in this opinion as they did stick by me later on. It was only the out-of-town hakujin who aroused all of that anti-Japanese feeling in California. I didn't lose any of my old customers after the war started, but a few of the newcomers in town got distinctly cooler towards me.

"My immediate reaction that day was more for personal things and I thought I would be drafted very quickly. I was rather bewildered by the suddenness of the whole thing. When I got home my wife was very excited because she had heard over the radio that some Jap had been killed on the highway and she thought that it might have been me. It was a great relief for her to see in all

in one piece and we immediately started to talk about the war and how it would affect us. I was a little worried that my business relationships might be affected, but in the days that followed nothing happened. Business kept on as usual and the war did not seem to affect it at all. I was more worried about the draft but I thought I would get an exemption for a while as I had 5 kids and the Army was not figuring on taking pre-Pearl Harbor fathers at that time. I did have to give up any ideas of expanding my business because I wasn't sure about anything.

"In a few weeks all of the issei had their money frozen and many of them had been interned. My father had all of his money deposited in a Japanese bank and it was all frozen. My brother had two farms of his own and he took over most of the responsibility of looking after dad. The property had been put in his name many years before. My other brother had been suffering from poor health since 1931 so that my brother with the farm looked after him too. This sick brother was in a sanatorium for a number of years and he was a heavy financial burden on the folks. It cost a minimum of \$55 a week to keep him in that sanatorium. He was still there when the war broke out. This brother is still in California but we don't pay for any of his expenses now. The WRA has taken over this responsibility. Dad and my brother had to pay right up to the time of evacuation. Dad was pretty well established after all of those years of work on the farm so that I did not have to support him at all. He had done very well on his farm and he had a number of successful crops so that he had plenty to retire on. For a while we thought that he would never get any of his frozen money back but the greater part of it has been released to him now.

Fortunately my dad did not have any Japanese bonds. He didn't believe in buying any kind of stocks as he was very much opposed to gambling of any type.

"Even when the first Japanese were evacuated from around Seattle and some of the defense zones in southern California, I wasn't worried about being removed myself. I kept right on with my business, but some of my creditors began to demand cash as they thought that even the nisei would eventually be evacuated. Around March the rumors of complete evacuation got pretty strong. By the time the official notices came, I was convinced that evacuation would hit me so I started to dispose of my business. I guess I was pretty disappointed by the whole thing and I didn't see how it could possibly happen. It was more like a dream than anything else.

"I couldn't find a buyer to take over my store so I started to sell everything at a discount. All of my competitors and the grocery merchants in town bought me out at wholesale prices so I didn't lose anything. In fact, I had bought a great deal of my stock on a rising market so when I sold it to the other merchants, the wholesale prices had gone way up and I actually made a little profit. I didn't have any trouble disposing of the lease on my grocery store as the owner was a life-time friend of mine. I wanted to sell all of the equipment so I closed the store on March 31. After selling the grocery merchandise out at a big discount, I sold the store fixtures. This was my greatest loss as I had to sell it at a fraction of the original cost to the next door butcher. I figured that I had lost about \$1000 on my store fixtures even with the depreciation values deducted.

"As for my radio testing equipment, I stored it in the basement of the town bakery as the owner was a friend of mine. I didn't want to sell my watch repairing tools either so I stored it with some of my Caucasian friends. I stored all of my best furniture with my friends and I just left the rest of it right in my home. The only thing we sold of our household goods was the piano. I signed my car over to one of my life-time friends and I told him that he could use it until I came back or if I wanted to sell it. He is still using my car now and I am thinking of selling it since I won't get back to California for quite a while. Originally I thought that I would be gone for several months at the most. My car was in first class condition as I had completely overhauled and painted it about a month before evacuation was announced. Had I known that we were going to be evacuated I certainly wouldn't have had my car overhauled at that time.

"By the greatest stretch of my imagination, I only anticipated being gone from town for a year at the most before I could go back and start over. I didn't think I would have any difficulty in doing that because I knew my former customers would come back. Business must certainly be good back there now and I suppose that my greatest loss was in the fact that I wasn't there to enjoy it. There is no way of figuring out my loss in good-will and business possibilities. That's where the evacuation hit me the hardest. I was making a net income of over \$5000 a year before I left and the loss of that was quite a blow to me.]

"For that reason I didn't like the idea of evacuation at all. I didn't see how the Army could evacuate a mass of people like that, especially when it included nisei who were American citizens.

I didn't think there was any danger of sabotage from any of the Japanese in California and this was only an excuse. I think that the whole evacuation was really unnecessary. It was caused by a bunch of politics in California and I didn't think it was a military necessity at all. It was just a group of selfish people who were after our money and businesses and they were the ones who wanted to get us out the most because they didn't like our competition. I couldn't imagine the issei as being dangerous to this country as they had always been law-abiding and very few Japanese had ever been sent to prison for committing crimes. I felt that the Army could take care of any dangerous ones, and a lot of the issei had already been interned.

"There was a lot of talk about the possibility of invasion but I couldn't see how the Japanese army could ever do this. When the Japanese submarine bombed the coast along Santa Barbara just before evacuation that raised a lot of excitement and the people thought sure that the invasion was coming. I always had the idea that the Santa Barbara bombing might have been done by one of our own American submarines because of political reasons. It might have been a put-up job in order to convince the country that the evacuation was justified as a military necessity.

"Altho I felt badly about the loss of my business, I did not turn against America at all. I blamed Japan for the war, but I was also bitter because the government treated us so unjustly and it cost me my lifework which had taken 12 years to build up. It completely disrupted my life and even now the pieces are not altogether yet. But as far as loyalty and patriotism was concerned, it didn't change at all as this was the only country that I knew. I realized

that the president and a lot of government officials had been fooled by the pressure groups in California to remove us and that made me sore. Some of those California groups were taking advantage of the war to persecute us because they never did like the Japanese in California. This was particularly true of the Hearst papers and the American Legion. They were always talking about America for the white people only and I thought they were crazy because I believed that true Americanism was in the heart and not in the color of the skin. I just took most of these things for granted and I figured that everyone else thought pretty much the same way. I didn't think that the pressure groups would ever completely fool the American public that easily.]

"I began to feel a lot closer to the other Japanese people in the valley about the time of evacuation as I had to make more contacts with them. I felt that we were all in the same boat together since we~~xx~~ were all being evacuated and we had all of the same problems. For that reason, I began to see much more of them than ever before. When I saw so many of the Japanese people suffering like that and losing everything that it had taken a lifetime to build up, it made me angry to think that such a thing could happen in this country. I really was disappointed in America. I didn't think that there was much use in making personal protests because the odds were too great and the feeling was rising against us on account of the war. Any voice of protest would be like a voice in the wilderness and the public temper was not favorable to listening.

"I didn't like the idea of a war at all because it did change everything in our lives. When the time came for evacuation, I still thought that it would be a short war and I didn't see how

Japan had kept going for the four months that it did at that time. Japan was winning a lot of victories but I had no fear that America would be defeated. This country was caught unprepared and I knew that Japan would not have much of a chance once the Army and Navy got started against them. But I didn't have very much hope for my own personal future as I had to take things as they came and I couldn't make my own decisions because of the evacuation. One of my real big fears was that my kids would not have a good a chance as they deserved. I was financially fixed so I knew that I could take care of my family for several years without having any income at all. I had hopes that the war would be over and forgotten by that time and I would be reestablished all over again.

"My wife's folks evacuated with my family, but I had to stay behind for 10 days. I was coming down with German measles so that the WCCA office slapped me in quarantine at the town hospital. This made it pretty hard for my wife as she had to take care of all of the last minute details as well as look after the 3 children. It was quite a problem for her and she had to pay all of the last minute bills and dispose of things I had not already taken care of. When I was well, I was given a ticket on the Greyhound bus and told to report to the Tulare Assembly Center. I evacuated myself without any escort. I felt sort of funny as I was the last one out of that district. Nobody paid any attention to me on the trip out to camp. I just said good-bye to a few of my life-long friends and they assured me that I would be back very soon. Nobody was curious about me on the bus and I wasn't asked any questions.

"When I got to the town of Tulare, I thought that somebody would be waiting for me to take me to camp. I hung around the

depot for a while and then wandered around the town. Nobody even did as much as take a second glance at me. I got impatient because I didn't know what I was supposed to do next. Finally I showed my ticket to the train agent and he phoned to the assembly camp and they sent a car after me. It was only a few blocks away and I could have walked to the camp myself.

"I had been feeling fine up to then but as I went through the gates I suddenly got a very depressed feeling and I felt like a prisoner. There were guards at the gate and it was all fenced in. The barracks all looked dirty and I hated to think of having to live there for any length of time. This was the start of my Tulare life in a concentration camp. I could have escaped so easily if I didn't have a family that was waiting for me. There was nothing to prevent me from buying a train ticket out of town to the unrestricted zones. I didn't even think of it though as I didn't want to break any laws. But when I saw camp for the first time, it was depressing and my morale sunk way down. I wanted to see my family right away in order to find how they were making out.

"My family had done very well without me and my wife had the barrack fairly well arranged. I had to take care of some of the details which she could not handle. After I got my family settled, it was not so hard and my morale came up a little. At least I could console myself by knowing that I would have some sort of family life. At first it was a little hard for my wife to take care of all the children and try to get them things they had been used to back home. We didn't have any furniture at all so I ordered a clothes closet and some other things. I didn't build too much furniture at all as I was able to send for a few of our be-

longings back home. I ordered a card table and chairs and my wife made curtains for the apartment. All of our shelves were made from the old boxes which I gathered from around the mess halls. I had to buy a new radio when I was in camp as back home I only had a big console radio and it was too bulky to take to camp.

"After a short time I decided to go to work in radio if I could but I didn't know if there were any possibilities for it in camp. It was hard to get work in camp at Tulare as [a certain group had control over everything and they gave the good jobs to their friends. They told me if I wanted to work right away, I would have to start in the mess hall or as a common laborer on construction crew. I took the job on the construction crew and I handled a pick and shovel for the first time in years. < It was very hot during those days but I didn't mind it at first as I had not done hard work like that for years and I thought it would be good for me. I wasn't able to do this too long because it was too tough.] I got a job in the recreation department next. I took care of the public address system for the talent shows and things like that. The highest job I could get in that department was to operate the moving picture projector.]

"A friend of mine was taking care of electrical appliances and he wanted me to open up a radio repair shop in camp. I applied for this job and on the basis of my experience I got it. For the next few months I did this work for \$12 a month. We repaired all of the radios free of charge and we also took care of the sound system in camp. There was nothing exciting about this work altho once a rumor went around that we were putting in short wave systems for the people. I never saw any short waves in camp while I

was there.

"I didn't take too much part in the other activities of the camp. I went to some of the dances and a number of private parties. I had my own public address system and I loaned it out to mess hall dances free of charge so that I got free admission to a lot of private affairs in this way. Other times I played cards quite a bit with the fellows I knew. Sometimes we had poker sessions which lasted half the night. I never did do much reading as my wife took care of most of this. For a while I did fix a few watches for my friends in camp. Most of my watch repair tools were in storage back home but I sent for some of them. I didn't charge the government for the use of my radio repair tools either. I really thought it was amusing that I would be working for \$12 a year after all those years in business of my own.

"I didn't have many nisei friends from before but I made a lot of new friends while I was in camp. I didn't have any particular trouble in mixing with them altho the nisei tended to stick to their own group. I didn't associate with the issei at all as I couldn't speak their language. When I went on radio repair jobs to their apartments, I spoke in English to the issei and they seemed to understand. I didn't have to talk to them very much as there was no charge and they couldn't complain when the work was being done for nothing. I made my assistant do most of the talking as I just couldn't do it well and I could hardly understand what the issei said.

"In spite of these difficulties I didn't feel exactly like a stranger. I certainly did miss my friends from back home tho. Quite a few came to visit us on week-ends and this was usually the

high point of the week's activities. A lot of the nisei I knew in camp were just casual friends. I wanted to get to know them well as I had nothing against them since I was one of the group myself. My wife mixed in much better than I did. She could speak Japanese fairly well so that she got acquainted with everybody at our block mess hall.

"My children had never played with nisei children before, but they soon got in with their own little groups and after that they began to stay out all hours just to play. My wife and I knew that this camp life would be harmful for the children if we completely neglected them so we made them eat with us at the mess hall in order to teach them the proper table etiquette. We ~~didn't~~ didn't want them to learn a lot of bad habits by going all around without any parental supervision.

["I thought that the food in camp was pretty terrible and I could not blame my three children for complaining.] The longer I stayed there, the more unjust I thought the whole thing was. But I tried to fit in as best as I could since there was no other choice. There was no political activity at all in our assembly center since the Army controlled everything and the people did not have any voice. For this reason there was not any use to have a nisei organization to discuss our problems. The nisei were not interested in such problems anyway.

"It was my impression that the administration was very good. We heard a lot of rumors about the bad administration and graft in the other camps but we didn't have anything like this so we had no cause for complaint. The administration sympathized with the people and they went out of their way to make us as comfortable

as possible. I made a number of friends among the appointed personnel but we did not mix too much socially.

"I still did not hold anything against this country for moving us all out like that and I became more resigned to the situation. I realized that California was the only state with attitudes like that. The reason for this was because of the Hearst papers which never stopped accusing us of false charges. I thought then that maybe we would be a long time in camp. I didn't like this at all, but it looked like the end of the war was a long time away. I just tried to get along with the minimum of things as I realized that we would have to move again.

"The rumors started to go around that we were going to be sent to Arizona next. Nobody knew for certain and the rumors went around for a couple of weeks and it was on everyone's tongue. I was hoping that we would be sent to Tule Lake as I figured that it would not be too far away and we would still be in California. I didn't like the idea of going out of the state as this would make things kind of definite and we would feel that we really had been kicked out. However, there wasn't any choice for us about what WRA camp we wanted to go. When it was announced that we were going to be sent to Gila, I didn't have any great reaction one way or the other. There wasn't any way out of the situation since we were not given any alternatives. The Japanese people began to pass around all sorts of rumors about the snakes, scorpions and heat in Arizona and a lot of people in my block made a petition to ask the Army if they could not remain at Tulare. All of us wanted to stay in Tulare and we dreaded the idea of going to Gila. But when the first group started to leave, the people

all wanted to go there so that they could stick together as one group.

["I was really disgusted when I got to Gila. It was nothing but a desert and everything was so dusty. The camp looked so primitive and we felt pretty well cut off from everything. Everything was confusion when we arrived. The baggage lot was an empty block which was covered with dust so that all of our clothes in the bags were practically ruined. This dust was so soft that we would sink in with every step.] My wife had taken the three children to one of the front cars and I had to be on one of the back cars since I was a car captain. That is why I didn't get to Gila until much later since my wife had been moved by the truck first. When I got to Gila my wife had arrived there several hours earlier. It took us 5 or 6 hours to get moved that 15 miles from Casa Grande to the camp since the truck had to go back and forth. It was stifling hot but none of the people were allowed to get off the train.

"In Gila we had no choice in housing as other Japanese were coming in every day. It got so crowded that a lot of families had to double up. Fortunately my wife and family got a separate apartment but it was located in one of the hottest spots in camp. We figured that we would be in Gila permanently for the duration so we began to fix our apartment up much better than we had at Tulare. I stole lumber along with other people so that I could build the benches and table. My wife ordered material for curtains, awning for the windows and other things like that in order to make living more comfortable for us. I purchased a cooler from Sears Roebuck Co. so that we would not roast to death. I was

fortunate in being able to buy a new one for less than \$30. After Sears Roebuck ran out of the coolers, the people in camp were paying \$70 and \$80 for a fan. I found out that some Caucasians in Arizona had bought the supply of coolers out. A man came to camp in a truck loaded with these coolers and he sold the identical fan that I had for \$30 to other people for \$70 and \$80. Later on the administration found out about this and they made the man give a refund of \$30 to \$40 for each fan, according to the ceiling price. The only trouble was that a lot of the families did not save their receipts so that they were out of luck.

["We didn't have any privacy at all in our apartment and I did not think this was so good for our children.] I bought some sheeting material and I was able to partition our room up into 2 small bedrooms and a living room. We ordered quite a few things from the mail order company in order to complete our household. We also sent for some more of our clothing and other necessities from back home. I was expecting to get a whole box of canned goods from my former grocery store but somebody switched the boxes and we were sent a case of noodles instead. That was the last thing we wanted because we were getting plenty of noodles in camp. I also sent for my electric hot-plate so that we could cook little snacks at home for the children and also for company.

"With the left-over lumber I built a nice big porch in the front of our apartment so that we could sit out there during the hot evening. Later on we put in a lawn. We had some trouble with our next door neighbor because he infringed upon our property and this burnt my wife up because she wanted the space for a garden. Some people in camp were certainly greedy and they wanted

everything for themselves.

"After everything was fixed up at home, I went to look for a job. Again, I had some difficulty in finding work as the good jobs were monopolized by the first-comers. While we were in Tulare we had been told that we were going to be given approximately our same job in the WRA center, but I found out differently when I got there. The employment officer was too busy to look after all of the job situation so that some of the nisei interviewers gave their friends the best jobs. The employment officer finally told me that there was an opening for a typewriter repair man. I took this job temporary in the high school department. There weren't too many typewriters in camp so I wasn't very busy.

["A little later the adult education department started to look for a radio instructor. I cooperated with them so I began to teach radio about three evenings a week besides fixing the typewriters. I had a nice crowd of enthusiastic boys who were interested in learning about radios so that I enjoyed this experience. I did this combination of work until the end of the semester in January, 1943.]

"After that I had an opportunity to become the manager of the repair department for the Community Enterprises. I had quite a difficult time getting it organized. My first job was to get the watch repair shop started. It took me a long time to find the right man to do this work. We had to build all of the benches and fix up the shop ourselves. I could only find one man in camp with his watch repairing tools so I had to give him the job. Later I sent back home for some of my watch repairing tools and I loaned this equipment to Community Enterprises.

"The dust and heat in camp had ruined many a watch so that we got more work than we could handle in the watch shop. We repaired them at cost and we only charged one dollar for a cleaning job. After this shop became successful, I began to fix up a radio repair shop in the same room. Business was very brisk and we really earned our \$19 a month. The only difficulty was that we were unable to get the right kind of radio tubes to satisfy all of the customers. We only charged less than half of what it would have cost on the outside. This money was turned over to the Community Enterprise and we only got out WRA wages out of it.

"Since I was the manager of the shop I had another young nisei fellow act as the radio repair man and he went around to the various barracks to fix radio sets. He was able to make quite a bit of money on the side but I didn't insist that he turn it in to Community Enterprise. There were many evacuees who brought their radios to my apartment to get fixed. I never charged them anything for this work but sometimes they insisted on giving me small tips. It would have taken them 3 times as long to get their radio fixed through the radio shop, so I felt justified in taking these tips. I usually gave it all to my three children. Before the war I used to make more in one day than I did in the whole month in camp for doing the same work.

"About this time I got an idea that I wanted to make a little quick money so I thought I would go to the camouflage net factory for a while. I got a chance to go work in the warehouse group so I took it. It was very hard work and it took me quite a while to get used to it. We had to press and make those bails and then load them on to the trucks. I made quite a bit of money compared

compared to the WRA wages, but a lot of it was deducted for the net trust fund and taxes. I made about \$212 in all for the 15 days of work. Then they started to close up the factory because the net contract with the Army was ended. This was near the end of May. I enjoyed my hard work there as it was something real. I was sorry that the factory was closing up as I wanted to make more money there, but I did not get this chance.

"After this job, I got a job as an electrician for the camp. I had to take care of the electrical troubles for the whole center. We even had to repair the power line occasionally. It was something a little different for me and I learned quite a bit. About August, 1943, I decided that I wanted to resettle because I was getting a little tired of the camp life.

"My social life in Gila was not quite as interesting or as varied as my work. I made some new friends and we spent most of our evenings playing cards. I also went to a number of dances and private parties with my wife. The social life in Gila was about the same as it was in Tulare. There were many block parties and since I had the public address system yet, I managed to get invited to many of these functions. At other times, I spent a lot of my leisure moments experimenting with radio. Some of the issei wanted me to put in short wave systems for them but I refused to do this. I know that there were a few short waves in camp, but I never located them myself.

"One nisei ordered a new radio from Montgomery Ward and it got through the internal security inspection. When he got it he found it had a short wave set on it. He brought the radio to my apartment and asked me to take the short wave out for him. Some

issei heard about it and they tried to get me to install the short wave in their radio but I destroyed the parts so that I wouldn't have to turn them down continually. I heard that some of the issei in Camp I had short wave sets and this was where most of the rumors started from regarding contacts with Japan broadcasting stations. The FBI came into camp a couple of times and they checked up with a few of my friends about short wave but they never questioned me. Some of the administration people had short wave themselves and this might have been where the rumor of Japan broadcast started from. I fixed some radios for my Caucasian friends and they all had short waves.

"Life at Gila became pretty routine after being there for some months. I had to go to church a few times as I took care of the sound system for the Christian church. My wife sent the children to the Buddhist church because she had been brought up as a Buddhist. I didn't mind it at all because I didn't particularly believe in any religion. Back home we didn't have a Buddhist church in town. My wife wanted her children to know a little bit about her religion so I couldn't object about that. I didn't think it would influence my children's thinking to more Japanese ways anyway. I really didn't know what they taught in the Buddhist church but I did not think it was harmful to my children while in camp as long as the religion taught them to be good and honest.

"Two of my older girls were going to school in camp and the youngest was in kindergarten. I knew that it was only a makeshift school and I worried for a while about my children's proper education. Gradually the school system became more satisfactory.

I heard that the rating of the Gila school measured up fairly well to the rest of the Arizona school system, but it could hardly have reached the California standard. The school department had difficulty in getting enough Caucasian teachers. I think many of the Caucasian ~~teachers~~ just couldn't stand the hardship of teaching there and they just quit. I realized that my children wouldn't get a good an education as on the outside and that bothered my wife and myself at times. However, my children were only in the lower grades and by that time there was some hope of eventually getting out of camp. We tried to train our children to behave properly in all aspects of living because there was so much of a tendency for young children in camp to go unsupervised. The biggest problem was on whether we should allow them to eat with their little friends all of the time. My wife and I decided not to let the children do this too often as they would forget their table manners.

"My youngest girl always used to ask us to go back to our white house in our home town and it was difficult to answer her. We just had to tell her that some day we would go back. It was hard when they asked questions like this. Sometimes the children as my wife why we were moved from California and it was hard to explain to them. Once my oldest daughter wanted to know if we were going to be sent to Japan. These were the most difficult times for me and I couldn't answer them definitely except to say that some day we would all go back to California to the life we had before. I never liked it when these 'why' questions were asked as I didn't know what to say. We would just tell the children the news of our home town when we got letters from friends.

"I also thought at times that it was too bad that my children did not have the Caucasian contacts in the regular school, but I knew that it would not be for all the time. I didn't want my children to grow up with the feeling of inferiority to the white people. They were still under 11 years of age so I thought ~~that~~ I would be able to get them back to a more normal life before they were influenced too much by camp life. By this time I had doubts about returning to California for a long time as the feeling ~~was~~ against us had not died down too much. In fact, it had increased after we left California.

"My wife and I had few tensions in camp and we did not have any strong arguments like a lot of other families did. My wife didn't like the idea of being in a camp, but she got used to it. I went to Poston once to visit my father.~~x~~ While I was there I met an old issei family friend and he liked the idea of camp life as the government provided everything. The nisei couples were not like that at all. They were more impatient and restless. My dad enjoyed Poston just because he could do all of the fishing that he wanted to do and it was just like retiring to a life of ease for him. The young people still had their lives to live ahead of them and they didn't want it to be in the middle of a desert.

"I think my wife had a great deal of difficulty in adjusting herself to the condition of camp life for a long time as the house-keeping facilities were not what she had been used to. But she did manage to mix with the people much easier than I did since her mother was there and she knew more of the people from before.

"The registration for the army in February, 1943, was about the only thing which broke the routine of life in camp. It was

too easy to slip into the routine life there and forget about the outside. [The registration didn't affect me very much altho a lot of people were greatly disturbed about it. I didn't go to any of those public meetings as there was no question about how I would register. I answered 'yes' to both 27 and 28 and my wife did the same thing.]

"The registration did make me stop to think that there was a great deal of resentment against the government by the people in camp. There were a few pro-Japan people there and they influenced a lot of the people who would have answered 'yes' if they had not been so aroused by these agitators. I didn't know ^{all} who/the pro-Japan individuals were, but I was acquainted with a couple of them. I talked to them a few times but I found that it was no use arguing with them as they were stubborn and set in their ways of thinking. I tried to keep away from them as much as possible after I found out their type of thinking. A lot of the kibel signed up for a segregation camp because they felt they had been kicked out of the United States Army after the war started and they said they were not wanted here anymore.

"Many of the issei who went to Tule Lake were rather bitter against the United States because they had lost their life earnings and they did not see a chance for themselves in this country any more. They thought that their children would have more of a chance to be accepted as equals in Japan. They thought that Japan wanted them to go back there. My opinion was that they were doing wrong and they were being misled. I thought that they would have even less of a chance to get back on their feet in Japan. I felt sorry for the nisei children whose parents signed up for repatria-

tion as I knew that they would have a difficult time ever getting adjusted to life in Japan, when and if they are ever sent back.

"It looked to me like the draft was getting near but I was willing to take my chances. I didn't even consider volunteering as I had 3 children that I was responsible for. I was already very tired of camp life but I had no definite plans for resettlement then. I felt I was missing so many things that I had enjoyed prior to evacuation. The dust storms in camp always got me down and there were many other inconveniences which irritated me. I missed the good food and all of the movies I had been used to back home. I didn't enjoy the pictures in camp as the sound system was terrible. I only went a couple of times to the amphitheatre for the movies. The main thing that irritated me was the lack of privacy. I felt there was much too much gossiping going on in our block and the people talked about everyone.

"Being isolated completely among the Japanese people was another point which disturbed me. I knew that I was one of them but I had different ways. I missed my former Caucasian contacts and the home life I had enjoyed before. It was too much of a contrast for me as all of my friends were Caucasians before the evacuation. In my work I felt at a disadvantage too as I could not speak Japanese fluently. I often wished that I could speak their language better. I would have been able to make many more friends in this way.

"As the summer of 1943 went on, it got to a point where my few friends were resettling quite rapidly. I felt that if I did not hurry up and leave, I would not have any friends left in camp. I was very anxious to get back to a more normal life so I

thought I had better come out and look the situation over to see what the possibilities for me were.

"I was thinking that I could get my family out so that the children could get started in a regular public school some place. I wanted to do it before I was drafted as I knew it would come eventually. [Registration in February had made me aware that the camp influences would not be too good if my children were there for the duration. I knew on which side of the line I stood on and it was expected that we would eventually find our way back to the normal life. [I thought I was wasting time in camp] and I wasn't making any money to set my family up on its feet. I knew that I could better myself by getting out as soon as possible. I also realized that if I came out, I could be helping the war effort in some way.]

[I heard rumors that wages on the outside were much higher than before the war. I also heard that living costs were higher too and that made me hesitate. But the prospects of getting out of a barbed wire type of life was more appealing and I wanted my freedom. I got letters from my brother-in-law (CH-35) and he encouraged me to come out. He said that there was plenty of work out here and he offered to let me stay with him until I got settled on my own.]

"I first started to make definite plans to resettle about in June after the net factory was closed. I watched the job offers listed in the camp papers very closely and I made personal contacts with the outside employment office. I discussed the whole thing over with my wife many times. Since I had a wife and 3 children, I couldn't afford to take any old job as I had to make

enough to support them decently on the outside. I didn't want to dig into my bank account any more than I had to because this was our reserve.

["At first my wife felt that I should get a job paying at least a hundred dollars a week as she did not want to take a chance on bringing these children out of camp on less than that. She was a little hesitant about coming out because she heard a lot more rumors from the old folks than I did. She thought about the care of the three children most of all and she didn't want to jump into anything hastily and regret it later.] I didn't bother too much about all these rumors regarding the hostility on the outside as they were all amplified too much anyway.

"I had a friend who went from Poston to Salt Lake to resettle so I wrote him a letter to ask him about the possibility for a radio repair job there. I wanted to settle as near as I could to the west coast as I figured that afterwards I might be able to go back to California. I wasn't so positive about going back by this time but I didn't want to be too far away as it is so expensive to move a family from one place to another. I had no plans of going into business for myself again for the duration as I knew that everything was so uncertain. I figured that wherever I resettled, it would only be a temporary location. I didn't want to be stuck in any one place and from my past experience, I knew that it was a lot of worries to go into my own business. I wanted to get away from these worries for a while and just work for somebody else.

["My friend from Salt Lake wrote and told me tha he had contacted several radio shops in Salt Lake and there were some good openings with pay up to \$65 a week.] I made up my plans to go to

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Salt Lake on a short term leave and look the situation over myself. I even went so far as to get my permit from the WRA. Then just before I was scheduled to leave, I found out that Salt Lake was still within the western defense zone. I heard a persistent rumor that there was a possibility that it may be evacuated in the future and I didn't want to go up there and be forced to move again. This made me give up the idea of going to resettle in Salt Lake. Another reason was that there were restrictions about cameras and short-wave radios in Salt Lake and I didn't think that this would be good for my work. That is why I went up and cancelled my permit right away.

Then I began to think of Denver as a place for resettlement next, but the leave office discouraged this place as they said that too many Japanese were already there and it was closed for resettlement. They said that if I really wanted to go there, I would have to ask for a leave permit to go to a nearby community and later transfer into Denver proper. They further discouraged me by saying that wages were much cheaper there for Japanese than elsewhere.

All this time I kept on watching the list of job offers in the outside employment office. My brother-in-law wrote more and more letters urging me to come. Finally a job offer came through from Chicago for a radio technician that would pay \$100 a week. I ~~was~~ immediately applied for this job because this was what I had been hoping for. I was disappointed in my application as I discovered that somebody else had beaten me to the job. I decided to try out Chicago anyway so I began to communicate with another radio shop in Chicago from a contact I had made through the WRA.

"The Radio shop wired back an offer of a job at \$45 a week to start. I didn't think that the offer was good enough so I wrote back and said I would have to have more pay to come out all the way out there. I wanted a guarantee of a raise within a definite period of time if I took the job. I became impatient for an answer because either the mail was slow or the employer was cold to my reply. Before I got final word from him, I decided to come out any way, job or no job.

"I was getting fed up with the whole thing and I thought that this was a good a time as any to leave. I believed that I could line up something better if I were out here to scout around on my own and make personal contacts with the employer. The WRA gave me my indefinite leave altho I had been debating on whether I should take the short term leave. But I just knew that I would stay out here once I left camp, so I took the indefinite leave and left Gila on August 31, 1943. I landed in Chicago 3 days later.

"I came out here alone as it was arranged for my wife to come out a little later after I got established. She was afraid of the winter weather for the children as we had heard of the severe cold. We therefore agreed that she would come out after the winter season and I would lay all of the groundwork for them by that time. After I got to Chicago, I thought that I would recuperate from the trip over the week-end. My first impression of Chicago was pretty favorable altho I expected it to be dirty. I started in at the WRA office on my job hunting after resting for a day or so. I asked the WRA interviewer if there were any prospects of a good radio repair job. He told me that an offer had just come in a few moments before. I took the address down and I went

to see this place in the Loop. I had quite a long chat with the manager and he made me an offer of \$50 a week to start. But [I didn't want to take the first job that came along as I felt that I would be able to get a larger salary if I looked around some more.] I told the manager that I would give him my final answer the next day. After I left that place I went out and had lunch. I decided to look up the party I had been communicating with from camp. I went down to the southside to see this employer and he was just going to mail a letter to me in camp saying that I could start out at \$50 a week, and if I proved to be good, he would give me a \$5 raise in two weeks, then another \$5 after a month. I was still undecided about what to do exactly so I told him that I would have to think it over and let him know for sure the next day.

[After I got home I debated with myself on the two job offers I had received that day. I was living with my brother-in-law way up on the northside and I decided that it was too far to go all the way to the southside for work. I didn't care for the job offer of the Loop radio store either as the hours were not favorable. I also thought that the place of work on the southside was not up to standard. Therefore I decided to look for another job so I glanced through the classified ads that evening.] The next day I looked up one of the radio shops on 4900 West Madison as it had placed an ad in the paper for a radio repair man.

"This radio shop made me an offer that if I could get the radio department going again, that I would be paid \$25 a week plus 40% of all labor charges I made. I thought this was a good set-up so I accepted the job. I worked there until December, 1943. But the main difficulty with that job was that it took me

so long to commute from home to work.

"I went to the WRA office to ask if it could help me to find a place ~~x~~ to live near my job. The WRA referred me to a hotel room on the westside. When I got there I did not like the dirty room I was shown. The hotel manager said that he had a brother who also ran a hotel so he phoned him up to ask if there was a vacancy. His brother came after me in his car and I went over to the other hotel to look at the room. I thought it was fairly suitable so I took it. It was much easier staying at that hotel and going to my regular work.

[After staying at the hotel for a week, I got mighty lonesome so I thought I would rather move back to my brother-in-law's and make the long trip each day for the sake of the family life.] I worked steadily for two months and then I started to catch too many colds. I had to get up at 6 in the morning in order to get to work on time and I wasn't used to the weather out here at all. [The radio shop was very drafty and that wasn't good for me. I had to lay off from work for two days at a time on several occasions on account of these colds. It was breaking my health down so I finally quit the job even though I was averaging around \$60 a week in pay.]

"I took a few days off to recuperate and then I started to look in the want-ads again. I went to 2 or 3 places but I wasn't satisfied with any of the offers. Finally I found my present job which is located only 5 blocks from where I live now. [My present job is strictly radio repair work and I have to manage the place and do all of the buying for the boss. I have complete freedom in my work and it is quite convenient for me. I only work 42 hours a

week and I make around \$250 a month so that it is a fairly good job. I'm the only worker in the shop and I deal with most of the customers myself as the boss is in and out. The real boss is in the Army and his dad is running the place for him so that he doesn't know as much about radio work as I do.

"My present job is very much to my liking. I have no faults to find with it and the working conditions are excellent. [I get along fine with the boss and he never bothers me. He has nothing against me on account of my race. He is a Jew so he can't say too much because he knows what it is like to be on the weaker team. (1) He hasn't much interest in the evacuees though as his only concern is that I do my work efficiently. He is well satisfied now so that we don't have any trouble. The business has actually increased since I went there because I think I do the repair work much better than the boss was doing and the customers are satisfied. I wouldn't care if the boss gave another job to a nisei radio man because I have too much to handle now. I don't think he could get a Caucasian radio man now.] Once he was actually going to hire another nisei, but he hasn't been able to find an experienced man yet.

"I think that I will be holding this job for the duration and possibly even after that. [There is no doubt that I could get a little better job if I were not an evacuee as I could get into a defense plant then and make higher wages. (2) But it would be a factory job and I would rather stay with my radio work. A Caucasian repair man would not be getting any more wages than I am getting now for this type of work. Before the war, radio repair men were a dime a dozen in Chicago but they were all drafted so that there

is a shortage now.]

"At present I am saving plenty so that I can get a good start for my family. I'm buying about \$200 a month of war bonds right now. I only pay \$30 a month for room and board so that my living expenses are cheap. I bought my own bed and linen and I eat my lunches out. My only other big expense is this noon hour lunch. I buy clothing every so often but not too much because I have plenty of clothing from before. Recreation is quite an item and this runs to about \$25 a month. I send quite a few things to camp, about \$20 worth. The rest of my expenses are incidental.

"But my big expense will be when my family gets out here. I asked my wife to come out as early as last December as I found out that the winter was not as severe here as the rumors were, altho this may have been a mild winter. My wife did not want to come out so I did not send an ultimatum. One of the reasons for this was that she was expecting her dad back any time from the internment camp and she had to write all of the letters for her family. She received a wire from Washington in January saying that her father had been paroled and he would be back any time. My wife wrote to me and she said she would like to spend a couple of months with her dad before coming out here as she may not see him again.

"Time passed by and her dad did not arrive so my wife talked it over with her mother and she decided to come out any way. She wrote to me and said she would come early in April and that I was to look for a 3-room bedroom apartment with all of the modern trimmings like living and dining room. I started house hunting immediately. [I walked the streets both before and after work and

I watched all of the classified ads. I didn't have any success at all even though I was willing to pay \$75. The WRA could not help me at all and they told me that a place like what I wanted would be impossible to find. I was quite discouraged as I had been looking around for many days. I had to take into consideration the location since I wanted it to be near my work and also a school for my children. I didn't find anything to my liking altho I ran against no direct discrimination.]

"In the meantime the draft reclassification was starting about the first part of February. I got my reclassification on Feb. 15. I felt very low as I was desperately trying to get my family resettled. I didn't see how this was possible as I thought my time had come to serve my country. I knew that being married didn't make any difference at that time, especially since my wife and children were still in camp. I was sure that I would have to go right away so I wrote back to camp immediately to let my wife know of this new development. But I found out that radio was considered essential on the homefront so my employer asked for a deferment for me. At the end of February I received a notice saying that I was deferred for six months. I wired out to camp immediately and told my wife to come out as she had previously planned. I still wasn't able to find an apartment though.

"In a way I don't think that the nisei should exactly be drafted because of all the evacuation. It sort of stops resettlement plans. At the same time, the draft will put us in the same category as the rest of the Americans. The way it looks now, I don't believe I will be called to duty for some time yet as I am over 26, a father of 3 children, and in essential work. But the

changing rules do still make me feel uncertain at times. There is still a good chance that I may not be drafted so I will go ahead with the resettlement of my family. If I do get drafted, I don't think that I could make the grade to go to Savage for the intelligence work. I'm not in favor of a segregated combat team, but if they make a good showing, it will help all of us. If the nisei were allowed to go out into a mixed group in the Army, they would be no direct showing so that the combat team does have its point. But there are also disadvantages to it too. If I am called, I would like to get into the signal corps since my training would come of value there. We nisei have to respond wholeheartedly when the time does come as it will help our future if we each do our part. We will get credit for everything we do, and that certainly will be needed after the war.

"My wife arranged to come out here definitely on April 11 after my draft status was cleared up. She even made the train reservations but this was postponed when her dad suddenly came back from the internment center. Now I don't know when she will come out altho xshe said in her last letter for me to keep looking for an apartment. She doesn't realize how hard a job this is. I think that she will be out soon and my brother-in-law will temporarily put us up so that she can hunt for an apartment herself. Then she will realize that her expectations were too high. It's impossible for me to explain these things to her by mail.

"The present plan is for my family to come out permanently, but in case I do get drafted, we have temporarily agreed that it is best for her and the children to go back to camp. We may change that plan when the time comes. Right now we figure that any income

from the Army allotment would not be sufficient for her to make a go of it with the three kids. She would be in better hands in camp since her parents are there and I wouldn't worry so much. I have definitely given up any idea that I can settle down permanently because of the draft situation.

["After the war I plan to stay in radio work. I may stay in Chicago for a while if the wage level stays up. However, I think that it will be due for a decline. In any event, I will either go back to California and start out a radio shop of my own in my home town all over again, or else I may try to get started in a small city some place in the midwest as I don't like the big city.]
I plan to put my daughter through college and I want to give them the best opportunity I can.

"These things are hard to determine because [my future is pretty doubtful and I don't know for sure what it is going to be like. The future is also doubtful for the nisei in general. Some of them are learning good skills right now, but most of them are not adding to their experience too much. They will have a better chance after the war than before the war, but it still ^{will} be pretty rough going. I think a lot of them are due to be failures because they are not willing to take on their responsibilities now. They can't always fall back on the old folks and they are old enough to be on their own now. Too many of them can't get this through their heads and they waste a lot of time crying about what a tough position they are in without settling down to hard work and attempting to overcome all the obstacles.]

"At present, I suppose, the nisei are a little young and they haven't had time to develop the sense of responsibility yet. They

like to play around too much and they don't realize that this is war time and things can't be like before. However, I do feel that the married nisei couples are really trying to make good and they are more conscientious. I have a feeling that a lot of the nisei will leave Chicago but I don't think that they will ever go back to California as they have nothing to go back for. Those with property will go back, but I don't know what is going to happen to all the people in camp. I'm afraid that the government will have to keep a camp for a long time as the old people don't have any chance at all to resettle and they have no choice unless their children make a go of it and bring them out.

"At present it is better not to have a Japanese community out here as this will only bring out the minority problems more and more and it definitely will lead to a segregated life like before. The nisei should attempt to make as many contacts as possible out here so that they can become a part of the city life. It takes time and patience and I think that many of them are trying now. It is a little hard though. I don't know of any nisei who have made too many Caucasian contacts, but some of the more educated nisei are doing it. All of the nisei should try very hard now because anything is better than a segregated Japanese community. I should know. I just don't like the idea of a Jap town and I never have. I've never lived in one because I found it undesirable for economic purposes. A Jap town only makes for more discrimination and it is harder for nisei to get jobs with Caucasian companies when a Little Tokio is formed. The chances for them to mix with the other people out here will be much less if they ever get segregated like before.

"At the same time I don't believe that all of the nisei should be permanently separated from each other. Nisei organizations out here are okay for occasional get-together if they do not get too big. Other racial groups have these gatherings much more, but we are on the spot right now so we should be careful. If there is too much of these nisei gatherings, it may be a detriment for our future and it may lead toward complete segregation. If they do have to have nisei organizations, they should try to mix in with the other Caucasian groups and get better known. As far as the churches are concerned, I don't see why the nisei can't mix in because the Christian believes in the equality of man. But the Buddhists have a harder time of it and it can't be helped if they get together since there aren't so many Caucasians Buddhists for them to mix ~~xxx~~ with. I am afraid the Buddhists will segregate though if they organize.

"I have an idea that most of the nisei don't really follow the Buddhist religion and it would be to their advantage to drop it for the duration. I don't even see any use in the Japanese language either unless they intend to go back to Japan. I don't care if my children learn it or not as I expect them to stay in this country permanently.

"My present social life is temporary in nature until my family gets out here. I have a lot of time on my hand as I have short working hours. I don't get bored as I have plenty of corresponding to do and I have to spend much time in house hunting and other things. I could work more hours in my job and make more, but I don't care to do that. I think that I will be much more settled when my family gets out here. I miss them a great

deal. I fill in the time by going to movies and playing cards with friends. I'm quite a contract bridge fan. I haven't had time to develop my Caucasian contacts yet but I expect to make a lot of Caucasian friends when my wife gets here, if I find that we have common interests. I read very little, but I try to keep up on all of the radio developments. I'm not interested in politics and I can't vote this year as they told me that I was a non-resident yet.

"I like to travel but I only get to go on car rides occasionally. I hope to do more of it eventually, but I don't think I will buy a car until things are more settled. I could get all the gas I want to but I don't feel that it is right to buy it on the black market. In California I traveled around the state a lot and I would like to see this section of this country since there are a lot of beautiful spots too.

"I've gone to a lot of the nisei dances out here at the Midland Hotel but I don't know why I go. I suppose it is to see if I can meet some of my friends from camp. Most of the time I am just an onlooker. I am not used to the single life after being married for 12 years. I'm going to a lot of the baseball games now that the Big League has started since that has been one of my ambitions. I am interested in all types of sport activities but I am a little too old to participate in them now.

"I lead a pretty leisurely life right now. My present circle of friends number about 25 individuals and they are all nisei. But I only get together with about 10 or 15 of them frequently. A lot of them are my brother-in-law's friends and we play poker together. About half of all the people I know out here are new

nisei friends. I met them all though other nisei friends that I knew from before. I have gone out of my way to look up old friends after I found out their addresses, but I don't do it so much now as I have a definite group to play around with. It is a pretty casual group and besides playing cards, we talk about our work out here and out the latest news about the draft and camp. We also talk about the good times we had back home. We seldom talk about the war except for the draft situation. For a while that was all we talked about. I expect my social life to be better after my wife gets out here and it is my ambition to make it like it was back home altho I will have more nisei contacts. It is hard to make new Caucasian friends in a big city and it will take a long time to get that settled feeling.

"The war hasn't made me more conscious of my race altho I realize that the nisei do have a tough time. I'm not bitter about it at all altho it has worried me because things were so unexpected. I've always told people that I was an American and it takes a long time to get t is point over. I feel that I should do it every chance I get for the sake of my children as I don't ever want them to be ~~xxx~~ misunderstood like we were. I suppose I tend to be easy going, but I always like to be doing something constructive. I know I am a little reserved and I don't talk freely with strangers because I have a difficulty of expressing myself. I tend to be on the conservative side in everything, but that doesn't make me any less an American. At times I have gotten an inferiority complex in regards to race, but I think I was more conscious of it in camp than on the outside. It has not affected my life too much as I had made the break in the past and I think that I will

do it again after the war in spite of the fact that the future does look dark. [I try to be self-confident most of the time and the fact that I had a lot of experience in radio and watch-making helps out. This can't ever be taken away from me and I am a little better off than those nisei who have no skill at all. That's why I just try to take things as they come and I don't get too disturbed about anything.] I'm not any less of an American just because the Dies Committee and other groups like that in California made those statements doubting my loyalty. I know that this is my country and I have a certain feeling for it and that is all that matters. The big thing for me now is the work for my own future and also for my children. If I have to take time out to serve my country, that is all right too because it is a duty and everyone is making sacrifices. I just hope that the war doesn't last too long because I do want to get that settled feeling again and I haven't had it ever since that day we were evacuated from Arroyo Grande. It's been one uncertainty after another and one can't help wondering about the future when life is like that. I just hope that it is going to turn out for the best.

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I stayed over for dinner so that I could interview Aki when he came home from work. Masako cooked a delicious spaghetti dinner and strawberry short cake so that I was well filled. Diane and Kay almost had a fight to see who would sit next to them! I guess I was the prize! Masako settled it by having Diane next to me and Kay on the other side. Kay got fickle and devoted her attentions to Tom Hata after that.

Before Aki came home Tom Hata and Dick Kone dropped in to talk over with Aki about the business deal. George, a Nisei soldier from Snelling, has been a house guest there so I met him also. Masako was able to feed all of us. George was rather quiet so that I did not get much out of him. He said that he would probably be in the Army for the next five years and he did not like the idea of that so much. "There is nothing I can do about that. I think that all of the Nisei soldiers who have not gone overseas will be sent to the language school now. I'd rather fight the Germans than the Japanese, but I had no choice. But I am learning Japanese and I will have that knowledge out of the Army. I hardly knew it before, but nine hours a day of it is enough to make the dumbest person absorb a certain amount. There is one Nisei there who is a Captain now and he never would have gotten that high if there were not a language school. We get along with the Hawaiian boys swell now. They call us "ko-tunks" but it is not an insulting term. They are a carefree and happy go lucky bunch, and maybe that is the way to enjoy Army life. Some of them get hundreds of dollars from home, as they have been making a lot of money in the Islands. The mainlanders are not so free with the money because we have gone through the evacuation and we don't have as much folding cash to throw around. I guess we are more worried about the future than the Hawaiian boys are too."

When Aki came home, it was too close too dinner so they decided to talk about it afterwards. Dick said that he had another engagement so he left and he said that Tom could represent him in the business discussion and anything they agreed upon would be okay for him. Dick is a younger fellow, and Tom was obviously the leader in the discussion. They saved it for after dinner and I got to sit in on it. After Tom left I interviewed Aki for a more complete picture of his present life. Aki doesn't speak too much, but he is a pretty shrewd business man and he has everything figured out.

Tom Hata seemed to be a very interesting personality. He must be around 40 years old. He apparently is a most aggressive individual and he goes out after what he wants. During dinner he told about some of his experiences so that I was able to get some picture of him. It was interesting to hear all the points considered in the birth of a new evacuee business afterwards when they hashed everything out and I was able to get fairly complete notes on the proceedings as I just sat quietly and took notes once in a while!

Tom's comments about himself during dinner: "I've been around this country quite a bit, and I've managed to get along in a decent way. I went to the University of California from 1924-1928. In those days, times were not hard so that I got a job as a manager of a Japanese store on Grant Avenue at \$150 a month right way. That was a good racket up until about 1932 and all of those stores were making piles. It was after the depression started that the owners cut the wages down to 50 and 60 dollars a month.

"My father was the minister of a Japanese Church of Christ on the corner of Post and Octavia streets. I have one brother

who is younger than I and he had a much tougher time getting fixed up in work. He was one of the large group who got out of school when the depression started and there were not any jobs for him. I was the one who got him started in photography work. I had the job at the time for one of the L.A. studios and I gave it to him. Now he is working for a studio out here in the suburbs and he gets over \$100 a week. They take pictures of only babies and debutantes and they charge about \$100 a dozen for those pictures. My brother's boss wanted to give him a raise, but my brother said just to give him an extra half day off because he would have to pay more income taxes if he got a raise.

"I suppose a lot of the Japanese are making money now, but there were plenty who made it before the war. I didn't do so badly myself, but I've had my bad times. I worked on Grant Avenue for a couple of years and then I became the traveling salesman for one of the largest companies to sell cheap jewelry. My territory covered the entire west and I used to have a \$10 a day expense account and a nice new car to drive around in. Then the depression came along and I found that the company had to go out of business. I had about \$10,000 worth of sample jewelry on my hands and when the company did not forward my salary, I sold some of the jewelry to get back to California on. I did a lot of different kinds of work after that.

"A few years before the war, I decided that I would learn refrigeration so I worked for one company for eight months for nothing just so that they would teach me. I didn't even get carfare. I had two other people besides myself to feed when I felt that I was ready to go into business on my own. There was a ^{Japanese} girl who was living with a caucasian man, but he deserted her so I told her to come and live with my wife and I for a while.

"I only had \$4000 to start out on my own business with. I needed a car so I went down to the agency and talked them into selling me a car on credit. Then I asked them for a tank of gas. I made good in business so I was able to make my first payment after a week. Later the auto agent told me that he had sold me the car on faith because I had more guts and he also knew that Japanese paid up their debts to haku-jins promptly, even if they didn't pay among themselves.

"I've always taken the attitude that one can get along if they are willing to go after things. It is a cinch that nobody is going to chase you and hand you things. The best thing to do is to go into independent business as there is nothing like being your own boss. I think that we will make out quite nicely."

After we got up from the dinner table, we went to the front room and Aki and Tom started to talk about their business plans. I just listened in. The following is a rough account of the conversation from my notes which I took at the time.

Tom: "Well, Aki, what do you think of the setup? I talked to the landlord today, and he said that he would be willing to give me a years lease on the place. Do you think that it is a good place to start in?"

Aki: "It sounds good to me. There is an advantage of being located in front of the postoffice, and it is a good business district around there so that we won't have to worry too much about being in an isolated spot."

Tom: "Well, that's fine. I'll go ahead tomorrow and see if I can get the lease signed up."

Aki: "Will it start from tomorrow or the first of June? I can get away from my work anytime, but I'd like to give the boss at least a couple days of notice as he has been decent to me. He wished me luck on going on my own. I think that I will be able to

get enough material to start the radio section."

Tom: "Oh, don't worry about that. I have made quite a few contacts with wholesale radio companies, and I think that I can get you anything but tubes. I have a Double A priority, and a lot of these dealers will give you things if you toss them a carton of cigarettes. The first thing we will have to do is to partition the shop. You take the front part of it, while Dick and I can do our work in the back."

Aki: "I don't suppose it will be too expensive as we can do most of the work ourselves. I can do the wiring, and you will be able to build the work bench by yourselves. Do you think that I should take tomorrow off to go with you and find out about the lease?"

Tom: "No, you don't have to bother with that. You might as well be making another days salary. The rent will be \$35 a month and that won't be too hard on us as we will be splitting it."

Aki: "I think it is worth it as the place is steam heated. In the winter we would have to have heat or we couldn't do any work."

Tom: "If you want, I think that there will be plenty of electrical work for you to help us on if you are not too busy. I have been making my contacts already. I have a deal on with the Pepsi cola company to do their frigeration, I also got a deal with Royal Crown today but they want me to do it wholesale so I think I will turn it down. If I get a contract with the Bowman creamery, I will have plenty to do. I also have some contacts with the merchandise mart. The A and P chain stores will pay me \$7.50 to fix the sales receipt machines up and I'll show you how to do that because it only takes a half hour. We could get \$10.00 for that, but we want to make good connections at first and put out satisfactory work so that they will come back."

Aki: "Yes that's the best business policy. If you don't give them

honest work, they won't come back and you lose out on references."

Tom: "I can give you a good example ~~mix~~ of that. When I started refrigeration work out here, a man wanted me to put in a freezing unit for him. I took one look at his fan and told him that he would be wasting his money as the fan would not freeze meat. I could have charged him about \$200 for the job, but I knew that it was no use. The man appreciated that I was honest with him, so he got me several other contacts with the Merchandise Mart and some other companies."

Aki: "What do you think we should name our store?"

Tom: "I have been thinking of that. We don't want a Japanese name do we?"

Aki: "No, I don't think that would be so good for business. I am figuring on dealing with mostly caucasians so that it would be better to have an American name for the store. If we get known as a Japanese store, it won't be so good for us as we will lose out in the long run."

Tom: "That's exactly the way I feel. If we wanted to have a Japanese store, we could go down to lower Clark street where all the Nihongin are. My work will be almost entirely with hakujin. I was thinking that maybe we could use some form of the name I've been going by if you don't mind. When I started refrigeration out here, I thought and thought about what name to go by. Finally one of my friends said 'Why don't you call yourself Jack Frost because it is connected with freezing.' That's what I did and I have been signing my checks Jack Frost Refrigeration. Now we don't want too long a name to sign on checks. A lot of my customers think that Jack Frost is my real name, and once in a while I hear them calling 'Jack' and I forget for a minute that they mean me."

Aki: "Whatever you think of is okay by me as I don't have any suggestion. Jack Frost Rodis + Refrigeration might be a little too long. Jack Frost Refrigeration might be a little too long."

ong for a store name though."

Tom: "My idea was to call it Jack Frost Utilities. The reason for that is we may be able to get by with only once license in that way. What do you think?"

Aki: "We might as well save on the license. Yes, I think that is a good name."

Tom: "It would be good to have 'utilities' in the name of the store because I'd like to get some kind of an agency to put on the store. I think that you could get a radio agency contact, and I might try to get a refrigerator contact. It won't hurt us to look around now and try to get set because we won't be able to get those agencies so easy after all the soldiers come back and go into business for themselves. You might even be a representative for watches since you are going to fix clocks. Maybe we can put in some electrical things too. But the main thing is to get started. If we stall around and don't act while the fire is hot, we may get to worrying about not being able to make good and we will get timid and cool off."

Aki: "That is the way I have felt about it. I've wanted to get started before but I would think of my draft status and then caution myself not to be foolish. Now both of us won't have to worry about that. Maybe we can even get Dick an occupational deferment as you will be doing essential work."

Tom: "Do we start business with a big flourish? I was wondering about advertising. I really don't have to do that but I thought that you might be interested. I don't particularly care to advertise in any of the Japanese papers, but it might mean more business for you."

Aki: "No, I don't think that I will do that for a while. I want to get known in the neighborhood of our location first, and get them coming in. I can get the Nihonjin anytime, but it will have to be

all cash with everybody. I think that we will manage fine. There are more and more Nihonjin going into business now out here. I think that this is the best time for it. But I think that some of them are making a mistake with all those hotels and Japanese restaurants. They will be cutting their own throats as soon as business gets bad. Some of them are spreading out though. There is a Japanese cleaners on the North Side, and a Nisei mechanic has opened his own garage on the N.W. Side. He only has hakujin trade and it's more than he can handle. He could use another Nihonjin mechanic."

Tom: "Well, I've always believed that having your own business is the best. It is a gamble, but so is life. I believe in being practical. That's why I think that if we can take advantage of all our new contacts, we will make out."

Aki: "My boss does not want me to quit him now as he thinks that he can bring in enough business to keep me on. But I told him that I had this deal on so he expects me to leave any time. He guarantees me \$60 a week, but I'm not worth that to him now as he isn't getting the business. I will try to go on my own for at least the next two years, and then move to a small city if a depression comes."

Tom: "Well, it's all set then. Tomorrow I go find out if I can sign the lease and I'll let you know right away. I think that we will get it, but we may be disappointed at the last minute. There are a lot of good locations available so we don't have to worry too much. There may be a lot of Nihonjin coming out of camp to go into business though."

Aki: "I suppose they would like to do that, but I don't think that they have the capital or the equipment. It's too bad."

Tom: "I heard that the government bought 50,000 acres down in Texas to colonize the Nihonjin. My father was one of them to go down and inspect the land and he thinks that it's good farming."

Aki: "I never heard of that perfect before. I guess they would be better off on farms, but I'm the city type. I was in business in a small town for 15 years back on the coast."

Tom: "That's what Dick was telling me. I've had a lot of business experiences too so if we pool our knowledge, we should be able to avoid all the pitfalls. But we have to figure on a certain amount of unexpected expenses."

Aki: "Don't I know that. Well, it's all set then. If we don't get that store on Irving Ave., we can get another place."

Tom: "Well, I'd better go home now or my wife will be wondering what has happened."

After Tom left, Aki asked me what I thought of him. I said that he sounded like a very smart businessman, but I didn't know much about those things. Aki wanted to know if I would advise going in with somebody he didn't know too well but before I could answer he went on to remark, "Well I guess it will be okay. We will only be sharing the store. I've only met Tom once or twice before and we only planned seriously to go in together last Sunday. I've heard that he was a smooth talker, but he gets results. You have to be more aggressive in business. I think that we will get along fine."

By this time, Masako was through with the dishes so she and George went out for a walk and to buy ice cream, while I formally interviewed Aki to bring him up to date. A lot of what he said was a repetition of what I had already listened in on. After the formal interview, we sat around and talked about things in general for an hour and then I came on home. Aki's comments follow:

Aki's comments:

"I'll probably work at the shop only a few more days and then I will start out on my own. It's no use for me to work for the boss anymore because he doesn't have enough business to pay for my guarantee \$10 a day wages. I think that the main fault is because his business methods is not so good. The place where I hope to open up has a good location and the set-up that we will have is excellent. There is no need in feeling pessimistic at the start. If we get a year's lease on the store, that should be plenty of time to decide whether we have made a wise move. My business will be all on my own because I'll just be sharing the office with the other two. My initial investment will be in mostly in fixing up the store and putting in partitions and work benches. As far as tools are concerned, I have all the necessary equipment. I even have a small stock of parts and tubes which I have been accumulating. I don't think I can go into the hole too much but there will be odds and ends coming up.

"I would have started out in business sooner but I didn't know about the draft. Now I feel that I won't be taken. It was just at this time that the boss told me that his business was dropping off so I could try to better myself. That was the excuse I was looking for anyway so I thought I should take the chance. Then last Thursday (May 17) I went to visit Dick Kano and I happened to mention to him that I would be out of a job in a week and I was thinking of going on my own. He thought that it was a good idea because I had plenty of experience. Then on Saturday Dick came over to my house and he brought Tom Hata along to introduce to me. They asked me if I wouldn't want to open up a shop with them because they needed a space for their refrigeration business. I told them that the proposition sounded good so we decided to go drive around on Sunday and look for a store location. We went to all of the shopping districts and we

got a list of vacant stores. We decided to stay away from the Japanese area around Clark St. There was one good spot right across the street from the sub-postoffice on Irving Ave. and we agreed that this looked like a wonderful location. Today Dick and Tom went to find out about the lease. Then today my boss told me that he wanted me to stay on and work for him for a while longer. I thought sure that today was to be my last day but he ~~thx~~ said he would drum up some new business. I told him that I had something else lined up for myself but I would help him out in a pinch. Then he wished me luck on my new venture and he asked me to come and work until I really got started. That worked out fine for me. Now, it all depends on the lease. If the lease starts on June 1, I will work one more week and then be on my own. If I get the lease right away, I will start immediately and get the shop ready.

"I have some good wholesale radio house connections from before the war and I'd made some new ones out here so I think I can get all the parts I need for repairs. Getting tools will be the hardest problems but Tom may be able to do something about that. I won't have any trouble in getting clocks to repair and I can do some electrical work. I've been doing quite a bit of radio work at home and I get other types of electrical equipment to fix for the members of my church. I've been doing this right along. The people are all well satisfied with my work and they tell their friends in the neighborhood that it is better to get the repairs done by me instead of taking it to a radio shop where they will be overcharged. I think that this business can be built up when I get my own location.

"I can repair vacuum cleaners and typewriters too and there seem to be a demand for this kind of service. I should get quite a bit of new business in any spot I locate in. A lot of my friends from the church are really pulling for me, and they have been telling their

friends to save their radio repairing for me. It pays to do good work and not cheat the customers. That was the main trouble with my boss. For example, a Caucasian man sent me to 3 friends of his for radio repairs, and one of them sent me to 3 other of his friends. That sort of thing goes on and on and I got 6 jobs from that one small lead because my work was satisfactory. It's the good-will that counts the most and I plan to treat the public right and ~~jam~~ not gyp the customers like my boss was doing. I want to build up a good reputation as that's pretty important. I remember hearing before the war that some Japanese business men treated the Nihonjin customers fairly but they didn't think it was dishonorable to gyp the haku-jin customers. I certainly am not going to do anything like that.

"I don't intend to build up a business just among the Nihonjin as it will be better in the long run for me to branch out. Even now, most of my repair jobs are from Caucasians and it will probably get predominant as soon as I open my store. They don't discriminate when they know they are getting full value for their money and I'm used to dealing with them from before.

"My present plan is to remain here in business for at least 3 or 4 years and get well established. Then if the depression looks like it will get started at any minute, I'll sell the store for a neat profit and go to a smaller city where it will be better for my daughters. I don't exactly like to live in a dirty city like Chicago permanently. I'd like to go back to California for the climate, but it seems that this isn't the right time to go back. The longer I stay out here, the less likely I will be to return to the coast. I'll be satisfied if I can work for myself as there is more money in it than to be a worker for someone else. If things ever get real bad, I can always go back to my brother's farm in California and help raise vegetables, but I don't expect that to happen.

"It seems to me that more of the Nisei should go into business on their own and this is the best chance to do it. In a short time, a lot of the service men will be coming back with a discharge and many of the Nisei workers might be in danger of losing their jobs especially as the war contracts get slimmer and slimmer. The Nisei have to develop a special skill or else they won't be any preference at all. They can't hope to go back to California and think that they will be received with open arms. I heard over the radio about 20 shooting cases and farm burnings in California and only one of the persons have been caught and none have been convicted yet. Right after that news report I heard another comment about 3 of the Nisei soldiers being discharged from Fort Sheridan. That wasn't very much publicized so the Nisei veterans will even have a hard time getting on if they work in unskilled jobs as everyone in this country does not know about the 100th Battalion and the 442nd being the most decorated outfit in the Army. They will still continue to shoot up the Japanese farms, and if they get away with it they will do it more and more. They are much closer to Japan out in California so that the feelings are higher. I think that the best bet are in the midwest or east and in private business.

"I don't know for sure about what my parents are going to do. My brother hasn't made any definite plans yet altho he wants to go back to his farm in California, and try to recoup some of the losses for the past 3 years. However, my brother has been advised that it just isn't the right time to go back there yet so he is going to sit in Boston for a while longer and see which way the wind blows in the public sentiment.

"This closing of the camp business is a big problem and I don't think that the WRA can really ~~make~~ chase all the people out if they don't have a place to go to. It's too hard on the old people and most

of them don't even have a farm to return to like my brother. It's just like what my brother said in his ^{last} letter (reading): 'We are not yet decided as to what we should do. As far as I know, no one has moved back to Arroyo Grande yet from this camp. However, some of the farm growers have gone back to the central California district to look the situation over, but they don't sound so enthusiastic when they return. This discourages the rest of us who are thinking of returning. The main thing is that public opinion is not favorable yet, and the large growers believe that they might not be able to find a market for the products even though there is a great need. I don't think that I should take dad back until I know a little more about the possibility. It's getting a little too late for the planting season anyway so we might wait until the next season for crops to arrive.'

There seems to be a lot of Filipino agitation starting up over again according to some of my brother's other letters. He says that it's no use ~~xxxx~~ going back if he's going to get shot at. I agree with him there and I wouldn't go back just for that. I might as well go into the Army if I wanted to get shot at. Arroyo is too small of a town for me now after I have been out this way to see some of the larger cities. I don't think I would be satisfied living there anymore. I wouldn't have noticed the difference if I hadn't left there but now I don't know. I'd like to go to a smaller city than Chicago eventually as this town is a little too impersonal. We have done fairly well in this community though, and we do have a number of excellent contacts.

"I don't blame the WRA for wanting to close the camps as it is a great expense to the government to support 70,000 people; but so many of these old folks and family groups in camp have been wiped out entirely, and they need much more help than the WRA is willing to offer them at the present time. I hear that the government has

bought a 50,000 farming project down in Texas for the Nihonjin to resettle on. A lot of the people may be able to go out on the farms but I don't see how they can get established in the city. It's a matter of finding housing for them as far as Chicago is concerned, and I don't know how that will be settled unless the government builds some housing projects.

"As far as I am personally concerned, I'm much better off than most of the people who are so worried these days. I've never been dependent upon a Japanese community for business and I don't think that I ever will be because that field is too limited. I hope that the Japanese out here do not make the mistake of herding into the slums once more as it will really hurt all chances for them to make a decent living. My ~~ka~~ business is going to be strictly on a cash basis as credit means nothing but headaches and it takes extra capital to start a credit business as well as bookkeeping.

"We aren't completely settled here yet but we have much more roots than a year ago. I know that I feel much more settled since my family has come out to join me. I didn't like living alone during those months that I did. It's a comfort to talk things over with a wife and make joint decisions. [I'd like to have a bigger apartment out in the suburbs but I can't afford the right rent and there isn't any openings anyway.

"I guess we are pretty well off compared to a large majority of those Nisei who are crying to any sort of housing now that the families have to leave the centers. Most of them do not have the income to take care of a family group because they weren't established out here.] A lot of them were making good wages but they were too young to realize that they should think more of the future so they spent it up on having a good time.

"Financially I've done quite nicely during the past year. I

guess I've made just as much as most Nisei as I have been averaging between \$300 and \$400 a month. I've been able to save up a little bit of money too. I've bought quite a few war bonds and they are a good investments for my daughters. I have a life insurance policy for each of them and they will be able to go to college on it or else use it when the time comes for them to be on their own.

"Our social life out here has not been anything exciting, but it is smooth. We attend the church here regularly now and we take an active interest in all of the other church activities. I guess we are showing signs of getting fairly well established. We don't have any fights with our landlord and there really is good relationship between us. He is not the serious religious type every minute of the day. I've made a lot of friends at the church when I got on Tuesday nights to do voluntary work.

"I don't belong to any other clubs at the present time. I used to be an associate JACL member, but I drifted away from that because I don't feel that close unity anymore. Ronnie Shiozaki has been asking me to join for quite a while. I may do it sometime because he puts the pressure on me and makes it a sort of civic responsibility. I've heard that the local chapter wants to start a buck a month membership but I don't feel like giving a dollar a month to the organization if there is not going to be any good return in it. I think they'll just use the money collected to sponsor bigger social activities and I don't want to be a member of it if it's going to be like it was on the coast.

"I belong to an informal Nisei bridge club but it hasn't been active lately. We don't have a name or any regular membership because we felt that it was better not to have a formal organization. Ernie Takahashi is the one who has brought this group together and it is composed mostly of older Nisei. I haven't gone to any of the

Nisei socials or dances in the past few months. I've been working in the evenings, but we plan to get out this summer more with the family and go picknicking or for joy rides if the gas situation permits. Some church members always offer us a ride on Sundays and some of our Nisei friends also have cars.

"Our Nisei circle is composed of not more than 10 couples and we see them at least once a month. There are a lot of scattered Nisei we know but we see them rarely. Our hakujin circle is just about the same size as our Nisei one, but the 2 groups haven't mixed in with one another yet. I'd like to see more mixing of this type as it is healthy. My daughters are doing it most successfully at school and they will go more and more into this trend so we should keep up. Our friends are picked on the basis of whether we like each other, and we certainly do not go around avoiding the Japanese. It is true that there is more of a Japanese town here than a year ago, but it isn't entirely segregated by any means. There must be several concentration of Japanese in Chicago now but the Clark St. group is the largest and that certainly does not look good to me. It's a cheap neighborhood and the Japanese grocery stores are already cut-throating one another to get all the Japanese business. I think it would be wiser to depend more on the hakujin trade as the Japanese out here won't be able to support too many Japanese businesses. If they cut themselves off socially, then soon they will cut themselves off economically and I don't think that this is so good.

"Most of my leisure time is spent in social visiting, bridge parties, occasional shows and dances at the large public places. It's a mixed group that I'm in. I do a little light reading now and then also. The only way I keep on the war news is to read the daily papers and listen to the radio. We are getting more and more settled even if I am not positive that the future will work out well for us.

My daughters are well established in school and making good progress so that is a good thing. My daughters don't know very much Japanese so day by day they are forgetting what little they learned in camp. I couldn't teach them because I have never known the language very well. I guess the sansei (third generation) will be much more integrated than the Nisei. The Nisei are fairly well scattered even though there are concentration in spots and my daughters, for example, know only Caucasian friends except for the children of our Nisei friends.

"My girls might even grow up and want to intermarry. It would be up to them to decide. There has been a lot of intermarriage even among the Nisei and the success or failure of these marriage is an individual matter. I think that the third generation will have less public feeling against them so that more are bound to get intermarried. Maybe it will be better for them as they will definitely belong only to this country by then. I know I'll never go to the orient to live as camp was bad enough and I don't want any more of that style of living.

"The war is bound to drag out for a while longer so that no one will be completely settled until the end of the fighting. As long as the Nisei stay out here, they won't be too much repercussion against them. I don't think that the west coast will be good for resettlement for about 4 or 5 years yet as it will take that long for the feeling to die out. I hope that Japan will give up soon for its own sake or there will be nothing left of it like Germany. It has to be unconditional surrender now and they have no chance for a negotiated peace. I think that maybe the Japanese people will have a revolution. They will overthrow the militarists because they are tired of the war too. Some Nisei say that the Japanese will fight to the bitter end, but I doubt that. They're hard to understand

though.

"I was always willing to fight for this country, but I guess I won't be taken for military service now. I feel that I have been doing some essential work so I don't have too much of a guilty conscience about not serving in a uniform. I've bought as many war bonds as I could and I've done my best in other ways. There is no doubt that I'm staking everything in this country. I'm half optimistic about the long future but I hope we don't have another major depression. I'm afraid that one will come from 5 to 7 years though and it won't be an easy time for anyone. I can't say that I have gained financially by the evacuation, but there has been some profitable things I have learned in other ways. If I were back in my home town I probably would have cleaned up and I'd be set for life but I don't have that security now. In that way, I have lost out. But this has been partly compensated for by the developments of my daughters' possibilities and their good adjustments."