

CH-45

Interviewer's code

Sugio KubotaSus KaminakaCross References - CH-46 + CH-47Evacuation and Resettlement Study,
February, 1944 (Revised)

SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUAL RESETTLERS

Date of interview July 28, 1944 Interviewer C. Kikuchi1. Case number #45 2. Sex, M F 3. Marital stat. M S D W O

Entered Left

4. Present address 6021 Harper June '43

5. Later addresses _____ Date _____

" _____

" _____

" _____

" _____

" _____

6. Birthplace Stockton 7. Birthdate 9-20-208. Alien or Citizen Citizen 9. Nisei, Kibei or Issei Nisei

10. Addresses between Dec. 1, 1941 and evacuation

Date Entered Left

(a) Davis, California " Aug. '40 May '42(b) Terminus (Lodi) " May '42

(c) _____ " _____

(d) _____ " _____

(e) _____ " _____

11. Assembly Center Stockton Date May '42 Sep. '42

" _____

12. Relocation Center Rohwer Date Sep. '42 Mar. '43

" _____

13. Addresses since leaving Relocation Center
(prior to "present address")

Entered Left

(a) Maryland Ave., Chicago Mar. '43 May '43(b) 54th & Harper May '43 June '43

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

(g) _____

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

Relationship to

Resettler Age Sex Birthplace Occupation Religion

(a) Self

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

(g) _____

(h) _____

(i) _____

(j) _____

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

Give symbols

What other related persons?

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (as of Dec. 1, 1941)
(a) Father	60	M	Japan	Farmer
(b) Mother	48	F	"	Housewife
(c) Brother	26	M	Stockton	Farmer
(d) Self	24	M	"	Student
(e)				
(f)				

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

Give symbols

What other related persons?

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (as of Dec. 1, 1941)
(a)				
(b)				
(c) same as #15				
(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) Living with 4 fellows now							
(c)			#45	24	M	Stockton	Machinist
(d)				20	M	"	Unemployed
(e)				19	M	L.A.	"
(f)				17	M	Stockton	Busboy
(g)							
(h)							

18. Educational history of resettler

Grammar schools (name and location)

Dates	Grade completed
Terminus Elementary	1927-36
	8th

High schools (name and location)

Dates	Grade completed
Stockton High	1936-40
	12th

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

Dates	Grade completed	Degree
Cal Aggies	1940-42	14th

Attendance at Japanese language school, location

Dates	
Terminus Japanese school	8-10 years

19. Occupational history (begin with first job). Note periods of unemployment by entering dates continuously and writing "unemp" in Job column to cover such periods. Include employment in Assembly Center and Relocation Project and continue with employment since resettling.

[illegible]

20. Political activities

Dates	Voted in what elections	For what party
	never registered or voted	

2. Rohwer 9-7-42
3. Stockton AC 6-21-42
4. Rt. 2 Box 339 Lodi, Calif.
5. Jihachi Kubota, Japan
Sono Kawasaki, Japan
- 5a. U.S. Truck farmer--Abroad Grain farmer
7. Grammar school, Terminus Calif. 1926-1934
High school, Stockton H. 1934-1938
College U.C. agric. 1938-1940
- 7a. Agriculture, basketball, football
8. Japan 6-29 to 9-29
12. 68-1/2 140 lbs.
13. No major defects
18. Single
19. Brother
20. 9-18-20
23. No
24. College 2
25. Speaks Japanese
27. Agronomist
- 27a. Athlete
28. 9/42 Rohwer WRA Timekeeper \$16
5/42-10/42 Stockton WCCA Timekeeper \$12
40/42 Davis College Davis Asst truck crop laboratory \$95 month
29. Plant experimental work, football, basketball
30. Christian
- 31.

Tsugio's Father, Jihachi Kubota

2. Rohwer 9-7-42
3. Stockton AC 5-21-42
4. Rt. 2 Box 339 Lodi, Calif.
5. Kubota, Tojo, Japan
Unknown Japan
- 5a. --- Abroad, Grain farmer
7. Grammar school, Japan, 1892-1900
- 7a. None
8. Japan 2/16 to 1/17 1884 to 1907
12. 63-1/2 155 lbs.
13. No major defects
18. Married
19. Father
20. 10-25-84
23. No
24. Elem. 8
25. Speaks Japanese, *no English*
27. Farmer
- 27a. Angler
28. 10/42 Rohwer WRA Policeman \$16
1912/42 Self Farming Lodi, Calif. Gen. Mgr. \$15,000 yr.
29. Fishing Landscaping
30. Buddhist
- 31.

Tsugio's Mother, Sono Kubota

2. Rohwer 9-7-42
3. Stockton AC 5/21/42
4. Rt. 2 Box 339 Lodi, Calif.
5. Kawasaki, Ejiro Japan
Ejima, Tatsu Japan
- 5a. ----- Abroad, Cabinet maker
7. Grammar school, Japan 1903-09
High school, Japan, 1909-1913
- 7a. Math. H.S.
8. Japan 6/29 to 9/29
1896 to 1907
12. 57-1/2 116 lbs.
13. No major defects
18. Married
19. Mother
20. 12-17-96
23. No
24. High 4
25. Speaks Japanese; *no English*
- 27.
- 27a. Dressmaker
28. Housewife
29. Sew Knit
30. Buddhist
- 31.

Tsugio's Brother, Takeshi Tak Kubota

2. Rohwer 9-7-42
3. Stockton AC 5-21-42
4. Rt. 2 Box 339 Lodi, Calif.
5. Kubota, Jihachi Japan
Kawasaki, Sono Japan
- 5a. U.S. Truck farmer Abroad, Grain farmer
7. Grammar school, Terminus Calif. 1924-1932
High school, Stockton H. 1932-1936
College, U.C. Agriculture 1936-1938
Postgraduate, San Luis 1938-1940
- 7a. Agriculture
8. Japan 6-29 to 9-29
12. 60 135 lbs.
13. No major defects
18. Single
19. Head
20. 12-17-18
23. No
24. College 4
25. Speaks Japanese
27. Farmer Printer
- 27a. Philatelist
28. Rohwer WRA Lumberjack \$16 11/42
2/40-3/42 Self Gen. farming Owner Gen. upkeep
2/40-4/41 Newspaper Dept. Cal. Poly. Printer Gen. Helper \$16 month
School San Luis, Calif.
29. Able to operate tractor and truck Stamp collection--music
30. Christian
- 31.

Evacuation & Resettlement Study
Chicago, Illinois
Charles Kikuchi

CH-45
Sus Kaminaka (psued.)

August 12, 1944

Sus Kaminaka, 24, is working as a machine operator at the present time. This case is typical of many of the more restless single individuals who have no definite goals. Sus is living with 3 other fellows, two of them who are unemployed. This group falls roughly into the "zoot suit" category although they are not typical of the more rowdy elements, especially those from the Los Angeles area. Sus came from a very conservative background, it appears, and he didn't start on his intensive social activities until after going to camp and coming to Chicago. Sus originally lived in the Delta area of the San Joaquin valley.

Sus has been very cooperative during the interviews. An attempt will be made to study 3 of the group as they are also willing to be interviewed if they have the time. The only immediate plan for the future of this group is induction into the Army but this is still indefinite. Follow-ups will be made on this case at intervals.

Sus Kaminaka was born on September 20, 1920 in Stockton, California. He was attending the California College of Agriculture at Davis, California at the time the war broke out. He was evacuated from Terminus in May, 1942 to the Stockton Assembly Center. In September, 1942 he went with an advance crew to Rohwer. Sus relocated to Chicago in March, 1943. He has lived in three different places since coming to this city but he has remained at this present place for over a year now. Sus is the younger of two brothers. His brother is now in the Army. His parents are in the center yet. Prior to the outbreak of the war Sus' father was ~~222~~ occupied as a farmer. He ~~22222~~ was evacuated with his family but has since broken away from them. At the present time he is living with three other fellows, two of them brothers 20 and 17 years old. The other boy, 19, is from the Los Angeles area.

Sus' educational history includes graduation from the Terminus elementary school in 1936, graduation from Stockton high in 1940. His ¹⁴th year at the California College of Agriculture at Davis was incomplete due to the outbreak of the war. Sus attended the Terminus Japanese language school for 8 or 10 years. His only full-time job prior to the war was on a truck crop experiment station on the campus as a lab assistant for which he received \$95 a month. Sus stayed out the spring quarter in order to play football in the fall but evacuation interrupted these plans. At the Stockton Assembly Center Sus was employed as a timekeeper for the messhall division at \$12 a month. He did the same type of work for the maintenance department at Rohwer until his resettlement. After coming to Chicago he worked as a platform laborer at Canfield Co. at \$35 a week. He quit this job in May, 1943 to work as an attendant in the Cranston garage for which he received \$140 a

month plus tips. After a year with this job, Sus began to work as a machine operator for the Precision Manufacturing Co. in June, 1944. He receives a wage of \$48 a week if he works full time, but he is extremely dissatisfied with his job at the present time. Sus has never registered to vote.

In order to give a rough picture of Sus' activity before commencing his own story of his life, the writer will insert field notes of contacts made with this individual at this point.

July 31, 1944: After E got on the train, I went to get a coke for ^{Sus} ~~22222~~ and ~~she~~ started talking about himself a little. He is a tall, good looking Nisei fellow. He chases girls all over and the girls chase him. He said that he said goodbye to three girls this week, but that he liked E the best. Sus was the one who took B to her Senior Prom and spent about \$50 for the evening according to his story. Sus is not the happy-go-lucky fellow like he tries to put on as there are many things disturbing his mind. He lives with a young bunch of fellows who do a lot of running around, some of them are zoot suiters. Sus feels that since he is the oldest of the bunch, he should not be led on like that but he cannot break away. I doubt if he will make much of an effort either: "I'm 24 years old now, but I just don't seem to be getting any place. I have been out here for a year and I have held three jobs in this time. The job I have now is getting me down. It's in a small machinist plant and I have been there about a month. I don't like the job because they give me all the dirty jobs. It's partly my fault because I never go to work on time, and I haven't worked a full week there yet. I expect to be fired, I only get 75c an hour. The boss said that he would keep us after the war, but I don't believe him. I have heard

that International Harvester will hire about 1000 Nisei at 95¢ an hour and over, but I don't know if that kind of a job would be very safe because the Nisei would all be given the boot first of all when the layoffs come.

"I don't know what I want, and I am not satisfied with myself. I make \$41.50 a week clear and I don't save a cent of it because I fool around too much. When you are with a gang, it's like that. We go out quite a bit and there are always dates to go out with. The girls are developing an expensive taste and I have to take them to night clubs and things like that. Before the war I didn't even know how to dance. I was living on a grape farm near Lodi and Stockton was the big town for me. I went to Cal Aggies but I did not finish up. I stayed out one quarter so that I could play football the next year and then the war came along so that I never did finish up. I don't think that I ever will. I have lost my ambition for it.

"What I would like to do would be to drive a truck, but I don't think they will give Nisei jobs like that. I have heard that there might be a chance driving nitroglycerine in Indiana, but this is kinda dangerous. [I'm just waiting around for the draft as I figure that it will take care of ~~me~~ all my problems for the time being. I can't lose by it and I have to go in sometime. The sooner the better, as I am getting absolutely no place now. All I do is play around with the boys and waste my money. Some of the fellows I know are doing everything they can to dodge the draft, but there is no percentage. As long as I am not drafted, I will probably continue to play around and it isn't doing me much good. It bothers me a lot and I think of a lot of things I should be doing, but I never get ambitious enough to get around to it. The fellows I go around

with are my friends and I don't feel like giving them up. There is nothing wrong with them and you can't blame some of them ~~from~~ going wild because this is the first time they have had to have their fling."

July 29, 1944: After dinner last night I rushed over to Sus'. I had to wait around for an hour before the boys came home as they went out to the horse races instead of work. I passed the time talking to Hippo, the younger Sato brother. The place was a mess as four of them live in that apartment. They pay \$12 a week. There were shoes scattered all around the room and dirty clothes were piled up in one corner. That is to be expected when a bunch of fellows are living together, but the thing that mystified me was to see a silk stocking with the dirty clothes. I didn't want to ask any embarrassing questions so I did not say anything. The fellows have one other room but they caught 18 bedbugs in it last night so that ~~th~~ nobody wants to sleep there.....

These fellows are all from Stockton and they live a very casual life. They all seem to be marking time while the draft comes. Two of them work (Hippo and Sus) and the other two are taking an extended vacation. I talked to Hippo for a while until the others came in about 8:30. Hippo is only 17 years old. He is working as a busboy at Stevens Hotel. He said that about 250 Japanese work there now. He gets paid \$100 a month and he makes about \$50 in tips. He said that a sailor called him a Jap yesterday, but one of the waitresses stuck up for him. "It's a real tough work and I didn't see how I could stand it at first. My arms and legs ached like hell the first couple of days but now that I have been there for over a month I am more used to it. I feel like loafing around

like Buddy but I won't make any money that way. I get all my meals free and I have gained 12 pounds down there already. We got to work about 5:30 in the morning and we are finished at 3:00x in the afternoon. We only get Wednesday off and that is not much good as everybody else is working that day and I can't see anybody. I haven't any plans for myself as I will probably get drafted next year. I don't want to go to school anymore. I thought that everybody was looking at me out here the first week I came out, but now I am used to it and it is like nothing. I wish that I could get to know a few girls though. They are all older--18, 19 and 20. The mothers in camp won't let their young girls out because they heard that they are going wild. That's no lie either as I have heard a lot of them who are drinking and smoking now and they are just out of high school. They run all over the place, but I am not interested in them. Maybe I will work for a couple of months more and then I will go back to camp for a visit and also to see some of the young girls. I know that I would come right back out as I could not stand that camp stuff anymore after being out here. I'd rather do this any time even though it is hard. At least I can spend my money and have some fun. Gee, it's going to be tough for us after the war. I don't know what they will do for jobs. I heard that they closed the Aragon to Nisei. Pretty soon they may close the big shows and that would be bad. It doesn't matter who wins the war as we will have it hard either way."

When the other four fellows came in, they were all excited about the horse races. Buddy won \$80 and Tosh \$120. Sus lost \$5 and Buster about the same. This is only the second time that they have gone, but they are planning to go regularly. "It's easy to

win on the horses. Hell, what's the use of working?" Buddy did not want to take the bunch out to treat them to dinner as he said that he ~~needed~~ needed the money for a big poker session tonight. He said that he had won about \$350 in the past month so that as long as his luck held out he was not going to work. Buddy Sato is almost 21 years old. All of these fellows are nice looking and lady killers, but they are shy around girls, that's what they say. They talk real big and I am afraid that they are getting on the wrong track if they keep this sort of life up. I think that they might snap out of it in time. They try to act like big time and they are rapidly getting into this pattern of living. Buddy had a bottle and he insisted that I have a few drinks with him. He drinks like a fish and he almost passed out. Later in the evening Buster dragged him out to a show. They sleep most of the day and they have no desire to go to work now.

At the same time, this life does bother Buddy at times. He started to talk to me and he got into a very blue mood. He said that he was wasting his life right now, but there wasn't anything ~~that~~ else that he could do. He said that he worked at H.P. Smith Co. for months with Buster but they ~~were~~ were just not getting any place. "They don't give the Nisei a chance and I would be doing that work all my life if I stuck at it. I thought I might as well have some fun before the Army takes me. The worst part of that job was the attitude of the Nisei workers. There are about 100 or more down there and they were very unfriendly. They wouldn't talk to us because they thought we were 'bad'. We didn't like that at all so we thought the hell with them. I think that I will steady down eventually but not for a while as I'm having a lot of fun now. My brother, Minkey, just had a baby today and I'm getting tight to

celebrate it. The thing that worries me the most is Hippo. He wants to do the things I am doing but I don't want him to start drinking, smoking and gambling yet because he's too young. But he says that I do it so he should too. Why don't you tell him that it is not so good for him because he will listen to you."

I didn't think that I was in a position to tell anybody anything, but I casually told Hippo that he might as well stick to his job because he could not get rich betting on horses. I pointed out that racetracks were not created to let the public win all the time. Hippo thought it over and he decided that maybe it was better not to run wild yet for a while. "Those guys are already borrowing money from me so I guess they are not too free in their mind. I guess the best way is to make your money honestly and work for it." Hippon insisted on having a drink to celebrate that fact that he was an uncle. Buddy argued with him about it as he was opposed, but I poured Hippo out a strong drink and he only took a few sips. He was pale for the rest of the evening and he went to bed early. I don't think he will touch the stuff for a while again.

Buster, 19, is the wildest of the bunch. He thinks that it is rather daring to lead such a life and he wants to be a gambler. But he does not seem to be such a good gambler as he is in the hole \$150. However his reasoning is like this: "Why should I go to work? I would have to work at least three months to pay my debts off. I'm bound to get hot in a poker session soon and if I win \$200 I can get clear. It's no fun working all the time. I want to enjoy my money while I have the chance, but I can't do it if I am pooped out from work." You know what I'm going to do if I hit it big in a poker session tomorrow night? I am going to get myself a woman and really

go to town. I think that will give me a change of luck. Playing the horses is a lot of fun; beats working any time. Even if you win only every other time, you would still win more than if you work like a slave for a week. I don't like to drink so much yet because I get all lighted up, but if I practice for a while I will be able to take it better than Buddy."

Tosh~~u~~, 20, is a rather quiet fellow. He doesn't like to work either. He said that he fooled around for six months in Detroit without working very much. He got put on the Reserves in June and he decided to come down to Chicago last month to play around until he is called on August 7. "Gee, it costs a hell of a lot just to eat and sleep down here. It cost me \$50 a week just to live. It's a good thing I won on the horses today as this will see me through until I am called. I'm going out to play the horses some more and I may even end up a little ahead. What's the use of going to work now when I am going to get drafted so soon?"

A little later in the evening a fellow by the name of Joe and his wife and child, Flo, and a fellow worker came in to visit. Flo is a rather cute girl but not much else to her. She is sweet on Sus and she listened to him with eyes wide open while he told her of his exploits at the race tracks today. I talked to Joe during this interruption of the interview. Joe is a small guy and is working in a trailer factory. His comments on work: "I'm not settled at all. I don't know what I'm going to do after the war. The only thing I can do now is to make as much money as I can. The Japanese took a heavy financial loss at the time of evacuation and we have to make it up now. A lot of the Nisei quit their jobs, but I don't blame them. I have held six jobs in the year that I've been out

here. It is always some kind of discrimination every time. I don't care if a hakujin who does the same kind of work I do gets 15 or 20 cents an hour more than I do, but I don't like it when he gets 40 to 50 cents an hour more. If the bosses would just give me a little raise, I would be satisfied. But they expect us to work for the same salary all the time. When we do go on piece work and work like hell to make a high wage, the boss doesn't like it so much and he wants to cut down the rate. I'm working in a fairly good place now at the trailer company. It only has 14 employees and three of them are Nihonjin. I think that there is a possibility to grow up with the company. It has an order to build 250 trailers by next September, but we can't put out more than 3 a week. I have a pretty good setup there. They used to have 2 fellows clean the trailers up and they got \$10 for that. It took them 5 hours so it was \$1~~2~~ an hour. Then they quit so I was given the job. I do it in two and a half hours. In this way I make about \$30 a week extra so that I am making around \$70 or \$80 a week and that is more like it. It is too hard to get into one of those defense factories and rake in the dough like the hakujins. I don't know what I will be doing after the war or where I will be living. It's a hell of a problem."

Sus, 24, is the oldest of this group. I interviewed him for several hours last night. We were interrupted several times but Sus finally took me into the other room and we had privacy. He was talking until about 1:00 a.m. He had some things to get off his chest, but he doesn't know me too well yet so I steered him on to other topics to sort of pave the way for next time. Sus is a nice looking fellow, but it is a case of arrested development. He fits into the group because that is the present level of his interests.

I understood better when he told me of some of his background. Sus comes from one of the small islands in the Sacramento Delta area. It was definitely rural and Sus was not able to begin expanding until he went to Cal Aggies. His father worked with George Shima in the Delta area and the latter became rather famous in the following years as the Potato King. His dad never got too rich, but he made money leasing large plots of land from the corporations to grow truck farms. He was pretty hard hit by the depression so that he concentrated upon his own land until about 1937 when he began to expand again. From Sus' story I gathered that there never was too close a family solidarity because his parents were too busy working on the farm. Sus grew up as a model boy according to the Japanese standards. He never smoked, drank or indulged in any other "vices". He never took out a girl on a date until he was 21, as this just wasn't being done in the Japanese community in which he grew up. It was taboo to dance so that he did not learn until he went to camp.

Camp life was a great reaction on Sus. He got in with some of his former Stockton friends, the group he now lives with. It was great stuff for them to go "wild", and Sus fell in line. He followed them in everything and he still does. However, he does not smoke or play big poker games yet. He does drink quite a bit, but that is "because I got things on my mind". Sus is quite a woman chaser and is now carrying the torch for E altho he has a girl by the name of Flo to pass the time with. In spite of these social activities, Sus is deeply disturbed as he does not feel that he is making the right progress and he finds that it is difficult for him to get away from his present living habits even though he is the

oldest of the group. He now speaks about volunteering into the Army if things continue to look so uncertain for him. He will not do this unless all of his friends are taken first. His room mates are certain that they will be called soon. The main trouble with him is that he has no "direction" or definite plans of action so that he is uneasy and insecure. The activities of his room mates give him some release and escape but he has to return to his problems right afterwards and he wrestles with a guilty conscience. The fact that he is so anxious to justify himself to me would seem to indicate this. He is deeply dissatisfied with his present job so that he has not interest in it. He has been absenting himself on the average of 3 or 4 days a week so that the boss will fire him. This is the only way that he can get release, he feels, as the boss will not let him change to another job. I will interview him again Monday night.

August 1, 1944: I didn't leave Sus' place until after 1:00 o'clock last night. The bunch does not get finished eating until around 9 o'clock and they insisted that I eat my second dinner of the evening with them. They spend about \$17.50 a week for food but they eat out quite a bit also. Sus is a pretty good cook because he took a course in home economics in high school. While he was cooking I talked to the others.

Buddy and Buster went to the racetracks again yesterday and they claimed they won \$80 between them. I expressed skepticism so they showed me the money. They cleared this amount as they had taken \$30 to start with. Buddy said that they plan to go to the horse races about 2 or 3 times a week and play poker on Saturday night. Some of Buddy's comments:

"I've gone to the horse races 3 times and 4 poker sessions in the last month and I am ~~####~~ \$425 ahead. That's much better than working . If I ever win a daily double, I'm going to send \$500 home to my mother and I'll blow the rest on myself. I think about my family and I want to help them get some money afterwards. I thought about helping them out when I first came here but after working a year I found I didn't have any savings at all. I suppose I could have saved \$1000 in that time if I worked steady and not spend anything. I've bought a lot of clothes and I spent the rest of my money playing one or two days a week when I took off from work. I couldn't save money because there were so many things that I always wanted to do. Once I took over \$50 and went over to the Loop and bought a drink in every bar that I saw. I just wanted to do that once so I did it. I've spent my money foolishly like that but I don't regret it because I had a lot of fun. I'm going to play my luck out and it depends whether I am successful if I go back to work or not. I'm enjoying life a lot better just playing poker and loafing. ~~Buster~~ and I know some guys that are doing the same thing and we have fun too. We ~~meet~~ them at the racetracks and poker sessions. Sometimes we go over and have bull sessions all night.

"I worked steady for a year and it didn't pay me at all. I was making money but I was not having any fun. I was on a night shift at H.P. Smith and I worked up to be an assistant plant foreman. They made cigarette paper out there. The trouble with my job was that I was bossing guys who were 35 years old and they didn't like a young kid to be over them. I was getting 95c an hour and I could have put in 60 or 70 hours a week if I wanted

to. I only put in about 48 hours a week because I would only work about 4 days and put in 16 hours, then I could take the rest of the week off. When I first started the job I used to put in overtime and work very steady. I made about \$70 a week at that time and I was able to save up \$400 but I blew this all in when I started to loaf around. I didn't like the Nisei working at H.P. Smith because they had funny attitudes. Just because I wore drapes to work sometimes. About three-fourths of the workers on the night shift were Nisei. It was too much of a strain to keep that job and I was losing weight and getting pretty bored so I decided to play around.

"I learned how to play poker in camp and it was easy to find big games going around here. I learned to play the horses out here when I heard of few of my friends talk about it. Quite a few go out to the racetracks and none of them are working steady. They all say they are waiting for the draft like me. I'm going to send my mother a \$5 box of candy with some of the money I won today. She doesn't know that I'm loafing around. I'm not going to ever resettle the family because my oldest brother had to do that. You know how it is in the boochie family, the oldest boy has to do it even if he is married.

"Back home I guess we had pretty strict training and I was always the black sheep. I never got along well with my oldest brother. But I didn't have too many fights with my other brothers and sister. My oldest brother had a pretty tough time of it and I give him respect for that but I never got along with him. He's too simple now for me. He had to work ever since he was 12 years old because my folks couldn't make a living during the de-

pression. He never played around at all and he lived according to strict boochie style. After he got to be 20, he started to go out on dates. He ran around for a couple of years until he met a girl from Montana. My parents were opposed to his getting married to her because they didn't think she was the right type for him. The wife of the oldest son has to get along with the parents and my folks didn't think she would do. They were determined to get married anyway so my family consented and went ahead and made plans for the marriage with a banquet and everything. Now they are out here doing domestic work in a rich mansion. They make \$200 clear and I think it is up to them to resettle my folks if they ever decide to come out. I see this brother once in a while but he is always telling me not to play around so I don't go see him much anymore.

"My sister is about 25 years old and I've always gotten along with her best. I guess she is sort of Kibei and that's why she's not married yet. She went to Japan to study flower arrangement about 3 years before the war. My folks wanted to send me along too but I got suspicious and I refused to go because I thought I would have to stay there. In Japan my sister was very popular because the boochie men liked Nisei girls. She was always being courted by Japanese soldiers and professors. She didn't like it so much over there and for a while before she came back they were trailing her around. Once she was taken to a court and questioned and she didn't like that so she told the judge off. The judge told her that Nisei girls were too bold and cheap and that Japan had no place for them. My sister decided to come back to America and it was quite a job for her to finally get back here because

she had to go through so many cross examinations. She got back just before the war started.

"In camp my sister had a lot of arguments with my mother. Her ideas were a little different from the Issei altho they were not like the Nisei either. My old lady wanted to arrange a marriage for her with a Kibei who was courting her but my sister just didn't like the idea. There were several guys courting her. One Kibei was really interested in her and my sister was interested in him but he signed up to go to Tule Lake. He wanted my sister to go up there but she said she would never go to Japan again. I think there's another guy chasing her now and they may get married pretty sooh."

Buster: "My folks went up to Tule Lake too and I had to break with them. I never was too close to them anyway because I was pretty rugged in L.A. (Buster is a Los Angeles boy and not from Stockton. He met his present group after coming out to Chicago.) I quit school when I was in the 10th grade at Jefferson high. I began to bum all around and I worked in the nursery and in the country. I was in jail once too. There are 8 in my family but I don't know where they all are. Four of them are married. My folks took two of the children to Tule Lake with them but I chose to stay here. My dad was in the produce business before the war and I guess he was pretty bitter so he wanted to return to boochie-land. Whatta hell would I do there? If I went about 10 years ago I'd probably be a Zero pilot now and you guys would come after me when you get drafted. I don't care what Army I'm in. I just don't know any Japanese at all. I don't know when I'm going to quit loafing around because it all depends on my gambling luck. Maybe

I'll be taken into the Army pretty soon even though I haven't been reclassified yet.

"We've been having a helluva lot of fun during the last month just playing around and taking it easy. We sleep 14 hours a day. We never get to bed until late and never get up until noon. We go out to play pool or go to shows, swim or go bowling. On Saturday nights we have 15-hour poker sessions. We go visiting a lot with other boys we know just to have bull sessions. We haven't had much time for dates and girls are all working and can't stay up late."

Buddy and Buster went out to visit some friends about 9 o'clock and they dressed up. They are very particular about clothes. Buster was wearing an \$80 diamond pin on his collar without a tie. He spends about \$5 to have tailor-made shirts and all of his pants are draped. After they left Sus and I went to the other room and I started to interview him. I made very good progress but I wasn't able to finish up as it will take another interview of 4 or 5 hours yet to recover his resettlement activities. Sus is anxious to tell me about his first affair with a Nisei girl out here but I didn't express any curiosity so he'll probably burst out and tell me all about it next time. Sus originally resettled because he was anxious to marry Flo. He came out here to make money but he started to get around and have fun so he forgot all about her and he was too busy chasing other girls. Flo has recently followed him out here and Sus magnanimously offered "to give her another chance". He thinks that he is reforming now because he refused to go out to the racetracks instead of work yesterday. He didn't say whether he was actually

planning to get married or not altho he did mention that he would volunteer into the Army if all his friends were taken and if he were left behind. Camp life to Sus was one round of social activities and he looks back upon it with great pleasure. He was unaware of any of the camp issues except the registration and this only touched him very slightly. I get the impression that all of the Stockton boys are "nice" boys who have had a very conservative background and they are suddenly rebelling against the whole thing so they think it's quite daring to drink, smoke and gamble. None of this particular bunch had any sex affairs until they came out to Chicago. Sus is very indefinite about his future because he doesn't know what he wants. He indicated at various times during the evening that this was one of the things that bothered him a great deal. He hasn't been able to find himself yet. I may interview the other fellows in the group if I can ever keep them at home. Both Buddy and Buster want to tell me their life stories and it will be mostly a matter of finding a convenient time to interview them as their activities take up quite a bit of their time even though they are not working. I will continue the interview with Sus next Wednesday night.

August 3, 1944: In my interview last night some of the fellows mentioned that maybe they ought to join the Army as soon as possible since the war will be over soon and they will have veterans' preferences for jobs afterwards. However, the group felt that it will still take a couple of years before Japan was finally defeated as they have some notion that Japan has not revealed its full army and naval strength yet. They pointed out that England was not overcome easily in 1930 when it looked like

the Germans would win the war in a few months. However, the group felt that U.S. production would be the determining point....

I went over to Sus' and finished my interview with him after spending about 5 hours there. Buddy and Buster went out on a date. Flo was around all evening but she washed dishes and ironed most of the evening. She didn't mind when I took Sus off to the other room. Flo is only 19 years old. Sus told me all about her and I get the impression that he isn't too anxious to marry her but he feels obligated to do so because his friends expect him to. Sus is a nice looking guy and all the girls seem to fall for him, including Caucasian girls. He was a virgin until he was 21 and that he was making up for lost time now. He seems to have quite a guilty conscience about it. He talked for about 4 or 5 hours without stopping and he told me all about his girl troubles, job difficulties, and other problems. Sus is one of these Nisei boys who is extremely restless and he doesn't know what direction he's going in so that he tries to forget it by having fun. He went out to the race tracks yesterday with Buddy and Buster instead of going to work, but he did not have any luck as he lost \$10. Buddy and Buster lost \$40 between them while another boy, George, won \$30. Sus is trying to win a large sum of money so that he can get married. He still thinks about a Hawaiian and another Nisei girl that he is "sentimental" about and he almost broke with Flo on account of them. He doesn't have any difficulty in getting girl friends because they seem to gravitate toward him according to what Buddy and Buster tell me. Sus has brought up girls in the spare room on a number of occasions. He said that he acts according to the type of girl he

goes out with and he never fools around with ^{nice} ~~nixx~~ girls like Flo. One Caucasian girl that he was running around with got picked up by the police because she was only 17 years old. Sus' plans for the future are very indefinite. His parents are now relocated on a farm and they are willing to sell their property in California and come to Chicago to open up a business if Sus wants them to. However Sus feels that the draft makes things too indefinite and he doesn't want his parents to supervise him too closely. He thinks that he may go back to California after the war since he isn't prepared to do anything else besides farm work. He is extremely restless with his job here which doesn't mean a thing to him. All that he is doing at the present time is working just enough to meet his living expenses and he hopes to win enough money at the racetracks to take care of his other expenses. Sus doesn't play poker much because he says it gives him a guilty conscience. He wasn't trying to brag to me about his activities at all. It seemed that he was just sitting there talking to himself and trying to figure out why he was living in the manner he is at the present time. I didn't have to urge him to talk at all because he was more than willing to do it himself. He talks quite freely to me now and the reserve has broken down completely. Afterwards we sat around with Flo and drank grape juice. I am going to start my interview with Buddhy this afternoon if I can catch him before he goes out to the racetracks. I think this is a rather interesting group and quite typical of many Nisei out here. Sus says that at least 8 of his friends that he thinks of off-hand are living by gambling at the present time. They all give the excuse that they are waiting for the draft. I'll prob-

ably be able to start this case sometime this week since all of the interviews are now completed for this individual. It probably will be one of my longer cases because Sugio certainly had a lot to say last night and he let his hair down while discussing his present life patterns out here...It..

August 3, 1944: I got Buddy and Buster out of bed around noon and after eating ham and eggs, I started to interview Buddy while Buster went to the show by himself. Sus didn't go to work today. He said that he took his girl friend home about 1:00 last night and he was talking to her until about 2:00. Nobdy set the alarm clock for him so that he slept right through. He didn't know whether to go to the horse races or go visit somebody. Buddy and Buster didn't feel like going to the horse races after the losses of yesterday so Sus went off to see somebody else. This is the second or third day he has taken off this week and he is going to take Saturday off too in order to go to the horse races....

"If my old man had not come to this country around 1915, I probably would have been a soldier in the Jap Army now. I don't know why my old man came to this country. I guess he was interested in farming and some of the friends who had come out before him told him to come. It's just like it is now. I tell some of my friends to come out from camp and they get interested so they follow us out here. That's why there's so many boochies (he means any Japanese or those of Japanese descent) out here now. My old man went out to the islands in the Sacramento Delta with George Shima to start farming. Shima later became the potato king of this country and he must have made hundreds of thousands of dollars. My father, more or less, helped him to open the Delta islands to the Japanese farmers. They cleared the land there and planted potatoes, celery and truck crops. For a while my old man drove tractors in that area. He was just working for Shima. My father told me once that he worked with all the old timers there who later became big time boys in farming. Dad was just average in his success. We got along pretty well, but it was tough during the depression.

"In 1916 my father returned to Japan in order to find a wife. He was very excited about the possibility of farming in the Stockton Delta area as he had never seen such rich land in Japan. He planned to farm there for a few years so he brought back my mother the next year. He spread the word around about the Delta farming in his ken and other Issei came out there at the same time. Dad kept working and saving his money after he returned to America and by this time he decided that he would like to stay in this country. That's why he bought about 20 acres of land in the Delta area. He wasn't able to buy it under his own name because of the law so he had it put in a friend's name. At that time most of the Japanese farmers were only planning to make a lot of money here and go back to Japan. I suppose my father had these ideas

but he became more settled here when my brother was born in 1918 and I came along two years later. When he purchased his little farm, it meant that he would be in this country more or less permanently.

"In the years that followed my father grew all sorts of truck crops in the Delta area. He began to branch out and he did some farming on a share basis as he owned a lot of farm equipment. He would lease large tracts of land from Caucasian corporations and they would split the profits 60% for him and 40% for the company. Most of the larger Japanese farmers worked under this sort of an arrangement and very few of them ever owned land in their name. My dad used to hire Japanese, Mexican and Filipino laborers to harvest all of these crops. Farming was very profitable for him from 1925 on. However, during the depression things slowed down a great deal. It was around 1937 that my father went a little too far in his farming ventures and he went broke. I don't know exactly how this happened but I think he borrowed a lot of money from the bank and he could not pay it off because the farm prices were so low that year. On top of that he had a little trouble with one of the Caucasians he did business with and he lost quite a bit of equipment as a result of this disagreement. This slowed him down for a while and he had to go back to small scale farming on our own property for a couple of years. Just before the war broke out, my father started to farm big again and he had about 300 acres of tomatoes ready to harvest when we were sent out.
(evacuated)

"We lived on a little island of our own in the Delta. It was really a backward place and we only had dirt roads. The levees kept the water out because the land was lower than the water. They used a lot of irrigation for farming and the Japanese farmers were really the ones who developed this land. It was very rich land but nobody knew how to farm it until the Japanese farmers came around. The people who owned the land were Caucasian and

and our family was the only Japanese one who owned any land around there. Most of the property was owned by huge corporations like Lyons, Perry and Elkins. A large number of Portuguese owned land around there too and they did their own farming. The corporation couldn't make the land pay until they started to lease to the Japanese farmers. The Japanese did all of the work and they kicked back a percentage of the profit so that it was a fair proposition for both sides. A lot of the Japanese farmers leased lands from the banks.

"There were about 12 families living on our island. One small farm there was owned by the Gerard Company which leased a lot of land in that area to a very successful Japanese foreman, Kawasaki. This man subleased this land to a lot of Japanese farmers. There were other Japanese farmers in that area who farmed about a hundred acres on a share-crop basis. Most of the farming around there was done in this way. The Japanese farmers all seem to get along as they worked hard. They had to in order to support their large families. They didn't have any time for luxuries so that they lived in pretty old houses. Even after they got families some of the Japanese farmers still didn't want to invest in homes because they thought they would eventually go back to Nihon (Japan).

"My dad was from the Fukuoka ken but I don't know exactly where the other farmers came from. We all knew each other because there weren't too many of us. Most of their social gatherings were held at the Japanese school. They had different organizations of their own but I don't know very much about these things as I wasn't interested in their activities. There were about 300 Japanese on our island and in the nearby areas but the numbers were greatly increased during the harvest season when many Japanese gangs migrated in.

"Before he went broke, my dad was one of the bigshots among the Japanese there. For a long time, he was the president of the Japanese school and this

was an important position which had a lot of prestige. All of the Japanese respected anyone who held this office. My father's main hobby was fishing and he used to go off a lot with other Japanese farmers during the slack season. He didn't have too much time for other things as most of the year he was busy farming.

"My father was more or less a happy-go-lucky sort of person. He never smoked but would drink moderately on special occasions. My mother had a lot to do with keeping the place going as my old man was not as good a business man as he was a farmer. We used to have a bunch of bunk houses on our property and my mother would rent these out to the big companies that hired Japanese crew in their sheds out in the island.

"We didn't exactly have a town or anything like that but there was a sort of a central meeting place. There was a community church there and we got a lot of contacts through that. All sorts of people went there so that it became the center for the community social life. The hakujin and Japanese mixed fairly well at times altho each group tended to have its own activities. On the Japanese side, the Japanese school gave picnics every once in a while and everybody on the island were invited, including the hakujin. On these occasions the people seemed to mix well and everyone was friendly so that it wasn't a distinct Japanese community that I grew up in. However, there was a lot of Japanese influence there and I guess the people tended to be conservative and backward.

"In our home my folks always used Japanese but as my brother and I grew up we began to speak only English to each other. We used a sort of broken English and Japanese to our folks. Most of my Japanese training was obtained through the Japanese school as my folks were too busy to teach me anything. It was in the Japanese school that I was taught all about manners, respect for elders and other stuff like that. I used to take kendo and the instructors

were from Japan. They were very strict about us being courteous to the old folks and we had to make the proper greetings to them. The instructors always reminded us that we should be very proud of our Japanese blood because we came from a great race. But none of this stuff sunk deeply. They couldn't come right out and say for us to be devoted to the Emperor, but they used to tell us all the time how great boochie-land (Japan) was. They told us how the white race would always look down on us and that we should never be ashamed of being Japanese because our ancestors had a glorious history. Some of those instructors were really batty and it made me laugh when it got so fanatic-like. Most of these teachers were from Japan and Hawaii so that they were quite strict in their Japanese ways and they insisted that we be the same. They didn't talk to us about politics because we were young but I suppose they were quite pro-boochie.

"To tell the truth, I used to take in all this stuff when I was a kid, but as I got older I got peeved at the way the teachers always kept praising Japan. I liked the stuff that I learned in the public schools better about America because I knew more about this country. Because of the Japanese school, I began to hate all of the strict things that they had in Japan and I didn't think I would ever like to live there if I had to follow all the things our teachers taught us. We had to bow to the teacher no matter where we met and speak just so. It was embarrassing when I met my Japanese teacher at a time that a hukujin playmate was with me. They would razz me about it so that I began to think that this bowing business was a lot of baloney. I didn't like to speak Japanese when I was with my hakujin friends either.

"At home my parents did not restrain my brother and me very much as they didn't have the time. However, they did insist that we go to the Japanese language school. My old man was quite strong for Japan, I guess. You know how the old Issei men used to brag about Japan's army. They were so proud of the fact that Japan had never been beaten in a war and they thought that she

never would taste defeat. My father thought that a war was coming on eventually as he used to read all of those Japanese books and magazines that were brought from Japan on the boats. Right now my folks plan to stay in this country so they can't say very much. But they still have that feeling of being pushed around and that is why they are still sympathetic to Japan. I think that it is a two-faced affair and they want to be for both sides. My folks have a sentiment for Japan because everybody thinks of his homeland but they also have a sentiment for America because they have lived here for so long. The trouble now is that they don't think that they are wanted by America so they can't say very much. I know that they wouldn't do anything directly against this country. My brother is in the Army now and I will be going in pretty soon. My mother doesn't want to go back to Japan now because my brother and I told her that we definitely would not go there.

"I think that most of the Japanese had this idea of making a lot of money and then going back to Japan to live, but that is all a dream now. I know that when we were small kids my folks used to talk about going back but my brother and I were always against it so they had to change their plans.

"I know I won't like Japan because I went there once with my mother in 1927 during the summer and boochie-land didn't agree with me. I got sick a lot and I got boils all over from the lousy food we were fed over there by my mother's relatives. I know that I wouldn't ever want to live there because the standard of living is much poorer than it was at that time. I guess you would like it better if you were rich but we didn't have that much money. My mother enjoyed that trip as she got to see all of her relatives. They were all farmers and not too well off. A few of them lived in a small town and they always envied us because we were so rich in America. I know that even though I was 6 or 7 at that time, I used to feel pretty good because all of my little

cousins were so envious of the fact that I came from America. They were always asking me all kinds of questions. At that time the boochies thought very highly of America I guess.

"I didn't go to school at all during that summer and all of my education had been in this country. When I went to grammar school, I used to chum around with a gang from our island. There were almost half boochies in our school, but no Japanese families lived right near us so that I began to play with the hakujin, Mexican, Filipino and Hawaiian kids. In our school there was no talk of race as everyone was the same. I was an average student, maybe a little above average because I got pretty good grades.

"We used to have a lot of fun on those islands when we were kids. All summer long the gang would go swimming or fishing. I knew all of the other Nisei kids around there and I used to go play with them once in a while. But it was much easier for me to play with the hakujin and Mexican kids who lived right around me. When I started to go to high school, I first discovered that there was a difference in race. A lot of Nisei used to go from our area to Stockton high school so it was natural for me to go there instead of Lodi high.

"I found that Stockton high school had about 350 Japanese students. It seems that it was natural for them to do everything in their own group since they had such a large number. The Japanese Students club was one of the largest and active in the school and they did things by themselves. It seemed to me that the Nisei were of all different kinds in spite of that. What griped me the most was when a bunch of boochies got together, they spoke right out in Japanese in front of hakujin students. They didn't care what the other students thought about them because they were such a large group. They always seemed to stick together and they didn't associate too much with the hakujin.

"There were a large number of exceptions. Many of the fellows went out for the school team and they made good friends with their team mates. I didn't know very many of the Nisei at the high school so I stuck with some of the

hakujin friends I knew from the area where I lived. I tried to make friends with everybody. I didn't get a chance to go out for any of the school teams as I lived too far from school and I had to spend my time in commuting. About six of us from Terminus Island commuted together in a car.

"I didn't know what I wanted to study for and I enrolled in the same subjects as everybody else. I was taking a sort of academic and commercial course. I had no idea of what I wanted to be as I was too young at that time. I still don't know what I am fit for.

"One of the things I looked forward to every year was the conference for all of the Japanese high school students in Central California. Our Japanese Students club usually sponsored these conferences and the boochies all up and down the valley would come and spend the day. In 1940 we had a real big conference and I was chosen as the typical Nisei boy. These conferences were sponsored for the purpose of getting the Nisei together so we could get acquainted. We had speeches, oratoricals and talent shows. The biggest event was the dance which officially closed the conference. It was all a lot of fun and every boochie in the valley used to look forward to this big event. These conferences were not held at the Stockton high school every year because the location would be changed around each time. I never did know how to dance very well so that I just went to these conference dances and stood around most of the time.

"In those days I never thought of girls much as most of my time was taken up with sports in our club. A bunch of us boochies organized the Delta Lancers and we played all kinds of sports with other Nisei teams in the area. We had a regular league of our own and it was our ambition to beat the pants off of some of the big city Nisei teams of San Francisco and Sacramento. We were never quite that good altho we did knock off quite a few of the bigger teams. We also had a football team but we had to play against Caucasians because the Nisei didn't have any league in football. That was one sport where the Nisei fellows prepared

to go out for the high school team rather than play in a Nisei league.

"In high school I couldn't go out for any of the school teams so I had to confine myself to my club. I never cared for dancing then so I didn't care to go to school proms. I was a little backward too and I suppose I was afraid to go anyway because it wasn't the thing to do. Very few Nisei ever went to any of the school dances because they had more fun in dances of their own.

"My main pleasure in high school was making the microscope slides as only selected students were appointed to do this. To tell the truth, my first 3 years in high school were very dull and routine. I only enjoyed my senior year. That was when I started to get around more and I met a lot of the students and made friends with them. I got less bashful and I entered a lot more activities in the student body. I was among a group of picked students in the agricultural class and we had a lot of social gatherings of our own. We used to sell tickets to the whole school and it was then that I felt for the first time that I was a regular part of the high school. In the Ag course we didn't have to study too much as it was more of a practical nature. The teacher used to take us all around for short trips to visit business concerns. It was through taking this class that I was influenced to go to California State College of Agriculture at Davis.

"During the summer of my high school years, I worked on a farm and it was a regular routine. Most of the Nisei fellows did it too. I worked on my dad's farm up to 1937 and after that I went to work for my uncle. When I worked for my father, he kept the regular books for me and I was paid the same wages as the other laborers. I was permitted to draw out money whenever I needed it but I never did draw out the full amount for the season. I was more or less on my own after I got to high school and I had to buy all my own clothes and provide my own spending money as my folks didn't give me any.

"My brother and I never did get along very well. He seemed to be just the opposite type from me. He was more like the nice Christian Nisei boys of Stockton and he never did anything that was not approved of. I thought he was just a nicey, nicey boy so I sort of looked down on him at times. He was very conservative and he never did anything like I did. I got along pretty well with my parents altho we had our usual arguments. I got my own way most of the time as I got older so that my parents had to get more broad-minded.

"I was living in a very country area and in our community the Issei parents tended to be very conservative and they didn't approve of the things that they heard city Nisei were doing. We always had a tough time trying to get the Nisei girls to dance as their parents thought it was a sin. That's why none of us in our area ever learned how to dance until we got into our senior year in high school. The Japanese community always stood behind us in any sports though and all of the farmers were always willing to make donations so that we could buy our sports equipment. Whenever we had a game they always came out to root for us.

"The parents around us were mostly Buddhist but the boochie kids became Christian as there was only one church on Terminus Island. I guess I was sort of influenced by the community and the church altho I was not religious. When I got out of high school, I was still pretty much of a greenhorn and all of the parents used to point me out as a very nice boy. I never did anything bad like drinking or smoking and in our group we didn't even talk about sex in the way that most fellows do. The other parents on the island all thought that I was so good to my folks and they told their sons to be like me. I guess I have changed a little bit since then.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after graduation from high school but I didn't want to work on the farm the year around. I decided to go to Davis and take an agronomy course. A little later on I changed my major to studying truck crops as I figured that I would be doing this kind of work eventually since my

dad did it. But I never was entirely sure about what I wanted to do and my choice of truck crops was influenced because I felt there was no other choice. At first I worked and saved a little money. My mother sent me \$30 a month during the first year I was in college but after that I worked my own way. I got a job through the NYA and I was placed on the truck crop project on the campus. I got paid about 35¢ an hour for doing this work.

"I think that my college life was the beginning influence in broadening me out. I lived in a home with a Caucasian lady who boarded about seven boys there. I was the only Nisei in the group so that I had to become friendly with the others. It wasn't too hard because I was used to Caucasians back home and on the farm. We all got to be good pals and we got along swell. One of these fellows is a soldier stationed here in Chicago now and I go see him every once in a while and there is no funny feeling between us on account of the war because he still thinks of me as I was before. The lady who was in charge of our house was very good to all of us and she acted like a mother. In many ways I felt much closer to her than I did to my own mother because I never had any affection like that shown toward me back home. I guess Caucasian mothers tend to show their feelings towards their children more than the Japanese mothers.

"I enjoyed my life at Davis very much and I liked it much better than living at home. I didn't have anyone around to boss me all the time and I was free to do what I wanted. The people all treated me nice on the campus. Davis was a real friendly town and I never had any trouble there. There was a big swimming pool and gymnasium on the campus and I spent a great deal of my leisure time there. I would always go with the rest of the fellows for a workout. It was in college that I had my first chance to go out for school sports. At first I was a little afraid to go out for football so I didn't make the attempt the first year. I did go out for the freshman basketball team and I found that I could compete with the rest of the Caucasians because I wasn't as short as a lot of Nisei. The second year I went out for football but I just sat on the bench

most of the season. I was a little too light for this sport.

"At Davis we also had a Japanese Students club as there was about 50 Nisei on the campus. We had our own club basketball team and we won the intramural championship for the school one year. Most of these Nisei didn't seem to participate in any of the other school activities, except sports. I was the only one who went out for the Fresh-Soph brawl. I guess most of the Nisei were too timid about entering this brawl because they felt conscious that they were different. They didn't mix at all so that they only got to know the other Japanese students well. There were a few Nisei on the campus who were different from the rest and they really were popular on the campus. There was Nisei fellow who was an all-around athlete and he was a star on the football team. He was chosen captain and voted to be the most valuable man after the 1941 season. This fellow was also chosen on the Far Western conference all-star team. However, there were very few Nisei who made progress like he did because the majority of them were most isolated. I think that they made themselves that way because the other students were more than willing to associate with them. I didn't do as much as I could but I did get out of the close Nisei circle and I took part in quite a few of the school activities. I served on the Vigilante Committee and things like that. I made quite a few contacts thru my room mates and we went to all of the bonfire rallies and games together. I wanted to take in all that college life had to offer because I had looked forward to it. My closest pal was a Russian kid and we did everything together. We lived together, we went out for the football team together, we took the same courses together and we worked together. I guess I was a little more used to mixing than the other Nisei because I had done a little bit of it back home. The 2 years that I spent in college were the happiest years of my life up to now and I certainly wish that I could have it now.

"I never did like to live on Terminus Island because it seemed so dead back

there. There always was a lot of dust flying around and that made me itch all over. The climate was very humid and it was uncomfortable during the summer time. We had very little community activity and it all seemed like small time stuff to me after I went to college. We lived about 14 miles from a big town and it was quite a disadvantage for us boogie kids because we couldn't go to shows very often or get around. Sometimes that life used to bore me stiff.

"Our home was not too good either and we didn't have a real close family feeling like many of the hakujin families have. I lived in a different house from my folks because our home was so small. I used to live on one of the small houses that my mother rented out to workers during the harvest season. Our regular house was furnished very sparsely and it was all a lot of junk. None of the old folks believed in putting a lot of money into house furnishings as they didn't think they would stay too long. This was particularly true in those families where the father leased the land to do his farming. They would only stay while the soil was productive and then move on to another place. We were more permanent because my father owned the property. We had a lot of small buildings which my mother managed and rented out to seasonal workers. I would move from one room to another in these buildings. I wasn't home too often after I got to be about 13 years old as I went away to work for the summer as soon as I could. My home life never had very much to offer so I didn't like to stay at home.

"We had a very dull routine and it was the same the year around. We would just sit around and talk in the evenings. We always went to bed early as my folks worked hard on the farm during the day and they had to get up early. My mother used to get quite angry at me as I got in the habit of going out all the time and she didn't think this was right. There wasn't much to do at home and I had to go out in order to keep from getting bored. When I was in high school, I did the same thing every day. I spent a lot of time commuting and then I would

have to come back to go to the boochie school so that it was 8 o'clock by the time I ate supper. By that time everyone would start going to bed unless I went out to visit a neighbor. On my free days from Japanese school I would practice football with the club members. I was away from home so much because we didn't have too much family unity. In spite of this the other Japanese parents thought I was a model boy. I was on the quiet side at that time. I used to belong to the Boy Scouts and we would go to Lodi every Monday evening. Occasionally we would take camping trips and that was always a lot of fun. I quit the scouts after I got to be 18. It was about this time that my brother and I started a scout troop on Terminus Island for the younger Nisei kids and I took care of it until we went to college. All of the Nisei fellows out here now are new to me. I did meet a couple of them through high school. I hardly knew any boochies in Lodi even though I lived close to them. I lost contact with my Nisei friends entirely when I went off to college.

"Things like being a loyal American and all that stuff never affected me before the war. I just took it for granted that I came from a Japanese home but I thought I was American enough because of my school contacts. I didn't know anything about politics and I was always proud of living in the best country in the world even though my folks stressed Japan once in a while. But Japan was a foreign country to me and I didn't think of it any more than I did of China or India. I knew my parents came from there and I suppose I did have a certain pride because Japan was the most civilized country in Asia. But I didn't feel attached to it at all because such things never did enter my mind. I just took it for granted that certain parts of me was Japanese and the rest American. In those days it wasn't an important issue anyway. Most of the Nisei kids called themselves Japanese and they learned a lot of stuff about Japan but I don't think that they went as far as being loyal to the Emperor like they say.

"I was in college at the time the war broke out. I was just 21 years old

at that time. The reason I was a little older than the other students was because I had started school when I was 7 years old and I also flunked a grade in grammar school. I lost another year when my mother took me to Japan and I got scarlet fever when I returned after the summer visit. I was 19 when I got out of high school. At the time of the war I was still pretty green and I certainly didn't act my age. I was still going to school and I was adolescent in many ways. I just didn't have the opportunity to develop until I went to college. I was taking a 2 year course but I wanted to stay an extra year so that I could play football. That is why I stayed out during the fall semester of 1941 to work on the truck crop project so that I could play football the next year. But the war came along and spoiled all these plans.

"I don't know what would have happened to me if the war had not broken out. I probably would have finished school and then gone back to the farm to work. At that time my brother and a Caucasian fellow were close pals and they were making plans to farm together. I was supposed to go in with them eventually. The fellow's name was Bob Scripps. He was a part of the Scripps-Howard paper family and he was attending Davis. Bob was a funny kid as he had all the money he needed, but he came to live with us in our old raggety house. I guess I would have ended up as a farmer if the war did not come along. I would have raised tomatoes and celery because I had some ideas about that through my courses at school. I didn't exactly hate farming, and I think that I would go back into it now as there is good money in truck farming at this time. But I haven't any backing right now and it is expensive to get started. If I had not been evacuated, I think I would still be in Terminus raising tomatoes and celery. I was supposed to get half of the land that was in my brother's name. The automobile was in his name too so that he considered it as his own private property. I think he had the same attitude about the farm. I guess I would have stuck around in that area anyway. I could have share-cropped some land and made good money in it. One of my college friends wanted me to go into

farming with him after the war started but it was too risky and I didn't have any capital anyway.

"I was sure young then in my mind. I didn't ever think of marriage as that was far removed from my mind. I wanted to fool around for at least 10 years yet. Sports were my primary interests. The real truth is that I didn't actually start dating girls out until I was 21 years old as we just didn't do those things from where I came from. The Nisei girls were all pretty shy and quite reserved in their manners. It was hard to get to know them too well as it just wasn't the practice to take a girl out to a dance and a show and the parents didn't welcome the fellows visiting their daughters too much. The Nisei girls didn't encourage fellows either because none of them did it and it wasn't approved. If they did get a little daring, the people would spread rumors about them.

"I used to go to the Episcopalian church at home and I also attended the community church at Davis. I wasn't religious at all but it was a sort of a habit and there was nothing else to do on Sundays. Sometimes it made me feel pretty good to go to church because I could look at all the pretty girls who went there in bunches. Sometimes at Davis we would have social meetings after the regular church service was over and once in a while we would have parties. We always brought in outside Nisei girls as there were only two enrolled in the school. These two girls were such 'sad cases' that nobody rushed them. Sometimes in our bull sessions we talked a little bit about politics but I still wasn't aware of things.

"I didn't even suspect that a war was coming along so quick as I couldn't imagine Japan attacking this country. I was sleeping late the morning of December 7th when my roommate came running up to my room to tell me that the Japs had bombed Pearl Harbor. I thought he was kidding at first so I told him to go away. After he went out of the room I got a strange feeling and I suspected

that there was something to what he said so I turned my radio on. I was really shocked when I found out that it was true. I was supposed to have a mid-term examination the next day but I just couldn't study the rest of that Sunday. All I did was to listen to the radio and talk to the other fellows. They were just as shocked as I was. The first thing that came to my mind was to wonder what I should do next. I didn't know how the public would take it and I was a little worried for myself. It hit me pretty hard as I was a Nisei and I felt that the hakujin were looking at me all the time for about a week afterwards. I realized that this was mostly my imagination but I couldn't prevent myself from feeling self-conscious. The next important thing I thought of was that I should join the Army as soon as possible. I don't know why I got that idea but I suppose it was because I figured that it wouldn't be so bad for me if I were in the Army. I felt that the hakujin wouldn't be able to question me at all if I were in a uniform and they certainly couldn't be suspicious. I didn't worry much about what was going to happen to my family until much later.

"When the Filipinos went on a rampage and started to shoot up some of the Japanese in a few of the valley towns, it didn't make too much of an effect on me. I suppose it was because I was in a school atmosphere. All of the students were quite sympathetic with the Nisei students after we went back to our classes. The Dean of the College actually called a mass assembly the next day. He told the student body that the Nisei students on the campus were American citizens and that we were not to be blamed for the war. He warned the students against threatening any of the Nisei or treating them as outcasts. He talked so feelingly that a few of the Nisei in the audience were crying. I had a mixed reaction to this talk because I didn't think he should have called everyone together like that. I felt like a bright spotlight was being placed on me and that everyone was looking at me. I didn't want to be treated with pity because I didn't do anything. It wasn't necessary for the Dean to talk like that because none of the hakujin students did ever turn against us.

"I did feel good when the Dean started to talk about the all-around Nisei athlete. He said that he was glad that Nitta had been voted the most valuable member and captain of the football team. He said that Nitta was a good example of a loyal American and that most of us Nisei were also that way.

"After that the college went on in its usual way. Most of the Nisei took the war pretty hard and they would stand around in little bunches and talk about it with worried faces. Some of them tried to act like they were not concerned at all but I knew that they were just as worried as any of us. We were all pretty self-conscious during those early days of the war and we did take things pretty hard and worry about how we were going to be treated.

"I noticed that there was a change in me. I used to hitch-hike to Sacramento all the time and I was very carefree about it. After the war started I noticed that I couldn't get a ride any more because people wouldn't stop for me when they saw that I was a boochie so I didn't hitch-hike anymore. I guess all of the cars were very suspicious of me because of the outbreak of the war and it made me feel funny too so I took a bus after that. There wasn't any incident at all in Davis. Once I heard that a Nisei fellow went to a cafe and a hakujin person got nasty but there weren't very many of these cases and everyone left us alone and they didn't condemn us for the war. Most of that stuff appeared in the newspapers a little later.

"I stayed on the campus doing my work until the semester was over. I didn't know anything about evacuation as I had not heard too much about it. I had stayed out of school after January so that I could play football in the fall and not because I was worried about being removed to a concentration camp. I still continued to take part in the school activities and I would go to the gym all the time whenever I had some spare time. I worked out in the fields in the truck garden laboratory on a full-time basis after January. I got to travel around quite a bit during this time because we had to go check on our experiments. The

professor and I would go to Salinas about once every week in order to check a lettuce fertilizing experiment out there. While we were there I saw the F.B.I. starting to round up some of the boochie farmers but I never thought that it would ever affect me. The FBI men would take the Issei farmers right off the fields and I watched them go off so scared and I wondered why they were being arrested. I didn't know what was going on at all and I couldn't make heads or tails of this. I was with Dr. Lorenz on these field experiment trips and he never said anything to me about the fact that I was Japanese.

"I knew a Nisei girl down in Salinas and I went to see her a few times on my trips. After February or March, 1942, they were afraid to leave the lights on in the evenings because they said Filipinos would come around and throw rocks in the windows. The girl's parents would never allow her to leave the house in the evening because they said it was too dangerous. She told me that some Filipinos were going around shooting and beating up all the Japanese and everyone in that area was afraid. It was that way all over the valley but I didn't know it at that time. I didn't see very many Filipinos on my trip down to Salinas. I even walked through the Filipino district in Stockton later on but nothing happened to me even though I was plenty worried. By that time I had heard a lot of rumors about Filipino gangs and I didn't know what to expect. I remembered I carried two little rocks in my pockets as I had an idea that I could put them in my fist and defend myself in case I was attacked. Later on there were so many rumors going around about Filipinos that I didn't know what to believe. I lived right in the valley but I never saw any violence that the Japanese were always talking about.

"When the curfew for the Nisei came into effect, I wasn't able to travel around anymore so that I had to work around the campus most of the time. Once I was driving and I got stopped by a National Guard on a bridge. He asked me what nationality I was and I told him that I was an American citizen so that he

finally let me pass through. I was in a State automobile and he was pretty suspicious. After that I didn't get to drive the State car anymore so he must have reported me. All I did during the next couple of months was to work and then go to the gym for a swim and a workout. In the evenings I would talk with my roommates on general things and the days passed by pretty swiftly. By that time most of the Nisei had quit school to go join their families. A few of them were still around and they were worried because they couldn't get a permit to join their families.

"In May 1942, I decided to go home as I thought I'd better be with my folks as they needed help. By that time evacuation had already started and it was pretty certain that the valley people would be affected too. At first I thought only the Japanese around the harbors and airports on the coast would be moved but they began to take everybody up to a line in the eastern part of the state which was still a free zone. My folks lived right in the area which was considered a restricted zone and my folks wrote and asked me to come home as soon as possible to help make the preparations for evacuation. I couldn't get a permit to travel at all but just about then the term ended and a lot of hakujin kids were going home. Some of my friends sneaked me into their car and took me home without bothering to get a permit.

"When I got home I had to go to work right away to help my folks settle their business. The land was left in the name of an old hakujin friend who had known the family for 20 years. He took care of the farm and he still does it. He leases the land out to a farm company on a percentage basis. They give us a certain percent of the profit for the use of the land and equipment. Mr. Churchill is the name of this family friend. He puts the money in the bank for us and he pays all of the taxes and other expenses. The money is all in his hands and in his account but we trust him. My father doesn't get a very large income because the expenses are rather heavy. We owe quite a bit of money to the bank. My father borrowed about \$2000 once to do farming but he wasn't

able to pay it back on account of the evacuation so that he is paying a small part of it every month now with the money which he gets from our leased property. That's why we don't get any real income at all. If my father had stayed in California he really would be making a big profit now because the prices for the crops are real high.

"My dad also had some insurance but he didn't have the money to meet the payment so he just dropped it. He needed the money more to get ready for the evacuation. We didn't have any savings in the bank at all as we had put all the money into the farm and buildings. All of the houses we have on the property now are rented out and Mr. Churchill collects the monthly rent for us. Another family has taken over our main house and they get free rent in return for taking care of the other buildings and seeing that they get rented out. All of our furniture was left behind in our main house.

"My folks were thinking of voluntary evacuation for a while. They were planning to go to Colorado as we had some hakujin friends there who were relatives of Mr. Churchill. My father made definite plans for going but we began to hear so many rumors that the plan was dropped. My pop even got the car overhauled and he put retreads on the tires so we could make it to Colorado before changing all of these plans. There was one man that dad owed some money to and this person thought that he wouldn't get paid so he put an attachment on our truck and we had to sell it at a loss in order to pay him. There were other items of farm produce that we never got paid for. Everything was so rushed that we didn't know who was getting the truck farm products that we were selling at the last moment. My father lost \$500 or over in this way and there was no way that we could collect for it. All of these things forced us to stay and be evacuated with the rest of the Japanese. We heard that the voluntary evacuees could not find rooms to stay in Salt Lake and that the Japanese were being arrested if they traveled so that was another reason for our change of plans.

"I figured that evacuation was something that couldn't be helped and it was for our own protection so it wasn't too hard for me to take. There were several cases of Japanese who lost their minds because people threw rocks into their windows at night and left threatening notes. At the same time I had a feeling inside of me that the Japanese were pretty industrious and they got ahead in business and farming in spite of being pushed around for so many years and that the hakujin didn't like that so much. That is why they wanted to get rid of us as they thought that they could take over all of the property left behind. There was quite a bit of losses but on the whole the Japanese farmers living around us really didn't lose too much in actual cash as they were farming for somebody else on a share-crop basis so that they had no money invested in the land. But it would be awfully hard for them to start out again some other place and they wouldn't be able to get the equipment so that from this point of view, their loss was great.

"I had no bitter feelings against the United States and I still wanted to join the Army. All of my friends at college were going in. The Army quit taking Nisei shortly after the war broke out. In my mind, it didn't matter who I went to fight against as I figured that I would live here for the rest of my life. But in a way I didn't blame Japan for doing what she did. This is an economic war and the U. S. was looking out for its own business interests in China. It didn't want to lose all of this so it forced Japan into the war by the embargoes and closing of the trade treaties. The American public does not know it, but President Roosevelt gave orders to the U. S. Navy to shoot any Japanese warships in the Pacific if they came near any American island. That's what my father told me anyway. I didn't believe him at first until another Nisei told me that it was in the Congressional Records. This news leaked out in the camp later on and everybody found out about it. That's why they feel that America was not entirely innocent in the war like it is made out.

"My father was for Japan all along and I used to have some bitter arguments with him. He used to say that the boochie army was so good and that it never could be defeated because of the strong patriotism of the soldiers who were willing to die for their country. Naturally I thought that the U. S. army and navy was superior as it was more modern and I would argue back with my father that Japan could never keep up in production with this country. We used to argue about little things like this after I came home from college.

"When my father saw that he couldn't convince me that the Japanese Army and Navy was superior to America's, he would resort to the argument that no matter what happened we Nisei would still be Japanese in the public's eye. I didn't know how to answer this argument because it did seem true so I just kept quiet. Most of the Issei in our community believed that Japan would win the war fast because of the swift progress they were making at that time, but now the story is changed. I guess that the old folks were all for Japan because of what was happening to them. They really didn't want a war between the United States and Japan as they had lived here for so long. They stuck up for their motherland because they had no other choice. I didn't blame them for talking that way, but I got sore when they said that the Nisei should be that way too. And the funny thing was that a lot of the Nisei did talk in the same way as they were disgusted at the way they were going to be shoved out of their homes without a trial or anything. It didn't look very democratic to them. Then, they also knew that their parents were in a tough spot and because of their background they were sort of sympathetic to Japan. Most of the Nisei had always lived in their own groups and they just accepted the facts that they were Japanese as well as Americans. I think that when the time came to choose definitely, they all stuck to this country. I suppose I also had certain feelings of this sort. I even gave the boochie Army a lot of credit because they weren't as dumb as what the American public thought they were. That's why it's going to be such a long war yet. The Nisei were sore when the older folks began to say that their U. S. citizen-

ship didn't mean a thing. The Issei certainly rubbed that in when we got thrown in the same camp with them.

"I think that the JACL should have fought more for our rights. I heard that they told the Army we would be glad to go and that's why the people waited to get the heads of the JACL in camp.

"During the time after war was declared and before evacuation, a lot of the Nisei got kicked out of the civil service and I thought that was pretty dirty. I knew some of the girls who were booted out and they cried because they were treated so unjustly. I heard that there was one head of a state department who didn't like Nisei and he called all the girls together one hour before lunch and they were told to get out of the place by noon time. They had to leave before all of the other hakujin workers and these Nisei girls really felt bad. Some of them were pretty bitter about that as they were innocent.

"Another thing that the Nisei were sore about were the FBI round-ups. The newspapers played up these things as sabotage and all that. In one instance, an old Issei owned a very ancient camera and the newspapers said that the FBI had arrested him because he had a high powered camera and he was taking pictures of fortifications. That was silly because he was an old man and perfectly harmless. There was another instance of a Japanese farmer who had some hunting guns and this was played up as having a round of ammunition which he was supposed to hand out to invaders when they landed. There were also stories of Japanese farmers belonging to the Japanese Army. It was the same way if they had any swords. I don't know how much of this was true as it was probably rumors in most cases. I suppose that some of these Japanese were guilty but it couldn't have been more than a small number. I know that most of the Issei sympathized with Japan but they certainly wouldn't have done anything against this country.

"There weren't too many Japanese taken from our area, but there were a lot taken from Stockton. All of the kendo big-shots were interned. I didn't think that they were guilty as it was only a sport. I took kendo myself and it was

just physical culture and we weren't being trained for any boochie Army.

"I was pretty busy after I got home so that I didn't go on any wild flings. I had to do quite a lot of work cleaning up the farm and taking an inventory of our property so that it would be in decent shape when the new tenants moved in. This kept me busy right up to the time of evacuation. We were just finishing the building of our new home through the Federal Housing loan so that we had to dig sewers for it, dig wells, move the furniture and other things. We didn't get finished until the night before we left. My father was very fussy about leaving everything in good order. We really were disappointed that we couldn't live in our new house after we had built it.

"My mother wanted me to go on to college at that time but I couldn't think of such a thing. I lost interest in school. I didn't have time to think much about the future as there were too many other things on my mind and things were rather confused. I thought that we would be kept in camp until the war was over. I didn't want to go to camp but in another way I wanted to go as I thought I would be able to meet a lot of old friends. I figured that it would be a sort of a good vacation and I could take it easy.

"We were sent to the Stockton Assembly Center on May 21st. When I first got into the camp, the place didn't look too bad. My family had our apartment by ourselves and we didn't have any trouble getting settled down. We set right to work to make furniture and build a gravel wall. We even planted a victory garden in front. My father said that it was best to make the most of everything instead of sitting around and moaning. Our barracks were actually no worse than a lot of bunk houses I have seen in the country on Japanese farms. The thing that got me down was all that corn-beef hash that they gave us at the beginning.

"It wasn't very hard for me to get a job in camp. Like any place else, you can get places if you got pull. I was trying to get a job but I found that there was a lot of red tape to it until I went to see a friend of mine in the

office and he fixed things up. I got a job right away as a relief time keeper. I went around to every mess hall and I relieved the time keeper. I enjoyed that as I got to eat a lot of food and meet a bunch of people. I liked that job pretty good. I had quite a lot of free time to fool around in and that was to my liking.

"I was a lone wolf for quite a while at first and I didn't belong to any special group for a long time. That was because of my work. We usually played cards and sat around and talked. We played baseball together and I went out for all of the sports including sumo and judo as I never had a chance to do most of these things before. We had track meets and I entered all of these. I really did enter a lot of sports activities and it was all a lot of fun.

"I got caught playing poker three times and I was put on probation. I think that camp life was the beginning of the big change in me because I wasn't interested in being a model boy any longer. I wanted to have my fun like I saw the other kids doing. Later on I started to go around with a Stockton gang and there were about eight of us. We used to go around at night to have our bull sessions or else we would go wolfing. Camp was where I really started out with my social life. I started to dance regularly and I lost my inferiority complexes about that so I went out on plenty of dates. I sort of felt that 'drapes' (zoot pants) were the thing to wear and I got myself a sort of zoot suit. It made me feel very self-conscious at first as the other fellows didn't wear them much until they got to Rohwer and saw all of the Santa Anita boys wearing them.

I started to go steady with a girl and she was the first one I had ever gone with regularly. Her father didn't think much of me because I wore drapes so he broke it up. She was only 16 years old. We met secretly for a while but I broke with her just before leaving camp as I lost interest. I don't think I was ever bad. I even went to church a couple of time with some friends. But later on I stopped going. I didn't take up drinking until I went to Rohwer. Most of the time our gang just sat around and we talked about women and old times mostly.

I wasn't bored with the Stockton Assembly Center at all as I was having plenty of fun. Once in a while my mother would give me lectures and tell me to come home earlier but I didn't pay any attention to that.

"We had an adult education school in the assembly center and I enrolled to take up trigonometry as I was beginning to get hazy thoughts that I would go to college again eventually. After I got into so much social life, I dropped ideas of further college as I lost interest in it completely. There were too many other things going on which interested me more. I even quit going to the adult education school.

"I was going to register to vote but I didn't make it. I was actually in a line to register when somebody asked me to get a desk. When I came back there was a long line and I got so disgusted that I couldn't get my place back that I walked out. That was one thing I didn't like about camp life--everything we did, we had to stand in line and I got so impatient with that. I don't think I was too interested in voting anyway because I didn't know what it was all about and my vote didn't mean a thing.

"I made quite a few friends in camp and it was all fun. I really got around for the first time in my life. At that time, it was just a vacation for everybody. There were a few gang fights but they were nothing to speak of. All of the Nisei were out for fun and they got it. They all seemed to be happy and contented with all the social life and they didn't look very bitter to me. I think that they had more fun there than they ever had in their lives. Maybe it wasn't like that in some of the other centers. The Stockton Assembly Center was composed of a lot of rural areas and the Nisei kids from these districts were sort of influenced by the Stockton group. If they had not been evacuated, they never would have been able to have all those dances because the parents would not have approved. They would have had to work on the farms after school and wouldn't have had the opportunities to meet the social groups that existed in camp. The Nisei felt this was the thing and really didn't resent being there

that much. They only said this because it was the thing to say. A lot of them said something about missing Caucasian friends but I don't think they had many because they only went around in Japanese groups only. I guess they missed their freedom but they didn't get bored until much later on.

"The Issei didn't like their Nisei to play so much but they couldn't say much. They didn't like the idea of having dim lights at the dances and the couples getting so close together. I suppose that the parents had a right to do some worrying because there were a lot of affairs going on. All the fellows started to think about sex a lot and that's about all they talked about. I know I got this way and I wasn't like that before. I used to think that Nisei girls were something sacred and never had any dirty thoughts of them. After I got to camp and the fellows started talking about sex it was natural for me. There were plenty of fellows who took girls out and had affairs. The grandstand was noted for it. There were also a lot of empty stables and we used to walk around at night and see many couples going to town. That's why the parents kept their daughters at night and we had a hard time getting them out. I had some idea that I would like to have an affair with a young chick but I was too scared at that time altho I did get my share of heavy necking. But I was afraid to go much further than that. I would take the girls to the show but I never went further than to feel them up a little bit. I sure changed a lot at the assembly center and I wasn't timid like I was before. I was making up for lost time as I never had a chance to do a lot of these things before. I used to live 20 miles from town and I didn't have a car so I never took a girl out before. On top of that the parents ^{too} were/strict on the outside.

I didn't care about the people who ran the camp at all but I did hate the guy who ran the canteen. This hakujin guy thought he was big-time and he used to charge a big commission to bring things in to the people from the outside. He used to chase all the fellows away from the canteen too but it was a good place to

hang around and meet the girls. That canteen guy really gypped the people and he did a lot of grafting. The rest of the WCCA officials were pretty good and I never thought very much for or against them. I got to know a few of them and they treated me pretty good.

"I was having so much fun in camp that I lost track of the war. I never read the newspapers at all and I didn't listen to any radio news. Hardly anyone talked about war in camp anyways. I let all these outside things drag and I sort of put them out of my mind. There were times when I had an urge to go outside though just to have a feel of complete freedom for a change without having to line up for meals and things like that. A couple of guys did sneak out of camp and got put in jail for 6 months. Other guys sneaked out and came back without getting caught.

"I spent a rather pleasant summer and I met a lot of girls. About September the rumors about going to a WRA camp started to go around. We didn't know where we were going to be sent next. All of us were guessing but nobody knew. Finally we learned that we were going to be sent to Rohwer in Arkansas. We didn't know a thing about Arkansas except that Arkies came from there. I thought that if the Arkies didn't like it there, then it must be a pretty crummy state. Some of the Issei had never heard of the state before and they were pretty afraid to travel that far, especially after they heard that it was a sort of swamp land where we were going and that big mosquitoes bit you and you got all sorts of fevers.

"I got curious about seeing the place and I knew that we had to go anyway so I volunteered to go on an advance crew. We heard that we had to clear stumps out there but I still didn't care. I wanted to go ahead as I thought it would be exciting.

"Our advance crew left the Stockton Assembly Center in September and I didn't have very much of a sensation as I left the state. I knew that everyone would be

following us in a short time so I didn't feel that we were cutting off from our complete past. I wondered whether we would come back to California again for a long time. We were going a couple of thousand miles away and it didn't look as if we would ever get back. I was anxious to go to Arkansas because I had never traveled very much before and I was looking forward to going cross country. It was very hot when we got on the train and the trip wasn't glamorous at all. In fact, it was a very dirty trip, but our gang just played cards and fooled around all the way over. None of us had ever been that far east before. There was a bunch of seven boys in our car and we really raised hell. They let us off once to get fresh air and some of the fellows brought back some whiskey. I got to feeling very good and I was real drunk for the first time in my life. One of the M.P.'s bawled me out but he could find no evidence and I didn't care anyway. Since that time I have been drinking rather regularly altho I'm not a booze hound yet.

"I took in all of the sights I could because this was the first chance that I had to see things that I had read about in books. We weren't allowed to send any letters at all while we were on the train. After we got into Colorado we passed a train of people going to the Granada relocation center. We stopped at the same station for about 10 minutes so we shouted back and forth that we were going to a better place.

"We got to the Arkansas center late at night as we were way overdue. We were starved as the dining car had been taken off the train at Memphis since it was figured that we would be in camp for the next meal. We were 8 hours overdue and we had nothing to eat all that time and couldn't even get off the train to buy anything. When the train pulled in near camp we didn't know where we were. We were all dumped into some trucks and taken to the block that was ready for us.

"Right away we took showers but something was wrong with the water as it wouldn't wash the soap or dirt off. We grumbled about that for a while and

then we went to eat. Some of the people had volunteered to cook. They asked some other volunteers to cook for the next morning and they were signed up. We had to take quinine pills right away as there were a lot of mosquitoes flying around. There were no screens on the windows so that it was pretty tough at first. We would roast if we kept the windows closed and the mosquitoes would bite us to pieces if we opened them. It was so sultry down there that it took all the energy out of us. We all began to grumble and gripe and wrote back letters and told the Stockton people how bad it was. Some fellows caught big mosquitoes and sent them in envelopes so the Stockton people would know what to expect. I heard later that the Stockton people bought out all mosquito nets at the last minute when all these rumors about mosquitoes went back. They really didn't need them because screens were put in the barracks later.

"One good thing about going in the advance crew was that we were fed real good food. We all had a friendly spirit and we helped each other in everything. We were all cooperative and we all took our share of the work because we felt like pioneers preparing the way for a bunch of settlers. One good thing about going in the advance crew was that there were only 250 of us and we really got good food. The WRA people there really made us feel good as they acted like one of us and they didn't get on their high horses like they did later on when the camp was more settled. At that time they were just one of us and they didn't have any superior attitude.

"We really worked hard to get the camp ready for the people coming in. The barracks were not finished up yet and we had to go around and put in the bed, mattresses, stoves and light bulbs so that the incoming people would at least be comfortable when they arrived after a hard train ride. We cleaned up the place as much as possible. The camp was located on some old cotton fields and we had to clean it off. It looked fairly decent by the time the people came in altho they were disappointed with the black tar paper barracks.

"There was quite a bit of excitement during the time the new arrivals came

in. A train load would come in every other day and we would all go down to help unload the trunks and baggages and we would show the people to their barrack assignments. This kept up until the camp had about 8,000 people. It wasn't overcrowded like some of the other centers. The people came mostly from Stockton and Santa Anita Assembly centers.

"At first we didn't get along with the Santa Anita bunch at all as they were more rugged. They traveled around in gangs and it seemed that they were looking for fights. They sort of felt superior to the Stockton people as they thought we were just hicks. We sort of looked up to them in awe I guess because they were from L.A. and they really acted like they had been around. A lot of the Stockton kids would never associate with the Santa Anita bunch but our gang gradually got to know some of them. As the people got to know each other better, cliques developed and then there were some gang fights. The different gangs started to beat up the guys they didn't like. They laid off our gang as we had enough fellows to protect ourselves and we went around every place together. We were called the Esquires and we organized into a club. We would get together every Wednesday and have a feed from all the food we swiped from the warehouses.

"When we first went into camp we were too busy to play around very much altho I seemed to have plenty of time as my regular job was as a timekeeper like I had in Stockton. I helped my folks fix up the apartment but that didn't take too long. I had no intention of living with them at the beginning as I planned to go live with the gang. My brother and I had a big argument about the clothes I wore. He thought that I should wear more conservative clothes and I didn't like that. My mother started to cry so I finally said I would come back and live with the family instead of living with my friends. My mother was always worried as she thought I was getting to be a little bad. However, she didn't know any of the things I was doing so she couldn't be sure.

"I kept my job as a time keeper all the way through. I was in the maintenance

department and none of the fellows worked very hard. I gave all of them credit for full time work as they were only getting 16 bucks a month and it was no use working too hard for that measly wage.

"Most of my time was spent in recreational activities and I found that it was even better than at Stockton Assembly Center as I got to meet a lot of new girls who came into from other assembly centers. Right away we began to have all sorts of social affairs to get acquainted. I spent a lot of my time going out for all of the sports with the fellows of my gang. We had our own ball club and we called ourselves the Diamond Head. We were considered one of the most active clubs in camp until the Royal Dukes of Santa Anita pulled a fast one over on us. They sponsored a queen contest and everyone in camp got to know that club. They held a coronation ball at the climax and that was one of the biggest social affairs that we ever had in camp.

"My life settled down to the usual routine. We continued our poker sessions and we held bull sessions every night. All we talked about was girls and we got to do more and more of this. Our group got around quite a bit and we considered ourselves sort of experts on girls. We would find out who were the most popular girls in camp and then go after them. We were always competing with one of the Santa Anita groups which was also known as being wolves. I got a new girl friend at Rohwer and she is still supposed to be my steady. In fact, I may even marry her. Frances came out here after me because she was worried that I was going to forget about her and she asked me for another chance recently so that we are going steady again and I may marry her if I save up some money.

"I was pretty hot for a Hawaiian girl out here but she turned me down. She was too jealous anyway. She got sore when I tried to neck her out in the park one night. I still have some fond memories of her though. But Frances has been my steadiest girl friend.

"I met Frances through a friend of mine from Santa Anita. He gave her my address and told her to look me up and tell me to write to him. She was from

Los Angeles and I never knew her before I went to Rohwer. At first I didn't think too much of her until her girl friend told me one day that Frances had dreams about me. I got interested then so I began to call upon her and after that I didn't take another girl out until I came out here. We went to all of the dances and other social activities together. We did some pretty heavy necking too.

"It was at Rohwer that the Nisei fellows really changed. The Stockton fellows all went for the Santa Anita girls because they were from the city and this made the Santa Anita fellows sort of sore. That's why there were so many fights at the dances. The Stockton bunch were influenced quite a bit by the Santa Anita fellows and they were getting pretty wild. Most of the fellows started to wear drapes and let their hair grow long like the L.A. guys. We went to the dances in a gang and we never let anyone out into the girls in our group. Once in a while we were able to smuggle in some whiskey and I started to drink and get a taste for it. We would drink before going to the dances and that made us a little cocky. However, we were mild compared to the Santa Anita gang.

"For a while I even went to night school as I thought I could get some college credit. I still thought now and then of finishing up by college work but this desire seemed to be fading all the time as it looked kind of hopeless. I guess the main reason for going to night school was that Frances was also attending. I soon lost interest in my classes because I had a lot of fun doing other things. At the same time I still had some hopes of going back to Davis eventually as I know I could make the football team there now. In camp I got used to taking it easy and it was too easy to forget about these other things. I never went to church anymore altho my brother tried to encourage me. I also had something else to do on Sundays so I didn't have any time.

"The people didn't start to gripe at all until the food got bad. We only got rice and tomatoes for about one week straight and everyone was pretty sore

about that. We went to the administration and put up a stink. The WRA blamed it on the fact that the shipment of food had not come in. A rumor went around that they were going to starve us out and only old folks got pretty worried. A strike was threatened and after that we got our food okay. From then on the people began to gripe more and more about every little thing and they did not trust the WRA at all. It seemed that they would get all steamed up over every little thing and a lot of them began to agitate around. Even the young fellows did this. Once there was a strike on the motor pool.

"Our group never got involved in all of these things as we were too busy with our social life. I hardly ever noticed anything else going on in camp and I didn't know what they were griping about. They could have gotten a lot of fun and forgotten all their troubles just like we did.

"Once we had a football game and it turned into a riot. We were playing the Santa Anita boys and there were so many fights that the spectators pitched in. There were plenty of black eyes before it was all broken up. For a while after that there were pretty bad feelings between the two groups. The Los Angeles fellows were more rugged and they had everyone scared of them because they carried knives. They had been around quite a bit while the Stockton boys were more timid and they were just getting around in camp.

"I wasn't conscious of any of the political things going on in camp until that registration. Then everybody got excited and the people said that if we signed up we would have to volunteer for the Army. They told us not to register but I wanted to get out of camp so I voluntarily registered and then forgot about the whole thing. The people started to hold meetings all over the place to discuss this stuff. They thought that the registration questions were unfair and that the Nisei shouldn't be asked to fight for America after being evacuated and kicked around. There was a lot of excitement going around, but I didn't know too much of what was happening because our group went on with our usual

social life.

"I know that there were a lot of agitators among the Issei in camp. The Kibeis were pretty bad too. These people would try to get everyone to write 'no' to the registration question. They would stand around the mess hall and call any Nisei who went in to sign up a 'baka tare' (crazy fool). Many of them even tried to force the Nisei not to sign. Most of the Issei in camp thought that the registration was for the Army and they didn't want their sons to be taken away. My father didn't say too much to me as I was old enough to make up my own mind and I wasn't home often enough to talk to him about these things anyway.

"There weren't too many volunteers into the Army from our camp. I guess too many people were against it. I thought about volunteering once but I didn't like the idea of going to Shelby when I heard that the Nisei would be put all together. I went to inquire about the language school at Savage but I didn't make the grade. The fellows in my gang weren't too enthusiastic about volunteering anyway so I didn't do anything more about it.

"My mother was pretty much against my volunteering and she got so worried about it that I sort of dropped the idea. Some of my other friends were considering volunteering but we agreed to give up the idea after talking it over. We heard that Japan would get our records and it might go hard on us after the war if they caught up with us. All of the Issei were saying that and I didn't want to have anyone on my trail for the rest of my life. My mother kept after me and she was so much opposed to it that I told her definitely that I wasn't going to volunteer just to quiet her. She couldn't say anything when I told her I would go willingly if I was drafted as she said I would not have a choice then and she would not oppose that.

"The Kibei were the biggest agitators and they took the whole thing seriously and tried to make everyone in camp go along with them. They had a club and used

to march around early in the morning and do exercises. I think it was the same kind of exercises they got for training in the Japanese Army in Japan. They were a bunch of damn fools. They were pretty much against the registration and I think that most of them went to Tule Lake after segregation started. My folks finally decided to sign 'yes' to the registration as they planned to stay in this country as they had nothing to go back to in Japan. My brother and I said we would not go there to live and my folks couldn't very well make a living without somebody to help them in Japan. I don't think that they will ever regret this choice to stay in this country as they will probably be better off here.

"I resettled in March, 1943. I first started to think about it when some talk about resettlement began around November or December. I filed my application for the clearance among the first. My folks were opposed to my leaving camp at first as they thought I would become a bad boy if I started to run around on the outside and they were not around. I told them that I had been on my own at Davis for two years and I could take care of myself. I said that I wanted to go out and make some money so I could buy a lot of clothes. I had plans of saving about \$50 a month.

"I had a real reason for wanting to get out of camp. I have proposed to Frances and we were planning to get married as soon as I could go out and find a good job. I asked her if she would wait for me if I went out to make money and we had more or less of an agreement. But I guess I sort of forgot about her after I started to get around out here and I met so many different girls. I wasn't afraid of coming out of camp at all. It was an adventure to me and I thought it would be exciting. Chicago wasn't too far away and I didn't think that it would be hard to make a living altho my mother told me that people would be prejudiced against me and I might even be beaten up or killed. She also said I would become a drunkard and go wild if I went out on my own. I just told her that my mind was set on going and I started to pack my stuff.

She didn't believe that I was really serious about it until the day before I left camp because I usually gave in to her on a lot of things.

"My mother reminded me that I only had \$50 to my name and that wasn't enough to go out into a big city where I didn't know anyone and where I wasn't sure of getting a job. She said that I might even go hungry. When it came time to leave my mother finally gave me \$30 as she was so worried that I would starve to death. Besides that my uncle gave me \$20 and the gang chipped in and gave me \$10. Besides that the club also gave me \$2 more. My girl friend's mother gave me some money too and that was enough to pay my way out of camp and get started.

"I guess I had around a hundred dollars to start out life with in Chicago. I only had to use \$18 to pay my train fare out of camp. I left two weeks after my leave clearance came through. A couple of fellows had come back to camp to recruit some people to go to Chicago to work. I was talking to one of these guys and the proposition sounded pretty good so I made up my mind to go at that moment. A friend of mine said that he would come out with me. Before that we didn't have any idea of where we would be going. The job offered was doing platform unloading at the Canfield Beverage Company and we were to start out at 65¢ an hour. That sounded like pretty big money to me at that time compared to what I had made before the war. I never made that much an hour in my life. I didn't realize then that it would cost more to live out here because I was just figuring on the profits.

"I decided to come to Chicago because of that job. I hadn't made up my mind about where I was going until that job offer came up. I asked a couple of my other friends to go along with me but they were a little afraid to take a chance. Not many people had gone out of camp at that time and they were sort of waiting around to see how the advance group would make out. I had about two friends who were already in Chicago and I knew that I would be seeing them so I didn't think I would be exactly alone.

"I guess my main reason for getting out of camp was to make more money as I wasn't exactly bored with all the social life I was having in camp. Just the thought of getting out to buy what I wanted fascinated me. I wanted to get among all different kinds of people once more and to walk on city streets. This was enough to encourage me to come out. I knew that I was getting lazy in camp and I thought I could do better if I got a fresh start. Even though I was having a lot of fun, camp life was getting a little stale as it was the same thing over and over again. I had fun but I knew that it couldn't last forever.

"I didn't think that the draft would come that quick but I would have gone out anyway even if I had known. I was the first of my gang to leave as most of them were too timid to take a chance yet and their parents were objecting at that time. My mother said that if I was set on leaving she wanted me to go to college, but my only thought was to make enough money to get married on. This was my main purpose and I wouldn't have left camp so soon if I didn't have this idea in my mind. I wanted to get my freedom too so that I could do things like everyone else and not have to be behind fences anymore.

"The trip to Chicago did not scare me at all. I had my job lined up before I left camp so that was no worry. When I got here, it was easy on us as the guy from the company came to the station and got our luggage for us. He put us in a hotel and he helped us to find a place to live. We even got a car to go look around in. There were seven of us in the group that came out but I didn't know any of them when I was in camp except to say hello to. It was easy to find a room out here and we got an apartment on 55th St. Three of us lived together there.

"We started to work at the plant right away. We unloaded the trucks on the platform. We were on a broken shift so that we began work at 1:00 p.m. and we quit at 2:00 a. m. in the morning. There were about 15 Nisei working at that plant and most of them were getting 65¢ an hour. We were promised a

raise of 5 cents after working two weeks but the boss wouldn't give it to us so we started to moan. A lot of trouble began after that. One fellow and I finally got fed up with it and we quit. I quit the job because I had a bad knee and I couldn't stand loading those trucks all day. The work was too strenuous and it wasn't good for my knee which I had injured during my playing days on football teams. I didn't like the Nisei foreman there anyway as he drove us too hard. He was working by the week while we were paid by the hour. Naturally we wanted to stretch the time out while he was in a hurry to go home. We didn't like the way he tried to boss us around so we just loafed on him and there were a lot of arguments.

"The fellow I had quit with was a Santa Anita boy and his name was Skunk. He and I went around looking for a new job right away. We heard from other Nisei where the best places to go make applications were located. We got lined up with the Shotwell Manufacturing Company. But we didn't want to take that job right away as we thought we would look around a little more and see which jobs paid the most. One of the Nisei in the building told us about Al House free employment agency so we went down to see him. He sent us up to the Agar Paper Company and it looked like the salary was pretty good so we took the job and began work. Right away I found out that it was hard work. My pal wanted to quit after the first day of work and since there were plenty of jobs around we decided to look for something else and we never did go back to work the second day. I guess that company is still wondering what happened to us because we didn't even go back for our pay.

"We couldn't locate anything better and I didn't have too much money so we went back to the Nisei foreman and asked if we could go back to work for Canfield. He sent us to the boss of the company and the guy bawled the hell out of us for quitting on him without notice. He said that we did not show any appreciation for all the trouble he was going through and that it made it harder for other Nisei in camp. He sort of told us off. I had a guilty conscience so I told

him that I would work steady after that so we got our jobs back.

"We went along on that job for a while but Skunk got into too many arguments and he just walked out on the job one night. I wanted to quit too as I thought I wasn't making enough money. I was only clearing about \$34 a week. I took a day off from my job and went to the American Friends Service and told them I was unemployed. They told me of a pretty good job opening that I was interested in. I went right away and applied for this job. The interviewer said that he would let me know just as soon as possible when the next opening came along. A week later I got a phone call to come to work so I just quit Canfields just there and then. I didn't feel that I owed Canfields anything because I didn't trust that company. It had pulled a dirty trick on us workers. The way the system worked we were supposed to get time and a half on the sixth day. A few workers gave a notice that they were going to change to another job but they agreed to work for six days more. On the fifth day the boss called them in and gave them their checks and told them that they were finished. He only did this because he didn't want to pay them time and a half for the sixth day and we thought it was dirty. After that none of us let the boss know when we were going to quit.

"Another main reason why we didn't like that place was that the Nisei kids didn't get a raise there as promised. One day Hank, another one of my friends, got hot at the Nisei foreman and they started a fight. The boys felt sorry for the foreman as they didn't like to see him get all beaten up so they stopped it. After that the Nisei fellows were pretty determined and the boss finally gave them a 5 cents raise but I wasn't interested in staying there anymore as my new job had come through and I thought I would like it better. I went to work there in June.

"This new job was in an apartment garage and I was the only Nisei there. There was another Nisei who came to work on the day shift and a third one who came on the relief shift but I rarely saw them. I got paid \$130 a month plus

tips. All I did was wash the cars, fill the tanks with gas and oil and park them as they came in. I would work nights one week and then change to the day shift the next. I worked alone in the Cranston Building garage. It was one of those exclusive apartment buildings and all the people who lived there treated me nice. They were all big shots and had big cars.

"I stayed at this job until June of this year, over a year. I finally decided to quit as I got tired of seeing the same cars every day. The pay wasn't any too good and all of my friends were telling me that they were making a lot more and I thought that I should be doing the same thing.

"When I first started working at the garage, I moved to 54th and Harper. When we first went into that building a different manager was running the place and he was very good to us. Then a new manager came in and he didn't want any boochies there. He said that we had to get out. We didn't know about OPA or anything so I started to look around for a new apartment since I had the most free time. I had a pretty tough time. I walked around for a couple of weeks after work and before and tried to find a place where we could go. Most of the places where I went would refuse me in a nice way. In one place the lady was not so nice. She acted nice until she asked me if I was a Jap. I said yes and then she just closed the door in my face and said she didn't want me around. She thought I was some other nationality until then.

"Finally I saw the vacancy sign in this building. I came up to look at it and the landlord was willing to rent. I didn't think much of the apartment but we had to move pretty soon so that we didn't have any choice. We moved into this place a little over a year ago. I'm pretty sure that we are paying above the ceiling rent but we don't say nothing. We pay \$12 a week for the joint. (A combination living and bedroom with a wall bed and a couch plus a small kitchen with frigidaire. No private bath or other facilities included. Furnished.)

"It was pretty crowded for us but we would take turns sleeping on the couch. We had to get a small reserve room later on in order to put our friends up and Buddy (CH-46) sleeps there as he is the only one of us who is immuned to the bed bugs. We are over-crowded so that the place gets dirty pretty quick. We don't figure on moving soon as we may get drafted. We pay six and a half dollars a week for the extra room. We got it when Buddy's younger brother, Hiroshi, came out of camp about two months ago. Hiroshi came out with four young guys on seasonal leave and they all slept in the double bed. Later on the three boys left to go to camp and Hiroshi stayed on with us so there are four of us living together right now.

"Skunk and Hank were living with me at the 54th St. place but Hank's friend started to come in all the time and sort of take over. He had a bunch of rugged friends from L.A. and they began to stay overnight and fill our place all the time. Pretty soon Skunk's friends came to live with us and six of us were living in that one room. Then Buddy's older brother, Masami, came out of camp and he was my friend so I decided to go live with him. That was when we moved to 54th and Harper. While I was living with Masami, his brother, Buddy, and James came out of camp and they moved in with us. A few days later Teruo joined us. That was when we had our trouble with the landlord and we had to move. Masami didn't come out to our new place on 60th and Harper as he found a girl and he got married.

"When we first moved here we found that we couldn't all stay here so Masami and Teru found a place of their own at first while James, Buddy and I moved in here. Teruo later moved out when Masami got married and he went to another city. After we were living here for about one month, Butch came out of camp to stay with us and he started to work at H.B. Smith and Company. Butch's brother then came out of camp and he moved in. That was okay because

3 of them worked on a night shift and they slept during the day, so that we were able to put everyone up. Then Butch went back to camp and Harry came out next. Harry worked at H.B. Smith too. Then Shig went back to camp. A little later on a couple of Harry's friends, Kiyoshi and Tom, came from camp and they moved in. They were out on short term leaves and we began to feel crowded so they got an apartment in the back of this building. Then 2 more friends came out of camp and we got this small room for them. James then went to Colorado and later he came back but it was too crowded here so he is living at the 'Y' now. The short term fellows then left for camp and Harry decided to go back too. After that Buster (CH-47) came to live with us as Buddy had met them at H.B. Smith Company. Hank was not working at that time as he was bumming all around at his friends' place. He would leave some of his clothes at each place and then move all around. He is still bumming around this way and he hasn't worked for a month. Buster was Hank's friend and that's how we met him. I first knew Hank as we worked at Canfield's together and we lived together with Skunk. Then a couple of months ago Hiroshi came out and now four of us are here now. (Sus, Hiroshi, Buster and Buddy). It's all very complicated because so many fellows have lived here so that I don't remember them all. Sometimes I would come home and find a stranger in bed and I would just tell him to move over as I figured that he was my pal's friends and sometimes we'd sit down to eat with strangers. We fed as many as 12 guys here at one time.

"At first I didn't want Buster to come in with us because I thought he was too rugged but I gave in. I think there must have been over 15 guys who have come to stay with us off and on. The landlady used to get real sore at us because we had so many people coming and going. Just the

other night we put up 3 guys for the night and the landlady said she wasn't going to stand for it anymore. That's why we have to be a little more careful or we may get thrown out.

"We aren't too worried about that because we figure that we got something on the landlady as she is charging us too much rent for the apartment and we could report it. There are about nine boochies in this building now but I don't know any of them. The landlady likes the others okay and there haven't been any complaints by the other people in the house. I know a few of the other boochies in the building casually but we stick mostly to our friends. We plan to stay at this place until we get drafted or something drastic happens. We like this neighborhood and we can get a lot of canned food and stuff without ration points at the store. We have good transportation facilities as the I.C. is right outside.

"All this time I worked along on my job at the apartment garage and I got bored with it as the months went by. Last June, 1944, I quit this job and I loafed around for a week to take it easy. Then I started to look for another job. During the time I was loafing around I spent most of my time taking girls out. When my money began to run a little low, I remembered that the Precision Company said that I could have a job there so I went and applied. That's the job I'm doing right now but I don't care much for it.

"It's a small shop and it makes automobile parts and repair kits. There are about 5 boochie boys and 3 girls there out of the 20 workers in all. I get paid 75 cents an hour and it is a 9 and a half hours a day and I could net 48 hours a week if I work full time. The first week at that job, I didn't mind it so much but after that I had trouble. I took 2 days off and it felt good so I began to make a practice of it. At first the boss didn't say nothing. Then I began to go to work late and once I took a whole week off because I felt lazy. I thought that I would be fired so I went to

ask for a release but the boss wouldn't give it to me. The reason I wanted to quit was because I was getting all the dirty jobs there. They still won't give me a release and I have been taking more and more days off. About a week ago another Nisei fellow got fired because he had an argument with the superintendent. He was unloading a 100 pound sack and it was too heavy for him so he loafed around the rest of the day and the boss got sore and fired him. I could do that too but I can't seem to loaf. When I do go to work I put in my full efforts. But they won't fire me for taking so many days off. I haven't worked a full week there yet. The best I did was 5 days. Last week I put in 4 days and this week only 3 days. (first week in August, 1944).

"I get put on all of the odd jobs. Some days I am on the milling machine and some days I work the drill press or grinding machines. I don't like the foreman there as he seems to hate to see anybody talking while working. He gripes me the way he gives me orders just to show his authority. The superintendent of the place is a good Joe though. The company has had trouble with the Nisei because it is too slow in raising the wages above 75 cents an hour. That's why so many Nisei walk out on them even if they can't get releases. That's what I may have to do. There is such a shortage of workers that the company keeps hiring the Nisei even though that they know they are disgusted with the Nisei. The Nisei who are steady are good workers and they give us a good reputation even if some of us play around on the job. The only trouble is that they never get raises even though they work hard. One Nisei there has operated a big machine there for over a year and a half. He still is only getting 75 cents an hour and he hasn't gotten one raise since he's been there. The company gives a bonus every six months but you have to stick around to get it. The last time the bonus was between \$100 and \$200.

"I really don't know what I am going to do with myself or what work I am interested in. I am just hanging on hoping that I will get fired so I can make a fresh start some other place. I'll stay there as long as I can go to work any time and take days off when I please. I plan to work full time eventually altho I am in a little slump right now. All I make now is my room and board. My plans still are to make enough monty to get married on but I don't know. Frances keeps asking me all the time and I don't know. She's out here where she can keep an eye on me so I can't play around too much unless I sneak out on her. I'm trying to make enough money at the horse races to get married on.

"One good thing about the precision plant is that everybody knows each other there and we all get along good. If I get fired, I'll just look for another job and it won't be hard at all. I think I would like to get a job as a shipping clerk. I'd rather be on a job where I could walk around a bit. But I don't know what my work plans are. I may even loaf around for a while like my roommate but I can't afford it as I don't have the money.

"I'm not saving a thing now. When I was at the garage I worked every day and I was steady for a whole year. I saved my money and I had \$450 in the bank when I quit the place but that is all spent now except for \$100. I have about \$100 worth of war bonds too. I spent all the rest of the money that I made out here. / It costs quite a bit to live out here. It costs me \$25 a month for rent and \$30 for food. I spend about \$10 for clothes, \$3 for laundry. Usually I spend about \$10 a month to send stuff to my folks in camp but that is only when I am flush. I had to repay some debts and it cost me around \$10 a month for gifts. All the rest of money goes to recreation and it's not nearly enough for me to do all the things I want to do. I took two trips back to camp already and that cost me quite a bit. The first time I went back to

camp was during the first month I was out here. I had a little trouble with my girl friend as I was really faithful to her. She wrote me a letter and said that she wasn't going to hold me to my promise and she said something about a break so I couldn't think straight or work at all until I went back to camp to straighten it up. I was a hundred dollars in a hole from that trip. Then I went back to camp again last September to visit my folks during my week's vacation from the garage job. All of this cost money and I'm spending it right along now for fun.

"I wish I could make about \$60 clear a week without working my fool head off. It's hard to say what kind of work I will be doing for the duration. I'll stay at my place if they don't give me all those dirty jobs. But if I get fired, I'll try to get a job where I'll have to go every day. I want to get a job where I have more responsibilities. My job right now doesn't mean a thing to me and I oversleep a lot. My alarm clock never works right anyway and we all get up at different hours of the day.

"I don't know what I'll do after the war. Most likely I'll go back to our farm in California. I think I could make a go of that as I have had some experience in farming. I'm not cut out for anything else as I haven't studied for any special field besides farming.

"Maybe I might go into produce marketing after the war. My brother was working on a quick freezing project before the war and he knows a little bit about that. But everything is uncertain yet. It all depends upon how this war comes out. Maybe they won't even let us go back to California. I might even stay out in Chicago as one place is good as another as long as I make a living. All I'm doing now is getting by. I take things as they come so that my mind is really not made up. My folks are planning to go back to California. They told me that they would sell the farm and

start a business in Chicago if I want that but I am sort of confused. I think I have been in a sort of daze since last April. That was because of the draft.

"I got a notice to report for my pre-induction physical last April. I had changed my draft to Chicago so things got mixed up. I had to wait around until they got straightened out on that. Then I went for my physical but my name was mixed up with another fellow who had the same order number that I did. They didn't know what to do with me so they gave me an administrative reject until my papers were straightened out again. I figured that I would be called in at least another month so I didn't make any plans for myself. Then last June I got a notice to come and sign some papers so that I could take my physical. When I got there they discovered that the draft board was all mixed up on my records again. They wrote to the California board and I had to wait around some more.

"Finally they decided to shift all of my selective service to the 53rd St. board. At present I'm still waiting for the pre-induction physical and I am up in the air. I've been under a strain all this time. I want to get it over with so that I will know exactly where I stand. The draft board told me that I would be called for sure in August. After I get my physical I will have to wait around for a few months until I am inducted. I'm thinking of signing up for immediate induction when I take my physical because it is too much of a strain to loaf and wait around for the call. A lot of the Nisei fellows are loafing around waiting for the draft now and it sort of gets them down. I'd rather know that I am going definitely. I want to get into the Army and get the whole thing over with. I just wrote to my draft board recently and told them to hurry things up. They sure messed me up when I really wanted to go in. My pals are going in and the rest of them will be taken in soon so I want to be with them.

"My folks still don't want me to go into the Army as my brother is already in. They are always trying to discourage me on this whenever they write. I don't know why I want to get into the Army because I don't have any reason for it. I think I want to get into uniform now because everyone else is in the service now. I enjoyed ROTC in college. I'd rather not be in a segregated unit but I guess it can't be helped. I'd like to be a gunner in the air corps.

"As far as my folks are concerned, they are happy enough now and I can't do anything for them now. They are in Park Ridge, Ill. working in a greenhouse and they can support themselves. It's better for them to live out there than to come to Chicago. They have been out there for about 3 months now. Eventually they plan to go back to California and they are saving money for that. They expect me to go with them because they are too old to do all that farm work and I guess I am sort of obligated. They would come to Chicago if I asked them to, but I don't want them around here as they would keep much of an eye on me and it would be bad for my morale.

"When I first started to work out here, I was uneasy about how the hakujin people would take me. I never had any trouble about being called a Jap because they always took me for another race. Right now the chances are good for the Nisei as there are jobs galore and the employers are looking for good workers. The hakujin people don't seem to be too prejudiced against the boochies except at certain times.

"I don't worry about getting a job as there are at least six places that I could go get a job tomorrow. Chicago still has plenty of openings and maybe it is too easy for us because we tend to look for the best jobs knowing that there is always some place open to us. I guess this sort of spoils me. In the plant where I am working right now, I

think I could stay on after the war if I settled down and if I got in good with the boss. It is a small place and it is growing up now so that the workers there now will have a chance to keep on with it after the war. I figure that most of the good Nisei will keep their jobs after the war if they learn their work real well and show the boss that they are better than the average worker. However, I am worried that when the boys come back from the war the jobs will get scarce and a lot of Nisei are going to lose their jobs even if they are good workers. Some of the old guys at the plant tell me that it really gets bad in a depression and you can't even buy a job. I've never been through a depression as I was too young in the last one so I don't know what's its like. Maybe we are getting spoiled making all this money now because we won't know how to live when things get harder. There is bound to be a depression after the war.

"I have an idea that most of the boochies will stick around Chicago after the war as they haven't got anything to go back to in California. It will be hard for me to go back to a secluded farm life after getting used to the gay life of Chicago. A lot of times I think to myself that I should save some money and get ready for the future, but I don't do it as there seems to be too many things for me to spend my money on in having fun right now. I am overdoing it at the present time but that may pass. I should be working more steady and I know that. But I just don't feel in the frame of mind for it right now. For one thing, I don't get enough sleep as I go out at night too much and I get pretty darn sleepy at work. I guess I will change eventually or else I will get drafted so why should I worry about it.

"A lot of my friends out here are loafing right now and a lot of them are steady workers too. The steady ones are more quiet and they are more backward as they don't drink or go to the hot spots. Some of my friends had been loafing around for months and they live off gambling.

They only work when they have to. I guess I am slowly getting to be one of these guys, but my conscience does bother me all the time. I hate to have the thought of being without a job for any period of time. If I had a friend living with me who works steadily, then I would go to work all the time too. But I am living with some fellows who don't care to work right now and I see that they are enjoying themselves so I am beginning to like their easy life more and more. I wasn't always like that.

"When I first came out to Chicago I had a girl in camp and she was all I thought about day and night. I got a letter from her every day and that pepped me up and I didn't mind working at nights. I only went out with other fellows and I rarely went to the shows. I didn't go to any night clubs at all and I didn't begin to drink much until later. One incident happened that sort of changed my mind on a lot of things. I had a feeling at that time that everyone was for us and that it was worthwhile to work hard and save money. We were on the way home one night on the El and we didn't know our way around so we asked a kurombo for the direction. The kurombo asked us a lot of questions like a policeman and he said that he was working in the police department. We got suspicious of him and we changed cars. The kurombo grabbed my friend so we asked what the idea was. After a couple of blocks the kurombo told us to get off but a hakujin told us to stay on. The kurombo stayed with us a little later. The hakujin got off the car with us and the kurombo followed. Finally we got rid of him after we threatened to hit him. The hakujin told us that he was trying to get us off the car in the colored district to roll us. We were green then but I found out later. I found out that everyone in Chicago was out for fun and I didn't see why I should become a hermit. I wasn't having any fun at all. I thought that if I didn't spend more of my money I would get it stolen anyway so I had better enjoy some of it.

"I led a very quiet life for a couple of months until Hank's friend came out of camp. Then I moved in with Masami. I didn't do much until his brother, Buddy, came out. We still didn't know very many friends out here. Buddy wanted to get around to meet some people so I started to go around to see some girls with him. We began to visit them more and more often. We met quite a few girls after that and we began to go to the beach and shows together. Then we started to go to dances and night clubs.

"I started to feel pretty good with this kind of life as I thought I was missing something and I wanted to go out all the more. One thing led to another so I started to go out on a lot of dates. We went to all of the Nisei dances held out here last winter and spring. We went in our little group and it seemed to be pretty good to go to these Nisei dances because it was just like camp. There were a lot of L.A. fellows around and they were different. The girl I had used to go around with some of them and they thought that they owned her. They wanted to cut in on us and there was quite a gang of them. At one dance we almost had a brawl. I had a feeling that something was cooking. On our way out I noticed that a bunch of them were standing by the door. There were only 3 of us and I was a little worried. When we went out, they made some dirty cracks but we didn't pay any attention so nothing happened.

"I went to most of the Nisei dances out here and I had a lot of fun. A lot of the guys got drunk but I never paid any attention to them as long as they didn't bother me. I only went to those dances drunk once when I didn't have a date. One of my friends had a fight at the Midland dance once and he pulled a knife on a guy. Some of the Los Angeles guys carry knives yet and they are always waiting around to gang up on somebody.

One of these days somebody is going to get hurt.

"I also started to take my dates to the Aragon and other places like that and this cost quite a bit of money. It was at this time that I began to get more and more sexy ideas about girls. I had fooled around with a lot of them but I was always a virgin up to that time as I was always afraid to go all the way. All of the fellows I met out here were experienced and they used to kid me about it. They said I couldn't get to be a man unless I laid a girl. I got more confidence in myself so I began to fool around with the girls seriously but I still was afraid to go all the way with a Nisei girl. I was still supposed to be engaged but I wasn't thinking too much of my girl friend at that time because I was too busy running around. I deliberated a long time but I still didn't want to go all the way with a Nisei girl because I didn't know how they would react.

"It was about this time that we met some Caucasian girls. We got to know them pretty good and we began to take them to the Aragon. We got kicked out of them once because they didn't want any mixed couples. After that we took them to taverns and started to drink with them. One night I was invited to this Caucasian girl's room and I slept with her all night. After that I had ideas about laying any girl whether she was a Nisei or not. We had met these Caucasian girls through friends. It seems to be sort of a fever that I had to get out of my system and that's all I could think of. I was always on the hunt after that. I really had changed since camp and I got brave with women. I never would have gone that far in camp altho I had the idea.

"One night I went to the Stevens Hotel to see a friend. He told me that there was a Nisei girl who was quite free with her body so that I began to date her out. After the third date she let me come up to her room. After that I had to have her every night. I began to take her to

shows and bars. This girl was the first Nisei girl that I ever had in that way. I began to bring her up to my apartment here a few times and I would sleep with her in the extra room. She used to work over-time at the Stevens Hotel on special occasions and they would give her a room for the night if it got too late. She always phoned me up and I would go down and sleep with her there.

"Then one day I found out that she was taking me seriously and she gave me some hints about getting married. I wasn't in love with her or anything like that so I decided not to see her anymore. I was supposed to take her to one of the Nisei dances but I took a Caucasian girl instead. The Nisei girl got pretty sore about this and I told her that I didn't like to take boochie girls out anymore because they got too serious. She knew then that there wasn't a chance for us to get married so we dropped our affair since then. I haven't seen her since that time but I know that I could get her any time now if I got that desperate.

"I have taken a number of other Nisei girls out but only a couple of them would let me lay them. Some of them were pretty green at it and they didn't know what to do. I've taken other Nisei girls out just to be sociable, and I would just have fun with them. I think that most girls are pretty easy to get. I like to fool around the Caucasian girls better because they don't take you seriously. I have more fun with them because they are a little more experienced. I only had trouble with one Caucasian girl. She was only a young girl but I didn't know it at that time. She said she was in love with me and she insisted that she would jump into the lake unless I came over to see her. And that really got me scared.

"This girl was only 17 years old and that was jail bait. She was

pretty passionate and after I hugged with her for a while she got me pretty excited so I couldn't help having an affair with her. One night in the park I laid her under the bushes. It got worse after that and she kept on asking me to come see her. I didn't know what to do about it. I finally told her I had to break with her before I got into trouble. Then I brought her up to my room for the last time for an affair. Those last times went on for two months. Then it happened that I began to go to her room. Some people on the first floor at her apartment saw me going in and out of the place and they reported her to the cops. The cops came and picked her up and they insulted her quite a bit as they said she was a prostitute. They said she was seeing a lot of Japs and getting money for it. They wanted the names. She wouldn't give them my name. Her parents got her out of jail and they were pretty mad. She was taken home. She told her parents about me and said she was in love with me. They got pretty mad when they found out that she was in love with a boochie.

"I got worried when she told me all about this because I didn't think of getting married. I went to meet her at the park one night because that was the safest place. We talked for about 4 hours and then broke up definitely. I thought sure I got rid of her but she called me up again about a month later. I told her that I couldn't see her again until she was 18 but she kept pleading. I gave in and I went to dinner at her place. She had a big fight with her parents and moved out into an apartment of her own. She wanted me to sleep there that night but I finally broke away at 3 o' clock in the morning but I was afraid that the cops were still watching her.

"I wasn't able to go to work the next day. The girl called me up again so I went back to her place the next evening but I brought my roommate along with me. We drank a gallon of beer and we got to feeling pretty good. Dorothy wouldn't let me go home so I took her out to the fire escape

and I started to get pretty excited so I took her into the bathroom and had an affair. Dorothy was living with two other Caucasian girls. One of them started to go for me and she began to call me up. All three of those Caucasian girls went for Boogie boys in a big way because I guess there is a man shortage now. I was invited to a party at their place about a week later. Then the other two girls had to go to work except Lorraine. She showed me a dirty book and we started to drink. After that we went to a tavern where she worked and we had some more drinks. I began to take her out on the sly because Dorothy got pretty jealous. I brought Lorraine up to my room once or twice.

"I haven't seen these girls for about 3 weeks now as Dorothy and Lorraine had a pretty big fight. Now Dorothy is going around with a marine. She was just too young for me and I didn't want to get into trouble. She told me once that she was pregnant and I really got worried. I was thinking of going to New York as it would really be a disgrace if my folks found out about it. Now I can breathe easier.

"All this time I was still going to marry Frances. I got lonesome here in Chicago so that's why I began to play around with other girls altho I was faithful the first two months I was out here. My room mate was doing night work as I would go to the 63rd St. tavern to have a drink by myself and that is how I picked up a Caucasian girl the first time. I began to drink more and more as I was lonesome and this seemed to make me forget a little. Pretty soon I started to go to night clubs. Once I was in the Stag Inn by myself when a hakujuin guy came up and said he didn't like Japs. He told me to get out of the place so I had an argument with him. I told him I had a right to be in that place. I was pretty sore and I didn't care as I had a few drinks myself. I began to tell him that we were just as loyal as he was. He didn't believe that there were any Nisei in the Army at all and kept trying to get me into a fight with him but I didn't want to fight with

him. Finally he got so nasty but I didn't say anything as I didn't want to give a bad name to the boochies. He told me to get 25 boochies from Kimbark St. as he saw a lot of them. He would bring 25 of his gang and we could have it out.

"I just stood up for my rights and finally he said I was okay and he bought me a drink. Then he said that he would take me to a whore house but I didn't want to go so I finally left the place. The guy shook hands with me when I went out and I figured that I won the battle with words and I convinced him that the Nisei were loyal. Most of the time when I went to taverns by myself no one ever bothered me. I would get in a very moody frame of mind and then I would come home and write a letter to Frances in camp.

"I kept writing to her all the time even when I was stepping out. Then our letters began to get less and less so I started to fool around even more. That was when I had an affair with a Hawaiian girl that I met at a dance in July. She invited me to a beer party at her place. She said that she was going back to Hawaii in five days and that was the reason she gave the party. We drank and we got sort of sentimental over each other. I stayed with her all night and I didn't go to work the next day. Then I took her to a show the next night and I stayed with her again. On Saturday I took her to a prom and on Sunday I phoned her place and I took her out to the beach. We just went out there and got sentimental over each other. I really went for her in a big way. That night she left Chicago for San Francisco but I still think a lot of her. She just wrote me a letter today (showing it) and it really is mushy. I kept feeling sort of lonesome for her as I fell for her pretty hard.

"I was so lonesome after that that I wrote to Frances and told her about the Hawaiian girl. I said that if she came out of camp maybe things would be the same with us. In the meantime I started to go around with another Nisei

girl I knew and I got sentimental over her too. I don't know what's the matter with me. We went swimming, picnics and shows together. I was really serious over her and I didn't try to get funny at all. Frances wrote back about a break as she said she didn't want to be second fiddle to anyone. Then she came out of camp. She was sore at me so she wouldn't talk to me at all when I went to visit her. Finally I took her to Riverview but she was still cold so I thought it was a break for good. The next night I took the other girl out and told Frances it was the end for us and she started to cry and ask me if we couldn't start all over again. I was caught between two girls and it was hard to choose between Frances and the other girl. Finally I broke with the other girl and haven't seen her since.

"Frances and I are engaged now and she wants to get married right away. I don't have any money and I didn't want to get married so quick as I think I will be drafted soon and it wouldn't be fair to her. Frances told me that she would rather have a couple of months of happiness so I guess I will get married if I save enough money. Everyone knows we're going to get married so I can't walk out on her. I don't know what love is. That's why I'm playing the horses. So many rumors have gone out that I am married and my mother heard it. If I don't marry her now my name is mud.

"Right now I don't think we should get married so quick as I have a feeling that I will still play around with other girls as I am not settled in my mind yet. Frances thinks we are going to get married in a couple of weeks and I don't know what to do yet. I got a slow start in life and didn't get started with girls until I went to camp so that I am sort of making up for lost time right now. I guess I love Frances though since I am going to marry her. I wish I really knew what love is. I still think of the Hawaiian girl and of the last Nisei girl I broke with in a sentimental way. I thought I was in love with them too but I am getting over it. I guess it is possible to love 2 or 3 girls at the same time.

"I don't have any set date for getting married right now but it might be

soon if I hit a good long shot race. Frances is getting disgusted with me for not going to work steadily. She is only 19 years old but she seems to be more matured than I am. The parents of both sides expect us to get married so that is why it is hard to break with her. Frances is nice looking and all that and she is a swell girl but I think I am too restless to get married. The whole thing has been on my mind for the last 3 weeks and I don't know what to do yet. All my friends expect us to get married soon and I can't say no exactly.

"My life has spread out quite a bit since I've been out here. I've met a lot of new friends since coming to Chicago. When I was working at the garage a fellow wanted me to go to a Boy Scout camp to be a leader and they would have paid all my expenses. However, I didn't feel like going there. Another friend at the garage used to take me boat riding out on the lake. When I left the garage, all these friends bought me a pen and pencil set because I told them that the reason I was leaving was because I was getting drafted.

"Now I see mostly boochie friends. I like to make friends with everyone and I don't care if he's a boochie or hakujin. Right now I am more or less in a Stockton group but a lot of times I go by myself to go visit some of my other Nisei friends. I am the oldest one of my room mates. At first I used to act as their leader. I sort of got used to being a leader as I was a club president in elementary school and a leader of the scouts. That influenced me to give orders and this used to gripe Buddy and Buster no end. I told them to keep the house clean, save money, go to work every day, hang clothes up, help do the cooking and dish washing and everything like that. I thought I was being a good influence on them.

"But within 3 months I found that I have changed so that I am more like them. I don't go to work regularly. I don't hang up my clothes neatly. I don't care if the dishes are dirty. I go to the horse races, I play poker and I fool around with women. Before then I used to get after my room mates but now they get after me. I used to do all of the cooking but I let them do it once in a while now and I don't come home to eat when I think they are broke.

I still play only a small game of poker and I don't go in for big time like they do. I don't feel right about it and I get a guilty feeling about losing a lot of money or taking it away from the other guys when they work so hard. Some of the games have about \$500 on the table. I always play for it in a very cautious way, but I am thinking of playing it big pretty soon as I would like to make a big haul. I might as well have something to show for these all night sessions.

"I don't know too much about Buster as I only got to know him fairly well out here. He is only 19 years old. I guess he would be called a bad boy back home but he seems to be okay to me and he is one of us now. He doesn't care to go to work altho he used to work steady when he first came out here and he saved his money. He started to loaf around little by little and now he doesn't care to work ever.

"Buddy used to work hard back home as he is used to hard work. Out here he started to take days off from his work as he was making plenty of money and pretty soon he began to take 2 and 3 days off and then a week. Now he doesn't work at all as he has been living off gambling for the last six weeks and he doesn't intend to go back to work unless his luck runs out. It's hard for me to work steady when they are around as we go to a lot of places together.

"I didn't step out with them much before as they were doing night work. After they started to loaf around, I began to do the things they did and I cut off some of my other activities. I find that I am enjoying this kind of life, only I wish I had a lot of money so that I could play the horses all I wanted to without worrying that it is my last cent. I only get a guilty conscience when I go to big gambling games but not to the horse races as it is a sport to me. I lost \$10 the last time I went.

"There are a lot of Nisei fellows who are out at the tracks every day and they make their living off the horses. Another L.A. fellow that I met through my friends just started to come around with us and he is beginning to get the horse racing fever too and he just quit his job the other day. He is only

20 years old and he was a quiet boy before he met us. Now he want to go out and get drunk and do everything else now. The girls are scared of him because he always gets too direct. Tosh is another Stockton boy who is waiting around for the draft and he makes his living off gambling too. There sure are a lot of my friends who are loafing around now and just spending their money for fun.

"I can think of 7 or 8 of them just off hand and none of them gives a dam about the future or anything. There are a helluva lot of them loafing around on Clark St. and on the north side but I don't know any of them. It seems that most of the Nisei don't feel like working now as it doesn't give them enough time to have fun. They put in about 10 hours a day and they only have time to eat and go to bed. There's no percentage in that and they feel that they might as well go out and enjoy themselves before the Army takes them. They all save their money up at first and then they decide to have fun like me. Some of them just quit their jobs without giving any notice and they loaf around for 2 months so that they can get an automatic release and then go after another job when their money runs out.

"I know that this isn't too good for the boochies because it may hurt the future. Sometimes I think of the future but I don't know what to make of it. I am against the Japanese getting too much in one place as too many eyes will be on you then. Then the tongues will begin to wag and it isn't good for anyone. A lot of the boochies hang around at the YMCA on Wabash St. and it doesn't look so good. As far as I am concerned, it doesn't matter too much to me if they got a Japanese community out here though. It might affect the public in the wrong way though. Personally I try to make friends with Caucasians but it is hard because I don't get too much of a chance. You have to be careful of this too as there are a lot of Caucasians who try to take advantage of you. It doesn't bother me too much if I get called a Jap as I figure that they are ignorant anyway.

"I think that there is more prejudice against the Nisei right now than it ever was before the war. I never knew that there was any prejudice before the war because I never faced it as far as I knew. I knew we were different from other people but they didn't look down on us. Maybe because I didn't have to go house or job hunting out in California and that's why I didn't come up against it. There's plenty of prejudice out here. It may go down after a while depending on the outcome of the war. But I think that there will always be a group of hakujin against us and also a group who are for us. Those who are for us can't say too much right now as they get slammed in public for being Jap lovers. Most of the public is suspicious of us and don't think we are loyal Americans.

"The reason why the Nisei don't have more clubs of their own out here is because it doesn't look good to congregate at present. For our own good, I think that it would be better if we are spread out now altho the Nisei seem to be coming together in spots. That can't be helped as certain sections are more willing to rent places to the boochies.

"There isn't much that I can do about it as I figure that there is no democracy during the war anyway, but it will come during the peace time. We should get all the rights of a citizen if we fight in the Army. But they may still try to kick us out of the country by changing the constitution. I don't think I'll ever go to Japan as I figure I'll stay here all of my life. I'm used to it here and it is the only life I know. I sometimes wonder if we would be worse off if Japan won the war. I wonder if people would be more bitter toward us or whether they will respect us more as equals.

"A lot of times in my own mind I wish that they would get some of those guys like DeWitt and Hearst and make them eat their own words right in public. There fellows don't give us a chance because they say we are guilty right away just because they didn't like our parents when they first came over. It looks

like the U.S. got the edge in this war and I am willing to go help out if I am drafted in spite of the fact that there are many things wrong with this country. I don't think the war will be over too quick yet because you can't tell what the boochie Army has got up their sleeve as they are fanatic. The Germans may fall pretty soon and there will be more feeling against the boochie living here so that I figure I will be better off in the Army because people can't say anything against a U.S. uniform then. Japan couldn't begin to keep up with the U.S. war production so she will lose the war in the end.

"I have an idea that Japan will be limited by the allies after the war in her trade and she will get pushed down in the mud. That isn't a good peace. This will only make Japan more bitter so that there will be more trouble later on. I hope that there is a good peacesettlement but politics is something I don't understand too well. I have a feeling that the war is all for money. If profits were taken out of war, there would be no war. They are just fighting for power right now. But I am willing to fight for the U.S. as I plan to live here always and it is my country in spite of what some Caucasians may say. At least I can say that I have a more definite part in the war effort if I were drafted. That's about all the future I can look forward to now."

The following pages are further extracts from C.K. Diary in regards to further developments of this individual and his room-mates CH-46 and 47 which will be dictated in the near future.

I spent most of the day over at Buddy's apartment and I managed to finish the interview with him. He was talking on and off for about six hours and I did not need to prompt him. In between, we ate and had a few drinks. He wanted to know if I could advise him on how he should reform, but I said that I could not tell him anything as it would be up to him to determine if he wanted to change his present pattern of living or not. He claims that he is having a lot of fun and that he would loaf around for at least two more months yet.

Sus was also there. He hasn't gone to work for three days in a row now and he is not going again tomorrow. It's a wonder that he does not get fired as he has been taking a lot of days off lately. Sus has the following explanation to make: "I was really going to work yesterday but I overslept. I did the same thing today. I decided to go to the bank and draw out \$25 so that I could pay back some debts. I went to the bank and I was on my way home. At the I.C. station I saw a lot of people going to the race tracks and I suddenly thought to myself, 'Suppose I go out there and bet on the horse. Maybe I could win a lot of money and then I would be able to pay my debt and have some money besides.' That was enough for me and I got on the train and I went out to Washington Park. Just before I started to bet on the horses, I had a feeling that I might lose so I bought a hot-dog so I would not starve all day. I met some friends out there and I came home broke. Boy, if I ever hit it big and win all my money back, I think I will quit. It gets in your blood when you see those horses coming down the track and your money is on one of them. It's exciting as hell and much more fun than working

in an old factory; I'm going to go again tomorrow. I'm going to the bank today and pay my debts for sure. I think I am getting a little close at the tracks as my long shots are coming in third now." } Sus went out to the bank with Buster and he was supposed to come right back to eat but they did not show up for the rest of the afternoon so that Buddy concluded that they went to the tracks again.

Buddy said that he went to see some friends last night to collect some poker debts but did not get the courage up to ask for the money as they knew that he has been winning quite heavily in poker and at the race tracks during the last few weeks. Buddy said that the fellow are making \$98 a week so that he could afford to pay the \$50 debt. He gave a rather detailed account of the type of life that the fellows who are loafing around lead. Buddy isn't too happy with his present life of ease, but he thinks that he is. The main problem on his mind is getting a steady girl friend now so that he will have somebody to write to when he gets drafted. He is a nice-looking fellow and he competes with Sus as they both know the same girls. Every once in a while, Buddy's strict home training comes out so that I could see that he has a lot of guilty feelings about some of the things he does. "My mother told me what was right and what was wrong so that I never try to lay a nice girl. That isn't right. If a girl is willing to play, then it is okay to try and make her. But I want to know some more of the nicer girls as I have ideals about getting married and stuff like that. It seems that so many of the Nisei girls out here are going wild. They drink and smoke now and they never would have done that back home." What

Buddy believes in and what he actually does offer a nice study in contradictions. ~~it~~

Aug. 7, 1944: I spent most of the day interviewing
Buster (CH-47). When I got over there I found ^{Sus}~~Eugie~~ still in
bed. He has not gone to work for a week now. ^{Sus}~~Eugie~~ (CH-45)
thinks that he will be fired for sure now. I suspect that he had
some sort of a guilty conscience because he said that the reason
he stayed home was that he had heart burns. The real reason was
that he played poker until 6:00 this morning. Sus went to see a
girl Saturday so that he did not get out to the horse races. He
played poker from 9:00 p.m. Saturday night to 9:00 a.m. the next
morning. Then he took his girl friend out on a date yesterday.
He took her home about 1:00 a.m. On the way home, he met a
couple of friends who were going to be inducted today and they
didn't want to sleep so he brought them over to his place and
the boys had a friendly game of poker which lasted until 6:00
this morning. Sus said that he won \$15 in the poker game Satur-
day night, but he lost it all last night so that he broke even.

After they ate, Sus decided to look for a new job. "I
think I will just quit my job and not go back. I'll give my
garage job as my last reference. I've got to work pretty soon
as I've only got about \$25 bucks left to my name. I have a ten
dollar check coming from work so I think I'll go collect that.
I'm not exactly flat as Buster owes me four bucks and I have
about \$40 of debts that I have to collect yet. Skunk owes me
\$25 but he is in camp now. I think I will write and ask him for
it." Sus left to investigate the possibility of getting a job

in an ice plant for 90c an hour, but he came home late in the afternoon and announced that it was too warm and he could not get a job release so he went into a show to cool off. He said that he did not think he would save enough money to get married for a long time so that he might have an affair with his girl although he has honorable intentions towards her.

Buddy (CH-46) slept most of the day as he was tired out from the poker session. He went to the races three days in a row and he played poker two nights in between so that he has not had too much sleep lately. His luck has gone sour but he thinks that it is only temporary and he is not thinking of going to work for quite a while yet. Buddy lost \$100 in the last four days, but he said that he was still far ahead. But I noticed that he had a hard time collecting \$5 to put into the food pot as his share. The boys all owe each other money and they borrow from Hippo, 17, who is the only one working steadily--at the Stevens Hotel.

Buster was in a very talkative mood today. It is hard to figure him out but I got the impression that under his tough surface he is a sensitive fellow. Buster has been losing steadily at the races and in poker so that he is in debt quite a bit. He is beginning to be a little remorseful and he announced that he might look for a job next week but I don't think that he will do it until his borrowing credit is exhausted. He has borrowed quite a large sum from Buddy already. Buster said that he has put the tough on several girls for \$5 and \$10 each. As a last resort he will join the Army and he thinks that it will be tragic if he gets 4-F!

"I think that I will look for a job pretty soon as my luck is sour. Maybe I will go job hunting with Sus if he can get a release. I want to get at least \$40 a week if I go to work. It cost me that much to live. I only won \$5 in poker last week and I can't live on that. I have to have enough money to go bowling, shows, pool, and dates once in a while. I'm not as sad as Tosh though. He had a big fat wad that he was going to take to the Army with him today, but he lost it in two poker sessions this week-end."

I managed to interview Buster for 5 hours straight and he told me all about his early life. Buster grew up among the Mexican boys which may explain his "rugged" character. But, I don't think that he really is a bad boy. He got off to a bad start and he has not straightened himself out yet. He was in ~~high school~~ a juvenile home for stealing once. Buster never finished high school as he got expelled for playing around too much. I think part of the reason was that he had to work five hours every morning before school in his father's market so that he could not keep awake in his classes and the teachers called him dumb. He resented this so that he acted up in other ways as compensation. His sex history runs back to the age of 15. Although Buster did not say so, I rather suspect that the cultural clash in his home may have caused some of this disorganization. Buster said that his folks never did say anything to him, but he did admit that he would have been forced to go to Tule Lake with his folks if his older brother did not go. His interests are limited so that the war has affected him very little. He claims that he had absolutely no reaction to Pearl Harbor. He was a

little bitter about evacuation for a while because he had to sell his hopped up car for \$70 after he had invested over \$200 in it. A clue to his sensitiveness was his statement wabout feeling so funny when Caucasians looked at him when he went out on seasonal leave the first time to do sugar beet and railroad work in Montana. It bothered him so much that this was one of the reasons why he went backto camp "as I felt more comfortable among the people there." But the boredom of camp life soon forced him to resettle.

Buster gets some compensation out of wearing zoot suits and drapes as he knows that it attracts attention. He went around with a tough fellow in camp and they used to beat up anybody who looked funny at them. Buster went to all of the dances but he rarely danced as "I couldn't get used to Nisei girls because they don't act like the Mexican girls I knew before and I don't know how far I can go with them. They always think that I get too fresh right away." His present pre-occupation is gambling, money, and girls.

Buster never went around with many Nisei fellows before the war, but I think that he gets his racial consciousness from the Mexican gangs that he knew. He is very prejudiced against "crocks" (Negroes) and "kikes" (Jews) and "Chinks" (Chinese). After the other fellows came back into the room, I stopped the interview and I listened to them talk for a while before coming home.

These boys are greatly excited over a "chippie" Nisei girl that they picked up recently. "Susie is only 19 and she hasn't got a face to look at but she certainly got a figure made for

laying. I wouldn't go around with her as a steady, but for relaxation she is just the thing. The other night we brought her up to the room and we kept her here until 4:00 a.m. I (Buster) layed her right in front of the guys and they did too. She says that ~~she~~ she knows how to keep from getting knocked up because she has had a lot of experience. But if something did happen to her, I'm going to head for New York because I wouldn't marry a bitch liker that."

Buddy went on to add that there was nothing lost as it was all free. The boys seemed to assume that it was a gesture of friendship and that I "belonged" as they wanted to fix me up. I told them that I would be too busy. The funny thing about these boys is that they do have a terrific guilty conscience about everything they do when they talk to me and they try so hard to get me to give them advice. I reserved my comments as I told them that they would not "reform" until they were willing to do it themselves and what I said would not do any good anyway. I

Aug. 8, 1944: I went over to finish my interview with Buster. They were still in bed when I arrived. Frances was there all dressed up and she was cooking lunch and trying to get Sus out of bed. Sus has decided that he does not want to work for a while but Frances keeps urging him to go to work so that he said he would go look for a job. Sus dresses all up to go to the race tracks, but he wears a print Hawaiian ~~print~~ shirt to look for a job and Frances got after him for that.

Frances seems to be a nice average Nisei girl. She is very anxious to marry Sus and keeps reminding him. Sus is sure of himself so that he is not in any rush. While they ate, Frances came to talk to me in the other room. She said that Sus had kept her up so late last night that she could not get up for work. She is a stenographer in some kind of a war plant. She said that there were about 14 Nisei out of 70 workers in the plant. She planned to take Sus down there with her so that he could apply for a job. Sus was not too anxious about it because it only paid 75c an hour to start. However, he only has a small amount of money left so that he feels he has to go to work soon. He went along reluctantly. Frances said that her plant has a trade school and they teach the workers how to do the more skilled jobs three evenings a week. They provide the sandwiches and coffee so that the workers will not have to go home to eat these evenings. The company wants a guarantee from the workers that they will stick as they do not wish to train them for some other company. Frances said that most of the Nisei there are now making over \$1.20 an hour as they have stuck with the company.

Frances is living out here with her 18 year old brother. This brother has not finished high school yet and he will be here for 3

more weeks working in the trailer company and then head back for Rohwer as he is only on a seasonal leave. He has his 1-A for the draft and he wants to finish his high school courses before he is called. Frances said that she hoped her living arrangements may be solved by then if she gets married. An older sister may join her here if that does not work out. Frances was willing to tell me her life story but she thinks that she does not have very much to say. I may follow up on her since she is part of the group I am working on now. Frances will be 20 years old next week and she appears to be much more stable than Sus altho she is simple in a lot of ways.

A friend of Buster's dropped in and took Buddy off to the race tracks. Buddy deliberated on it for quite a while before he decided to risk the last \$10 cash that he had. Buster is hoping that he will win so that he won't have to go look for a job for another week. He owes Buddy about \$80 now. The friend, George, just quit his job this morning. He was working at a precision company, but he and his friend got sore when the promised help and raise in wage did not come so they just walked out on the job. The fellow only had \$13 so he is going to take his chances on the horse races. If he wins, he will take it easy until the money runs out. If he loses, he will start looking for another job tomorrow if he can get the job release. Buster decided not to go to the races as he had no money left. He borrowed \$1.00 from Buddy so that he could take a girl to the movies tonight--Dutch treat! He has already borrowed some money from this girl. He dressed up in his best suit (zoot). Buster does not wear his extreme zoot suit much as he feels that it is a little too conspicuous.

After the other fellows left, I continued my interview with

Buster. We managed to finish up after 3 or 4 hours. Buster is a very complex individual. He is very honest in his opinions. He had quite a bit to say in regard to his attitude on the war. He does not feel like fighting as he knows that he will not come back alive and he feels that he is too young to die yet. He really believes that this will happen as he has heard of the high casualty rate of the 100th Infantry in Italy and he thinks that all the Nisei will be sent in to spearhead an attack. For this reason Buster wants to have as much fun as possible and he would like to find a girl to marry even though he will not be 20 until November.

Buster very calmly told me all about his feelings of inferiority. He said he acted big and wore drapes, but was actually very self-conscious. He does not like to walk from the back end of a streetcar up to the front because he feels that people will stare at him. Many times, he says, he just stays on the back platform so that he will not have to go through this ordeal. Buster has a great resentment against Caucasians. At the same time he does not want to ever go to Japan even though his talks are going. He feels that there are some good things about this country as he can eat all the ice cream he wants, go to shows, etc. The most important thing is that he does not think he could ever like the girls of Japan as they "don't know how to mug or wear make-up". Everything is measured in material things and he does not know what democracy means as it is only a vague concept with him. He thinks that it means the right to do as he pleases and feels that it may be possible to achieve if the American public would stop staring at the Nisei and be so suspicious of them. Buster is not a dumb person by any means, but he is very limited in his education.

The following pages are excerpts from C.K. Diary:
(Previous report during 1944-45 have now been pulled out.)

March 30, 1945

This evening I went to interview Harry Ando. Only Hash was around so that Ando let down his hair and told me a lot of his job experiences since I interviewed him last. He is making fairly good job adjustments now. He is a conscientious and steady worker and he has made much better adjustments than some of his more restless friends. Ando's room mate, Hash, has been loafing around for a few weeks now, but he plans to look for a job tomorrow. He has been ~~spending~~ his time entertaining the girls and "going down to the Lake to look at the water during the day." Hash said that he has held 7 or 8 jobs in the year he has been out here. He claims that there is a Nisei dance every week and he goes to all of them. Ando says that he rarely goes to dances as he has quit playing around. I plan to start an interview with Hash next week if I can catch him at home. He is thinking of going to Des Moines very shortly.

In discussing the war, Ando made the comment that Germany would fall in a matter of weeks and he might lose his job if the Army and Navy contracts were cancelled at his factory. He is working in a small shipbuilding plant on the Chicago River now and they launch one boat a month. Ando has been given a lot of the more responsible jobs because he is one of the best welders in the plant. There is only one other Nisei working there. Ando is satisfied with this job, but he still says that welders will be a "dime a dozen" after the war so that he is most uncertain about his future. In a way, "he longs to be in the Army as I won't have to worry about making a living anymore and it will help to be a veteran. Both Ando and Hash think that Japan will not be defeated for a couple of years yet. They have a suspicion that the war in the Pacific may end in a stale-

mate as "Japan has not started to really fight yet but they are waiting for Germany to fall first." I said that by the time Japan really started to fight, we would be in Tokyo but they doubted that. Neither are pro-Japan, but they believe that the Japanese soldier is a tough nut to crack because of their indoctrination. A sort of "racial consciousness" is related to this attitude, I think, but nothing political.