

Interviewer's code

Katsuko Yamamoto

Kisako Yasuda (psued.)

Evacuation and Resettlement Study,
February, 1944 (Revised)

SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUAL RESETTLERS

Date of interview Sept. 25, 1944 Interviewer C. Kikuchi

1. Case number #51 2. Sex, M (F) 3. Marital stat. M (S) D W O
Entered Left

4. Present address 11 E. Pearson Date June '44

5. Later addresses _____ Date _____

_____ " _____

_____ " _____

_____ " _____

_____ " _____

6. Birthplace Los Angeles, Calif. 7. Birthdate 9-16-25

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

10. Addresses between Dec. 1, 1941 and evacuation

(a) Long Beach, Calif. Date Entered Left

(b) _____ " 1926 _____

(c) _____ " _____

(d) _____ " _____

(e) _____ " _____

11. Assembly Center Santa Anita Date 4-'42 10-10-42

_____ " _____

12. Relocation Center Jerome Date 10-'42 3-'44

_____ " _____

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

(a) Brethren Hostel, Chicago Entered Left

(b) East side 3-6-44 3-12-44

(c) 2833 N. Clark 3-12-44 3-19-44

(d) 3-19-44 6-'44

(e) _____

(f) _____

(g) _____

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

Relationship to
Resettler

	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	Religion
(a) <u>Father</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>Florist</u>	<u>Christian</u>
(b) <u>Mother</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Hswfe & ass't.</u>	<u>"</u>
(c) <u>Brother</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Mechanic</u>	<u>"</u>
(d) <u>Sister</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>L.A.</u>	<u>Fruit clerk</u>	<u>"</u>
(e) <u>Self</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>"</u>
(f) _____					
(g) _____					
(h) _____					
(i) _____					
(j) _____					

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

Give symbols #14

What other related persons?

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

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

Give symbols

What other related persons?

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (as of Dec. 1, 1941)
(a)				
(b)	#14			
(c)				
(d)				
(e)				
(f)				

17. Family members living together in Chicago

Address

symbol

(see 13)

Entered	Left	Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (at date of interview)
(a)						
(b)		Brother living separately				
(c)		Sister married out here				
(d)						
(e)						
(f)						
(g)						
(h)						

18. Educational history of resettler

Grammar schools (name and location)

Dates

Grade completed

Signal Hill Elementary, Long Beach

1932-36

6th

Hamilton Jr. High, "

1936-39

9th

High schools (name and location)

Dates

Grade completed

L.B. Poly High, Long Beach

1940-42

11th

Denson high, Jerome

1942-43

12th

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

Dates

Grade
completed

Degree

Attendance at Japanese language
school, location

Dates

Japanese school, Long Beach

3 mo.

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.

Dates						Av. mo. wages	Reason for termination
From	To	Nature of job	Type of industry	Location			
		Helped father in his florist before war					
5/42-6/42		Camouflage project		Santa Anita	\$8	quit	
6/10/42		waitress		"	\$8		
10/42-9/43		Student		Jerome			
9/43-3/44		Nurse's aide		"	\$16		
3/44-6/44		Assembly work	Florence Att	Chicago	65¢ hr.	fired	
6/44-7/44		Paster	McCall Print Co.	"	65¢ hr.	quit	
7/1-7/44		Filer	Consolidated Prod.	"	\$100	quit	
7/8/44		Machine op.	Protection Pds.	"	65¢ hr.	quit	
7/10/18/44		"	Wacker Wire Co.	"	70¢ hr.	quit	
7/20-9/25/44		"	Continental Pds.	"	65¢ hr.	quit	
9/26/44		waitress	YMCA	"	\$90 mo.	temp.	
9/27/44 —		Machine op.	Continental Pds.	"	65¢ hr.	—	

20. Political activities

Dates	Voted in what elections	For what party
	not of age	

Evacuation & Resettlement Study
Chicago, Illinois
Charles Kikuchi
October 31, 1944

CH-51
Kisako Yasuda (pseud.)

Kisako Yasuda, 19, is a young Nisei girl working as a machine operator in a factory at the present time. She is a rather quiet girl and apparently disorganized. She does not feel very well adjusted to her position. She is living by herself although she has a married sister and a brother out here.

The interviews were conducted during the latter part of September and early October. Throughout the interviews Kisako was very frank in all of her opinions although she did not talk so freely about her fiance who was killed in Italy. Further follow-ups will be made if possible. At the present time Kisako is interested in doing some USO work along with her room-mate, CH-48.

2. Jerome 10/13/42
3. Santa Anita 4/4/42
4. 2015 Elm Street, Long Beach, Calif.
5. Yamamoto, Denjiro Japan
Komatsu, Yoshi Japan
- 5a. U.S. Florist Abroad Farmer
7. Grammar school, Signal Hill, Long Beach, Calif. 9/31 to 6/37
Junior high, Hamilton, Long Beach 9/37 to 6/40
High school, Polytechnic, 9/40 to 3/42
- 7a. Foreign Language--Latin, Spanish, Scribblers Club
8. None
12. 62 105 lbs.
13. No major defects
18. Single
19. Daughter
20. 9/16/25
23. Yes
24. High 3
25. Speaks Japanese
27. ---
- 27a. Hand knitter
28. 7/42 to 10/42 Mess Hall, Santa Anita Waitress \$8 mo.
6/42 to 7/42 Camouflage Work, " Worker-made nets \$8 mo.
4/42 to 6/42 Pacemaker, " Worked voluntarily for
paper as reporter
29. Knitting for self. Badminton and volley ball (participant)
Cooking at home. Ping pong (participant) Reading, for pleasure.
O.P. Teacher
30. Presbyterian

Katsuko's sister, Chiyoko Mary Yamamoto

2. same
3. same
4. same
5. same
- 5a. same
7. Grammar school, Signal Hill, Signal Hill, Calif. 9/29 to 6/35
Junior high, Hamilton, Long Beach, 9/35 to 6/38
High school, Polytechnic, Long Beach, 9/38 to 6/41
- 7a. Majored in Home Economics
8. None
12. 64½ 140 lbs.
13. No major defect
18. Single
19. Daughter
20. 7/14/22
23. No
24. High 4
25. Speaks Japanese
27. Hosp. Attendant
- 27a. Dancer

Katsuko's sister, Chiyoko Mary Yamamoto, continued

28. 10/42 WRA Hospital, Jerome Nurses Aid. Making beds, giving \$16 mo.
baths, temperature, pulse,
respiration readings, dressings
and register patients
4/42 to 10/42 WCCA Hosp. Nurses Aid. Same as above and \$8 mo.
also worked in nursery (fixed
baby formulas and charted)
Worked in obstetrics (gave
enemas and prep)
10/41 to 3/42 Ben Mizota Sales clerk-cleaned, displayed \$10 wk.
Retail Pro- and sold produce, kept books,
duce, Long took phone orders from customers
Beach and made out mdse. order for
wholesale. Practically managed
the place
9/38 to 6/41 Mrs. Saccares Housemaid-washing, ironing, \$50
Long Beach clean house
29. Dancing, singing-classics, baseball participant, nursing, sew (1½ yrs)
Training in school) cooking (pretty good)
30. ---

Katsuko's brother, Sajiro Yamamoto

2. Jerome 11/27/42
3. Same
4. Same
5. same
5a. same
7. Grammar school, Signal Hill, Signal Hill, Calif. 9/26 to 6/32
Junior high, Hamilton, Long Beach, 9/32 to 6/34
High school, Polytechnic, Long Beach, 9/34 to 6/38
7a. Science
8. Japan 2/20 to 8/20
12. 68 150 lbs.
13. No major defects
18. Single
19. Son
20. 2/8/20
23. No
24. H.4
25. Speaks Japanese
27. Flame Welder and cutter
27a. Auto mech.
28. 11/42 WRA Agricultural Division Lumberjack \$16
9/42 to 11/42 Edison Porter Beet worker, beet topping
Beet Farm, Tampico, Mont.
4/42 to 8/42 WCCA, Finance Div. Junior Clerk \$8
1940 to 3/42 G. Cabins Burner
Wrecking Co. Acetylene Torch burner
Long Beach, Calif.
29. Sports-baseball, football and all sports, participant
O.P. Mechanic Machine Shop-school training. auto mech. photo.
30. None

Katsuko's mother, Yoshiye Yamamoto

2. Jerome 10/13/42
3. same
4. same
5. Komatsu, Kurata (dec.) Japan
Komatsu, Kei Japan
- 5a. Abroad unknown
7. Grammar school, Oyama, Fukushima Ken, Japan 4/94 to 3/00
Junior high, Oyama, Fukushima Ken, Japan 4/00 to 3/02
- 7a. ---
8. Japan 4/88 to 7/19
12. 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ 151 lbs.
13. High Blood pressure; bad heart
18. Married
19. Wife
20. 4/10/88
23. No
24. J.H. 2
25. No English
27. Flower grower
- 27a. Knitter
28. 3/42 Housewife
2/32 to 3/42 Husband's Flower Farm
Long Beach, Calif. Farm worker
Planted, hoed, weeded,
watered and picked the
flowers. Also did some
selling, arranged flowers
in the homes of customers
- 5/29 to 1/32 Husband's Melon & Tomato
Farm, Long Beach Farm worker
Planted, hoed, weeded, picked
and packed
- 3/27 to 4/29 Ikeda, Flower Farm,
Montebello, Calif. Farm worker, picked, planted
also weeded and hoed
- 8/19 to 2/27 Worked in various places Imperial Valley, El Centro as
farm laborer. Cannot remember names, addresses.
29. Knitting, crocheting, cooking, sewing, quilting, reading, flower
arrangement.
- O.P. Sewing
30. Presbyterian

Katsuko's father, Denjiro Yamamoto

2. same
3. same
4. same
5. Yamamoto, Denju (dec.) Japan
Yamamoto, Ojin (dec.) Japan
- 5a. Abroad -farmer
7. Grammar school, Adagi, Fukushima Ken, Japan 4/73 to 3/78
- 7a. ---
8. Japan 12/67 to 2/05; 1/19 to 7/19
12. 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ 135 lbs.
13. Blind in right eye
18. Married
19. Head

Katsuko's father, Denjiro Yamamoto, continued

20. 12/20/67

23. No

24. Grammar 5

25. No English

27. Flower grower

27a.---

28. 2/28 to 3/42 Self employed. Flower garden and Proprietor.
 florist shop. Long Beach Sold flowers to re-
 tail customers

29. No other skills.or hobbies except that of flower growing
 O.P. Flower grower

30. Presbyterian

Kisako Yasuda, 19, was born on September 16, 1925 in Los Angeles, California. Her family moved to Long Beach the next year and she lived in that city until her evacuation to the Santa Anita Assembly Center in April, 1942. In October, 1942, she was sent to the Jerome Relocation Center. Kisako resettled to Chicago in March, 1944. She lived at the Brethren's Hostel for about a week and then moved to the East Side for about a week. She then moved with some friends to North Clark St. where she remained until June, 1944. Since that time she has lived on Pearson St.

All of the children in this family are resettled. Her brother, 25, is working as a mechanic in this city. Her married sister is on the South Side. Kisako is the youngest of the three children. Her father, 75, and mother, 54, are ^{now} ~~xxxx~~ in the Rohwer Relocation Center as the Jerome Center closed in July, 1944.

Kisako's elementary education was received at Signal Hill school in Long Beach, 1932 to 1936. She then went to Hamilton junior high school until 1939 where she completed the ninth grade. In 1940 she started Long Beach Polytechnic high school. She was evacuated when in the 11th grade so that she finished her twelfth grade at Denison high in the Jerome WRA center. Kisako only attended Japanese school for three months in her life.

Kisako has held a variety of jobs in Chicago but she is not satisfied with any of the unskilled jobs which she has done. She is still undecided about what type of work she would like to go into although she would like to have a clean job. Prior to the war she helped her father occasionally in his florist business. When she went to Santa Anita center she worked on the camouflage net project at \$8 a month for a period of one month. She then worked as a waitress in that center for three months. When she went to Jerome

in October, 1942. She returned to high school in order to get her diploma. In September, 1943, she worked at the Jerome hospital as a nurse's aid until her resettlement. On arriving in Chicago, Kisako worked for a period of three months at the Florence Art Company at 65¢ an hour. She was fired in June, 1944 because of some difficulty with the foreman. She then worked for a month as a paster at the McCall Printing Company at 65¢ an hour. She quit this job to work as a filer for the Consolidated Products Company. She did not like this work so that she quit immediately. She then went to work as a machine operator at the Protection Products Company at 65¢ an hour. After two days she quit to take a job as a machine operator for the Wacker Wire Company at 70¢ an hour. She quit this job after a week and immediately got a job as a machine operator for the Continental Products Company at 65¢ an hour. This was a night shift job so that after two months she quit to take a job as a waitress at the YMCA Hotel on Chicago Avenue. After one night she quit this job to return to her old job at the Continental Products Company. She is still there working on the night shift. (October 26, 1944)

The following pages are some diary notes on Kisako. Kisako is a rather attractive girl but her personality is not developed so that she tends to be self-effacing. Contacts had been made for about a month prior to the actual interviews because it took that long for her to begin to feel at ease with the interviewer.

September 19, 1944: Kisako Yasuda is the girl who eats with Chizu and she was still there so Chizu asked if I would mind if we had a bull session for a while. I couldn't be rude to her so I consented. Kisako is a 19 year old Nisei girl and she works at the same factory as Chizu on the night shift. Her hours are from 12 midnight until 8 a.m. Chizu said that Kisako's boy friend had been killed in Italy so that the girls was withdrawing into herself and she refused to have any social contacts at all. Kisako is rather quiet but from the few comments she made, it appears that she is fairly intelligent. Kisako mentioned that she was getting acquainted with a Jewish girl at the plan.

"The girl told me something about the Jewish problems and how Americans hated the Jews. Is there such a thing as a Jewish problem? I didn't know that they were any different from any Americans. In California I never heard anyone speak against the Jews like that. My girl friend told me that there were many factories here that wouldn't give Jews jobs just like the Nisei. Golly, is there much of that going on?"

I was amazed that the girl had no concept of the problems of other minority groups as she thought the Nisei were the only ones. I tried to explain a little of the Jewish position and Chizu added some other comments. Kisako mentioned casually that she had come from a very poverty-stricken family. I became interested because she seemed to be a good example of the more quiet, single Nisei girl. I broached the subject of a possible interview and she was most cooperative. However, she added that her life story was most uninteresting. I made a tentative arrangement to interview her at some future date so that my evening was not entirely wasted.....

September 21, 1944

.....Kisako was all dressed up and she seemed to have come out of her shell a bit. She is rather attractive but quiet. She was quite worried that she was going to be fired from her job because she had taken two nights out in a row. ~~She~~ She asked me if I could help her get another job. She has no special skill so she'd have to take an unskilled job. She'd like to work in a clean place for a change. I agreed that night work wasn't good for a girl of her age. I promised to help her get another job. I have tentatively scheduled her for another night.

The following comment was made by Kisako's room mate:

"There's a slight strain between the two of us right now and Kisako will have to go her own way if this keeps up because it's not necessary for me to be put under this nervous strain. Kisako is so sensitive that she interprets a lot of things wrongly. I can't be mothering her all the time because she's old enough to do things on her own. I have to wake her up to tell her to go to work and I have to do all the cooking for her. She's afraid to go shopping so I do that too. Last night I was going to have dinner for two Hawaiian soldiers and I wanted Kisako to go down to buy some food. I even offered to give her the carfare but she acted as if she was being imposed on. Kisako is a girl of many moods and I can't figure her out. I know that she is carrying a torch for her fiance who was killed in Italy, but it is rather abnormal for her to seclude herself entirely. She doesn't have any social activities at all and she doesn't like to see people. All she does on Sundays is to go to shows with my older sister.

"Kisako came from a family which was very poverty-stricken. In camp her mother was so sloppy that all the people in camp talked

about it. Her mother never ironed the clothes for the children. I think that this background of poorness has had a great influence on Kisako as she feels guilty about spending any money at all. She counts her pennies very carefully and she puts every possible cent into the bank but she doesn't know why. She thinks it's some sort of protection for the future. She shares the food expense with me and she was so upset when she had her tooth extracted that I did not charge her for food for one week. She needs to get her shoes repaired but she just won't go down and do it. I told her it would prove more expensive in the end and she would have to buy new shoes. Kisako has only gone on one spree since she has lived with me. She went downtown and bought a \$45 black suit. I told her that this was rather expensive for a girl who was only earning \$30 a week. I said that she would have to get a lot of accessories for a black suit so she went down and bought a grey one. Now she has a very guilty conscience about spending all this money and she is saving every possible cent to make up this deficit. She came down and told me that she couldn't eat with me for one week because she didn't have enough money left. I wanted her to learn a lesson about budgeting so I didn't say anything. Kisako ate on \$1.00 for four days and then I couldn't stand to see her living like that so I went up and made her come and eat with me for the rest of the week. I think Kisako will think twice before spending money on another suit. She has money in the bank now. She won't draw out money once it is put in. She has so many moods that I don't understand her too well. It's not normal for her to live a life of seclusion for her and maybe it will be better for her to get a day time job."

September 25, 1944

This evening I went over to interview Kisako and I was over there until around midnight. She is a peculiar girl, but most attractive. I took her out for a coke after the interview. Kisako quit her job at the factory, but she is thinking of going back there if the boss will have her. She started working at the "Y" restaurant today, but she does not think it pays enough. Kisako has held five or six different jobs since she has been out here. She doesn't know what she wants. She said that she thought of going into Cadet Nursing. When I began to encourage her on that, she said that she could not do it for a while because she had to save her money in order to help her folks resettle. I think that is more of an excuse. Her father is 74 years old and Kisako just turned 19 recently. Her father was married once before in Japan and he left six children back there.

Kisako is one of these quieter girls and it took me a while to draw her out. She is intelligent but she has a hard time expressing herself. She was talking much more freely at the end of the interview. I think that one of the troubles is that Chizu (CH-48) sort of dominates her so that the girl does not have too much of a chance to talk. Chizu is all excited about night school now and she said that she told her instructor all about the evacuation and the 100th infantry this evening so that she did not get much practice in typing. She wants to be around when I interview Kisako but I arranged it so that I got there when she has night classes. Kisako is able to tell her own story ~~is~~ encouraged. She said that she never told anyone before that her family was on relief and how poverty stricken they were as she was always ashamed of this fact. She never took any of her friends to her

home to visit her. She felt inferior to the other Japanese so that she did not get in with the Nisei group in Long Beach. In camp she was able to meet them on an equal basis for the first time. She never had a date until she was evacuated.

Kisako said that she lived among a very small number of evacuee families before the war so that was the reason why she never learned the language well. ~~Max~~ She said that she could only understand her own parents. Her folks did not have much social contacts with the other Japanese as they wanted to hide the fact that they were so poor that they had to go on relief. Kisako said that she had one argument with her father at the time of the outbreak of the war because she did not think that he should express so many attitudes in favor of Japan when the U.S. government was giving them relief money. She said that she never had electricity in her home until after she got to junior high school. She felt that the reason why she was shy was because she was not able to have such good clothes as the other girls.

Kisako does not know what she wants out here. She is not interested in too many things as she tends to be withdrawn. She depends a lot upon Chizu, yet she will go out ~~on~~ her own to get all of her jobs without asking the WRA or the other agencies. She is even thinking of returning to her night job and doing the waitress job in her spare hours so that she will be able to save more money. She feels that this is what is going to offer her security. She said that the reason for this was because she was so poor before. Her brother is the same way and he works about 70 hours a week as a mechanic so that he can get more pay. Her brother is not a citizen since the parents brought him to the U.S. when he was only

four months old. I doubt if I will ever get to interview him as he only has time to work, eat and sleep.

September 27, 1944

T . This evening I dashed home for a quick dinner and then went to interview Kisako again. She was just getting up when I arrived as she has gone back to her night shift job at Continental Products Company. She opened up much more this evening and she told me all about her camp experiences. Her high school teacher seems to have influenced her quite a bit because she mentioned that one of the Nisei teachers was very bitter and he always spoke of democracy with scorn in the Social Problems class. Kisako said she believed all this until she got a different viewpoint when she started to meet a lot of these Hawaiian Nisei.

Kisako told me all about her thriftiness. Money means a great deal to her because she thinks it will give her security in the post-war period. She keeps a very detailed account of every cent which she earns or spends and she let me copy down this budget. She said that she always has a guilty conscience when she spends a lot of money because she never had so much to spend before in her life. She very rarely goes out so that there are many days when she doesn't spend any money at all. Kisako thought that she was stingier than most Nisei girls but she felt that this was due to her poverty before the war. She said that she never wanted to get on relief like her family was for a long time. In spite of her thriftiness Kisako hasn't been able to save a great sum of money because she does not like her night job and she takes many nights off. She has changed her job a number of times but

she was not satisfied with any of them. She really doesn't know what she wants.

Part of the reason for this great confusion, aimlessness and disorganization is due to the fact that she received a severe shock last June when the War Department informed her that her fiance was killed in Italy. Kisako said that she hasn't been able to do anything constructive and she has definitely withdrawn within herself and cut off almost all social contacts. She is just beginning to emerge from her shell at the present time. Kisako is quite liberal in her attitudes and she does not have the mental conservatisms typical of many Nisei girls. Her sister apparently is even more this way because she recently married a Caucasian fellow. Kisako said that she had to start thinking more of what she is going to do in the future as she could not live in the past all the time. She is only 19 years old. She wants to get a part-time job in addition to her regular job so she can save more money. It seems a little foolish to me because she should have more social activity. I told her that I would see what I could do about a part-time job at McClurg's since that company is located near her apartment.

October 2, 1944

This evening I went over to finish my interview with Kisako. She is either very naive or honest. I could have asked her almost any question and she would have told me the answers if she knew. She was telling me about her boy friend who was killed and the effect that it has on her. She said that this was the reason why she has hibernated for the past four months. Now she is looking

around for another fellow to go steady with. She does not think she will get married until she is 22 unless she gets tired of working. Kisako has been a rather disorganized person. Chizu has been quite an influence on her. Kisako reflects a lot of the same ideas only she does not understand things as clearly as Chizu. She mentioned in one breath that she did not believe in Nisei groups and then turned around and wished that the Nisei USO would hurry up and start as she would take part in it. I asked her what the difference was between the civilian and an Army Nisei group and she said that "they are in uniform". This led me to conclude that the reason why many Nisei groups have not sprung up is this fear of public opinion.

Kisako only has about two close friends and her work keeps her well tied down as it is on a night shift. She went back to her job as she did not wish to start making friends at work all over again in another place. For this same reason she would prefer to stay on the night shift rather than change to the day shift. She mentioned that one of the reasons why she quit was because some of the Caucasian girls disliked Chizu and her sister and they made nasty remarks about them. She believed that it was more personal rather than racial even though the particular girls in question were quite prejudiced against the Jews and the Negroes. One girl was very incensed because the company was thinking of hiring some Negro girls in the plants. The girls thought that the Negroes smelled and a separate restroom would have to be built for them. Kisako's Jewish girl friend turned around and remarked that the girl was very prejudiced and from the South. She had the same opinion about the Japanese until she got to know Kisako. Now she wants to go to Chinatown with her to eat. Kisako said that she

never knew that there was so much racial prejudice until she came out here. In California she did not experience any of it as she was still in high school. She thinks that the Illinois people are more prejudiced than Californians but it was no use to go back to California now as it would be too hard to make a living. She feels that the Nisei might be accepted here more if they keep separated as they are without getting into too large a group. Kisako would only like a small Nisei group for herself. Many of her ideas are immature and hearsay so that she shifts from one thing to another if pressed. The only thing she is quite certain about is that she is an American. But she feels that if Japan is crushed, the Nisei will be looked down upon because "the Caucasians look on us as Japanese no matter what we do". That is why she feels that more Caucasian contacts should be made. She has done this to some degree at work as she has more Caucasian friends than Nisei out here, but she is still disorganized over other things in her personal life. She seems to have such a nice personality even though she is quiet. It is too bad that she has withdrawn into herself. She is disappointed with resettlement because she is not having the fun she expected, "even if it is wartime and people shouldn't be having too good a time". I like her honesty in saying things as she does ~~xxx~~ not try to give a false impression of herself like many Nisei.

Kisako's life story follows in her own words:

"I don't know very much about my family except that we were always very poor. My father is about 20 years older than my mother and I don't know anything about him before he was married. I think that he came from Tokyo but I don't know what he was doing over there and why he decided to come to this country. My dad was married already when he came over. He had some children by his first wife, but he only brought my mother and my brother over with him. My brother was only four months old when he came to this country. The irony of it is that my brother doesn't even speak Japanese but he is not a citizen and I don't think that he has a chance to get it unless he goes into the Army. I don't know what kind of work my father did in Japan but it must have been farming as we don't have any rich relatives over there.

"I was born in 1925 and I am the youngest of the three children. By this time my father was raising flowers in the garden to sell to his customers. He was about 56 already when I was born. My father never did tell me the exact reasons why he came to Long Beach and I don't know of all the different places he lived in. He had a whole life before he married my mother and I don't know anything about that part of his life. He was already pretty old when he came to this country. I have never corresponded with any of my father's first children and I don't know a thing about them. The difficulty is that I can't speak to my father very well as I have never learned to speak Japanese. I can only speak it a little bit and I have to use English a lot even when I talk to my parents. They have some contacts with hakujins so that they know English a little. They don't know how to write it though. My father is about 74 now and when I was in camp it was very hard to

talk to him as he had forgotten what English he knew. I didn't understand him at all.

"When I was little I guess I knew some Japanese but I lost it as I grew older because I never lived around a lot of other Japanese. As long as I can remember, we used a sort of mixed Japanese and English at home. I couldn't speak Japanese to other Issei through because they wouldn't know what I was talking about. We lived a very drab life and there wasn't very much to it. I think that it was most uninteresting and I don't have any vivid impressions of my childhood. At times my home life was hectic because we had so much poverty. Usually my parents were both out working so that we were left pretty much alone. My mother started to help my father in his work as soon as we were old enough to go to school and we were left on our own ever since.

"The house we lived in was nothing to be proud of and I guess I was ashamed of it all the time I lived in Long Beach. It was about the worst house in the whole city and I guess we were one of the poorest families. We lived in a very dark house and we didn't have any electric lights in it for many years. We always used those big lamps. We didn't get electricity in our house until after I started to go to high school. Our home was located right on the sort of farm we had on the outskirts of the city. We were the only Japanese family around there as not many came to Long Beach. Our home was never very clean as my mother was too busy working outside and she didn't have the time to straighten it up. It was much worse than living in camp.

"In spite of that we did have a little family life. I was my dad's pet when I was a child. I remember him as a very old person always. He was more of a grandfather to me. I was born

when he was in a pretty late period of life and he always seemed so ancient. I remember I used to wonder as a child why my father wasn't as active and young as the other fathers. Both of my parents were rather quiet so that I didn't learn how to speak English for the longest time. I never did speak out very much because I got so used to being by myself. I only had one Indian girl friend when I was small. I didn't see any Japanese kids during the early part of my life. I went around with the Indian girls so much that I had an idea that I was an Indian too altho she didn't understand the Japanese words I used once in a while when playing with her. Sometimes I would learn Indian words and my parents wouldn't know what I was talking about. They just thought it was English.

"I don't think that I would want to live my life over again because it was so hard in many ways. A lot of people say that it is a good thing to live a poor life but I don't care to go through all that again. A lot of times we went hungry because my folks didn't have any money. We had a typical Japanese diet at home but it was mostly rice because that was the cheapest food. We never got any of those more expensive Japanese foods so that I have never tasted them. I heard a lot about different types of Japanese food when I was in camp but I don't know what they are like. Now I say that I ~~crave~~ Japanese food but that isn't true at all because I never really had it. Everyone talks about ochazuke and tsukemono and other Japanese food like that now because they can't get it and I begin to think that I miss it too. Actually, I like American food much better. But we didn't get much of that either at home because of our poverty. A lot of times I really did go hungry. We were so poor that I never got a nickel to spend from my father like the other girls at school did. I never even got a

penny to buy a candy sucker with. I used to envy the other girls who had candy so much and I would day dream that I would buy a whole train-load of candy when I grew up and got rich.

"There wasn't much harmony between my parents because of the 20 years age difference. I think the marriage was all arranged anyway so that it wasn't for love. My parents didn't get along very well as their interests always differed. They used to have many arguments about money and our poor condition. My mother sort of blamed my father for getting her into a life like that and she felt that she would have been much better off in Japan. She thought that my father had misinterpreted America and tricked her into coming. She had come with the idea that they would get rich right away but they had to struggle along right from the beginning and they never got out of that rut until evacuation even though they did work hard. Right now my mother is making up for lost time. She is joining all of the clubs and she thinks that camp life is good for the Issei. It is really the first time that my folks have been able to sit back and enjoy themselves. My mother actually got younger in camp because suddenly she didn't have to worry about getting enough money to feed the family because everything was provided by the government. My father was getting old and it was just the right time to retire and take things easy. She couldn't have done that if we had stayed in Long Beach.

"At first, when we were little, my parents got along fairly well but they began to argue when they had to keep up the hard struggle for existence. They didn't have too much time for these differences because they were busy working. My father was always the real head of the family and when he made a decision, it was

final. However, my mother made all of the little decisions as she had a strong will too and she didn't like to be submissive. Of course, she accepted the idea that Japanese women should stay in the background so she never rebelled against that. My father had to depend upon her more as he got older so that my mother got more of the power after that.

"I got along well with my mother and I never had any difficulties with my sister and brother. Altho we were a very poor family, we did stick together. I don't get along so well with my brother now as he makes me mad most of the time and he tries to tell me what to do. In camp, he just loafed and fooled around with the girls and he got me disgusted because he started to run around with a pretty wild bunch of boys. I used to get along with him well before the war as he worked hard and he didn't waste his time. He used to help support the family and my sister put in all of her earnings after she got a job when she graduated from high school. In spite of the money which they contributed to the family, we still didn't have very much altho it was a lot easier for us then when all of us were going to school. Most of the money that we got was spent for rent and food and I didn't get very many new clothes. I always had to wear the ~~same~~ things which my sister discarded.

"My father never talked about his family in Japan but it wasn't because he was ashamed of them. My mother just didn't want to hear all about it. Dad's first wife died. They had six children but they are all in Japan and I have never seen them so that I don't know what they are doing now. Dad came to America after he was 50 and he left all of his other family behind. He came to this country just before the immigration laws prevented any more

from coming in. I think that dad intended to bring his other children to this country after he got rich here, but he never was able to get around to it and he gave up the idea after he had 3 more children by my mother.

"My father would like to go back to Japan as his children there would take care of him. He is too old to do any work now. He wanted to repatriate to Japan for a while but my sister, brother and I planned to take care of our folks over here. Dad just got a longing to go back to the country of his birth like all the Japanese but it was nothing very definite. He doesn't have any property left back in California as it was all gotten rid of. He only leased the place we lived on. The only money that we saved was sent back to a bank in Japan so that when the evacuation came we didn't have a cent. It was my mother's idea to send what little money we had to a bank in Japan because she didn't trust the banks in this country so much. After 1933 when all the banks in the U.S. she said that we could get a better interest in the Japanese and the American dollar would be worth more. She had some idea that if we could build up a pretty good reserve, we could all go back to Japan. We didn't have very much money saved though as it was always a struggle for existence. My folks had planned to put so much money in the bank every month but it never did work out.

"It's hard for me to describe what a difficult time my family had to make ends meet before the war. I'm not exaggerating things at all and there are many parts that I don't exactly remember but I'm sure that it would make the picture of our poverty even clearer. I know my folks worried a lot about money but I was too young to understand. We weren't very much better off even after

my brother and sister went to work as they did not make such a large salary. Dad was getting so old that the evacuation came just in time for him. The government is helping us right now by taking care of our folks while we work out here and try to save some money so that we can eventually resettle them. If we have to support our folks now, we would never be able to save any money and it would be too hard for us if we lost our jobs after the war.

"In spite of our poorness, I suppose that eventually I would feel that my childhood was tolerable enough. I just played with the other kids and our poverty didn't eat on my mind all the time because there were a lot of other poor kids living around us too. When I first went to the elementary school, I met some Nisei kids for the first time in my life. I didn't associate with them however, because they were shy and I was shy too. We never did get together. All of my playmates were the neighborhood kids that I had grown up with.

"All during my grammar school days I was very studious and timid and it was just a routine which I went through. I made pretty good grades but it didn't have any meaning for me because it didn't give much satisfaction to my parents. They didn't even know what the report card was for. One of the horrible experiences which I always try to avoid was reciting in front of the class. That was an ordeal for me and it used to scare me to death. I had some fun in school too because I played around just like any other of the children. The teachers all liked me because I was so well behaved. They were the first Caucasian people that I liked because the contact was pleasant. I didn't know that I was different from the other kids altho I did wonder sometimes why they could not speak Japanese or Indian.

"I became suspicious of the difference in race after I got to junior high school but I didn't understand what it was all about. I continued to go around with my Caucasian friends and pretty soon that feeling passed over. It came back again when I started to go to the Japanese church. I didn't go to this church very long but I was impressed by the fact that there were so many other Japanese. I didn't know that so many of them existed. I started to go to the Japanese school when I was 13 years old. My mother talked me into it because she thought that some day I would have to get married and no Japanese boy would want a girl who couldn't speak or understand the language. She really wanted me to learn Japanese because she didn't know English very well. She thought that it would be better for me to know the language because some day the whole family would go to Japan.

"It was about this time that things became so hard for us that my family had to go on relief. I bet that we were one of the very few Japanese families to do that. We couldn't help it because we were so poor and we had to keep from starving. As soon as my brother went to work, my father went to the relief office and told them to stop sending money. My folks just hated to be on relief as they said that it was a disgrace. I would hear them talking about it and I learned that this was one subject that I should never discuss with my friends. I began to feel all of this so that I would practically feel like slinking under the chair at school because I thought that I was about the poorest person in town. I had an idea that there was something wrong with people who went on relief. My mother used to scold my father a lot about this because she felt disgraced. However, she had no other choice and she really thought she was getting something for nothing. All

of the other people around us were poor and they were on relief too. My mother was always pretty mercenary so that pretty soon it didn't make her hesitate to ask for the relief. Then it was my father's turn to feel disgraced. It hurt his pride because he couldn't make enough money on his own to support us. He wanted us to go off relief all the time but my mother would ask him where the money would come for food if we did that. Then he would have nothing to say.

"My parents never ~~xxxx~~ told any of their friends that we were on relief so that this is a deep secret. I've never told it before either because up to now I thought it was a disgrace. The way my mother eventually looked at relief was that we should be thankful because she and dad were not even citizens of the United States and yet they were receiving money free from this country. My mother had an idea that this relief money came directly from the U.S. government, but I think that it came from the states.

"It was a good thing that other Japanese families didn't find out that we were on relief as they would have talked about us. My folks didn't have any real close Japanese friends as they were too busy and most of the other Japanese lived far away. There were quite a few Japanese in Long Beach but they lived closer to the main part of the city. We lived on the north side of town. There wasn't a real Japanese community altho they had a church and a language school.

"I only went to the Japanese school for three months in my life. I couldn't learn it at all because the teachers gave us all the instructions in Japanese and I couldn't understand what they were talking about. I couldn't make any sense of it so that is why I quit. I was supposed to wear glasses but I was ashamed of

them so I never wore them and I wouldn't admit that I could hardly see the writing. I just couldn't keep up with the Japanese school work so I dropped out and I've never gone to any since.

[When I was in junior high school I was still quite studious. I became very quiet as I became more conscious of the fact that I was so poor. I was also conscious of my race altho that didn't make too much difference.] The thing which made me withdraw from the rest of the students more was that I didn't dress too well so I tried to hide in the background as I didn't want to be noticeable. There were about five other Nisei students in the school but I never associated with them as they were younger and they came from better off families. I didn't want them to go home and tell their folks about how poor we were. I shouldn't have had all of these feelings but I couldn't help it. It used to make me so miserable at times and I was always conscious of it. I don't think we were really that poor but I thought we were. It was pretty bad and I'm not exaggerating by repeating it so often because the thing was on my mind quite a bit.

"I had one staunch Caucasian friend in junior high school and a few other friends that I knew fairly well since I had grown up with them. We just went to school together and I would visit them in their homes. I would be very envious of the nice homes that they had and I thought that they were wealthy when actually they were only middle-class families. In comparison to our home, they lived in a mansion. I often wished that I could live in a place like they did. I never did ask any of my school friends to come visit me in my home because I was ashamed of the fact that it was dirty and I didn't want my friends to know that we were so badly off. I would go to my friend's home and help them do their home-

work in return for borrowing their skates as my parents could not afford such a luxury for me. I managed to get through junior high school without any memorable incidents which come to my mind. It was a routine school life and I enjoyed it well enough.

"I started the Polytechnic high school in the fall of 1940. I still went around with my Caucasian girl friend altho I began to get acquainted with a Nisei girl for the first time in my life. There were about 50 Nisei students in the high school. All of them stuck together pretty closely except for a few who were rather active in the school activities. Some of the boys were pretty good in sports and they made the teams. Most of them were quiet and studious like I was when among the Caucasians though. They could be quite lively at times when they got into their own group activities. I think that they liked to be among other Nisei better because they felt easier. I wanted to be in with them but I didn't know how to go about it. I guess I was accepted by them because I didn't make an effort to get into their circle.

"I began to get the feeling that I didn't belong to the group even though I joined the Japanese Students Club. They were rather exclusive and some of those Nisei whose fathers were well-to-do farmers thought that they were pretty good because they were able to come to school in their own cars. There weren't many of these rich Nisei because most of them were just a few jumps ahead of our family. I tried to get in with this Nisei group but I wasn't very successful at it because I was too timid to exert myself.

"I liked my high school experience very much because I started to develop a little bit and I got a little away from being extremely studious altho I continued to do my homework very faithfully. I started to join a few of the school clubs and I found out that

they were fun so I was encouraged. I also found out that I could make better grades than most of the other kids and that gave me a great deal of satisfaction. I was quite proud when I became a member of the California Scholastic Federation. Most of the Nisei made it their aim to get into this club but not all of them succeeded. However, there were more Nisei kids in the Scholarship Federation than Caucasian kids.] I studied every night at home as there was nothing else to do and my folks wouldn't let me run around. I couldn't have gone out much anyway because we lived too far out from other Nisei kids. I saw them mostly at school during my first two years there.

"I didn't have any social activities at all in high school as I definitely began to feel that I was supposed to go out only with my own race. I didn't know any of the Nisei boys that well so that I was left out on all of the school activities and the affairs put on by the Japanese Students club. I didn't go to any of the dances. I guess I didn't know how to dress or make up like the other Nisei girls and I didn't know how to act around the boys. The girls and the fellows had a sort of clique and they were a little older than I was. I wasn't very developed when I was 16. The Nisei held their own dances but I didn't know how to dance. I don't think that my mother would have cared if I went to some of these Nisei dances but I never did ask her.

"I did have a boy friend when I was 14. He was a Caucasian student and we got quite friendly. I used to sneak off to shows with him once in a while but I never told my mother because she would have gotten very angry, I think. This boy put his arms around me one day in the show and kissed me. I was so embarrassed because I thought he was doing something bad so I ran out of the

show and I wouldn't speak to him anymore. After that I stayed away from boys.

"In high school I felt that I could only go around with the Japanese boys and they didn't ask me so that I didn't have any dates at all. I just went around with my sister once in a while. I thought my sister was so bold because she went around with Caucasian and Nisei boys and it didn't bother her at all. The funny thing was that my sister didn't feel the same way about these things as I did. She was much more aggressive and she had a nice personality. She was quite pretty so that she was very popular with the Nisei group and all of the boys wanted to date her out. They never came to our house though because my sister didn't want them to. My sister started to go to some of the Nisei dances when she was a senior in high school but she always told my mother that she was going to the library as she wanted to avoid an argument. My mother didn't know that my sister was doing this. I suppose my mother felt the same way as the other Issei mothers. They didn't seem to approve of Nisei girls going to dances.

"Since I didn't have any social activities of my own, I concentrated more and more on my studies and I began to think that I didn't have time to do the other things. In this way I didn't feel that I was missing out on anything. I just stuck to my one girl friend and we went to shows together when I had the money, which wasn't too often. My girl friend's parents were both teachers and they had a lovely home with very modern furnishings. They were pretty well off and I think that some of the other Nisei envied me because I went around with a rich Caucasian girl. The girl ~~xx~~ always treated me as an equal and she often took me to shows since she had a regular allowance. She was popular with the boys too.

But she seemed to like me better than any of her Caucasian girl friends.

"After my brother finished high school in 1939, he went to work as a mechanic. After that we began to get a few things in our home that we had always wanted. My brother bought second hand radio and a washing machine and other things like that and we thought that we were really coming up in the world. Our house was so barren before that and we didn't have anything. The radio certainly made a lot of difference because the house wasn't as gloomy as before when it was on and it took away a lot of that lonely atmosphere.

"My brother worked for a Caucasian wrecking company in town and he was the first Japanese to be hired. He got along well with all of the workers and he did his work very conscientiously and efficiently so that the boss was quite impressed with him. My brother tended to be on the serious side but he started to go out with some of his fellow workers and they used to have a lot of good times together. My brother hardly knew any other Nisei until he got to camp. His boss told him that he could have his job back if he ever came back to Long Beach. My brother never liked our family being so poor so he tried to help by contributing what he could. He didn't resent doing this. However, when he had to quit school and go to work to help the family out, he did feel that he was restricted for a while. That was because all of the Nisei talked about going to college and he knew that he couldn't do the same.

"In the year before the war, I was still a quiet and studious little Nisei girl and I didn't have any personality or nothing. I didn't have too much fun like the other kids. I didn't have any

social life at all and I was so backward. That was the time I wanted to get some rimless glasses very badly so that I worked during the summer of 1941 as a waitress in a chop suey restaurant and I saved enough money to buy myself a pair. That was one of the exciting moments of my life. Everyone who wore glasses were getting the rimless kind and I didn't want to be conspicuous by not having them myself. I also worked part-time as a domestic and I didn't mind too much as I was not treated as a servant. I also was anxious to get the extra money as I felt that I would like to have some spending money for the school year. That was the first summer I had ever worked. Most of the other summers I just played around with my friends in the neighborhood.

"Altho the summer vacation seemed boring, we did have a great deal of fun. We played basketball at the public play-yard and occasionally all of the kids in the neighborhood would go on hiking trips. There were no Nisei in this group at all. When I did meet a Nisei girl that I became quite friendly with late in the summer of 1941, we began to go to shows together a couple of times. I was quite anxious to develop this friendship but it didn't work out as we didn't care for each other that much. After that I went back to my own group and she started to go around with her Nisei friends once more. I wanted to develop her friendship because I thought that she would introduce me to her Nisei circle but it didn't work out that way.

"The only contact I had with other Japanese during the summer before the war was attending the Japanese church on Sunday. I went regularly for about a month but I finally stopped going as I found that I couldn't get along with my own race. I was still conscious of the fact that I was poorer than all of the other Japanese and I

didn't want to come out into the open and have them talk about my family.

[I wasn't too happy except in my classes when I got good grades. I day-dreamed quite a bit and I would imagine all sorts of things. I was always trying to think that I would be a famous writer or something some day and be rich. Sometimes I would day dream in class and I wouldn't know what was going on.] I did feel balanced among my Caucasian friends but I felt inferior to the Nisei as I didn't dress as well as them and I didn't dance. They were always talking about these things so that I didn't enter into the conversation very well. All I did was study. When I met the other Nisei I felt a little different and I didn't know what to say to them. I would feel very uneasy and I just wanted to get away from them as fast as possible to return to the things and friends that I knew better.

"I was starting my junior year in the high school in the fall of 1941. The first thing the teacher did when the class met was to assign me to give a talk about Japan in front of the students. I didn't know a thing about Japan. I think that some of those Caucasian students knew more about Japan than I did. I was expected to give a good talk so I took it seriously. I went to the library for several days and looked up everything I could on Japan. I gave a fairly good talk and I told them that my mother had told me a lot of these things, which was also true. For the first time in my life, I felt more conscious of Japan and I began to follow up things on Japan in my current events class. I began to identify myself a little with Japan because the kids in class didn't say bad things about it. Nobody ever called me a 'Jap' at school. They just took me as a born in America citizens but they knew I

was Japanese but I often felt the difference. Actually, the only way I really was identified with Japan was that I had Japanese blood and a Japanese name.

"My attitude toward Japan at that ^{time} ~~Japan~~ was that it could never be as strong as the United States. I had a feeling that I belonged to this country too. However, I wanted Japan to come up a little as I didn't want to be ashamed of her. My mother had told me that the Japanese in California were ridiculed a lot but I should remember that Japan was one of the great nations of the world. I was proud of that fact and I wanted Japan to be right next to the United States in power. I never thought too much of these things as it was only brought to my attention in the current event class.

[My ambition at that time was to go to college. I was interested in writing and I thought that maybe I could become a reporter or something like that. It wasn't a serious ambition but I didn't have any other reason for going to college. I thought that I would be placed in a higher position socially if I had a college degree and my poorness would not make any difference.] Marriage was about the furthestest thought from my mind at that time and I didn't even have a boy friend. I just thought that I would live in Long Beach all of my life and I never thought too much about the future possibilities. I was happy enough in spite of my longing for other things at times. I suppose that this was so because the high school was my main interest in life then and everything centered around it. My main hobby was my garden and my pet. I did a lot of reading and I used to try and write a little bit for fun. I've given this idea up since evacuation though.

"I was still a junior in high school when the war broke out.

I remember that my parents used to discuss a little about the trouble that was coming but I didn't understand it too clearly as they would talk in Japanese. They never took these things seriously though. The thing was that they were confident of Japan's future in Asia and they didn't think that the United States would try to stop her. They were mad at the Americans because they did not give the Japanese a fair chance. I didn't think that this was the right way to feel after we had been taking relief from the government so I stood up for the U.S. more. My parents would scoff at me and they said that I was too young to know any better. They said that there was too much discrimination for the Nisei to have much of a chance. It used to make me mad, but I let it pass because I couldn't talk as easily as they could and I didn't know my facts. I felt inwardly that I was sort of an American because I was proud of this country, but these comments made by my parents disturbed me. I felt that we had the best of everything in the world in this country and I wanted to be a real part of it. At that time I thought that this was accepted enough and I didn't question it very much. I only felt uneasy at those times when I became conscious that my race was Japanese. This did not linger long in my mind as my school studies occupied me most of the time. I really didn't know that an actual war was going to come that quick. In fact, I didn't think that there would ever be a war as that was the last thing from my mind. I knew that Japan was fighting in China but I didn't know the reason why and I wasn't much interested in it. I also knew that Germany was fighting against England in Europe from the year before but I didn't see how that would affect us. I didn't even know the meaning of war.

"On December 7, I was reading the Sunday comics and we had our

second hand radioturned on when the reports about Pearl Harbor started to come in. I didn't pay any attention at first because it didn't register. Then my brother made a remark and I couldn't believe it. I just didn't want to believe it as I thought my friends at school would take it out on me. My folks began to get very excited and worried and my sister and I thought that it would be hard on them. However, the first day, we didn't think very much of these things. My brother did mention that there was a possibility that my father may lose ~~af~~ some of the small business he had and he wouldn't get any more new customers. That was the thing that struck me because I thought that we would be so poor that we would have to go on relief again. My father said there was no chance of that as they wouldn't take any Japanese on relief even if they needed it. I was pretty scared and I didn't know what was going to happen. I wanted to finish up my high school work so badly. At that time I didn't see anything that would prevent this. I guess I was worried most about somebody harming us and also about being poor again. My mother had sent a little money to a bank in Japan and that was frozen right away so we knew we would never have that again.

"My father was about the most upset one in the family. He just couldn't believe that Japan had really started the war. He was all excited and I didn't know what he was saying because it was all in Japanese. I gathered that he was worried because he thought he would lose all of his Caucasian customers right away. My mother was scared and she was in a very excited state too. Immediately she began to talk about that bank account in Japan and my father got mad because she had advised him in the wrong way. It was too late to do anything about that and we hardly had any

money in the house so that it was important that my family kept their jobs.

"My brother was mad right away at the Japs for attacking the U.S. but he didn't say anything to the folks because they were so scared. We figured that we would all have to stick together and help each other out. All the rest of the first day of the war we listened to the radio. My brother really was excited and he was all for doing something immediately. He didn't think that it was going to be a long war because he said Japan didn't have much of a navy or air force. Somehow we had a feeling that our lives would change but it was nothing definite. It was a vague sense that we were going to be put on the spot and be blamed for what Japan had done.

"I remember that night I went to bed very disturbed as I was worrying about whether we would get poor again. I remember the day when we had no electricity and we had to use that hurricane lamps in the house. I had a strange night of it because I thought of the strangest things. I thought of my mother who used to make sake in order to trade it with the Italian woman for a little food. I wondered if we had to go back to that kind of life again. I resented having to go back to being that poor again and I certainly was mad at Japan for doing that Pearl Harbor bombing. I was rebelling inside of me and I felt so frustrated. All of the feelings I had pushed into the background suddenly came out and I didn't know what to make of it. I was pretty confident that my brother and sister would keep their jobs so that would have kept us going even if my father's business did fold up.

"By this time we had been getting along fairly well and my brother even owned a jalopy of his own. We had electricity in the

house and we were eating better food. I was dressing a little better and I even got spending money once in a while. Things were picking up for us pretty good when the war had to come along and spoil everything.

"My sister was working in a Japanese fruit and produce stand in town so that she was able to get vegetables cheaply. She was getting paid about \$15 a week for that and my brother was making about \$80 a month in his work. With all of this money coming in, we were able to get many of the things that we had always wanted around the house. It was funny that I thought of these things when the war started but that's the way it was.

"I wasn't panic stricken, but I was a little apprehensive about what would happen to us. I didn't know how we would be treated. It was a depressing feeling and my folks were a little worried about that. The next day I was very hesitant about going to school as usual as I knew that many eyes would be staring at me. It came out very strongly in my mind that I was of Japanese descent and I looked like a Japanese. I didn't know how I would be taken. All of this worrying was rather unnecessary and I didn't have to worry about the attitude at school because all of the kids and teachers were more friendlier to me than ever before. Right away I felt at ease and I went back to my usual classes. That very day the whole school was called for a general assembly to hear President Roosevelt declare war. It was very cold that day and I remember that my Caucasian girl friend loaned me a jacket. All of my friends were extra kind to me. By the end of the day I didn't feel so self-conscious with all of this friendly attitude toward me. I began to lose most of my fears but I wasn't completely easy in my mind yet.

"Everybody at school was excited and we all talked about the war. We said that it was awful and I joined right in with them. None of my Caucasian friends said anything about me being a Japanese. A lot of the other Nisei kids didn't even come to school that day as they were more scared than I was. They all seemed to stick more closer together after that more than ever. They did it for self-protection I guess, but I didn't think that this was necessary.

"Pretty soon everything was settled down and I went back to normal. The only time I felt funny was in the Algebra class when one of the new kids from another city said something out loud about all Japs in California should be kicked out of the county. The other kids in the class looked at me and they made this fellow shut up because they didn't want to hurt my feelings. The new student said he was sorry as he thought I was Chinese.

"I don't remember all of the things that happened after that because they came in such rapid succession that we didn't hardly know what was going on. My dad kept raising his flowers but he wasn't able to sell as much as before. He didn't go out of the house too often as he was afraid. He didn't think that he would be interned as he was not important enough and he didn't have any connections with Japanese clubs. He didn't belong to any Japanese clubs because he was not a very sociable man. My sister, brother and I just refused to submit to any of the propaganda which began to go around in favor of Japan. The only thing we did was to take out all of the old Japanese photographs that belonged to my folks so that we could dispose of these things if we had to. Some of the pictures were burned. Later we had the short wave taken out of the radio so that we didn't have anything hidden. We felt much

easier after that. My folks never listened to the short wave anyway as they had to get their sleep and they didn't want to get up in the middle of the night just to hear something from Japan. On special occasions like Christmas and New Years they would listen to the short wave though. My brother had put in the short wave himself as he was interested in radios and he was always fooling around with them. My mother had a picture of the Emperor which she kept in a special dresser drawer. Everybody was so excited that she finally burned this picture up although she didn't want to do it.

"My dad and mother still had sympathies for Japan but they understood when my sister, brother and I said that we were for America. My brother had been born in Japan but he always felt that he got cheated as he couldn't have the rights of an American citizen. He was all for America but he developed an outward shell of pretending that it didn't make any difference to him. I think it hurt him a great deal but he didn't show it. He used to argue a lot against Japan, but he got bitter after he got into camp. Then he began to say that American citizenship didn't mean anything as all of the Nisei were being evacuated with him. Most of the time, he never mentioned it too much in camp as he was too busy chasing the girls around. Whenever we talked for the United States in camp, my brother began to sneer more and more and he thought that we were being a little foolish to have too much faith in the government. He was still in between and he wanted to be an American even though the American citizenship would always be denied to him. He felt that this was the only life he knew and he wanted to get back to his job in Long Beach.

"For a while my brother even thought of volunteering into the

Army as he thought that he could get his American citizenship in this way. He gave up this idea after he heard that the Nisei troops were being sent into the front as spearheads. He said that he would rather be a live Jap than a dead American even though he still believed in this country when he wasn't so bitter. He had to go all through this feeling and come to a decision. I guess he was decided for this country because he is now resettled. He is out here working so hard trying to get rich that I never see him at all. He works about 12 hours a day as a mechanic and he saves all of his money. He only takes a girl out once in a while because he doesn't like to squander his money away. He doesn't know what is going to happen after the war so that he wants to have something to fall back on. He thinks that he may lose his job when all the soldiers come back. I feel the same way that he does about saving money. We never had any of it before but we can appreciate what money can do for anyone. We just want to make sure that we won't have to go on relief. Camp life is a little different because that is not exactly relief. The government is taking care of all Japanese whether they are rich or poor.

"I never thought that we would be evacuated. The first couple of months after the war passed very quickly. I hardly knew what was happening except that I heard that many Nisei were being picked by the FBI for being spies. I didn't know whether this was true or not but I sort of believed it. However, I didn't give it too much thought as I was trying to finish up my school year.

"I never talked to my parents about the war after the first week of all the excitement. My folks didn't have too much time to talk about it either as they were too worried about making a living. I heard about Filipinos going around killing any Japanese

they saw but I didn't worry too much about that because there were so many rumors going around. Pretty soon a curfew law was started on us and we weren't allowed to travel around at all. I kept on going to school every day right up to the time of evacuation and by studying hard I kept my grades up. I did my homework faithfully every night as there was nothing else to do. I never read the newspapers so that I didn't follow the war. Golly, I was only 16 then and I didn't give these things too much thought. I just didn't understand what was going on and I didn't think that it affected me.

"All I was interested in was to graduate from high school with my other friends. I became much more conscious that I was of Japanese ancestry because the spotlight was on the Nisei and this confused me all up. I felt that they were justified in being suspicious of us but they should have found out right away that almost all the Nisei were for this country. There never was any question that I was for America in the war, but I couldn't understand why we were not being trusted more. Gradually more and more restrictions were placed upon us and I didn't think it was right. It was all like a dream to me and I couldn't do anything about it. I guess I wasn't interested in it too much. It was just another thing to make me feel more conscious than ever before. I didn't like that so much but I didn't know how I could do anything about it. It just seemed that I was born to be different from the other people. I didn't feel that there was anything wrong with me tho. It was just the war which brought out a lot of these things. Ordinarily I wouldn't have ~~xxxx~~ even thought of them. I would have continued high school and finished with the rest of them and then start to worry about a job.

"The only thing I noticed that was different was that I felt closer together with my family for the first time and I wasn't ashamed of them anymore. I wanted to comfort and help them as much as I could. My parents began to depend upon us more and more for everything and for the first time in their lives, they actually sought our advice on these things. My brother and sister took the lead in most of this and I hung mostly in the background but I felt conscious of the fact that I was a real part of it. We all had this feeling that we were stuck together and we talked over the family problems more than we had ever done before. It was pretty good because it gave us a real family feeling that we didn't have before. Everybody was too busy with his own worries before that. My folks worried about money, my brother about his car, my sister about all her boy friends, and I worried about my school studies. We pushed aside all of these things and began to think of the family first of all and that was very good.

"My brother and sister fortunately did not lose their jobs so that we continued to have an income. They worked right up to the time of evacuation. My father's income fell off greatly as he was losing a lot of his business. It was about 2 or 3 months after the war started that all the talk began to go around about evacuation. I didn't even know the meaning of that word. I was told that all of us would be moved out into concetration camps. After that I lost interest in making good grades and my school work fell down a little.

"When I first heard of evacuation, I don't know what happened to me but I felt that I had to hate somebody. I knew it wasn't right because the teachers and kids at school all sympathized with me and they said it was all wrong. However, we had to wait and

wait for the notice of evacuation to come. When the announcement was finally made, I suddenly felt very light hearted and I began to look forward to it. It was a sort of vacation from all my worries about keeping up with all my homework. My father was resigned to the evacuation and he expected it. He didn't care very much because he had lost his business and he felt pretty old and tired with all the strain that had come with the war. He began to sell out what things he could. We only leased the land so that this was cancelled. We didn't have too much belongings to get rid of except a lot of junk. My father wasn't able to sell all the flowers he grew so that he had to leave it all behind. After we sold out all we could, my family had a grand total of a hundred dollars to evacuated with. That was the sum total of our fortune when we got to camp. My sister used all of her savings to buy the clothes, blankets and other things we would need in camp.

"We just left all the furnishings in the house as nobody wanted to buy that junk. A few of our personal belongings were stored with the landlady as we were told to bring only what we could carry. The other Japanese in Long Beach mostly put their belongings in storage. By this time the Japanese were getting pretty bitter about all of their losses. They had much more to lose than we did and they didn't like it at all. Some of them got gypped in selling their cars and radio but they didn't know what to do with them. My family didn't lose anything to speak of. In fact, we gained in many ways by being evacuated as we were put on an equal basis with all the other people in camp. We never would have gotten that far if we had stayed in Long Beach.

"After hearing all the talks about the losses of the Japanese, I began to get bitter a little bit after a while too. I

heard in school that it was not constitutional to evacuate citizens and I didn't think that it was right to be forced away from all the things I had known throughout my life. I never thought of it in this way before that. Suddenly, I began to cherish that dumpy home we had and all the things around Long Beach that I knew. I had a feeling that I was a part of it and I didn't want to be separated into something I knew nothing about.

"All of this time there was a great deal of excitement going on and it was in the newspapers every day but I didn't follow it at all as I was too busy saying goodbye to all of my friends. One day a lot of gunfire was going on and I heard that some Japanese airplanes were being shot down because they had come to bomb Long Beach. Some of the shells landed on Long Beach so that it really must have been a bombing. They didn't print this news in the newspapers because the Issei were saying that the American Army were hiding this fact because they didn't want to admit that the Japanese air force was good enough to fly that far. I never did read about it in the newspapers but I know that some bombs did land on the beach because everybody was talking about it. I was afraid to ask the Caucasians about it because they might have blamed me. I got scared that time and I was glad that we were going to be placed under protection. My father was afraid that riots would break out after the Japanese Army started to invade California. (Kisako must be referring to the incident when Army and civilian defense were having a practice blackout. The Army shot some guns straight into the air so that the shells fell back down in the Long Beach vicinity. This incident was reported in the newspapers.)

"The thing that I didn't like was that they tried to make me

feel like a Japanese and I began to feel it more than ever before. But I was still loyal to the United States as I knew I was an American citizen and I could see some justification for the evacuation. The way one of my teachers explained it to me, it seemed that it wasn't anything bad at all. I also felt that there might be some Japanese spies around and they couldn't tell in case of an invasion because of our skin color. My father felt that the invasion would come at any time so that he was anxious for us to leave. They said that it would be safer for us to be in camp. At that time my folks thought that the U.S. would lose the war very soon because Japan was making a lot of conquests. My father didn't see how the Japanese Army could be stopped from invading California. A lot of people were saying that there were Japanese soldiers in California already and they were just waiting for the moment to strike. My folks felt that it wouldn't be too safe to be on the outside when the attack did come. That is why they didn't protest against the evacuation at all.

"I think that my folks would rather have had been left alone without being evacuated but they didn't have a chance so that they couldn't say anything. They just gloated because everyone was hating the Japanese then and they were afraid of them. My folks thought that it served them right as they were pushing us around for nothing. When I heard all these thing, I wondered all the time if I was an American. I still felt I was one, but I wasn't sure. Everybody took me for a Japanese and I sometimes felt that they were right. I didn't know what was going to happen next but I didn't think too much about it.

"Shortly before the evacuation, we discussed the whole thing in my school class and we concluded that the United States was not

perfect in everything but that Democracy would triumph. I had learned all about democracy in school but I was a little confused when all of these things began to happen to me. People were saying that evacuation was unconstitutional and other people were saying that it was not. Then they said that we didn't have citizenship rights so I didn't know what to think. I knew that my teachers and class mates were okay as they still considered me as an American. They said that I was still a citizen so I wanted desperately to believe them.

"On the other hand, the Japanese people got together and they said that we were being persecuted and it didn't matter if we were Issei or Nisei. They said that citizenship didn't mean anything because it was just race discrimination. I just refused to believe all of this as I wanted to be a good American and do what the government believed what was best for us without getting bitter ~~and~~ about it. It was hard though because everyone ~~was~~ emotional about the whole thing and very drastic statements were made by both extremes. I wanted to believe what I had believed all my life but I admit that I did weaken a few times.

"I wanted to get away from all of this confusion and that is why I wanted to be evacuated as soon as possible so that I could see what would happen next. I was appointed by my class to write to them and inform them all about what was happening in camp. It was a good thing~~x~~ that I did do this because it kept me busy and I didn't feel the hardships so much. I guess I didn't think too seriously about these things but I told my classmates everything I saw in order to give them some idea of what camp was like. I still don't know what the whole thing means even though I've lived thought it. I learned some of the bitter thoughts after I got to

camp and I heard so many of those Nisei talking against this country. It was then that I felt a little sorry for myself for a while.

"When we were moved out of Long Beach, I just hoped that we wouldn't be mistreated. Things were happening so rapidly that I didn't think of what the future might bring. I just hoped that we would be sent back to Long Beach pretty soon. I left with the idea that this was what was going to happen, but I guess I was fooled. As I left the city, I looked at my mother and she shed tears. I knew then that she had some feeling for this country because she had lived here so long. She said she was crying because she would never see it again. She probably was right but I scolded her for having such an idea like that. She was so used to living there that she was afraid to go any other place. A lot of the Issei were crying. In fact, more Issei cried than Nisei so I think they have more of a feeling for California than we do. I know that I didn't like to leave at all and I had a lonesome and sad feeling. I forgot about how poor our family was in that city because that was not the important thing. It was leaving something that was a part of me. I wondered if I would be able to get along with all those Japanese because I knew there were would be thousands of them in camp.

"I just thought that it was all like a dream. It was pretty exciting too. As soon as we left the city behind us, I immediately began to look forward to seeing what it would be like in Santa Anita with all the Japanese there. I was a little worried about this because I didn't know if I was going to like it or not. I'll never forget the day we entered Santa Anita with all those thousands of people wandering around inside the fencel. Everybody

seemed so busy trying to get settled down. I felt like two cents being in that big mob of strangers. For a while I was quite excited about Santa Anita. We were so busy having our things inspected that I didn't have too much time to look around the first day. We were put in a stable full of hay and it was terrible there. The mattress was filled with straw so that we could hardly sleep on it. I couldn't sleep very well because something didn't seem right. I thought it was much worse than my own home, but really it wasn't thatx bad.

"When I first got into Santa Anita I only knew a few people there other than my class mates. I didn't make any friends at first as I still didn't know how. I was too busy trying to fix our place up anyway. I didn't have too much of a reaction except that it was a strange place and quite a novelty to me to see so many thousand of Japanese faces at one time. I just loafed around until the summer school started in camp. The school didn't last very long beacuse they couldn't get the teachers. After it was cancelled, I was drafted to the camouflage work. I didn't care for that work too much because it was hot and hard and the lint got into my eyes and nose. However, I got a chance to make a few new friends at the work there. After a week I transferred to the mess hall department to take a job as a waitress.

"I liked the waitress job very much because I was able to meet a lot of people. I also felt pretty important because I was making \$8 a month and not everybody in camp had a job. All of the Nisei were getting together for dances so I entered a dancing class right away and I finally did learn how to dance. I began to meet a few boys and I finally had my first date. It wasn't as exciting as I thought it would be. I started to go to quite a few dances

after that. At first, my mother objected but she didn't say anything because all of the girls were going to dances and the mothers were allowing it. She didn't think anymore that it was bad for girls to go to dances. However, she wanted me to go around with nice boys near my own age. I was sort of going steady with a boy and he was the first Nisei boy friend I had. I didn't feel anything special toward him though, but we just had fun together.

"I started to go to church in camp and I made a number of friends in this way. I just went to church because it was held in the grandstand and I could look out to the scenery. I didn't pay any attention to the sermon although some of it was good. I went to all the talent shows and I enjoyed these things as I did not have a social life before coming to camp. I still was timid and quiet like I am now, but not as much as before the war. I think I developed quite a bit in camp.

"Most of the time though, I carried out a pretty correspondence with my school mates on the outside. At first I described all about camp life to them and it was fun. After that I told them of my work and other exciting things happening in camp. All I remember saying at first was that there was Japs all around me. It really was strange to see so many Japanese faces around. This feeling gradually disappeared as I got to know more of them and I didn't feel so much like a stranger anymore. For a while I thought this was proof that I was Japanese and not American but I realized that this was not the case because being an American was more in the way you thought. I knew I could never think ~~that~~ like those Issei did. I began to consider them as Japanese and myself as an American.

"I started to read all of the available books at the library

in order ~~to~~ to pass the time away. Now and then I would get a very restless feeling even though it was a lot of fun in camp. It was such a strange life and I wasn't used to it yet. Gradually I began to get the impression that we were not going to be returned to Long Beach too soon so that my hopes began to disappear. I began to feel more and more that we were going to stay in Santa Anita for the rest of the war. However, the next announcement was made that we were going to a relocation camp so that the people of Santa Anita began to split up to a lot of different WRA centers. Everyone was trying to be put into a group where his friends were located but it didn't make that much difference to me as my friends weren't that ~~xxxxx~~ close.

"The thing I objected to was that I didn't want to leave California but there was nothing I could do about it. I heard a lot of rumors about Arkansas and I didn't want to go there at all. I was enjoying my life at Santa Anita because there were so many activities going on, and it was the first time that I had a chance to meet so many Nisei boys. We were all on an equal basis so that I didn't see things any differently than they did after a while. I thought it was better to have fun than sit around and brood about the matter because that would not have gotten us any place. The novelty of all this camp life and the activity was very exciting even though I had my stray moments of uneasiness. One thing I wanted to do was to finish up for my high school diploma and I couldn't see how that could be done in a camp which had no school.

"My parents enjoyed the stay at Santa Anita very much as they didn't have to work and worry about money any more. My dad was so used to getting up real early every morning for years and years that he just could not change this habit even though he didn't

have to work. Dad made a lot of friends there with all the other old Issei men. They didn't have anything to do so they just sat around and talked. It got so that dad never stayed home at all. All of the old men would meet at certain places and they would talk and talk all day long. They criticized everything because they thought things were not run right, but I notice they didn't do anything themselves. ^{They} I were just happy to keep their tongues wagging. One of their great subjects of discussion was about how soon Japan was going to win the war and things like that. They began to sneer at the white people and I didn't like that too much but I couldn't say anything to that. Sometimes a group of men would sit outside our door and make their comments. I knew enough to know that it was about the war and it made me mad when they said anything against the U.S. Maybe I didn't hear correctly because I really couldn't follow the things they were saying. I know that my father would come home and give me some of the stuff that the old men had been talking about and I didn't agree with his ideas. He didn't try to force it on me as he acted like it was the only answer and there was no argument to it. The Issei really didn't get out too much in the open in their talking until they went to the WRA centers.

"My mother was also having a wonderful time running all over the place joining this club and that club and taking part in church affairs. She really had a chance to enjoy herself ~~and~~ for the first time. That's why my folks like it so much at Santa Anita. It got so they were not too anxious to go back to Long Beach. I don't see why any of the Issei should be bitter about not being allowed to go back to their home town because most of

them wouldn't want to go ^{there} ~~there~~ now anyways even if they had the chance.

"A lot of the Issei thought that we would all be sent to Japan after the war but they didn't worry too much about it. They were not too sure if Japan would invade the U.S. after they stayed in camp for a while. My dad was still positive that Japan was going to win the war but I never talked to him about it was it was no use. I never gave these things a thought as I forgot all about it as there were too many other things going on. I didn't follow the war at all and I didn't read the newspapers or listen to the radio. The only thing I read was the center newspaper to find out where all the dances would be held. It was all like a dream. I tired to get a job on the Pacemaker as I thought I might be able to start some writing on my own but I was too young for the job so I had to give up that idea.

"One of the friends I made at Santa Anita was a Mexican woman who was married to a Japanese man. She was very lonesome as all the other Japanese left her alone. She came to camp so that she could be with her husband and children. She reminded me a little bit of the Indian girl friend I had in my childhood so I began to speak to her. She became one of my best friends there because I seemed to get along with her very well. I didn't feel that different from her which other people felt. We would sit around for hours and talk about our lives back home and I began to long to see the outside again. I didn't think about what I could do in the future except that I wanted to go to school. I didn't like it very much when I heard that all of the Nisei were going to be deported. For a while I thought this might be done right away as anything could happen. I don't know what I would have done in

that case. I bet I would have tried to escape. Most of the time I didn't think too much about these things as I had my other activities to take care of. In a way I felt much better off because I was having more social life than I'd ever dreamed of.

"In October, 1942, our group left Santa Anita for the Arkansas relocation center at Jerome. About the only real exciting thing that happened during the long summer at Santa Anita was the riot. I don't know what it was all about. I heard that they went after a Korean spy and almost killed him. I was too busy doing other things to pay much attention to that. They even had to bring in the Army for a couple of days and we had to cancel one of the dances that we were planning to attend. I was glad when all this trouble was over so that we could go back to the things that we were interested in. As I left Santa Anita I remembered back over these past experiences and I concluded that it was a pleasant life but things would not be all fun in Arkansas. I knew there would be a high school there and I was determined to complete my class work there to get a diploma.

"On the way to Arkansas my mother got sick so that she was put in a Pullman. I wouldn't find a place to sleep on the train so I had to stay on the crowded day coach. I got car sick on the second day so I didn't enjoy the trip at all. I know we passed through a lot of country but I wasn't in the right frame to enjoy it. My morale wasn't too high because I just didn't like the idea of going so far away from California. I knew that it would take a long time to save up any money to go back there even if we were allowed to go there some day. I guess I was too critical of the states I passed through as I didn't think any of them could compare with California.

"When we got into Jerome, my heart sunk low at the sight of those dusty barracks. Santa Anita had some nice greenery around it, but everything in Jerome was so dry. There were soldiers standing around the camp when we first went in. The camp was unfinished and I thought I would never like it there. My family was put into a fairly clean barrack and it was a lot better than what we had been expecting. After we fixed it up a little bit, we soon discovered that it was a much better apartment than the one we had at Santa Anita. My brother helped build some of the furniture and my mother and I put up curtains. It got to be a pretty good place after we got through even though there were some awkward pieces of furniture around.

"My brother went out on a sugar beet furlough after a week or so at Jerome so that we had to do most of the work on the apartment ourselves. My mother liked to build furniture but it was made so bad that we would take it out and hide it. Then she would get mad and bring it right back in. My sister and I had violent quarrels with her about how to arrange furniture in an artistic balance but she would never listen. My mother never kept house very well before the war so that she didn't like to keep our apartment clean in camp. My sister and I would get after her for this all the time and she didn't like that. She would clutter the place with things and make it messy with things she brought in. She would always win the argument so I didn't like to bring friends home with me. My sister was not married yet so she ~~waxed~~ was disturbed about the dirty house too as she didn't feel like bringing friends over to a dirty place. We would clean it all up but mother would get it dirty right away.

"My sister never was happy with camp life so she got out as

soon as she could. Her husband is a Caucasian fellow and she got married out here. Right now her husband is unemployed but he used to work for the telephone company. He knew my sister back in Long Beach and he used to go around with her there. When my sister first resettled to Denver, he followed her out there. She didn't want to get married then as she thought it wouldn't be so good at a time like this so she came on to Chicago. He followed her out here and finally convinced her that he was the one and only and finally they were married about two months ago.

"The only reason my sister tolerated camp life as long as she did was because they had a lot of activities there. She also enjoyed the nursing aide job which she held. A lot of the fellows were trying to meet her all the time but she couldn't get along with the Nisei boys as she wasn't the type of girl ~~as~~ they expected. She is pretty tall and she did not care for the Nisei fellow~~s~~ as she felt that they were not grown up yet. That's the reason why she finally decided to leave camp. She knew that she could never be happy with all the Japanese around because they were too critical. Out here she doesn't go around in a Nisei circle at all. She just has a few friends she knew from before.

"When I first went to Jerome I had to go to school so that I couldn't work. I started my senior year there in October, 1942. Our high school was located in the barracks and I had several Nisei teachers. My biology teacher was a Caucasian and he was really stupid. He used to be a physical education teacher so that he didn't know anything about the subject. Everybody cheated in his classes and I cheated for the first time. There was a lot of competition because we all tried to get good grades. In some of my classes there were a lot of smart Nisei so that I had to study

like anything in order to keep up with them.

"Going to school with all Nisei students wasn't much different from going to Poly high back home. The Nisei seem to be quite Americanized, but there was a large group who were scornful of studying. They were bitter about being forced to go to such a makeshift school and they didn't like to sit on the hard benches in the crowded classroom of the barracks. There were many inconveniences to the school but we gradually became used to them.

"In our social problems class, we had a Nisei teacher who was bitter about the evacuation. He would ask us all about race problems and get our opinions. Then he would get us discouraged by telling us that democracy did not work and that it was a lot of bunk. He said it was just an ideal to dream about. This teacher wanted to be a lawyer so that he was a very good talker. He even taught us about Communism and he pointed out that there were many parts to that which worked. I was shocked at this because I had an idea that Communism was bad. He also discussed Hitler and he asked us what we thought of him. We also had discussions on Japan and he said that she was not so much at fault as we thought. He tried to present everything as fairly as possible, but he was cynical and bitter about democracy.

"I know that I wasn't the only one who was influenced a great deal by this teacher. I believed everything he said for a while but I couldn't agree with him all the time. I didn't agree that things were as bad as he said. However, I didn't change a lot of my opinions until I got out of high school because I didn't know how to argue his arguments. I felt that we were still in a democracy and that it was worthwhile even if it were not perfect. The camp life couldn't erase some of the things my teachers had

taught me back home. I think that this teacher made a lot of us get a little bitter against democracy but I didn't give in completely to his way of thinking although he did impress me quite a bit when he pointed out things of democracy that I didn't know. I just sat in class and took it all in.

"There was ~~another~~ one Caucasian teacher who had a much better attitude about things. He was mad because we had been evacuated and he told us that it was an economic frame-up to get the Japanese farmers out of California so that the Caucasians could take over the land. That was the first time I heard evacuation explained this way. It sounded logical to me so I believed him. Some of the other Caucasian teachers were not so good because they thought they were superior to us. I never paid much attention to them though. Fortunately my teachers were of the better type.

"I enjoyed high school in camp very much because it was a well-rounded life like I had hoped for back home. I studied hard so that I made good marks upon my graduation. I was a member of the Honor Society and I also took part in all of the school activities. The only time I wished that I was back in Poly High was on graduation night. We were supposed to have the exercises out in the open but it rained so that we had to go into the school mess hall. The graduation exercise was very short and I was quite disappointed. It wasn't anything like an outside graduation but I was glad to get my diploma.

"I didn't know what I was going to do next. I wanted to go on to college but I didn't know how I could manage this without any money of my own. I knew that my parents couldn't help me so that it was a lost cause. Gradually I lost interest in going on to college as I knew that there wasn't much chance for me. I gradu-

ated from high school in September, 1943. Some of my best friends at high school went on to college right away as their folks were able to send them out of camp. I envied them very much because I didn't have a chance to do this. I wanted to go to college to learn languages because that seemed to be my easiest subject.

"After a couple of weeks I went to work in camp and gradually I lost interest in college. I got a job in the hospital as a nurse's aide. I liked that work very much so that I continued in it until I came out here in March, 1944. I thought of going into the Cadet Nursing Corps and I even wrote a few letters to find out about it but nothing ever came out of it. I knew about the Student Relocation Committee but I didn't know that they could help me financially. I got discouraged when one of my girl friends wrote me and said that Cadet Nursing was very hard. I gradually let this plan slip and I haven't done anything about it since altho I may consider it later on. Most of the Nisei girls were interested in secretarial work in camp but that didn't appeal to me. I wasn't trained for anything but I never worried about that as I had no immediate plans for resettlement. I knew my mother would not let me go out to work because I was too young.

"After I got out of high school I began to have much more of a social life. I met a Hawaiian Nisei girl who had been evacuated to Jerome from Hawaii and we got quite friendly. She told me all about the Hawaiian Islands and I got to know all of her friends who were working in the hospital. This became the bunch that I went around with and I got along swell with them. I also joined the Twixteen Girls' Club and I met Chizu (CH-48) and Mary Nakahara through this. We used to have all kinds of social activities and it was a lot of fun sponsoring our own camp socials. I also be-

longed to the Mademoiselles Club in my block.

"Gradually I was persuaded to go to a dance held at Camp Shelby. I was talked into it so I went. My mother didn't mind because there were plenty of chaperones. The reason I went was that I thought it would be a good chance to see what the outside looked like. Later I was persuaded to join the USO in camp and I began to enjoy meeting all of the Hawaiian soldier boys. They seemed to be much ^{better} behaved than the other Nisei in camp. I was interested in the Hawaiian group anyway because of my girl friend.

"I met Hiro for the first time at one of these USO dances when he came up with a group from Camp ~~Kelx~~ Shelby. We began to write letters to each other. I fell in love with him so we got engaged. My mother met him and she liked him very much so that she didn't object. She just suggested that we wait until after the war before getting married as I was too young. Hiro was about 24 years old. I saw him a number of times before he went overseas in January. I wanted to get married before he left but he thought that we had better wait so we promised to get married when he came back.

"Hiro wrote me a lot of letters from overseas and I felt that I loved him all the more. I didn't even consider the possibility that he might never come back. On June 1, 1944, after I was in Chicago, I found out that he had been killed in action. I was so shocked that I just didn't have any feeling for days. I was just numb. I'm not over it yet. I lost interest in everything after June and my mind was a blank for a long time. I lost a lot of confidence in myself and that's one of the reasons why I don't work steadily now. I think I'm beginning to get over it now as I must think more of my own future and decide whether I am going to

have a career or look for some other boy.

"After Hiro was killed I just didn't want to meet any people so I sort of withdrew even more within my self. Even now I'm not steady in everything I do. I procrastinate and I can't make up my mind. I'm looking for something I can't find and I don't know what it is. It's rather painful for me to talk about Hiro.

"While I was in camp I never thought that Hiro would be killed. I didn't want to stay there in Jerome after he went overseas so I decided to resettle even if my mother objected. I had plans to go to Denver to join my sister but she wasn't sure that she was going to stay there. I decided to come out to Chicago because I had a few friends here. Camp life became very dull after Hiro went overseas and I didn't care to meet other Nisei boys or go to dances anymore. I just stuck to my Hawaiian girl friend and we used to talk about block troubles and things like that. There was always trouble between the mess hall and the block manager's office. The only thing that kept my morale up was my nurse's aide work because there was a lot of responsibility to it and the work was hard so that I didn't have time to day dream.

"I became very much more conscious of the war because of my contacts with all the Nisei soldiers from Camp Shelby. I still felt that the war would last for a few years yet. The Nisei soldiers all felt that they were going to be used as the spear-head on the front line but they were still anxious to go overseas anyway. I found out that the Hawaiian Nisei soldiers felt the strongest about this as they didn't have the bitterness that the California Nisei soldiers had. My Hawaiian girl friend influenced me a lot too as they were different from any Nisei I knew before.

"Most of these Hawaiian Nisei girls seem to be more outward

in everything they did and I envied them for that. Some of them were not so Americanized though and they were bitter like the other Nisei but they did not have much of an effect on me. What impressed me mostly was the high morale that my Hawaiian friends had and they always looked at the bright side of the ~~picture~~ picture. Some of the Hawaiian Nisei fellows I met didn't know why they volunteered but they were still anxious to go overseas. They just joined to see the world and to be with their pals.

"I just couldn't understand why the Nisei boys in camp were so scornful of these Hawaiian Nisei soldiers, especially my brother. Many Issei were this way too and some of the blocks refused to have Nisei soldiers at the mess halls. My own mess hall refused to give me some Japanese food for a Nisei soldier as the cook just didn't like the idea of Nisei fighting for this country. The Kibei were very much against them too. This made me feel all the more that I was an American and on the side of the Nisei soldiers. The people in camp couldn't understand how lonesome these Hawaiian Nisei soldiers were for their homes in the islands. I got mad when they were condemned for fighting for America. I thought that all Nisei boys should be doing this.

"My brother disliked the Hawaiian Nisei boys because he thought they were not civilized. I think the real reason was that he was jealous because one girl friend of his refused him a date five times in a row as she was too busy with the USO work. He felt that he was being neglected and he didn't like it at all. My parents were always nice to the Hawaiian boys as they always spoke to my parents with respect. My dad spoke to them in a friendly way as he didn't hold anything against them for fighting for the U.S. Gradually many of the Issei began to feel that it was okay

for the Nisei to fight for America even though their own sympathies were for Japan. They began to say that maybe the Nisei should fight for America as they might get back their citizenship rights. But I think most Issei who didn't have sons in the Army felt this way.

"My mother knew that I ~~h~~ never wanted to go to Japan so she never said anything in opposition to it as she thought I would change my mind when I got a little older. At the time of the Army registration in early 1943, there was a lot of fuss in camp stirred up ~~against the~~ about the whole issue. I just signed 'yes' to both of the questions as I did not have a doubt in my mind. My parents had a lot of discussion about how they should answer the question, but they finally decided to obey the laws of this country as they didn't see any sense in stirring up trouble because they were fairly comfortable in camp. They didn't want to repatriate by this time as they didn't have any money and they knew that my brother, sister and I would not go with them. We were getting to be too old for them to give us an order like that and they knew it. That was one thing we never would have given in on, especially my sisters.

"Most of the Issei signed 'yes' to the registration after a lot of arguments. Those who did not are now in Tule Lake but I don't think there is much difference between the two groups. The only difference I can see is that ~~some~~ ^{those} in Jerome didn't want to go to Japan so they signed 'yes'. They didn't have anyone to support them if they went back. The others felt they had more of a chance. I think most Issei tended to be more sympathetic toward Japan. Most of them are still loyal to Japan as far as winning the war is concerned.

"The Nisei didn't even think about the Army registration. At that time I didn't blame them for being bitter about being asked to go into the Army after the evacuation, but that was before I met all of my Hawaiian friends. Most of the Nisei in my block were only interested in their own activity and they didn't care to be bothered about anything connected with the war. I think that is one of the reasons why I began to quit going around with some of my block friends as they were too bitter for me. I agreed with some of the things they said but I didn't think they should be that mad at this country. I began to stick more with my Hawaiian friends and they agreed that they had to fight for this country so that they would have a chance in the future. I thought that was a better way of looking at things. I think all of these things helped me to do a lot more thinking for myself.

"I began to get much more conscious of the outside world than I had been at Santa Anita. I got more out of my stay at Jerome than I did at Santa Anita. I think that I met a group of more Americanized Nisei at Jerome and they were not so bitter as the Nisei. If I hadn't been with them I might have been more bitter myself. I couldn't understand why some of those Nisei spoke against this country. They even said they did not care for their citizenship anymore. I don't think they meant that because not one of them really wanted to go to Japan to live. They were just mad because they were kicked around and not treated fairly.

"While I was at Jerome I did a lot more reading than what I had done at Santa Anita and I think I learned a few things. I read all of the books I could get my hands on. Most of these were usually novels. I liked books which told of this country and I felt proud that I belonged to it. I had a lot of time to read

after my fiance went overseas in January, 1944. I didn't care to take part in so many of the social activities of the camp after he left so I turned to reading.

"My main reason for resettling was because my boy friend went overseas. I first started thinking of resettlement before I graduated from high school but nothing came of that because I didn't go about it seriously. I think I always wanted to be on the outside and that explained the restless feeling I had now and then. Every~~now~~ once in a while I would get in sort of a mood and I would feel something sort of pressing me in. It was like the camp squeezing us in and in because we~~we~~ were confined so much. At first I wanted to get out so I could go to school. However, I had to drop this plan because I didn't have the money.

"I began to think that maybe I would go out and work for a while in order to save some money. I decided to go to Denver since my sister was out there. A girl friend challenged me to come out with her to Chicago but I didn't want to sign a contract for the Stevens Hotel work as I didn't think it was such a good job. I had heard that Nisei girls were getting pretty good jobs on the outside. Ther ~~re~~location woman came to recruit me to go out on a hotel job but I was not enthusiastic about it.

"The reason I picked Chicago finally was that I liked the idea of getting into the city life. I wanted to eat real food once more without being rushed as we were in the mess hall. It just appealed to me but I was rather scared. When I first brought up the subject of resettlement to my mother, she absolutely refused to let me come out. She said that I was too young and that it was too dangerous for young girls to be out in such a big city.

"I told her that other Nisei girls I had graduated with from

high school were going out to work and they were getting along okay. My mother said that if I was so anxious to go out of camp, I should wait until my sister came after me so that I would have somebody to look after me. I didn't want to wait that long because I didn't know when my sister would ever visit camp. I thought my mother was just using this to keep me in camp. I told her that I thought I could work and support my self but she didn't believe me. She said I had no sense of responsibility and I couldn't make a go of it as I had not worked before. She said it would take all the money I earn to meet my expenses. She asked me how I would go about looking for an apartment and I said I didn't know. She asked all kinds of questions like this as I suppose she was worried about leaving me go and she wanted me to stay with her in camp indefinitely. I didn't think this was being fair to me. Then she said that I was the only child left with her and I could wait for a year or so and it wouldn't hurt. I couldn't see it that way so I wouldn't give in. I didn't think I could stand camp life that much longer because all the young kids would have resettled by them. My father gave just about the same sort of arguments but he didn't forbid me to leave. He just tried to persuade me that he knew more about these things because he was older.

"I had to argue with my parents for weeks and weeks in order to convince them. I wasn't too sure of myself because I was scared about resettlement. I just knew I wanted to be out of camp and that was the only thing in my mind. In March, 1944, I finally got my parents to change their mind after two months of steady arguments. I gave them the argument that I would be able to make some money out here so that I could save it for their future. I persuaded them that I could make good as I was willing to work hard.

They were still doubtful but they finally agreed after two weeks of more of this kind of argument.

"I decided to come to Chicago for resettlement. The reason for that was I had to give a talk in my high school class about Chicago as a place of resettlement. At that time everyone was coming to Chicago but I didn't know a thing about the city except that it was big. I had heard that there were plenty of jobs here and the Nisei were not bothered by the white people. I gathered quite a bit of information for this high school talk and I gathered that it would be a good place to come to in case I resettled. I didn't particularly care where I went as long as I could go where I had some friends. Most of them were coming to Chicago because opportunities were better so I decided to go there too. I still don't look any of these friends yet but I know some of them are still around. I guess Chicago was the nearest big city to come to and everybody was talking about it. I didn't know anything about the other cities.

"When I left camp I got an indefinite leave and the WRA paid my transportation and gave me \$25 for other expenses. My mother gave me \$25 more and that was all the money I had when I got to Chicago. I only had a few clothes because I had no bought any while I was in camp. I came out to Chicago with 3 other Nisei girls. None of us had a job waiting for us, but we all planned to take a domestic job and separate. I didn't know that I could get any other kind of work and my mother thought domestic work would be the safest for me. I wasn't scared at all because I had heard that jobs were not hard to find. I thought maybe I could find something else to do but I was not confident of that because I did not have the training. When

"When I first saw Chicago, I was very disappointed because it didn't seem to be as glamorous as I expected it to be. It was just a bunch of dirty buildings altogether. It looked more like a city when we got into the Loop though. One of the girl's brothers met us at the Union Station and he helped us get around. He was staying at the Newberry Hotel on Clark St. so we went there the first place. I thought the building was a dump because it was so dirty. The bathroom was just filthy. I knew that I couldn't stay in a place like that. At that time I wasn't familiar with all the buildings in Chicago.

"We didn't know what to do about housing until one of the Nisei told us to ask the hostel if they had a place there. We phoned the Brethren hostel and they told us to come over. As soon as we got there we began to plan about looking for a job. We were not satisfied to rest until we found a place to work and stay. After we talked to some of the other people at the hostel, we decided that we would be able to get a regular job because they were quite plentiful. We went out job hunting in the cold weather the very first thing. They told us at the hostel that we should go to the WRA and I got a job lead through them. I went out for the interview and I was given a position at the Florence Art Co. where some other Nisei were working. The other girls I was with also took jobs there.

"Then we had to start looking for an apartment of our own where we could live. We had a terrible time finding a place for us four girls. We went all over to look at the different places advertised in the newspapers and we asked the people at the hostel to help us too. All of the places that the WRA sent us to were slum places and not fit to live in. We hunted for over a week and

we finally did find a place. We were discriminated in a lot of places because I knew they didn't want any Japanese living there. Finally, through the hostel we found an apartment which we took. We rented 3 rooms upstairs in a private home. We were to pay \$12 a week for the four of us. The rooms were very dirty and we did not have enough conveniences. We had to scrub the whole place up in order to make it clean. On top of that we had to do our own linen. The landlady was awfully kind to us though.

"I didn't know what was the matter with the other 3 Nisei girls, but they were very scornful of the old landlady. She used to weep for us because we were so alone, but the other girls didn't appreciate that and they would laugh. After a week we moved out as we found a better place where we could have more privacy. The girls' brother found us an apartment on 2835 N. Clark. This place was much cleaner and we only paid \$11 a week rent. We had a refrigerator and a clean linen service provided. There were 3 rooms which were fairly comfortable. The building was owned by a Japanese and over half of the tenants were people from the camps.

"I stayed in that place for about 2 months. I finally moved out because Chizu (CH-48) told me that there was an empty room in her building which I could take. I wanted to move down to this place because I had more interest in common with Chizu. I didn't seem to have common interests with the other girls. They wanted to go out socially every night in the week but I wasn't interested in that as I was thinking of my boy friend in Italy. Then on June 1 I got news of his death so I decided to move away from those other girls as I wanted to be more alone. I didn't like the way they were so boy-crazy.

"Those 3 girls were always going out on dates and that was all

dates

they could talk about. It got on my nerves. One of the girls was quarrelsome and it was irritating to me. I suppose that they didn't like it either. It got so that I finally didn't care to be around them anymore. They gossiped too much and I thought that they were too narrow-minded. They never talked about anything but boys and the dates they had gone out on. I was disgusted with all of this because there was too much of it. I never knew these girls before I left camp anyway. We had come out together just for the convenience of it and we had never intended to live all together. Living with these girls really brought out to me the fact that the average Nisei was restricted in thinking about anything besides social affairs. I did get to find out how the average Nisei live. All of them were better off than I was, but they came from homes where the parents were strict so that they spoke Japanese around the apartment and I didn't care for that.

"These girls were also more extravagant about spending money than I was. I didn't like to spend so much money because I was poor before and I wasn't used to splurging. I kept all of the money I could save. We lived on a budget of \$5 a week each for food but the other girls were always being extravagant and buying unnecessary things. They also had boys coming in for dinner all the time so that ran the bill up. I didn't care to pay for the expenses of this when I didn't particularly want them around. We all took turns in house work and we had no difficulty in that.

"I've been living in this building with Chizu since June. I like this place very much as the people here are friendly and they seem to be better educated than most of the people I've met in Chicago. There is only one other Nisei besides Chizu and I in the house and that is her sister. I don't want any more Nisei to move

in her as that would be awful. But it would change the atmosphere and maybe the other people won't be as neighborly as before. I intend to stay in this place as long as I can and I don't want anything to spoil it for me. It wouldn't be so good for the other Nisei who move in here either. It would be better for them to be scattered out as thinly as possible and then there wouldn't be so much gossiping among the Nisei.

"I get along with the landlord very well even if he is always drunk. Chizu said that the manager of the building is a 'Fairy' but he never bothers me. I liked all the people in the building. My living expenses here are quite low. I only pay \$3 a week for my sleeping room and I share the kitchen with Chizu so that my food bill is only \$4 a week. I live on \$7 a week for bare essentials and I can walk to work so that I don't have any carfare expense.

"I keep a budget of all of my expenses out here because I'm always conscious of every cent I spend. I wouldn't want to get real sick out here and not have any money. The way I quit my jobs prevents me from saving too much but that was because I wasn't in a very good mood after I got the news from Italy. I'm trying to save as much money as possible. I'm very stingy, I think. I think I try to save more than other Nisei because I was poor before and I don't want to be that way again. I keep a daily budget of everything I spend so that I have an account from June 16 up to the present time.

"I don't know why I am so conscious of money but I just can't seem to save any out here as I haven't been able to settle down yet. It's always been one thing or another and I don't know exactly why I quit my job. I just get bored by then so that I don't like it anymore. If jobs were harder to get, then I

wouldn't be so willing to ~~quit~~ change my jobs. I want to save my money for post-war use. It's the only security I can look forward to and that is why it is important to me. I guess I get that way from the life I led before. When I look for a job I always think about how much salary I can make. I just have an urge to save money and I can't help it if I count the pennies. I always have a guilty conscience when I go~~x~~ out on a spree and spend more than I should. I have never spent money in such large amounts~~x~~ before in my life. I even paid \$45 for a suit. Gosh, I never spent that much money for a whole year for clothing before. I know I should not do it but I wanted to get that suit. Now I will have to save extra hard to make up. My object is to save money for the family resettlement. That's what I promised my folks. I don't think I'll be able to save too much but I'll try to put as much as I can in Postal Savings."

The following is a copy of Kisako's budget from June 16 to September 27 as she has it written in her daily notebook:

Richter McCall check	8.90
Consolidated check	13.88
Cash on hand	<u>3.57</u>
	26.35

	Expenditures
Soap	.07
Leg makeup	.61
Ink	<u>.16</u>
	.84

Balance	25.51
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June 17

Food for week	4.50
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June 20		
Work check	7.72	
		Expenditures
Coal cream		.12
Hairnet		.10
Bandana		.21
Cold cream		.79
Rent		3.00
Phone slugs		<u>.50</u>
		4.72
Balance & cash on hand	25.52	
June 26		
Stamps		.15
Soda		.14
June 27		
Food for week		4.50
Rent		3.00
Book		<u>3.00</u>
		10.50
July 4		
Food for week		5.00
Rent		3.00
Shows		<u>1.20</u>
		9.20
July 7		
Tooth paste		.33
Soda pop at work		<u>.49</u>
		.89
July 11		
Consolidated work check	14.73	
Powder and puff		1.02
Stamps		<u>1.00</u>
		2.02

July 12		
Protection Products Check	5.15	
Food		5.00
Balance	12.80	
July 16		
Continental Check	20.79	
Rent (2 weeks)		6.00
Chop suey dinner		1.94
Show		.50
		<u>8.44</u>
Balance on hand	25.21	
July 17		
Wedding i gift		11.17
Iron (grate)		1.00
Soda pop at work		.70
Miscellaneous		.59
Balance on hand	11.75	
July 18		
Jergen's lotion		.31
July 20		
Food		5.00
Miscellaneous		.30
Balance on hand	5.60	
July 21		
Continental check	27.11	
War bond deduction	2.00	
Pop		.31
Balance on hand	32.42	
July 25		
Rent		3.00
Food		5.00
Miscellaneous		.42

Balance on hand	24.00	
July 29		
Continental check	20.14	
Defense stamps		2.00
July 31		
Paper plates		.31
Book		.25
August 1		
Deposited in bank	30.00	
August 2		
Rent		3.00
Food		5.00
Phone calls		<u>.20</u>
		8.20
August 4		
Continental check	23.00	
Loaned out		1.00
Stamps		.21
Newspaper		<u>.03</u>
		1.24
August 5		
Received from Al	1.00	
Notions		1.50
Miscellaneous		1.90
Balance on hand	24.74	
August 6		
Grace's gift		3.05
Two dresses		5.10
Pajamas		2.20
Smock		2.50
Envelopes		<u>.10</u>
		13.01

August 7

Shows	.95
Refreshments	<u>.35</u>
	1.20

August 8

Stamps	1.18
Rent	3.00
Food for 2 weeks	6.00
Phone slugs	.50

August 11

Continental check	29.77
War bond deductions	2.00
Telegram	.50
Carfare	.32

August 13

Deposited in bank	15.00
Food	6.00
Gloves	.31

August 17

Mirror	.15
Light bulb	.11

August 19

Continental check	23.00
War bond deduction	2.00

August 21

Deposited	10.00
Tooth paste	.51
Magazine	.25
Soda	.21

	Sandwich	.20
	Second mirror	.25
August 22		
	Rent for 2 weeks	6.00
	Food	6.00
August 23		
	Special dinner out	3.00
August 24		
Work check	14.37	
	Taxi	1.00
August 25		
Continental check	29.77	
War bond deduction	2.00	
	Underclothes	4.75
August 29		
Deposit	Suit	25.00
	Hdse	1.24
	Dinner out	1.75
	Show	.50
	Rent	3.00
	Tooth ache medicine	1.00
August 31		
	Dental bill	3.00
September 1		
Balance and postal savings	50.00	
	Dental bill	3.30
	Withdrew ffom bank (5.00)	
	Food	1.00

September 4		
Continental check	17.67	
September 5		
Food		6.00
September 6		
Rent for 2 weeks		6.00
September 8		
Continental check	18.47	
September 9		
Payment on suit		20.00
September 10		
Show		2.00
September 14		
Borrowed from Rose (1.00)		
September 15		
Received war bond	25.00	
Continental check	31.02	
Food		6.00
Deposited in bank	13.00	
September 18		
Xmas cards		2.00
Stamps		2.00
Balance on hand	7.60	
September 20		
Loaned Cousin ed in camp (2.00)		
September 22		
Food		6.00
Rent		6.00
Returned to Rose		1.00

September 23		
Continental check	18.47	
September 26		
YMCA check	3.00	
Received from Chizu	2.00	
Breakfast out		.50
September 27		
Electric clock		1.85
Food		1.06
Savings in bank \$53.00 plus one war bond to date		

"I had expected to save much more when I first came out here but I've held too many jobs and there were periods in between when I had to live on what I had on hand. I've only saved about \$50 since I've been out here and that isn't so good. My first job was with the Florence Art Co. which I got through the WRA. I was first placed upstairs packing dolls and it was strenuous work. Then my girl friends were place downstairs to work and it was easier down there. I asked my boss if I could move down with them and he let me. I found that the work was much easier so that I continued in this job for about 2 months until June, 1944. I workd every day I could work as it was a 5 day a week. We made colonial mirrors. There were four other Nisei and two Caucasian girls working in my section. Most of the workers in the whole company were Nisei though.

"I thought I was getting along pretty well in that job because I worked steadily. Then all of a sudden I was fired. The boss used to sneak in and hide behind the boxes to spy on us in order to see that we were working. We didn't like that very much. Every once in a while he would come by and stand right over us. Sumi finally got sore so that she kept complaining about the lack of no overtime and she told the boss that she needed hours of work because she had to pay afor an operation. The boss didn't like this so he finally fired her. Then Tamia was fired because she told the Caucasasian girl how much she was earning and the Caucasian girl complained because she was only getting 50 cents an hour while Tamie was getting 65¢. She said that the white girl shouldn't get paid lower than the Nisei girl so that the boss got sore and fired Tamia for telling her wage.

"Then one day we had a 10 minute rest period and I was so

tired I fell asleep. The boss walked in and I was still asleep. It wasn't more than 5 minutes over the rest period but I was told not to come back again. I think the boss fired me because he fired my two girl friends and I sympathized with them because I didn't think they were treated fairly. I didn't care as I wanted to get another job. I didn't like the place and the work was boring. That company always tried to make us work every minute of the day and they watched us all the time.

"I started looking for another job through the newspapers and I found an opening with the McCall Richter company so I went out for an interview. There were other Nisei girls working there so that I was hired. The job was to paste poster printed paper together. It was very monotonous work. I brought my two girl friends to work with me and they got a job too. A day later the fourth girl who roomed with us also came to work there as she had quit her other job. I only worked in that place for four days and then I quit as the work was too monotonous.

"From there I went into a defense plant to do filing work in the office. I got the job through a private employment agency and I had to pay \$10 for it. I wanted to get into factory work but they said I couldn't do this until I got an Army clearance. I didn't like the office work at all. One day I broke my glasses there so that it was hard for me to work as I couldn't see very well. I had to do detailed writing and filing that day so that I got a headache. I worked there for a week and I missed my glasses so much that I took a couple of days off. Then I went back to work to give it another trial but I still didn't like the work so I quit. I didn't think that I would ever get a chance to work in the factory there and I didn't care to be stuck in the office.

"I didn't know what kind of a job I really wanted but I didn't care to do office work as I had to dress up every day and I couldn't afford it. It looked like I would have to wait forever for my Army clearance in a factory job. The place I worked in the office wasn't such a big company and I only got \$25 a week. There was one other Nisei girl working there and she was a secretary. After that job I started to look around again.

"I went to the WRA and they gave me another job lead. I got employed as a punch press operator with a steel and wire company. There were not any other Nisei girls in my department altho a few were working downstairs in a different kind of job. I liked all of the workers there but the work was too dangerous for me. One day I saw a girl get her hand caught in the punch press and her fingers were smashed. We were supposed to put out a certain quota each day so that we had to work hard and I didn't feel like doing that all day. I only lasted for 3 days in this job. I needed the money or else I wouldn't have stayed that long. I didn't care to stay on in such dangerous work.

"After that I went to a lot of places for a job. Finally I settled on Protection Products Co. and I got this job through the WRA too. The interviewer at the WRA didn't say much about me quitting the other jobs he sent me on so quickly. I had to operate a power machine at the Protection Products Co. I found out the very first day that they didn't have over time for the workers there so I was disappointed. I didn't care for the general atmosphere in that plant as it was impossible to get to know the people so I quit that place at the end of the first day.

"Finally Chizu decided to lend me a hand so she got me a job at Continental Products where she worked. She was getting dis-

gusted with me for quitting my job so much. This was around June and I changed around a lot that month because I didn't care for anything because of what had happened overseas. I hadn't heard from my boyfriend for a long time and that bothered me a lot. I just lost interest in everything when I got notice that he had been killed in action about that time.

"I kept on at Continental and my present job isn't too bad. I work on the evening shift from 12:00 to 8:00. I hardly did anything the first day I was there. The craziest man in the place was the foreman but he treated me swell and he joked around and he made me feel less scared. He was quite a wolf but I never encouraged him. I get along with him as he is a good boss. I get along pretty well with all of the workers even though they are mostly married women. They treated me well right from the first as they were used to the other Nisei girls there. They didn't cross examine me like in some of the other places where I had worked. I was working on the 4:00 to 12:00 shift when I first started there.

"One of my troubles was getting up in the morning at the other jobs as I didn't have a clock so I stayed on the 4:00 to 12 shift at Continental so I wouldn't have to get up early in the morning. About a month later I changed to the midnight shift. I never get to see anybody when I was on the 4:00 to 12:00 shift. I've never tried to get on the regular day shift as Chizu and her sister are already there and I thought it would be better if we didn't all get together. The plant has only 4 machines so that it is a small place.

"My work is to operate the machine to mold plastics and I've done it for about 3 months now. I like the work after I got to

learn the machine as it made me feel like I was doing more on my own. After a while I took a day off when I had a toothache as I couldn't work. A few times I overslept because I didn't have a clock. Now I have a victory clock so that it won't be so hard for me to get to work on time. I had the girls punch me in a couple of times so that I didn't get deducted.

"After I worked there for a couple of months I began to think that the night shift wasn't good for me as it was the opposite hours from the rest of the world. I began to get very dissatisfied when I found out that everything wasn't smooth among the workers. There is a small group there who are very nice to me but they don't like Chizu very much because she talks too much. The whole thing goes way back and I don't think that Chizu should have tried to put on superior airs to the other workers just because she went to college a couple of years. The workers seemed to be pretty strong at the shop and they gossip about everyone. It was mostly personal. They don't like the Jews, Negroes and Polaks but they didn't say anything about the Japanese. I got along with them even though they didn't like Chizu and they gossiped all the time about her because they thought she was having affairs all the time with the soldiers. The way she talked, it sounded like that. I didn't like them talking about Chizu as she was my friend and it got me down. Another thing I didn't like about the job was that a few of the workers get away with a lot of things without being called down. The supervisor is the boss' daughter and she doesn't give her mother, who is working there the hard jobs like she does the other workers. When her sister was late, she was punched in.

"I was having trouble with my digestion too because I think I drank too much coffee and soda pop at work. I got used to sleeping

during the day but it was pretty hard at first. I worked every night at first and my time off was on Saturday so that I didn't have time to do very many other things. I hardly saw anybody but I didn't mind that too much.

"Finally I didn't show up one day and I thought that I would be fired so I quit. I just didn't feel like working there any more. I was walking by the YWCA the very next day so I asked for a waitress job. I was thinking of trying to get a part time job there all along and another full time job at a different place. I went in to ask them for a part time job but they only had an opening for a full time waitress so I took it temporarily. I wanted to be able to save more money so that I could buy some clothes I needed and save for Xmas gifts. I wasn't satisfied that I was saving as much money as I could.

"I didn't think that my mother would want me to be a full time waitress and it didn't pay as much as Continental Products so I decided to phone up and ask for my job back. The boss asked me if he could depend on me and I said I would come regularly every night. He said I could come back under those conditions so I went back last week and I have been there ever since.

"I had planned to look for another job but I figured that it was too much trouble getting acquainted in another factory and I had some pretty nice friends at Continental Products so that is the reason why I decided to go back there. I figured that I might as well stay with the same foreman and workers on the night shift for a while longer. I had made a number of friends among them and I see them every once in a while. There is a Jewish girl, Rose, that I like and we see each other quite often. Another girl at the shop took me bowling and we went to eat in Chinatown one night.

The supervisor is nice to me and I get along with her. I went shopping with her one day and she gave me some advice on clothing. I suppose that she would like to convert me to her religion as she is a Jehovah's Witness. She is a very pretty girl and her husband is in the Army right now. She has a wonderful personality and I think quite highly of her.

"Rose, my Jewish friend, is a character and I have had dinner at her place several times. She comes by to pick me up every night and we walk to work together. She works all night at Continental and she also has another part-time job. On top of that, she goes to Northwestern U. and takes six courses. Besides paying for all of these expenses of hers, she sends her parents \$30 a month. Now she wants to get another part-time job. I don't know when she sleeps. She certainly is an unusual person. There are also a couple of other friends at the shop that I got out to eat with occasionally. We all get along quite well and I like them.

"I don't know how long I will stay in this job. I expect to go back with my brother to take care of my folks after the war. But my brother seems to be changing as he is getting tired of saving money all the time. I don't know what we'll be able to do after the war. I would like to go see ~~and~~ Hawaii just to see what it is like as I have heard so much about it. I think that I would like to live there. I received an invitation from one of the Nisei soldiers to go there, but I don't think that I can go as my folks wouldn't want to travel that far and there might not be enough jobs out there.

"I think too many Nisei will lose their jobs if Japan loses the war. In certain places the Nisei are trusted workers so I think they might keep on with their jobs. I don't know what I am

going to do for myself. That's why I always look in the Want-ads as I might accidentally find a better job. I only think of the future once in a while because it is too hopeless. Gosh, I wouldn't want to work at a boring job all of my life. What I would really like to do is to throw all responsibility to the wind and go to Hawaii. I bet I could have a lot of fun there. I don't know what's so good over there but my boy friend came from there and he liked it.

"I think about getting married once in a while. The only reason I'd do it soon, if I did it, is because I got tired of working. But I don't think that I'd make a very good house keeper because I seem to be lazy. However, I don't plan to get married until I am at least 22 years old. If I met somebody nice before then, I might get married. Who knows? I never worry about marriage as I don't think that I'm ready for it for a long time yet. Maybe I will meet some nice Nisei soldier that I can have fun with. I meet quite a few of them at Chizu's place and they always want to go out on dates but I can't neglect my work too much. I can't be quitting my job all the time. Most of the fellows have their evenings free for dates while I have to start out to work at 11:00. On my days off I always have a lot of laundry and other things to do so that I am never bored with myself.

"I think that I would like to meet some Caucasian fellow altho I wouldn't care for inter-marriage myself. I would, if I were in love with a Caucasian person and he asked me to marry him. My sister did it and she is very happy. Getting married doesn't bother me too much as the only way I think of it now is that it would be a way for me to get out of earning my own living. If I got married, I would have lots of children as I like them.

"A lot of the Nisei fellows are going into the draft right now but there are still plenty of them around. I don't see too many of them myself because I haven't made an effort to meet them. I know that this wouldn't be hard to do and I'm not being conceited either. I don't like the way they play around so much. I guess I'm prejudiced against the boys who talk against going into the Army. I don't think that they have enough backbone. I know that a lot of them have reasons to be bitter but that doesn't get them any place. A lot of the girls are the same way. I think that a lot of the Nisei girls should join the WACs because they worry too much about getting married. Maybe I'm not old enough to have the feeling they do but having boy friends isn't that strong a feeling for me. My first experience in falling in love had a tragic ending and I'm sort of scared to try again.

"I don't particularly care to meet more Nisei altho I would like to meet certain ones that I have the same interest with. I like the Nisei girls I work with at the shop. There was another one working there for a while and she was living as a common-law wife with a Nisei fellow for a while. I didn't hold that against her. I don't care to meet most of the other Nisei as they are narrow-minded and I don't seem to get along with them too well. Maybe it is because of me. If they had Nisei clubs out here, I don't know if I would go to them or not. I don't care if the other Nisei have their clubs or not, but I don't think it would look too good for Nisei to group together. The only exception I would make would be the boys in uniform because nobody could question them that much. But if they did it, then they might get segregated and pretty soon all the rest of the Nisei might have to do the same thing. I don't think they should be completely segregated because

that is what they are fighting against.

"But then, I don't think that the Nisei girls would have too much chance to mix with Caucasians right now. They probably never will do it because they don't feel too easy about it. Most of the girls are too busy working right now so that they only have time for their own dates and they wouldn't have time for too much club activities anyway. I know that a lot of Nisei do group together and have their affairs but I just wouldn't care to join them. The Nisei should make more Caucasian contacts as it would be more broadening for them. Then it wouldn't be so bad if they had their own Nisei circles as the Caucasians would understand them better. It would look better for the Nisei to get Caucasain contact and they may have an equal chance for jobs after the war as they would be trusted better. It would take away alot of the prejudice if more of the Caucasaians would take the time to get acquainted with Nisei better. I suppose it is up to the Nisei because they are the ones who are trying to get into the life out here. I don't think there are too many barriers and it is mostly the nisei's fault that they aren't better acqepeted out here. The Nisei work, live and go out with only other Nisei so that they just don't have the time to get to know other Caucasians at all. I think that this is a mistake but I don't see how they would do otherwise as the Nisei girls are anxious to meet other Nisei boys and the Nisei boys are always chasing around after Nisei girls. Maybe they will do it after they get married, but I don't know.

"I wouldn't want to see a J ap town out here as it would be just like Little Tokio. The Nisei would all band together and have prejudices against other races. A Japanese town would make them too Japanesey and that's bad. I don't think that I have any racial

prejudices but I think that I would develop them if I were around other Nisei all the time. I shouldn't have any prejudices because I know how it feels to be slighted on account of race. I think that the Negroes have advanced a lot and they are equal to any white man but they aren't treated equally. I don't know any Negroes here but I see a them around a lot. The Nisei girls I know don't seem to like the Negroes very much and if I say anything they always ask if I would be willing to marry one. That's not a very fair question because you don't have to marry every person you get friendly with. The Nisei don't seem to like the Filipinos either and they make remarks when the Filipinos go around with white women on Clark St. I don't see anything wrong with that because not all white women are wrong. I see some Nisei walking on Clark St. with cheap white women too but I don't condemn all of them. I just don't have any kind of attitude against the Filipinos because I haven't had close contact with them. Another thing is that the Nisei are prejudiced against the Chinese but I think that they are okay because they have the same problems as the Nisei. I would hesitate to marry one of them though because the parents in the Chinese family have a strong control. Golly, I wish that so many people wouldn't be so prejudiced against other people. I'd like to meet some Chinese here altho I wouldn't make the same effort to meet Negro. I think it would solve a lot of problems if the Nisei dispersed out but I don't know how that can be done. I don't know just what is to become of us after the war.

"I have no idea of the resettlement of my family altho my brother would like to start a farm some place in the midwest. I don't see how he can do it as he doesn't know very much about farming. I don't think that I would like to live with my family

on a farm as that wouldn't be much fun. I wouldn't like to be stuck way up in the middle of nowhere. It was bad enough being in camp. I'd like to go back to Long Beach but I don't think that we will ever go there again. I just don't have any definite ideas on the future, but I don't want to stay in Chicago all the times as I would like to go to a smaller city to live.

"My folks are pretty old and they can't do much so I will have to help support them. My mother will have to keep house but she won't like that so much as she would rather be outside of the house most of the time. She never stayed at home in camp and before the war. We have never talked much about resettlement in our letters. About the only kind of things my mother mentions in her letters is about saving money and being good. Most of the time she has to have somebody write it for her because I can't read any Japanese. She never has said she would like to come to Chicago to live as she thinks it is best for her to stay in camp. I guess I'm too young to do any of this planning as I have depended on my folks all my life up to now and this is the very first time that I've ever been out on my own. I try to listen to all of the advice that my mother gives me because I know that she is right most of the time. Maybe I wouldn't listen too much if she were out here. (A few of her letters are appended.)

"I am just plugging along right now. I haven't had very much social life out here and I don't seem to miss it too much as I am not inclined to be a very sociable person. I don't even go to see my friends very often. I neglect most of them but they come to visit me occasionally but not very often. I just have two close Nisei friends in Chicago and I am satisfied. We go out shopping, to shows and dinners together. I get along with both of them well

as they are different from other Nisei. Besides these two Nisei friends, I see my Jewish girl friend the most. I see the three of these people every night. I don't see any of my other Nisei friends at all because I don't know too many and I don't have the time to go visiting. I guess I just am not interested. Once in a while I go out with Nisei soldiers who come to visit her. But I guess I think too much of my boyfriend who was killed and they don't like to talk about it too much. Once in a while I go see my sister and eat with her. I don't see her too often as she got married recently and I want to leave her alone. I don't go see her unless I have to. My brother lives near my sister but I only see him once or twice a month as he is too busy. He goes out socially with Nisei girls now so I don't bother him. My Hawaiian Nisei girl friend is out here too, but I've only looked her up twice. Most of my limited number of Nisei friends are in other cities now because they have moved on. I meet new people through Chizu but I never am interested enough to develop it. I don't have too much to say to them anyway. I just don't feel easy around some of the Nisei I have met in Chizu's apartment so I stay up in my room many times when they come. I have a close friend in Minneapolis and I plan to go visit her one of these days. None of my Nisei friends in Chicago are too close to me. I'd like to meet a few more people but I just don't feel that ambitious. I go out mostly with girls anyway. I really haven't gone out on very many dates since I've been out here, mostly with Nisei soldiers altho I've gone out with civilian Nisei about five times. I just tell the cilian boys that I am engaged and that discourages them so that they don't come around. I just don't want them hanging around all the time because I am busy enough.

"To tell the truth, I'm not too happy with my present life as things don't seem to be right. The main thing is that I'm not having any fun like I expected. I know that a war is going on and nobody is having fun, but things do get pretty monotonous at times. I was perfectly contented to remain at home before but now my ideas are changing as I am getting over my boy friend's death. The only thing I can do is to keep working and save money as there isn't anything else to look forward too. I don't get lonesome because I can always talk to my girl friends.

"I think to myself all the time that we have to win the war as we are fighting to get rid of Hitler. I think that Japan is fighting for her interest to expand and I don't know whether she is wrong or not. Maybe Japan needs to expand but the U.S. don't want her to. I blame both sides for the war, but I still want Japan to get defeated because I am for America. I just feel that way and I can't help it. Many Nisei have told me that they feel that they are Japanese but I don't understand that. I don't feel that I am a part of Japan at all. They don't want us over there because they are having a hard enough time feeding the people as it is. We would just be foreigners over there and I know that I couldn't get along. I wouldn't be able to work and earn my own living over there because they don't like women to be independent over there. To me, the sooner Japan is defeated, the sooner the war will be over and then the American public won't put us in the spotlight so much so that we can live our own lives and settle down.

"But, if Japan is defeated, I think that it will be harder for the Nisei as we won't have any country to back us up even if we are American citizens. It really has no connection with the

Nisei but that is the way the Nisei think. I really don't know what it is all about. I don't want it to affect me but all of the Nisei I have talked to tell me that it will. I don't have too much of an opinion toward Japan except that she should be defeated as she is wrong to try to expand through force and she seems to be using the dictatorship method.

"We are fighting more for economic gains than democracy. I think we do have democracy in this country and I certainly wouldn't want to see it eliminated. I don't know if the evacuation was due to economic reasons or not because I don't know how the Japanese in California influenced the vegetable market. I don't think that it was only because the Japanese were suspected of being spies. If that were the reason, they wouldn't let us out of camp. Maybe the evacuation was caused by hysteria but I don't have any bitterness against this country for that. I know that I am an American and I want to stay in this country so I will do everything in this country to help it. I haven't done much to help the war effort except to buy a couple of war bonds. I plan to go down with everyone in my shop to go donate blood to the Red Cross. My Jewish girl friend has donated six times and the German girl upstairs has donated 8 times so I feel that I should at least go once as it wouldn't be too great a sacrifice. I hope that they will let me donate my blood because I have heard rumors that the Red Cross don't want any Japanese blood but I don't think that is really true. The strange thing is that at the plant the American girls at the company back out of going to the Red Cross and only those who are considered 'foreigners' go down. Maybe they feel that they have more at stake. I know that this would be the reason when I go down. I want them to feel that the Nisei are just

*Good
girl*

as willing to donate blood even though this country is fighting against Japan. One Nisei girl told me not to donate my blood because I wasn't used to the Chicago climate yet and I might catch pneumonia and there would be a chance that I would die if I gave my blood and made my resistance lower. I don't think that it would be that bad.

"another thing I try to do is to write letters to the Hawaiian soldiers that I know overseas. I bought my Ames cards early so that I could send it to them and I am buying some Ames packages to send overseas now. I don't think that most of the Nisei help the war effort even this much. They just don't care because they feel that it isn't worth the trouble. Some of the Nisei, even out here want Japan to win the war, because they are more Kibei in their thoughts or else they are suspicious that America will not treat them right even if they help out on the war effort and go into the Army. I don't have very much use for this kind of Nisei. The more the Nisei stick together, the more they will have these thoughts and pretty soon all of them will believe it. That's the way things go. I know I hesitate to express my views toward this country before Nisei because they ridicule it and they don't think it is true at all. They are always trying to look at the black side all the time. All I can do now is to hope that the war will end soon.

"Our shop does some defense work so that I think that I am doing my share on the homefront too. But I would like to do more. I think that I have developed myself quite a bit since we were evacuated and I know how to look for a job on my own and take care of myself. I hope to look forward to a happy life because things

won't always be that unsettled as it is now. I've also developed socially a lot in camp, but not too much compared to other Nisei girls. I feel that I am more on an equal status with other Nisei economically so that I don't feel inferior about this anymore.

That's one problem that has been eliminated. I have other problems but they never worry me too much because they are not that big. All I do is eat, sleep, work, and write letters anyway.

I'm just existing now for a better tomorrow and I hope that it will be soon. It can't start ^{until} ~~en~~ the war ends. Until then, I am not going to worry too much about my future."

April 27, 1944

Dear Kisako:

Your mother received a letter from you today, the 20th. I'm answering it for her now.

Your mother and dad are working together as one person. Don't worry about them, she says. But as far as I'm concerned, you're right because after all his life is more important than one month's work. Anyway, I made her promise he wouldn't work any more when they go to Rohwer. After all there's only one more month and they want to work this last month. I know just how you feel about your dad working. He'll probably stop when your Mom tells him about what you said in the letter. Your Mom wants some candy.

Everything well with your family. Don't worry and be good. (if you can).

As always,

Lois

July 21, 1944

Dear Kisako:

The other evening at the Welcome Meeting for the Jerome ladies given by the Rohwer Fujinkai, I was talking to your mother.

She told me that your fiance was killed on the Italian front and she wished me to write to you and express her deepest sympathy. She told me she had met the young man and liked him very much. So she felt very sorry for you. I also wish to extend my sympathy to you.

Chiyeke wrote me that you desire to be a Cadet Nurse. I think you would enjoy that work very much and hope you may get in.

Your mother and father are well and cheerful. They live next door to the Salvation Army minister and his wife; so they would be kind to your parents if they should get ill.

I called on your parents the day after they received an electric fan and some candy from your mother and they were very

happy about the gifts.

It has been very hot but yesterday there was a shower and today it is cool and pleasant.

Again I wish to extend sympathy to you from your mother and me.

Lovingly,

Janet F. Smith

Dear Kissako:

Your mother has come over to ask me to write to you before you go hay wire. Your mother is well and so is your father but he's improving gradually. Your money has to be saved in every way you can so when they move away you need train fare to reach the destination. Received your coat money and she is spending it gradually. She was wondering if you have received your check from the hospital. Study in Japanese so your mother can read and write to you. She said to keep your reputation clean and keep apart from Omoto girl and go straight yourself. I'm in the best of health and working as usual. My best regards and hope to hear from you soon. 8-10-B remember? Thanks for the card.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J. Yasuda

Hi, Kissako:

Your mom asked me to write so here I am.

She said she sent you the hospital check. Hope you got it. She wants you to write a lot to her. Gosh - why don't you learn how to write Japanese? She was saying she wished you could write.

She wants you to send candy to Akakana and Nagata.

Everybody's well out here - hope you are the same. From what I can make out she don't want you to run around with Taiko or something like that.

Mrs. Yomegida sent some money to your sister to send some bobby pins and she hasn't received it yet so if you'll write a letter and tell her to send it as soon as possible to Mrs. Yomegida. I think that's how you spell it.

Some one wrote a letter to you for your Mom only on the envelope they didn't write your name so naturally it came back. I am enclosing this letter together with the other letter.

Take care of yourself and be good. Take it easy, kid.

Love,

Lois

(Translation)

Dear Kisako:

I have not written to you for some time. You have sent us only four cards. Sumiko Seo writes three times a week. Why don't you write more often? Don't you like to write letters? Every day I wait for your letters but they don't come. It may be a little hard on you but I wish you would write once in a while. Thanks you very much for the chocolates you sent. I sent your hospital check to you. Did you receive it? Let me know if you did. By the way, how many letters have you written to me? I received four cards. If you have written others, let me know what day and what month you sent them. Every day I have gone to see the Yasumuras to ask them about your letters. Mrs. Ishii thinks that you don't care for us and that's the reason why you don't write so please write and be sure to write down the date of your letter. Your sister sent gum, chocolate candy, bobby pins on Friday so please don't worry about it any more. Next time you write, send a note to Seo's. I hope you write to ~~us~~ more often. Every day I pray to God. Please give my regards to every one. Please write to Nagatas, Okahanas of block 18 and send them something if you can.

Mother

My interview with Katsuko this afternoon only took about 2 hours and it was relatively brief. She spent a lot of time telling me about her resettlement problem conflict with her plans for getting married. I did not take any notes on this section except briefly since I wanted her to talk as freely as possible. Katsuko has developed a great deal during the past 9 months and she seems to be a little different person even though she is still inclined to be quite shy. She was all dressed up today so that she looked more attractive than before. Katsuko is about 5 ft. 2 in. in height and very slender. She has some freckles but this does not mar her appearance at all. She wears glasses most of the time. It seems that Katsuko has learned to dress much more neatly since coming out of camp, and she has purchased quite a wardrobe since I saw her at the end of last year. She is still conscious of money and she thought she would never get over it because she said that it almost pained her to ever spend any. Despite this attitude, she really did not start saving much money until she took an evening job besides her regular work.

I don't suppose that Katsuko would be particularly outstanding downtown because she makes up and dresses in typical Nisei girl style. Her hair is done up in page boy style and she wears mostly skirts and blouses. Although she does factory work, she wears heels most of the time, however, she said that it was a bit too hard when she worked at night behind the counter so that she changes to flats. She does not wear any jewelry except a watch, and I think an engagement ring. She has a plastic ring which she made at the factory but she said she was going to give that away. Katsuko does not have any physical defects. She speaks in a rather soft voice but she was not as self-conscious as previously. She is concerned about the marriage problem of the Nisei girls because of her association with Chiyo and older girls all the time.

Katsuko's comments:

"Gee, all this time I have been working out here and my life is just routine now. It's a living and I guess that I will be able to take it for a while longer. I've got 2 jobs now too and I don't have much time to do anything else. And I'm the person who said that I didn't like to work. I guess it's because I want to save the money up. I'm working at the same plastic company where I've always worked. At the end of last year when you interviewed me, I had quit that job because I thought I was going to be fired but the boss took me back. I quit my waitress job in the 'Y' and went back to the night shift. I didn't like it at all but I was afraid to ask for the day shift until I got back into the good graces of the boss. I worked steadily until the beginning of January when I finally asked for the day shift. That worked out much better and I've been there ever since. It's the same old work, same old routine and practically the same people. There's nothing exciting about the job and nothing changes much. I did get a raise to 70¢ an hour since then and I work a full 48-hour a week. I think I get along with the day foreman much better than the night foreman. It's the same plant where Chiyo works so we see a lot of each other.

"Chiyo gets into different debates with some of the other workers but I can't speak that well even though I agree with her in most of the things. We just talk about light subjects most of the time. All the girls in the plant are interested in men and that's about all they ever talk about. They are always wanting to know who you go out with and what the prospects are. They sure get inquisitive though. I never tell those other Nisei girls at work much about my personal business because I don't want to be gossiped about. I like most of the workers okay and I haven't had any real big fights with any of them.

"Last April I decided to take a week off from work very suddenly

as my mother got real sick. I rushed down to see her but she was not too ill. After that I came back to Chicago and I went to work once more. I had spent quite a bit of money taking this trip so I decided to find an extra night job so that I could save more money for my folks. We had talked over some resettlement plans and I felt that I should do something for them because they were getting so worried about the end of the camp. I wasn't doing much in the evening so I thought I might as well work. I went down to the Drake Hotel laundry with Chiyo one day but I didn't care for that work because it was too hard so I decided to look for a waitress job. I telephoned to the YMCA Coffee Shop and asked them if a part-time waitress job was available. They were glad enough to get me so I reported for work the very next night. I work down there 6 nights a week now on a 4-hour shift. I have to make sandwiches and malts behind the counter. The only hard thing about that job is standing on my feet so that I get pretty tired after working for 72 hours a week. I plan to keep both jobs until the fall. By that time I hope to have saved up at least \$1000. I don't mind doing the 2 jobs as it's for a definite purpose of helping my parents and I feel that it's pretty important to have a reserve in the bank. Sometimes I get real tired so that I take a night off from the waitress job.

"I have been thinking about changing my night job to the Norman House. I went down there for an interview the other day and they told me that I might get a call to report for work soon. I would prefer to be employed in that place at night because it has shorter hours and more pay. There I go talking about money again.

"I guess that is because my main worry now is family resettlement. I don't exactly know what to do for my parents because I don't know how to make plans. I didn't even know the camps were all going to close up until my mother told me. I don't see why they do it at

this time. I talked it over with my older brother and he is doing most of the planning. I said that I would support him financially as much as I could. My brother wants to bring the folks out here to Chicago as we don't have a place to return to in California any more and there's no sense to going back to the coast the way the feeling is now. My mother hasn't quite made up her mind yet about coming to Chicago because she heard a lot of rumors that it isn't good for old people. I think they will come out here around November though. They want to remain in the center as long as possible so that they won't be too much of an expense on us. Doctor bills is expensive on the outside and my mother is still getting some kind of treatment.

"We haven't decided yet how the family is going to be supported. My dad is too old to work so my brother and I will have to provide most of the support. We will all be living together unless it is impossible to find housing. I haven't done any house hunting yet but I dread the thought because I know it's a terrible situation. My mother thinks that maybe I should take a domestic job after she comes out and I might do that. She thinks I may be in a better environment if I work in a home. I don't care what I do as long as the work is not too hard and I make enough money. I don't see how we are going to make both ends meet after my folks come out though because it will be an added expense.

"My parents really want to remain in camp but the WRA is making all of the people leave. They have to get out or else they might starve. My folks would really be helpless if they didn't have my ~~max~~ brother and I to depend on. They couldn't come out and make a living by themselves. It will make it harder for me and it might tie me down in some ways because I won't be able to do all the personal things that I want to do. However, I feel that I should do my share and I can't run out on my brother because that wouldn't be fair to him.

"I don't know where the permanent location of my parents will be. It will depend on my brother mostly as he will have to provide most of the support. My brother is not married yet and it isn't fair to let him take all of the responsibility. He is working as a welder for the Yellow Cab Co. and he seems to think that he has a pretty nice job. I don't see him too often but the last time he mentioned that he didn't want to remain in Chicago permanently. It will be up to him but I don't think he will be able to move around too much if he is taking care of my folks.

"From my own viewpoint, it is not so good for the WRA to close the camps so suddenly; but from a general viewpoint, it's best to close the centers now than running them forever. The government can not keep on supporting the people definitely and it's best that they get out while they have some chance to make a living. Maybe I would not be in a position to make so much money and hold 2 jobs later on. During the past 6 months I've been able to save a fairly good sum of money and I'm building up a fairly good reserve. Around Xmas and in January I splurged quite a bit and bought myself a lot of clothes. I was spending my money on a lot of unnecessary things but I've cut all that out now. I feel that I have to take strong measure to save as much money as possible since my parents don't have a reserve to fall back on. They did have some money but it was all deposited in the bank in Japan. That was my mother's fault because she insisted on it. She said that the money would be much safer in a Japanese bank because you couldn't trust a ~~2~~ hakujin bank. My folks never did discuss finances with me too much because I was too young before the war.

"Even yet, my parents' attitude is that they still think I am a little child and they do not realize that I have been making my own living out here. When I went to camp earlier this year, my parents

advised me not to get married for several years yet because I was too young. They also told me to save all money and they gave me advices like that as if I was 16 years old. I'll be 20 next September and I think I'm capable of managing my own affairs.

"That is where the big conflict comes in. I do have some plans of getting married eventually and I don't see how I can do it if the family resettlement is going to interfere. Since my mother has been ill, she worries a lot and she depends upon me quite a bit. I didn't tell her all of my personal plans because that would make her worry all the more. I am engaged now to a Nisei soldier who will be getting his discharge pretty soon. He is from Hawaii and we made our plans to get married before he left. I told my parents that I was thinking of getting married but I didn't say it was definite. My mother got all excited so I don't know what to do now. When I was engaged before she never said anything about it, but now she doesn't want me to get married. I'm just hoping that my folks won't oppose it too much when the time comes.

"My fiance and I have plans to get married in a year and he will go to school out here. After he finishes his training, I will go back to Hawaii with him. He is waiting in Hawaii now for his discharge and trying to find some transportation across. I met him last January when he came to Chicago on a furlough. I met him through some of the other soldier friends that I had been corresponding with since camp days. I'd like to go to Hawaii to live but I'm not so anxious to live there permanently like before. I'm pretty anxious to get married to him though and it will be up to him to make that decision. He thinks there is a better chance to get started in his own business in the islands.

"Even after we get married, we won't be able to start a real home for a while during the time he goes to school. His folks do not

object to our engagement. Anyway, it's something worth waiting for so I don't feel in a rut so much as I did last year. I'll just go on living here until my folks come out as this apartment is as good as any. I have a larger apartment now than I did last year and I pay \$2 a week more rent for it. I'm still concerned about saving money so I keep a daily account of my finances. I stopped it for 2 months but I discovered that I was spending too much so I decided to make a detailed account. I don't think I'll ever be real extravagant because I'm too conscious of money. I hope I'll never be forced to live as poorly as I did in California when my folks were having such a hard time. I feel I'm able to do something about it now.

"The evacuation certainly has helped me because it moved me out of my home town in California to Chicago. I don't think that I'll ever move back there again. For the longest time I used to dream of going back just to see what it was like, but I don't care any more because I'm getting used to it out here. There really isn't too much difference anyway except in the climate. I would have to start all over again if I went back there because all my friends are out here. I've stopped corresponding with all of my former high school friends.

"Since resettlement I've had a lot of advantages that I never had before the war. I think I get along much better with people now because I've gained a lot of self-confidence just by going out on job and apartment hunting all on my own. The girls all tell me that I've developed my personality a bit and I think that this is true. I still feel all tied up in knots when I meet strangers at times, but I don't get as panic stricken as before. Even though I never say too much, I think that I have broadened my thinking a lot and I've grown up a little more. I am now more aware of things happening outside of my personal life than I was before.

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"I never think much about what is happening to the Nisei anymore and I feel much freer around the caucasians. I used to be more self conscious when I was the only Nisei in a group of caucasians in a store or restaurant, but I never notice that anymore. I have found out that the people at work are no different than I am and sometimes I think I am much better educated than they are. I don't put myself in with the lower classes of people because I think I was meant to be higher than that. I don't scorn them, but I don't want their way of life. I had my share of poverty once and I don't want any more of it. I feel superior to those white people who don't even know how to speak English correctly even though I realize it is just a matter of a lack of education for them. I do have a lot of fun with the caucasians I know--more than I ever did with Nisei.

"The thing I like about the caucasians is that they kid around more than the Nisei and their feelings are not hurt so easily. I hope that all the Nihonjin out here do not form a Japanese community for Chicago. It doesn't look good, and they should get more outside of themselves, especially the Nisei. That's the only way they can get more Americanized. When I first came out here, I was so afraid of everyone and I thought that everyone was staring at me so I was too timid about going in a crowded place. Now I never feel self conscious like that. I would like to have a chance to meet more caucasians socially, but I don't get much of a chance when I am working so many hours every day.

"I don't have much of a social life these days. Now can I with working on two jobs. I don't have any leisure time to speak of at all. I come home at 11 at night and I am so tired that I go right to bed. I get off on Saturday night so I usually go to a show.

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About the only reading I do is the newspapers. When I get a chance, I write letters, but that has dropped off a lot. It takes a lot of time to catch up on all of the necessary things I have to get done and I always seem to be behind. I get tired of working once in a while, but I feel that I can put up with it for a while longer. Sometimes I get restless and wonder where things are leading, but I'd rather be doing any kind of work than just sit around all day with nothing to do. That would really bore me stiff. I'm driving myself quite a bit, but I haven't worried about my health as I'm young and I think that I can take it.

"I don't belong to any clubs out here and I haven't since resettlement. I don't even have a desire to join any organizations. Chiyo wanted me to go join the Chicago Service Girls Club, but I just was not interested in it. It took too much effort and I did not feel like going as I knew that it would not be too interesting for me. I went to one Nisei Dance at Hull House this year, and I thought it was terrible. Everyone seemed to be more concerned with sitting down than dancing. There were too many stags there, and hardly anyone looked like they were having a real good time. It wasn't the mood for dancing so I got disgusted and I made my escort take me some other place. I haven't been out on too many dates lately because I am engaged now, but I like to go dancing at the Aragon and I usually go if one of the service boys ask me, that is, if I have the time. I've never been stopped from going in there like some of the Nisei say.

I think too many Nisei say that there is discrimination and everyone gets to believe it, says one pretty woman it is a rumor which nobody stops to check. But there has been some discrimination out here and I don't deny that. I can think real hard

and remember of a couple of cases of discrimination against me. When I first came out here I ran into housing discrimination once or twice, but I haven't had any other experiences that I remember of. At work, I'm considered like any other worker and I get the same wages as anyone else. I think that I would get the same chances for promotion if there were available openings.

"To tell the truth, I'm not really happy with my life now as I only consider it as a temporary stage. If I had to work for a living all the time, I'd learn something definite, but I haven't given it too much thought except that I'd get out of a factory because there is not future in being a manual laborer all the time. I think that I would like to go to a beauty college if I had to work for a living instead of every getting married. Now I am fairly confident of my future and it looks much more promising.

"I hope that the war won't last too much longer. I am glad that the Europe war is over as it will mean that my fiance will get his discharge. I have never felt sympathetic to Japan, but I wouldn't want to see him fight against them as it would mean that I would not be able to see ~~him~~ him for a long time yet. I never feel much for Japan because I don't think of it as any part of me. The Japanese are very determined to fight to the end and I think that they are awfully stubborn. They should stop fighting before they are completely destroyed. The longer that the war goes on, the more difficult the place of the Nisei will be. But I think that we have gotten over the hump as so many of the Nisei GI's have proven themselves by doing their share of the fighting for the Nisei cause and for democracy. But I still think that the job opportunities

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will not be so good for the Nisei after the war as the returning vets will get the first choice. It is going to be hard for many of them. No matter how hard things get, I'll never go to live in Japan as I'd rather be a U.S. citizen any old time.

"My chief ambition is to make a good wife and home for my fiancée. That will be a career in itself. I suppose that I will get used to Hawaii when I get there after the war. The big thing I am worried about is what happens to my parents. That's the chief reason why I have put off the marriage until next year. I'll give them all the money I've saved up to now and if I work after I get married, I'll try to help as much as possible. If I get married next year I'll be 20 and that will be just right. I'll be able to help my folks for a couple of years yet. I've never felt close to my father but I do worry about my mother. I guess our family has been so busy trying to make money that we've never gotten close to one another. It's not close like in some of the Nihonji families I know about. But when things get hard like this, we all have to help out and do what we can. We can't desert our own flesh and blood. That would be a terrible thing to do and I couldn't even think of it. I'll just have to wait until next year to see how things are going to turn out."

Brother one of three "4-400 Issei"

Overpowering burden of poverty

Disgrace of being on relief

Knew nothing of Japan —

"looked it up in library" — p 27

Japan in 1888 when war broke out

Japanese Hawaiian
who is killed