

Interviewer's code

Bob Ichinaga

Ray Ishizaki

Evacuation and Resettlement Study,
February, 1944 (Revised)

SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUAL RESETTLERS

Date of interview Sept. 27, 1944 Interviewer C. Kikuchi

1. Case number #52 2. Sex, (M) F 3. Marital stat. M (S) D W O

4. Present address 5010 S. Drexel Blvd. Entered 2-12-44 Left 02/1/44

5. Later addresses

Date	Entered	Left
"		
"		
"		
"		
"		

6. Birthplace Sanger, Calif. 7. Birthdate 2-21-25

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

10. Addresses between Dec. 1, 1941 and evacuation

Date	Entered	Left
(a) <u>Lindsay, California</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>1942</u>
(b)		
(c)		
(d)		
(e)		

11. Assembly Center Poston Date July '42 8-14-43

12. Relocation Center Poston Date

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

	Entered	Left
(a) <u>Grand Junction, Colorado</u>	<u>Oct. '43</u>	<u>Feb. '44</u>
(b)		
(c)		
(d)		
(e)		
(f)		
(g)		

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

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	Religion
(a) <u>Mother</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>Housewife</u>	<u>Buddhist</u>
(b) <u>Brother</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Sanger</u>	<u>Farm work</u>	<u>"</u>
(c) <u>Self</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>"</u>
(d) <u>Brother</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>
(e) <u>Sister</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>"</u>
(f)					
(g)					
(h) <u>Sister</u>	<u>35</u>				
(i) <u>"</u>	<u>35</u>				
(j)					

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

What other related persons?

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

18. Educational history of resettler

Grammar schools (name and location)	Dates	Grade completed	
Exeter, California	1931-34		
Rolling Hill	1935-38	8th	
High schools (name and location)	Dates	Grade completed	
Lincoln Junior High	1938-39		
Lindsay High	1940-42		
Foston High, Foston, Arizona	1942-43	12th	
Colleges, universities and vocational schools, (name and location)	Dates	Grade completed	Degree
Attendance at Japanese language school, location	Dates		
Japanese school	1939		

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

[illegible]

20. Political activities

[illegible]

2. Poston 7/16/42
3. None
4. Rt. 1 Box 190 Lindsay, Calif.
5. Ichinaga, Henry Japan
Katashima Tomoyo, Japan
- 5a. U.S. farmer
7. Grammar school, Rock Hill, Exeter 9/31 to 6/39
Junior high, Lincoln, Lindsay 9/39 to 6/40
High school, Lindsay 9/40 to 6/42
- 7a. Major: Agriculture "Future Farmer"
8. None
12. 64 115 lbs.
13. No major defect
18. Single
19. Son
20. 3/21/25
23. Yes
24. High-3
25. Speaks Japanese
27. Farmhand, veg.
- 27a. --
28. 6/39 Truck farm, veg. and fruit 10 acres. Farm laborer
29. At present kitchen helper
30. Buddhist
- 31.

Robert's brother, Howard Kazuo Ichinaga

2. Poston 7/16/42
3. None
4. Rt. 1 Box 190 Lindsay, Calif.
5. Ichinaga, Henry Japan
Katashima, Tomoyo Japan
- 5a. U.S. farmer Abroad None
7. Grammar school, Rock Hill, Exeter 9/29 to 6/37
High school, Lindsay 9/37 to 6/41
- 7a. Major: Science, Agriculture
Football, Basketball, Track H.Y.
8. None
12. 66 130 lbs.
13. No major defect
18. Single
19. Head
20. 2/4/23
23. No
24. High-4
25. Speaks Japanese
27. Tractor driver, farmhand, fruit
- 27a. Welder
28. 6/42 to 7/42 Orange grower, 20 ac. Farm laborer ~~\$30/month~~ 30 men .45 hr.
5/42 to 6/42 Celery pkg. Shed, Lindsay Veg. Gr.Assn. Crater
15 men .55 hr.
- 5/41 to 1/42 Vineyard Diamond K, Exeter Asst. Foreman .50 hr.
Produce shipper for grape picker crew
29. Motor overhaul. Welding (acetylene, arch) Tractor driver. OP Welder
30. Buddhist
31. #7. Attended Welding Auto mechanic nite school 16 wks. Lindsay.
#29 Kitchen helper at present.

Robert's Mother, Tomoyo Ichinaga

2. Poston 7/16/42
3. None
4. Rt. 1 Box 190, Lindsay
5. Katashima, Tokichi Japan
Urima, Kisayo Japan
- 5a. U.S. farmer Abroad None
7. Grammar school, Yamamoto, Japan 4/06 to 4/14
- 7a. None
8. Japan 1/99 to 2/16
- 12.60 180 lbs.
13. No major defect
18. Divorced
19. Mother
20. 1/15/99
23. No
24. Japan 8
25. Speaks Japanese; *no English*
27. --
- 27a. ---
28. Housewife
29. ---
30. Buddhist
31. ---

Robert's brother, Orden Yoshito Ichinaga

2. Poston 7/16/42
3. None
4. Rt. 1 Box 190 Lindsay, Calif.
5. Ichinaga, Henry Japan
Katashima, Tomoyo Japan
- 5a. U.S. farmer
7. Grammar school, Rock Hill, Exeter 9/33 to 6/41
High school, Lindsay 9/41 to 6/42
- 7a. Major: General
8. None
12. 63 115 lbs.
13. No major defect
18. Single
19. Son
20. 3/28/27
23. Yes
24. High-1
25. Speaks Japanese
27. ---
- 27a. ---
28. Student
29. ---
30. Buddhist
- 31.

Robert's Sister, Laura Yaeko Ichinaga

2. Poston 7/16/42
3. None
4. Rt. 1 Box 190, Lindsay, Calif.
5. Ichinaga, Henry Japan
Hatashima, Tomoyo Japan
- 5a. U.S. farmer Abroad None
7. Grammar school, Rock Hill, Exeter 9/35 to 6/42
- 7a. ---
8. ----
12. 60 90 lbs.
13. No major defect
18. Single
19. Daughter
20. 4/23/29
23. Yes
24. Grammar 7
25. Speaks Japanese
27. ---
- 27a. ---
28. Student
29. Picture collection
30. Buddhist
- 31.

Evacuation & Resettlement Study
Chicago, Illinois
Charles Kikuchi
October 12, 1944

CH-52 Ray Ishigaki (pseud.)

Bob Ichimaga

Ray Ishigaki, 19, was interviewed at one sitting of ~~six hours~~ 6 or 7 hours as he was leaving for a farm job in Nebraska. Only two previous contacts had been made with this individual but he was most cooperative. He quit work one day earlier in order to take the time to be interviewed since he felt that he wanted to do something to help other Nisei. Ray may return to Chicago after the harvest season altho his future plans are very indefinite. He feels that he might be drafted in a short time so that he is most uncertain about his future plans.

Ray Ishigaki, 19, was born on March 21, 1925 in Sanger, California. He has never lived in a big city until he came to Chicago. He spent most of his life in Lindsay, California which was a farming community. In July, 1942, he was evacuated to Poston. He then went to Grand Junction, Colorado in August, 1943 and then returned to Poston in October, 1943. In February, 1944, he came out to Chicago and he has been living at the same address until his departure on September 30 for Nebraska.

Ray is about 5 ft. 5 inches in height and rather immature in mind. He came out to Chicago in order to attend a radio technician school but his draft reclassification caused him to change his trial indefinite leave to an indefinite leave. He has been working as a laborer during the months he has been resettled here. His first job was as a laborer with Bloomfield Company for \$25 a week. He quit this job to work as a bus boy for two weeks. In April, 1944 he went to work for the Gage Structural Steel company as a laborer and worked himself up to a welder by the time he quit late in September, 1944. He was receiving an average of \$44-\$48 a week in salary. Ray never worked on a full time job before evacuation. In the center he was employed as a dishwasher and cook. He graduated from the Poston high school in the fall of 1943. Prior to evacuation he was attending Lindsay high school. Ray attended a Japanese language school for one year prior to the war.

At the present time the rest of his family, except one brother, are still in the center. His mother is separated from her husband. A 21 year old brother is now in Nebraska where Ray will join him shortly. A younger brother, 17, and a sister, 15, are still in the center. Ray also has two married sisters, ages 25 and 23,

respectively. Due to the limitation of time, details were not obtained about his family background in any great degree. A large portion of this interview was obtained through a free association contact made at a previous date, but it has been consolidated with the notes obtained during the formal interview. The account of his life story has been ~~xxxxxx~~ written as near as possible to the direct quotations which were made ~~the~~ during these contacts. The following pages are notes taken from C.K. Diary, and Ray's own life story follows after the Diary entry.

September 28, 1944: This evening I completed a whole interview at one sitting of about 6 or 7 hours. ^{Ray ISHIGAKI} ~~Bob Ichinaga~~, 19, is leaving for Nebraska on Monday to help his uncle harvest an onion crop. He is going to help decorate some church tomorrow night as they are holding a Nisei dance there on Saturday so that I would not have been able to see him again. I was willing to go tomorrow morning to complete the interview but he insisted that I finish up. Bob has a Buddhist background but he has been going to the Christian churches out here because it offers more social activities. He is very anxious to see a Nisei society develop because he feels that he will make better adjustments. He came from a small rural community so that he has never been to such a big city before.

Ray first came to Chicago last February because he planned to go into a radio technician school. He was going to work for six months at Bloomfield's on his seasonal leave. However, he got all excited when the draft announcement was made so that he decided not to go to school until after the war. He quit his job at Bloomfield's because he was dissatisfied with the wages. On his arrival here, he thought 65¢ an hour was a huge wage as he had never earned more than 30¢ an hour on the farm in Lindsay in California. However, he heard about Nisei making \$60 and \$70 a week so that he was dissatisfied with his position. He took a job with the LaSalle Hotel as a bus boy on a temporary basis so that he could look around for a better job. In April, 1944, Ray got a job at Gage Structural Steel Company where he worked himself up to be a welder's assistant. He was making about \$45 a week average when he quit yesterday. He has no definite plans for the future as he may go back to camp after the onion season.

He expects to be drafted at any time. In the event that he is not called, Ray will come back to Chicago. He hopes to open a restaurant after the war or else go into farming work. He said that he was tired of the big city.

Ray came from a very small Japanese farming community but he felt that the Caucasians were much friendlier in his home town than out here. He is the fourth oldest in a family of six children. His two older sisters are now married. His mother was separated from his father about 10 years ago. Ray was able to re-acquaint himself with his father after he got to Poston. He finished high school there and he was active in the student body as he held a number of class offices. His younger brother is student body president of Poston II high school this year. Ray looks back with great pleasure on his Poston life because he had so many social activities there. He became interested in radio when he was put in charge of the loud speaking system at his mess hall. He finally decided to resettle over the objections of his mother because all of his friends were leaving.

Ray has a very likable personality and he seems to be rather extrovert. However, he has a number of conservative ideas which is due to his Japanese background but he is not aware of it. He is rather conscious of his ancestry and he refers to himself as "Japanese". He believes that the only solution for the Nisei problem is to have a Japanese community out here so that a lot of social activities could be carried on. He would like to see the Nisei scatter out in work, however, he does not think wages would be high enough if they had to work for other Japanese.

Ray goes around with a crowd of about 6 or 7 boys his age. He has a very contemptuous attitude toward the zoot suiters altho

he has a pachute himself. Most of his pals are living in the Japanese rooming house where Tommy (CH-50) is staying. The fellows go out to play pool, ^{bowling} ~~blowing~~ and shows quite often. He said that there were a number of fellows in the buildings which frequently visited houses of prostitution constantly but he has not gone with them because he read about some Nisei fellows being arrested in a house of prostitution once and he doesn't want to be caught in a similar situation because "it would ruin my reputation". He has learned to smoke recently and he drink occasionally with some of the fellows upstairs. He likes to stay at this rooming house even if the rent is excessive because he is able to see his friends. In the attic room upstairs there are 5 fellows crowded in this room and they pay \$25 a week for this privilege. The WRA used to send a number of resettlers here until various people complained about the poor conditions there.

Ray is not too unhappy about leaving Chicago at this time because he feels that the city is too big for him. He wondered why the other Nisei acted so unfriendly. He said they always stared at him when he walked down the street and wondered why they could not get into one big organization so they could throw dances and meet new people. He does not think a segregated pattern would be harmful to Nisei as long as they could have social activities. This is typical of any younger Nisei who use superficial activities as the main criterion for their adjustment.

I found out this evening why some of the fellows in this house are reluctant about being interviewed altho they seemed very cooperative toward me. Ray said that the FBI agent has come around recently to grill the fellows working in the defense plant.

He said that he had to answer questions for about 5 hours and they asked everyone...~~I rather suspect~~ I hardly think that those fellows who run around a great deal will be willing to be interviewed because they don't have the time. There are about 20 fellows on the third floor so that this building has more resettlers than what I had thought.

Ray Ishigaki's life story follows:

"I was born in Sanger, California in March, 1925. All I remember of my childhood could be summed up in a few sentences. I don't remember back further than the first grade when I was living in Exeter. I remember vaguely that I used to go out and work in the vineyards for my dad. He was a sort of a foreman of a ranch where we lived. My father was quite a husky guy and I used to worship him all the time because he had such great strength. He worked hard all of his life so that he still enjoys good physical health. <My father was a lot of fun but he used to scold us kids all the time when we were young. We used to run out and play with our Japanese neighbor's children right out on the highway.

"My father was always the boss in our home and everything that he said went. He had most of the power and we couldn't talk back to him at all. There weren't very many Japanese families living in Exeter since it was a small farming community. My father used to have a lot of contacts with the Caucasians because he dealt with them in farming. He got along pretty well in farm work because he put in long hours. <I don't know what was the trouble between my mother and father but they used to have a lot of arguments.> My mother ^{and father} was never too strict with us after she separated from my dad when I was about 11. She took all of the children with her. I had a two brothers and three sisters.

"When we left Exeter with our mother, we went to Lindsay and we rented a house there. It was pretty hard for my mother to feed all of the children by herself. We barely got by. My mother had to go out to work and my older sister quit school so that she could help support us. <I started to going to school in Lindsay

and continued all the way through until I was evacuated. { Our home
<there> was just like all the rest of the Japanese homes. We had a
lot of Japanese customs but we had many of the American customs in
our home too. After a while we owned a radio, refrigerator and an
automobile when we began to make a little more money. Our family
did plain labor all the way through. We were a pretty close
family and we got along with each other and tried to help out.

"Before my parents were separated, we always spoke Japanese at
home to our parents. As I got a little older my dad began to speak
more English to me so I got used to it. My mother never did use
English very much because she didn't know it very well. I got
along with my father pretty good and I wished that they hadn't
separated. When I first saw my dad again, it was in camp and I
got along with him again right away.

"After mother became the boss of the house it wasn't very
strict for us. We never liked to talk Japanese so that we used
English among us all the times except when talking to mother and
her friends. We ate regular Japanese food as long as I could re-
member and we had quite a few Japanese customs which we followed
but I don't remember all of them. We wore Japanese slippers and
things like that. Even out here I eat Japanese food all the time
as I just don't feel right without it. I buy the stuff in one of
the Japanese stores down on 43rd St. but they sure charge high.

"One thing that we never did do very much in our home was to
celebrate all of the Japanese holidays because my mother was too
busy working to tell us much about these things. The only thing
we celebrated Japanese style was at New Years. We'd all have to
get all dressed up and make formal calls on all of the other Ja-
panese friends that we had. < My mother was very fussy about clean-

ing the house before the end of the year and things like that because she had a superstition that it was bad luck to start out the new year with a dirty house. She told us stories about what the new year meant in Japan but I don't remember much about that now.

"My folks were Buddhist but I didn't go to the Buddhist church at all. I just started to go to the Christian Japanese church when I was in the language school which it conducted. By the time I was 12 years old I was allowed to drive a car and I used to go to the big city of Tulare all the time and those were quite exciting affairs. I guess I know Japanese as well as any of the Nisei who lived around us and I used quite a few of the Japanese expressions but I don't know what a lot of them mean. I never did get too much out of the Japanese language school as I was too busy playing around and it didn't seem important to me. I don't regret it because I can get by and it isn't too hard for me to talk to the Issei if I have to.

["While I was in grammar school most of my playmates were nisei fellows altho^{ugh} I started to go around with a Caucasian crowd in high school. There weren't many Nisei going to our high school anyway. The few of us who did go all had Caucasian friends and I didn't notice anything that made us different. I knew that our skin color was a little different but I never thought much of those things. The kids at school just took us as we were. I was too young to think about discrimination and all that stuff but I used to hear my mother mention it once in a while. I guess it was pretty hard for some Nisei to get jobs ^{before} ~~because~~ the war because my mother used to say maybe I'd have to go to Japan for a job because there was nothing here for me. I couldn't understand that because I was having fun fooling around with my Caucasian friends.]

My pals and I always went out for the school teams together.

"In grammar school, I ran around with two Nisei kids all the time and we did everything together since we lived right next door to each other. There were only around 120 or 200 Japanese living in and around Lindsay. Our high school only had 400 kids in the student body so that it was quite small. Only about 10 of this group were Nisei when I was there. Most of the Japanese families ~~there~~ did farm work out that way and the Japanese town was very small. My family lived about 3 miles out in the country and there were about 5 Japanese families living on this large ranch. It was leased from a hakujin company and the Japanese were farming it on a share-crop basis.

["I never was aware of all the Japanese people did because I took these things for granted and I was so busy trying to grow up and get into high school. I never did study very hard so that I didn't make such good grades. A few of those other Nisei students studied all the time and they were known as top students in the school. While I was in junior high school I did about the same things. I had a lot of fun but I don't think I learned too much. I barely made enough grades to graduate. I went all the way ^Wthrough school with my boyhood pals and we used to have a lot of fun together.]

"After we got into high school we all got our own cars to go in since the school transportation busses were not very regular. When I started to go to high school, I developed many Caucasian friends there. The hakujin people in town treated us good too and there wasn't any discrimination that I knew of in town. I used to help out on the farms during the summer time in order to help my mother out. I never had any trouble when I drove the load of

tomatoes to town~~x~~ in the truck. I miss~~ed~~ that life I had before a lot, but I guess it's better for me to be out here. After coming to Chicago, I think that Lindsay is too small a town for me to ever be comfortable again. I had a lot of friends out there though and it was pretty good.

"When I got to high school in 1940 I began to have a lot more fun. The only wrong was that I didn't go in for dancing very much because I was too backward about learning. I didn't learn how to dance until I got into camp. Everyone went there so I started to go. I had a Nisei girl friend in high school back home and I used to take her to shows once in a while. [None of the Nisei who lived in our community ever went to a high school dance because most of us just didn't take up dancing at that time. We were just country people so that we didn't know all about a lot of things. The Issei farmers were pretty narrow minded and I think that they were too strict with their children. I used to have a very hard time getting my girl friend out on a date because her folks didn't approve of it. One night I took her out on a date with two of my Caucasian friends from school. We drove all around until pretty late. When her parents found out about this innocent ride, they forbade the daughter to go out with me anymore as I guess they figured I couldn't be trusted.] I never did do anything bad to make them feel that way. We just drove up to the hills ^{and} necked once in a while.

"There were a few Nisei clubs in Japanese town and we put on parties of our own for the Nisei. The parents didn't like us to have too much fun as they expected us to work as hard as they did out on the farm. [I was better off than a lot of Nisei as my mother didn't have such strict control over me. My two older

(2)

sisters did not have all the restrictions on them as other Nisei girls altho my older sister did have to go through with an arranged marriage since she had no choice. The next sister met her own boy friend at a funeral and they started going around steady after that. When they got ready the families did all of the checking and they didn't object ^{to} with the marriage. The families made all of the arrangements for them. Both of my sisters have their own children now.

"Back home, the Japanese shows were the big events for the week and everybody would come to see the pictures sent from Japan. I liked these things very much. Once in a while a Japanese stage show would be given in town so that everybody dressed up to come and see it. Most of the ~~time~~ old folks worked too hard on the farms so that they only had time to visit their Japanese friends once in a while. They read only the Japanese newspapers and magazines because they could not read English. It was much easier for the old folks to follow the Japanese customs as they knew it back in Nihon. They didn't want to lose touch with all of these things because my mother told me that the Japanese were having a pretty hard time.

[In high school I made the basketball, football and track teams. I was a member of the Future Farmers of America for four years. I went to the FFA conventions every summer. I was looking forward to my senior year so I could go to the San Luis Obispo convention when the war broke all of this up. I had plans to go there to San Luis Obispo to do my last year in high school as I heard that I could work my way through. I was too young so that I didn't have much plans for the future. I was having too much fun playing sports to ever thing of these things. I guess I just

thought I would be a farmer ~~xxxxxxfntx~~ eventually like my brother.] My brother just worked out on the farm after he got out of high school and he would go all over with the Japanese labor gangs he was with to work in the different harvests. He worked for the Diamond Kay Corp. and they had a big Japanese crew to do the harvesting on the different ranches so my brother was sent to work all over with them. I used to work with my brother occasionally during the summer vacation and I would help my brother after school when he was in town working for the company.

"The night before Pearl Harbor, I was working in the cold storage plant for this company as an extra worker. I remember I went home that night and I went right to bed. The next day I went out to the ice plant to work again. It was a Sunday, I think, and I heard the news about Pearl Harbor then. That sure scared all of us because the old folks didn't know what was going to happen. I didn't think much of it until every one else started to worry and this made me feel different from before. My Caucasian friends were excited too but they didn't have a feeling of fear that I did. I guess it was because everyone was suspicious of the Nihonjin and the Nisei were a part of this group.

"I continued to work at nights for the company but a few days after the war, they told me not to come back anymore and I didn't understand it. I was the only one laid off that day and the Caucasian workers weren't told to go home like I was. I felt then that the Caucasians didn't trust us anymore. It happened just like that when the war broke out. Before the war they never made a distinction like that. When I got to thinking about the war, I thought that the Pearl Harbor attack was a pretty low down trick and I got mad. Just like my pals at high school did. That's the

only thing that Japan shouldn't have done. If they wanted to start a war that badly they should have declared it and not sneaked up on this country. It really made it bad for us because everyone started to say that the Nisei too ~~were~~ couldn't be trusted and were treacherous. I didn't like that at all because I was a part of this country. It looked like we were going to do something for the Japanese army. My brother was pretty sore about the war so he went and volunteered for the war but he was not taken. The same thing happened to him in camp.

"My mother was pretty scared when the war broke out. She just worried a lot as she was afraid that something terrible would happen to the family. She didn't want to have us starve if she lost her job. She didn't think that we would be able to make a living anymore and that worried her a lot. My brother lost his job too and he felt quite bad about that because it meant that all of his income was lost to the family. We had to get out and do odd jobs for some of the other Japanese families after that in order to get along. It was pretty hard for my mother because she worried too much about it and she didn't have nobody to lean on."

"Quite a few Issei were interned after the war so that most of the Japanese families in our community were worried when they would be taken next. My mother was so afraid of something happening to her which would cause the children to be left alone that she made us get all the Japanese things around the house and burn them. We ^{burned} beared everything like Japanese records, kendo outfits and we threw away all the bullets for the 22 rifle. We turned in our camera and other guns. The whole town was scared about what was going to happen next. The government began to put a lot of travel regulations and things like that on us because they didn't

want us to blow up the railroads. I don't think any of the Nisei would have done that. I didn't like all of those restrictions and my mother would get very worried whenever I stayed to visit the next door neighbors after the curfew was on.

["Before the war I thought that I was an American like anyone else, but I lost my hakuji friends after Pearl Harbor. We sort of drifted apart. My best pals were still for me but I felt that I was on the spot and I wanted to prove to them that I felt the same way they did about the war. < Two of these hakuji pals and myself were known as the three Musketeers and we made all of the teams together. Gee, we used to do everything back home. After the war came I couldn't go out with my pals at night because of the curfew. This sort of wrecked our friendship because we did a lot of things together at night. They weren't mad at me but they didn't want me to break the law. >

"After the war started I continued to go on the high school and us Nisei felt funny because of all the rumors which were going around. Pretty soon I heard that we had to be evacuated to some kind of camp and I didn't know why they had to think of such a thing like that.] I wanted to graduate with my high school class too and I got sore. But my mother said nothing could be done.

When they started to evacuate ~~the~~ the town of Lindsay was cut in ^{two} my. My family lived in the free zone so we didn't have to leave. The Japanese families living on the other side of the line in town had to go to Fresno and Tulare assembly centers. The rest of us just didn't know when we were going to be moved.

"We kept on waiting all the time and we had a lot of spare time to get ready for the evacuation. We didn't think we could take so much belonging with us to camp so we stored everything.

[When the Army finally announced evacuation for the free zone, I thought it would be fun for me to meet other Japanese kids. I thought that was pretty good. I was looking forward to the time when I could meet a lot of new people and I wouldn't have to work so hard out on the farm. I heard that it would be a lot of fun in a camp. A lot of Nisei kids acted pretty sore about evacuation but they didn't say anything before we left. I guess they had more to lose than I did so that's why they got sore. There were some of them who acted pretty griped and I did the same thing once in a while before being evacuated but I didn't get sore. I just heard that it was against the constitution to get kicked out like that and that's why I felt that we should protest about it. I never thought much of this as I was looking forward to meeting a lot of Nisei.]

"My mother thought that the evacuation was a pretty good idea. She said that it would be a lot safer for us to be in a camp and we would be fed. She didn't think that we would be able to earn a living anymore if she stayed out. We heard a lot of stories that Filipinos were going around to beat up the Nihon-jins but they didn't come to our town. We heard lots of rumors about Filipinos killing Japanese farmers and that's what scared all Japanese in our community. I was pretty scared too because I thought sure the Filipinos were killing Japanese right and left and that was what really got us down. My mother made us lock ~~the~~ the door at night and she didn't want us to go out at all. We didn't know if all these rumors were true. I heard afterwards that a lot of Japanese did get killed by Filipinos so our community must have been lucky to escape them.

"We stayed in the free zone until July and we were just

waiting around for the evacuation. ~~At~~ first we didn't think that we would be moved because everybody ~~said~~ this was a free zone and we would be allowed to stay there. I know a lot of families moved in and they were told they wouldn't move again but I notice that they were moved out. The rumors about evacuation became pretty strong so that we got resigned to the idea.

"We heard about Poston and everybody was wondering what it was going to be like up there. I withdrew from high school at the end of June since my junior year was completed for that I didn't lose out in any of my school work. I graduated next from ~~from~~ high school in camp. I figure ~~that~~ that it would look better if I had a diploma from high school ~~back~~ ^{back} home but I guess a camp diploma is just as good.

"My mother was very anxious for us to get evacuated as times were getting hard and we didn't have any money to go move to another state. As soon as we decided that we were going to be evacuated, we sold all of our belongings but we had to sell things pretty cheap because the hakujin didn't need everything that the Japanese families were selling. Some out of town hakujin came in to buy up somethings and we practically gave it away. We sold a lot of our stuff in one large batch so that we didn't make any profit at all. We sold our car for \$300 and it was easily worth \$600. I remember my brother ask^d the automobile dealer what the car was worth just after New Years when nobody ~~was~~ talking about evacuation and he quoted a pretty high price. When he knew we were being evacuated, he cut the price in half. We had to take it or nothing at all.

"I heard that a lot of Japanese with more property lost a great deal and they all complained about it after they got into

camp but it was no use. They had a lot of time to sell out but they waited around trying to make the best deal and they couldn't get much of a price because all the hakujin knew they had to sell.

"My family sold out everything so that we have nothing left back in California. We just went to camp with the bare essentials. At that time I didn't feel so good against the U.S. as my Nisei friends said that evacuation wasn't right, but I really wasn't bitter. I just felt that we were being treated as Japanese and I didn't know how much my American citizenship stood for. I was just interested in getting into Poston as I wanted to see what camp was like.

"The trip up to Poston was a lot of fun. I didn't feel too bad about leaving my home town behind as we had nothing left there. A lot of people were pretty sad about moving out. But I just felt sad leaving my true friends behind and it was over pretty quick. We got to Poston in July. It was really hot there. It was such a dusty place that I was disappointed. I had expected camp to be much better than that. After I was there for a day or so, I decided to get a job. I didn't have to look for one as a fellow came around to sign up workers for our mess hall. I became a dish washer right away. I did that work after school started in October on a part-time basis since I still had to finish up high school. I usually work in the mess hall at lunch time and in the evenings.

"After I was in camp for about 3 months, I went to work for the Poston press. I helped to deliver the camp paper to the residents. I also helped out with the mimeographing. This was part-time work. After that I went into the Future Farmers of America poultry project as a part of my school work. We just took

care of the chickens. I continued this work until I graduated from high school the following summer. I didn't have anything to do so I decided to go out on seasonal work around August, 1943. After I came back to camp in November, I got a job as a cook in the mess hall and I did that work until I resettled.

"My main activity at Poston during all this time was going to high school. It was a lot of fun as we had many socials. I enjoyed meeting all of the different Nisei from other localities. The school was not nearly as good as the one I had gone to because we had to have our classes in the barracks and we hardly had any furniture. It was much different from school back home. The kids didn't study so hard because they didn't seem to care so much about grades any more. A lot of them didn't care for the teachers and that's why they were indifferent. The only good thing about it was that we had a chance to get elected to more school offices. Since there were all Nisei in the school, it meant that all of the student body officers were Nisei. Hardly any of the Nisei ever had a chance like that back home because they just didn't get elected to very many of the school offices.

"When I went to high school at Poston I was pretty active. I belonged to the student body cabinet and I was vice-president of the Future Farmers of America. I was also elected yell leader for the high school and I became president of my English class. This year my younger brother is the president of the student body out there. I also took part in all of the social activities of the school. I guess that's all I went to school for. It was a lot of fun doing all these things. I ran for student body treasurer but I got beaten out on that.

"I didn't have too much time for sports as I had to go out to

the poultry farm for two hours after school every day. Every once in a while I had to work on a night shift. It was a very interesting life though and I was pretty carefree those days because I didn't have to worry about anything. I thought the teachers were swell as they were pretty nice to us. The Caucasian teachers were pretty nice too and they tried to help us out, but I liked the Nisei teachers better. They treated us more as equals. Some of those Caucasian teachers were pretty old and they didn't know how to teach us as well as the ones I had back home. I guess they had a different method. I kept up with my school work fairly well, but I emphasized my other school activities the most.

"In my spare time I would fool around with radio parts at school and at home. I helped to put a loud speaker up in our mess hall. It was doing this work that got me real interested in radio and I thought of going into this field instead of farming some day. I had charge of the loud speaker system when they made the noon-day announcements at the mess hall. Since camp was so close together, we did everything together. I took part in quite a few of the other activities in camp. I learned how to dance so I started to go to all of the camp dances. I went to the talent shows and I managed to take in everything that was fun. I went to one Japanese play which the Issei put on, but that was waste time. On Sundays I used to alternate between the Buddhist and Christian churches once in a while, depending on where the best looking girls went.

"I made so many new friends while I was in camp. I was in Camp II and it wasn't so large so I got to know most of the Nisei living there. I played on the basketball team for our block so I met a lot of fellows in this way. We would go around and play all

of the other blocks. Gee, it was fun and I thought that Poston was one swell place. After a while I got a little tired of it though, even though Poston was good. When I got all those things so easily, it wasn't appreciated so much. I began to miss the other things I had back home. I remembered about how I went to the corner drug store in Lindsay and got milk shakes and hamburger and I missed that sort of thing in Poston. I didn't feel restricted too much as we went out of Poston on overnight hikes. It was just something else about the place that I knew was wrong. I concentrated on my school activities and work, but I began to get bored after I graduated from high school because there weren't so many things to do. I had a lot of girl friends there and that occupied me for a while. I had more girl friends than I ever did in my life. That's all I did, was to chase the girls as I was considered one of the popular boys in high school.

① ["I wasn't aware of all the strikes and agitation going on in camp as I only knew the Nisei there and we only talked about sports and dances.] Our block was run more by Nisei so it didn't hold all of those demonstrations that the other camp had. Most of the people from our block were from all over central California and there were a few from Los Angeles. I know that for a while they were excited about some things but I didn't pay much attention. I was too interested in school and my social activities to notice many of the other things going on in camp. We didn't have any of those tough Nisei gangs in our camp so it was pretty quiet.

"After I went to Poston I got acquainted with my dad all over again. He lived in Camp I so I would go visit him quite often.

② [After I graduated from high school my dad started to talk about going out on seasonal leave so I wanted to go along. I talked to

my mother about it and she approved of the plan as there was an older person to look after me. My pal also signed up to go and we left Poston in August, 1943.] We went out to Grand Junction, Colorado to do farm work. At first we worked in the peaches for about 2 or 3 weeks. After that we started to pick tomatoes. There were about a hundred Japanese working in one gang while we were picking peaches, but we split up in smaller groups when we went to tomato work.

"I worked for one of the big Japanese farmers in Colorado and he had about 200 acres in crop. He must have been making a lot of money because the market was very good. We did piece work there so that we were able to earn pretty good money. I made quite a lot but I had to buy a radio and other things for my family in camp since we had sold everything out before evacuating. I just went out of camp in order to see what the outside was like. It was mostly work and I didn't have as much fun as I had in camp. We stayed out for about two months and then returned to camp. It sure felt good to get back there. I felt pretty lonesome for all my friends and the social activities that I had missed while I was gone.

"After returning, I went to get a job as a cook in the mess hall and that was pretty easy. I worked every other day so I had a lot of time to loaf around. I signed up for night school and I took up bookkeeping for a while but I didn't keep it up. I liked my job in the mess hall so I thought I might even open up a restaurant some day. I was the assistant to the Issei chef and he was easy to get along with because he had more modern ideas. We would sit around all afternoon and just eat. I don't know why I even came out of camp now as it was so good back there. My pal

and I had a lot of fun working in the mess hall.

① "I was in camp for about 3 or 4 months after I came back from seasonal work. I picked up my life from before but it didn't seem the same. I didn't have as much fun as when I went to high school but I still went to all of the high school socials. [Pretty soon my friends began to go out of camp so I began to think more of my own future. I didn't want to stay in camp when everybody I knew were leaving.] I started to think of resettlement seriously when I was out on seasonal leave but it was pretty indefinite at that time. I had gone out to look at the outside and I thought I might even stay out if I liked it. I got pretty lonesome the first time so I went back to camp but I got pretty restless there too.

"I began to think that I would like to go out to Chicago in order to go to a radio technical school so I began to make all my plans for this. The Army business came up after the beginning of this year so I changed my mind about radio school. I came out to Chicago on a seasonal leave. I was going to work for a while and save my money and then go on to school but things didn't turn out that way.

② ["The reason I finally made up my mind to leave was that I was getting pretty bored with camp life as they didn't have so many social activities as before when everyone started to leave. All of my friends were going out and I didn't want to be the only sad case left behind.] [Everyone would talk about resettlement and the places where they could go so I began to think about it too. Some of the guys got letter from friends on the outside telling them what fun it was and that made some of us leave. There was the usual dancing and things like that going on in camp but I wanted to get out because my friends kept telling me to come. I finally

③

① got together with two other boys and we made out plans to come out together.]

"At first my mother didn't want me to go way out to Chicago for seasonal work as she said it was too dangerous. [She heard about American guys treating the Nisei rough so she was worried about me. My mind was made up so I didn't listen very much. My mother said that I wouldn't make a go of it out here as the outside expenses would be too high. She said I was too young to be able to take care of myself. She wasn't worried about me going wild but she feared for my safety.] It was a good thing that most of the people in my block were in favor of resettlement because many of them had gone out to farming and they knew what it was like. All of the kids I graduated from high school with left camp as soon as they could. I wanted to get out and go to school with them but I didn't have the money. That's why I planned to work for a while and then go to radio school. I had made up my mind by this time that radio work was the most interesting field for me. I learned quite a bit about it in camp. I was planning to make this work my career after I got some training in it.]

③ ["Another reason why I was so anxious to get out to Chicago was that I wanted to get into a big city. I had always wanted to see a big place as I came from a small farming town. The only big city I'd ever seen before the evacuation was Oakland.] I had gone to a Future Farmers of America conference with my high school group. I didn't even get to see San Francisco on that trip. Everybody was telling me that it was more fun to go to a city. I had gone out to farm work on seasonal leave a few months before so I didn't care to go to a farm district again.

"I didn't have ~~anything~~ close friends out in Chicago but I

thought that it would be best to come out here so that I could look around for a good radio school. We had a ~~seasonal~~ ^(seasonal) leave for six months so that we could go back to camp ~~if~~ we didn't like it out here. I changed it into an indefinite leave after I came out. My mother let me go because she thought that I ~~wax~~ would be back for sure in six months. She wouldn't have let me come out otherwise as my older brother had already gone to resettle in Des Moines. He had volunteered for the Army but he got rejected so he didn't feel good staying in camp where the other guys could razz him.

I signed up to work for the Bloomfield Company for six months. In the contract I was supposed to get a raise every month. After six months, they said that they would pay my fare back to camp. We had to pay our own fare out here. We were given a seasonal leave so that I didn't get my W.R.A. allowance until later. The W.R.A. never did give me the transportation money. When I first got out to Chicago I went to stay at the Wabash YMCA. We didn't have any trouble finding a room. We were looking around for a hotel after we got to the Dearborn Station ^{when} ~~and~~ a Nisei fellow came up and told us to go to the "Y". I only had about \$50 when I first came out here but I wasn't too worried as my job was already arranged.

"The day I got on the train to come out, I wasn't very afraid because it was like a new adventure. I had it in my mind that Chicago would be a lot of fun. I was surprised to find that it was such a big city. I was disappointed that it was so cold out here. It was February when I arrived and it was the first time I had ever seen snow in my life. The weather bothered me quite a bit because it had been hot in Poston when I left there. I didn't have any winter clothes at all because we only used light clothing

in camp.]

"The first thing I did after arriving in Chicago was to go to the WRA to ask about housing. They sent us out to this place (5010 Drexel). We thought that \$5 a week rent was too much as we were not used to spending that much money in camp in a whole month for everything. [We sure found out that expenses were high out here. My money went right down and I was glad to go to work so I could earn a little bit. When I had taken the job, I had thought that 55¢ an hour was plenty high wages as I used to work for 30¢ an hour in California. I never got that high wages before in my life so I thought it was pretty good. I didn't figure on the high expenses at all.]

["There were only 3 other Nisei living in this house when we first came in. My two friends and I made it six in all. A lot of Nisei started to come in later as the WRA sent more and more people until some guys squawked about the high rent here. Right now nobody knew is moving into this place. I've lived here ever since arriving into Chicago as I couldn't find another apartment. I didn't know how to go about it so I just stayed on. I figured that this was the best place to live as I would be able to come home and have friends to talk to. It was more fun to live in a group and I didn't want to get a room of my own because I would get too lonesome. I did look for my own place once on the north side but it was too dirty.

"The landlord heard that a lot of Nisei were coming out to Chicago so she decided to rent out the top two floors to the Japanese. She ran a nursing home on the first floor and she couldn't get any patients on the upper floor. I liked this place so much that I didn't feel like moving out even if the rent was

high. My two friends who came out with me are still here too, but they ~~are~~ waiting to get inducted into the Army pretty soon.

"The only thing that I don't like about this building is that the kitchen is too dirty. There are cockroaches run all over the place and the landlady doesn't do anything about it. There are about 20 fellows living on this floor (third floor) and I know just about all of them. Some of them are much newer to Chicago than I am. Their friends tell them to come out from camp and come live here. I told a couple of my friends from camp to come here too when they mentioned about resettling to Chicago.

"Even if we have cockroaches in the kitchen, I think that this place is much better than my home back in California as we ^{have} had a bathtub and flush toilets here. Back home we only had wooden tubs and out-houses. It is furnished much better here because we didn't have any big rugs back home. I like it because we are located pretty close to shows and I can go to the Loop easily. It's much easier for me to go shopping here than back home. If I come back to Chicago after the onion harvest, I will come live here again. I'll probably get called for the Army before then though.

"I get along with the landlady okay and she treats me nice. She still is a Jew though. She won't give us a maid to clean up the place and she tries to get along as cheaply as possible in order to make more profit. We have to furnish almost everything except the dishes. We didn't get enough hot water for baths until we complained. There are five guys living up in the attic room and they have to pay \$25 a week together for that stinking hole. It's a robbery but we can't do anything about it because housing is too hard to find here. The landlady must make two or three hundred dollars a week from the Japanese living in this building.

Even though the rent is high, I've never made much of an attempt to move because it is convenient and I figure that I would have to pay just as much any~~x~~ other place. The Caucasian neighbors objected to us at first but they don't say anything now. I like to be near Nisei and I wouldn't mind if all the houses around here had some of my friends living in them.]

["The first job I had at Bloomfield's didn't turn out very satisfactory. I worked for a whole month before I heard that other Nisei guys were making more than I was. The Caucasian guys were even making more. I lost fight because I was only getting 65¢ an hour and I didn't get my raise so I quit. I heard that it was easy for a Nisei to get other jobs. Some of the fellows in my house told me about making anywhere from ^{\$45}~~25~~ a week up and I wanted to make money like that. I felt that 65¢ an hour was not enough to live on so I began to look around for a better paying job. At Bloomfield's we made small can openers, butter butters and steel tree climbers for the Army and other things like that. There were about 20 Nisei fellows working on my shift. There were quite a lot of Negroes working there too and we all got along well. The Negroes were a little jealous of Nisei workers for a while because we got paid as much as they did even though they had worked there for a longer time. I heard that there was some trouble between the Negro and Nisei workers for a while but it was all settled by the time I arrived.

"My boss at that job treated us good even if he did yell a lot. I got along with most of the fellows and I ^{met} ~~made~~ some pretty good fellows out there. All of the Nisei working there were out on seasonal leaves but most of them took out indefinite leaves after working for a while. There were a few who went back to camp after

a while. There are some Nisei still working there and they seem satisfied enough. It was easy work but the hours were short so I didn't make over-time. I got dissatisfied after I heard of other Nisei who made up to \$80 a week.

"My pal quit the Bloomfield job with me. I felt kind of funny because I never quit a job like that before. Back home most of the Nisei were glad to have a job, but out here it was easy to work any place so we weren't as afraid to ask for better wages. I went to take a bus boy job right away. I got this job through the WRA. The only reason I took it was because I felt that it would give me some time to look around for a better job. My friends told me to look around carefully for a while and not grab any job that came along, because I would be frozen to it. The bus boy job was in the La Salle Hotel downtown. It only paid \$3.50 a day and it also included tips. I only planned to work for 3 or 4 days so that I could make enough money to eat on. It turned out that the job was fun so I tried it out for two weeks.

"I finally decided to quit as I thought it would be better to go into some kind of defense job. I had an unpleasant experience in the restaurant which helped me make my decision. One night some American customers started to call us Japs as we were cleaning off the table so I thought I had better leave there before a mob came to beat us up. There were only 3 Nisei in that place and I liked one of the girls so that's why I was sticking around. However, I thought it would be better to go out before one of the customers took a poke at me. I didn't do anything but you know how some of these hakujin are. They just think we are all Japs and they get mad at us.

"I went back to the WRA office and I asked them to help me

find another job. They told me about the Gage Structural Steel Company. I went out there and I found that the job paid 75¢ an hour and there was plenty of over-time so I thought it was pretty good. I began to work there and I stuck to that job until I quit yesterday (September 28, 1944). At first I started out as a laborer there. I helped to clean up the landing boats which were being built for the Navy. I also did odd jobs like helping to pack the parts and other things.

"After a couple of months in this job, I got promoted to be a packer. It's sort of welding work and my wages was raised to 85¢ an hour. I worked for 10 hours a day and 7 hours on Saturdays. A couple of time I even worked on Sundays so that I made a \$50 check quite a few times. The only ^{reason} why I didn't make it consistently was that I took a few days off on different occasions to entertain a lot of my friends who came to town. I had to meet them at the station to show them around. That's how my pay check went down.

["I was working on the day shift with about 10 Nisei, 35 Caucasians and 10 Negro workers. I got along with all of the workers in my department as most of them were foreigners and it was all mixed nationalities. I felt much more like an American than a lot of those foreigners because they didn't know how to speak English so good. The working conditions at the company were not so good as ^{our} ~~out~~ division did mostly outside work. It got cold and windy a lot of times. I got disgusted pretty often with the job and I was going to quit but I decided to keep at it. After July I wasn't able to get a job release so easily anyway. I thought that it was no use to change around as all jobs were pretty much the same and my work wasn't too bad even if I did get pretty dirty at it.

"The boss at the company treated us good and he was a lot of fun. I worked directly with my boss and one other guy. We made the small foundations for the landing barges. I didn't learn too much at that job because I had taken a welding course up in high school and I knew most of the things already. I just continued to work there so I could make a little dough. I changed my seasonal leave to an indefinite leave as I decided to stay here until I was drafted. I gave up plans to go to school though.

"There wasn't any discrimination in the shop where I worked. The boss liked most of the Nisei as they were hard workers. There were quite a few Nisei who only worked for a couple of days and quit. The boss didn't think very much of these Nisei and he said that it made it look bad for the rest of us. I made friends with quite a few of the old Caucasian men working there and they treated me good. They would come around and joke with me all the time. I never went around with any of them after work because they never invited me. They were mostly old men anyway and they only wanted to go to the saloons to drink beer.

"After working at the plant for 6 months, I was only able to save \$100. I sent quite a few gifts home to my family and I paid back the \$80 I had borrowed from my mother when I first came back here. After I decided not to go to school, I decided not to save money so much as the Army was catching up with me and I wanted to have my fun. I had to buy my winter clothes too and I did send quite a few things back home. It cost me quite a bit just to live. I paid \$25 a month for rent and \$25 a month for food. I eat with 3 other guys here and we share the expenses. That's ~~4444~~ \$50 just for my room and board each month. I spend about \$5 or \$10 on the average for clothes and my cleaning bill is about \$3. I wash

most of my own laundry myself. I average about \$30 a month for recreation and all I do is go play pool, bowl and go to show. I haven't gone on any dates because I don't meet young girls of my age around here. I just go with my own gang and it costs quite a bit of money. I spend \$5 a month or more on carfare and I send anywhere from \$25 to \$50 ~~back~~home to my family in gifts or cash.

"I took a trip to St. Louis about 3 months ago and I spent \$50 that time. I went down there to see a good friend of mine for a couple of ~~month~~ days. I also went to Milwaukee once for a Nisei dance and I spent about \$20 that time. That was after I felt I was going to be drafted and I wanted to have all the fun I could. (My mother told me to try and save money when I left camp but I didn't do it.) I always got my job back whenever I took time off so I went on little trips on week-ends and I would take one or two days off besides that. [That's how all of my money goes and I don't have anything to show for all my work out here.]

"I had planned to keep on working out here for quite a while as I hadn't settled anything definite about the future. I was just waiting around for the Army when my brother phoned from Nebraska last July and he told me to come out there for the tomato harvesting. I was thinking of leaving then when something ruined the crop so I didn't go. I kept on working here and I wrote and told my brother that I wouldn't come down and do any farm work during the winter as it was too cold. My brother wrote back again and told me to come several times as they were short of farm workers. He wanted me to come out and help our uncle in the onion crop. He said we could go back to visit Mom in camp after the season was over. That's what made me decide the other day so I am leaving for Nebraska on Sunday, October 1. I'll be working

for my uncle out there.

"After the onion harvest is over, I'll go back to camp or I may even come back here to Chicago. It depends on what my brother plans to do. I may go back to Poston and stay for the Xmas vacation. That would only be for a month or two. I'm not particular about what I do because one job is just like another. It's fun to be traveling around to different places though. I never thought I would see so much of this country. I would like to go to New York some time if I get a job there, but I'll probably be drafted before then. There's a lot of places in this country I'd like to go see. It would be fun to work for about a month and see the plan and then move on. I'm young yet and I can't decide what to do definitely until I come back from the Army.

"I don't have any definite ideas about what I'll do in the future. I don't want to be a farmer exactly because that is hard work. I would like to get into some kind of a trade if possible. I don't have enough capital to buy my own farm and I don't have the interest in it so I may not stick to this line. However, it depends upon what my brother wants to do for the family. If he buys a farm I'll have to go and help him out. I plan to be a farmer while I was in high school, but that was before I got to know about other jobs I could get into. All Nisei guys were going into farming back home and I didn't know there was a chance for something else. It's pretty hard to decide what I will do after the war. My brother even said that he may try to start a farm in the middlewest and then I'll have to go help him so we can bring the whole family out of camp.

"I don't think we'll ever go back to California to live because we don't have any property out there anymore. California is

the best state to live in but there is nothing for us to go back to now. My old man is in another camp right now, but my parents got separated way before the war so we can't count on him at all. I really don't know why my folks were separated. I was too young to know and my mother never explained it to me. It will be up to my brothers and me to look after mother when the time comes for re-settlement. Maybe my folks will come together again after the war because dad likes the kids and he is always willing to lend us money. He loaned me money before and I went to Grand Junction with him for seasonal work the first time and we had lots of fun together. He is just 44 and is like an older brother to me. He was living out at Salinas before the war so we didn't see him very much until we got evacuated. I didn't get real acquainted with him until I started visiting him in Poston. When a family is split up like that it is quite a problem trying to decide what to do after the war. We were barely making a living before evacuation and that was tough.

["I'd really like to start a restaurant of my own after the war as I get a lot of fun out of cooking. There's quite a skill to it and I find I take to it. The only difficulty is that it requires a lot of money to start ~~at~~ restaurant and I wouldn't think of doing it while there's a chance for me to get drafted. I haven't got the dough anyway. I figure there ^{would} ~~wouldn't~~ be too much discrimination against the Nisei after the war. All of my friends expect to lose their job when the war is over but they don't know what to expect either. The Nisei will have a pretty hard time after the war as many factories will be closed down and the Nisei will be kicked out so that the soldiers coming back will have the jobs. I don't blame the soldiers for wanting jobs

after they get through with fighting and come back but it's too bad that the Nisei will be among the first to get fired. I think the Nisei are fighting just as hard for the war effort as anybody but they haven't got too muc chance. There will be alot of Nisei after the war and they may go back to camp if they can't get a job. I suppose they can do farm work in labor gangs but that isn't fun. At one time I was thinking of going to Florida to do farm work and work up the coast in labor gangs just for the fun of it ~~in~~ but that was just a dream anyway. Florida is too far from home. If I had a business of my own, it will be better than working for somebody else because I won't get fired so easily. I will have something definite to work for and I wouldn't mind working 10 or 15 hours a day if it is my own business.

7 ["I changed my plans all the time and that's why I don't have a definite plan of my own now. Just before I left camp I heard that Nisei would be drafted into the Army. That's why I thought I should come out and go to school. But I got my 1-A classification about a month and a half ago so that it was no use planning on anything. I knew all along that I would get 1-A sooner or later so that's why I decided to live every day as it came. I think that I would rather be in the Army right now than waiting around and wondering when I'll be taken. It wouldn't make too much difference to me. I've heard a lot of rumors against going into the Army, but I think that it will be fun. I feel so much better wandering around the different cities if I was in a uniform. I don't exactly care to go to Italy because I heard the Nisei are the spearheads there but I think that th war over there may end pretty soon and I'd rather be in a uniform when they happens. It will be better for my future. I think everyone is soon going to

hate the Japs when the invasion start and it will be better if I were in a uniform because then they can't say anything to me then.

① "The only thing is that I think that the Army should have drafted us right ~~from~~ from the beginning of the war. After they did all those things like evacuation to us, I feel like fighting too much for this country. But then, I feel the American people who say all those bad things against us are in the minority so that this country is worth fighting for. I don't think democracy is working so well after ^{they} treated us. But in a way, it was pretty good taking us out of California as it might have been hard for us when Japan invaded the ~~Pit~~ Philippines. Many of the Japanese might had been murdered in their homes if they had stayed behind. Those people in California didn't realize we were Americans too and they would have taken ^{us} for Japan ^{are} so maybe it was safer for us to remain in camp. [My mother doesn't want me to go into the Army at all. She was very much against my brother volunteering when he did. She told me to stay in camp because she thought I would be drafted right away if we came out here. She was afraid ~~were~~ I would get shot if I went into the Army as I would be sent overseas after training of 3 months. She was not exactly bitter about evacuation as we were not doing too well back home. She just didn't want us to go into the Army and get killed.] I think it will be easier for us to look after mother now as we are older. She is being taken care of in camp until we can get established and in that way camp life was pretty good for us.

② "I don't care to go to the language school at Fort Snelling as I would rather be a plain soldier. I don't want to fight against Japan though. If I ever got sent to Japan, they wouldn't take pity on me. I'd hate to use my knowledge of the language

against Japan as it is their tongue. I don't care to fight against Japan even though they are my enemies. I would much rather fight against Germany. I think that the Nisei combat team is pretty good and I'd rather be with them. However, I still think that the Nisei should be mixed up with the Army. It's just like racial discrimination if they are all put together. It would be more democratic if all the nationalities were mixed up. I'd like to get into the merchant marine or the Navy but there's not much chance for the Nisei to do that. I'd like to go to sea and travel around and see the world.]

① ["If I get into the Army and if we make a good showing, then the feeling of the American people will be better for us. There's a slim chance that this will happen altho not many people know about the Nisei in Italy. If we fail in the Army, then it won't help any of us very much because the American people will say that we failed our chance to do our fighting.]

① ["We have a lot of things to overcome. They say that the cause of evacuation was because of sabotage. I don't know about that. Back home where I came from, there was nothing to sabotage and yet we had to move out. I think that they just wanted to get us out of California and they used the war as the excuse. Gen. DeWitt was behind all of this and I heard he got paid a lot of money for evacuating us. The cattle raisers and big hakujuin farmers wanted us out as the Japanese farmers were better and these other people were jealous. If the Japanese start farms out here, I don't think the hakujuin people will like it too much as there will be a lot of competition once more. I came from the farming area in Central California where a lot of Japanese owned their own land. Some of them were able to keep their farms when the evacua-

tion came, but I think that most of them had to sell out. I think that those who have farms out there yet will go back eventually and try to make a new start.

Back home I don't think that any of the Japanese were dangerous like they said in the newspaper. I thought our area was pretty good as the Kibei and Issei were not too strong for Japan. I never heard them talk too much about it anyway. They were sending things to the Japanese Army when people came ~~from~~ for donations but they wouldn't sabotage against this country. [When I had to sign that loyalty question in camp in March, 1943, I didn't have anything against the government so I answered 'yes'. A lot of people answered 'no-no' because they were bitter about losing property. My mother said to answer double 'no' but I didn't answer to her. I didn't think I belong^{ed} to this country after losing my rights. She said that if I answered double 'no', I wouldn't get drafted at all. But the way I planned was that I intended to stay in this country all my life and I never wanted to go~~k~~ to Japan. My mother wanted to go back to J apan, but she finally answered 'yes' to the questionnaire because all of us answered it that way.]

"That was pretty exciting time in camp when they had that registration. I remember one night the block people called a meeting at 2 o'clock in the morning and they insisted that all the people answer 'no' to the questionnaire the next day. They told us our citizenship wasn't worth anything a whole lot of mess like that. I didn't understand them too well because they talked in high-powered Japanese. There was a lot of excitement going on during those few weeks that registration went on. In many of the ~~xxx~~ blocks three-fourths of the people answered 'no' and they had

to go to Tule Lake. It was funny because all the men in our block~~ed~~ told us to answer double 'no' and they answered 'yes'. As a result only a few Kibei from our block went to Tule Lake when the segregation came.

"Sometimes I don't know what to think about this war. I wish that there would be a peace term between the United States and Japan as it would be easier on the Nisei. It would be bad for the Nisei if we win or lose this war to Japan. Either way, people will look down on us unless we can do enough now to make them think otherwise. I figure that we are going to get kicked around either way so I don't care too much about the war now. I don't believe in all the things we are fighting for. I don't give a darn about Japan and I'd just as soon they lost the war. But I'd feel funny if that happen as I have Japanese blood in me. At the same time I feel like an American when I do a lot of things. That's the trouble; it's a half and half sort of a feeling. In a way, I don't feel very much like clapping when I go to the movies and see the pictures about how cruel the Japanese soldiers are. I don't feel like clapping when I see the U.S. flag in the movies either. It's a funny kind of feeling because I don't know exactly where I belong. I would like to belong entirely to this country but a lot of people are not willing to let us do this.

"I still think that I am loyal to the United States and I'd do all I can to help it out if I were drafted. I'm an American because I get a lot of free dom out here like everyone else and I'm not discriminated against like the Negroes. That's why I felt more like fighting for this country after I came out of camp. I live just an ordinary life and I had my education here. I'd feel like more of an outcast if I were still in camp because all

of the Nisei have left.

"I don't know nothing about Japan so I can't feel at home there. I only know a little bit about the language as I only went to Japanese school one year. I learned most of the language from my mother. I know more of the American things so that is the reason why I don't care to be sent to Japan. I heard that they might even try to deport us but I don't think that can happen. There are some dumb Americans who want to do that because they don't want to give us a chance. I get pretty darn mad when I read of the American Legion who want to take our citizenship away from us. It's not up to them to decide because it's written in the constitution. When they happens, they only make the Nisei feel less loyal to this country. You can't beat a person down and expect him to kiss your hand. I'd be willing to forget everything that was done to us in the past and feel that no harm was done if they left us alone and gave us an equal chance with other Americans.

"No lie, man, I like this country quite a bit and I am proud of it even is some people think that I don't belong here. Everything is good and fine in this country except a few Americans who get on my goat. I feel that if one Nisei was bad, it could hurt things for all the rest of the Nisei. The same way is true about the Americans; if one bad American does something against us, it makes it look like all Americans are bad. I know that it isn't true at all. I believe that sooner or later the Nisei will get their right place in this country as they are willing to do everything to help out in the war effort. They serve in the Army and they work in war plants. What more can they do to prove themselves as loyal Americans. Some people are not even satisfied

with that and they still don't want to give us a chance. That's why there might be quite a bit of discrimination in jobs after the war but I think this will pass over after a while.

"I don't follow the news about the Nisei too closely so I don't know what they are doing now. I am just a happy-go-lucky kid and I feel that everything will turn out like they taught us in school as democracy must work for all of us. I really think this is going to come true so that is why I have hope for the future. I think my family will be resettled in a good way sooner or later but we'll have to work for it. I haven't talked much about resettlement with my family yet as my mother never mentions it. Right now she wants to stay in camp and go back to Japan after the war. My brother is working on family resettlement the most. He is doing farm work out Nebraska way to find out if there are any good prospects for him to go out on his own. He will have to most of the work for family resettlement but I will help all I can. I am leaving it all to my ~~work~~ brother as I expect to get into the Army soon. My brother is 4-F now so he doesn't have to worry about getting drafted. I have to wait and hear what his plans are first before I can do anything about family resettlement. If I don't get drafted I will start on it with my brother. I can't make any definite plans on it right now but I am thinking of it now and then.

"My mother, younger brother and sister are still in camp. I have two other married sisters but they are in another camp. They have their own families to take care of. My mother is about 41 or so but I'm not sure of her age. She was only 16 or 17 when my older sister was born. I don't know what my mother would do if she went back to Japan. Her mother is still living back there some

place. I don't know very much about my family history.

"I think that my parents came from Hiroshima Ken. My folks came to this country about 26 years ago and my two older sisters were born near Monterey. My father and his four brothers and sisters all came out here at one time and they all had a farm around Monterey. They are all married. All of them sent back to Japan for their wives and my dad fixed it up for his sister. All of these relatives went into farm work around Central California, but I don't know where they are now. Some of them went back to Japan after they made a little money. My dad was always a farmer and he moved to Sanger where the rest of us were born. After he separated from my mother, my older sister had to quit school in order to help the family. We moved to Lindsay and we got along pretty well as my mother and sister got jobs there. All of the rest of us were able to finish high school and the youngest are still in school in camp so we did okay as a family group. [I don't think that my younger sister and brother would want to go with my mother to Japan as we have more of the family control now and she can go on her own way without our support. We'll just make her come out with us some place and I know that she will stick with us. If we do that, we should be able to make out even better than we did before the war. My mother just dreams about going back to Japan because so many of the Issei in camp talk about it but we won't let her go. We would rather start out some place in the midwest after the war because it would be a better life to stay in this country. The way we figure it is that my mother is used to this country and it wouldn't be hard for her. Maybe she would like it better in Japan but none of the kids would like it there so it's better for her to think about all of her children instead

of herself.

["I don't think that I made too much progress out here during the months I was resettled. I didn't do anything at all but eat, sleep and play. I just roamed around with the rest of the boys on Saturday nights and we would go all over Chicago just to see the different places. Once in a while we would go play poker. Sometimes we just like to go down to the Loop and watch all the people going by in the street. I don't think that I have any bad habits, I just started to smoke recently but I don't drink altho some of the other fellows do. We never go to the whore houses altho the other guys in this building are always going. I would not mind going sometimes but I'm afraid that I might get some disease or I might get caught by the police. All the fellows out here talk about the different places they go too and that makes me curious. There are about six whore houses that they go to out here and none of them have been caught yet. Some of those guys in this house go all the time. That's where they spend most of their money. They are only a little older than me too. If I stuck around Chicago, I might get that way too. I don't want to get a bad reputation because I have ambitions to make good some day.

"I haven't really done too many things since coming out here. During the week I never go out very much altho we used to go over to the Hyde Park YMCA to swim and play basketball about 3 or 4 times a week. I used to be a member there. We just play basketball among ourselves as there weren't too many Caucasian fellows around. They are all in the Army. Basketball is my favorite sport and I used to make the team back home and in camp. I try to live a clean life out here because I don't want my mother to be too disappointed in me.] I don't care to go too wild as it doesn't

look so good. I see too many of these Nisei guys getting drunk all the time and they don't even go to work anymore. A lot of them go to gambling places but not so many from this house.

["I hear about those Nisei zoot suiters all the time but they don't wear the extreme zoot suits so much. They just act tough and I see them hanging around on Clark St. the most. There are quite a few on the North Side but I don't see so many of them down on the South Side. I don't think so much of the zoot suiters as they hurt the Nisei reputation. I sort of like the way they wear their hair but it shouldn't be so long. They wear their pants too tight too. Boy, they really have a bad reputation. My room mate tells me that they even go up ask money from other Nisei who walk down the street. I never heard of any Japanese doing that before. Those guys go out with cheap Caucasian girls. One time I was walking down Clark St. with a friend and we passed by a bar and I saw 3 Nisei fellows drunk with Caucasian girls and they were pretty loud. It made me feel ashamed as I didn't think they were behaving right. I would never say anything to have an argument with one of those fellows because they carry knives and are always looking for a fight. They act as if they owned the town but they don't bother the others too much. I heard some of them look for fights with Caucasians just to beat them up. I never heard of such a thing before I came to Chicago. My friends tell me they were pretty wild in Los Angeles but I didn't know about that before. I bet they weren't as wild as they are now.]

"None of my friends are zoot suiters as we didn't have any of them at Poston. My pals are just average guys who work in factories. They play around sometimes, but they don't waste all of their money all the time like a lot of Nisei guys. One of my

friends here goes to school. My best pal sends money home every month and he never fools around. Some of the other guys in this house are pretty wild but I don't go out with them. I think the wildest guys have moved to the ^{north} ~~west~~ side.

"I have about 7 close friends who go around in my gang. Most of them are my class mates so they are pretty young. We used to run around together in camp and had a lot of fun. The other Nisei I know, I met out here. Four of my gang live in this house so I see them all the time. We have lots of fun but the only trouble is that I don't know enough young girls out here. I used to go out all the time with girls in time but I haven't had a single date out here yet. I've been to a few of the socials sponsored by the Christian church and those are fun. I'm sort of a member of the 43rd St. Christian church even though I was a Buddhist before. This group gave a dance last week-end and it was fair even though there weren't enough girls. I don't go to the Buddhist church any more altho I went to one in camp. I heard that there was a Buddhist church out here but I haven't looked it up because all of my friends are interested in the 43rd St. church activities. I don't believe in religion so much anyway. I like the Christian people better now as I know them the best.

"Since I've been out here I went to the Baptist church where Rev. Morikawa preached several times. Usually I am too busy playing pool though. I'm not religious at all and I usually go to meet friends. I've met a lot of girls out here but I never go to know them very well. All of my friends are Nisei. Once in a while I think of getting married but I can't be serious about that for several years yet because I'm too young. All the guys are talking about getting married out here because they are making good dough.

"I don't know any Caucasian girls as I just as soon run around with Nisei girls. It wouldn't seem right for too many Nisei to marry Caucasians as the public wouldn't like it. I never thought of it for myself. I met a lot of Caucasian people at the church but I never developed friends there. I really don't have too much of an established social life so I have been looking around for different things to do. I've never been to one of those big Nisei dances out here as they haven't had any since I've come to Chicago. The dances they had at the church were usually fun. Usually about 40 Nisei would come and about six would be Caucasian. I think that there should be more of these Nisei socials so we can get acquainted with Nisei on Saturday night. I'd rather do that than go to the pool hall.

"All I do is go around in my gang and when my friends come to town I just show them around. We go out to eat and to see the shows. I'd like to show them around to the museum and zoo but they aren't too interested. I never go to the night clubs because it seems that it is too expensive. Once in a while all of us guys go to the burlesque shows for fun. Some of the guys who come thru stay in Chicago for about a week. They have to pay \$1 a night for the beds when they stay here but we usually feed them for nothing. Quite a few of our friends from Boston have passed through on their way to other cities. They always want to go to the night club but we can't get enough girls together to go. I wouldn't know how to act if I went to a night club anyway.

["I think the best thing to do would be to have a big building where all the Nisei could meet. Then we could have a lot of clubs like we had in camp. I'd like to see a very large group so we could throw a big dance. I'd be happier if they had more of these

social affairs at least twice a month and it would be something to look forward to besides out pay checks. They ~~don't~~ can't do it very well as there are too many Nisei groups in Chicago right now and they don't seem to get along with one another. About the only Nisei groups which seem to be organized are those with churches. I think Chicago is too big to try to get all Nisei in once place. Boy, if 6000 Nisei got into one place here, I bet the hakujiin would think the Japanese Army was invading.]

① ["I don't like Chicago, as a big city is too much for me. I'd rather live in a smaller place where I can get to know everybody. Chicago is sort of funny and the Nisei living here think they are too good for one another. They aren't friendly at all and they just stare at us. It gets me down. I'd like to be friends but they don't want it so I have to stick more to my own group. That's why I think it would be hard to get all the Nisei together out here.]

"I suppose it would be a lot better for the Nisei to make many Caucasian friends in order to get them to understand us better. If they got to know what we were like, we would be accepted better. I don't think that the Caucasians want to know us right now because of the war so that it is hard. The hakujiin in the church try to get us together with them, but it just doesn't seem to work out.

② [There is something wrong some place. It might be because the Nisei don't give a darn about Caucasianx friends. That's the way I feel. So I stick with my Nisei friends. I know it's wrong but I don't have the time to go looking for Caucasian friends when there are so many Nisei friends all around. Most of the Nisei want to be with their own Nisei friends and they don't care to mingle so much because it makes them uncomfrotable. I don't know a single Nisei who

has a lot of Caucasian friend. I know we shouldn't avoid meeting Caucasians but that's what we all do. I would like to meet Caucasians but I don't have the time. I talk to the church lady all the time. I don't feel backward about talking to Caucasians like so many Nisei do. It doesn't make me feel low in morale just because I'm a Nisei.]

"Pretty soon there will be a Japanese town in Chicago as quite a few families are coming out right now. This will make most of the Nisei happy. I think that it might be a good thing even though the Caucasians wouldn't like it. I'd rather live in a Japanese town as I'd feel freer and more like I belong here. I'd be with more people like myself and nobody would stare at me. I'd like to open a Japanese restaurant right in the Japanese section so I'd get a lot of business.]

"But then, if there is a Japanese town here, it may cause resentments but that can't be helped. The Japanese in camp would feel more like coming out if there were a Japanese district to come to. Then they would be able to go to Japanese stores and they would feel better. They wouldn't get insulted by any hakujuin clerks who couldn't understand them so well. The only thing I wouldn't like is if they force all Japanese to live in one place as it would get crowded. I just want to be left alone and I wouldn't like to see hard feelings develop between a Japanese community and the Caucasians. The best thing that I would like to see is for the Nisei to be working right along with Caucasians when it came to making money and then they could go living in their own districts after that if they wanted to. I wouldn't want it so the Caucasians wouldn't give us a job, because we couldn't make much money working for Japanese employers. I guess the way it works out is

to work with the haku jin but I want to play with the Nisei.

"The immediate future may not be too good, especially if there is a depression after the war. I'm only hoping that the Nisei will do pretty good eventually because I am one of them. I know a lot of families out on farms and they seem to be doing pretty well. It would be good if everyone from the camp resettled before the war ended so that they could save some money for the depression. If they had to come out after the war when there is a depression, it will be pretty hard on them. I think sometimes these camps may get to be just like the Indian reservation. It's going to be pretty hard on those Issei people who have no children to help them out.

"I think that if resettlement keeps up like it has been doing during the past, it will be pretty good and we will do much better than the Indians. Of course, there is always a chance that things will get so tough that we may have to go back to camp. I'm not bitter at this country altho at times I feel that we aren't being treated fairly. I wish Americans would understand that I am for this country as much as they are and I think the rest of the Nisei are too. That is why they are coming out of camp. They have faith in this country. If they didn't feel this way they would go to Tule Lake. A lot of guys say they plan to go to Manchuria or the South Pacific after the war but they are only talking through their hats. They'd much rather stay in this country if there is a chance to make a decent living. The only thing that makes me boil inside is when people make cracks at me of being a Jap and that makes things tougher.

"I'm pretty sure that the majority of the Nisei will remain in this country the rest of their lives. None of them really want to go to Japan as they would be looked down on even there. Some of

the Issei may go because they won't have anything else to do. There are a lot of people in Tule Lake, but I know that many of the nisei are there only because their parents made them go. They couldn't leave their parents as they were too young to go out on their own. It's too bad because I don't think they will like it too much in Japan if they have to be deported.

["I'm just hoping that I will be left alone. My aim in life is to make a good living and be happy. I'd like to raise a family and maybe own a farm or a business of my own so that my sons could take over when I got old. Maybe I'll get this wish some day if I keep working hard. Right now I'm more interested in fun but that's because I may be drafted soon. When I got to Nebraska next week I'll probably be working hard. I don't know where I'll go from there but I'm not worried. I'm still young and I've got a long time to make up my mind and I know I'll settle down sooner or later and I know I won't get bad. All I'll do will be to enjoy myself. That's one of the main objects of living. It's no use being discouraged all the time because that doesn't get you any place."]

While I was in grammar school most of my playmates were Nisei fellows although I started to go around with a Caucasian crowd in high school anyway. The few of us who did go all had Caucasian friends and I didn't notice anything that made us different. I knew that our skin color was a little different but I never thought much of those things. The kinds at school just took us as we were. I was too young to think about discrimination and all that stuff but I used to hear my mother mention it once in a while. I guess it was pretty hard for some Nisei to get jobs before the war because my mother used to say maybe I'd have to go to Japan for a job because there was nothing here for me. I couldn't understand that because I was having fun fooling around with my Caucasian friends. /

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I never was aware of all the Japanese people did because I took these things for granted and I was so busy trying to grow up and get into high school. I never did study very hard so that I didn't make such good grades. A few of those other Nisei students studied all the time and they were known as top students in the school. While I was in junior high school I did about the same things. I had a lot of fun but I don't think I learned too much. I barely made enough grades to graduate. I went all the way through school with my boyhood pals and we used to have a lot of fun together. /

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In high school I made the basketball, football and track teams. I was a member of the Future Farmers of /

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America for four years. I went to the FFA conventions every summer. I was looking forward to my senior year so I could go to the San Luis Obispo convention when the war broke all of this up. I had plans to go there to San Luis Obispo to do my last year in high school as I heard that I could work my way through. I was too young so that I didn't have much plans for the future. I was having too much fun playing sports to ever think of these things. I guess I just thought I would be a farmer eventually like my brother./

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