

CH-104

Evacuation and Resettlement Study,  
June 3, 1943. DST.

SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUAL RESETTLERS

Date of interview Oct. 27, 1943 Interviewer Shibutani

1. Name Hiromu Arata 2. Sex, M F 3. Married stat. M S D W O  
4. Present address c/o Premier Rose Garden, Maywood, Ill.  
5. Later addresses \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_

6. Birthplace Stockton 7. Birthdate 11/15/21  
8. Alien or citizen Citizen 9. Nisei, Kibei or Issei Nisei

10. Addresses between Dec. 1, 1941 and evacuation  
(a) Rt. 4, Box 782, Stockton Date to evacuation  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_  
(d) \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_

11. Assembly Center Stockton Date 5/18/42

12. Relocation Center Rohwer Date 10/21/42

13. Addresses between time of leaving Relocation Center and present  
(a) c/o Premier Rose Gardens Date 2/18/43  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_ " \_\_\_\_\_

14. Persons living in household on Dec. 1, 1941. Relationship to Re-settler  
(a) Iehisuke father  
(b) Shizu mother  
(c) Frank brother  
(d) Noboru brother  
(e) Kazumi sister  
(f) \_\_\_\_\_  
(g) \_\_\_\_\_  
(h) \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) \_\_\_\_\_  
(j) \_\_\_\_\_  
(k) \_\_\_\_\_  
(l) \_\_\_\_\_  
(m) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Persons living in household on evac. day (If same as 14, enter symbol, e.g. 14(a).)  
(a) X  
(b) X  
(c) X  
(d) X  
(e) X  
(f) Haruko cousin  
(g) \_\_\_\_\_  
(h) \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) \_\_\_\_\_  
(j) \_\_\_\_\_  
(k) \_\_\_\_\_  
(l) \_\_\_\_\_  
(m) \_\_\_\_\_

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15. continued	-			Grade compl.	Educ.in	Occupation Dec.	Relig.
Age	Sex	M.S.	Birthplace	Amer.school	Japan	1, 1941	Affil.
(a) 60	M	M	Yamaguchi		6	farmer	Bud.
(b) 50	F	M	"		9	Housewife	"
(c) 24	M	S	Stockton	12		farmer	"
(d) 19	M	S	"	12		student	"
(e) 16	F	S	"	10		"	"
(f)							
(g)							
(h)							
(i)							
(j)							
(k)							
(l)							
(m)							

16. If immediate family (parents, siblings, children or spouse) were not included in household group in 15, because of different residence or because deceased, give details regarding them)

	Name	Relationship to resettler	Residence (if deceased write "dec.")	Age (if dec. age at death)	Sex	Mar. Stat.
(a)	Sachiko	sister		22	F	M
(b)						
(c)						
(d)						
(e)						
(f)						

16, continued -

	Birthplace	Grade compl. Amer.school	Educ. in Japan	Occupation Dec.1,1941 (for dec.last occupation)	Religion
(a)	Lodi	12		housewife	Buddhist
(b)					
(c)					
(d)					
(e)					
(f)					

17. What members of household and immediate family evacuated together to Assembly Center or Free Zone (give symbols used in 15 and 16).

a-e, Sachiko and husband and family

18. Composition of household in Assembly Center or Free Zone (Give symbols from 15 and 16; if others, give sex, age, relationship) Upon arrival:

a-2 and rest

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18. continued -  
Just before departure to Assembly Center or Free Zone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ all left before me \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. Composition of household in Relocation Project (Give symbols; if others, give sex, age, relationship).  
Upon arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ a-e and resett. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Just before leaving Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ a-e \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. Composition of household in Chicago at date of interview:  
(Give symbols; if others, give details)

	Name	Relationship to resettler	Residence (if deceased write "dec.")	Age (if dec. age at death)	Sex	Mar. Stat.
(a)	both brothers	here - not living together				
(b)						
(c)						
(d)						
(e)						
(f)						

20. continued -

	Birthplace	Grade completed American school	Educ. in Japan	Occupation Dec. 1, 1941 (for dec. last occupation)	Religion
(a)					
(b)					
(c)					
(d)					
(e)					
(f)					

21. Changes in composition of Household in Chicago: Note departures by symbol and dates. Give details for new households or entries:

	Date	Name	Relation-ship to resettler	Residence (if deceased write "dec.")	Age (if dec. age at death)	Sex	Mar. Stat.
(a)							
(b)							
(c)							
(d)							
(e)							
(f)							

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21. continued -

Date	Name	Relation- ship to resettler	Residence (if deceased write "dec."	Age (if dec. age at death)	Sex	Mar. Stat.
(g)						
(h)						
(i)						
(j)						
(k)						
(l)						
(m)						

21. continued -

Birthplace	Grade compl. Amer. school	Educ. in Japan	Occupation Dec. 1, 1941 (for dec. last occupation)	Religion
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
(d)				
(e)				
(f)				
(g)				
(h)				
(i)				
(j)				
(k)				
(l)				
(m)				

22. Educational history of resettler

Elementary schools (name and location)	Dates	Grade completed	
Grammar schools (name and location)	Dates	Grade completed	
Montezuma, Farmington	1927-36	7 1/2	
Elmwood, Coperopolis	1936-36	8	
High schools (name and location)	Dates	Grade completed	
Stockton high, Stockton	1936-40	12	
Colleges, universities and vocational schools (name and location)	Dates	Grade completed	Degree
Stockton high night school	1940-41	1/2 yr.	
Attendance at Japanese language school, location	Dates		
Race track	1932-35		



Bill Fujita (psued.)  
Aug. 7, 1942

During the party at Melrose Park Bill was sitting very quietly outside and did not seem to have any interest whatsoever in what was going on within the house. I found out that he was from Stockton and introduced myself. Altho I did not find out until later, his older sister was a class mate of mine in high school and he had heard of me before. He began speaking very easily and I did not realize until later one of the reasons for it.

"I never did mix with that crowd. I never used to go to dances in Stockton either. I always felt that dances were a waste of time. Because the people who danced never seem to be accomplishing anything. I guess if they like it it's okay. But I don't. I chipped in to pay for the party and helped them paint the place up because I live here and thought that I'd better do it, but I don't see why the fellows can't find anything more interesting to do.

"I've always wanted to be a radio technicians but I'm not sure what I want to do right now. My brothers taking pre-med and my sister is married. My parents are still in camp. We need all my money to put my brother through school so I came out here to earn some money. I want to go to the RCA Radio School in New York. But it looks like I can't go yet, mainly because I haven't got enough money. I'm saving it up now and I figured that maybe after the war I can go.

"Before the war I was planning to go to a radio school but the war and evacuation and everything made that impossible. There was nothing I could do about evacuation so I used some of the money I had saved up to buy some books and study in the center. I didn't think that we could come out this soon but when I found out about this job I figured it was a good chance for me to make some money

while the pay was good. I wanted to save up enough so that I would have enough to go through school without working after the war is over.

"I don't know about this draft business but I hear that all the nisei might get drafted pretty soon. That's why I went over to the ~~maritime~~ union to see if I could join the Merchant Marine because there I could learn radio. I'd rather get on a ship and learn radio than wait for the draft where I probably can't get into the signal corps anyway.

"My parents had a farm in California, but I don't think that they want to go back. I don't think I want to go back either. I don't know what I'm going to do, but radio is the beginning field and I think that there will be something doing after the war.

"Generally at night I study. I'm studying math and radio. Most of the other fellows don't have anything to do so they play the radio and just bull. I think most of the time is spent just talking. This job really gives me a swell chance to study and to make money. I don't like the work but I don't mind because we can't have everything we want anyway and this is about the best that I could expect."

Initial Interview  
Oct. 18, 1943  
Shibutani

Document CH-104  
Bill Fujita (farmer)

"On Dec. 7th I didn't hear the news for a while. I was out working on the ranch all day and was cutting celery. When I came home in the evening I heard about it. At first I couldn't believe it and all of us sat around and listened to the radio some more and then when we realized that it was true, it hit me like a sledgehammer. I couldn't sleep that night and I kept wondering what's going to happen to us. I guess I was sort of puzzled. All of us expected some violence but really didn't know what was what because there were no papers. You remember that the Nichi Bei didn't come. My sister was the one who told me the story. My brother told me later that on Sunday a hakujin neighbor asked him if he had heard the news and when he said no the guy looked at him kind of queer. Of course my brother didn't know about it then. I didn't eat much that night and all of us felt very uneasy.

"I quit night school because I figured it was no use after what happened. We stayed home most of the time. We heard the radio and talked about it. My older sister, Sachiko, was married in July and was living in Lodi. We were all worried about her. But the next week she came over with her ~~husband~~ husband. Her father-in-law was taken in you know. We all stayed home because we were just afraid to go around. We had some trouble about marketing. My brother used to go to the market every morning about three, but the market started opening at six so that made it easier. Remember, aliens were restricted. He's not an alien but there was a lot of confusion at the time. We all had our birth certificates and we carried them around all the time. I don't know what it was but it was ~~just~~ just the feeling of uneasiness. We didn't know what was going on and we didn't know what to expect.

"I think that funny feeling began to go away about January. I

had a cousin who came from Hawaii in July and she came up from L.A. after the war to live with us. I had to go down to the station after her on January 1st. And it really wasn't bad as I thought. I didn't go downtown at all before that. She told me about the time in L.A. when she got on the bus and somebody tried to keep her from getting on but the conductor said it was okay and so everything was straightened out. Other than that I didn't hear anything unpleasant.

"You know, that Sunday there was supposed to be a show at the Kaikan. They were going to show a Japanese movie and then have a social of some kind. Naturally they couldn't have it. All basketball games were suspended. I think the Buddhist were going to have a conference in Stockton in February but that was called off.

{ "I was interested mainly in radio before the war and I used to spend my time when I wasn't working just fooling around. Other than that I used to read. I liked to read adventure stories and magazine articles on radio. I graduated from high school in 1940 and after that I worked on the farm. I started going to night school at Stockton high. That was two nights a week. I studied math for one semester and kept on studying radio. I didn't have any trouble after Pearl Harbor because I wasn't good enough to have a transmitter. All the amateurs were ordered off the air anyways. < We had a short wave radio. I think my folks bought it just to be listening to Japan. I guess they wanted to know what people there were doing but the reception was never too good. >

"I always wanted to go to sea. The maritime had a new station at Port Hueneme where they had a five weeks basic training course. After that time we could qualify for special training. I wanted to go into the radio department. I didn't want to go to sea forever but I wanted to go for two or three years. At first after graduation from

high school I wanted to join the Navy. I read a lot of books on the Navy and then heard that Japanese were not taken. I didn't know what I wanted to be when I graduated from grammar school and when I first went to high school I applied for a vocational course. It was full so I went into academics. I was interested in aviation too. I took a lot of math and then hopped around from one subject to another to see which one was the best. What I really wanted was to travel. On the farm you don't see much and things are kind of dull. That's how I started radio too. My brother made a crystal set so I made one too and then started going deeper and deeper and found out that it wasn't so simple and that it was a very complicated machine. I wasn't satisfied in just working on a farm. That's why I went to night school. I sent for a lot of catalogs from engineering schools. I figured that my ambitions may never materialize but I kept hoping. The reason I couldn't go to school was that my folks bought a ranch and I had to stay to take care of it. Oh, my older brother was there too, but I didn't think it was fair to him so I stayed and helped. Otherwise, I would have gone to school.

"In January I tried to get into the Maritime but was told that they would take no orientals. Then I lost all hope. I guess I just accepted that. The guy who told me didn't seem to want to say what he said and I think it hurt him more than it hurt me. } I didn't have much in the way of plans after that and I just worked and waited for the draft. I had to register for the age 20 registration. I just waited and continued to work on the farm and I studied at home like I used to.

"We didn't have any trouble with the Filipinos. I heard a lot about them. We lived near some Filipinos but they were very nice. They used to come to borrow our tools. Then they helped us when our

tractor got stuck. One day I was talking to the fellow and asked him if he knew anybody on the islands and he said that his whole family was in Luzon.

"In February and March we didn't do very much. On Saturdays we used to go off to the hills, to the foothills of the Sierras and ride around. On the other days after work we just discussed the happenings and I studied.

"The evacuation was sort of a surprise to me, because we took it for granted that it couldn't be done. Not to citizens. We knew about Democracy, about people being all equal and all that but we found out one day. The hakujin across the way was going to rent his place to Japanese. He wasn't sure what was going to happen so he talked to the county judge. The judge told him that all Japanese, citizen and alien, were all going to be evacuated by the end of summer. This was the beginning of March. When he us about this we knew it was coming. One night when I was reading the paper, the curfew was announced over the radio. We had planned to go to the mountains the week before but since the tires were bad we put it off. When I heard that we regretted that we didn't go. Just before the five-mile restriction went into effect my sister came over to see us. We thought then that we wouldn't see her for a long time. We knew that all was over. The city was evacuated before us so we knew that our turn came.

"We rented our land to Chinese. We sold our truck and tractor and left the rest of the implements for the Chinese. The furniture was left intact in the house and we sold the crops to the Chinese. I worked like hell to plow up the ranch, to plant tomatoes and to get everything into shape for him so I was working to the day before evacuation. The man who took the place was Lee Bing. I think he has part interest in some gambling den downtown. There are several others

in as partners. He came over one day to see about renting the place and seemed like a square fellow so we let him have it. There was an Italian fellow who wanted to rent the place too, but he was young. He had just gotten married and wanted to settle down. But there was the danger that he might be drafted. So we talked it over and he decided not to take a chance. There were some funny people around. Some of them came to ask if they could get the ranch for nothing. They thought that we should be glad to have them around just to take care of the ranch. They sure did have some funny ideas.

"We were all packed up the night before evacuation. We went to Lodi and bought some extra clothing and some canned fruits, and soups. We had some Japanese food like takenoko but not very much. We also got some coffee and sugar. We lived east of Stockton, more than five miles out but the restrictions were lifted for us so that we could prepare for evacuation. We bought some sleeping bags because we heard that blankets were not enough. There were lots of rumors around then but I don't remember all of them. We heard that the toilet facilities were bad and that the camp was dirty and crowded. It wasn't like I expected though. I thought it would be just a bare room with blankets and cots. I thought there would be lots of restrictions with guards all around.

"We had sold our car so the Chinese fellow got a couple of cars for us to use. One Japanese friend who was not evacuated yet brought a truck to take our baggage. We went to Lodi first where we joined my sister and her family and then got on a bus. We were one of the first groups to leave and got to the assembly center in Stockton at 10 o'clock in the morning. It wasn't what I thought it would be at all. We all lined up and had a brief medical examination and then were assigned to our rooms. I was disappointed at the bare surroundings,

but otherwise it wasn't bad. I guess it was new and exciting so that I didn't mind the discomforts of the first night. For my first meal there I had one slice of spam, bread and jam and that was all. When I saw the spam I figured it was pretty good stuff and felt pretty good. We fixed up our room and built tables and benches. There was a big pile of scrap wood by our place so we had no trouble about lumber. I applied for a job couple of days later but first waited around to see the rest of my friends coming in.

"I went to work in the mess hall as a dish washer but quit after a day and a half because I found a better job as a carpenter. It was fun working with the fellows. They were a nice bunch of guys. After two months I was transferred to an electrician's job. I liked that because it was more in line with what I liked. There were some fellows on the crew who knew something about radio and I learned something from them.

"When I was with the carpenters we were doing maintenance work so each morning we went to the office to find out what we were supposed to do and spent the day doing what was in the order. They were a swell bunch of fellows and we had lots of fun. We went to play baseball too. I was on a B League team. I played second base. We didn't fare so good though. I read a lot of books too. I got to know the librarian and she used to pick out the good ones and she used to save them for me.

"Right now I don't know whether to go to New York or Boston. I was planning to go to the RCA school in New York. I figured that if I worked to the end of the month I would have about \$500 saved up but I'll need about \$600. I'd like to do some part time work while I'm there but I don't know how hard the course is. I've been studying by correspondence and I think I know the fundamentals of radio but you

can't tell.

"I just kept on working and didn't worry much about the future. When the group relocated I had to stay behind to the very end to help. We left on Oct. 17 for Rohwer. When I went to Rohwer I expected to stay there for a long time. It was kind of discouraging to think you have to stay in a dump like that so I started taking a correspondence course. I figured that if I had to stay I may as well study.

"After getting to Rohwer I loafed for about a week. I tried to get an electrician's job after that but they were all filled up so I got a job as fireman in the hospital boiler. It turned out to be good though for I met a fellow who had been to sea. We talked about how swell it would be to go out to sea. It was a pretty easy life. We fixed it up so we worked only once every three days. We used to go hiking to the Mississippi River and horsed around.

"I started thinking of relocation when this fellow applied to ship out of New Orleans. After I got the idea of going, I heard of some fellows coming out here to work at the Premiere Rose Gardens so I asked if I could come along. I guess they were hard up for workers because they took me along with them. I took this job just to get out. We were one of the first to come out of the camp. We came out here in February. My folks were against my coming out and they said that it might not be safe for us outside. It was kind of bad then with registration going on and all and people were talking about the draft. Everything was unfavorable but I told them I was going out anyway. I think most young fellows envied me and they asked me to find jobs for them outside. Most issei were against it.

"While I was thinking of leaving while still in camp, I thought it would be a good idea because I would be away from the family. If I could get away I wouldn't be influenced by them so much and I could plan

and I could save my own money. My folks wanted me to take up farming. Naturally you can't expect a young fellow to stay in one spot all his life. I just wasn't satisfied and I wanted to get away from the farm.

"I still had the same idea when I came here. I wanted to work and learn as much as I can. The fellow I met in camp came out with me and he was my room mate for a while. He shipped out from New York though and I guess he's on the high seas now. He was an ambitious fellow too. He was born in Texas and moved to California when he was young and worked in a nursery. He went to UCLA for one year and then joined the Maritime as a sailor. He worked here for six or seven months and left in September.

"I kept on studying at nights. I applied for the Maritime in Chicago but they told me I had to have a seaman's passport before they could take me. I applied for the passport about two months ago but haven't heard anything about it. I guess I'll probably never get one. It's supposed to go through the State Department so I guess it'll take a little time.

"I'm still thinking of going to school. I save from \$80 to \$100 a month here because I don't go out at all. Some of the fellows don't save at all. I go to a show about once a week but that's about all. I used to take Sundays off, half-day, but now I work all day Sundays. I take care of the boiler. I could have saved more but my brother's going to Lake Forrest College and I gave him \$250. That set me back quite a bit. That was my younger brother. My older brother is working on State Street as a machinist. He started at \$25 a week and is now get \$45. I guess he could do better but his boss is a nice man so he is staying there. Sachiko is still in camp. She had a baby in July and my younger sister is there too. Sachiko holds the sack because she married the oldest son in the family and he's responsible for

the old folks. I wonder what's going to happen to her baby?

"The thing I want now is to get a good technical education before this is all over. Even if I am drafted I'd like to get into a line where I could learn something so that I could be prepared to do some kind of work after the war. The future is pretty uncertain and I guess I'll figure it out when it comes. I guess I'd like to go back to the farm eventually. There's a certain security in it. You realize that when you come out here. If you've never been on a farm you don't know how it is.

"When I first came out, I figured that we would all receive insults. I was afraid that people would call us names when we went downtown. But all this never happened. People have been pretty nice. It's kind of surprising when you think that Maywood had a tank battalion that was captured in Bataan. They're the ones that have the Bataan clan for sending aid to war prisoners in Japan. There are lots of dead from Maywood. One night one fellow and I went to a drug store to get a coke and a guy came in and was talking to the soda jerker for a while. When we were leaving the soda jerk said the man had come in and paid for the sodas for us. We didn't even have a chance to thank him for he was gone. I don't know what he thought we were but he sure was ~~well~~ swell about it. We're mistaken for Chinese lots of times even in Chinese restaurants. People stare at us but I think it's because they've never seen orientals before. It makes you feel good to think that people are like that.

"I've never traveled before. In fact I've never been out of the state. I hear in Chicago there are a lot of yogores in town. Those guys were good for nothing before the war and I guess they're still the same.

"I was born in Stockton on November 15, 1921. My parents were

farmers. We lived on the Delta land. I now have two brothers and two sisters. We moved to Linden in 1926. I don't remember much about living on the Delta. I remember that it was just reclaimed at that time. My father used to burn a lot of stuff there. I remember the big irrigation ditches and we used to ride on boats. That was the only way to go down. There was a lot of confusion. From Linden we moved to Farmington. I guess that was about '27 or '28. That was when I first went to school. On my first day I remember that I had a bad time because I couldn't speak any English. The teacher helped me but I was confused. I picked it up fast. < In grammar school there one fellow who started with me and I got to be close friends with him. Even now he's one of my best friends. We grew up together. I didn't like school too much. We played some baseball and marbles and in both was just an average player. I wasn't very good in baseball but was on the school team. I had some country friends, some nisei who went to school with me but didn't know very many people in the city. >

"When I first went to Stockton high I felt low like any other scrub. On top of that my program was all mixed up, and they left out something that I was supposed to take. The studies weren't as hard as I thought. I met a couple of nisei there but I didn't go around with hakujin. I joined the T-Square Club and was a member of the J.S.C. I used to go to the J.S.C. meetings to see what they talked about. But I didn't like it very much because there was too much favoritism. < I think only the friends of the big shots got into office. All they discussed was parties and dances and people who didn't like socials did like it. In the T-Square Club we go on trips and saw movies. That was pretty good. >

"I've worked as long as I can remember. When I was a little kid I started working on the farm by weaving and picking vegetables.

Everybody worked. Even Sachiko got out on the field and worked. When I grew older I started driving a truck and tractor. I always worked after school and never did have much time to fool around. I guess I missed a lot of things. A guy likes to go to games now and then. I liked to read but was always too busy. <Frank used to go to baseball practice regularly and that is how he got on the Yamato baseball team. I never did go to the games and I never missed the socials.> On Saturdays I used to go fishing or hunting with my younger brother and with some of the other fellows. We used to ride out and shoot and swim and fish in the islands. Sometimes I just stayed home and tinkered around. We all had to work on Sundays to get ready for Monday's market. <When I was in high school I got interested in making model airplanes. I didn't get an allowance until I went to high school and had to ask for money every time I needed it. We all used to go to high school in the family car.

"My parents didn't like it when we went out to have fun. They used to tell us not to spend any money. My sister didn't have any trouble about going to dances because my folks used to say, 'just be careful and watch yourself. Don't do anything rash.' We had minor conflicts in our family but I guess everybody goes thru that. I write to them every week by this week I got off the schedule. I can't write to my parents because I can't write Japanese but I write to my little sister and she tells them what I'm doing. I guess people are kind of funny. I wondered why some people were so nice and ambitious while others were good for nothing. >

"One of my biggest disappointments came after I graduated from high school and realized that I couldn't go to school. I had to get along in some way. I knew all along that I couldn't get support from my parents to go to school. I was willing to work my way thru but it was a big disappointment when they wouldn't let me go and said that I

had to work on the farm. I just accepted it because I figured that there was no use saying anything about it.

< "If I were going to get married I'd look for a nisei girl, I guess, because I don't know anyone else. If I married a hakujin my parents would object. If my parents objected to a nisei girl that I picked I guess I would do what I thought was right. You see, I figure it this way, I'm over 21 now and I know what I'm doing. Before I was 21 I knew that I should do what my parents said but I'm old enough now. I have a right to make my own decisions. Right now I am thinking of going to New York. I've talked it over with my brothers and sisters and mentioned it to my parents and even if they objected I would go whether they liked it or not. >

"I don't feel very secure now, and lots of times I worry about the future. I wonder what will happen to me if I'm caught after the war with no education. I don't feel alone because I feel that I'm tied to my family, and I feel that I'm tied up with the destiny of the nisei. After all, I'm one of them. If all things go well, I hope that we will be accepted as equals in this country. I want to live to be happy, to have a home and comfort and want to see that everybody else is happy.

"So far I don't think that I've led such a happy life. I feel that I didn't get a chance to do a lot of things I wanted to do. ] I wanted to go into aviation. I wanted to go to sea. I wanted to study radio and on top of that I guess if I had my own way I'd want a farm to feel secure. You've never lived on a farm. You don't know what it's like. You've got to have a farm to feel happy and free. A guy once told me that you've got to aim high if you want anything. I guess there's something to that altho I don't want to aim too high so I'd be disappointed.

"I wonder what's going to happen to all the issei after the war and the young kids who are four or five right now? I don't think the issei can resettle but I feel most sorry for the young kids. They're running around learning a lot of funny words and they don't know which is Japanese, which is English and which is Hawaiian. When they get out they're going to have a helluva time because they don't know what a street car is or anything.

"I want to go ahead with my ambition and I hope that I can continue without failing. I hope I can hold out. I just don't think about failure because I'm not that kind of a guy."

Next interview schedule - Oct. 27, 1943

Second Interview  
October 27, 1943  
Document GH-104  
Shibutani

Bill Fujita (psuen.)

I'm going to go to Boston next week. I'm quitting work next Wednesday, and then I'm going to go down to Rohwer to see my folks and the family. I still have to check up on the school to see what kind of things they teach and to see if they have what I want. I think it's O.K., though.

I don't have much leisure time out here. We're always working. Evenings and sometimes Saturday afternoons are the only times that we have off. Sometimes I go downtown to do a little shopping. In the summer I used to go to the museum or the planetarium. I did very little visiting. I usually go to my brothers. I write to my sister quite a bit and to about three boy friends I have. I go to shows every two weeks. I like the more serious shows--the kind with a lot of meaning, like For Whom the Bell Tolls. I liked that. I read the book and then saw the picture. They didn't change it very much did they? I like to play ball, but there's nothing to play out here. We used to swim in the reservoir in the summer time. Most of the time I go places alone. I'm with my brother sometimes, but I don't mix too much with this group.

I think the U.S. will eventually win the war. The effect of this victory on the Nisei depends on how the Nisei act now. I think it would be good if more of the fellows were in the service. It may be better then. I don't think we'll lose our American citizenship. Hell, if it comes to that what good is this country? I know that the evacuation was an infringement on our rights, but we have to remember that there were all kinds of selfish groups at work fooling the people. That's the way it was, wasn't it? There were just certain groups in power and they took advantage of the situation.

I think the Nisei have a right to remain wards of the government. After all, it wasn't our idea to evacuate. I think they have a right to stay in the camps if they want to, until the time that they can find a place to go. We can't go back to the Coast, and it's hard for some people to get established out here. I think the Issei have that right too.

I didn't belong to so many groups. I guess the Y.B.A. was the only Japanese group I belonged to. I belonged to the Linden branch and used to go to the meetings. They weren't much, though. The organization was supposed to better the young people, to get us to know more people among ourselves. I didn't see much in the way of a goal. They didn't have much of an idea what they were doing either. At first, some of the organizers used to come to the meetings and say things, but I didn't like it after that. It was controlled by the Stockton bunch and so far as I can see all they were after was money. I joined because I thought we would have some fun. It lasted for about a year. I guess it was about '39. Then it was dissolved. I didn't join the Stockton outfit because I wasn't interested in that sort of thing.

I think the fellows here think I'm not one of their bunch. They think I don't step out much and that I'm not sociable. They know I study a lot. I guess they just figure I'm not one of the crowd. It doesn't bother me. There are some fellows here who are O.K., but most of them just live day by day. They have fun now, but I don't know what's going to happen to them afterward. I don't know what I'll ever amount to. I guess I'll be just one of the pebbles on the beach. I want to be just one of the ordinary men--the backbone of the country. I don't have any dreams about becoming a great man. The little man --a lot of them--make the country what it is.

I remember my father told us all some things when the war started. He told us not to go out. He said don't get into any arguments with anybody. He said to watch what we said. Don't do anything to arouse any suspicion. When we got to the center, he told us, don't run around too much. He told us don't go around with a bad crowd. I lived up to all this. Now I don't write to my father, but I hear from my sister, and I know that he tells her some things for me. He says, don't spend money foolishly, and all that sort of thing.

I worry a lot sometimes. I worry the most about the future. I don't want to be a laborer all my life. I worry about my folks because they're really in a heck of a spot. It's hard for them to relocate, and even if we do they won't be happy. I know my mother worries about us. I daydream a lot. I dream about going to school and about being happy. I dream about my past life and how it could have been better. I dream about mistakes that I made in the past and how things would have been if I hadn't made them. I try to rectify the mistakes that I made before.

I think that the main responsibility to my family is to make myself worthwhile so they could hold up their hands when they think of me. I don't feel any financial obligation, but I'll help them if they need it. My brother Frank is the oldest son and I guess he is supposed to take that responsibility, but I guess he wants his own way too. I guess we'll have to share it.

I miss girls, yeah. I had a girl friend once--in Stockton Assembly Center. She went to another center, though. I don't write to her any more. I miss her sometimes. I've thought of marriage now and then, but I thought of it as something in the future after I've established myself. I've never thought of getting married right away. My ideal of a girl, I guess, is a girl who hasn't been

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out with so many guys, a girl who's quiet and intelligent. I like a girl who likes to read. I guess a girl ought to be nice to look at too.

I think I've changed a little in Chicago. I feel more grown-up than I used to. I know I can take care of myself now. I've changed though. When I came here I wouldn't smoke or drink or anything. When I see the guys around here who do and see them going to the dogs, I'm more determined than ever not to drink. I smoked once, but I didn't like it so I don't any more.