

Frank Maruyama (real name) was the first evacuee to be released from any of the relocation centers on indefinite leave, according to Thomas Holland, Chief of Employment, War Relocation Authority.

Biographical: Nisei, male, 20, single, attended school in Southern California, before evacuation he lived with his Father, Mother and a sister; he was employed as a celery packer at F & F Produce, Japanese-owned firm in the Ninth Street Wholesale Market.

Evacuation: On May 8, 1942, he went to the Manzanar Relocation Center with his family; his father is 66, his mother 56. From the moment he landed at Manzanar, he began making inquiries on how he might get out to Chicago where three married sisters lived. He applied at once for a permit.

"I didn't know for a while if they were ever going to let us out. I waited four and a half months for my leave clearance," he says.

Frank Maruyama wrote letters, corresponded with WRA officials in Washington, contacted the leave office at Manzanar constantly.

Resettlement: He left Manzanar in mid-September, 1942, arriving three days later in Chicago. He was the first camp evacuee to call at the Midwest Branch Office of the American Friends Service Committee. The war Relocation Authority office had not yet been set up.

J o b - h u n t i n g : He says, "It was kind of discouraging, and I sure was lonesome. Jobs were hard to get. Yeah, mostly on account of my race. There was discrimination. I was unemployed over a month, through October and part of November." (His own inexperience in job hunting, his uncertainty and fear of being discriminated against because he was "Japanese" kept him from making many inquiries, he admitted. He did answer "several" want-ads, however.)

"I had no skills and jobs weren't easy to find. I got really discouraged; it wasn't much fun being out here all alone. Finally I asked Mr. Holland (Thomas Holland of W.R.A.) and Mr. Morgenroth (Edwin Morgenroth of the Friends Service Committee) for permission to go back to Manzanar. They both advised me to give it another try. They sure were helpful though.

"I did go up to the United States Employment Service with my brother-in-law. He's a sergeant in the Army. The United States uniform carries weight, you know, so they treated me all right. But you could see they were kind of uneasy. No, I didn't get a job. They didn't seem to know if it was all right to help me.

"Finally I answered a want ad in the Tribune. I went out to the A.J. Cox Company, a book bindery. The boss was swell to me. He hired me right away--said not for me to think about my being Japanese, not to talk about it to anyone; but, he said, if anyone asked me about it, to take time out and

explain everything. But nobody asked me anything, and I liked the place very much. The fellows were swell to me too.

"I got paid fifty cents an hour--earned about twenty-six dollars a week. I worked there four months. It was good. When I left the place to enroll in school, the boss said I could come back any time I wanted.

"I'm glad I came out and never went back to camp now. I'm now attending the Y.M.C.A. Central College studying to be a dental lab technician. I'll finish in about a year. I'm working part-time in the locker room of the downtown Y. I don't know whether I'll stay in Chicago for dental lab work or not. You know, a fellow can't make too many plans these days.

"If I didn't have a place to stay with my married sister, maybe I'd a really got discouraged being the first one out; maybe I'd be back at Manzanar now. Anyway I'm sure glad I'm not.

"Do you think I'll be drafted? I hadn't given it much thought yet.

"My married sister who has lived here in Chicago for a long time wants to know how to get permission to get to Manzanar in California to visit the folks. Can you tell me if there's any chance for this?

"Have you heard at all what some of the Issei here in Chicago are doing to help relocation? They've got a hostel started somewhere on Wells Street. Have you been inside there at all? Jeeze, it's a dirty place; there must be bed bugs. But they'll clean it up good, and there must be about thirty

CH - 202 (4)

beds. You know how the Issei want to help out in distress."

Kashima, Robert

CH - 203

"Robert Kato"

3435 W. Van Buren, Chicago
(Brethren Hostel)

KEDzie 5099

Remarks:

CH-203

KASHIMA, ROBERT

Kashima, Robert

CH - 203

"Robert Kato"

3435 W. Van Buren, Chicago

(Brethren Hostel)

KEDzie 5099

Remarks:

CH-203

KASHIMA, ROBERT

Robert Kato (fictitious name) is an Issei, born in Japan in 1885, age 57, resident of the United States over 35 years, wife Rin, also Issei, and two daughters, Margaret, 18, and Joy, 14, both Nisei; he is a Christian. He arrived from the Gila River Relocation Center in Chicago the first week of June, staying at the Brethren hostel.

P r e - e v a c u a t i o n : Robert Kato resided in Pasadena, California, with his wife and two daughters. He was employed for 17 years by the First Trust Savings Bank of Pasadena as a supervisor of caretakers in the property management department; this involved direction of several Issei and Nisei gardeners. His two daughters attended school in Pasadena, both he and his wife were members of the Pasadena Japanese Union Church and were active in various groups. The Katos also mingled occasionally with Caucasian friends, though not socially. When general evacuation orders were issued, Kato requested and received the following letter of reference from the Bank by which he had been employed:

"FIRST TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK
Commercial Trust Savings
of
Pasadena, California

May 12, 1943

"To whom it may concern:

"This letter will introduce Robert Kato who has been employed by this bank for more than fifteen years as caretaker for many of the properties which we hold in trust and in the bank.

"I have also employed him in my home as

as caretaker for buildings and yard for many years.

"In my opinion he is loyal to the United States government, as will be evident if his past record is thoroughly checked. You may find his services valuable as a contact man if problems arise demanding such an individual.

"The purpose of identification is served by his signature below.

"I believe his statements can be relied upon and bespeak for him courteous consideration as I feel he could be very helpful in directing his people along proper lines of conduct during this war.

"Yours very truly,
s i g n e d
T. W. SMITH
President & Managing Director"

Robert Kato is the "typical Issei" in appearance, though above average in his ability to mingle with Caucasians. He is five feet two inches in height, weighs 158 pounds, is in good health. He has a brown sun-tan from years of outdoor work and hands heavy with toil. He has a sense of humor and laughs quite readily. He speaks with an "Issei accent" to his English, and with the usual "Issei idioms", but reasonably well at that. (For instance, he pronounces 'church' as 'chi-yachi').

On the day of the interview, he had already followed through on half a dozen domestic job leads provided him by the Chicago War Relocation Authority. He said:

"You know, Mista, I looking for good job with room and board. Room most important because I bring my family

out soon as I find. My wife she still in camp at Gila. My two daughter come out together with her, in ten days after I find job and place for them to stay.

"I go to W.R.A. already and go out on two job offer. One place no good. W.R.A. tell me one hundred and twenty five dollar month and garden work for me, housework for my wife. I go out and find Jewish man. He has four acres work in garden. That all right, I can do. But he also has ten horses, two cows and lots lots extra work. I not afraid work, you know that. I hard worker. But I know when too much for one man's health. I no like way man says do this and maybe do this too, maybe more over here too, you gotta be ready to do more and more. You know, Mista, I have lots dealings with Jews. Pretty hard not for them to get best of you. I always have hard time. I usually lose. I no prejudice cause I got good friends among ku-ichi. (Japanese vernacular expression for Jews)."

At this point he was asked by two interviewers why he said such things about Jews. He conceded, on second thought that he was being unfair in his statement, but he added:

"All same, I no like way this man tell W.R.A. people one thing and then tell me many many times more about work to be done." He continued:

"I been to other place too, but pretty hard to get room so my daughter Joy, she us fourteen, can stay with us. My other daughter, Margaret, she is 18 and probably go on to New York.

"My wife she not do domestic housework so much but

CH - 203 (4)

she know about it and how to do. After all, she bring up family of two daughters. She also used to do some waiting on tables among high class people in Pasadena.

"You can help me find places I appreciate very much. There are so many many jobs, all kinds, for just couple. It much harder for just couple and daughter, because usually no room.

"I think many many more Issei should come out of camp. Many want to come out but so hard when children. Also some who out now go back to camp after come out and no find place to stay. That very bad, because soon everybody in camp know about it and no want to come out at all.

"Camp life very very bad. Everything too much unsettled. There are agitators no good too. So very unfortunate about questions 27 and 28. I advise all Nisei to sign yes. I advise Issei who have grown children and who wish to stay in this country also to sign yes. Some people against me, but I advise yes anyway."

On 6/17/43 Robert Kato was given a lead by the agency before which he had come for job aid to call on the Dearborn-Plaza hotel in Chicago. (1053 North Dearborn). The job offered was listed as follows: "Job for couple, general maintenance, woman to do maid's work, 48 hours per week, pay \$150 plus two furnished rooms." An appointment was made for him to be interviewed by the manager of the hotel, a Mr. Max Stein.

"Max Stein? He ku-ichi?" he asked.

CH - 203 (5)

"Yes, I believe he may be. But don't let that prevent you from going there with an open mind. You said yourself that some of your good friends were Jews," he was told by an interviewer.

"Thank you, thank you very much. I go right away on street car."

He returned within the hour.

"Did you see Mr. Stein?" he was asked.

"Yes, I talk with him."

"Did you get the job?"

"No, he say he already write to couple in camp. Maybe they come out. Then, if I be working, I got to quit. Also the room oh so small. Two rooms but only about one and half time this size (pointing to office room 8 x 8 feet in which interviewing was done). Also tottemo kitanai. (Awfully dirty.) Not very clean, but I could fix it up all right. But not so sure about another thing. I don't think I care too much for Mr. Stein. While I wait for him, I talk to Kokujin-san (Negro) janitor there. I show him this slip paper telling about \$150 month pay. He shake his head and say no. This guy big gyp he says. He crabby, want Kokujin-san to show up work six o'clock in morning. Not pay like he say. Maybe not so good. Also, there is lots machine work to be done. I don't know so much about this either, but I could learn. I think maybe I prefer place outside city where better room for my wife and daughter."

Another job lead was taken from the files for further investigation. A Rev. and Mrs. August Mohri, of the Reformed Evangelical Church in Bensenville, Illinois, were in need of a Japanese couple, the woman to do housework, the man to assist around the house but to take work in the Chicago metropolitan area; room and board to be provided, plus a nominal pay for the wife.

"Will you make appointment for me to see those people?" he asked, "I like that kind place if my wife and daughter can stay. I find work in Chicago."

A telephone call was made long distance to the Mohri residence. Mrs. Mohri answered.

"Yes, we would be interested in the gentleman's application. How much does he want to be paid?" she asked over the phone.

"He is primarily anxious to get room and accommodations for his wife and fourteen-year old daughter. Do you have such a room?" she was asked.

"Yes, we have a room upstairs. Ours is a small cottage. Rev. Mohri and our daughter who is 30 years old are both invalids, and I need help quite badly. We would be able to pay Mrs. Kato five dollars a week. They would, of course, have to bring their own ration books.##

"Can we make an appointment for Mr. Kato to see you this afternoon?"

"Yes. It's not very far from Chicago; just 35 or 40 minutes. Tell him to catch the train at the Union station. The ticket costs about 35 cents one way."

CH - 203 (7)

This information was given Mr. Kato.

"Thank you, thankyou very very much. I go right away."

He returned the next day.

"I go out to Bensenville yesterday afternoon. I talk with Mrs. Mohri. You know, her husband he very very sick, so is her daughter. Infantile paralysis. I no like to have take care so much, but I do all right. I no like to have my wife do it. Must carry sick people to toilet too. And room very very poor. It so small house. Upstairs for us, really not enough room for three of us. Attic too hot in summer time, but not so good.

"I also go out to Minister near place. It seem many rich people build houses for ministers there who are either sick or retired. There is job for me in gardens around there, but I am afraid this not so good either. Thank you very much just same though."

A discussion of his needs followed.

The real problem, it was mutually agreed, was that of finding satisfactory quarters for the family. He was most anxious to get separate accommodations, such as servant's rooms over a garage as may be found in the larger residences and estates. He was concerned also about a school for his 14-year-old daughter to attend. So far, these things had not been available in the many job offers which had come to his attention. He decided to keep calling at the War Relocation

CH - 203 (8)

Authority and the United States Employment Service.

Also, apparently acting upon the advice of friends at the Brethren hostel where he was staying, he decided to insert an advertisement in the Chicago Tribune:

"Japanese couple, with 14-yr old daugh. want domestic work, man to do general caretaker and gardening, woman hsewk; seek separate quarters; experienced in serving; excellent references."

(to be continued)

CH 203

6/17/43

James Kashima Issai b. 1885 Japan 57
resident of U.S. over 35 years. wife RIN KASHIMA,
daughters - Margaret 18, John 14. - Christian.
158 lbs, 5'2½" good health. -

Pre-evacuation - he was employed 17 years by
the First Trust Savings Bank of Pasadena as
supervisor in property management department;
this involved direction of several iri and nisei
gardeners.

He arrived week ago at Brethren hotel
and has been ~~come~~ following up on job leads.
Through WRA - (Miss Prudence Rose)

Speaks English with iri accent & is idiomatic,
but reasonably well - (for instance he says church -
to sound like "chi'achi")

"Mista Toyo, I looking for good job with
room and board. My wife she still in camp at
Gila. My two daughters come out together with her,
in ten days, if I find job and place to stay.

"I go to WRA already and go out on
two job offers. One place no good. WRA tell me
one hundred twenty-five dollars month and
garden work for me, housework for my wife. I
go out and find Jewish man. He has four acres

work in garden, ten horses, two cows, and
lots lots extra work. I not afraid work but
I know when too much for woman's health.

You know I have lots dealing with Jews. ~~They~~
Pretty hard not for them to get best of you.

I no prejudice ~~for~~ cause I got good friends
among Ku-ichi. But this kind for no good.

"I been to other place but pretty
hard to get room w my daughter Jy, she is
fourteen, can stay with us. My other daughter
Margaret, she is 18 and probably go on to
New York.

"My wife she not do domestic
housework w much, but she know about it
and how to do. She also used to do some
waitress or tables among high class people in
Pasadena.

"I think many many more wiser
should come out. Many want come out but
so hard when children. Also some go
back to camp after come out and no
find good place to stay. That very bad.
Everybody in camp believe and no want come
out.

(3)

Mr. Kashima was given a lead from APSC files.

Dearborn-Plaza hotel - 1053 So. Dearborn
job for couple - general maintenance, woman
to do ~~housework~~ maids' work 48 hrs week
\$150 month plus 2 furnished rooms.

He was secured an appointment by telephone.
The name of man to see was given him - Max
Stein.

"Max Stein? He Ku-ichi?"

"Yes, I believe he is. But don't let that prevent
you from going with an open mind. You said
yourself some of your fine good friends were Jews."

"Thank you Thank you. I go right away."

He returned in an hour.

"Did you see Mr. Stein?"

"Yes, I talk with him."

"Did you take the job?"

"No, he says he writes to couple in camp. They
may come out, then if I be working, I got to quit.
Also the room so small. Two rooms but only
about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times this size (our office room $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$). Also

tottemo kitanai. Not very clean, but I
can fix it up all right. But not so sure.

~~He~~ "I don't think I care too much for Mr.
Stein. When I wait for him, I talk to Kokuyin-san
janitor there. I show him this slip of paper telling
about you \$150 month. He shake his head and
say no. This guy big gyp. He crabby. want him
show up work 6 o'clock morning. Not pay
like he say. Maybe not so good.

"Also lots machine work to be done. I
don't know so much either

"I think I'd rather have place
outside this city place.

~~Can you~~

"Can you write for me to Bensenville
or go? ~~I take~~ (this is an offer from a Rev. August
Mohr, ^{former} of the Reformed and Evangelical Church 40
minutes from Chicago) I like that kind place
if wife & daughter can stay. I find work
in Chicago downtown."

An appointment was
arranged for him. He went
6/17/43 afternoon

"Do you know anything about
what is being done in Canada? I heard

③

the people who answered no on questions ²⁷⁸ 78,
are going to be put in camp no chance come out.
That too bad. Good people, many just mad, honest,
no say no. Bad people, kind pretty smart,
agitate around, say yes, can come out all right,
but stay there and agitate some more. Too bad
Too bad."

CH-203

6/18/43

Fruit Trust AND SAVINGS BANK
Commer TRUST SAVINGS

of
Pasadena, California

May 12, 1943

To whom it may concern,

This letter will introduce James Kashima, who has been employed by this bank for more than fifteen years as caretaker for many of the properties which we hold in trust and in the bank.

I have also employed him in my home as caretaker for buildings and yard for many years.

In my opinion he is loyal to the United States Government, as will be evident if his past record is thoroughly checked. You may find his services valuable as a contact man if problems arise demanding such an individual.

For purposes of identification, his signature ~~appears~~ appears below.

I believe his statements can be relied upon and bespeak for him courteous consideration as I feel he could be very helpful in directing his people along proper lines of conduct during this war.

Yours very truly

TW Smith

President & Managing Director

Self named and not to be
Not the 12th day of May
Election Time

"I go out yesterday to Bensenville. It very small town, about 4000 people I think. Not so very good I think. Two sick people. Very sick. Infantile paralysis. Must give bath, take them to toilet and such duties. I no care so much for that kind sickness, and I think my wife no care neither. Very nice people though. Mostly retired or sick ministers. House very small about six rooms. Lots of houses like it. I have sick people built for them. Room upstairs matted. So hot in summer time. Place very far and cost \$1.05 round trip, not 35 cents. Pretty hard to get gov because of children."

He has decided to run advertisement in newspaper. (Tribune)

"Japanese couple with dau. 14 years old want job as houseman and gardener - wife can sew, housekeeping; ^{experienced} ~~for~~ in sewing. ^{sick} ~~want~~ separate quarters excellent refiners."

Maruyama, Frank

CH - 202

"Maruyama, Frank"

Remarks:

CH-202

MARUYAMA, FRANK