

FIRST FEW WEEKS

Immediately upon arrival at Tanforan, the evacuees were busily engaged in ~~getting~~ <sup>making</sup> their ~~respective~~ assigned quarters ~~made~~ livable. The early arrivals were assigned to barracks which were formerly stables. Two persons were assigned to each stall with cotton mattress<sup>s</sup> and army cots already provided. This did not take long and soon many young boys and girls would be aimlessly roaming the camp grounds. The older people, parents and married nisei couples were busy for the first two weeks getting their stables fixed up with minimum of household fixtures such as crude tables and benches made from scrap lumber found lying about the premises. However, for the youngsters, the problem of what to do with their leisure time presented itself.

Parents were wondering what the kids were going to do to pass their free time so that morale and good ~~social~~ training will not suffer. Many youngsters were picking up pebbles and small rocks which they threw around at trees, posts and sometimes over the roofs endangering someone passing on the other side of the buildings. Very few brought any athletic equipment or recreational materials. Those who were fortunate enough to bring a ball or bat formed informal games. Many wandered about the grounds, walking around the 'million dollar' race tracks and other areas of the camp on an exploration trip.

First few weeks were taken up in this manner for the youngsters. The parents were busy getting their places in order making furnitures, shelves and etc., so they couldn't attend to kids. The kids had no one to tell them what to do or help them organize any group activities. For awhile, the incoming of new evacuees added interest to the day's events and gave many something to look forward to as they would await the arrival of someone they might know. Older young men helped with the baggages and ushering of the newly inducted evacuees. But, this did not supply work for the many others since only limited number were needed.



WHAT WAS DONE TO PROMOTE RECREATION PROGRAM

A group of five young men vitally interested in the problem of recreation met one evening during the first week to discuss ways and means of promoting a recreational program for the camp members. These young men were the volunteers to the camp as the work corp so they had to work DURING The day getting the barracks ready for occupancy so they couldn't do much for recreation program during the day. Very few people were out during the night since fuses were blown readily and they all went to sleep early. Perhaps the strangeness of the place, the lack of community spirit, and the feeling of desolation influenced the people to sleep early. During the first part of the second week, these five men who were active youth leaders in San Francisco and Berkeley and Palo ALTO met together with Mr. Wm. L., the Manager of the Camp, and presented the recreation problem to him. This group was assured that something will be done for the kids soon, although nothing definite can be promised. Mr. Wm. L. stated that a Director of Recreation will arrive in camp soon to assume control of the recreational activities. In the meantime, we were asked to sit tight and hold everything since the Administration had its hands full with feeding the people and finding places to sleep and providing them with adequate plumbing facilities.

Educational phase of the camp life was also missing and the need was felt very deeply by the parents and older evacuees. They felt that it was a shame that the school children should have to suffer. Along with the suggestion about recreation, the education problem was presented, but this same committee of interested individuals were told that education will have to wait and since the assembly center was only a temporary affair, there would be no sense in worrying about it.



It so happened that community social agencies such as the YMCA, Friend's Center, and Protestant Church groups were able to gather together some used recreational materials which they generously sent down into the camp. There wasn't very much, but it helped immensely when there was nothing at all to start with in the first place. It certainly bolstered the morale of the young boys and girls and this effect made the parents very happy. The type of materials donated were books, quizz questions, softball and bats, checker boards and chess boards with chessmen and few other table and indoor games.

About the end of the third week, a man by the name of Mr. L.T. arrived as the Director of Recreation. Immediately he set up six center spots for recreation in the various districts of the camp grounds. He went around asking information regarding personnel to help him and he chose eight individuals from all walks of life so to speak. He chose one woman and seven young men to help him as staff members to organize and get activities started. He made his selection on basis of representation, ability and religious affiliations.

Immediately, Mr. L.T. set up stop gap type of activities here and there just to take off the pressure of the need to be doing something. He put up a volleyball net at one center, a ping pong table at another and organized a amateur talent show for the first week, with a mixer dance for the week-end. It seemed that the new Director of Recreation was a well experienced and qualified person. He also got a pre-school Nursery started and organized an efficient library staff. Soon, it got lots of books and it began humming with people. All of this took place within one week after his arrival.

Recreation program could not be pushed too rapidly since the people were yet having trouble with plumbing, food, and sleeping quarters. These essentials for livelihood took precedence over education or recreation. However, under the circumstances, it seemed that people took



to the recreation activities like hungry dogs after a piece of meat.

Now, the administrative set-up of the recreational activities, its physical description such as facilities and grounds, and the staff members will be discussed.

The recreation department is under the Service Department. Mr. L.T. is sent to the Tanforan Camp by the Wartime Civilian Control Authority and is a paid employee of the W.C.C.A. He lives in Berkeley, but commutes daily to camp. He has a staff of eight immediately under him. These staff members were assigned to respective local recreation centers to organize each with a staff and minimum activity. These members of the staff as previously mentioned were selected with certain reason in mind. The initials of the staff members are as follows: F.K., T.K., F.H., C.N., K.O., B.I., T.H., B.S. Each had some previous experience as Recreation Leaders prior to their evacuation. They represented various religious groups, YMCA, YWCA, YMBA, Christian groups, and issei groups. They were talented in arts and crafts, adult program boys work program, girls work program, athletics, publicity, playground experience, newspaper work, and sponsoring of community-wide activities.

This staff works at the Recreation Headquarters with office and desk for each person who are in charge of certain specialized field of recreation. In each of the recreation centers which are located in the various outlying districts of the camp, there are staff members just for the local centers. The Headquarters staff is to act in the advisory capacity and as resourcemen for the community center staff members.

In each of the local community center recreation halls there is a Community Center Director and under him are Boys' Director, Girls' Director and number of leaders for club and team activities. There are eight of these local recreation centers in Tanforan Camp. They are located so that each center can cater to a certain geographical area.



Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings there is a staff meeting at 8:00 am at which time any problem which may come up can be thrashed out and worked upon. It was the intention of Mr. L.T. to make the recreation program a camp-wide over-all program so that no one center should benefit at the expense of another and that members in the community should all get an equal opportunity and enjoyment of the program, activities, and facilities offered by the Recreation Department. Every Friday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 am, there is a In-Service Training Seminar for all the leaders in all of the eight Recreation Centers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INDIVIDUALS ON THE HEADQUARTERS STAFF

F.K. Age 40 years, recently married, hometown San Francisco. Former livelihood--chiropractor and medicine.....Very quiet life in the city since he was sentenced to penitentiary for practicing medicine without license. Was YMCA Secretary for 6 years in San Francisco. Graduated Stanford University. Born in Japan.

T.K. A young lady of about 30 years of age who was the secretary at the Japanese YMCA in San Francisco prior to evacuation. Very active and good leader of girls. Not married, has father, mother and sister.

F.H. A young man of 27 summers with many years of youth leadership training. A graduate of the University of California. Was the Boys Work Secretary of the Japanese YMCA prior to evacuation. Not married and hails from San Francisco, California. Comes from a large family of six members.

C.N. Married, has wife and daughter. YMCA Secretary for 23 years. Very efficient worker in the adult activities. Age about 55 years.

K.O. A very talented artist and successful one. Owned art studios in Berkeley prior to evacuation. Was the president of the J.A.C.L. chapter in Berkeley. Married recently, age about 31 years.



B.I. Was doing publicity work for the Oakland Recreation Department. Married, age about 29 years and hails from Oakland, California.

T.H. A Oakland, California man with lots of experience in handling community wide events successfully. A qualified leader and respected for his earnest efforts and sincerity. Represents the Buddhist elements of the camp. No married, age about 23 years.

B.S. Bachelor from Palo Alto representing the Christian elements from the Peninsula area. Had wide YMCA volunteer leadership experience.

Above descriptions are brief background study of the staff members. The reason it was given was to help the reader understand why some of the type of things which shall be described later do and did happen.

For instance, it is interesting to note that all the people interested in Recreation Work tried to make an impression with Mr. L.T. so that they might be selected to be on the paid staff. Even after the staff was selected, there was petty jealousy among the staff members. One of the individual, B.S. got four others together at his home to form a block so that F.K. and B.I. wouldn't run the whole show. At this meeting were F.H. K.O., B.S., and T.H. It seemed that for some reason or another B.S. and K.O. didn't like B.I. at all since B.I. was a big shot in Oakland with a Civil Service job and very few had good Civil Service Jobs in Oakland. They didn't like F.K. on general principles, but it was decided to give F.K. a chance since he was a very talented and capable person and as long as he did his job right, he should be given all the encouragement and help possible so that he can vindicate himself and win his place back into the society.

Another instance of pettiness which was a carry over from past life prior to evacuation was the appointment of H.Y. as baseball commissioner by F.K. No one liked H.Y. since he didn't pay his bills and his word was not very reliable. Individuals on the staff who had business dealings with him won't have anything to do with him at the camp.



However, it was finally decided to start from scratch and give him a chance to do his job and carry out his responsibility of being the adult softball league commissioner. ~~However~~ The members who objected were T.H. K.O ., and B.I. It is yet not smooth as it seems on the surface and it bears close watching to see how it will turn out.

### ACTIVITIES

Softball games take up the major load of the recreational activities. It has the greatest appeal and the widest interest. Five ball diamonds were constructed and everyday there are games from morning till dark. In the evening there is a Industrial League called the Twilight League for all the workers with a paying job. Each local Recreation center has five classifications divided into age groupings of 7-10, 11-13, 14-16, 17-19 and 19 above. Each age groupings has a ball team which is entered in the league.

Other activities are HorseShoe pitching, Basketball Games, indoor games such as card playing, dancing, ping pong, checkers, chess and club meetings. Treasure hunts, line games of low organization such as Prisoner's Base and Steal the Bacon are other activities under organized leadership.

There are fifteen ping pong tables for 8,000 inhabitants, three large sized basketball courts out in the open, three badminton nets, ten volleyball courts, and six horseshoe pitching pits. Special recreation halls were built for the evacuees, but very inadequate and poorly constructed. Pianos were donated by churches and there are three in camp and one organ to date.

Education has now started so it seems to interfere with the recreation program as it exists to date, but compromise as to use of buildings, facilities, and time will have to be solved soon. Since the recreation activities came into the picture first, it is easy for the Recreation Director to have the upper hand as to decisions.



Question: Who, among the 5 men, initiated the recreational program, or was it suggested by the management?

Answer: Two of the original five men vitally interested in seeing some kind of a recreation program in effect are today in the Recreation Department, but they did not initiate the program into action. The management suggested that we wait until the time when the Director of Recreation for Tanforan arrives so the matter stood at rest until the arrival of Mr. LeRoy Thompson. Mr. L.T. chose B.S. and FH from the first group of five men. Others are now working in important jobs such as head foreman of the Housing Service and ~~and~~ Head time keeper, and the third is the Chief Supply Clerk, all of the jobs very important to the daily activities and needs of living at Tanforan.

Only nine individuals including three girls were on the paid personnel in the first week, (after Mr. L.T.'s arrival.) All the recreational leaders were doing at least one week of voluntary work to prove themselves worthy.

pg. 6. At the meeting at which a "block" was formed against F.K. and B.I., what specific points were raised against them?

Ans. Immediately after the appointment of the nine staff members on the headquarters staff for Recreation Department, F.K. started to give orders and assume supervisory attitude. B.I. had professional training and experience in Oakland as Publicity Director of Playgrounds and he knew the ropes. B.S. called the meeting together, and asked that the others stick together so that B.I. and F.K. won't run them around by assuming complete control and bossing the others with less experience and training. There were no specific points brought against the two persons, except that petty jealousies and over-emphasis on being the big-shot caused the others to discuss sticking together and not cooperate if the two gets too bossy and gets a right hand position with the head Director. In other words, the person named F.K. was beginning to assume more authority and



control than was given by Mr. L.T. and the others resented it and B.I. started to tell Thompson what kind of program we should have and etc. Mr. F.K. appointed H.Y. as baseball commissioner because he knew H.Y. personally and could tell him what to do whereas, the other members on the staff knew about F.K.'s past and wouldn't listen to him. F.K. did not have the authority to appoint anyone and it was resented by all the staff members and by Mr. L. T. who later spoke to F.K. about it. All appointments were to be made only by L.T.'s approval henceforth was the general rule set by Mr. Thompson.



Diary  
Dec. 1.

C K.

First violent  
meeting in community  
Jada in Rec Dept.  
got in trouble  
with Kibei group.

Was going on way  
to meeting of Kibei  
group to tell them  
C.A.S. wanted a sec. to  
take minutes.

5 fellows jumped at him  
with rimwood stick  
"I broke the sticks over  
his head". Wrist watch  
& glasses were broken.  
Was left lying on ground;  
Joined by some others &  
taken to hospital.  
William spent day in cage.  
Agulanda and Nisei (?)  
Wanted newspaper not to  
give publicity.

Report of Verline Yamauchi

Fellow who was caught was  
an Issei - father of "about"  
6 children. He felt that  
he was



CLIQUE DEVELOPING WITHIN RECREATION DEPARTMENT

A Certain groupings in the recreation department has formed on the following basis. A group of young men who are resource-leaders on the headquarters staff for the entire camp has a group which is composed of about fifteen fellows of varying age. This group has all those working on the headquarter staff including the lower skilled people such as maintenance crew and custodians. Let us call this group the headquarters clique for that is what it is actually. For any pranks, any new ideas for parties, any noise making or rowdiness, the clique seems to take the limelight. It seems that professional level has nothing to do with ~~social~~ social groupings in this camp for this exemplifies this point. Those who are unskilled workers, skilled workers and those given professional rating are ~~an~~ members of this particular group. Education seems to have no bearing for only four out of the group of fifteen are college graduates. One is an art major, another an optometrist, another a social worker, and another a civil engineer. Rest of the members on the clique are individuals from all walks of life, only they all belong to the Recreation Department and are good athletes. Three of them do not belong to the headquarters but comes from outlying local centers. Two are community center directors and another is an ambulance driver for the hospital. This clique was formed because of their interest in socials, singing and just having a good time as bunch of men.

Two members of this clique are married, both are newly weds since they got married very recently prior to evacuation. Two others have steady girl friends while the rest of them are free lancing



CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ISSEI AND NISEI IN RECREATION.....

There are two men, both very qualified and experienced men to handle the adult recreation program. There is no conflict in the thinking or in the practices of these two men with the nisei groups. But, there is a definite difference of opinion between the issei population (certain segments of the total) and the Recreation Department.

The WCCA Administration at Tanforan will not permit any camp-wide program of entertainment for the issei in Japanese. No Japanese songs, no skits or stunts in Japanese, no meeting in which Japanese is spoken is permitted on a camp-wide basis. So, the issei population ~~x~~ wants to know why they can't have some kind of recreational program. No meeting place or facilities were given to the issei. Their complaint is very justified. However, the recreation department can't allow anything forbidden by the WCCA big shots and so it was very difficult to educate the issei to understand this situation. Issei felt they ~~k~~ were being disregarded and would raise a howl that something has to be done for them just as much as for youngsters since. The recreation staff felt this need and tried to get clearance, but the more the staff asked of the officials, the more the officials would ~~clamp down~~ clamp down on the privileges.

It so happened that a group of radical issei or perhaps radical is a misleading word. Anyway, a group of community minded issei went over Mr. LT.'s head and brought pressure upon the Manager of Tanforan, Mr. F.D. who was a tough boy. Immediately, more restrictions followed since Mr. F.D. found out that small groups of issei were having local entertainment affairs in mess halls and recreation centers. This was done with Mr. L.T.'s permission who felt that it would be permissible if done on the small scale. He took it upon himself to allow it, although it was



not permitted by the WCCA administrators at Tanforan. So, Mr. L.T. got it in the neck since these misunderstood issei group went to the manager, Mr. F.D. and told him that small affairs such as mess halls and local rec. center issei talent shows were being put on and why is it that they couldn't have one at the Grand Stand for the whole issie population at camp. The nisei have a variety show in English every Thursday nights. Even, yet, after month a half of existence at Tanforan has this misunderstanding or lack of understanding been cleared up. Since Issei can't understand English very ~~much~~ well and since no further bulletins in Japanese or anything printed in Japanese is allowed in camp because of General De Witt's order ( so it is claimed) it makes it that much harder to inform the issei.

At present, June 20, 1942, there are some adult activities for the issei such as Japanese wrestling, (sumo), Japanese chess and similar games and ping pong. Many men occupy their free time making model sailboats and sailing them in the Tanforan Lake. Sailboat regatta is being planned for these enthusiasts.

Mr. L.T. promised the leaders of recreation that in due time, issei entertainment might again be possible, but we can't have any at the present time. We can't even use colloquial Japanese in skits for the nisei Variety Entertainment without first getting it censored. Everything must be censored in Tanforan in way of public affairs. Even English speeches. A man who is on the editorial staff of San Bruno Daily, Mr. M. is the censoror chief.

#### OTHER CONFLICTS:

In each local recreation center there seems to be conflict between the girls and boys. Since games, basketball, tables, and other facilities are definitely limited, there is keen competition for ~~the use of them. Naturally boys bully the girls and girls have to get their equipment through schedules which helped solve the problem.~~ the use of them. Naturally boys bully the girls and girls have to get their equipment through schedules which helped solve the problem.



CONFLICT OF ISSEI RECREATION PROGRAM WITH CENTER REGULATIONSBACKGROUND

No official approval of holding a camp-wide issei entertainment program has been given by the Center Manager, Mr. F. Davis, so the Recreation Director, Mr. Le Roy Thompson, did not feel that he wanted to take it upon himself to permit such a program. However, after many requests by the issei people throughout the camp, he did permit each local recreation centers which were located strategically about the camp to hold small affairs. In order for any of the community center halls to hold a issei night, it was necessary to have the official approval of Mr. C. N. a staff member in charge of adult program. Written program must be submitted one week in advance for approval.

About once a week, issei nights were held in various community center halls under the recreation department with permission. This went on for about two weeks, when the various mess halls began putting on their own variety shows and entertainment gatherings for their area. This was done sometimes in cooperation with the Recreation Department, but soon, it went out of the hands of the Rec. Dept. since there are 19 mess halls and each wants to put something on. The Rec. Dept. did not get any written program asking for permission, and the mess halls rounded up their own talents and entertainers and went right ahead with program without any supervision or approval from the Rec. Dept. Soon, there was competition between the mess halls and the Recreation Centers for the individual talents from the particular area.

This type of competition got rather unruly towards the end of the month of June and there was only one way to combat it effectively. All the public address system was in the hands of the Recreation Department and since the mess halls are narrow and long, no successful program of any kind could be held without the P.A. system. The audience wouldn't be able to hear the singing or other talents since



acoustics were terrible and the halls very long and narrow. So, the Rec. Dept. adopted a resolution not to allow the use of P.A. system to any mess hall affair which is not supervised by the Rec. Dept. This caused some ill feelings among the issei and some of the men who took active part in their areas started to remark here and there that C.N. the adult program Director is assuming too much control and doesn't know what he is doing. I can't say just which ones say it, but it was common knowledge that there were many issei individuals who felt that C.N. had something to do with restrictions on issei talent program and use of the P.A. system. Mr. C.N. felt rather badly about being accused falsely, but he said that complaints are always being said, and if the issei are going to be so narrow and misunderstanding, he couldn't help it.

On July 3rd, a statement came out from the Center Manager, "r. Davis, that there will be no meeting of any kind whatsoever in which Japanese is spoken except for very special exceptions which the ARMY must approve. By the Army is meant the Western Defense Command and the Fourth Army's Commanding General. So, the issue about the issei talent shows was settled by the new ruling. The Council of the Tanforan Assembly Center composed of five citizen evacuees and "r. L.T. and F.K. and C.N. plus few interested issei members met on Thurs morning, July 9th to decide what could be done to get some clearance to hold entertainment and issei program for recreation. It was decided to let the Community Center Directors in each center handle the problem and bring their recommendations to the Council so they in turn may present it to Mr. Davis who in turn will submit ~~to~~ it to the Army. So, all question regarding who should supervise and how it should be supervised as far as issei entertainment went was settled once and for all by the Army orders.



ISSEI REACTION ON THE RECREATION PROGRAMBackground

After the first week of organized recreation program which started around the 11th of May, 1942, there was yet no definite program for the issei population. Adult Recreation Director, CN, requested for a building to have an adult recreation center. After 8 days of promises and altered plans on the part of the Center Administration, one of the barracks in the middle of the camp was assigned for adult recreational purposes. This building had to be altered to change it from living quarters to a recreation center. Part of the building was to be used for gym to ~~hold~~ hold boxing lessons and the other part to be used by the ladies for sewing and knitting classes. The building was divided into three equal rooms and one third was occupied by the men only for checkers, chess, Japanese chess and "go" games. Middle part was used for boxing by the boys, and the last third was used by the women folks.

Men sit by the hours in the Adult Rec. hall playing table games such as chess and "go" games. They had nothing else to do and all the time in the world, so they come by the tens and twenties to play and be spectators, sort of kibitzers.

Soon, the men clamored for something besides passive games such as table games. They wanted action. Softball team was organized and league on Sunday for the old timers was formed. This helped to take the edge off of the issei men who shouted for action. However, everyone can't play softball and they wanted other things. In Japan, one of the favorite sports for spectators as well as participants is the Sumo ring. It may be said to be equivalent in popularity to our football games. Thousands watch sumo tournaments and follow it in the newspapers in Japan. The issei wanted to have sumo, which means Japanese wrestling.



In a little triangular area which has banks around it on the base and one of the sides making it a semi-bowl type of thing, the sumo enthusiasts under the leadership of Mr. T. started to make a 'sumo' ring. Mr. T. was a popular 'sumo' champion in his early twenties, and he was their natural leader. He is about 40 years now and is married.

About 30 'sumo' enthusiasts got together and formed a club which was known as the Sumo Committee. Mr. T. was officially elected as its coach and chairman. It was necessary to buy materials and prizes for the contests as well as uniform material and referee outfit, so a collection was made of free will donations. Immediately \$50.00 was collected. Soon, the treasury got more than \$200.00 fund for the sumo purposes.

A real sumo ring was made with special dirt which was at Tanforan for the race tracks (originally from Kentucky). It became one of the most popular sport for the issei. Any afternoon the sumo arena is filled with spectators and anywhere from dozen to twenty participants can be found wrestling there. On Sunday afternoons, they hold tournaments with merchandise prizes. Sometimes, many as 2,000 spectators crowd around the ring and sit on the sloping banks like at a amphitheatre.

However, with all the popularity and smooth working of the first sumo ring, there came a desire among some individuals to have other sumo rings elsewhere in camp. This request was made by those who were sort of left out in the official picture of the first committee. This fact, and because they didn't like the way the referees were picked a faction developed which desired their own ring. This question was taken up by the headquarters staff of the Recreation Department and it was decided to hold a meeting and find out the real need if any of



other 'sumo' rings. At the meeting, open discussion was held and the real reasons for the split came about. This type of split in the ranks of the recreation adult program was unhealthy for the whole recreational program since the purpose of the camp recreation program was to build morale and harmony among its residents. The reason for the split as was ferreted out at the meeting proved that pettiness and personality clashes rather than actual need motivated the desire for more 'rings'. So, one of the staff members who was an evacuee, but not a issei, spoke to the whole group including the dissenters and those on the original committee.

Mr. T.H. was the spokesman for the Recreation Staff. He briefly told the issei group that he doesn't care whether there is a sumo ring or not. The Center Administration doesn't want it. The Army Headquarters do not want it. In fact, they discourage any such activity in which Japan's background and past affiliations will be brought up anew. The only ones who want the sumo ring are the issei people. Therefore, if the issei themselves can't get along and cooperate together for the common good of all, there's no sense in having something which is going to cause ill feelings and disharmony. Therefore, unless issei can work together as one unit and cooperate together as they should, the 'sumo' ring will be closed and there will be no more sumo tournaments or practices. To this speech the issei had nothing to remark. All those who had split from the original committee saw their pettiness and didn't say anything. Those who were on the original committee asked the others to join in and work as one and that they would be willing to be open for any suggestion, welcome or any help. So, the issue about more rings was closed and to date, the sumo



Query: I'm not sure I get the real reason behind the clamor for other sumo rings? Was it desire for prestige (another chance for an opposing group to set up a committee?) Who were the ringleaders of the opposition.?

ANS. The real reason behind the clamor for other sumo rings was a desire by a group who were left out of the control of the sumo activity to form their own little ring so that they could be boss. In other words they were jealous of the success of the first ring in which they had little part and they felt that they could do a better job if they were given the control of the set-up.

Sumo is a popular pastime in Japan and it is almost as popular as our football games in ~~xxxx Japan~~ this country. So, many of the issei have had experience in sponsoring sumo meets and it so happened that a group of these former ~~xx~~ promoters who were not in the controlling position of the first sumo ring wanted to show their stuff. The ring leaders were the former sumo promoters who were quite well known in Japan and had some experience in this country in the country towns like Fresno and Stockton where the people go for the sumo much more than in the larger cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Boiled down to the final analysis, the prestige desire was the real reason rather than the need for another sumo ring.



Adult Art Classes and Hobby classes were held three times a week and many of the artistic inclined individuals, both men and women ~~isssd~~ are learning new arts and skills, and are taking advantage of the opportunity to display and demonstrate their abilities. This type of activity fulfills the spare time of only a limited number (150). Those who do participate in art school activity certainly enjoy it and the following type of things are being made by them.

Sail boats, paintings, both charcoal and water sketches, and some cartooning. Wood carving, (all kinds of excellent workmanship) furniture making, clay work and kite making. Some of the articles made are so artistic and well made that it leaves one breathless to think that it was made with no special tools except pocket knife, saw and hammer. It's a shame ~~pictures~~ of them can't be taken, but it's one of the inspiring thing about life at Tanforan to note the creative imagination and skill of the issei people. It's simply amazing!

Many of the issei vie with one another to make the best looking sailboats and fastest sailing sialboats. They are out everyday by the Lake Tanforan and experiment sailing their boats. It does one's heart good to see the issei so enthused and wholehearted about sailing their boats and feeling so proud of their workmanship. Of course, nisei are out by the Lake Tanforan doing the same thing in equal number as the issei, but the issei make the better boats.

Another hobby which strikes one's interest is the ~~straw~~ straw hats and other things which is made from grass and other like materials which are found growing at Tanforan. Two of the grasshats on display looks so real and well made, that one would never think that it was made at Tanforan, especially by an amateur. Various dyes are ~~made~~ made from certain plant roots and used for painting, as dyes on clothes. Special designs are dyed into handkerchiefs.



Many of the issei spend their time making beautiful gardens in front of their little stable stalls. They make Japanese gardens with all the trimmings. For example, there is one garden called the Tanfo-Inn Tea Garden. It is located in the same barrack in which I live. It has a gate with a small pond. The reason for the pond was to stop the water which was running all over the side walk when people opened the faucet. It so happened that along the side of the stable barracks, there are two water faucets for the residents of that barrack. Instead of letting the water run all over, the man who lived there made a little pond with bridge across it, and a little fishing man sitting on a rock beside this pond. He gathered plants of all kinds, shrubbery and etc. to plant around the pond. The whole thing is within an area of about seven feet by 10 feet. It has a pagoda, torii, ~~gargx~~ frogs, cranes, rustic seats, and etc. It really is artistic and creative. It also has a bird box and a weathervane.

So, the issei have learned to be young in mind again are enjoying their free hours in which they can re-create and make many artistic things which their innate nature longs for deep inside. Up to this time, the issei were too busy making their ends meet in the cruel and hard economic struggle, but now, they can forget all about food and shelter problems and can devote all their time and energy to hobbies and just taking it easy. Gradually, the organized recreational program starts to have significance for the issei. Many expressed desire to start learning English from now (most of issei are 50 and over) and have enrolled in Americanization Adult Education school. Others have enrolled in art classes and craft classes at the recreation halls. It is significant to note the number of mothers who are whitehaired go to hymnal singing practices and English classes.



Tanforan Hobby Show was held on the week end of July 10th, 11th, and 12th and held over for another day on Monday. To date, it was the most successful of any of the community wide activities. The Hobby Show was sponsored by the Recreation Department, but the affair was held in the Tanforan Art School Bldg.

Just to give a picture of the show, I would like to mention the number of persons who saw the exhibits and the number of different articles of ~~a~~ various forms and figures were on display. Over 9,000 persons actually passed through the door and registered on the registration book. More have seen it, but only 9,000 of them autographed the guest book. There were ~~2000xx2000x~~ 600 different pieces of articles actually on display and there were over 500 ~~pieces~~ pieces of art such as ~~as~~ painting, drawings, sketches, designs and etc. A jar for donations was placed on a table and after the three and half days of exhibiting, \$104.00 was accumulated. This money was to buy more hobby materials and other community wide needs for recreational use.

The affair was so popular and well received that a demand was presented for another show in the near future. It's a shame that the outside public who loves art and hobbycraft couldn't have enjoyed seeing some of the exhibits, but next time, the Administration felt that it would be worthwhile to have it in the visitor's area so that newspaper men and other interested outside people can see it.

Every single one of the items and articles on display was made at Tanforan Assembly Center. The exhibit was a real education and an inspiration for it proved the cleverness, artisticness and the ingeniousness of the Japanese people. Some of the ~~xxx~~ drawings and sketches as well as paintings were later exhibited at Mills College Oakland, California, and patrons bought some of them realizing over \$34.00 for the Tanforan Art School.



One can't very well describe every interesting article and exhibit pieces, but in order to give the reader an idea of the type of things which the residents of Tanforan made during their spare time and are making every day, I would like to mention few of them. By mentioning them, I cannot do justice to the type of work, its artist~~x~~icness, its originality and its excellent workmanship.

The display included paintings by Chiura Obata, formerly Art professor at the University of California, drawings and sketches by art class and art enthusiasts, model airplanes, sailboat models, wood carvings, ~~some paintings~~ sculptures, knitting of all type of sweaters, socks, mittens, scarfs, bed spread, ~~knockout~~ crochets, metalcraft, leadercraft, pyrocraft, designing, cartooning, floral arrangements, victory garden plants, rope craft, woodwork, furnitures, footwear with wood, boondoggling, monograms, and clothes making.

An interesting thing about the hobby show was the fact that it wasn't advertised at all. The popularity of it spread from mouth to mouth by personal comments. On the first day, there were less than 50 pieces on display. Then, few would just drop in to see what kind of things were displayed and when they saw that the article they made at home is better than the one on display, they would ask if it's all right for them to bring in their hobbies. This same type of incident took place time after time, and before the day was over, the two rooms which is 25' by 100" was packed with exhibit articles. Then people heard about the wonderful exhibit at the Art School bldg. and as word spread from one satisfied observer to a neophyte resident, people literally waited in line two and three hours just to see the art and hobby exhibits. So, it was necessary to open the show for an extra day and left the doors open all day from morning till ~~ngix~~ night. When there are only 8,000 residents including new born babies, and over 9,000 actually signed the book, it proves ~~that more than~~



TANFORAN HOBBY SHOW

that number of them saw the whole exhibit more than once.

A cross section of the type of people who were interested in attending the Hobby Show would be like this. There would be a young boy and girl hanging on to the father's hands, one on each side with the mother and older sister lagging few feet behind. In other words, nearly every person who could walk saw the hobby shows. The crowd had to be lined up and ushers had to push the crowd in an orderly manner from one end around the room to the other end.

There were three place prizes. The prizes were nothing more than a little painted sign which was made to look like a ribbon with the words, "First Prize, "Second prize", Third prize" and this was incentive enough to make them bring their wares and they felt mighty proud. Their names of course was on a little card beside their exhibits.

It seems that unless something like that which is on a camp wide basis is provided for the residents at Tanforan, they will be very low in morale, but a incident like the hobby show will provided opportunity for self expression, an activity and also a feeling of pride and achievement which is so necessary in a place where barbed wire fence enclose you with armed guards ~~patrolling~~ patrolling the grounds on the outside and inside. The Tanforan Hobby Show was one of the best morale builders we had for a long time, and it was truly an inspirational success. It was an education in itself and at the same time, gave to the residents a feeling of accomplishments whereas up to this time, they were not given any recognition nor were they doing anything which was constructive in way of work. One can see the importance of hobbies in one's life and the chance to do something with their hands when the time drags so slowly.



## TANFORAN EXTRA/VAGANZA

On July 17th, Friday evening, a group of dramatic minded individuals produced and presented a Variety Show. It was entitled the "Horse's Stall and That Ain't All". It was a variety show with musical numbers, pantomime, skits, dancing, chorus, community singing, and an orchestra. The skits depicted various phase of the life at Tanforan, some of the noticeable ones were scenes depicting mess hall incidents, shower room scenes, employment office technique, the inevitability of 'red tape', and few scenes giving the inconvenience of living so close to one another in the stalls.

The physical stage setting was almost too perfect with real professional artists drawing the sceneries, and the comment was that the stage was too good for the show before it was put on, but when the show was presented, it was so well done, that the audience felt it a grand harmonious blend. The presentation was to be given only for those who had paid jobs at Tanforan since the social hall which was the only large room available couldn't accommodate the whole camp. The show was presented in two shifts and the way the shifts were divide were thusly: All skilled workers were to attend the first show and all the unskilled workers were to attend the second performance. The admittance was permitted with the work orders only. Everyone of the workers who are on the pay roll have received work orders and they should have this to receive their pay so they usually have it kept carefully.

The audience was well mixed with men and women, very few isseis were present. Since young persons under sixteen years of age ~~xx~~ cannot work, they were not permitted to attend the show. Much of the script and the scenes were censored few hours before the performance. Some of the songs, (paradies) were censored. One of the scene was a



## TANFORAN EXTRAVAGANZA

love scene in the moonlight with a vocal solo in Japanese with words about the camp life to a Japanese tune. This was censored so the person just whistled the tune, and hummed it. This was necessary because the Army gave out orders to forbid any Japanese language to be used in any organized meeting and this show was considered an organized meeting.

Very favorable comments were heard regarding the show and the performers all did a swell job. They had worked hard and rehearsed many times. I ought to know for I was in it. It was a successful affair and since the Tanforan orchestra played its new numbers, it also attracted the interest of the crowd. Now, some of the more progressive individuals are thinking of putting on a real three act play.

A special stage was put up for the performance and then taken down again. Only uncut lumber was used and it was used with the promise that every nail and lumber would be returned to the stock yard without one piece being cut or lost. There is shortage of lumber at the camp and so the building of a permanent stage is an impossibility as far as the Administration approval was concerned. Thus, entertainment with the need of stages is not encouraged too much at Tanforan. However, with select audience, a three act play would certainly find an appreciative audience at Tanforan.



## FOURTH OF JULY FIELD DAY

The Recreation Department under the Athletic Director Tad Hirota's chairmanship (Tad Hirota is on the Headquarter's Staff of the Recreation Department) sponsored a Camp-wide Field Day on the "fourth of July. It was a spectator affair as well as a participation affair. The races were planned and held in front of the grand stand. The whole camp had a short Fourth of July program with four speakers, Boy Scout Bugle Corps, and presentation of prizes for the Treasure Hunt. Then, the races took place for all age groups and both sexes. The seven different Recreation Centers sent their representatives in each event.

Besides the 25 sport events and races including the traditional tug of war and the mile run, there are few interesting side lights to the affair on which I wish to comment. The affair was a huge success from point of view of enjoyment, participation and attendance. I want to comment on the donations, how it was gathered and how much, and how much of it was used for the Fourth of July Field Day. Also, upon one little incident which took place and how the Field Day affair was evolved.

In order to buy prizes for the Treasure Hunt it was necessary to ask for contributions from the residents of Tanforan. The most effective means of getting contributions was to go to each mess hall and make the announcements for the donations and leave a little can by the exit door. It seemed a very effective way for \$161.00 was collected. From this amount 68.00 dollars was expended for the prizes for both the Treasure Hunt and the "field Day.

The Balance of the contributions was put into a trustee ship and to be used as needs arose for camp wide events. Trustees were appointed, two from the Recreation Department and two from the House Managers group.



Mr. Yoshio Katayama is a first aid course instructor. He taught all the Recreational leaders as a compulsory course. During the course of the term, certain incidents came up and Mr. Katayama was made a goat. The Recreation boys (Headquarter's staff members) got together and made the class very interesting by singing songs as they entered the classroom, or crack jokes during the lectures. Since, Mr. Katayama was a good understanding person, he was able to take it and still smile. The boys liked him in spite of the fact that they made fun of him. It so happened that one of the boys on the Recreation staff who was taking the course was a former track star. Mr. Katayama was also a track star so the rest of the Recreation gang forced him to have a track race with the person we shall call Bill. Bill at first refused, but finally consented.

A certain Saturday afternoon was selected for the race and the little incident was rumored about camp and before one week was up, the story had spread to all corners of the camp. The whole camp was waiting for the event. Both of the men were fast in their college years, both being block letter men of their respective college and so the rivalry was keen and betting was rather close as to the outcome. The selected date was shifted two weeks and the idea to have a Fourth of July Field day was evolved with the idea of having the much awaited contest between the two men as the feature of the day. So, a full race events were scheduled around the ~~xxxxx~~ 100 yd. sprint between Bill and Yoshio. The loser was to treat the whole class and also be tossed into the Tanforan Lake.

Bill won the sprint rather easily and the Recreation leaders got together and tossed Y. Katayama on the army blanket number of times in the air, catching him as he fell and since the day was a cold one and since the Tanforan Lake had broken bottles and other dangerous sharp edged articles in it, the boys just gave him what we called the 'jersey Bounce'. This was done right in front of thousands of spectators.



## SHOWER ROOM SCENES

There are few interesting social behaviour which one notices in the shower rooms and I would like to record some of them. First, I would like to comment on the type of showers some of the people still take. Issei people can't seem to get used to the showers or they don't seem to like it for if one goes early in the morning or late at night, he can see number of wash tubs in there and in these wash tubs are seen old men squatting in them taking a bath. It seems so inconvenient to take the tubs into the shower room, but there they are sitting in them in an uncomfortable position. They don't take showers in the tubs during the early part of the evening nor in the morning when the traffic to the showers is ~~great~~ heavy. These people wait when no one is around which is about 10:30 pm at night or even after midnight sometimes. In the mornings, it's 4:30 am when one can see these people soaking ~~xxx~~ in the tubs.

In the first month that we were at Tanforan Assembly Center, many men and ladies were taking baths in the laundry tubs which is lined up in the community laundry. The size of these laundry tubs is the regular laundry twin tubs with about 24" width, height, and length, tapering toward the bottom. Sometimes, men would be taking a bath in one corner and the ladies in the other corner in the same room which is 100 ft. by 25 ft. rectangular room. However, these people would take their baths early in the mornings or very late at night and never during the day or when majority of the people use the laundry. This was discontinued. Whether they were warned to refrain from using the laundry tubs for baths or not, they quit doing it.



## SHOWER ROOM

Just for curiosity sake, I checked up on the type of persons taking the baths in the laundry room and the persons who were taking their tubs in the shower rooms after the laundry baths were stopped to see what background and where they came from. All except one person had farm life as their background. They were city dwellers at the time of evacuation, but they had previous experience with the Japanese type of bath in which the person first ~~wash~~ washes himself thoroughly before entering the bath tub itself and then sits in the hot water soaking himself properly. The Japanese people on the whole have a curious bathing habits and bathing routine. This incident bears out few of their habits which they had acquired in Japan and in this country on the farms where they carry out more of the Japanese traditions relating to home life than in the city. The city dwellers become more assimilated and become greater Americanized. Those on the farm area are closer to the Japanese customs and rituals since they come direct from Japan to the country and there live without too much contact with urban customs and social ways. In our area of 560 people including all of the residents only about 20 people persist on taking their bath in the wash tubs. They are decreasing, however, and ~~perhaps~~ perhaps, by the end of this month they won't be very many. The interesting part of it is that both men and women do it, although now, they have separate showers and so they don't take it in the same room.

In Japan, men can pay for their baths and women attendants will scrub their backs and wash them if they like. So, there is no moral stigma or shame attached to taking baths in each other's presence. On the farms, I used to see whole families taking baths all at one ~~time~~ time without any feeling that it's improper. Yet, in other ways, their



## SHOWER ROOMS SCENES

mores and moral standands are very upright and strict.

SHOWER ROOM BULL SESSIONS:

Listening to comments about other area's shower room incidents, we find that there is one thing which is almost universal in our camp. Every Saturday evening from about 10:00 pm. there usually is a group of boys having a 'bull session'. In these little informal groups, nearly every topic under the sun is discussed, things which young boys and youths throughout the world talk about. There is one topic which is universal and that is about the fairer sex. Usually, the boys go to the showers after the dance or party and so they talk about what girls were there, who was the best dancer, who looked the best and etc. They also discuss about the sport activities which they participated in during the week, especially that day, and future events. They sit around the benches and gab for hours until midnight and often until after midnight. This practice is universal in nearly all the showers. In one shower room, the boys who gather are all college graduates and are holding administrative posts in the Assembly center. These young men, mostly all bachelors, few married men, talk about politics, outside news, war situation, election opinions since this is election year for Washington, and also about Relocation possibilities.