

(Postcard posted on JACL bulletin board)

4/7/42

Dear Henry,

Arrived safely at Santa Anita noon today. Trip down was pleasant but tiresome. Army people were very nice. Served us box lunches today.

This place better than expected perhaps better than Owens our original destination.

Army took care of all unneeded baggages. Vans carried them to train, loaded on baggage cars and brought to receiving room here. Hence, you can bring more than you can carry but keep members within reasonable limit. Advisable to bring curtain, light extension cords, small heater and stove if desired.

Living quarters are barracks partitioned off to form 2 room apartments. Two windows in one of the rooms. Concrete floors.

Meals are cafeteria style. Our shift is 6:30 am, 11:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Small store here sells ice cream, soda water, and candy. There are also post office, medical center.

Today was very hot. Perhaps because first day and much work in getting settled. But cool in evenings.

Don't know whether rest of S. F. is coming here but if so a royal welcome awaits you. We are ready to help you in every way.

Will write again. Regards to all in S. F.

Sincerely,

Paul

Santa Anita, Calif.
April 22, 1942

I've been meaning to write you from the -- have no good reason why I didn't -- so I hope this will make up for everything. Camp life is beginning to settle down to steady routines now. Living quarters ain't too bad. The only thing is we moved in after the horses vacated. Oh well, what's good for Seabiscuit is good enough for me. Or is it? Each person after being assigned to a unit receives a metal bed, mattress and one Army blanket. We live in barracks -- each barrack consists of about fourteen units or apartments of two rooms each. You see each stall has been extended in front making the second room with two windows and the door. Our family has two units. My sisters and Ma sleep in the front room of one. I sleep in the stall, my two brothers and Dad sleep in the next. The stall of their room we use for our baggage. We have plenty of room so it ain't bad. You really ought to see my stall -- I have all my pictures, movie and otherwise, tacked all over the room. It looks rather cozy. I wonder what Seabiscuit would say if he saw it now? Food on the whole is fairly good. One can't expect much when each mess hall has to cook for some ten thousand persons. At present we have two mess halls in operation, a third will open shortly. About 15 minutes or so before the opening time a line forms for the meals. Eating utensils are furnished here and we are served cafeteria style. The most crowded place in the center is the canteen where practically everything from A to Z is sold. Bring plenty of money you can sure use it. When we first arrived it was only a small place but last week a new larger quarter was just completed. The regular Post Office building opened last week too. There is no delivery system so we all stand in line to see whether we get any mail. It sure is a big disappointment to stand in line for ages and not get even a postcard. Oh well, we have all the time in the world, anyhow. We have a laundry at the center too. Community of course. There's space for washing, more than 30,000 feet of clothes line and two ironing rooms with boards. Users bring their own wash tubs, soap, clothespins, and irons. A hospital is now under construction. Nothing has been said about schooling to my knowledge. The kids are having one grand time after another. Who wouldn't. All play and no study. Comes Sunday we all deck out in our Sunday best to attend church services -- five different groups -- for no reason at all except the fact that it's Sunday. You might as well bring all your things. After all, you don't know how long you're going to be in camp. Either way they're going to spoil so might as well enjoy them while you can. If you bring many, you can get one of those clothes bags to put them in while not in use. There's one light socket on the ceiling, no other socket, so if you bring your radio don't forget to take along a cord. The short cord on the radio won't reach that high up. An electric burner would come in very handy too. You can have a tea party or something.

All in all, life here is really not bad. In fact, I'm beginning to like it here better and better each day. I'm only hoping some of you Frisco gang will be sent down here soon. Then I'll be happy and how! From what I hear it's going to be Tanforan, though. I'm still keeping my fingers crossed, so here's hoping. A great many of the prefabricated barracks are completed and we're getting ready to receive some more evacuees from L. A. way. By the way, how's the JACL coming along? Not so good, I hope Santa Anita has a newspaper now called "Pacemaker" -- not bad huh! Gee, I sure miss the picture shows a lot. Hope they get around to putting one up here. Drop me a line now and then, won't you. Maybe I can give you some dope about life in an assembly center. Take it easy there!

As ever,

(Letter to Agako Sakai from V. Takeshita)
(Najima)

676 Shatto Pl.,
Los Angeles, Calif.,
April 27, 1942.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

To this point I have been spending my time at the Civil Control Stations in the city of Los Angeles. I have as yet been unable to be present at the opening day of registration, because the exact time of opening and the place too are ~~not~~ announced in advance of press releases. Most of the persons who know these facts believe that they are important military secrets and therefore won't give me the dope. I do know now that some new areas are to be evacuated soon with registration beginning ~~this~~ Thursday. I'm sure that I will be able to find out ~~what~~ where these areas are and where the registration centers are from Cap't. Cunningham of the U.S. Employment Service.

I hope that you will be able to come down within the next few weeks so that we can go out to Santa Anita and Manzanar together. Be sure you let me know when you are coming down so that I can make arrangements for passes to these centers. It is possible that you could do this up there through Dr. Mills.

I hope that we can procure a car soon for certain things we should do make the use of one almost imperative. We should for instance go through all the areas already evacuated to see who the new operators are, the condition of the crops, etc.

I am enclosing my expense account to date. Would you be kind enough to give it to Miss Lind.

Sincerely Yours,

Philip Neff

APR 30 1942	
ANS'D BY	DATE

676 Shatto Pl.,
Los Angeles, Calif.,
May 18, 1942.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I am writing this letter in hopes that you will receive it before coming south. I went to Santa Anita today and found that we will not be admitted anymore until we obtain a pass from the Provo Marshall's office. Although I can go to his office which is in Pasadena, or could write to him myself, I think a letter from you would be more effective. Temporary permits are usually given to persons who do not enter on government business. In view of the fact that many Japanese which we must contact are in the various centers, it is vital that we obtain the right to go to any or all of the centers frequently.

I don't think that there should be any objection to this by the army, if they are informed of the nature and purpose of our study. Could you write a letter to the Provo Marshall's Office, Constance Hotel, Pasadena, Calif., (care of Lieu't Col. Severin) to this effect. If you want to visit these centers when you come down, I'm sure that we can obtain permission to do so if a letter of this nature has been received by the army authorities.

Frank writes that he will very likely be down here by Wednesday night. I hope that you will be here at the same time so that we can all go over my work together and make plans for the next month.

Sincerely Yours,

Philip Muff

676 Shatto Pl.,
Los Angeles, Calif.,
May 7, 1942.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I expect that you are anxious to know what I've done so far. I haven't written you any reports yet because I knew that you were away. Now I won't in hopes that you will be in Los Angeles soon. In any event I know that Frank Kidner is coming down so unless you appear first, I'll deliver all my notes to him.

I have received wonderful cooperation from everyone I've contacted so far. Mainly these contacts have been with the Japs themselves, but some have been with government agencies, real estate companies, banks, and the like.

One very promising source however did go sour. I found out from one, the Rev. Fertig, of the Japanese Christian Church, that Dr. Constantine Pannunzio of the Sociology Dep't at U.C.L.A. was making a study which more or less paralleled ours. I spent the day catching up with him after routing him out of bed at 12:15 p.m. by a telephone call. When we did get together he was very secretive, saying in effect that he and Dr. Bloom had quite complete records of the evacuation to the present, and especially complete records of the evacuation of San Pedro and Terminal Island, with specific cases and data which made up a good statistical sample. He said however that I couldn't see them and that we could read the final published results in five or six months. What he really wants is to be "cut in" on our study. I offered to exchange my notes for his for a day or so, but this didn't seem to be enough and he refused. Perhaps when you come down you will be able to bring him around. I hope so for I feel that his data would be very helpful to us.

As you probably know by now, I had a little trouble with Miss Lynn. She wrote me a letter which I'm sure she had no place to write. After my answer I don't think she'll bother me again. I'll show you our correspondence when you come down if you wish.

I hope that we will be able to go to Santa Anita and Manzanar together. I have the names of some key Japanese to see at these centers. Let me know when you plan to arrive, so that I won't be off in the country somewhere.

Sincerely Yours,

Philip Neff

676 Shatto Pl.,
Los Angeles Calif.,
June 2, 1942.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I hope that you have received reports of my activities from Frank and that you haven't remained completely in the dark. You have probably read the temporary report which I wrote concerning my work on this project and suggestions I made concerning future research. If you should want more specific data, please let me know and I will forward it to you immediately. I have not sent up my notes because I expected you to come down, and because I very often have to refer to them myself.

Frank tells me that it is probable that this project will be carried on throughout the next year at least. He also intimated that I will be kept on as research assistant or research associate. Of course I realize that financing remains the big problem and that nothing much can be done till this is taken care of. Nevertheless this letter is intended to make you even more conscious of the necessity of immediate action by all parties interested aimed toward planning future work and dividing the field between us. It may be that I am completely ignorant of the accomplishments of all you people in Berkeley, but I would like to have the whole thing clarified as soon as possible.

The reason why I have suddenly become so excited about this is because I found out this morning that the evacuation of German and Italian aliens will start very shortly. Not only does this mean that we will have to keep up with the actual evacuation of these groups, but it also means that the relocation of Japanese will also start soon. It is inconceivable that further temporary centers such as Santa Anita will be prepared for these new evacuees. Therefore the Japs will undoubtedly be moved rather rapidly out to make room for the new evacuees. We will have at least a two ring circus to keep up with and it certainly isn't going to be easy.

From the title of our research project I suspect that all evacuation falls within it, but it might be desirable to restrict the field somewhat. In any event the preparation of some tentative plan would certainly aid in the gathering of raw data. Even the material which I have now would be more useful if it were organized in a way suggestive of its final form.

I hope that this letter does not make you feel that I am dissatisfied with the way things are going. I am having a grand time and am very interested in this work, but I feel that it would contribute to the research program if some definite plans were made with respect to future work.

I would like very much to see you and talk over this whole thing with you soon. Be sure to let me know if you are coming to Los Angeles soon for if you don't I might be out of town. I plan to go to Manzanar the first part of next week and to Imperial Valley the latter part.

Sincerely Yours,

Philip Zuff

676 Shatto Pl.,
Los Angeles, Calif
June 3, 1942.

Dear Dr. Thomas,

This morning I received permission from Carey McWilliams to copy all letters and other documents in his file on alien evacuations. The total would be somewhere between 400 + 600 pages, but undoubtedly some of this would be of little interest to us. Some of it would undoubtedly be of tremendous value, both in carrying on future research, and in the final report itself. Could you let me know if we have stenographic assistants available to do this work? Possibly it would be preferable to postpone this until such time as I can go over all this & pick out the most important things. Perhaps you would want to do this yourself. At any rate this should not be postponed too long. McWilliams says we can keep his entire file for 10 days or two weeks. He receives continuous reports from Japanese in the camps. Some of these I've

read & am sure that the info
contained therein is invaluable
let me know about this as
soon as possible.

Would you also make every
effort to get on the inside with
Day or Hale. Hold down here of the
Fed. Res. is too tough & crack
& won't give us this hope. He did
show me a final report however,
but refused to allow me to study
it carefully for fear I would remember
it & refused to let me take notes.
It was a masterpiece of white-
washing, but would be nice evidence
for us. Undoubtedly it was sent to
Day or Hale, tho Hold wouldn't
admit this.

I hear that one A. J. Stoner has
been appointed Alim Property Custodian
in San Francisco. I would like to
know who he is and what he is
doing if you can find this out.

I also would like to suggest that
Austin E. Anson of the Salinas Shoppers
and Growers Association be contacted. In
the May 9th issue of the Saturday Evening
Post he was quoted on the policy of this

groups. What he said is undoubtedly representative of the feeling of many pressure groups in this state. He might even say more were we to contact him directly.

Finally I would like to find out the names of the higher-ups in the W.C.C.A. I understand that several Univ. of Calif people are in this organization. I would like to know who they are so that I can contact them at a later date if they or as soon as they show up in this neighborhood.

I think that this matter of McWilliams files is very important & should be given immediate consideration. Let me know about this as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours
Philip Hoff

I just received an air mail letter from Kelly Gleckman who was with YSA & seems to know the inside. He says that WRA is in very weak hands & that Eisenhower is only a figure head. This corroborates dope from other sources. I'll be watching.

cyr

District 4, Barrack 61, Unit 12, Avenue 1
Santa Anita Assembly Center
Arcadia, California
June 5, 1942

Professor F. W. Weymouth
Department of Physiology
Stanford University, California

Dear Professor Weymouth:

Thank you very much for your letter of recommendation addressed to Mr. Everett G. Chapman of this Assembly Center. Please disregard my letter of June 1st asking a letter from Dr. Wilbur.

If one does not ask too much, this Center is fairly comfortable as a temporary community. The population is now a little over 18,500. About a fourth of the people lives in the stables, others in the newly constructed barracks. The stables are sturdy and cool but the concrete floor is terribly dusty; the barracks are clean but very hot. From 2 to 6 people occupy a room, or apartment unit. As mentioned in my previous letter, my wife and I are sharing a stable with a Stanford classmate and his wife. We could arrange to be moved into two separate, smaller units. But we have been reluctant to do this because our neighbors here are all very nice people; and since people from all walks of life are assembled here to form, shall I say, a class-less society, we are afraid that we might be moving into a bad community if we leave our present location. Each unit is supplied with cots and ticks (some people have received beds and mattresses), a bucket and a broom. There is a shortage of toilet paper so that since day before yesterday all paper was removed from the toilets and instead each apartment unit is supplied with one roll a week. Fortunately we have only four in our unit. A count of all residents is taken twice daily at 6 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., at which times people must be in their own rooms. Lights must be extinguished at 10:00 p.m. No foodstuffs, either perishable or non-perishable, must be kept in the rooms beyond the immediate needs. Many of us who read the official announcement in the newspapers while we were still on the outside believed -- and the less skeptical still believe -- that each individual will receive \$2.50, or \$4.00 a couple or not more than \$7.50 a family, per month in script to purchase necessities at the canteen. So far no one knows anything about this. Similarly, no wages have yet been paid to those who have been working even as long as two months. I understand, though, that arrangements are being made for the wages. I hope that this will be done soon, for situations of this sort adds greatly to the disillusionment, loss of faith and unrest ~~xxxx~~ plainly manifest among the people.

I believe that the people are being fed reasonably well. I have heard from the old-timers that our group from the Santa Clara Valley came in just at the right time when the food began to improve after the mess halls were placed under Army supervision. Before this change the mess halls were under the management of the Wartime Civilian Control Administration (W. C. C. A.); and I understand that at that time ~~the quantity and especially~~ the quantity and especially the quality of the food ~~was~~ were deplorable. But now that the food is better people are much happier -- for ~~good~~ eating is our chief concern here. I have not had any time to keep an accurate record of the menu, but I plan to do this. Calculating the dietary value of the meals is going to be very difficult because the nature of the food is often quite peculiar. To obtain ~~xx~~ results with any degree of accuracy I shall have to use a laboratory scale, but this would be difficult still, for we usually spend anywhere from 10 to 50 minutes standing in line in the hot sun and once we are ~~xxxxxx~~ seated we gobble up the food in no time.

I mentioned in the above paragraph that the food improved after the mess halls were turned over from the W.C.C.A. to the Army. The reverse situation holds for the canteen. The Army formerly had the canteens but now it has been turned over to the W.C.C.A. and the ~~x~~ variety of goods carried at the stores is now very limited.

(June 6th.) Sugar is strictly rationed. About a week ago sugar was removed from the breakfast table and we were allowed two tea spoons of sugar per person, one for the coffee and one for the cereal. Today we were told that only one tea spoon of sugar will be distributed per person per day, either for the coffee or for the cereal but not for both. I doubt that much sugar is used for cooking, for most of our deserts are canned fruit. We are not using our sugar rationing cards. We are wondering whether the sugar shortage on the outside has become especially acute recently.

There is a great deal of unrest among the people in regard to the drafting of all citizens over 16 years old for the construction of camouflage nets for the army. We would feel a lot better about this if we were shown an official order signed by a person in charge from the Army. Since no such steps have been taken, some of us are wondering whether this is a contract job, whether there is a middle man. We are wondering too whether those who for one reason or another refused to be drafted are really placed on an official blacklist as we were told by the personnel office. We are told that unless we sign up immediately for the work, we would be placed on the blacklist and that once on this list it would be difficult it not impossible to get another and more suitable job at a later date. Some of my friends who hope to leave this Center to go to school in the middle West, and others who hope to

join their parents who are in another camp, were told that the blacklist would make it difficult for them to do so. Still others were told that they would be sent to the Parker Dam Resettlement Area where living conditions are supposed to be quite bad. It's ironical that the paper which we sign says in part, "I hereby apply for work" (Italics mine.) The greatest ~~irony~~ irony is that we are told, "Here is a chance to show your patriotism." There is nothing wrong with the statement, really, except that for a 17-year old city girl to work 44-hours a week under unfavorable working conditions for \$8.00 a month isn't very consistent with the American Way.

The work is being carried on in the ~~at~~ grand stand of the race track and ^{about} half of the work is done in the open, without protection from the sun. In the grand stand the air is filled with dust from the burlap and ~~my dentist's~~ ~~friend's~~ a dentist friend of mine who is working out there is certain that he smells arsenic in the dust. Masks have been supplied but I do not know how effective such masks are. ~~the~~ The hands of the workers are green from the dye used in the camouflage material. I do not know the chemical nature of the dye, but this, together with the dust from the burlap, may conceivably constitute a serious hazard to the health of the workers if they are exposed to it for several months. I understand that the work will continue for 6 or 8 months.

Most of the girls who were drafted feel that ~~the~~ the work is not fit for a girl. Many have requested half-time work but have been denied. I am hoping, perhaps in vain, that there will be closer government supervision of working conditions and that the American citizens of Japanese race will receive the same ~~considerations~~ considerations as do citizens of other races.

It is now not possible for me to make any headway in securing suitable employment for which I am trained because all hiring has been frozen until 4,000 workers have been recruited for the camouflage work. Politics and lack of equipment make the chance of a job at the hospital pretty slim. There is no ~~opening~~ opening (!!) in the Health Department though there are only 7 health inspectors to handle the population of 18,500!! There may be a chance in teaching since close to half of the teachers have been drafted.

I have been pretty busy eating, walking, sleeping and slapping mosquitos. Building our furniture and hunting for scraps of wood keeps me ~~pretty~~ busy too. I shall write more at a later date; this life is pretty interesting.

Sincerely yours,

Kazuyuki Takahashi
Kazuyuki Takahashi.

Cm7

Dist. 4, Bar. 61, Unit 12, Ave. 1
Santa Anita Assembly Center
Arcadia, California
June 10, 1942

Dear Dr. D. Weymouth:

I mentioned in my last letter that many of us were puzzled about the camouflage project now being carried on here. Yesterday the Santa Anita Pacemaker, our local newspaper, carried a statement which has relieved our apprehension concerning the possibility of a private contractor being involved in the project. The statement was issued by Mr. H. Russell Amory, manager of the Center, and reads in part as follows: "There is no private contractor nor[sic] private profits involved. The work is done directly for the Army A thorough investigation is being made by the public health authorities within the Center and their findings will determine if further steps shall be taken for the protection of the health of those working on the project."

Gloves are now being issued to the workers in addition to the masks which were available at my last writing. So the situation is by no means alarming. Very few of the workers show any willingness to work hard in spite of Mr. Amory's statement that "It is up to every American citizen to contribute his share of work . . ." But I guess you can't blame the workers too much because they are paid about 4 cents an hour. Officially there is no ~~xxxxx~~ "drafting" or "blacklisting"; but the procedure for recruiting ^{the} workers as adopted by the personnel office amounts so obviously to the same thing.

The same issue of the paper brings us news that the number of items carried by the canteens will be increased from 14 to 153 and will include such things as cookies, pies, apples, pins, needles, threads, etc. It also tells us that arrangements have been made for people to send their shoes out to Arcadia and Los Angeles to have them repaired. So far no shoe repair shops have been operating within the Center -- no private enterprise is allowed. For the same reason, there are no barbershops; and a haircut is a rare thing around here, and amateur barbers are much in demand. Professional barbers are hiding fearing that they'd be swamped.

I am still unemployed but my wife has a good chance of working as a secretary to the Immigration Inspector. Laboratory facilities ~~xxx~~ at the hospital are really pitiful. In the whole hospital there ^{are} is only one microscope, one centrifuge, and one incubator. The head lab technician (there are only two) is going bats because he has had to make his own bunsen burner and because while he was running hundreds of Klein tests for the food handlers, he had ~~at~~ at his disposal only three blood pipettes. There is not a single balance in the hospital or at the health clinic -- and you simply can't make up standard

solutions or prescriptions without a balance. The pharmacy at the hospital has been able to issue only pills after pills to the patients. And talking about doctors: there are 5 of them to take care of the population of over 18,500. This amounts to about one doctor per 3,700 people. Compare this with ~~the~~ the situation on "the outside" where there ~~are~~ is one physician to every 800.* It seems that you have to be practically dead before you can get to see a doctor. The whole thing is ~~really~~ funny in a tragic sort of way.

I cannot close this letter without adding some explanations in regard to the rationing of toilet paper and sugar mentioned in my last letter. Previously when sugar was on the table, people began to bring containers and take some sugar ~~home~~ back to their barracks. Similarly, people were walking off with the toilet paper. Why did the people have such bad manners? The explanation is very simple. These people have been deprived of their right to earn a living. How can they afford to buy candies and kleenex when they have no income? It's wrong to take home the sugar and the toilet paper. But are we going to blame them altogether for wanting to eat something sweet but not wanting to spend any money because they can't earn any?

I received a letter of recommendation from Dr. Wilbur yesterday. Thank you for asking him to write one. ~~I~~ I saw Mr. Chapman and showed him your letter but he said he can't do anything for me right now because the camouflage project has the priority in all hiring and other jobs are frozen except transferring people ~~from~~ from other jobs ~~to~~ to the camouflage work. I also showed the letter to Mr. Ryan who is from the U.S. Public Health; he promised me a job as soon as he could find something for me to do. My application for the Writers Project stands pretty well, I think. So all I can do now is to wait for the camouflage quota to be filled so that hiring will be unfrozen -- and in the meanwhile hope that I won't be called in ~~for~~ maintenance or mess hall work.
for

Oh yes, the amount of sugar allowed per person per day has been increased from one to four tea spoons; and to have sugar in my breakfast coffee AND cereal brightens up my whole day'!

Yours sincerely,

Kazuyuki Takahashi

*This figure of about one physician to every 800 people is given in the article "Medicine Faces War," by Michael M. Davis, p. 758, The New Republic, Vol. 106, No. 22 (June 1, 1942).

COPY

LETTER

Eddie Shimano
Santa Anita

June 19, 1942

June 19, 1942
Santa Anita PACEMAKER
Santa Anita Assembly Center
Arcadia, California

Dorothy S. Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology
University of California
College of Agriculture
Berkeley, California

Dear Miss Thomas:

An Army ruling makes it impossible for me to have a mailing list for the PACEMAKER. I think their main desire is that there should be no monetary transaction between the PACEMAKER and the outside, and that there should not be a large outside circulation. I have been notified by the Press Relations officer of the Fourth Army that I may mail copies to friends or to others only if I assume the entire cost of postage.

Thus, as editor, I may not mail out copies or ask that mailing cost be remitted. Personal friends, however, may still send me spending money.

There is a distinction there and I feel that the point is well taken. One involves a responsibility which the other doesn't. But it is annoying.

I should be glad to save extra copies here so that your friends here might drop in and pick them up or mail to you. I am sorry that this has to be handled this way.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Eddie Shimano, Editor
Eddie Shimano, Editor
Santa Anita PACEMAKER

Barrack 16, Unit 23, Ave 6
Santa Anita Assembly Center
Arcadia, Calif.

Dear Mr. Chester,

Now with over a month of life at Santa Anita behind, I am writing to you once again to tell you of how things have been at this assembly center. In the first place some 660 evacuees from San Francisco arrived at Santa Anita Race Track at twelve noon Tuesday, March 7th after leaving San Francisco the previous evening at 7:30 p. m. Up until 5:00 p.m. Monday we evacuees believed that our destination was to be Manzanar rather than this race track. Upon arrival we found organization of this evacuation camp well underway. The stables had been remodeled and new barracks were under construction. Evacuees from Long Beach, San Pedro, Wilmington and Lomita had preceded us by several days and after the first week we had pretty well adapted ourselves to camp routine. There are so many parts and phases to life at Santa Anita that it is rather difficult to tell you everything. But I shall try and pray--pray that you will be able to decipher the mess.

As I have mentioned before, shelter at Santa Anita consists not only of remodeled stables but also of newly constructed barracks. Upon arrival we were assigned to our units. In the stables, each unit consists of two rooms and approximately 30 units make a barrack. After the first few days when you have become accustomed to the noise (crying babies) et al, and the horsey odor of the stables which is far from smelling like expensive perfume, you then come to the conclusion that "this here place ain't bad". We've been provided with far more than we expected. Each unit is supplied with a bucket and broom and each person with cot, blanket and mattress.

As for food, at present there are 6 cafeterias in operation each with a capacity of from 650 to 3,000 persons depending upon its size. Rice and Japanese food are served here rather frequently though perhaps not quite as often as at home. Forks, spoons, cups and dishes are supplied and really it seems so awkward and so odd to eat rice in a dish and with a fork rather than in a bowl and with chopsticks!

Perhaps you are wondering by now what types of occupations the evacuees here pursue. A survey was recently conducted among the residents of this assembly center to find out the number of persons who are able to work and the types of occupations they prefer. At present, the demand it seems is mostly for girls to wait in cafeterias, cooks, janitors, auxiliary policemen and typewriter repairmen. Other types of workers whom one may also find here are laborers who rake the grounds and load and distribute cots, ticks, etc., typists, recreation leaders, counter attendants, gardeners, timekeepers, file clerks, doctors, nurses, and personnel office workers. Each day more and more people are being placed in jobs and it is hoped that all available workers will be placed in suitable occupations in a short time.

Despite the fact that the Japanese here are in an assembly center, they have not forgotten religion. Church services are held each week end---Seventh Day Adventist on Saturday, Catholic and Protestants on Sunday morning and Buddhist on the same afternoon. For the benefit of both first and second generation Japanese all services are conducted in both English and Japanese.

As yet there are no schools at Santa Anita. This assembly center differs from Manzanar in that it is merely a temporary receiving center and therefore whether schools will be established by September I cannot say. But in any event I hope it will be soon because the ole noggin is certainly getting rusty with disuse.

Now that you know that there are no schools here you also know that recreation or interest of some sort must be created to keep the young people occupied. Since baseball season is at its height now, Santa Anita has gone softball mad, and as you may expect that is the main sport followed in the line of recreation. Girls as well as boys softball leagues have been formed and the center oval of Anita Chiquita Training Trach has been transformed into a series of softball diamonds. Other than softball, the Boy Scout movement is being started as well as community singing, sewing, and dancing. For younger children between the ages of 5-11 there are recreational classes from 9-11 in the morning and 1-4 in the afternoon. The program of these younger children consists of learning their ABC's, reading, drawing, skipping rope, and so on.

Now for the minor details---the canteen, the hospital, the post office our center newspaper, and curfew and other restrictions. The canteen at this assembly center is our general store as well as meeting place. It sells everything from soft drinks to fly swatters and is really something convenient to have.

As for our post office, it is a branch of the main Arcadia post office. Starting last week we have had mail carrier service. Before it was general delivery. It used to be a "come and try to get it" affair and it wasn't ~~ea~~ rare to have to wait from 30 to 45 minutes in line in order to claim your mail.

The center hospital is located in the administration building. Here clinic hours are held daily and it is here also that all incoming evacuees receive their triple typhoid and smallpox shots. Although Santa Anita is not yet quite two months old, quite a number of births have been registered. The first baby was a boy, much to the disappointment of his father who had his heart set on naming it "Anita".

Our center publication which has been named the "Santa Anita Pace-maker" makes its weekly appearance each Tuesday afternoon. Already a friendly but lively rivalry has sprung up between our paper and that of our foe, "The Manzanar Free Press".

We are pretty much left to our own at this assembly center. Sentries surround the camp and searchlights shine at night, but even then we are free to do anything we wish within the center. Curfew is at 10:00p.m. which allows us 2 more hours than we would have outside. Contraband including such articles as knives, straightrazors, metal chopsticks, firearms and intoxicating liquors are prohibited. Upon arrival the evacuees baggage as well as incoming parcels are opened and inspected. Nevertheless permits are issued to relatives and businessmen to visit evacuees at the Baldwin Avenue Gate and that at least gives you some contact with people outside.

I guess that's all. Now, is there anything else you would like to

know about Santa Anita? I take it that you most likely know that the center population hits up somewhere near the 17,000 mark. Among the cities represented here are San Diego, Hawthorne, Whittier, Lomita, Wilmington, Norwalk, Los Angeles, San Pedro, Compton, Long Beach, Chula, Wista and San Francisco.

Well, now that that's over with how are you? I hope you're very well and that you'll remain so for a long time to come.

Gosh! Spring term and together with it Freshmen reception, Student talent, ROTC competition, Circus day, the Senior play, the Acorn and the Oak Leaf, the ACAL Track Meet at Edwards field and as if that were not enough ex weeks and student body meetings sandwiched in between. War must have affected school too but I do hope you haven't done away entirely with the traditions that make Alameda High what it is.

But then I've taken up too much of your time already. I have to close now so good bye for this time and good luck for always.

Yours sincerely
Mineko Shiroishi

PS The way I murder the Kings English would make Mrs. Domnick swoon, but please excuse.