

Barracks 10, Apt. #5
May 3, 1942

Hello Maki,

This is Sunday the day of rest, but everyone seems to be ignoring it except us. I'm trying to type this in bed because it's too chilly yet to get up.

Yesterday, I worked in the employment office as a volunteer and helped Mitch get the thing organized on a systematic basis. We just sat at the desk and took the applications as they came in. I was really surprised at the number of people that were willing to volunteer to work. I suppose that eventually they will get paid, but only a few were too concerned about that. Many of the old men upstairs, however, are taking it easy and just plan to take things easy for a while; I can hardly blame them though since they are so old and probably have worked hard all of their lives.

You'd be surprised at the changes that one day could bring. Everyone is more or less digging in. Of course, most of the young Nisei want jobs with prestige like postmen, office workers, and house managers and recreation directors but in the meantime, they are jumping in and doing mattress filling, road making, and kitchen work.

The new recreational director came in yesterday and he seems to be quite active. He asked us to get a list of group workers signed up for him to take charge of the various programs so that a lot of the Nisei will be able to get into this type of work. We have got a few complaints that the S.P. bunch got the best jobs, but I hardly think that this is true. There is plenty of work to be done around here and they will need anybody that has the ability. The Social Service aspect of the camp is not a separate division and the camp director has not really stressed it too much--although it is badly needed. Ann has been handling a lot of this work and she really is doing a good job of it. When you come down, I really think you could set up the whole organization if you wished with your experience. And that's no lie. Of course, you might have to train your own social workers, but they could probably learn fast enough. I am more interested in the employment aspects right now because this seems to be right in the center of the activities and a great deal hinges upon its success. Gee, there sure are a lot of problems arising.

For example, Warren and Jimmy Yamada spent all day yesterday visiting the various people in charge trying to find out if they had a place where they sold toilet goods, but nobody seemed to know. So finally they had to go all around to the different rest rooms on their treasure hunt! Guess they will have to get a special disbursement order from the WCCA before they have any luck.

There has been a lot of complaint about the food; it is pretty bad. So far we have been eating mostly canned stuff since they have not been able to get fresh vegetables yet. I guess by the time they put all of Japanese in camps, this state won't have any vegetables at all! Some of the Japanese are saying that the food here makes them sick, but I think that it is more of a psychological thing. It can't be that bad. It probably is due

to the fact that the dishes have been washed so unscientifically. The kids just dip them into the water and consider them dried. You should see the cups; they still have the morning cocoa in them when we get them at night! However, they have the barracks messhalls almost ready so that it won't be so bad from now on, I hope.

The various denominational ministers have been busy finding places for church meetings and today a number of them will have services. I think even the Buddhist group will have their place for a church. The community organization is rapidly picking up and I don't think it will be long before much of the present confusion is eliminated. It's a good thing that the smaller messhalls are being opened soon, because it's pretty hard for some of those old folks to walk all the way up to the grandstands for their meals and then have to wait for an hour in line.

I visited your sis yesterday and they seem to be getting things under control. They have built shelves and your father and brother are now building some sort of porch. Their place is right on the end of the barracks so that their rooms face in and not sideways like the others. The front part don't have a separating partition so that it is one big room. The bedrooms are on the ends so that at least they get a little more privacy than some of the other cells. Yo says that they can hear all the talking, but their barracks is quiet and the people go to bed early. At least they are in a fairly good barracks. I feel sorry for those people in number 13. They face some old stables that are not being used and they haven't cleaned away the manure piles yet; so that when they open their doors the breeze wafts the odor in. On top of that they have a mud ditch in front of the place and they have to walk across a narrow board walk until the mud dries up.

They have a maternity case in the hospital so I guess they will be having a child born around here soon. I also witnessed the start of a new Issei romance. One of those single men in the grandstand got together with one of the single women and so he comes up to Ann and asks her if it was legal for him to get a separate with the woman without getting married. Ann had to explain that perhaps they could get married later on and it was probably better if they just stayed where they were until they got to know each other better.

They had their first dance here last night and we had a good time because they were mostly S.D. and east bay kids that I knew there. I met the most interesting girl that afternoon so I took her along. She was a student at U.C. and stayed at the I house. Originally she is from Hawaii where her father apparently is a successful real estate man. She is griped because she had just returned from Ohio five days previous to the evacuation and she was not allowed to get out again. Now she is trying to go to the University of Mexico. She was kinda cute, rather pretty, and oh the way she dances is enuf to excite anyone. But don't worry, Deki, I thought of you all the time I was dancing wishing that it was you, etc. I'd better stop this line before you disown me! If I don't hear from you soon, I am afraid I shall go slightly nuts. The suspense is awful. I know you are working real hard so I realize that you have not too much time. Well, so long.

May 12, 1942

Hello:

We arrived here thursday, May 7, around noon.

Everyone was chatting rather quietly on the bus on our way to the assembly center at _____ . Everyone seemed to be cheerful.

At 66 _____ as we got off the bus, our baggage was inspected briefly. Very briefly. They only shook most of the packages and just glanced in the opened overnight bags. The men were "shaken down" by the inspector running his hands over our clothing to see if we had any contraband. Then all the men had a physical examination of the throat and for venereal diseases. After all this we were assigned barracks.

Although, four of us had lived together before evacuation, we were sent up to the men's dorm. This is located under the grand stand. Looks as if the floor was formerly used to place bets on the races. There are ticket booths all along one side of the room. Can you imagine 350 to 400 beds lined up in four rows in one big room? There's about 1½ to 2 feet between the beds. We have very little room to put our things. What we have been doing is take our things out when we need them and put them back in our trunks after we have used them. Of course, we leave our little things out on top of our trunks.

After taking our things up to the dorm (sounds good but facilities are not so good), we had to go out to one of the stalls and fill up a canvass sack with hay and lug it back to the grand stand and put it over the army cots which were provided.

The which we ate was some kind of stew. The ingredients were, peas, onions, meat and potatoes. Besides this we were each given one half of a boiled potato. Coffee was served. But it was vile. Couldn't tell what it was. The stew was cooked badly. And the quantity was far too little.

Later many were telling us that the food had improved since they had been here. "The first week was terrible," was a common saying. They were fed beans all week. Another person said that today was the first day that they got fresh vegetables in their meals. We got two slices of bread, which was all that I could eat.

The general mess hall where all the single men and those new arrivals eat is under the men's dorm on the ground. It seats about 1,500 at one time. But they have been feeding about 3,000 to 4,000 every meal, because other mess halls are not ready and also because of the newcomers not knowing where to eat.

Generally speaking, there is very little organization and planning done. Everyone is making his own hay while the sun shines.

Because of the lack of toilet tissue, people take a lot of it home as soon as a new roll is put in. Thus, they run out paper immediately. This sort of thing

2 - May 12, 1942

goes on in almost every field.

Fuses are being blown every night. Because of lack of organization no one knows where to get the fuses. And those who do know have to go through so much red tape that it is a common thing for every one to either go to some other barrack and chat with friends or go to bed. Things seem to be getting better now, though.

The need for cooperative education is very evident. Everyone does things for themselves without thinking of others.

Many are living in former horse stalls. Since the roofs the stalls extend out about ten feet, these have been partitioned off with boards so as to form two rooms. One in front of the other. The width of these stalls are about eight feet. Besides the door only one of the windows opens. Three persons are put in each stall. One in the front part and two in the back. There is one light (ceiling) in each part. The triangle which is formed by the roof and partition is open all the way down to the end of each line of stalls.

The newly built barracks are made of 3 ply wood. It is tarpapered on the outside and on the roof. The nails coming through the roof can be seen in neat rows along the inside of the roof. Here, too, the partitions only go up the level of the side walls and not up to the roof. If one gets on a ladder, the person can see from one side to the other. There is no privacy as far as talking is concerned.

The barracks are 120 feet by 20; these are divided into 3 to 5 apartments. They are all single room apartments.

Hear that about 8,000 can be accommodated in all.

There are about 6 mess halls open at this time. Each accommodates about 250 at one sitting. All tables and seats are made like those which are seen on picnic grounds.

The cooking at the small mess halls seem to be better at this stage. The cooking at the general mess hall is not so hot. The washing of the utensils and plates are very bad.--Find food still on the plates and forks.

The showers which are nearest the grand-stand accommodates about 24 at one time. The hot and cold is already regulated and one must pull a chain to take a shower. As soon as one lets the chain go, the water stops. We practically have to hold the chain in our mouths while we are under the showers. It is very hot when a few are under and very cold when many are under.

I'm afraid that many will have athletes feet very soon.

Laundries are built here and there. Each has its own heating unit and tubs are there. About 24 persons can wash and rinse their clothes at once. There is also an ironing room next to the washing room. Here the electric current is larger and coffee can be made. If heaters or stoves are used in the barracks or stalls, the fuse blows out in must about every occasion.

3 - May 12, 1942

Everyone must supply their own irons and iron boards.

The roads here are all bad. After the Sunday night rain, the roads are all muddy. The only thing that we are thankful for is that there is no dust flying around.

It is always windy here. There hasn't been a single day when there wasn't any wind.

I'm trying to give you a picture of the conditions here. I haven't organized my thoughts at this time and am just typing whatever comes to my mind. Hope you can make out what I am trying to get over.

A Mr. _____ is the head man here. Everything must be cleared through him before it can be done. Heard that a bulletin was put up after getting an OK from a Mr. _____, but Mr. _____ ordered them to be taken down.

Each barrack has a house manager at this time; these in turn elected a council of four who represent the whole camp. Of course, these have been appointed before we came to camp. Their function is to be the clearing house for all matters pertaining to the camp.

We were hamstrung for a while when we were trying to get the camp press out in a hurry. But finally, after going back to the council of four, they agreed to have all professional men on a committee to work out the paper. It seems that the council of four, especially a person named _____ a JACL man, said that the Nisei Writers group is planting people in different camps to try to control the press. He bases his contention on the fact that both the _____ and the _____ presses are edited by members of the writers group. Who else does he think can handle a paper outside the writers? Any way, we have finally gotten the OK of Mr. _____ to put the paper out any time. We are waiting for the supplies to come in now. Hope to get it out by Friday.

No one cares about their attire. The girls, of course, do to some extent. But not to the extent that they would if they were in the city. I am wearing jeans and a sport short shirt with a jacket over it. Practically all of the girls are wearing slacks.

They had church on Sunday. The Buddhists, the Protestants, the Catholics had their services. Heard that those who attended church wore their suits and were generally dressed up.

We will have to organize fire drills in the men's dorm. There are only two exits from the dorm. There are two more which lead out to the grand stand. No windows open to the outside. There are no fire escapes. I'm afraid that there will be a panic if a fire breaks out now.

A fellow told me that the four-year olds, or those in this age group, do not get enough food. The real young ones who are still drinking their food seem to get enough food. Special food for those under 3 years is prepared every meal.

4 - May 12, 1942

Food is main problem now. Most of the boys don't get enough. However, things are improving.

I haven't any job at the present time. But now that the influx of the people has stopped I intend to see Mr. _____ and see if I can carry out the type of work I was doing at the County Court House in _____ County. That is handling things related to elections. Both within the camps and outside.

I will give you an idea of the menu that we got the first three days I was here. (For the general mess hall. The smaller ones seem to have better food)

May 7-Thu.	Breakfast.	Lunch	Dinner
		Stew(Peas,carrots. meat) bread(2) tea	macaroni(2 tablespoons) potato($\frac{1}{2}$) boiled coffee
May 8-Fri	pancakes (3) mush toast (2) coffee	green vegetables potato ($\frac{1}{2}$) boiled bread	rice fish (about 3 mouthfulls) bread (2)
May 9-Sat.	pancakes (3) mush bread(2)	corned beef & cabbage(canned) bread (2)	roast pork (tiny) potato canned beans(string) dried figs

Colonel of the army was here this day for inspection.

This will give you an idea of what we are eating.

May 15th, 1942

Dear _____

I have been so heart-sick and ill over this whole thing, that it has been next to impossible to write to anyone. There are so many things to write about, or rather too many things that shouldn't be said. Today, I am forcing myself to drop you a few lines because a friend of mine is dropping by to see me and I shall hand her my letters.

Days and dates have lost all meaning. It is indeed like living in a prison. The barbed wire fences and armed sentries are slowly stabbing my brain into a mass of bloody holes. I see the old people and little babies having to suffer from the bad living conditions and wonder at the stupidity of man. The young people are having a swell vacation, playing base-ball, ping pong, tennis, etc. Most of the folks are making the best of the situation and are making quite a gala event out of it. One woman in the nursery told me that this was the first vacation she or her husband had had in 6 years and that they were going to enjoy it. Only two girls, sisters, so far, seem to have any feeling about wanting to get out. Out of the almost 3,000 here only 6 letters of appeals for release have been received by Mr _____ who is at the head of the center.

I arrived in _____, May 1st, and after a visit to the evacuation headquarters, the W.C.C.A., I discovered that if I had been married to _____ I could be exempt from going into the camp, the Lieutenant made further inquiries and told me that if I could get _____ Commanding officer to wire Major _____ here that it would be all right for me to join _____ there, I would be given travel permits to go to Texas. I wired _____ Saturday night and never received any reply until after I came to the camp on Tuesday. I believe that it was Thursday that I got word that the telegram could not be delivered because he had been sent to an unknown destination. You can imagine my grief and despair.

A letter came from him a few days ago. He is at _____, where he expects to be for some 6 months or more. He asks me to come to the little town of _____ to live, not knowing that I am now not even free to make attempts to get to him. The thing is now in the hands of _____ and the S. F. Gang and they have wired _____ that no more appeals will be considered for a while. I am desolate.

My poor father has become quite ill, no doubt the mental side has a lot to do with his ailing condition. The drafty building which has been partitioned off into cubby holes is of course not conducive to the best health.

The noise is terrific. . .and seemingly endless. Knowing how the Japanese live in their own country, they are able, as a whole, to adapt themselves very well to conditions here. Most of them are country folk with gay raucous voices and clumsy heavy feet, which does nothing to minimize the noise in these echoing halls. The building is the former _____ Stockyard Exhibition Hall, and I sometimes wonder if they didn't deliberately choose not to remove the big sign in front.

Mr. _____ the head man here, is a very fine person and is trying his best to make things livable for the INMATES. Sometimes, I'm sure he must feel it a hopeless and thankless job. He told me that he did not really know what the set-up was, as far as the co-ordination between his work and the S. F. gang went. There is so much confusion and so little is really known of the hows and whys of appeals and regulations.

I once glanced briefly at a trapped animal in a metal trap in the woods. That is the way I feel at the moment. It is horrible! The armed sentries outside the barbed wired fence look a bit foolish, guarding all these simple, gay, playful folk. I guess I'm the only one that would give them any excitement, for I'm sorely tempted to make an escape at times. They cannot understand what my reddish hair is doing here. The inside guards (Federal police) talk to me often. They are so bored with the job. One of them said that more tales were being imagined about why I was in here. Some of the Japanese bow to me and I heard that they think I'm an F.B.I. agent! Others think I'm a reporter writing a story. And all I am, is simple stupid me, wanting to get to _____ and away to some little tiny bit of quiet.

My sister and tiny three months old Mira have had their troubles, too. She is very upset over the baby, who is a beauty and had such a swell start in life, but all in all she seems better able to adjust herself because she is with her husband, who is a very calm and steady person.

I am only living for the day when I can get out! I should appreciate any suggestions you might have or any inside information that might help me. I do think so often of my friends, really so few, who think and feel the way I do and realize how empty one's life can be without companionship with one's intellectual equals. (That sounds snobbish, but I'm sure you understand what I'm attempting to say.) Do please excuse this madewriting, but bear with me. Mail will be delivered to me if sent to _____
_____. My girl friend is staying there and I don't like mail sent to the camp.

My fondest to all the old crowd and special greetings to _____ . To you both the very best and here's hoping we will be chatting together before too long.

Tom K. K. K. (?)

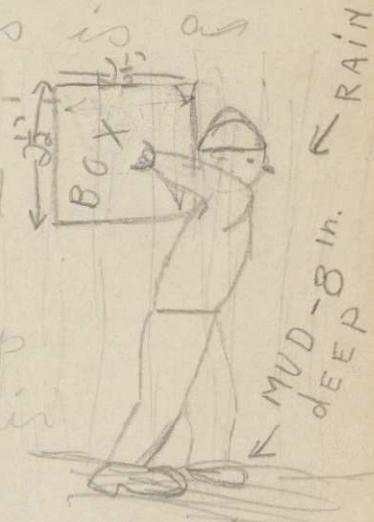
FROM HORSE STABLE TO HOME.

When we arrived at Janforan Thursday April 30 we had to wait 45 minutes out side.

When we finally did get in we were stared at - by the Japanese who came here before us.

The first day it rained so it was very muddy.

Jack, my brother, had to go through the mud to get forty pieces of luggage big ones and small ones this is an illustration of him.



After he got all of the luggage we had to make our beds.

When we finally got settled two days later we had ten shelves, four chairs made of barrab, and two tables.

The eating hours are 7:30, 12:30, and 5:30. If you can get away with it you can get two or three plates of food.

Life is very dull at camp because there is know show's ect it is also cold and dusty.

The food is getting better than before. because the first day we had hash and can goods and know we have meat and other fresh vedgetable,

We had to make boards walks in front
of our houses and were so busy
we were next to last to make ~~it~~ ^{it} and
~~to~~ We had to make our neighbors
walk because he is so help less. His
wife has to do all the work.

EXHIBIT



May 25, 1942

Dear Dorothy and W.I.:

Rather than write you I wish I could pick up the telephone and invite you to a breakfast, somewhat sketchy to be sure, in our redesigned stall. We'll have coffee and eggs, and some bread which we will secure, courtesy of the Army, via our mess hall. After the fine time we had at your home (it seems a long time ago) we'd like to entertain you in style. Even though I wasn't quite all there by the time I sat down to dinner, I remember everything very distinctly. It was, to tell the truth, the first time I've gotten so woozy -- must have been the way W.I. shook that shaker. At any rate, your company, food and drinks were excellent. We look forward to many more occasions when we can share such an enjoyable evening -- may they come soon.

We understand that you were here at Tanforan last week and that you plan to come again on Wednesday. Though we missed you the first time, I hope we'll get to see you this week. Friends are like a breath of fresh air. This environment is just stuffy with Japanese conversation and provincialism. I won't go into details because I know Tom is keeping you informed, but I will say this: The government did a damn good job in setting up the physical facilities, particularly in view of the fact that this is intended only as a temporary center. The administration, on the other hand, stinks to the core. The local managers have no conception of the magnitude of the problem, but, of course, neither do the members of the group. With such visionless heads, those of us who feel that something should be done find it difficult to initiate anything constructive.

The kids who had more or less emancipated themselves from the group find it very difficult to make a happy adjustment. As Charlie Kikuchi aptly put it, "To be an American at Tanforan is a handicap."

I heard Chernin was here last week, but failed to see him, but we met Mr. Neustadt for a brief minute on his initial visit. As Lawson had him in tow, there wasn't much of a chance for conversation. I wrote him a fairly long letter last week, outlining the "problems" so-called with which we seem to be faced.

Anne and I hope that you're both in good health and plugging like hell. We look forward to seeing you Wednesday.

Cordially,

Michio Kunitani
Michio Kunitani

H. Kawawilo,
Fairfax Center
Barack 8, Apt 47
San Bruno, Calif.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. D. Thomas.
2710 Garber
Berkeley, California

June 3, 1942.

Dear Dr. Thomas.

We want to thank you very much for everything, and were certainly glad to see you and Mr. Thomas. We were glad to have the eggs. I gave Marie some, and they were very thankful. We appreciate your kindness beyond words. It was like seeing one's own relatives.

It's very warm today without any wind. How is it in Berkeley?

Thanks once more for everything.

Sincerely yours,

Hona Kawano.

6/13/42

Miss Virginia Halbraith
Dionne Foundation
University of California
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Miss Halbraith,

I am sorry to bother you just before your next trip down here, but do you think it will be possible to have Barry Sakis' typewriter fixed + sent here? You see I was to have borrowed an office typewriter, but it's rather inconvenient + Tom told me that Barry's typewriter will be available so it would be much more convenient that way.

Do you think Dr. Thomas could bring it with her on Tuesday?

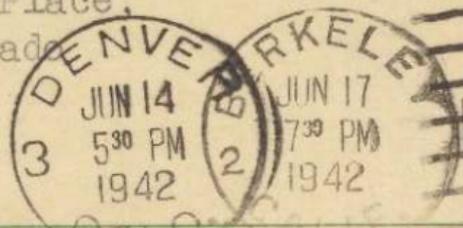
Thank you very much -

Sincerely,

Donis Hayashi '42
Burnack 68 # 3

Sanford Assembly Center
San Bruno, Calif.

Y.W.C.A.
1545 Tremont Place,
Denver, Colorado



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. Virginia Galbraith,
~~Cianini Bldg,~~
~~University of California~~
Berkeley, California

2108 Shattuck Ave

Dear Virginia: "ighting a lone battæ but still game, 
and meeting the Council of Churches, the Social and Welfare
agencies of Denver, the Governor's committee on the Japanese
the State Committee on Evacuees, the Governor's Committee,
writers and publishers here on this state and making a certain
strong basis for the kind of pressure which will make for
the success of the Relocation projects as well as a public
understanding of our aims and objectives so that the
man on the street will have some common aims regarding this
situation. Getting in touch with Mr. Marshall of the
Collier's too and I should like to hear of the things that
you are doing in your department with Dr. Thomas. Getting
the Colleges lined up for the college students in the
Centers and getting some testimony at the present time.
How's Nobu Takahashi. Think that the Rocky mountain
region is going to make certain commitments that will
really help the national situation. You've heard of some.
With best wishes. Sincerely, Lincoln Kanai

June 16, 1942

Dear Lincoln:

Many thanks for your letter and for your one man fight to bring about the best solutions to injustices and short-sighted decisions by the authorities in charge. It is with deep admiration and respect that I read of your excellent activities to help. May God be with you in your efforts and may you be able to make every bit count most effectively. I was wondering where you had hung your hat so to speak. Joe tells me that the FBI were asking him about you. Yukio tells me that you are covering the city very well and that you are pitching your best. I'm glad to know that you can justifiably believe that what you are doing is the right thing. I agree with you so keep it going full blast as far as you can.

Many at Tanforan are expressing their secret desire that they would like to remain here for the duration of the war and many have definitely made such statement openly. The life here is same as ever, except that the food and plumbing which is a daily necessity has improved so much that the only kick one hears now is the criticism against individuals and personalities. It means that the physical set-up at Tanforan is very good and the Administration has done and is doing a fine piece of work. If one want so grumble, there's no end to it, but on the whole, life is good here and people has learned to accept it with the proper attitude. It is not good when things get too good for the people will start to demand better and better things, more and more things and privileges which means that the Authorities will clamp down and take away the rights and privileges now allowed. In fact, individuals can leave the camp to go to San Francisco if business, death, etc. warrants it. Visitors can come in at any time of the day if it's between the hours of ten and 4 pm. every day except Monday.

Starting tomorrow, there will be a count of everyone at camp in the mess halls in the morning and at 6:30 pm at home. This will be done twice daily and it's assinine, but it's army's order. Imagine making such a count when we are enclosed within by barbed wire fence and guards walking every 50 feet and sentries in watch towers every 100 yards with gun ready to kill. It seems that we are slowly, but certainly getting eased into the type of life which will follow later even if it's in War Relocation sites. I doubt if the army will let us go scot free as the plans are now being made.

Sure was interesting to see the behavior of the issei and the nisei during a very heated election campaign for councilmen for the self-governing body. As far as I can see, it's just a rubber stamp, but I supported the movements for it's a new experience for many of us and unless we exercise our franchise rights, we shall lose it. Lots of real time politics was brought into play with all the cunningness and trickiness of the veteran politicians. It caused lots of ill feelings and blowing off, but it did provide something for the issei to be concerned about. Tad Fujita got beat by Toshimi Ogawa for our district. Dave Tatsuno, Kay Tsukamoto, and Roy Kaneko were running. I don't know the results of the election in their respective precincts.

Lincoln: 2

Sure glad to learn that Miss Mukaye got such a swell break. I was hoping that you might get the same breaks. Maybe Mr. Norrie can help fix up something like it so that you can carry on your work. You sare are valuable for outside contact man and the things that you have been doing certainly bears out my statement.

Folks and my brothers are all well and healthy. It seems that they are very satisfied with life here. Mother got tetanus, but the serum saved her and we were very happy and fortunate.

Talking about hospital, our hospital has improved some, but it is not much different. Supplies are lacking, personnel ~~xxxxxxx~~ has a tough job and they aren't doing a very good job, perhpas doctors feel the futility of it all. Very inefficient and very poorly managed. But, it's the best we can muster up I guess.

Mr. Wm. Lawson has been shifted back to his former job, and the new manager is Mr. Frank Davis. Davis is a businesslike ~~xx~~ tough man, but he listens to our sayings. Not very well liked. Davis gets more things done however, since he demands action and promptness. Mr. Numajiri helps Davis translate all the official announcements and cuts the stencil for him. Davis thinks C.N. is ~~a~~ reverend.

Church activities are going along very smoothly and very popularly. It is one of the success of this camp life and the morale building force. Education has started on real effective scale. Henry Tani is one of the principal. ~~he~~ heads the high school group, and there are Grammar school, nursery, jr. high school groups so far. Soon, college helps will be given, but right now only 70 or so teachers are on the pay roll of \$16.00 per month or so. I doubt whether we shall see any of this promised pay roll. We don't expect it anyway. We can't put much faith in what is said by the authorities any more. Those living in AREA " WERE TOLD THAT they wouldn't have to move if they were in #2 area. Every darn one of them have to move and so those who just got settled in Visalia, etc. will have to go to Arkansas. Why? I am waiting when the truth comes out five ten yrs. from now. Univ of Calif. Political Science department is vitally interested in this and wants all the evidence possible to bring up a revelation later. They seem to want to fight the unconstituationality of the whole set-up.

I showed your letter to C.N and will show it to others as you asked. Joe Goodman edrops in here once a week or so whenever he gets off. He is pushing certain things for us. We are now looking forward to the type of things we can improve in the reLocation areas. We find that there is tendency for the authorities to make a special type of program for us city dwellers. Perhaps we shall be sent to Manzanar to work in industrial activities. Perhaps they shall build a new camp for us so that we can have semi-indistural arts. AT any rate, the people are much concerned about it, and I think this undecided nature of things have got many people on tense nerves and cause lots of heated words and misunderstanding. Law and order is well preserved but lots of gossip and insiduous remarks are made. One reason is that no issei talent or entertainment programs are allowed. Not one movie reel has come into camp yet. Recreation program is going on full force with Education. Will close for now. Good luck. Bye.

*Use by
name only
with Prof.
Roberts' consent*

Tanforan Assembly Center
Barrack 77 - Apt. 1
San Bruno, Calif.
June 16, 1942

Prof. Royal A. Roberts
Dept. of Economics
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Professor Roberts:

Ever since I arrived here at our new temporary home here at Tanforan last month I meant to write to you and tell you how we, the evacuees, are getting along in this unusual existence. At long last, I am getting down to this letter. I met Professor Paul Taylor, husband of my new friend Mrs. Dorothea Lang Taylor, who took quite a few shots of us before our evacuation, at the visiting stand here two weeks ago. It was good to have him come to visit us all the way from Berkeley, and it was still good to hear that you sent me your best wishes through him. One of the greatest inspiration for us here at Tanforan is to know what fine fellow American friends outside the wire fence are hoping and doing for us.

Just what are you doing these summer days with the regular semester all over? Remembering you well from your lectures, which never put us to sleep, in Econ. 125 and 124, you must be very busy as usual. I still recall you using these two words: "hiatus" (how do we pronounce it) and "the great hoi poloi". Young as I still am, I never fail to remember your classes as I reminisce over my hectic college days. I sincerely believe that the personality and the character of the professors are the greatest heritage to college students for the impact of the influence of the teachers live long after the detailed matters of the courses are forgotten.

Now, you probably must be interested in what goes on here at our assembly center in the peninsula. You must wonder what kind of a life we live here each passing day, so I shall give you an evacuee's eye-view of day-to-day life here at Tanforan:

First, the living quarters--those who unfortunately arrived here first, or toward the beginning, instead of first come, first served, were assigned to horse stalls which were whitewashed. The stalls, naturally, are smelly and dark as there is only one window. One advantage of the stalls over the new barracks is that it does not get too warm or too cold there as they are of heavy permanent construction as compared with the barracks. We arrived with the later groups so were fortunate in getting into a new barrack apartment. Each barrack is 100 feet long and 20 feet wide, and has 5 apartments, separated by plywood panels, 20 ft. by 20 ft. There is a door and 4 windows to each apt. As soon as we arrived, we became amateur carpenters and put up partitions, shelves, and closets as well as curtains and tables. It was just a blank square room when we first came but now it is a liveable "home." At present, six of us, including my dad, my younger brother, my wife and two sons and, of course, myself are staying here. Because we have two young children, they have furnished us with a modern kerosene-burning heater. We all sleep on regulation steel army cots and are supplied with either straw-filled or cotton-filled mattresses.

There is one electric light in each apt., but most of us add extensions on for more light or for other purposes.

For our toilet purposes there is a shower and a wash room for each district adjoining a water closet section. Hot running water may be had unless too much is used up during peak times. We can take hot or cold showers, no baths, whenever we like.

It seems as though we are constantly eating for we have to get to our mess halls on time to get to eat. Our mess hall, one of 18, feeds 800 persons each meal, and is operated by workers from among the evacuees. The menus are planned several weeks in advance by the chief commissary man, Mr. Forgarty. There are two shifts, A & B, which eat at either 7, 12, and 5 or 7:45, 12:45 and 5:45 as we shift around each week. One of the detestable things about eating is that we have to stand in line, like depression bread lines, to eat. The food was relatively poor upon our arrival, but now we have no complaints to make excepting that we could "go" for some rich pastries or Chinese chow mein which we were accustomed to eating in San Francisco. To give you a good idea of a typical day's meals: Breakfast--1/4 grapefruit, hot mush, two toasts with jam or butter alternated each day, and coffee; lunch--meat balls with gravy, canned corn, lettuce salad, tea, bread, no butter, and chocolate pudding; dinner (supper)--rice, beef stew, boiled squash, and canned peaches, plus all the bread we can eat. The quantity we get is quite substantial for most excepting growing children who always rush for second helpings whenever they have it. You can see why they shift dinner hours as usually the second shift gets second helpings. Oh, yes, 1/2 pint of milk are given to each pregnant or nursing mother, aged persons, or children up to 12. All in all, the food situation is well in hand and we cannot complain a bit. Of course, eating in a large mess hall can never compensate for the leisurely home-cooked repasts.

There are about 8 wash laundry rooms or barracks around the camp. We are fortunate in that a new laundry opened at the end of our barrack. The laundry building unit are three in number with the first building the washing room with 60 wash tubs, second the ironing room, and third, the drying room with clothes lines. Most of us, however, dry our clothes on lines outside the barrack. I have been kept quite busy washing about 3 dozen diapers plus hosts of other apparel items each morning after breakfast.

My big work each day is diaper washing, believe it or not, Professor Roberts, as I just had my second son, Rodney, about 2-1/2 weeks ago here at the improvised center hospital. My wife is still abed convalescing, so I am kept quite busy. How true is the saying "a woman's work is never done." Other activities that I am engaged in, beside my letter-writing and reading, are church work and speaking at panel forums here at the Tanforan Town Hall (or Stall, as I termed it). I also helped out as emcee for the talent show several weeks ago where we had a crowd of 4,000 on the grand stand. Elementary and high school teaching have just opened up this week with our young people, college grads, helping out. I would like to but have been kept away from it due to pressing work around the house.

There are about 8 recreation halls which arrange for the recreational activities of the evacuees. Basketball, volleyball, ping pong, badminton, folk dancing, football, baseball, etc. are featured. The adults have their own recreational program too. The director of Recreation here, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting, is Mr. Leroy Thompson, UC '30, while Mr. Kilpatrick,

head of the educational work here is also a UC man. There are quite a few UC graduates among us, and they are all doing good work.

As this is a temporary assembly center, all the work here involves the maintenance and operation of this center as mess work, road work, maintenance work, and recreation and educational work. The scale of wages, as you probably heard already, is \$16 for professional, \$12 for skilled labor, and \$8 for unskilled labor. Most probably I will be doing clothing store work again at the relocation area as I find that with 8,000 here there are no other thoroughly experienced and educated dept. store man here. Well, I guess I shall be again drawing upon my 124 A-B learning.

The morale of the group here is remarkably good. The visitors who come through the red-tape of the army at the gate, who notices the barbed-wire fences and soldiers on constant guard duty, feel quite sorry for us when they come to see us, but, let me assure you, we don't feel half so bad. In fact, because this center is so large and we have so many friends and activities, we never notice the wire fence and the sentries. I am considering this a wonderful opportunity to relax, study, and enjoy the fruits of friendship. Life is truly what we make it, and I, for one, am going to let this be one grand experience in my life.

If you can come to visit us, the hours are from 9 to 12, 1 to 4, every day excepting Mondays. Let me know in advance if you are coming. My only sorrow is that visitors cannot get onto the ground but must visit on the grandstand. My regards to Professor and Mrs. Paul Taylor. Kindly take care of your health.

Sincerely yours,

Dave M. Tatsuno

June 22, 1942

Dear M:

Thanks a lot for your letter. I'm glad to hear that you still have faith in democratic gov't and are still objective enough to realize that there is no other way than an allied victory. I hope that you realize that our plight is not isolated--it is part of a world picture of injustice toward minority groups, the Negro in the South, the Jews in Germany, the peoples of conquered nations and even the Jews in this country. However, finding solace in the misery of others, I grant you, is not much comfort. It will, however, make you less egocentric, it will give you a wider perspective. The fact that you find injustice and intolerance in a nation at war is no reason for becoming bitter--after all the European minorities suffered much greater indignities under conditions of peace--or should I say conditions of no physical warfare. At least under our form of gov't, intolerance was gradually being conquered. Even today among the better educated, among the leaders (I don't mean politicians playing to the rabble) you find many who are taking these intolerant acts as pretty bitter pills--they see the hypocrisy involved but they can do nothing at present; since the big problem right now is to win the war. I feel confident that after the war, ^{tho} the status of the nisei may have retrogressed, the opinions of these educational and religious leaders will come to the fore and I'm sure that the nisei will be able to win back the confidence of the American people. Of course, much will depend on the attitude of the nisei. If he is shortsighted and sees only the present injustices and feels that everyone is against him--if he is embittered by the sacrifices he has made--these people who are for us will not be able to do much. I have taken as optimistic an outlook as possible, trying to show people that mine is a typical nisei outlook and I think that at least among my immediate circle--Men's dorm, Westminster Fellowship and various profs--I have pretty much shown them that we may look like Japs but that we are just as American as any of them.

The church groups are especially interested in our problems and I understand that there is a constant flow of literature to the churches and religious groups to fight intolerance and prejudice. I'm sure that so long as we don't let them down they'll continue to fight for our rights. To fight for our rights is fighting fascism, but there are various ways of doing this. If we get bitter, it won't get ^{us} our rights. It'll only give the pressure groups a chance to say how right they were. If, on the other hand, we keep our faith in America and educate the American public as to our loyalty and as to the injustices we have suffered, I'm sure the traditional American sense of sportsmanship and fair play will, after the war, make it much easier to readjust the nisei in the post-war period.

I'm sorry if I seemed to be sermonizing, M. You know that it wasn't meant for you so much as to give you some more arguments to give to some of your friends.

Your letter brings back many fond memories of things we used to do. I certainly wish that I could go to camp once in a while just to see all of you, have a decent bridge game and go to a dance where I know most of the people. Out here they're more formal and you don't have people cutting in every two steps. You dance with your date almost all evening--at least that's what my roommate tells me. I've only gone on one blind date. Last Saturday I went on a steak fry and had a pretty good time. We played bridge and at least no one trumped my ace. The Dorm is planning "Open House" every Sat nite with dancing in the lounge, as well as smokers, picnics and one formal dance. So--despite lack of finances, I guess I won't be studying all the time. Incidentally, that blind date cost me 20¢ for the evening since we decided to splurge afterwards and bought ice cream cones. I've found that students are perennially broke so that outside of formals, it costs very little. However, I certainly miss the nisei girls--regardless of what we used to say about them. I felt much more at ease with them.

I received a favorable reply from Oberlin but they don't give scholarships to transfer students so I probably won't go there. The expenses run pretty high and part-time work

(over)

isn't certain there. Of course, the Econ Dept is better there but I wonder whether I shouldn't stay on here and get my econ from wider reading. They have been so kind to me here that I think that perhaps I owe it to the University to stay on. What do you think? Dr. Ellis wants me to transfer. Eulan thinks I ought to stay. Rev. Luchs and Prof. Hayes (Ohio State Econ Prof) think I should switch. My roommate and my family think I ought to stay here. Minnesota is still on the fence and I'm getting sort of tired looking around for schools.

Regards to your sisters and the rest of your family, and write soon.

Sincerely,

S.

My name is Mrs. N. Kikuchi

~~My name is Mrs. N. Kikuchi~~

My name is Mrs. N. Kikuchi

My name is Mrs. N. Kikuchi

My address is barrack 10-4

My address is barrack 10-4

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q
r s

my name is my
my name is my address Larrack 10-4
my name is address Larrack 10-

*120 from
mitch.*

Tanforan Employment Situation

Qualifications on Remarks:

1. Not necessarily authorized by Administration
2. Was not here for the first 5 days
3. What is said is not to be construed as accusations against persons
4. Interviewer in the U.S.E.S. --- efficient employment set up

Past Functions

1. initial-- get a man for the job. food, housing and transportation paramount.
2. Camp life not organized -- files not set up -- hiring wasn't centralized --- favoritism and nepotism prevailed.
3. no office procedure --- spot placements

Present Functions

1. After first week hiring centralized and placement more or less selective.
2. Application cards inadequate for complete work history -- unauthorized people taking interviews
3. unauthorized requisitions by people --- requisition procedure confused --- as consequence frequent dismissals
4. Timekeeping mechanism not established.
5. Placement personnel no personnel experience therefore unable to evaluate work experience, causing frequent turnover in jobs, resulting in disorganization and lowering of morale.
6. authority not defined in office-- duplication of work
7. Failure to make clear question of wages and hours didn't help employment picture.
8. Too many functions assumed by the employment office -- giving general information, housing questions, payroll, acting as policeman in addition to employment functions
9. Complaints:
 - a. that too many personal questions as re wt. hgt. age, degree of education, description of work history were asked

if one were to go to an USES office even more detailed questions would be asked. This information is necessary for a satisfactory classification as well as a satisfactory placement. The information is confidential and the applicants should accept it in the proper spirit.

placement is not determined by personal desire, but upon a person's qualification. desire is only a selective factor and it is only important when one is fully qualified for more than one particular type of work.

Illustration:

- b. that the interviewers were discouraging the people who had language handicaps from applying since they spoke in English.

The interviewers ~~felt~~ in question felt that just because we ~~were~~ happened to be all Japanese ~~that~~ ~~they~~ ~~spoke~~ and were together ~~it~~ didn't necessarily make this Yokohama. By using English almost exclusively they tried to emphasize the fact that Tanforan was an American Center. As I expressed myself previously before the House Managers and to other people I think that this should be by all means the keynote of the whole evacuation and relocation program.

10. After major portion of registration of evacuees was over -- Gander delegated to reorganize the employment office.
11. hiring became more centralized.
12. Announcement came as to wages and hours.
13. It was announced that no more interviews would be taken in order to make possible an occupational classification of all those between 16-65 ----This information was secured from the Social Registration form filled out at the control station. The data consisted of name, address, family no. sex, age and occupation at the time of evacuation. This data was classified was classified under general headings without any specific information such as students, laundry operators, farmers etc.

Future Prospects

1. As it is obvious that a more complete occupational survey ~~xxxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxx~~ is needed for the group there are two alternatives:
 - a. first a representative come from the USES to make a more complete survey following the employment service procedure
 - b. or complete the present survey by more thorough interviews.

LETTER

Henry Tani
Tanforan

July 15, 1942

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Young:

This is a fine time for me to acknowledge the visit of Mrs. Young fully one month ago. And I know I should have written you before.

Please be assured that we are doing very nicely under the circumstances, and though life on the "outside" should be desired, I doubt whether any of us here would prefer it now that we have tasted the luxury of living "off the government" for two months or more.

It is true, now that we think of it, that our first week of adjustment was the hardest. On every hand was cause for complaint. Crowded into cramped quarters, lining up for meals, the perennial dust and dirt, the lack of privacy, and the inconvenience of going some distance to the wash-rooms, laundry rooms, etc., -- there are terrific shocks to which we have now become quite accustomed, and with much physical improvements in the grounds, we really have little grounds for criticisms.

After all, it must have been a distasteful job for the one in charge to make plans for us in this evacuation center. Only because it was of "military necessity" would we accede so willingly to leave the comforts and security of our homes and businesses. And so we laugh "up our sleeve" when Governor Olson, after lambasting us around and calling us names so that all Japanese in the whole state of California are evacuated, now praises us for being loyal so that we could be released for farm work. Given the chance, I doubt whether any of us would "volunteer" for the farm work that he wants us to do. This may be "unpatriotic" but much rather would we hurry to our relocation areas and there develop agricultural areas, and produce so much surplus foods that we would embarrass the California farm cliques in a few years.

However, I would like to give you a few thoughts of mine that have been in the process of formulation these past weeks. Suffice it to say for the moment that life in an Assembly Center is very pleasant. So pleasant, in fact, that this past week, we not only got paid for work done prior to May 21st (my rate is \$16.00 per month -- the highest rating -- as manager of a mess hall at that time), but received \$10.00 worth of scrip to be honored at the camp center store (canteen) for the months of June and July. On top of this, I have \$28.48 credit for clothing for which we could file applications. And of course the quality and quantity of food has been improved to a point such that many of us are eating far superior and more food than we did at home.

Much of our legitimate complaints are aimed at the red tape necessary to obtain even the basic supplies. In the educational system in which I am now directing the high school, we find that even after five weeks of classes, we are barely receiving a trickle of our requisitioned supplies. But our classes proceed regularly, and we find excellent cooperation and willingness on the part of the students to apply themselves diligently to class work under the handicaps in which they operate.

LETTER

Henry Tani
Tanforan

July 15, 1942

At this stage of the game, I am uncertain as to what attitude to take. We know definitely that we at Tanforan will soon be sent to a relocation center. Where that center is, we do not know. We have little idea as to when we will be sent. It will probably be in August. It may be in September. Surely, it must be in the fall, since we must get set for the winter and be prepared for crops next spring. This being the problem, as far as our education goes, I hate to spend much money and put other people to any effort if we will be able to use the supplies and books for a month at most. This, therefore, makes me go easy in requests, and we limp along in our makeshift way. After all, 700 students, and 19 teachers, and 50 classes on a five-day week every morning is nothing to sniffle at.

Now this matter of when and where we get relocated is the subject uppermost in all of our minds. It makes much difference when we go for we know that the longer we are held here, the more difficult it will be to get supplies and equipment with which to get relocated -- what with priorities and shortages. And the matter of where -- well, at first we held out for Tulelake in Modoc County, on the California-Oregon state line, but that place is practically filled. The thought of Arizona just about melts me. Confidentially, though, they tell me that Arizona will be the future "spot" for the Nisei. Arkansas (southeast corner) (right above Louisiana) is too far for our imagination. And so, personally, for myself anyway, I am listing my preference (though I don't think preferences will mean much) in this order: Colorado, Utah, Arizona.

Of the objective problems which I always like to discuss is the question of Americanization. Being concentrated in a Japanese area has its disadvantages in that this makes for dis-Americanization for lack of contact. When the time comes for "release," we will be very self-conscious. This "assimilation" after the war will be quite some problem. We glory in the fact that this relocation will disperse the Japanese from the Pacific Coast, but the dispersion is only of groups, and not of individuals. True assimilation makes for the dispersion of individuals.

And the next cause for concern is our economic welfare. By the process of co-operative endeavor, each relocation area will be self-sufficient in a few years. I give from five to ten years "residence" in the relocation area -- the time including a few years after the termination of the war so that we could still stay there while the "outside" communities could get readjusted to post-war conditions.

This economic status is going to make or break the future of the Japanese in America. Five or ten years from now, the Nisei's will have matured; they will not have saved much, for their income is restricted; they will be healthy; they will be educated; they should be Americanized, but I doubt it; they should have preparations for returning to civilian life in more ways than merely being released. Our assumption is always based on a democratic victory. The "democratic victory" assumes further that our civil rights will be fully protected, and any attempts as has been and is being made by the Native Sons in San Francisco will be promptly squelched by the proper authorities.

LETTER

Henry Tani
Tanforan

July 15, 1942

Further assuming that these relocation centers will be based largely on agricultural lines, the development of the virgin lands, and the subsequent cultivation of these lands, together with the accompanying increase in produce should give to the Japanese therein some more positive returns than merely "their contribution to the national wealth." I say this now, because we have the funny feeling that the present plan of the War Relocation Authority is to remove us from the relocated areas at the termination of the war. This may seem contrary to our supposed normal wishes, but some of us may have no place to return to, and on second thought, they might conclude that life at the relocation center or in that vicinity is OK after all.

My suggestion, if I am ever asked, is that these Japanese people who improve such land, be given an option, either as individuals or in groups, to buy that land, or a portion thereof. I suppose this is what "homesteading" means. If this is possible, then the morale and the spirit of the people who develop these so-called wild uncultivated lands will be willing to undergo the hardship which they must of necessity face.

This again is contrary to the "dissemination" of the people, or the "Americanization" of the Japanese, but further reasoning develops these thoughts: that after the war, there will be people among the Caucasians who will be unemployed, either as a result of the shutdown of the defense industries, or returning from the armed forces. Is it not within reason to imagine that the War Relocation Authority might invite these people to come to these areas, and help develop the lands which the Japanese people will first cultivate. This, then, will be Americanization and dissemination of the first order.

Here at Tanforan I realized more fully what all my "contacts" in my earlier days had meant. My two main jobs here was in the opening of one of the mess halls, and managing it; the other was the organization and directing of this high school. In both instances my former knowledge of individuals in related lines helped me get organized faster and efficiently. This leads me to conclude that my asset was in knowing the right individuals -- this is what we refer to as "politics" around here, but it pays.

This is getting to be quite a complicated "report." You'll have recognized, of course, that our thoughts will change with the circumstances. Though many of us are frankly criticized for being "on-the-fence" people, or "opportunists," sticking to that side which wins, I personally feel that only an allied victory can give to mankind the peace and prosperity of which the world is capable. But I only hope that we will be treated in such a way that our faith in democracy and in our government will never falter.

I could excuse a little race-baiting on the part of the general American public at this time. The prejudice against will increase cumulatively and progressively as the war stretches on, month by month. The propaganda will help in this. This will be only natural and though it is regretted, we can only hope that at the end of the war, the American public will be willing to be broad-minded to the point that they will accept us Nisei's on an equal footing.

LETTER

4.

Henry Tani
Tanforan

July 15, 1942

Any and every inference to us as "enemies" or "hostages," or "internees," only boils us up and tends to break down the faith that we have in the American government. So does any inference that we are "prisoners of war." This trend of thought as expressed in the press sometimes encourages that little minority group in here to disprove the efforts of the federal government to be as humane in their treatment of us. But I again concede to the fact that this trend will increase. I suppose we'll have to credit this to the "war effort," in getting the public incensed to the Japanese people at large.

This is plenty for a delayed visit. Please excuse the careless mistakes in this typed letter. Our high school student body had just been voting -- they elected their officers in a highly contested competition between two "machines" -- the presidency was won by nine votes. This is democracy in action -- an all-Nisei high school student body.

My best regards to both of you, and also from my wife. My kid, Dickie, is doing very nicely, hitting the beam at 14 pounds plus, now aged at 3 months plus.

M. KONITANI

TANFORAN ASSEMBLY

SAN BRUNO, CALIF.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. Mrs. W. I. Thomas
2710 GARBER
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Dorothy & W.I.

copy. Aug 5, 1942

We received our passes yesterday for
Boston. We leave on the "Daylight"
from S.F. this Friday 8:00 A.M. reaching
Parker 3:00 A.M. the next morning.

We hear that you're persona non grata
as far as the W.P.C.A. is concerned. The
guys that bombed up the works ~~are~~ are
E. Takahashi ~~and~~ KILPATRICK.
Will write soon. Much & love.

Dear Marii:

Of all the news Mrs. Sanford told me the worst was that you lost your spirit. I could not believe it; you always seemed to be so energetic, so not loosing your head. I know Marii it is tough, but think of those people in Europe and especially in Poland. When you'd compare what they suffer to your hardships you would realize that there is no reason to despair. Even they don't despair. They do believe firmly there will come the day when they'll be free and happy again. Of course it is hard for you to take it, because it is your own country that treats you so, but in reality it is not the country it is few people who somehow got the power and authority to settle the matter and then it was too late to stop there. I am sure soon the government and the army will look into that matter and it will be better.

You must not loose your spirit though. You must think of that if you'll be cheerful it will be easier for your parents to take the hardships and it is tougher on them than on you. You still have hope y you'll be able to work for your ideals, to realize your dreams and reach your goals. They have not! Their dreams are in you. My mother once told me: it was about three months ago: "You know Jeryk, when I was a girl I had my ideals and goals. I have seen them going farther and farther away from me and one day I realized I won't be able to reach them! I won't have enought time to reach them. Now my life is already over. My old ideals are in you and Rysiek and you both must realize my dreams and reach my goals. The only reason why I still want to live is to see you reach them." I am sure the same feeling your parents have. They, like my parents, have seen all the work of their life ruined, destroyed completely, but they have you and you are the only reason why they still want to suffer. They want to see you reach your goals and realize your ideals and the hardest thing for them is to see you loosing your strength. You must carry one and you must show them all the time you did not loose your hope and your spirit. I went through tough things too, tougher than you and the only better thing about it was that the suffering was caused by a hated enemy, hated since my childhood and since childhood of my parents and forefathers.

We are fighting this war against the enemies of democracy and we must work and hope this war will be for democracy. There are people all over the world young boys and girls and older people who teach them. I know there are because I have met them. They all have an ideal for which they work and this ideal is, real democracy. I have the same ideal thanks my mother and then, especially thanks those I met in Sweden. My chemistry is only means to be able to work better, how I won't explain it to you, but it is so. An I shall and will fight for democracy till the end of my life. I can't do much now, but some day I shall be able. You must believe you will be able too!

Be strong and do your best and be sure there are bad but there are also good people everywhere in all races.

Jerzy

Jerzy Spitzer
(from Polish refugee at
I House)

Excerpts from letters--

C

O

P

Y

.....Not wishing to lecture you, since I presume that you have your own reaction and ideas about the whole affair, but rather to tell you how this affects me. I thought I'd write you about how I feel, if I have any feeling as you sometimes doubt, or do you? It is very necessary that one objectivise this whole question. This is not, to me, so much the War between two nations, Japan and America, or even war between complete democracy against fascism. This is a war between that nation with political democracy but without economic democracy against that nation without both, latter being Japan. The primary question is winning of the war for this country, and this is said without any sentiment of flag waving. That this military necessity calls for wholesale evacuation of Japanese, innocent and guilty alike is very unfortunate, but it is, I think, very necessary. You realize that whether I hold this view or not, I will be affected by the evacuation just as much and in just the same way as those Nippos who do not hold this view. This is not a subjective question. I would oppose any and every injustice and violation of civil rights and other constitutional and humane rights committed by any individual or group. But I cannot oppose war-necessitated evacuation question merely because there will be dirty b----- who will take advantage of this. This is personal in that this is the way I feel, but I think this is impersonal in that my convenience is not the primary thing. Sounds noble as hell, but that's not the idea, I think you know what I mean. What I mean is that I don't hold the view of some people that this evacuation is a persecution of slanted eyed, yellow-skinned sons and grandsons of the Rising Sun. I think that half of the bitterness and resentment will vanish if Niseis could see it that way, but then perhaps I am an optimist, but optimist or not, that's the only way as far as I am concerned. I don't want to be one sided about this, what do you think?

.....I may go East, if the Frovost Marshall gives the oday. I wrote him on

Tuesday for permission to go to New York or Chicago, since the W.C.C.A. woman said N.Y. may be ruled out since it's on the coastline. Kiyo is in El Paso, Texas, and I'd be in N.Y. now, if I'd been able to leave before the deadline. It makes me sick to think of having to go to camp. At first the idea didn't seem so bad, the more I think of it the more I dread it.....

.....Heard that there are many at Santa Anita Race Track from San Francisco. Has your family moved yet? I'm afraid I will be separated from my friends. Gosh, how I hate to see nothing but Jap faces every day for ??? I hope it won't be years!!! After I go to the Reception Center, if I get a chance to go to an inner state, you'll see me go.. They Hayashi's and their group went to Owens Valley. I wanted to go but wasn't qualified--I am still frozen, and was told to stay frozen until they call for me. I got this information from the U.S. District Attorney's Secretary. She said that they know where I am, so stay "put". I was going to Chicago, but after Mrs. Princep came back and told me how anti-Japanese it was, I changed my mind. Mr. H. was going to finance the trip, and I even had a place to go, but I turned it down. I knew I wouldn't like to live among so many Japs, but I can't help it. I hope to be sent somewhere inland where I can make a living instead of being dependent on the government. I don't need charity yet, and as long as I am able to work, I prefer to work. I do hope it will come to peace. No one is gaining anything, honestly, to think of all the lives being lost---it makes me sick. If you ever get married, don't have any children. I've got two brothers in service, and you don't know how much worrying I do.

San Carlos

July 9th, 1942

Dear —

Your splendid letter made me very happy. To know that you have an outlet for your fine active mind is good news. I found the *Tanforan Totalizer* extremely interesting and the sketches quite clever.

Although I hunted carefully for any news of the — family I could find only ^{your} name — yours being on the editorial staff.

I remember your flower arrangements so beautifully done in water colors at the time of your grammar school graduation. I imagine art in the cartoon line does not specially interest you although I believe you are mastering either. I would enjoy reading some more of "J. Js" The whole atmosphere of the paper is so refreshing and full of humor.

Has — also found something constructive to interest her?

I shall never forget a bit of philosophy I heard over the radio — "If when things are not going just as we would have them — do something constructive. That is my main reason for carrying on with the library work — it keeps me from dwelling on mother's absence and being too lonely.

Please tell your father that the three small rose bushes which he gave me have produced some lovely bloom. When I water them I always think of him. Dr. McManus tells me your father looks wonderfully well. Perhaps some

day when you feel in the mood you will again write
me.

With very best wishes to you all,

Sincerely yours

Hi —

Letter ②

Turlock Assembly Center
June 27, 1942.

How are you. How do you like this life.

Remember how we used to discuss just what's happening when we were roommates. The monotony is terrible.

I'm working as draftsman, but mostly loafing. Got paid on 25th \$1.83 — 1

How about telling what you are doing. Are you going to go with school somewhere. I'm considering it after relocation, about 8 classmates from Col are here.

I've heard from F.T. several times.

Let's hear from you.

Formerly a class mate of mine.

I stayed at the same place for a semester. Majored in Archited.

Dad owned an orchard in

19 yrs.

Letter. (1)

July 26th 1942

My dear —

Thanks much for your letter. I was happily surprised to hear from you and — I must say — much impressed with the fine spirit you show. For my own part, I must apologize for the ~~sp~~ hardness of this reply. As you can see, my university work is suspended for the duration in favor of participation in the ether-lane war, on the Italian side of which I had a small degree of competence. As a result of my sudden departure, your letter did a bit of wandering before it reached me.

As I have already said, I was much impressed by the understanding which you have brought to bear ~~on~~ upon your present situation. On the occasion of an earlier crisis, Paine wrote "These are times which try men's souls". Today, I dare say, you & other Americans of Japanese extraction are being tried in a more terrible manner than the rest of us. Since the problem really concerns individual psychology more than anything else what is involved is as important as it is delicate. Your observations are I think fully indicative of the highly commendable way you have thought the problem through. You can make a great contribution to the adjustment of others in a similar situation. For this reason, I strongly support your decision to take up instruction in your ~~field's~~ fields of competence. And if possible, you must continue your own study. In this regard, I have written, at the request of the Student Relocation Committee, a strong recommendation on your behalf.

Letter ①

I am certain my confidence is not misplaced, therefore, I hope it brings results. In any event, do not let your mind dwindle; an integrated reading program will keep up your interest and assurance.

At the conclusion of your letter you make reference to a recommendation which you would like me to make. I take it that this is something different from the Relocation matter; and of course, I am only too happy to assist, a brief note is enclosed.

Your observation and comments upon interne life and activities were fascinating. You have a knack for clear writing, so I trust you are keeping a written record of what goes on about you.

I am looking forward to further "reports."

My own work here brings me into a field in which I have had long preparation during my graduate stay at the University, but never before have I found it necessary to consciously adjust myself to the biases of the enemy, to think of one self not as the object of ^{the} enemy's, ~~to think of one self not as the propaganda~~ but rather as a student of it. This is really the only way to forestall apoplexy. Thus far the work has been most interesting.

Again my thanks for your letter and best wishes

Foreign instructor of Pol. Sci.
U. of C. Had for ^{previously} 2 semesters.

Very considerate & kind.
Exact and intelligent mind —
Formerly, debater, liberal as this letter testifies.

Sincerely
—

Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service
— Washington, D.C.

This paper ~~was~~ is a brief essay I turned in as an assignment at the University, after I had left school and was awaiting at home for the direct order to evacuate. It is filled with — as I look at it now — ~~with~~ naivety, complacency, bewilderment, and literary pluck ^(conclusion particularly) that makes it seem silly. ~~And~~ And yet, at the time — I think it was what I felt about the evacuation, although in many places I restrained from writing what I really thought because I felt I ~~was~~ was turning in to an instructor whose opinions on the matter I little knew. The lack of candor was responsible to the fear of misinterpretation. I should like to follow this stilted and incoherent piece, with an account of what I think of evacuation now, how my family think etc. In despite the brief stay of only 2 months, my ideas have changed drastically.