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Japanese-American Relocation

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# Anti-Nisei Attacks

## State Will Assist Merced County Inquiry Into Shooting Incidents

Attorney General Robert W. Kenny yesterday said that a special agent from the California Department of Justice has been sent to Merced to assist local officers in the investigation of recent anti-Nisei terror raids.

The raids occurred last Sunday morning when shots were fired from a moving automobile into the homes of two Nisei families in Merced county.

At the same time in Sacramento, attempted distribution of War Relocation Authority literature calling for fair play for American-Japanese produced a flurry of indignation in the Assembly, according to the Associated Press.

### BOOKLET STIRS LEGISLATORS

The incident opened with a statement by Speaker Charles Lyon that his attention had been called to a booklet left in the post office boxes of all members of the House. He characterized the material as "silly," while Assemblyman Fred Emlay, Salinas, urged "these Jap lovers should be told off."

Officials of the War Relocation Authority here denied having any knowledge of the incident.

"Of course we have such literature on file," a WRA spokesman said, "but we never send it out unless there is a special request for it. This is one of our strictest rules."

"It is just possible," he continued, "that some organization that is friendly with the WRA program requested these booklets from us and then distributed them among the Assemblymen. Officially and unofficially we know nothing about it."

Meanwhile, the State Department of Justice continued investigation of the Merced incident.

George Griffin, acting Chief of the State Investigation division in Sacramento, announced he had sent Harold Gillette, a special investigator, to Merced to work with local authorities.

Griffin said he had talked to Deputy Sheriff Art Hoffmann in Merced and he said he believed "local authorities were working very hard on the case."

### INQUIRY PROGRESS SLOW

Sheriff Lucius Cornell of Merced said local officials had not "made much progress" in the investigation of the shootings.

A total of five shots was fired into the homes of S. Kishi and Bob Morimota last Sunday morning, he

said. Four shots entered the farm home of Kishi. There were six members of the family in the house when the shooting occurred, including an invalid woman. The Kishi's have two sons in the service.

Cornell said he had learned of the second shooting into the home of Bob Morimota, honorably discharged soldier, only Monday. The shooting occurred about 20 minutes after the Kishi's home was fired on, he disclosed.

"It's kind of difficult," Cornell said. "No suspects have been found yet. It's kind of difficult to find a suspect. We did find the bullets in one of the places, though. Now all we've got to do is to find a suspect with the same kind of gun."

"If this keeps up," the Sheriff added, "I guess it will be a matter of putting someone out there. But you can't stay out there all the time. I don't know exactly what we're going to do."

Morimota, 27, was living in a tankhouse near Cressey with his wife, Grace, and two brothers, Frank and Teddy Morimota, at the time the shots were fired.

The bullet went through one bedroom and passed on out the wall, WRA officials said. From the hole it was indicated that the shot had been fired by the same rifle that fired on the Kishi home.



# Letter From Burma Front Cites Courage of Nisei Member of Jungle Fighters

**Bravery of Japanese Americans Serving on  
Burma-India Front Told; "Horizontal Hank"  
Saved Life of Platoon in Battle with Japanese**

Japanese American soldiers are fighting with Merrill's Marauders in Burma, the Pacific Citizen was informed this week in a letter from a sergeant in the famed American fighting force which has hacked its way behind Japanese lines in Burma.

"We, of the Merrill's Marauders (or otherwise known as the Burma Raiders) wish to boast of the Japanese Americans fighting in our outfit and the swell job that they put up. Every Marauder knows these boys by name if they don't know ours—

that is due to the courage and bravery shown by them," the letter said.

"One of our platoons owes their lives to Sgt. Henry G., a Japanese American of Seattle, Wash. Hank (we call him Horizontal Hank because he's been pinned down so many times by Jap machine-gun fire) guided the machine-gun fire on our side which killed every Jap on that side. The boys who fought alongside of Hank agree that they have never seen a more calm, cool and collected man under fire. He was always so eager to be where he could be of the most use and effectiveness and that was most always the hot spot. We asked Hank in the hospital, being his first time in battle, if he was scared or not. He answered, 'You're darn rights I was scared.' That's Horizontal Hank all over, always humorous and a smile for every guy. And yet while the other boys boast of the number of Japs they got, he doesn't talk very much about the three he has to his account. He usually changes the subject by saying, 'Honorable ancestors much regret meeting Merrill's Marauders,'" the letter continued.

"I hope I haven't given the impression that I'm trying to glorify him," the sergeant said. "Many of the boys, and myself especially, never knew a Japanese American or what one was like—now we know and the Marauders want you to know that they are backing the Nisei 100 per cent. It makes the boys and myself raging mad to read about movements against Japanese Americans by those 4-F'ers back home. We would dare them to say things like they have in front of us.

"At one time during battle when our platoon was assigned to the Chinese, Sgt. Henry G. was always surrounded by the Chinese who insisted he was Chinese and not Japanese. Many a humorous tale is told by Horizontal Hank on that point—the boys then just step in and pointing to him would say, 'He's an American!' And no truer words were spoken."

The sergeant wrote that he had chanced to come across an issue of the Pacific Citizen in a Red Cross recreation room on the Burma-India front.

"I thought the paper was very good and the boys here seem to think the same — they suggested that it be distributed more widely," he wrote.



# Stimson Calls Nisei Critics Undemocratic

By EARL C. BEHRENS

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson at Washington yesterday entered the controversy over the return of Japanese evacuees to California and other Pacific Coast States with a statement that any discrimination against soldiers of Japanese ancestry would be "wholly inconsistent with the American ideal of democracy."

At home, the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play and other organizations and individuals joined in sending a telegram to Representative Clarence F. Lea, chairman of the California delegation in the House, "repudiating" the resolution adopted here several days ago by the State Senate Committee on Japanese Resettlement urging President Roosevelt and the War Department not to permit return of Japanese evacuees to California during the duration of the war.

## SENTIMENT DENIED

The committee also denied the assertion of the Senate committee headed by Hugh P. Donnelly, Modesto, that the "overwhelming sentiment" in California was against the resettlement of the Japanese in this State.

The committee said the Senators did not announce they were sounding out California opinion and had not called before it persons known to be opposed to racial discrimination.

The State Senate group, the committee telegram to Lea declared, "ignored the statement of Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy (issued on December 6), declaring the War Department's faith in California maintaining constitutional authority and asking acceptance of the War Department's program of no further discrimination

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# Defense of the Nisei

## More About State Legion and Other Groups Opposing Exclusion Policies

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for those evacuees who were permitted to return to the West Coast."

### **CALLED GOSPEL OF FEAR**

The State Senate committee further was criticized for advancing a "gospel of fear" in predicting disorders.

Those who signed the telegram said the Senators "failed" in their "duty" of making a statement of principles in keeping with the War Department request for co-operation.

The California department of the American Legion said State Adjutant James K. Fisk believes that World War II veterans of Japanese descent should be permitted to return to California upon discharge from the armed services because they "have proven their loyalty" to the United States.

Fisk said the Legion did not favor the resettlement in California of Japanese Americans or alien Japanese who are still in WRA centers during the war.

Today's issue of the California Legionnaire, official publication of the organization, carries an editorial stating the Legion's position in the present controversy.

### **HOOD RIVER ATTITUDE**

The executive committee of the Legion met last week prior to the action of the Hood River, Ore., American Legion post in removing from roll of honor the names of 16 Japanese-Americans who went into service from that region.

Secretary of War Stimson told his press conference that it was "wholly incongruous" that service men of Japanese extraction who have demonstrated their loyalty to the Nation should be subjected to "unworthy discrimination." Stimson paid tribute to the Japanese-Americans serving in the Army. He said there are 13,000 Japanese-Americans who are serving or who have served in the armed forces.

### **OUTSTANDING RECORD**

Stimson said the 100th Infantry Battalion, in combat on the Italian front, is made up entirely of Japanese-Americans. It has an outstanding record and has been cited for gallantry, Stimson said, according to Associated and United Press despatches.

The 442nd combat team, also Japanese-American, has since been organized, Stimson said, and has fought courageously and well on the European front.

Robert B. Cozzens, assistant director of WRA, sent a letter of protest to Commander Jess Edington of the Hood River post of the Ore-

gon Legion. Cozzens himself is a legionaire.

Edington also was the recipient of a letter of criticism from the American Legion post in Cheney, Washington. The commander, Paul Rosselle, said the action of his Hood River comrades was "contrary to the Americanism we have sworn to support and defend."

Edington had "no comment" to the criticism leveled at his post by Secretary Stimson and the others.

### **AFL PAPER COMMENTS**

The Oregon Labor Press (AFL) editorially commented: "We have laws to take care of any citizens who are disloyal to our country, and we should not violate our Constitution by denying the privileges given by it to any group, regardless of race, creed or color."

The Captain Belvidere Brooks Legion post in New York city, declaring the Hood River action reflected on the entire Legion, invited the 16 Japanese-Americans whose names had been removed from the honor roll to join its membership.

Prior to Pearl Harbor, there were two posts composed of Japanese-Americans in the California department of the Legion. State Adjutant Fisk said these charters were suspended since the removal of the members to relocation centers made it impossible for them to continue their meetings.

### **THOSE WHO SIGNED**

The telegram sent to Representative Lea by the Fair Play committee dealt only with the resolution of the State Senate committee opposing return to Japanese evacuees.

Organizations signing the telegram included the American Council of Racial Relations, the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, Commission on Race Relations of the Northern California Council of Churches, the International Institute of San Francisco and the San Francisco branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A resolution adopted yesterday by the board of directors of the San Francisco Council of Churches opposed legislation denying the right of Japanese-Americans to return to their homes on the Coast.

The resolution said:

"We vigorously oppose all legislation proposing to cancel or to deny to loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry the rights and duties of their citizenship," and added, "any Christian should co-operate with the military and other proper authorities" in deciding matters of public safety.

# State Senate Panel Against Nisei Return

By EARL C. BEHRENS

President Roosevelt, Western Defense Command and the War Department yesterday were "strongly" urged by the State Senate's Committee on Japanese Resettlement "not to permit the return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast, and particularly California, for the duration of the war."

The committee, which has held hearings throughout California for the past year, concluded its sessions here by adopting its resolution of protest against return of Japanese evacuees and discussing its recommendations to the Legislature next month.

Attention was called to testimony of Robert B. Cozzens, assistant director of WRA, that more than 800 persons of Japanese ancestry, citizens and aliens, had been permitted to resettle in California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona.

The Senators said it was evident the war in the South Pacific "will last a long time," becoming "more intense, bloody and on an increasing scale, and that the war effort in California will become vastly greater, and that ammunition, material and equipment will be shipped through our ports in ever increasing and tremendous volume."

The resolution declared the war's demands necessitated "security and freedom from turmoil or the threat of turmoil in our State" and said "the menace to our national security by the presence of Japanese

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# More About Nisei

## Riots and Bloodshed Predicted If Former Residents Come Back

Continued from Page 1

In our midst, as announced by General John L. DeWitt, still continues."

The people of California, the committee declared, "are overwhelmingly opposed to the return of any Japanese during the war."

"We believe that because California is required to make an all-out war effort, that to allow the Japanese to return during the war is inadvisable because it would cause riots, turmoil, bloodshed and endanger the war effort."

### STAND IS REAFFIRMED

Chairman Hugh P. Donnelly, Modesto, said the action taken yesterday reaffirmed an earlier stand of the committee. Signing the resolution also were Senators Herbert W. Slater, Santa Rosa; George J. Hatfield, Newman, and Irwin T. Quinn, Eureka.

The committee yesterday discussed proposals for tightening up California's alien land laws at the 1945 session of the Legislature to prevent post-war abuses.

While the Senators were urging the President and the Army to stop further resettlement of Japanese on the Pacific Coast, members of the California delegation in Congress added their demands for action.

Democratic Representative Harry R. Sheppard, San Bernardino county, said he believed return to the West Coast of any Japanese, whether citizens or aliens, would not be "feasible" at the present time.

Sheppard is chairman of the committee which is to draft a letter to Secretary of War Stimson outlining the views of West Coast Congressmen on the Japanese question. He said the letter probably will be sent to the War Department and to WRA tomorrow, according to the United Press.

### QUESTION OF SAFETY

Sheppard said return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast not only was a question of military security but also involved their own personal safety as well as the housing situation in war production areas in California, Oregon and Washington.

"We must, of course, adopt definite policies regarding the relocation of American citizens of Japanese descent and alien Japs," Sheppard said.

Return of Japanese-Americans to the West Coast is likely to result in "wholesale bloodshed and violence,"

Democratic Representative Clair Engle, Red Bluff, told the Associated Press at Washington.

Representative Clarence F. Lea, Santa Rosa Democrat and chairman of the California Congressional delegation, said the Sheppard letter will not be critical of the War Department's policy, but will merely outline the reasons why Pacific Coast Congressmen oppose a mass return of the Japanese.

### REPLY TO McCLOY

The letter will be a reply to that sent the California delegation a few days ago by Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy.

McCloy made it clear the Washington authorities would expect local law enforcement officers to prevent any interference with Japanese evacuees returned to California.

"I realize also that many persons may say that there is a possibility that disorders might occur if persons of Japanese descent are permitted to return to the West Coast," McCloy declared. "The War Department is interested in this question because any serious trouble might result in retaliation against American soldiers who are held as prisoners of war by the Japanese.

"If the military authorities determine the military consideration no longer requires mass exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, we have every faith that the people on the West Coast, as have those in other areas in the United States into which persons of Japanese ancestry originally removed from the Coast have been relocated, will show their good citizenship by abiding by the military judgment and do their utmost to prevent acts of discrimination against these people who may be permitted to return."

At San Diego, a proposal favoring acceptance of Japanese-American girls for training in San Diego County Hospital's nursing school was rejected, 6 to 1, by the hospital advisory committee. Chief opposition came from D. C. Zaun, American Legion post commander, who contended the Japanese continue to have dual citizenship.

Dr. H. P. Emeis, committee member, declined to vote on the proposal. He questioned whether taxpayer could be deprived of right to train in a tax support institution.

# Hunt Leads WRA Centers In Relocation

## Illinois Received Largest Number of Evacuees in April

WASHINGTON — The departures of 1,517 evacuees from war relocation centers on indefinite leaves during the month ending April 30, 1944, were reported this week by the relocation planning division of the War Relocation Authority.

Illinois led the states in relocation with 354. Minidoka led the centers in relocation with 260. The figures for other centers include Gila River, 238; Heart Mountain, 204; Colorado River, 196; Rohwer, 163; Central Utah, 130; Jerome, 108; Granada, 107; Manzanar, 106; and Tule Lake, 5.

Evacuees resettled in the following states during April:

Arkansas, 5; California, 5; Colorado, 152; Connecticut, 1; District of Columbia, 6; Florida, 1; Idaho, 130; Illinois, 354; Indiana, 20; Iowa, 24; Kentucky, 2; Maryland, 1; Massachusetts, 5; Michigan, 74; Minnesota, 67; Missouri, 33; Montana, 25; Nebraska, 44; Nevada, 10; New Jersey, 15; New Mexico, 5; New York, 69; Ohio, 127; Oklahoma, 1; Oregon, 29; Pennsylvania, 27; Texas, 11; Utah, 103; Vermont, 4; Virginia, 1; Washington, 67; Wisconsin, 18; Wyoming, 70; and, Hawaii, 11.

It was reported that the total of indefinite leaves issued between May 1, 1943, and April 30, 1944, was 18,114.



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EVENING SESSION

After a period of silence Josephine Duveneck opened the evening session. She introduced the evening speakers, Galen Fisher, Assistant Treasurer of the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play; Bill Stevenson, recently associated with the National Student Relocation Council in Philadelphia; Merrell Gadles, Chairman of the Fillmore Committee on Political Action; and Victor Furth of the War Relocation Authority.

Galen Fisher discussed certain phases of the evacuation of the Japanese inhabitants of the West Coast. He stated that evacuation had been instituted and executed by the Army. Therefore the Army should have charge of the revocal of this policy when, in their judgment and that of the Administration, it becomes sound.

If the problems resulting from evacuation are to be solved, they must at least in principle be solved during war time. California was responsible largely for total evacuation. (General De Witt implies as much). This is the time for people interested in fair play for the Japanese to write letters to Mr. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War; Mr. Francis Biddle of the Dept. of Justice; and Mr. Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior. As the military agrees, the situation is quite different from what it was at the time of evacuation.

Mr. Fisher said that dispersed resettlement is right and sound, because we do not wish to build up colonies. The Issei have many difficulties; they are homesick, and if they return to their former homes they will have many difficult problems in readjustment. Old employers should welcome this group if possible. The restoration of the Nisei will be easier.

There is great need of a vigorous program of civic education if we believe in the Bill of Rights and in Christianity.

Mr. Furth of the W.R.A. has charge of the property of evacuees. He stated that the Federal Government had established warehouses and offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Sacramento, etc. for the conservation of Japanese property. Then at each Relocation Center there is an officer to look after the property interests of the internees. Storage in these warehouses is free, and property will be forwarded to the owners without expense whenever asked for.

Mr. Furth gave some examples of the way the W.R.A. had assisted the evacuees in care of their property. Prior to evacuation the Japanese had been able to make a living on some of the deciduous fruit farms in the foothill regions, but under present labor conditions the Caucasians who leased their farms after evacuation have failed to secure any returns for the owners. Through the assistance of a Chinese man the W.R.A. has secured some 58 Chinese tenants, and better results have been realized for all concerned.

Then there was the problem of the Buddhist Temple on Pine Street. The W.R.A. has moved the furniture to a government warehouse and leased the building for a sum sufficient to cover all expenses.

Mr. Furth stated that radios and cameras have been returned to their owners in so far as regulations permit, i.e. no one may have contraband articles such as short wave sets.

During 1943 the W.R.A. handled 1100 transfers of property and business



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amounting to \$674,000.00. There were 15000 requests for services that did not involve money.

The W.R.A. provides legal services; there is a lawyer at each relocation center, and three attorneys in the San Francisco office. Then there is a referral system through the Bar Association, and a list of several hundred names has been compiled.

The W.R.A. has been trying to clarify the status of evacuees as regards their right to vote. San Francisco recognizes Nisei as having the privileges of absent voters. The W.R.A. is asking the State Attorney for a similar ruling.

There is a health and leave section of the W.R.A. At present some 700 Issei and Nisei are in hospitals or other institutions.

Bill Stevenson gave a brief account of some of the work of the Student Relocation Council. At the time of evacuation about 3000 students were in Pacific Coast Colleges and Universities. 2000 of these have been relocated in 46 of the 48 states. They have been accepted by the new communities and have made creditable and in some cases excellent academic records. At Oberlin a man was elected student body president. Probably many California colleges will be glad to have Nisei students.

Merrell Gadles presented the attitude of the Negroes, particularly the newcomers, toward returning to the south, and that of Negroes in general toward the Japanese. In pre-war days the Japanese and Negroes lived together amicably. He thinks about 40% of the older Negroes still plan to return to their former homes. Many change their minds after being here a while, and the younger Negroes from the south almost never plan to return there. Mr. Gadles believes 90% of all the Negroes do not intend to leave San Francisco. After living in the city about four months they do not want to go to the old south.

The Negroes are fearing displacement, particularly if the Japanese return. They have taken over the cleaning and pressing businesses, the barber shops, and the restaurants formerly in the hands of the Japanese.

Housing will become a very serious problem if the Japanese return. 48% of the Negroes were living in Japanese owned or controlled houses before the evacuation. Until the war the Negro population was small. Now it is estimated to be between 18,000 and 40,000. 35% of the Negroes today are living in Japanese owned or controlled property. What will happen if the Japanese return and the Negroes are forced into the houses of other Negroes, already crowded even more seriously than when the Japanese lived here?

In the discussion, the most important question asked was "What can our group do to help?"

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Owen, Acting Secretary

Joseph Conard, Executive Secretary



Saturday, June 17, 1944

## Ickes Urges Fair Play for Minorities

**Intolerance at Home  
Defeats Democratic  
Purposes, Institute Told**

NEW YORK CITY — Racial tolerance and fair treatment of America's minorities were urged by Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, Dr. Frank Aydelotte, director of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., and others at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria Monday night at a banquet held in honor of Dr. Albert Einstein.

Intolerance at home defeats the American and democratic way of life for which we are making unimaginable sacrifices in a world conflict, Secretary Ickes declared.

"What good does it do to send armies to Rome, Berlin and Tokyo to 'liberate,' as we say, the inhabitants of those countries, while denying people of those same extractions the liberation they have sought in this country?" he asked.

"How can we ever make the people of those lands, or of our own, believe in our sincerity if they behold Americans here refusing to other Americans the equality of treatment which is a fundamental right under the laws of God and the statutes of our forefathers?"

Dr. Aydelotte also denounced intolerance, asserting that the final test of any civilization is the treatment of minorities.

"This applies to us in our treatment of Negroes and Japanese," he declared, "as well as to the Germans in their treatment of the Jews. The times has passed when the treatment of minorities can be considered merely a national problem, and the best hope of all minority groups lies in some general international organization which will represent the conscience of mankind."

Such an organization, he declared, can be entrusted with the power to take action in the case of racial or religious persecution which shocks the conscience of the world. Its success will depend on nothing so much as upon the leadership of the United States, said Dr. Aydelotte.

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## Arkansas Center Will Be Emptied by End Of Month, Is Report

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SAN FRANCISCO — As a step toward closing the Jerome relocation center at Denson, Ark., one thousand Japanese Americans were reported on their way Monday to two relocation centers, the WRA announced.

Approximately 500 were en route to the Heart Mountain center in Wyoming, while the others were bound for the Gila River project in Arizona.

Other groups are going to the Rohwer center in Arkansas. The Jerome camp will be closed by June 30, the WRA announced.

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# Nisei Return Called Test Of Our Ideals

The American people face a test of their belief in the principles of democracy when the Army rescinds its order excluding Japanese-Americans from the Coast, Robert B. Cozzens, assistant director of the War Relocation Authority, told a group of Berkeley business men.

"The time will eventually come when the Army will reconsider the continuance of the military zone as a military necessity," Cozzens said at the meeting which was held in the Berkeley Congregational Church.

"These people will have a right to return to their homes and their property under constitutional guarantees."

Cozzens referred to forces within this area who seek to exclude the Japanese-Americans from returning.

"They talk glibly of mass deportation when the war is over. So far as I am concerned, any person of any nationality who has been disloyal to this country by word or deed should be stricken from our lists of Americans. But all should enjoy the due process of law provided them.

"We should not submit to the un-American philosophy that all persons of Japanese ancestry are guilty until proved innocent. Those who have advocated this philosophy already have given too much propaganda bilge to the enemy."

## WRA Reports All's Quiet at Tule Lake Segregation Center

SAN FRANCISCO — A representative of the War Relocation Authority indicated this week that "all is quiet" at the Tule Lake segregation center at Newell.

The Tule Lake camp was the scene last week of the murder of Yaozo Hitomi, manager of community enterprises at the camp.

Ray Best, camp director, issued an order confining Yoshio Miyagawa, 44, a segregee, who was arrested following an investigation into the murder of Hitomi. Miyagawa was charged with making and selling knives.

Best noted, however, that Miyagawa was not concerned with Hitomi's death.

It was reported that WRA officials had declared that community enterprises had been reopened at Tule Lake, and also that "several residents in the camp have received threats," and have been moved to safer quarters.

To date no arrests have been made in the Hitomi case.



## Rep. Anderson "Bitterly Opposed" To Evacuees' Return

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SUNNYVALE, Calif.—Declaring that he is "bitterly opposed" to the return of evacuees of Japanese ancestry to the west coast, Rep. John Z. Anderson, R., Calif., told members of the Mathilda Avenue Improvement Club that he has recently introduced legislation "which would throw safeguards around the return of any Japanese to this area."

Fifteen members of the Mathilda Avenue group had sent a plea to Rep. Anderson to prevent the return of the evacuees to California.



## **To attend conference on racial minorities**

Mrs. Frank B. Duveneck and Mrs. R. A. Isenberg will attend the meeting of the California Councils of Civic Unity tomorrow at Sacramento, called to discuss problems facing the West Coast as a result of an increase of racial minorities within their communities.

Sponsored jointly by the San Francisco Council of Civic Unity, the Sacramento Council on Civic Unity, the American Council on Race Relations, and the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, the conference will be a working session. Machinery is to be set up whereby interested citizens may develop an informed attitude on citizen responsibility in minority questions and a discussion of law enforcement in areas of racial tension, according to the preliminary announcement.

# Gannon Gets Interim Funds For Committee

**Ickes Says Gannon  
Sounds Like Man  
"With Bad Conscience"**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sharp debate over the possibility of a return to California of evacuated Japanese Americans flared in the California assembly on June 12 when Assemblyman Chester Gannon, R., Sacramento, submitted a resolution asking additional funds for his interim committee on "Japanese problems."

The Gannon resolution was adopted to authorize an additional \$1,000 for continuing the activities of the committee until the next regular session of the State Legislature.

During the discussion of the resolution, Gannon read a reply he had received from Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, to a letter requesting that Japanese American evacuees not be returned to California. The Ickes' letter said in part:

"Your courteous and restrained letter has reached me. It is the kind of communication I would expect from a man who has taken an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution . . . and then forswear himself.

"I have no interest in bandying epithets with you or anyone else about loyal Japanese who are born in this country and who are just as fully citizens as you or I. You sound to me like a man with a bad conscience."

Pointing to the loyalty record of Japanese Americans, Assemblyman John Pelletier, D., Los Angeles, declared there are 10,000 American-born loyal Japanese now in the army who must be considered. He had challenged a statement by Assemblyman Randall Dickey, R., Alameda, that "there is no such thing" as a loyal Japanese.

Backing Gannon's request for funds, Dickey declared:

"If there ever was need for a committee of this type it is now. We should be in a position to take care of the situation after the war and not have to bother with a sociologist like Ickes."

Gannon declared that "pressure groups" were working for the return of the evacuees to the coast.

"We have no way of knowing what may happen between now and January," he said. "Three pressure groups are working actively for the return of so-called loyal American-born Japanese to California. They are not advocating that Japanese be returned after the war, they want them returned right now."



# San Jose Group Ready to Help

SAN JOSE—A special committee on housing to assist former evacuated residents of this city to find homes, has been organized by the San Jose Council for Civic Unity, according to a letter to The Sentinel from Mrs. S. C. Peabody.

"Please publish in your newspaper, "Mrs. Peabody wrote, "that the council is eager to facilitate the return of residents of Japanese ancestry who wish to return to San Jose."

The recently-organized group, composed of leading citizens of San Jose, includes the following special committees: Richard Knost, 830 S. 11th st., chairman of committee on returning residents of Japanese ancestry; Mrs. Marjory Pitman, housing; Rev. and Mrs. Stephen C. Peabody, public relations.

President of the group is Robert L. James, Jr., 162 S. 7th st. in

# FORUM

Contributions to this column must not exceed 400 words and must give writer's bona fide name and address.

## Fair employment group fights for its life

Editor of the Times:

The president's committee on fair employment practice (FEPC) is now fighting for its life. At present it is only an agency by executive order, but the legislation for a permanent FEPC has been reported favorably by committees in both senate and house, with bipartisan support.

Both major parties pledged their support of this measure during the campaign. Public opinion should now insist that they make good on their pledges without delay, for the time is short. If the bills are not passed this session they will have to wait for the organization of a new congress and then go through the whole machinery over again.

The right to work on a basis of equality without discrimination because of color, race or creed is one of the fundamentals of our democracy. The FEPC has gone a long way to guarantee that right.

Since this is a nonpartisan question, both Republicans and Democrats can help by writing to: Rep. John Z. Anderson, asking him to work for a favorable vote on this legislation, and to Rep. Adolph J. Sabath, chairman house rules committee, insisting the committee give it an immediate place on the calendar. We should also ask our senators, Sheridan Downey and Hiram Johnson, to support S2048.

JAMES ARMSTRONG,  
Cornell road and Cambridge  
avenue, Menlo Park.

LAWRENCE THOMAS,  
701 Bowdoin street.

VALEDA J. BRYANT,  
345 Coleridge avenue.



## 'Yellow Peril' in N. J.

The little hamlet of Great Meadows (population 300) in northeastern New Jersey kindled last week with more excitement than it has known since it became a pre-Civil War township. Its dirt farmers, who raise onions, celery and lettuce on fertile land that once was bog, hoisted a sign in the general store: "Meeting about Jap laborers." Down the road on Route 6 they hammered in a stake: "To Little Tokyo 1 Mile." It pointed in the direction of 23-year-old Edward Kowalick's farm. Five Japanese were at work there.

The trouble had begun when the War Relocation Board transplanted the Japanese a few days earlier from its Arizona center. Ever since the fall of 1942 WRA has been attempting to rehabilitate the proved loyal among Japanese residents, 120,000 of whom went to ten inland centers after Pearl Harbor. Because of public antagonism along the West Coast, many evacuees have been reluctant to quit the camps. Others have been eager for a chance to live normally again, and in the past twelve months WRA has given nearly 20,000 of this group "indefinite leave." They have gone at their own, at employer or at Government expense to more than fifteen States, ranging from Colorado to Missouri and New York, on jobs in hospitals, factories, laundries and on farms.

The East and Midwest are regarded as "exceedingly tolerant" of the WRA program, and in the past year about 1,200 evacuees have come into the New York-New Jersey area, generally on a straight wage basis. Kowalick's method of hiring the men appeared to be partly responsible for community hostility—he gave them seed to work thirty acres on a crop-sharing basis and some interpreted this as competition, a threat to their standard of living.

Neighbors started to cut Kowalick dead. When he tried to get a truck repaired, he was told to let his Japanese do the job. Telephone callers warned him to "get rid of the Japs if you know what's good for you." Finally his shed containing ten tons of fertilizer was mysteriously burned. Kowalick gave up. Although the men were "good hands," he agreed to dismiss them "because I've had enough trouble to last me."

\* \* \*

A SIDE FROM OTHER reasons (and they are to be found) why self-appointed "patriots" should not take it upon themselves to abuse returning Japanese - Americans, there is always the possibility that the mistaken nisei may not be of Japanese blood. This reminder is provided in a Vox Pop letter the other day written by a Chinese-American, who said in part:

"Now that the evacuated Japanese are allowed to return to the coast here, please tell the public to make sure before they start calling anyone a Jap, because there are a lot of us pure-blooded Chinese who have facial features resembling those of the Japs, and unfortunately I am one of those. Lately I have been receiving so many hostile glances and insulting remarks, it's most uncomfortable."



Wednesday, 3 p.m.—Meeting of  
Palo Alto Branch of National  
Women's Party at home of  
Gerda Isenberg, 2175 Cowper  
street. Topic, "The Problem of  
Japanese-American Women."  
Public welcome.

# Japanese-Americans

## Pre-War Citizens League Reopens S. F. Office to Assist Evacuees

Reopening of a branch office of the Japanese American Citizens League at the International Institute, 1860 Washington street, was formally announced here yesterday.

The 17-year-old organization that before Pearl Harbor had 66 chapters scattered throughout the western states, is to be headed by a bright-eyed San Francisco-born girl, Miss Teiko Ishida, 28, who refuses to acknowledge obstacles built of hate and fear.

Miss Ishida, who came here from New York where she headed the JACL there, said yesterday her task will be to assist in relocating evacuees not under direct jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority, and further to do a job of public relations.

### ONLY A FEW ARE BACK

So far, she said only a few American-born Japanese and the parents of sons serving in the United States Army have returned to San Francisco. Up and down the

coast, however, some 1000 have turned to their homes, she declared.

"There is naturally a hesitancy a reluctance—about returning," said. "People are afraid that Pacific Coast communities may not accept them.

"As a matter of fact, my friends have all written me, asking me what type of treatment I have been accorded here in the last two months.

"I hope my case is typical. I experienced not one unpleasant thing. There have been no difficulties. People have been more than kind to me, and I have had repeated offers of office employment, not only for myself, but for other Japanese-American girls who may follow me."

### CHURCH SECRETARY

A former employee of the Great Western Steamship Corporation, Miss Ishida has been giving some of her time to serving in a secretarial capacity at the Fellowship church, which



# Evacuees' Return Will Be Studied

The problems of returning Japanese-Americans to California will be studied in San Francisco next week at a two-day Palace Hotel conference.

Evacuated Japanese-Americans will be assisted in their new relocation by the sponsors of the conference, the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play.

Dillon Meyer, director of the War Relocation Authority, and West Coast officials of a dozen other Federal and State agencies, will describe the evacuees' problems at the January 10 and 11 conference. Maurice E. Harrison of San Francisco, the committee's chairman, will preside.

The conference will be devoted to finding "practical means to assist the evacuees in their efforts to re-establish themselves in war-essential work," Harrison said.

The problems of housing, farms, credit and legal advice will be studied.

"Pacific Coast residents mean to stand behind the decisions of the Supreme Court and War Department which give the returning Japanese-Americans full freedom," the committee's executive secretary, Mrs. Ruth Kingman, said yesterday, "but most of us do not know what immediate, practical steps must be taken. We intend to find out from Government sources what must be done and suggest to private, sympathetic organizations what they can do."

## Few Japanese Quit Centers On First Day

Few Japanese-Americans took advantage yesterday of the first day on which they could return to their former homes on the Pacific Coast, it was announced yesterday by the War Relocation Authority.

The day's departures were: From Manzanar, two; Tulalake, none; Heart Mountain, Wyo., none; Poston, Ariz., nine, eight of them for short terms; Gila River, Ariz., one; Minidoka, Idaho, none; Rohwer, Ark., none, and Topaz, Utah, none.

From Topaz, Mrs. Satu Morwati, wife of a serviceman, and her daughter, left under a previous Army clearance for the home of Mrs. R. A. Isenberg in Palo Alto. Also in Topaz, where most of the former Northern Californians are located, 30 have filed applications to leave.

The general trend still was eastward, the WRA said, with 54 having left for areas other than the Coast from Minidoka, and 12 from Heart Mountain.



MISS TEIKO ISHIDA  
"No difficulties"

catalogues "an experiment in Christian democracy."

"It is thrilling for the morale of some 13,000 Japanese-American men serving in the Army to know that their people can come back here if they are considered worthy. And it is wonderful to know that our American constitution is regaining its vigor."

"We who belong to the league have an enormous job, of course. It's our task to build better feeling for the loyal Japanese all over the West Coast."

Miss Ishida said the league and its activities are financed by the Japanese members themselves and that offices are now functioning well in Denver and Chicago, as well as New York and Salt Lake City.

### HOPEFUL OF THE FUTURE

"Actually," she said, "I have great hope for the future. I believe that for the returning evacuee there may be a better integration and a greater degree of understanding that will carry us far from the philosophy of segregation."

Miss Ishida's 21-year-old brother, George, a former engineering student at the University of California, is now a Corporal in the Army, attached to the Intelligence Division. Her mother died a year and a half ago in Salt Lake City.

Somewhat sadly Miss Ishida admitted that there probably will be few Japanese-Americans who will have sufficient courage to return to San Francisco. Applications, so far, have been few, she said, particularly for this city.

The highly intelligent and idealistic Miss Ishida said she will work closely with the Western Defense Command, the War Relocation Authority, various church groups and civic organizations designed to better inter-racial understanding.

Radio Price Violations



# Wounded U. S.-Japanese officer attends fair play committee meeting; more nisei here

*P. A. Times*  
*Pa. 26*  
*3/4/45*

A Japanese-American officer who was wounded overseas and is now a patient at Dibble General Hospital was a guest of the Palo Alto committee on American principles and fair play at its meeting last night at the home of Mrs. R. A. Isenberg, 2175 Cowper street. He is Lt. Richard Hamasaki, who saw service in both Italy and France.

Several other nisei were included in the group of 40 persons who heard a talk by Fred Ross, San Francisco district relocation officer of the War Relocation Authority, and saw the film, "The Challenge to Democracy," made by WRA.

The picture showed scenes of the West Coast evacuation, relocation of the Japanese, and of

all-Japanese combat units fighting alongside Allied forces.

Mr. Ross told of the work done by a citizens' committee in Cleveland, where homes were found for 175 relocating families and 1,600 individuals in spite of a critical housing shortage. He said 60,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans still in camps would have to be relocated by the end of the year.

Among those in his audience were Mrs. Yoshioki Moriwaki, whose husband and brother are in the United States Army and who is employed at the Isenberg home, and two Japanese language instructors from Stanford.

Recent additions to the local group of relocated nisei are Mary Okumura, who has arrived to live and work at the home of Prof. and Mrs. Clifford Schink at 300 Santa Rita avenue, and David Miyahara, who has come to finish his high school course here and live at the Byron street home of Mrs. F. K. Murray.

Mrs. Murray is also providing quarters and work for Milton Hamasaki, a Palo Alto High School junior, whose sister, Alice, is teaching a Civil Affairs Training School group at Stanford.

Miss Okumura's parents were formerly strawberry growers at Los Altos. They and her sister, Mrs. Sadie Kimada, are still at Heart Mountain. Three brothers are in the service. Donald is a technical sergeant and Tom a private overseas, and John a pri-

vate first class at Fort Snelling.

David Miyahara also has a brother in the service. His parents, still at Heart Mountain, operated a cleaning establishment in Mayfield before relocation.



Palo Alto Times

March 16, 1945

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## State to protect nisei rights

SACRAMENTO, March 16 (AP)—Attorney Robert W. Kenny today told the sheriffs of California meeting in convention, that they and other law enforcement officers are directly charged with protecting the lives and "basic rights" of Japanese-Americans who return to this state.

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# U.S. AT WAR

## RACES

### American Fair Play?

For 13 weeks the Hood River (Ore.) Post of the American Legion persisted in its shameful pre-eminence—its members had struck the names of 16 Japanese-American soldiers from a public honor roll, had steadfastly refused to restore them. The Legion's embarrassed national commander had sent a "recommendation" which sounded like an order: put the names back. Some 500 of Hood River County's 11,580 citizens signed a full-page newspaper advertisement headed: "So Sorry Please. Japs Are Not Wanted in Hood River." Hood River's Legion Post replied to the national organization: "... inadvisable at this time. ..."

But last week, after digesting some strong hints that their charter might be in danger, Hood River's legionnaires finally voted to restore 15 of the 16 names.\*

Relieved, National Commander Edward N. Scheiberling whipped out a press release: "... source of gratification to the American Legion everywhere ... sound sense of American fair play. ...". Said the *New York Times*, "The Hood River Post is to be congratulated on having the courage to admit its mistake."

But racial intolerance on the West Coast had abated not a whit:

¶ Hood River, still as anti-Japanese as ever, mouthed a rumor—white servicemen would demand the removal of their names if those of the Japanese-Americans went back. At week's end the honor roll was still bare of Nisei names.

¶ In Seattle, Tetel Takayoshi, graduate of the University of Washington and pre-war teaching supervisor at King County's Harborview Hospital, returned to her old job. "I'm glad to be back," she reassured her friends. "I was born here—this is my home." But after eleven days of snubs and silences she quietly packed her bags, headed back to Denver.

¶ In Portland, Ore., R. Tsubota, a truck farmer, brought a truckload of vegetables to the Portland Farmers' Market, found himself virtually boycotted. At nearby Gresham, citizens circulated a petition asking that all persons of Japanese blood be deported to a Pacific island.

¶ Sam Takeda, a San José, Calif. farmer, awakened with a start one night last

week—the front of his house had been soused with gasoline, set afire. After he beat out the flames, someone fired a shot at him.

The Nisei were not friendless on the Pacific Coast—many openly welcomed them and hundreds deplored acts of violence. In Woodinville, Wash., Kametaro Funai, just out of a relocation camp, ran up against the manpower shortage. Promptly, some University of Washington students came out to help him on his farm (*see cut*).

But whether the nation liked it or not, the Japanese-haters' methods were prov-

ing exceedingly effective. Of 33,000 Japanese and Nisei who had left war relocation centers, only 1,640 had returned to the West Coast. Of 60,397 still in WRA camps, only 1,938 had announced any intention of going back to their old homes.

The rest, bewildered by the ways of their erstwhile neighbors and friends, made plans to go to other parts of the country, or just waited, wondering what to do.

The doughfoots of the 4th had stopped at the bank of the 50-yard stream. General Patton was there when the doughs started across in boats just before dawn. They met heavy fire and he called them back. Then Patton, onetime (1912) Olympic athlete, told his men to take their rifles, bazookas and everything else they could carry, and swim. They looked at the ice-flecked waters, hesitated.

The General didn't. He walked in, began to swim, crossed to the other side, swam back. That was all the doughs needed. They piled in and swam across. A day and a half later Bettendorf was theirs.



RETURNED NISEI & FRIENDS  
But only a few went back.

International

\* The 16th Nisei had been dishonorably discharged from the Army.



## Friends Service Committee *Saturday* to have area meeting here *Sunday*

The monthly meeting of the American Friends Service Committee, Northern California Branch, will be held *Sunday* at the First Methodist Church, beginning at 4 p.m. and continuing through the evening.

Mrs. Frank Duveneck and Mrs. R. A. Isenberg will report at 5:20

on the Japanese-American work done in this area, and Mrs. Hester Kinnard will talk at 5:50 on the inter-racial nursery school proposed for Palo Alto.

Other topics will be "Work Done and Planned against Peacetime Conscription," by George Reeves; "The Chinatown Work Camp Planned for the Summer," Ann Brown; "Foreign Service of the AFSC: Recent Developments"; "The 1945 Institute of International Relations at Mills College," Tom Hunt.

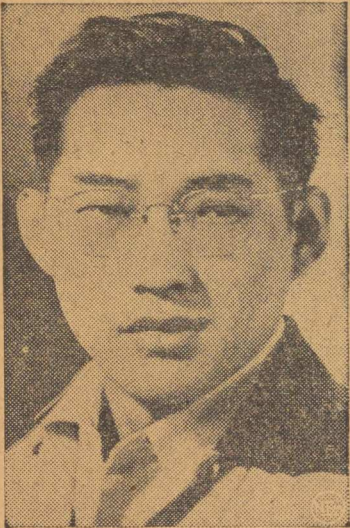
A potluck supper will be served at 6:15 and at 7:30 Howard Thurman will give readings from religious poetry.

Dr. Vern James, clerk of the local Friends' meeting, will act as chairman.

A mass meeting will be held in San Francisco Civic Auditorium the afternoon of March 25, with Paul Robeson, Walter Huston and other celebrities on the program.

March 27 '45

PALO ALTO TIMES, TUE



### **JAPANESE ALIEN IN U. S. ARMY**

Accepting its first alien Japanese volunteer in this war, the army has inducted Kazuo Uno, 23, above, of Longview, Wash. Uno, who made previous attempts to join the armed forces, came here when he was two. American-born Japs are subject to selective service, and 17,600 are now in the service. But aliens are taken only as volunteers and must be acceptable to the army.



Mar. 28 '45

P.A. Times.

045

## war victims!

### 17,600 NISEI IN U.S. ARMY

SAN FRANCISCO. March 28 (AP)  
—Inductions of Japanese-Americans into the U. S. Army since November 1, 1940 total 17,600, Dillon S. Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, reported today.

Half of these came from the American mainland and half from Hawaii.

## **Shots fired into home of Japanese family**

MADERA, March 29 (AP)—Firing of five shots into the home of a Japanese family near Madera is being investigated by Madera county authorities.

The bullets came from a .32 caliber pistol, say Deputy Sheriff Ray M. Andress and Special Investigator E. E. Pickett. None of the five occupants of the house was injured.

Minoru Ohashi, owner of the place, returned to Madera February 13, followed by his family on March 11.

Fred Kimuyaki, a neighbor, told sheriff's officers that he heard a car go by at a high rate of speed just before the shots were fired. *P.A. Times. Mar. 29 '45*



*P.A. Times Mar. 29 '45*

# 90 nisei alumni of Stanford in armed forces

Kazuyuki Takahashi, co-editor of the Stanford Nisei Alumni Newsletter and Stanford Class of '40, reveals that to date he has been able to contact about 90 Stanford alumni who are Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Of these, he reports, 26 are serving with the American armed forces. Four are known to be overseas in the Pacific theatre and another four overseas in other theatres. He says also that at least 11 other Stanford nisei are engaged in specialized work for the U. S. Army and Navy and the Office of War Information.

Mr. Takahashi is a member of the faculty of Washington University in St. Louis.

File

V

## Seized property sought by nisei

H. Nakano of Woodside road, the first nisei to take such action, today sought repossession of a radio and single barrelled shotgun that belonged to him and were confiscated when persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from the West Coast, Walter Moore, chief deputy sheriff of San Mateo county today reported.

Moore said that he referred Nakano to the United States marshall's office in San Francisco, where confiscated goods are held.

V

P19 Times Mar. 31 '45



PA Times Mar. 31 '45

PAGE TWO

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## Elderly Japanese returns to home of Chinese friends

ROHWER, Ark., March 31 (AP)—Jusuke Takemoto, 78-year-old Japanese bachelor, is going back to Lodi, Calif., to reside again with Chinese friends with whom he lived for 35 years before Pearl Harbor.

The War Relocation Authority announced the aged evacuee is being returned to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yip, who have sent him money for the return trip.

Takemoto spent five months at the Stockton assembly center before he was transferred to Arkansas and the Chinese family has kept in touch with him ever since.

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# PROWLER

(Continued from Page 1)

rule, that priority cannot be counted on.

\* \* \*

THE COUNCIL FOR CIVIC unity is striving to build better interracial relations based on understanding. And some hope is derived from the public reactions so far. "The question," said an official of the council, "is whether the advances already made will be maintained after the war!"

Eighty per cent of the Negroes who have come into San Francisco to work in war industries have indicated the intention to remain permanently. This means they must be provided for in every way—jobs, housing and general decency of treatment. The council's spokesman said quite wisely, "Unless all have equal opportunity to work, the whole population will suffer."



# THE PROWLER

by  
DALLAS E. WOOD

**S**AN FRANCISCO'S COUNCIL for Civic Unity, having for its major object the promotion of civic unity, "thus precluding the serious consequences of



strife, bigotry and prejudice," reports a measure of encouraging progress. But the biggest obstacle still lying in its path is

**P r e j u d i c e**—

mainly racial.

The minority groups most victimized by that prejudice are the Negroes, Chinese and Mexicans. The most deadly fruits of that bigotry are found in the inability of "exiled" minorities to obtain housing. To be sure, there is a general housing scarcity today felt by all elements of the population. But even in time of housing surpluses, the racial minorities have found difficulty in obtaining living quarters because of neighborhood animosity, realty agreements and restrictive covenants in property deeds. In wartime when the housing shortage is felt generally, it pinches yet harder the perennially excluded.

A housing survey in that city recently made showed that there are 14,000 more families than there are dwelling units in the locality. As additional people move into the community, while building remains at a standstill, the condition grows steadily worse. It is being urged therefore by the council for civic unity that the government permit 20,000 units of new housing to be erected.

\* \* \*

**A** SINISTER BY-PRODUCT OF population congestion in the squalid sections where the racial minorities are segregated is disease. In Chinatown, where a 1930 survey showed that 80 per cent of the houses were sub-standard, the incidence of tuberculosis was the highest for the whole city. In the Fillmore district, where the Negroes have settled thickly since the relocation of the Japanese residents, the tuberculosis percentage is second highest in the city. (More than 13,000 Negroes now are congested in the section where about 6,000 Japanese formerly lived under conditions that were bad enough then.)

\* \* \*

**A** FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF THE council's housing report in San Francisco will be interest-

Between April, 1940, and December, 1944, San Francisco's population increased 105,464, or 17 per cent. Families increased by 41,518, or 20 per cent. The Negro population increased from 4,846 to 23,000. Negro families increased from 1,540 to 7,745. The increase among other minority groups was from 3,927 to 6,225, despite the evacuation of more than 5,000 people of Japanese ancestry.

While population was increasing 17 per cent, housing increased only 6 per cent. Six per cent of all families are without individual housing units. Thirty-nine per cent of all Negro families are without individual family units.

The council's report points out that while minorities are the worst sufferers in the housing shortage, the eventual sufferers are all the people of San Francisco. Of 45,717 applications by white persons at the war housing center, 8,638, or 18.8 per cent received housing. Of 3,675 applications by Negroes, 148, or 4 per cent, received housing.

It points out also that evidence is lacking to show that any new private housing in San Francisco, whether construction or reconversion, has been obtained by members of the racial minorities. The minorities are still held within the boundaries of the districts in which they lived in 1940.

That race tensions are accentuated by lack of decent and adequate housing is a fact to which the council for civic unity can attest from a wealth of evidence. The council's report adds: "Everywhere we found an unbelievable patience with wartime restrictions. But we found a social sullenness growing from the inexcusable delay in remedying some of the conditions that should and could have serious attention."

\* \* \*

**T**HE FOREGOING FINDINGS confirm this column in one of its previous declarations that when wartime restrictions are lifted and building can be resumed, attention should be given first to the long-oppressed race minority groups because their needs are most acute and the righting of the wrongs done them has been so long delayed. Yet, if prejudice and precedent are to

(Continued on Page 2 Col. 3)



April 4 '45

DAILY PALO ALTO TIMES. WE

## 'MINORITY RIGHTS' FORUM TOPIC

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Panel to discuss fair work practices

Need for permanent state and federal fair employment practices commissions will be discussed this evening at the Palo Alto Women's Clubhouse when a panel composed of Edmond G. Brown, district attorney of San Francisco; A. E. Manley, state supervisor of Negro high schools in North Carolina; Edward Rutledge, regional examiner for the federal fair employment practices commission, and Lawrence Hewes, regional director of the American council on race relations, considers the question.

The meeting, scheduled for 8 p. m. and open to the public, is one of a series arranged by the Palo Alto Democratic Forum. The topic will be, "The Economic Rights of Minorities."

The San Francisco district attorney will discuss minorities and law enforcement, Mr. Manley will deal with the problems that confront a minority people, Mr. Rutledge will speak on the scope, operation, and limitations of the present federal FEPC, and Mr. Hewes will present some reasons why he favors the enactment of the state assembly bill to establish a permanent state FEPC.

The meeting tonight has been endorsed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Committee on Fair Play.



EDMOND G. BROWN



## Even police are prejudiced against minority groups, says S. F. district attorney

Declaring that even the police are prejudiced in the matter of law enforcement among minority groups, Edmund G. Brown, district attorney for the city and county of San Francisco, declared here last night that he has found the police in that city "much more likely to arrest a Negro than a white person" when there is suspicion that an offense has been committed.

District Attorney Brown was one of four speakers participating in a panel discussion at the Palo Alto Women's Clubhouse on the question of "The Economic Rights of Minorities, or the Need for a Fair Employment Practices Commission." The meeting was under the auspices of the Palo Alto Democratic Forum. The other three speakers were A. E. Manley, state supervisor of Negro high schools of North Carolina; Edward Rutledge, regional examiner for the federal fair employment practices committee, and Lawrence Hewes, regional director of the American Council on Race Relations.

District Attorney Brown's topic was "Some Problems of Minority Groups as They Affect Law Enforcement." He drew on his experiences as district attorney for San Francisco for the past 15 months and cited problems that face his office with regard to the behavior of minority groups.

There is almost a complete absence of delinquency among Negro children, he said, but declared that Negro adults are responsible for a higher percentage of offenses than seems warranted by their proportion of the total population.

The district attorney called

for "complete and uncompromising tolerance among all of us, and in concluding his talk laughingly stated that his position in the minority question "is not a popular one and may mean political ruination."

Mr. Manley, talking on the topic, "Some Problems That Confront Minority Groups," said that an increasingly difficult question is arising within the ranks of the Negroes themselves. Those Negroes who have been long-time residents of this region are frequently as resentful of the new Negroes as many white residents are of "Arkies and Oakies."

The Negroes are as responsible as anyone for harmonious race relations in the bay area, Edward Rutledge stated.

He devoted his time to explaining the work of the fair employment practices committee in the bay area and discussed some of the issues that have arisen from discrimination and prejudice in bay area war plants.

Final speaker of the panel was Mr. Hewes, who pointed out the extremely desperate position that all minority groups will face with regards employment when the war is over unless there are fair employment practices committees for both the state and the nation with full power to enforce impartiality on the part of employers.

v

## Stimson scores 'dastardly' attack on nisei veteran

WASHINGTON, April 5 (AP) — Secretary of War Stimson denounced today an attack on a Japanese-American soldier of the United States Army as "inexcusable and a dastardly outrage."

The secretary was asked at a news conference about a published report that five shots had been fired at a home in Madera, Calif., where Corporal Y. A. Kawamoto was visiting his brother-in-law, a discharged service veteran.

"I have not seen the news report to which you refer, Stimson said, "but I will say this:

"Any attack at any time on a peaceable citizen is bad enough; but if such an attack as you mention was directed because of his ancestry against an American soldier who, like millions of others of many different racial backgrounds, has demonstrated his loyalty to his country, it was an inexcusable and dastardly outrage."

v



# Terrorism and intimidation are keeping evacuated niseis from returning to coast

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON, April 5 (AP)—Terror—dished out by hoodlums, arsonists and nightriders—is keeping some of the evacuated Japanese and Japanese-Americans from returning to the West Coast.

Only about 1,700 of the 110,000 evacuated after Pearl Harbor, have gone back. Sixty thousand still are in relocation camps, waiting to go back or to find homes elsewhere.

Terrorization, intimidation and discrimination have been used against 1 out of every 70 evacuees who have returned. This estimate is by officials of the War Relocation Authority.

This is some of the picture given by WRA records here on the treatment given some of the evacuees who returned to the West Coast, mostly in California:

Their homes have been set on fire; nightriders have fired shotgun blasts into their homes; their homes have been stoned; near Fresno a group of ranchers and business men gave returned Japanese a deadline for leaving the area; a Los Angeles post office refused to hire back a returned Japanese-American, even though he's an American army veteran of this war and has been

taken into an American Legion post; and an aluminum company in Los Angeles fired a returned Japanese-American because other workers threatened to quit if he stayed.

For lack of space, the list of these cases can't be given here. But it's impressive.

Attorney General Biddle says the "relocation of the Japs will continue rather slowly and quietly because most of the Japs will stay in the camps because they are afraid to go home."

The 110,000 removed from the West Coast were placed in WRA camps. More than 2,500 of them have gone into the armed services. About 30,000 were released from the camps to settle in other parts of the country.

By supreme court order all the evacuees found to be loyal and law-abiding were free after last January 1 to go back to the coast.

That is what WRA officials say about the 60,000 still in the camps.

The West Coast terror-tactics have chilled the desire of some to return. The return of others is delayed because their West Coast property is still under lease to people who took it over when they left.

The Japanese in the WRA camps are not to be confused with the Japanese tough guys in a special camp for them at Tule Lake, Calif. There are 18,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans at Tule Lake.

That number includes not only those found to be disloyal but their wives and children. Five thousand of them want to be returned to Japan.

As late as last December these tough guys were, in Biddle's own words, "practically running the camp, from the point of view of expressing their loyalty."

"They were marching, they were bowing to the emperor, they had bugle calls, they had all of the performances. It was just a little Japanese center."

Biddle said this was finally broken up.



\* \* \*

Roy Nakata, a graduate of Palo Alto High School with the class of '42, is now stationed with an ASTP unit at the University of Ohio. He completed two years at Oberlin College before he entered the army. He took his basic training at Camp Blanding, Fla.

P. A. Times. Apr. 11

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APRIL 11, 1945

PA Times

## Purple Hearts given at Dibble to two nisei

Two Japanese-American soldiers who were wounded in action received the Purple Heart at a medal ceremony at Dibble General Hospital Monday afternoon. Five awards were made by Col. William P. Corr, commanding officer.

The two nisei were Pvt. Tito O'Kamoto — he insists on the Irish twist to his name — 29-year-old Glendale resident, and Staff Sgt. Massao Tamayai, 20, of Honolulu. They were members of the 442nd infantry regiment, one of the two nisei combat outfits. O'Kamoto was wounded in France last October, while Tamayai was hit by a German sniper bullet June 26 in Italy.

Attending the ceremony



# New Group Will Fight Nisei Return

SACRAMENTO, April 11—State-wide organization of groups opposed to the return of Japanese to California will be effected here April 23, according to a call sent out as a result of a local meeting of anti-Japanese groups from Auburn, Winters, Sacramento and Vacaville.

Meeting in the county courthouse, about 25 delegates from the already organized Anti-Japanese Association laid the groundwork for the new set-up. The Auburn unit of the California Preservation Association, as the new organization is to be known, sponsored the meeting.

Charles De Costa, who identified himself as a former automobile racing driver, is head of the Auburn group and leader of the drive against return of the Japanese. He said there were about 3000 Placer county members of his unit.

The delegates were given a general outline of organization and requested to go back to their local units and secure, if possible, authority to approve the plan proposed by the Auburn group.

One delegate urged his colleagues to "treat them rough" if the Japanese return. Another urged soft-peddalling of the arguments advanced at the meeting that farmers could not compete with Japanese farmers, and asked the delegates to base their opposition on the grounds of danger to national security.

Former State Senator Jack Inman, Sacramento, said he was the man who originally started the anti-Japanese movement in California. He said he was certain the American Legion, Native Sons and other organizations would add their weight to an organized effort to keep Japanese from returning.

One of the Auburn delegates urged the necessity of political action. He said this could best be achieved through organization of local units. Legislators and Congressmen "will listen to us," he said, "when we have votes."



# Three Cleared Of Terrorism Against Nisei

Special to The Chronicle

AUBURN, April 24—A verdict of not guilty was returned by a jury of seven women and five men here today in the case of three men charged with arson and illegal use of explosives in terror raids against a Japanese-American last January.

Defendants in the case were James E. Watson, 38, local bartender; Elmer Johnson, 20, and Alvin Johnson, 18, brothers, and both AWOL Army privates.

Deliberations by the jury began at 11:20 this morning after jurors received final instructions from Superior Judge Lowell L. Sparks of Placer county.

The jury failed to reach a verdict the first hour of deliberations. After taking an hour off for lunch, arguments were resumed behind closed doors during the afternoon.

## VERDICT QUICKLY REACHED

At 2:20 they reached a verdict of not guilty.

John W. Ford of Roseville, for-man of the jury, handed the verdicts to Judge Sparks, who read them and passed them to the clerk for reading.

Judge Sparks then thanked the jurors for their attention during the six days of the trial and dismissed them.

Inside the courtroom the verdict was received with proper decorum, it outside the defendants were congratulated by the greater portion of a crowd of 100 persons present for the reading of the verdicts.

Despite their acquittals, the three defendants still faced trouble.

Provost Marshal Karl Rupp of the DeWitt General Hospital took the Johnson brothers into custody as AWOL soldiers. They were taken from Camp Knight and Alvin Johnson from Fort Riley, Kansas.

## MORALS COMPLAINTS

District Attorney C. E. Tindall announced he is drawing up complaints charging Watson, the third defendant, with contributing to the delinquency of the two soldiers and two girls.

The girls are Martha Maus Johnson, 18, who married Alvin Johnson a week after the raids on the ranch of Sumio Doi were made last January, and Marie Trabakoolas, 18, who was a passenger on the nights of the two raids. Miss Trabakoolas testified at the trial that she drank heavily.

Tindall said he will also charge Watson with sale or gift of intoxicating liquor to the same four persons.

The District Attorney said he probably would dismiss the charge of illegal use of explosives against Claude P. Watson, scheduled for June 5. Watson is a brother of defendant in the trial ending today.

## WARNING ON PREJUDICE

Judge Sparks, in instructing the jury this morning, told jurors to avoid deciding the case on a basis of "prejudice or sympathy."

During 40 minutes of instruction, Judge Sparks told the jury that 15 possible verdicts could be reached, guilty or innocent on each of six counts and three separate verdicts on attempts to use explosives.

Defense Attorney Floyd Bowers, in closing his case yesterday, said that "this is a white man's country" and white supremacy should be affirmed.

He offered no witnesses and attempted no rebuttal of prosecution charges that the trio had attempted to blast and burn the property of Sumio Doi.

Bowers cited the Bataan death march and other Japanese atrocities as extenuating circumstances in defense of the Johnson brothers. He said that training while in the Army, from which they were AWOL when arrested, also had an influence on their actions.

District Attorney Tindall pointed out that Doi had two brothers in the United States Army. He pleaded with the jury to consider the issue of law enforcement.

# Anti-Nisei Attacks

## State Will Assist Merced County Inquiry Into Shooting Incidents

Attorney General Robert W. Kenney yesterday said that a special agent from the California Department of Justice has been sent to Merced to assist local officers in the investigation of recent anti-Nisei terror raids.

The raids occurred last Sunday morning when shots were fired from a moving automobile into the homes of two Nisei families in Merced county.

At the same time in Sacramento, attempted distribution of War Relocation Authority literature calling for fair play for American-Japanese produced a flurry of indignation in the Assembly, according to the Associated Press.

## BOOKLET STIRS LEGISLATORS

The incident opened with a statement by Speaker Charles Lyon that his attention had been called to a booklet left in the post office boxes of all members of the House. He said the material was "silly" while Assemblyman Fred Emlay, Salinas, urged "these Jap lovers should be told off."

Officials of the War Relocation Authority here denied having any knowledge of the incident.

"Of course we have such literature on file," a WRA spokesman said, "but we never send it out unless there is a special request for it. This is one of our strictest rules."

"It is just possible," he continued, "that some organization that is friendly with the WRA program requested these booklets from us and then distributed them among the Assemblymen. Officially and unofficially we know nothing about it."

Meanwhile, the State Department of Justice continued investigation of the Merced incident.

George Griffin, acting Chief of the State Investigation division in Sacramento, announced he had sent Harold Gillette, a special investigator, to Merced to work with local authorities.

Griffin said he had talked to Deputy Sheriff Art Hoffmann in Merced and he said he believed "local authorities were working very hard on the case."

## INQUIRY PROGRESS SLOW

Sheriff Lucius Cornell of Merced said local officials had not "made much progress" in the investigation of the shootings.

A total of five shots was fired into the homes of S. Kishi and Bob Morimota last Sunday morning, he

said. Four shots entered the farm home of Kishi. There were six members of the family in the house when the shooting occurred, including an invalid woman. The Kishi's have two sons in the service.

Cornell said he had learned of the second shooting into the home of Bob Morimota, honorably discharged soldier, only Monday. The shooting occurred about 20 minutes after the Kishi's home was fired on, he disclosed.

"It's kind of difficult," Cornell said. "No suspects have been found yet. It's kind of difficult to find a suspect. We did find the bullets in one of the places, though. Now all we've got to do is to find a suspect with the same kind of gun."

"If this keeps up," the Sheriff added, "I guess it will be a matter of putting someone out there. But you can't stay out there all the time. I don't know exactly what we're going to do."

Morimota, 27, was living in a tankhouse near Cressey with his wife, Grace, and two brothers, Frank and Teddy Morimota, at the time the shots were fired.

The bullet went through one bedroom and passed on out the wall, WRA officials said. From the hole it was indicated that the shot had been fired by the same rifle that fired on the Kishi home.



\* \* \*

**N**OW THAT THERE IS SO much discussion about what should be our attitude and policy toward the Americans of Japanese ancestry whose tested loyalty to America has won their release from relocation centers, a report on the experience in Hawaii is apropos.

I quote from a letter written by Riley H. Allen, editor of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, in reply to a direct question. Mr. Allen says:

"Speaking from experience and observation over more than 30 years here (Honolulu), I find no material difference between such employes and those of other racial ancestries, in integrity, honesty, loyalty or teamwork, or devotion to the job they are are called on to do.

"They, like employes of other races, differ individually.

"Before, on and after December 7, 1941, our Americans of Japanese ancestry were part of our Star-Bulletin family. Their associations and friendships were quite as much with employes of other than Japanese ancestry as with those of their own race. In fact, some of the close friendships developed within the personnel of this newspaper and its allied businesses have been between Americans of Japanese ancestry, and Americans of Chinese, Portuguese, northern Caucasian and other races. It has been remarkable that even the enormous strain of Japan's infamous attack on this community did not break the long-developed ties of friendship and cooperation between those of other races than Japanese and those of the Japanese race. There were individual cases of alienation, but as a whole the general integrated composition of this community stood the strain extraordinarily well.

"In both theatres of war we have boys from this newspaper and its affiliated businesses. Some of them have been lost, some of them wounded, some of them happily survived. All who survived write to their friends here that they are look-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Apr. 24 '45  
P.H. Times

(Continued from Page 1)

ing forward to rejoining the Star-Bulletin family.

"In spite of the suspicion, criticism and skepticism concerning the loyalty (in crucial days) of Americans of Japanese ancestry, they have measured up to what we could expect of Americans of any racial derivation under the stern fire of war.

"Americans of Japanese ancestry are used in large numbers in federal agencies and even in the U. S. army and its branches here. There are fewer of them in the navy, but when certain jobs are needed to be done, which only Americans of Japanese ancestry can do, the navy has found it advisable and feasible to use them."



## Defendants acquitted in nisei attack case

AUBURN, April 25 (AP)—Three defendants in California's first trial over attacks on returned Japanese-Americans were free today.

Acquitted on charges of arson and illegal use of dynamite were Pvts. Alvin and Elmer Johnson, brothers, of Redding, and Elmer Watson, Auburn bartender.

The trio was arrested after attempts were made January 18-19 to burn and dynamite a fruit packing shed on the ranch of Sumio Doi, first nisei to be released from the Amache, Colo., Relocation Center.

A superior court jury of seven women and five men deliberated less than two hours before returning a verdict yesterday afternoon.

Claude Watson, brother of James Watson, will be tried June 5 on a complaint alleging illegal use of dynamite.

APR 25 '45

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P.A. Times

## Doi is awaiting result of pre-induction test

AUBURN, April 26 (AP)— Sumio Doi, 26, Japanese-American rancher and first nisei to be released from the Amache, Colo., relocation center, today is awaiting a report on a pre-induction physical examination taken Tuesday at Sacramento.

Doi was the principal prosecution witness in the trial of three men who were acquitted this week on charges of arson and illegal use of dynamite. The trio was arrested after efforts had been made to burn and dynamite a fruit packing shed on Doi's ranch.

P.A. Times Apr 26 '45



## Strange defense

There could scarcely be a more absurd line of defense in a criminal case than that which was offered by the attorney for the three men charged with an arson-dynamite attack on a Japanese-American farmer's home at Auburn.

"This is a white man's country" and must be kept so, the attorney declared. In that fundamental stand the attorney is in conflict with the federal constitution which provides that the citizens' voting right shall not be denied or abridged "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." But even if the white supremacy principle were to be established, its maintenance could not be left to an anarchy that permitted white citizens at personal will to resort to blasting, gunfire or arson. Criminality is a strange method for exemplifying the alleged racial superiority by which the "white supremacy" advocates may seek to justify their claims.

Equally absurd was the defense plea that the intoxication of the three men at the time of the crime was an extenuating circumstance, which is equivalent to saying that one form of misconduct makes pardonable a worse misconduct.

P.A. Times. Apr 26 '45

## Lawless incidents

Incidents of lawless acts of violence against returned Japanese evacuees are piling up in California. The most recent to come to our attention is the firing of two pistol shots at a Fresno home, one of which went through the casing of a bedroom window and lodged in the opposite side of the room.

On the same date we read news of formal organization of the statewide California State Preservation Association by several anti-Japanese leagues in the Sacramento valley, having for one of its announced objectives the confiscation of lands owned by Japanese, and amendment of the federal statutes to authorize such confiscation.

There is a relationship of influence between movements of the latter sort and the lawless violence incidents that calls for suppression. Movements typified by the organization mentioned above are predicated upon the assumption that the Americans of Japanese ancestry, for all their citizenship status and their loyalty and good behavior records which have won for them the privilege of returning to their homes, have no rights worthy of respect and therefore are legitimate targets of discrimination of one kind or another. Confiscation of their property would be one kind of discrimination. Attacks on either their property or persons by gunfire, arson or other criminal methods, are another. Neither has a justifiable basis.

May 12 '45 P.A. Times



# WRA to protect Nisei sister of four veterans

May 14 '45  
P.A. Times

WASHINGTON, May 14 (AP)—Steps to end threats against a West Coast Japanese-American girl who has four brothers with honorable army service records were taken today by the War Relocation Authority.

The agency said it is prepared to turn over to law enforcement officials the names of five men who have threatened Mary Masuda, of Talbert, Orange county, California, with bodily harm unless she moves out of the county in which she resides with a Caucasian family name Trudeaux.

The announcement followed criticism by Interior Secretary Ickes of local law enforcement agencies on the West Coast.

As to Mary's four brothers: Kazuo was killed at Cassino; Takashi was wounded while with the 442nd combat team in the Vosges mountains; Masao is en route home on furlough, and Mits has received a medical discharge.

Their parents are at the Gila Relocation Center at Rivers, Ariz.

# Bridges supports right of nisei to warehouse jobs

SAN FRANCISCO, May 17 (AP)—The right of Japanese-Americans to work as warehousemen at Stockton today received the forthright support of Harry Bridges, president of the CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Members of the Stockton unit of ILMU, Local 6, have threatened to strike in protest to employment of three Japanese-American stevedores.

"The position of the ILWU on the question of equality for all, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin, is clear and unequivocal," said Bridges in a statement. "We cannot and will not compromise on it for one moment . . ."

Likewise Local 6, through its president, Richard Lynden, said the local "will not tolerate any discrimination against loyal Americans. . . . We shall continue to welcome loyal Japanese-Americans on the basis of equal participation . . . in our great task of winning the war."

Lynden added he is "convinced that outside influences with large property holdings in the Stockton area have succeeded in foisting their prejudices upon some of our members.

"We have begun an investigation to determine responsibility for the incident. . . ."

1945  
May 17  
D.F. Times



# EDITORIAL

DAILY PALO ALTO TIMES,

## Planned terrorism

May 17 '45

In denouncing the "planned terrorism by hoodlums" in California against American citizens of Japanese descent, Secretary Ickes has called national attention to the fact that 15 shooting attacks had as yet brought no suspects to trial.

There is no cause for pride in that fact. It will be recalled that in some instances after those attacks there were statements from sheriffs that the perpetrators would be tracked down. But the lack of results leaves us with a choice between two conclusions: either that the officials were incompetent for the task or they lacked the necessary enthusiasm. Whichever is the fact, it does the officials no credit.

The list of terrorist attacks is growing. There have been seven shooting attempts in Merced county, three in Fresno county, one each in Santa Clara, Kern, Madera, Tulare and Los Angeles counties. Arson cases have been reported from Fresno, Kern and Placer counties. Five threatening visits have been listed in Fresno county, and one each in Tulare, San Joaquin and Orange counties.

In most instances the families selected for terrorist attacks have had sons fighting with us against the Japanese enemy in the Pacific area. Windows with United States service flags have not been spared from gunfire of the criminal hoodlums. Secretary Ickes pointed out quite aptly that the niseis thus attacked were "far more in the American tradition than the racebaiters fighting a private war safely at home."

It would be deplorable if with the connivance of peace officers, through their lack of vigilance, the terrorists were to be able to develop unrestrained into a group having Ku Klux Klan standards and proportions.

W. R. A. AIDE SAYS

*P.A. Times - May 23 145*

## Nisei arouse little feeling in this area

Robert C. Meyers, War Relocation Authority officer for San Mateo county, today characterized the county's attitude as "neutral" toward the return of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to their former homes.

"There have been a few anonymous phone calls in Atherton to people who have re-employed Japanese gardeners," Meyers reported, "but on the whole there has been neither hostility nor friendliness towards the nisei. There is what I would call a 'wait and see' attitude."

Meyers, who will speak to the Peninsula Peace Officers' Association at the Linden Hotel in South San Francisco tonight, said the police chiefs, whom he addressed last week, are uniformly anxious to maintain the peace. He said some of them are bitter towards all Japanese, but all want law and order maintained.

He said he was not at liberty to give any figures on the number of nisei who have returned to San Mateo county. He did report that a number of gardeners and nurserymen have returned to their properties in the Redwood City area and have re-established themselves without apparent friction.

Some nisei in this area, Meyer said, are employed as civilian army instructors at Stanford in preparation for the eventual invasion of Japan and the military government function which the army must undertake.



## Nisei raise fund for high school in memory of Fred Yamamoto

A memorial to Fred Yamamoto, first Palo Alto nisei to lose his life in the service of his country, will be presented to Palo Alto High School, his alma mater, by his Japanese-American school friends at the awards assembly June 13, during senior week.

The board of education of the Palo Alto Unified School District, at its last regular meeting, unanimously accepted the gift, after hearing a letter proposing it from Hideo Furukawa, former Palo Alto High School student now in New York city. Furukawa said that he and his friends wanted to dedicate a book memorial to Yamamoto's memory, because, he explains, "Fred was a young fellow who wanted very much to go through a university, but could not because of family responsibilities; he was, however, an avid reader and lover of books."

Yamamoto was one of that group of the 442nd infantry regiment who, on October 28, saved the "Lost Battalion" in the Vosges hill sector, and was killed in that action. A gold star represents him on the Palo Alto High School flag.

The first from this community to volunteer under the provision which allowed the nisei to en-

list, he went from the Heart Mountain camp. Furukawa quotes Yamamoto as saying "I'm betting on America and I'm not going to sit back and let someone else do the fighting for me."

"Friends of Freddy's now scattered throughout the United States decided we would like to set up a memorial for him," continues Furukawa. "At first grandiose ideas such as a scholarship memorial fund came to our minds, but on second thought (needing to be more realistic), realizing that we are just young and average breadwinners at best who cannot afford to be philanthropic, we thought of a book memorial to be presented to his school."

The school board asked Superintendent of Schools Albert M. Davis to appoint a committee which will select the books.

V

in her smile

P.A. Times

June 4 '45

DAILY

## Further action urged against nisei-attacker

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4 (AP) —The American Civil Liberties Union has asked Robert W. Kenny, California attorney general, to file a felony charge against Levi Multanen, Parlier rancher who was given a suspended sentence after admitting he fired shots into a Japanese-American home.

Multanen pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of using a gun "in a rude, angry or threatening manner" when he fired four shots into the house of Charles Iwasaki.

Justice of the Peace L. B. Crosby declared the sentence "a community arrangement." The verdict evoked the criticism of Secretary of Interior Ickes, who said Crosby should be removed from office.

Ernest Besig, regional director of the Civil Liberties Union, asked that Multanen be charged with assault with a deadly weapon, or assault with intent to kill.

In his letter to Kenny, Besig said "Dist. Atty. James M. Theussen, in filing only a misdemeanor charge . . . in the face of repeated and unpunished acts of terrorism against persons of Japanese ancestry in Fresno county, is not adequately enforcing the law."

—V—

U. S. Army Engineers have been digging into the European supply of sand, gravel and stone at the rate of about 300,000 tons monthly. Nearly 3,000,000 tons have already been used in the highways, bridges, and buildings constructed along army roads that now reach into the heart of Germany.



# EDITORIAL PAGE

DAILY PALO ALTO TIMES, MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1945

## EDSON—IN SAN FRANCISCO

### Local option in citizenship

By PETER EDSON

NEA Service staff correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4.—With some 40,000 to 45,000 native-born Americans of Japanese extraction still to be released from War Relocation Authority centers in the West, the problem of refitting these U.S. citizens into civilian life is being looked on with growing concern. They have perfectly good legal and constitutional rights, yet because the United States is still at war with Japan there are some elements of the population who seem to believe that anyone of Japanese ancestry must be kicked around.



Edson

In the first five months of 1945 there have been 70 "incidents" of threats or terrorism against Japanese-Americans who have attempted to return to their prewar homes after being released from WRA centers. Sixty-five of the incidents have been in California.

Nineteen of these cases have involved shootings. Ninety per cent of the shootings have been in four Central California counties—Merced, Fresno, Madera and Tulare.

None of the shootings have been fatal, but there have been several near misses, an attempted dynamiting, several cases of setting fire to houses in which the Japanese-Americans were living, labor disturbances in which men refused to work alongside descendants of Japanese, and a number of visits by local citizens who have threatened bodily harm to the Japanese-Americans if they remained in the areas where they formerly lived or now wished to take up residence.

The significant thing about all these incidents is that there have been no convictions of the offenders. In the few cases that have been brought to trial the accused have been set free or given suspended sentences.

To W. R. Cozzens, deputy director of the WRA in charge of its western operations throughout the war, these incidents are looked upon as the possible beginning of what he calls "local option on citizenship."

Cozzens himself is a native Californian and probably the most experienced of all WRA officials in dealing with the problems of American citizens of Japanese extraction. So there is no long-distance, social workers' mollicoddling in his point of view.

Hitler got his start, Cozzens points out, by sanctioning abuses against one group of native-born German citizens. First they were deprived of their citizenship and denied its rights. Then there was terrorism against them and confiscation of their property. These abuses grew until they became the atrocities committed against the Poles, the Dutch and all the German-enslaved people of central Europe.

The time to check such violation of the rights of citizenship is obviously before the practice gets out of hand. None of the victims of the 70 incidents has been a Japanese citizen that could in any way be classified as an alien enemy. Some have actually been discharged U.S. servicemen. All have been American-born citizens who happen to have had Japanese ancestors.

Analysis of the motivation behind the 70 incidents reveals several curious factors. Only a few of the acts of terrorism have been committed by outright hoodlums, though such incidents have been perhaps the worst. In a majority of the cases there has been a motive of selfish economic gain, the perpetrators being other American citizens who have been profiting by war-time operation of land or property belonging to the Japanese-Americans while the owners were detained in war relocation centers.

Another curious fact is there appears to be little real resentment against the people coming from the relocation centers by the families of service men or by the servicemen themselves. The reason is simply that over 10,000 of these American-born citizens of Japanese extraction have made combat records in Italy and France and in the army intelligence services in the Pacific of which any American soldier or sailor who knows the facts can well be proud.



I DON'T KNOW WHEN I HAVE heard anything more unjudicial emanating from a judge's lips than the defense the justice of the peace in Parlier offered when he was criticized for his leniency in dealing with the farmer who fired four shots into the home of a returned nisei. The charge was "using a gun in a rude and threatening manner," and the penalty was a six months' suspended sentence.

The judge explained that the decision was "a community arrangement." The crowd of farmers and townspeople in the courtroom talked the matter over. It appeared that 98 per cent of them thought the WRA had erred in sending the nisei back at this time, and that a jail sentence for the gunman would fan the anger to the point where other violence would be likely. So it was agreed that if the sentence was light (or nil) the shootings would stop.

Since when, let me ask, has it been considered good trial procedure for the judge to consult the mob (alias spectators) in making his decisions and imposing penalties?

As for the implication of the spectators that a real sentence for a real offense against the nisei might cause the angered citizens to become more violent, that merely raises the question whether the real menace in the community is found in the nisei who are minding their own business or in those white residents who must be placated if they are not to take the law into their own hands and resort to criminal acts.



Smooth talker

WITH SERVICE FLAGS FOR THEIR WINDOWS

## Seventeen more nisei return to homes here

Seventeen additional Japanese-Americans returned last night to their homes in the Palo Alto area aboard the special train from Heart Mountain relocation center.

This time there was no one to meet them, because of a misunderstanding between train officials and the War Relocation Authority, which usually arranges for cars and interested groups to be on hand when they arrive.

The Okumura family is one of the best known of the returning nisei. Four sons are in the United States army. They are Raymond, a private stationed at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., Second Lt. Donald, now in Italy; John, a private, who is home on a short leave granted at Fort Snelling so that he could accompany his parents to Palo Alto; and Tom, a private, also in Italy.

All of the boys attended Mountain View Union High School before they were sent to the Heart Mountain center. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ichitaro Okumura, the returning Palo Altans.

With their parents came Roy, the youngest son, and two daughters, Mary Okumura and Dorothy Tani, wife of Ronald Tani, and the two Tani children. Ronald came back several weeks ago to get ready for the other members of the group. Mary Okumura will be with the C. E. Schincks, where the other members of the family will stay until they can get into their own home.

Arthur Okado brought his family back last night. He had been here earlier in the year to prepare the family home at 646

Emerson street. He was accompanied yesterday by his wife, Gladys; his daughter, Alice, and his father, Josaburo.

WRA officials said all the returning nisei reached their ultimate destinations without a hitch. The district office in San Jose reports that Japanese-Americans who formerly resided in the Santa Clara valley are returning daily, independent of the special trains, and that eventually at least one-third are expected to return to this area.

# DANCE

Wedne

To the Music of

# GEORGE

### We Teach Reading

EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE

# BIRTHS

## **700 of 4,400 nisei forced to go on state relief roll**

SACRAMENTO, June 25 (AP) — Approximately 700 out of 4,400 Japanese evacuees returned to California in recent months have had to go on state relief rolls, Charles W. Wollenberg, state director of social welfare, said today at the monthly meeting of the governor's council.

He did not elaborate on the statement, other than to say the 4,400 figure on the number returning is what his department definitely knows about, that "there are probably 5,000 or 6,000 returned Japanese evacuees in all."

Hubert Scudder, state real estate commissioner, said that 1,300 new real estate brokers' licenses were issued last month, a record number, and 48 new subdivisions filed papers with his office, reflecting a sharp increase in real estate activity.

### **SHOT FIRED AT HOUSE**

SAN JOSE, June 25 (AP)—James Edmiston, War Relocation Authority representative, today reported that a shot was fired into his home here Saturday night.

P. A. Times.

June 25 '45



## Niseis on relief rolls

The state director of social welfare announces that 700 out of the 4,400 Japanese evacuees returned to California in recent months have had to go on state relief rolls. That percentage is not amazing. On the contrary, the amazement is that the number was not larger. If all persons of any category in our population—racial, vocational, denominational or anything else—were to be snatched suddenly from their lifetime occupations and herded together in exile for three years, a big percentage would find themselves unable to connect immediately with gainful pursuits upon their mass return.

That result would be certain even when all conditions, including public sympathy, were on their side. In the case of the returned nisei exiles, the case is complicated by the widespread prejudices against providing them with opportunities for self-support. And many of the same people who would object to employment or patronage of the returned nisei will complain just as vociferously against having them fed at taxpayers' expense.

They must be provided for by one way or the other. Which way is the more desirable, from the standpoint of both the niseis and the rest of us?

P.A. Times. June 29 '45

Saturday, July 1, 1944

## Hirabayashi Charged With Draft Violation

SEATTLE, Wash. — Gordon Hirabayashi, former University of Washington senior, who served a prison camp sentence when he violated military curfew restrictions, as affecting citizens of Japanese ancestry as a test of the regulations, was charged on June 26 with failure to complete and return a form sent him by Seattle Draft Board No. 4. The paper is entitled, "The Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry."

Hirabayashi had offered himself as a test case on both the curfew and evacuation issues. In a decision enunciated by the United States Supreme Court, the high tribunal ruled only on the curfew case.

A conscientious objector, Hirabayashi has been working in Spokane with the American Friends Service Committee, assisting in the relocation of evacuees of Japanese ancestry. He will be brought to Seattle to face the charges, according to Allen Pomeroy, assistant U. S. attorney, who authorized the complaint.

When Hirabayashi received the special questionnaire last February 15, he wrote Charles Dennis, U. S. Attorney, that he would not fill out the form because it "is an outright violation of both the Christian and American principles of justice and democracy."

Pomeroy said he had urged Hirabayashi to comply with the regulation.

U. S. District Judge Lloyd L. Black sentenced Hirabayashi to three months imprisonment on the curfew violation charge after his conviction. He served the sentence last fall in a prison camp near Tuscon, Ariz., after his conviction was upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court last June.

The form against which Hirabayashi is protesting is Selective Service Form 304-A which is specifically designed for American citizens of Japanese ancestry.



## 2,100 GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOLS IN RELOCATION CAMPS

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SAN FRANCISCO — The War Relocation Authority reported on July 6 that 2,100 seniors were graduated from its high schools in the ten war relocation camps during June.

The WRA reported that many of the boy graduates were being inducted into the U. S. Army.

Manzanar graduated 181, while 121 were graduated from the high school at the Tule Lake segregation center.

# Nisei declared 'finest soldiers'

SAN FRANCISCO, July 7 (AP)  
—Casualties among the 20,529 Japanese-Americans in the nation's armed forces are estimated by the War Relocation Authority at 3,000, R. B. Cozzens, assistant director of the WRA, reported today.

Cozzens also made public a letter from Gen. Jacob L. Devers, head of all United States ground forces, in which he said the nisei under his command "are, in my opinion, among the finest soldiers in the United States Army."

*D. A. Times. July 7 1945*

**Volunteers health in**



# MINORITIES

(Continued from Page 1)

session chairmen. He stressed particularly the importance of having good community representation on unity and fair play committees.

Discussion in his group brought out the opinion that housing was the most serious source of inter-racial tension at present, with discrimination in employment as the second danger point.

Raymond Booth, secretary of the Los Angeles Council of Civic Unity, told the conference that the nisei are not the chief targets of hate. Intolerant and bigoted persons, he said, have "other blind spots" affecting particularly the Negroes and Jews.

Santa Clara County Assessor H. W. Pitman, a member of the San Jose Council for Civic Unity, said today that this county had more than 4,000 Japanese-Americans in 1940 and now has only 800, whereas the Negro population had increased from 250 to 1,000.

"It seems as though Negroes, not nisei, are going to be the county's main racial problem after the war," he said.

Negroes were represented at yesterday's meeting by members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and nisei by the Japanese-American Citizens League. A large group of nisei soldiers back from European fronts attended the luncheon at the Elks Club.

The luncheon speaker was Frank A. Clarvov, editor of the San Francisco News. Mr. Clarvov called economic opportunity the key to the whole race relations problem. He discredited the idea that certain races are unable to learn what others can, and urged Negro leaders to encourage Negro workers in war industries to save their money and prepare themselves for the postwar period.

Mr. Clarvov praised the conference for its emphasis on action rather than "studies" or "surveys."

Among those attending the conference were Mrs. Frank Duvonck of Los Altos, Mrs. R. A. Isenberg of Palo Alto, and Mrs. Henry Adams of Stanford University. Mrs. Isenberg is chairman and Mrs. Adams is secretary of the Palo Alto fair play committee.

# Action of civic groups urged for protection of minorities

The importance of action—not just talk — by representative community groups concerned with the problems of racial minorities was emphasized by speakers at a conference of California's Councils of Civic Unity and similar community organizations in Sacramento yesterday.

Att. Gen. Robert W. Kenny, who took part in the program, announced that the American Civil Liberties Union is prepared to pay a \$1,000 reward for the arrest and felony conviction of any person attacking a Japanese in California.

He told the conference that peace officers could go no further in law enforcement than the community opinion back of

them, and urged public support for their efforts to check attacks on returning Japanese-Americans.

Much of the trouble, he declared, was the result of misinformation. He pointed out that the Japanese were returning to this coast because of a supreme court decision and army action, and the War Relocation Authority is in no way to blame. Work of such organizations as fair play committees and councils on civic unity, he said, can do much to enlighten the public and thus support enforcement efforts.

Lawrence I. Hewes Jr. of Palo Alto, regional director of the American Council on Race Relations, was one of the workshop

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

*Paly Times - July 7*



July 17

PA Times

# THE PROWLER

by  
DALLAS E. WOOD

IT WAS NO HIGH COMPLIMENT paid to the peace officers of the erring localities when the American Civil Liberties Union recently offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the



arrest and conviction of any person attacking a Japanese in California. The offer, announced by Attorney General Robert W. Kenny at an organization meeting of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair

Play held in Sacramento, was an indirect but sharp reminder that in most instances in which hoodlums or misguided "patriots" have fired into homes of niseis in California there have been no arrests. Whether that reflects either incompetency or lack of zeal on the part of the negligent peace officers is a point of small consequence. Which-ever it is, the effect is the same: there is not adequate protection for those American citizens of Japanese descent, even though they may be ex-service men, or relatives of currently active service men, and even though their records for American loyalty have been thoroughly established and attested.

\* \* \*

ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE been many attacks on Japanese-American homes in California this year, there have been only two trials of the offenders. The culprits in the other cases managed to escape official detection and arrest.

In both of the cases that went to trial, the court outcomes were farcical. The first trial was held in Auburn in April. The three culprits, who confessed to firing and attempting to dynamite the packing shed of a Japanese-American firm, were acquitted by the jury after their attorney cited the "death march" from Bataan and argued that "this is a white man's country." (And yet we criticize and ridicule Gene Talmadge of Georgia because of his "white supremacy" slogan in politics.)

The second trial was held in Parlier in May, at which a rancher, who pleaded guilty to firing two shots into the home of a returned nisei evacuee, was given a suspended sentence. There was a two-fold official explanation for this leniency. The district attorney said the culprit had used only a shotgun, when he could have used a powerful deer rifle he owned, and therefore "did not intend to injure anyone." (That sounds like the explanation of the small boy who set fire to a hayfield. He declared he had not fired the whole field, but had set fire to only a little piece of it.) The trial judge explained that the reduction of the charge and the decision for the easy sentence were reached after a discussion with the courtroom spectators held before the trial had begun. It is an innovation in courtroom procedure for the judge to consult with the audience as to what procedure should be followed. And it seems also to be a reversal of usual procedure for the decision about the disposition of the case to be made in advance of the trial itself.

\* \* \*

IN SOME LOCALITIES GROUPS have been formed to promote interracial harmony. The main job of those groups is found not in protecting the returned Japanese-Americans — important as that one job may be. The bigger problem is planning for fair treatment of the colored population.

Some of the white citizens are inclined to stand aloof from that enterprise. They argue: "That's the sort of thing the Communists go in for heavily—stirring up the Negroes. We should keep our hands off and not get mixed up with the Reds."

In other words, they would surrender the colored population to the Communists, and, by providing the Negroes with no other alternative, leave them no choice but Red affiliation." Thus those anti-Communists would defeat their own end.

As for "stirring up" the colored people—they already are stirred. The Negroes are acutely conscious of their long-endured suppression — inability to get jobs above the low-paid, menial chore class; relegation to slummy dwellings; non-admittance to the better schools in some localities; defeat of the voting right in some states; jim crow treatment in general.

A determined and convincing effort of white citizens to improve the outlook for the mistreated Negroes will not mean a stirring up of the colored people, but further continued neglect of them could be counted on to have that effect.



## Woman jailed for cussing nisei veteran

SACRAMENTO, July 19 (AP) — A tirade against a Japanese-American soldier and his family has landed Mrs. Wilma Insigne, 34, of Walnut Grove, in the Sacramento county jail because, in the words of Justice Milo Dye, "doing you a favor is doing you an injustice."

Dye, Walnut Grove justice of the peace, sentenced Mrs. Insigne to 90 days in jail on charges of disturbing the peace and using vulgar, profane and indecent language. He suspended 60 days of her term on condition she leave the county after serving 30 days.

Secretary of the Interior Ickes yesterday cited her conviction as the first jail sentence imposed for threatening returned Japanese-Americans.

After hearing the case, Dye told Mrs. Insigne, "you tried to incite certain people to an act of violence . . . and had you gained enough followers, you might have started a riot resulting in bloodshed or death."

She was arrested on the complaint of army Pvt. Yoshio Matsuoka, who has just returned to the United States after 10 months in a German prison camp. Matsuoka charged that the woman threatened to have his father's home burned down if the family remained in Walnut Grove.

From her cell Mrs. Insigne screamed last night, "it's a lie, a dirty Jap-loving lie! I positively did not threaten any Japs. I just gave them a darn good cussing out."

She explained that "at least a dozen" Japanese went past her home and "I've always said if ever a Jap returned to Walnut Grove I was going to give them a good cussing, so that's what I did."

In passing sentence Dye said, "These Japanese in our country are protected by our laws and the federal government has seen fit that they can, with the approval of the army, relocate on the West Coast. This may be contrary to our personal feelings, but we cannot let our personal feelings enter into the enforcement of our laws."

Mrs. Insigne, booked under the name of Wilma Ferguson, is the wife of a Walnut Grove Filipino.



## Kindness of Nisei family remembered by miner

ST. LOUIS, Mo., July 19 (AP) — An 81-year-old miner who remembered kindness shown him by a Japanese-American family, traveled in a day coach from California to give his friends \$1,500 before he died.

The miner, Thomas Fehr, stood during much of the trip and was taken to a hospital Sunday where he succumbed to a heart ailment.

Mr. and Mrs. Yamoato Hara and their four daughters said they would open a rooming house with the money. Fehr lived with them eight years in Los Angeles. They were sent to a relocation center in Arizona in 1942 and came here last June.

July 25 '45

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## U. S. to act in blast attack on nisei's farm

SAN FRANCISCO, July 25 (AP)—United States Attorney Frank J. Hennessy said yesterday he will ask the federal grand jury at Sacramento to take action in the Sumio Doi dynamite case.

Doi, a Japanese-American returned from the Lamar, Colo., relocation center, complained last January that an attempt had been made to dynamite a packing shed on his farm near Auburn.

Two soldiers and a civilian were tried in a Placer court on a charge of attempted dynamiting, and were acquitted. Hennessy said he will ask the grand jury at its next meeting to indict the civilian, James E. Watson, 38, and his brother, Charles Watson, 35, on charges of illegally possessing dynamite, and conspiracy to violate the federal explosives law.

Hennessy said the grand jury would likely meet in August. Maximum sentence on the conspiracy count, he said, is four years' imprisonment; on the illegal possession count, one year and a \$5,000 fine.



*July 28 '45*  
**Refusal to work  
with nisei draws  
union penalties** *PA Times*

STOCKTON, July 28 (AP) — A Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union board has recommended suspension of two members and six-month penalties for three others charged with refusal to work with a Japanese-American, one of the men revealed.

Alva Bone said the board's findings were read before the membership last night and must be approved by five other units of local 6 — Petaluma, San Jose, Richmond, Oakland and San Francisco. Stockton, suspended during the investigation, does not vote.

The five men were charged with dual unionism, violation of racial non-discrimination policy and violation of the union constitution. Bone said he will not appeal.

## FIVE STARS IN FLAG

### *Aug. 1 '42* **Japanese family back in Atherton**

Arata Shin Ishida, father of a family represented by five service stars, returned Sunday to inspect the Atherton flower-growing establishment he left in 1941 in compliance with war relocation orders.

He plans to return to his former business within a month. At present he is serving on the community council of the relocation center to which he was evacuated nearly four years ago.

The five stars on his family's service flag represent his five sons in the U. S. Army.

The eldest is Capt. Hiraku Ishida, 30, with the medical corps in Germany. Pfc. Sonau Ishida is with the 442nd infantry and his 26-year-old twin brother, Mochiu Ishida is at Camp Robinson. Pfc. Masaru Ishida, 23, and Pfc. Sodatsu Ishida, 19, are also with the 442nd infantry.

—V—

### **NISEI GARAGE FIRED ON**

FRESNO, Aug. 1 (AP)—A 43-year-old Japanese-American garage man, Tom Inouye, has complained to police here that a bullet was fired through a window of his garage Monday night while the building was unoccupied. Inouye, his wife and 15-year-old son returned recently from an internment camp at McGehee, Ark.



# Fred Yamamoto's Silver Star is proud possession of his mother

The Silver Star medal, third highest military award, has been presented to Mrs. Yumi Sato, member of one of Palo Alto's Japanese-American families, for her son, Pfc. Fred Yamamoto, killed in action near Biffontaine, France, October 28, 1944.

The posthumous award for gallantry in action was conferred on Mrs. Sato at the Heart Mountain center, which is preparing to close before the end of the year. At the simple ceremony, Project Director Guy Robertson paid tribute to Private Yamamoto as "a great American" and read excerpts from a eulogy written by an-

other former Palo Alto boy, John Kitasako, now editor with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington.

Lt. Justin Siegel of the center's military police detachment presented the Silver Star and read the following citation:

"For gallantry in action on October 27 and 28, 1944, near Biffontaine, France. When his platoon was counterattacked by two German companies, Private Yamamoto, an automatic rifleman, singlehandedly killed two Germans, wounded an undetermined number and checked the attack until the platoon reached the safety of higher ground. The following day he killed a machine pistol gunner and two supporting riflemen.

"For two days, until he was mortally wounded, Private Yamamoto continually exposed himself to heavy fire to support his company with effective automatic fire.

"His courage and fighting spirit are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army of the United States."

Private Yamamoto attended the Palo Alto High School, where a gold star on the school service flag represents his sacrifice. A book fund in his memory has been established

through the efforts of his nisei friends, among them Hideo and Toshio Furukawa, now of New York City.

Fred was at one time a member of the staff of the Heart Mountain Sentinel, the center's newspaper, which put out its last issue July 28. A picture of Private Yamamoto appeared on the first page.

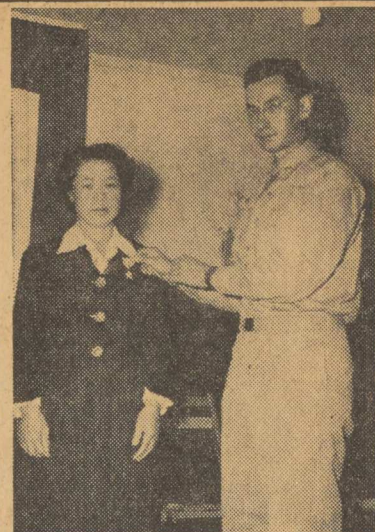
A skeleton staff planned to remain in the dwindling center "to disseminate information of importance to remaining residents."

## More nisei return

A large number of former Palo Altans were at Heart Mountain during their wartime exile from the Pacific Coast. Many have relocated in other parts of the country, but a number have returned to this community.

Among the most recent relocatee arrivals from Heart Mountain and other centers, are the Miyaharas and their four children, who are back at their own home on El Camino Real; Asataro Matsumoto, Naoyuki Otomori, Anne Nomura, George Kameda and Henry Nishimura.

Master Sgt. Arthur Castle is home on furlough after several months spent in the South Pacific, and is visiting at the Mayfield home of his brother, Capt. California Ushiro, who is still in the European Theatre with the medical corps.



## TO GALLANT MOTHER OF GALLANT SON

Lt. Justin Siegel of the Heart Mountain military police detachment present to Mrs. Yumi Sato, long-time resident of Palo Alto, the Silver Star medal posthumously awarded to her son, Pfc. Fred Yamamoto, for gallantry in action. Private Yamamoto was killed in action near Biffontaine, France, October 28.

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P. A Times Aug. 28 '45

## 60 machinists quit SF jobs when nisei reports for work

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 28 (AP)—Sixty machinists at the municipal railway bus barn quit working today when Takeo Miyama, 37, Japanese-American, reported for work.

Miyama, with the backing of Mayor Roger Lapham and the civil service commission, reported yesterday, but left when he was taken aside and advised there would be a "sitdown strike" if he stayed.

Charles McGuire, shop foreman, reported the men continued to work for a short time after

Miyama, former resident of the Tule Lake Relocation Center, showed up this morning. A short time later the workers quit and gathered in front of the barn. No violence was reported, and police were on hand to keep order.

Miyama yesterday talked to Mayor Lapham, who later went to the shops and told the machinists he would back Miyama's right to work and asked them to stay on the job. The machinists are members of AFL Automotive Machinists, Local 1305.



# Tachmar



## **Chronicle Editorial on Nisei to Be Broadcast**

An editorial from The Chronicle March 7 denouncing the "carload of hoodlums" who set fire to the home of a returned Japanese near San Jose, will be used on the radio program, "Voice of a Nation," today at 9 a. m. The editorial will be heard over NBC on a national hookup, over KPO locally.



# Attack On Nisei

## Father Fired On, House Is Burned Near San Jose

A Japanese-American family of nine were attacked with fire and bullets early yesterday by a group of unidentified men who applied the torch to the ranch home on the San Jose-Alviso road to which they had recently returned from a relocation center.

Gasoline was splashed on the wooden six-room house and a match applied. And as the family awakened and rushed out to fight the flames shots were fired at them from a slowly moving sedan which subsequently disappeared in the darkness.

It was the first case of violence against returning Japanese-Americans to be reported to Santa Clara authorities.

Victims of the attack were Sam Takeda, 60; his wife, Misao, 51; their son, Joe Takeda, 25, acting head of the household; Joe's brothers and sister, Bill 20; Herbert, 16; Edward, 14, and Beverly, 12; a brother-in-law, Phillip Matsumara, and Phillip's wife, Sue.

### THEY ASKED INTERNMENT

Joe Takeda, a graduate of Santa Clara High School, telling of the attack, said last night that the family had occupied the farmhouse for years with its 10 acres of pear trees before the war, and volunteered for internment after Pearl Harbor. For a time they were stationed at Sanger, then were transferred to the Gila camp at Rivers, Ariz.

"We were eight months in that camp," he said. "And we were the first to be relocated as a family unit. We were sent to Parowan, Utah, where we did farm work. We returned to the family home last January 26.

"We expected something unpleasant but we didn't anticipate this. We have no bitterness. We realize we are the victims of circumstances. We have always wanted to help the war effort and have sent word to the farmers of the valley we would be glad to help on the farms where needed, especially those farms where sons are in the service."

The fire was discovered at 12:55 a. m., Joe Takeda told Sheriff William J. Emig. Sue Matsumara, asleep in a side room on the first floor, was awakened by the smell of gasoline. She called to her brother, Joe, who was asleep in a front corner room.

Joe, looking out of his window,

*Continued on Page 9, Col. 3*

# More About Attack on Nisei Family

Continued from Page 1

saw flames creeping up the front of the house.

He called "Fire!" Quickly he organized the family into a fire-fighting unit. They smothered the flames with earth scraped up from the orchard ground.

"We had just succeeded in putting out the fire," said Joe, "when a dark sedan moved slowly in front of the house. It apparently contained several men. A shot was fired. The car kept on but presently it was back, headed toward San Jose, two miles away.

"Two more shots rang out. One shot went over the head of my sister Beverly. Another narrowly missed Edward. One bullet was embedded in the front wall."

In the meantime the mother of the family, Misai Takeda, slipped out and went to a neighbor's house, from where she phoned the Sheriff's office.

### DEPUTIES INVESTIGATE

Three deputies were at the scene within a few minutes.

They found two empty jugs still carrying the odor of gasoline. They also found some empty liquor bottles apparently dropped from the sedan.

They discovered that the telephone wires had been cut. The attackers obviously were unaware that the telephone had been removed before the family's return and had not been restored.

They also found footprints which they examined closely.

And they dug out a bullet from the house where it was imbedded.

All the children of the family were born in the United States. Joe and Sue are graduates of Santa Clara High School, Bill attended San Jose State College, Herbert and Edward are students at Santa Clara High School, and Beverly has been enrolled at Alviso Grammar School.

"All we wanted," said Joe, "was to get back home and get settled. We didn't expect anyone would take a potshot at us."

Sixty-five hundred Japanese were evacuated from the Santa Clara valley after the war and many of them are returning. To keep an eye on the situation the War Relocation Authority on Friday will establish an office at San Jose. It will be in charge of James E. Edmiston.

The American Legion of Santa Clara has gone on record as opposed to violence against Japanese-Americans.

While Santa Clara had its first case of violence against returning Japanese-Americans, the town of Auburn, in Placer county, was quiet as Tom Uratsu, first Japanese-American youth to return to high school in that town, went about his classes undisturbed.

### SIGNS STILL POSTED

In that town store windows still carry signs "No Jap Trade Solicited."

Tom, who returned last week with his parents from a relocation camp at Granada, Colo., registered as a freshman in school Monday. Harold Chastrain, principal of the Placer Union High School, said the registration occurred without incident.

One of four sons, the other three of whom are with the Army, Tom Uratsu was the only Japanese-American to enroll full time at Placer High. Seven wounded veterans at nearby DeWitt General Hospital have been permitted to take short courses occasionally.

The California Preservation Society, sponsors of the anti-Japanese store placards, declined comment, according to United Press.

At Sacramento, Attorney General Kenny, replying to a request for information, reported to the Legislature yesterday that investigations of alien land law violations could "easily amount to \$100,000 annually." A fruitful field of investigation, he said, would lie in bank accounts, credit statements and financial transactions.

Investigations by the Senate fact-finding committee on Japanese resettlement, and the Assembly interim committee on Japanese problems, indicate numerous evasions of the alien land law may have taken place, according to Associated Press dispatches. Kenny has been asked to recommend changes in the law to prosecute evasions and violations.