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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
San Francisco 5, California

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 15, 1945 to MARCH 9, 1945

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INCIDENTS

First evidence of hostility toward returnees in Santa Clara County occurred on March 6. Arsonists used gasoline in attempting to burn Sam Takeda's home, then shot at the American-Japanese as they fled the building. No one was injured in the early morning incident. Two suspects are under observation by Santa Clara authorities, who have promised a vigorous investigation and prosecution. Deputy Sheriff Gibbons stated, "This is an arson case regardless of who lives there. We intend to use all our resources to solve it." (San Francisco and Oakland Papers, March 7 and 8.) The S.F. Chronicle editorially commended the sheriff's statement.

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Three shots were fired into a returnee's home, now housing eleven persons, near Orosi. The sheriff reports no trace of assailants. (Los Angeles Times, February 28).

Mr. and Mrs. Kakuichi Sadamune, parents of three Nisei soldiers, were told by an anonymous telephoner to "get out of town, or I'll cut your throat". The Sadamunes now reside in Oakland. (San Francisco Call Bulletin, February 19).

The unoccupied home of Bob Morishige, near Fresno was destroyed by fire, on February 16. (San Francisco Chronicle, News, Call Bulletin and Examiner).

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COURT ACTION

Representatives of the Los Angeles First Street Baptist Church charged agents of Japanese owners of the Buddhist Temple ripped out the altar and pews used by the Negro Baptists. The Negro Church is housed in the Temple. (Los Angeles Herald Express, February 20).

Fred Korematsu of San Leandro, now at Topaz Relocation Center, lost an appeal case before the United States Supreme Court "to reconsider its decision that the Army's 1942 evacuation of Japanese from the West Coast was a legal wartime action." (San Francisco Chronicle and Oakland Tribune, February 12).

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absolutely essential to exclude those individuals we deem dangerous to the military effort". He explained that exclusion from the coast of certain evacuees is carried out according to direct orders from the President. Sabotage and espionage exist right now on the Pacific Coast, according to the General. (San Francisco and Los Angeles newspaper, March 2 - 6).

#### RESOLUTIONS

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation recommended return to Japan of all disloyal evacuees. (Stocton Record).

Three hundred farmers approved motion to organize a Remember Pearl Harbor League chapter in Yakima. (Portland Journal).

A group of agricultural organizations in The Klamath and Tulelake Basins sent a resolution to the War Production Board asking that surplus farm equipment now at the Tulelake center be made available to farmers of the area. (Sacramento Union).

The Multnomah Bar Association formed a committee to protect Japanese-Americans and other minorities "whose constitutional rights may be threatened by war hysteria". (Portland Oregonian).

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#### MISTAKEN IDENTITY

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#### RESETTLEMENT

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

March 10, 1945 to March 24, 1945

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INCIDENTS

Although no suspects have been arrested for attempted arson at the home of Sam Takeda, near San Jose, Sheriff William Emig announced, "The entire community is supporting the Sheriff's office in its determination to discover those guilty of the Takeda outrage". (San Francisco Chronicle, March 14). Editorial comments from the Fresno Bee, and San Francisco Chronicle, Labor Herald and News, condemned violence and vigilante action, while supporting Attorney General Robert Kenny's clear statement on the responsibility of all law-enforcement agencies in California, (March 16). At the meeting of sheriffs in Sacramento, Attorney General Kenny declared that their responsibility in protection "does not stop with prevention of shooting. The protection of their basic rights, freedom from fear, freedom to earn their living, freedom to live as peaceful citizens -- must be maintained." In listing five groups of persons who are "stirring up trouble", Mr. Kenny called "most vicious" those people who cover "their selfish economic urges with a pretense of patriotism". (San Francisco Chronicle, March 17).

The WRA has established an office in San Jose, and the San Jose Civic Unity Council is making plans for a returnees' hostel. (San Francisco Chronicle, March 14).

A cartoon on the editorial page of the San Francisco News, March 9, depicted a burning American-Japanese home on a side road leading off from the main avenue labeled "World Security Conference, San Francisco", where a signpost reads "International Unity".

The four men accused in the Sumio Doi incident have been arraigned before Superior Court Judge Lowell L. Sparks and will be tried April 17.

A rash of red paint flared up in Los Angeles, where much publicity was given to an incident at the home of Dr. Linus Pauling, employer of an American-Japanese gardener waiting his Army call. There vandals painted a replica of a Japanese flag, and the words, "Japs work here -- Americans die but we love Japs". Dr. Pauling is a professor at the California Institute of Technology, and a researcher in the use of explosives and chemicals in warfare. He has been recently cited for his contributions to the armed services by the Office of Scientific Research and Development. (Pasadena Post, Los Angeles Examiner and Herald Express).

Similar signs were painted on the home of Mrs. Marion Gooding and across the walls of the Pasadena Junior College handball court.

Four days later Dr. Pauling received a threatening note. The contents were not revealed either by Dr. Pauling or the FBI.

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DISCRIMINATION

On the heels of an announcement from the Hood River, Oregon, American Legion Post that the names of 15 American-Japanese soldiers are being restored to their honor roll, came a statement from Richard W. Johnston, United Press correspondent, home from the Pacific war zone. Johnston said, "I can tell you one thing. The boys out there from Oregon used to be proud of their state until this Hood River business came up. I would like to report that they deeply resent the Hood River acts. I've seen many Nisei soldiers in action. They do a good job and they are very popular." (Oregon Journal, San Francisco People's World, and Los Angeles Daily News). Two Oregon readers, one a soldier in France, protested through letters to the editor about the Hood River incident about the same time.

Two failures to sell their farm produce in a Portland, Oregon market has not kept S. Tsubota and his father from continuing to bring in their vegetables. In spite of a negative reception when they had a truck load of fairly scarce vegetables, the Tsubotas, first returnee Japanese growers and marketers of produce for the Portland market, have declared they will keep coming to the market. (Oregonian, Oregon Journal, Seattle Times, Arizona Republic, March 10).

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At least two letters to the editor were provoked by this episode. One mother of a son in the South Pacific stated that "such treatment is disgraceful and exactly opposite to what our boys are fighting for", while another mother objects to such waste of food that would mean more canned vegetables for boys overseas. (Oregonian, March 12).

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#### MEETINGS

Gresham, Oregon, last week watched two widely publicized meetings advocate two opposing policies for treatment of American-Japanese persons. First heralded by quarter-page and half-page advertisements, a citizens' committee held a mass meeting March 16 while the Oregon Property Owners' Protective League conducted a mass meeting on March 13.

The Property Owners' League meeting, (which had advertised a hundred dollars worth of door prizes to be given away), announced a campaign for a constitutional amendment to exile all persons of Japanese ancestry from the United States, on the theory that Japanese cannot become good citizens either by birth or naturalization.

The citizens' committee, (advertised to present the "American way" of dealing with evacuees), drew an estimated 500 persons for their purpose of spearheading opposition to activities of groups opposing return of Japanese to coastal areas. (Gresham Outlook, Oregonian, Oregon Journal, Seattle Times, San Francisco Chronicle, March 13-17).

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#### RETURNEES

Resettlement statistics, released by WRA, show fewer than 100 evacuated Japanese-Americans have returned to Oregon since the lifting of the exclusion ban. Although the 4000 originally evacuated came chiefly from Multnomah, Clackamas and Hood River counties, approximately three-fourths of the returnees have settled in Multnomah county. (Portland Oregonian, March 9).

The Multnomah Bar Association has appointed a committee to protect the constitutional rights of Japanese, and any others who may be affected by "war emotions". (Oregonian, March 21).

About 150 American-Japanese have returned to western Washington without incident, according to an announcement by Harold Fistere. (Tacoma News Tribune, March 21).

Newest organizations supporting American-Japanese include seven more CIO organizations which recently passed resolutions favoring the return of evacuees. (San Francisco Labor Herald, March 9).

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#### LAND LAWS

A land law "copied largely from a California law" and passed by the Oregon Senate, now prohibits aliens ineligible for citizenship from leasing or owning agricultural land in the names of their American-born children. Senator Frank Hilton declared, "I believe it is desirous that the three Pacific coast states have uniform alien laws". (Oregonian and Oregon Journal, March 16). A week previous Attorney General Kenny told the California legislature that adequate investigation and prosecution of violations of the California Alien Land Act would cost approximately \$100,000 annually. Reimbursement of the state through sale of escheated property was not taken into consideration because up to the present time the escheat provisions of the law have not been satisfactorily adjudicated, Kenny stated. (San Francisco News, March 7).

On March 22 the Senate Judiciary Committee granted \$200,000 to the Attorney General's office to prosecute Alien Land Law violations. Also recommended to the Senate is a measure allowing the state to bring escheat actions against violators over the past twenty years. (Oakland Tribune).

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#### CIVIL LIBERTIES

Three days after the Oregon Alien Land Law was passed, the American Civil Liberties Union announced it will support a test of alien land laws up to the Supreme Court, if necessary, on the basis of the 14th Amendment. Test cases will be those of Mather Masoke Hirose and Fred Oyama, which have already been urged in the California Superior Court. (San Francisco News, March 19).

The Civil Liberties Union also stated on March 12 that it will support test cases of any American-Japanese still excluded from the West Coast who wishes to go to court. They will aid only those still excluded who have not applied for expatriation and who indicated their loyalty on the questionnaire, and those who later changed their answers to indicate their loyalty, (San Francisco News). On March 10 the suit of individually-excluded Messrs. Shigekawa, Ochikubo, and Yamamoto, seeking to return to the West Coast, was under advisement by Federal Judge Hall. (San Francisco News).

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#### RECOVERY OF PROPERTY BY RETURNEES

After Dale Bergh was given a court order to return his leased farm to its owner, Masayucki Fujimoto, because he held an illegal lease, Bergh's attorney filed a motion for an order to set aside the judgment.

However, a ruling on this motion has been delayed pending the briefing of precedents and federal rental control acts affecting the case. There is a possibility that OPA rental controls are not effective concerning leases, which is the case in the Fujimoto action to oust his tenants. (Oregon Journal, March 12 & 15).

B. Fuji, recent arrival on the coast, cannot demand the return of his property leased by the County poor farm because the lease was entered into with his two sons, both of whom are now in the armed forces, according to Stanley M. Jones, Chief Civil Deputy District Attorney. (Oregon Journal, March 20).

Other returnees include Mr. and Mrs. Ysuto Kato, who will reoccupy their farm in Warm Springs, now leased by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Benbow. When the exclusion ban was first lifted, the Katos came back to their home under the mistaken impression that the lease held by Mr. Benbow had expired. They returned to their relocation camp to wait expiration of the lease. (Oakland Tribune, March 12). (See January Digest).

One returnee, William M. Shimasaki, wrote the Editor of the Auburn, Wash., Globe News, on his very pleasant reception in Auburn, (March 14). Many unfavorable newspaper and magazine articles about the White River Valley had led him to expect just the opposite.

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#### ESCHEAT CASE

A refusal to answer questions in an escheat case brought Hideo Susyenaga, Poston Relocation Center internee, two thirty-day jail sentences for contempt of court. Suyenga stated he did not wish to answer some questions because the answers might incriminate him and he was without advice of legal counsel. Later the Arizona Supreme Court decided that Superior Judge Henry C. Kelly had acted without jurisdiction in sentencing Suyenaga to jail, and the defendant was ordered released from jail. Yuma county officials seeking to uphold Judge Kelly's order had been aided by California attorneys. (Five Arizona papers, March 15).

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#### STATEMENTS

Approximately five thousand Tule Lake internees have applied for repatriation to Japan, according to Attorney General Biddle. (San Francisco Examiner, March 18). Biddle further stated, in a testimony before the House Appropriation Committee, that at times "the Japs were practically running the camp, from the point of view of expressing their loyalty." Eighty leaders were sent to a camp for enemy aliens by Jack Burling, Department of Justice representative, which broke up "the marching, the Japanese bugle calls, the bowing to the emperor", according to Mr. Biddle. (Seattle Times, San Francisco News and Chronicle, Los Angeles Examiner, March 14).

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(Other shipments of Tule Lake internees to a camp for enemy aliens included 125 men in March. All San Francisco and Los Angeles papers, etc.)

Secretary Harold L. Ickes, in a letter to Senator Cordon, Oregon, suggested that American-Japanese would be better off if they settle elsewhere than on the Pacific Coast. He stated, "We do all in our power to persuade those who formerly lived on the Pacific Coast to locate elsewhere in the country. We cannot use compulsion because most of these Japanese are citizens, with the same constitutional right of free movement as other citizens have. But we go as far as we can, and will continue to do that." (San Francisco Call Bulletin, March 17).

"Encouraged by this statement", the Oregon Property Owners' Protective League, at Gresham, Oregon, passed a resolution demanding the resignation or dismissal of Dillon S. Myer, charging he has been neither wise nor patriotic in his acts, (Oregon Journal, Oregonian, March 17.) A "dual criticism" of Ickes' statement is recorded by Robert A. Holley, in the Oregon Journal, who mentions the Property Owners' League commendation of Ickes, and Dan McDade's comment that "recent press notices put Ickes in a new light". McDade is National Vice Commander of the American Legion.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS

A much publicized Nisei soldier on furlough in Los Angeles was Pvt. Koo Ito, commended in newspapers there for his heroism in Italy. While fighting with the 100th Battalion he lost a leg on the Fourth of July, 1944. Newspaper cuts showed him with his wife, and reported he plans to study accounting after his expected medical discharge. (Los Angeles Daily News, and Times, March 21).

Canadian-Japanese evacuated from the Pacific Coast have been notified that the Canadian Government prefers they settle east of the Rocky Mountains after the war. (Tacoma News Tribune, March 16).

Kazuo Uno, 23, is the first alien Japanese accepted by the U.S. Army, according to the Seattle Times, March 18.

California guayule will not be plowed under, according to a recent directive from the House Appropriations Committee, which disapproved the Budget Bureau's directive to the Department of Agriculture for destroying the crop. (Los Angeles Express, March 21).

Kimio Watanabe, of Auburn, Washington, is now serving with the 442nd Regiment in Italy, according to the Auburn Globe News (March 14), which reviewed the many decorations of that unit.

At Firland Sanatorium a Chinese girl and a Japanese girl were found to be "best friends", by Rev. D. Vincent Gray, City Missioner for Episcopal Diocese of Olympia. (Seattle Times, March 7).

The fighting record of Nisei soldiers in the South Pacific and their heroic exploits against Japanese soldiers was described at length in the San Francisco People's World, March 9, and other Coast papers.

A quarter-page advertisement in the March 15 California Legionnaire boosts Captain Samuel William Yorty for Mayor of Los Angeles. It states that among his achievements as a member of the California legislature, Mr. Yorty "authored and sponsored Assembly Bill 336, to ban all Jap fishermen from the coast of California". (Ed. Note: Assembly Bill 366, on file in the State Capitol, does not refer to Japanese fishermen, and does not list Mr. Yorty among the legislators who introduced it.)

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, April 2, 1945

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San Francisco CHRONICLE, April 1, (P. 1, "This World" Section, 1 in.)  
"EASTER WEEK"

A review of Easter week happenings across the nation remarks, "Nisei Minoru Chasi in Madera, California, had no such champion as five .32 caliber bullets whanged into his house from a passing car. But in Los Angeles, Nisei Elva Shinokazi slid peacefully behind a desk in the War Relocation Authority office, and went to work."

Seattle TIMES, March 29, (P. 5, 2 in.)  
"MEETING TO PROTEST JAPS' RETURN CALLED"

Bellevue, Washington, residents are scheduled to hold a meeting tonight to protest return of Japanese to that area. Seattle Attorney George H. Crandell will be the main speaker.

Kent, Washington, NEWS JOURNAL, March 29, (P. 3, 3 in.)  
"TWO JAP AMERICANS FROM KENT NOW IN FRENCH ALP AREA"

Pfc. Kamo Naruto and Pfc. Roy Taketa, both of Kent, Washington, are members of Third Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, now in French Alps area.

San Francisco CHRONICLE, April 1, (P. 7, 2 in.)  
"FIFTEEN SENT TO JAIL AT TULELAKE". Newell.

Fifteen men attempting to carry on pro-Japanese activities at Tulelake Center have been sentenced to the project jail during past ten days, Acting Director Harry L. Black announced.

Los Angeles EXAMINER, March 28, (P. 8, 5 in.)  
"IMMIGRATION PROBE VOTED". Washington.

A wide investigation into immigration and naturalization problems to prepare for post-war immigrants was voted by the House of Representatives. The survey will include also a probe into subversive and unassimilable elements, such as communists and native-born Japs still loyal to Nippon, it was announced.

Los Angeles HERALD EXPRESS, March 28, (P. 2, 3 in.)  
"RATION FIRE: JAP-OWNED BUILDING IS RIFLED, BURNED"

Offices of a Ration Board swept by a fire which destroyed most of the records, were located in a building owned by Shigeru Hirose. The fire was apparently started by an intruder.

Fresno BEE, March 28, (P. 6, 4 in.)

"AGED JAPANESE WILL BE RETURNED". Hanford, California.  
Six Japanese, "very old and unable to work", will be returned to Kings County soon, from Relocation Centers, Mrs. Harriet Styles, head of the County Welfare Department, informed the County Board of Supervisors. Chairman Russell Troutner stated, "It would be more economical from the taxpayers' standpoint that the Federal Government take care of them." Dist. Atty. Roger Welch said, "Legally or practically there is nothing the Board can do if the Government wants to send them back."

Fresno BEE, March 27, (P. 4, 5 in.)

"BOY CONFESSES HE AIDED IN GRAVE VANDALISM"

A ten year old boy living near the Mountain View Cemetery admitted to deputies he was involved in overturning tombstones on Japanese graves recently. Of a dozen boys questioned, he seemed to be the only one involved. The investigation will continue, Deputy Sheriff Henry Schafer stated. It was earlier reported that 24 graves of persons with Japanese or German names had been desecrated within the past two weeks. (Douglas, Arizona, DISPATCH, March 25.)

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DELAYED NEWS ITEMS

Oakland, California, TRIBUNE, March 30, (Editorial Page, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.)

"TEST FOR LOYAL"

Elizabeth H. Sloan writes to the Editor a letter following up a previous one urging that American-born and educated Japanese be sent back to Japan as leaders, after the war. She "still contends that if there are any loyal American citizens among the Japanese they would be eager to carry the blessings of our democratic ideals to their homeland. That is the only way to insure peace and promote the brotherhood of man."

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Portland OREGON JOURNAL, March 26, (P. 2, Sec. 2, 3 in.)

"TESTIFYING FOR TOLERANCE"

Walter Larue Shrock suggests several proposition he would like to see adopted by "certain of the people of Hood River, Gresham, Vanport and Portland to check themselves by as they face the Japanese and Negro problems...and incidentally, for the Japanese and Negroes as they face the white man problem." The propositions are: "That whiteness inside is the more important whiteness, and blackness or yellowness is the more important blackness or yellowness;...that a quality of mind that is truly democratic is the mark of American citizenship and lack of it is alien, whatever other credentials may be held...that all of us see more or less distortedly, through selfishness or prejudice or fear...etc."

San Jose, California, NEWS, March 22, (5 in.)

"U.S.E.S. TO AID NISEI IN FINDING JOBS"

"Strong cooperation" between the United States Employment Service and the San Jose WRA office is now planned to "get the evacuees placed quickly in jobs", according to Wade Sargent, USES manager, and James Edmiston, of the San Jose WRA office. Relocation Officer Edmiston is urging returnees to register with the USES in order to be placed as quickly as possible. Several evacuees have already been helped by that WRA office in obtaining jobs ranging from domestic work to factory and farm occupations.

Pasadena, California, STAR-NEWS, March 7, (7 in.)

"NISEI TO PREACH AT WRA CAMPS"

Announcement of the intention of devoting his life to Christian evangelism among people of his own race in the various camps of this country was made by Howard T. Tanzawa, then visiting in Southern California. "As an evangelist, I feel it is my duty to prove to the Japanese, in and out of the camps, that the American public has accepted me," Mr. Tanzawa declared. "I plan to take the message of American Democracy into the camps and trust the returnees will find America as they left it, and that we Japanese can do our part in the furthering of this Democracy."

Vacaville, California, REPORTER, March 16, (3 in.)

"ANTI-JAP LEAGUE WILL JOIN GROUP"

A union with Anti-Japanese Leagues of Yolo, Yuba and Placer counties was discussed by the advisory league of the Vacaville League recently. According to THE REPORTER, The Vacaville League feels that it has accomplished its aims by discouraging the relocation of Japanese in this area, as at present there are no Japanese here.

Redwood City, California, TRIBUNE, March 9, (Editorial, 5 in.)

"STERN MEASURES REQUIRED"

"Stern, official action" is editorially demanded in the San Jose incident. "If some Japanese-Americans, upon returning from the War Relocation Centers, were to set a house aflame and fire shots into anyone's domicile, or indulge in kindred forms of violence, the populace would arise in wrath and demand the tracking down of the miscreants and the utmost in their punishment. The same sort of acts are just as criminal, just as dangerous and reprehensible, and just as deserving of full penalties when committed by white Americans...Those San Jose hoodlums - whoever they are - have proved by their conduct that it is not safe to allow them a continuance of their full freedom."

Klamath Falls, Oregon, NEWS & HERALD, March 15, (11 in.)

"GROUP OPPOSES JAP EXCLUSION BILL IN HOUSE"

Objections to Klamath representative Rose M. Poole's joint sponsorship of the "Japanese exclusion memorial" has come from both the Klamath Ministerial Association and the Klamath Falls' Council, according to letters made public by Mrs. Poole. There is "misapprehension of the intent of the memorial", Representative Poole asserted, explaining it urges exclusion of the Japanese from the West Coast only for the duration of the war with Japan. She added, "Personally, I have in mind not only the welfare of the Japanese people, but of those members of the white race who are now resenting them so bitterly."

Martinez, California, GAZETTE, March 8, (7 in.)

"RETURNED JAPS MUST BE PROTECTED"

Another editorial opinion condemned vigilante action in American Japanese incidents recently. "The Gazette has been and still is of the opinion their (Japanese) presence here constitutes a hazard toward industry and to the personal safety of these people...But they are here with the blessing of the War Department and the WRA and until such time as it is proven they are a menace to the peace and safety of the nation they are entitled to protection. And the officers of the law are faced with the responsibility of affording them that security in their property and person, and of prosecuting any and all persons who molest them. That is the responsibility of good citizenship."

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
San Francisco 5, California

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, April 3, 1945

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Three Phoenix, Arizona, papers and one in Tucson, Arizona, reported court trials of four American Japanese charged with failure to report for induction. They are residents of Colorado River Center. The men will be held for trial in April.

San Francisco EXAMINER, April 3, (Editorial Page, 3 in.)  
"INHUMAN RACE"

A letter to the editor protests any suggestion of "treating the Japs as humans". The writer asks, "Are we a race of rabbits?"

Phoenix, Arizona, GAZETTE, March 28, (2 in.)  
"17,600 JAPS INDUCTED"

Tucson, Arizona, DAILY CITIZEN, March 28, (3 in.)  
"17,600 AMERICANS OF JAP ANCESTRY ARE IN ARMY, OFFICIALS SAY"  
See Digest March 28.

Stockton, California, RECORD, March 28, (15 in., with 18 in. cut)  
"NEIGHBORS WELCOME NISEI WITH JAMS, JELLIES: FAMILY GLAD TO RETURN"

San Francisco PEOPLE'S WORLD, March 28, (20 in.)

"NISEI FAMILY BACK: NEIGHBORS SHOWED UP WITH GIFTS FOR RETURNING KAWASAKIS"

Returning to their home in Cressey, California, (Merced County) meant a royal welcome for the Richard Kawasakis from the neighbors, who "all came traipsing over with jelly and jam and fruits and stuff", according to Eugene Fredenburg. Caretaker of the 25-acre alfalfa farm and veteran of the last war, Fredenburg replied in answer to a question, "Wal, they are mighty fine people. If they weren't, I wouldn't be here. Maybe the Missus' mother don't speak English so good, but back where I come from in Nebraska a lot of the older folks didn't speak English any better. These people are mighty nice and they're just as American as the next. You never hear none of their neighbors nor anyone that knows them say a thing against them."

Now, happy in the knowledge that his family is home again, Staff Sergeant Richard Kawasaki is back at work with an intelligence unit in the Aleutians. The Sergeant, who attended college in Japan but "scrammed out for home" after finishing his course, is already a veteran of 21 months' duty in the Aleutians.

Hood River NEWS, March 30, (P. 1, 2½ in.)  
"DOWNING BUYS YASUI PROPERTY"

Ray Yasui announced that the Yasui business block, including two stores, the apartments overhead, and the adjoining Texaco station, now operated under lease, has been sold to Ray Downing. According to the NEWS, the store building and the apartments have long remained empty. The business deal will be completed after the Alien Property Custodian issues a release, as the property has been frozen since Pearl Harbor, along with other assets of enemy aliens.

The Coquille, Oregon, SENTINEL, recently carried on its editorial page a controversy set off by Lans Leneve's column, "Bare Facts from Bare Creek". The March 8 edition of that column remarked, "Somehow we have never become democratic enough and know in our own mind that we never will, to the extent of placing certain races on a par with white American citizens, born and raised in America, and especially those of Japanese ancestry. Sometimes, in fact more times than not, Democracy is carried too far in such cases."

In reply, Bruce A. Bishop, identified as a Coos County boy and nephew of a SENTINEL subscriber, wrote Mr. Leneve from his Army Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. "I was stationed at Minneapolis, Minn., as an Aviation Cadet for six months in 1943.... Minneapolis is located near Camp Savage, the Infantry training Camp for Japanese Americans. I had the privilege of meeting several of these men. I am very sorry that you couldn't meet some of them. I believe you would change your mind. These boys don't stand by and gripe about buying bonds nor grumble about the way the war is being run nor about the choice of the people for president; they pitch in and 'soldier'!!! This camp has turned out several thousand of the very best Infantrymen in the world!"

(over)



San Jose, California, MERCURY HERALD, March 29, (Editorial Page, 8 in.)

"JAP COUNTED INSULT TO LOYAL AMERICAN"

A letter to the editor from James Edmiston objects to the headlined use of the word "Jap" in referring to American-born Harry Taketa, whose store window was recently smashed. To indicate Nisei opinion about the word, the letter writer quoted from a Nisei soldier's description of a Pacific Island battle: "They came across open ground shoulder to shoulder screaming and when I got my machine gun going, boy, you should have seen what I did to those damn Japs!"

Sumner, Washington, STANDARD, March 1, (3 in.)

"SILENT PARTNERS"

An editorial comments: "The Rainier Heat, Light and Power Company, of Seattle, have banished the Japs from their holdings which comprise twelve large buildings. They will allow the Japs to remove any personal property they have in any of their buildings, but will not suffer them to return as tenants. Thus they become silent partners of the Remember Pearl Harbor League, Inc. movement and they use the one firm word NO as their platform. More power to them and may all other landlords get the inspiration and act likewise. The League's proposal to keep the Japs from this coast can be won without a shot and that is the intention."

Wapato, Washington, INDEPENDENT, March 1, (8 in.)

"OPPOSES RETURN OF JAPANESE"

The Wapato Chamber of Commerce went on record as opposed to the return of Japanese to this community. Display of "No Jap" stickers was discussed at a recent meeting with several members contending that the use of such a display should be entirely an individual choice.

Selah, Washington, OPTIMIST, March 1, (3 in.)

"IF THEY COME BACK"

This editorial suggests persons who are active against returning American Japanese should read the Constitution. "What has become of our much vaunted ideals of tolerance towards race, color and creed?...War breeds hatreds and distrust, but Americans have always been fair."

San Fernando, California, VALLEY TIMES, March 8, (3 in.)

"VALLEY TOWN MEET SET FOR MONDAY"

"Now here is a conference and study every Valley citizen should share," stated Sheldon Shepard, director of the Valley Town Meeting, in announcing a forthcoming address by G. Raymond Booth. "Only on the basis of information, careful consideration and good citizenship can we save our country from the terrors incident to racial strife."

Gardena, California, NEWS, March 8, (15 in.)

"IMPROMPTU DEBATE HELD AT EMERGENCY CORPS MEET"

A meeting sponsored by the Citizens Emergency Corps turned into an impromptu debate when Rev. S. Martin Eidsath and Warren Smith questioned statements made by former U.S. Navy counter-espionage agent Al Blake. He told of the intrigue and subversive activities of Japanese agents here prior to Pearl Harbor, according to The Gardena News. Blake, principal speaker of the evening, is said to be the only white man ever to become an actual member of the Japanese Black Dragon Spy Ring. Both Eidsath and Smith pleaded for tolerance toward returning American Japanese citizens, and Smith challenged the commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post to debate the question of the returning Japanese.

Watsonville, California, REGISTER-PAJARONIAN, March 10, (5 in.)

"JAP ALIEN LAND CASE TRIAL IN MONTEREY COUNTY"

Recently involved in a Salinas escheat case is Yeizo Ikeda, formerly a Monterey County farmer. The 72 acres of land are supposedly owned by Ikeda, although they stand in the name of American-born Toshi Hanazone. One point raised by the defense attorney claims the suit is not legal, as under the statute of limitations a law suit over real estate must be brought within 10 years. Ikeda bought the land in 1928.

Yreka, California, NEWS, March 12, (18 in.)

"FOOTNOTES, BY W.G.B."

Commenting on groups working for American citizens of Japanese ancestry, such as The Friends of the American Way, the writer refers to them as "this bleeding heart crowd of mush heads" and criticizes their objectives.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
San Francisco 5, California

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS  
Monday, March 26, 1945

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San Francisco CHRONICLE, March 25, (p.4, 4 in.)

"SAN JOSE HAS SECOND OUTBURST AGAINST NISEI". San Jose.

Another act of violence against returned American-Japanese occurred when the plate glass window of a confectionary store was smashed, apparently with the head-rest of a barber's chair. Store owner Toshi Taketa, termed a member of a well-known local Japanese family for many years, stated he heard the crash last night but was too terrified to investigate. Investigations of the first disturbance of Japanese-Americans in San Jose have brought no results so far.

San Francisco EXAMINER, March 26, (p.6, 4 in.)

"THREE MORE TULE JAPS JAILED"

Jail sentences of 100 days each have been given three Tulalake internees for "illegal activities" in connection with two pro-Japanese societies, the WRA stated.

San Francisco CALL BULLETIN, March 24, (p. 1, 6 in.)

"SPAIN ORDERS ENVOYS TO QUIT AS JAP AIDES" Madred, (AP)

Spanish diplomats abroad have been ordered by their government to cease representing Japanese interests. The communique added that Spain sent "an energetic demand for satisfaction" to Tokyo in connection with the execution of Spanish nationals and the destruction of Spanish property in the Philippines.

Los Angeles DAILY NEWS, March 23, (p. 19, 4 in.)

"PICTURIZED REVIEW". By Virginia Wright

A review of the motion picture, "Betrayal from the East", comments that the movie comes at the wrong time, because, "when loyal Japanese-Americans are being released from relocation centers, its racial rousing sentiments are likely to stir anti-pathies in the wrong direction." The reviewer adds, "If the film had been made three years ago, when it was necessary to destroy the complacent American attitude, its purpose could have been endorsed more heartily than today." Plot of the movie concerns the pre-Pearl Harbor leader of a Japanese spy ring, who is also a student and a yell leader at Stanford University.

Los Angeles HERALD EXPRESS, March 23.

"A thirteen-inch advertisement of "Betrayal From the East" urges patrons of the Hawaii Theater to "SEE: Jap torture of American girls! Jap Navy Commander is Pacific Coast College cheerleader! American fighting underground agents and glamor G-girls enmeshed in enemy espionage!" In theater lobby is a large replica of Hirohito, which theater-goers are invited to "kink in the teeth". A mechanical arrangement lets teeth swing back when kicked.

Los Angeles EXAMINER, March 23, (p. 13, 6 in.)

"SPY THRILLER AT TWO HOUSES". By Thomas Reddy.

This review of "Betrayal From the East" says film "hits the bulls-eye from newspaper headlines."

Los Angeles DAILY NEWS, March 23, (p.19, 10 in.)

A column long review by Virginia Wright of the movie, "Back to Bataan", tells of four Marines brought back to the U.S., under military secrecy. After spending three years in Japanese prison camps, the Marines were brought to Hollywood to play their own lives in the film. They told of a film made by the Japanese in the prison camp, titled "The Stars and Stripes Fell", directed by Harry Mimura. Mimura was an assistant cameraman at Pathe in 1928, and returned to Japan in 1930, where his father was a Japanese admiral, the review states.

San Francisco EXAMINER, March 25, (p.11, 8 in.)

"DEUTSCH URGES WORLD UNITY: U.S. MUST COMBAT RACIAL HATE, NOTED EDUCATOR SAYS".

Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, vice president and provost of the University of California, stated a program of equal rights for all races and all nations must be adopted to insure world peace and "brotherhood among all peoples". Dr. Deutsch, speaking at a session of the Institute to study the Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods proposals, pointed out that white people constitute only 39 per cent of the world population. He added that the place for Americans to begin combatting racial discrimination is in their own nation.

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San Francisco EXAMINER, March 26, (P. 3, 18 in.)

"UNITY PLEADED AT CITY MEET"

A mass meeting sponsored by the San Francisco Council for Civic Unity featured Paul Robeson, Walter Huston, and Albert Dekker as guest speakers. Emphasizing the need to demonstrate real unity at home when the San Francisco Peace Conference begins in April, Mr. Huston asserted, "Unity is the bequest of the dead of this war. It is a weapon of war for the defense of democracy and decency. Disunity is discrimination and discrimination is treason." Mr. Robeson declared that on the eve of the United Nations meeting, San Francisco "has become the symbol of a peoples' peace."

San Francisco CHRONICLE, March 26, (P. 3, 18 in.)

"FOR UNITY"

Caption for a three column cut of four principals at Civic Unity meeting, which includes Attorney Bartley C. Crum, chairman, Actor Walter Huston, Assemblyman Albert Dekker, and Abigail Alvarez, Mexican singer. Five thousand San Franciscans attended the meeting.

Seattle TIMES, March 23, (P. 3, 3 in.)

"LONGVIEW JAPANESE BACK, WON'T STAY". Longview, Washington.

Roy Mayeda, first Japanese American to return to Longview, said "Everyone has been very nice to me". However, he intends to sell his laundry and move to California or Nevada. Two sons are in the Army and a third, Sgt. George Mayeda, was killed in action in Europe last year.

Los Angeles EXAMINER, March 22, (P. 2, 2 in.)

"LABOR TO BE IMPORTED" (AP)

A column of news from Washington states 107,000 foreign farm workers will be brought into the United States this year, according to a letter from Maj. Gen. Philip S. Bruton, Labor Officer of the Agriculture Department, to Rep. Horan, (R, Wash.)

Los Angeles TIMES, March 23, (Pl, sec. 2, 8 in.)

"IMPORTATION OF FILIPINO FARM WORKERS PROPOSED"

A "farm labor expert" suggests bring Filipinos to the United States in empty Army transports returning here for more soldiers. Another source suggests using German War prisoners for farm labor.

I.L.W.U. DISPATCHER, March 23 (P. 13, 8 in.)

"RETURN OF JAPANESE HAILED AS CORRECT STEP BY LOCAL SIX, SAN FRANCISCO"

Local number six of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union passed a resolution supporting the return of evacuees to the West Coast.

I.L.W.U. DISPATCHER, March 23, (P. 11, 15 in.)

"CLEARANCE OF LOYAL NISEI TO WATERFRONT WORK URGED" Hilo, T.H.

Discrimination by military intelligence against "many proven loyal Japanese Americans" not now allowed to work on the waterfront is being fought by the ILWU. Officials of the union emphasized the "top-rate" record as good workers made previously by American Japanese, and urged their employment now where trained men are needed on the docks. Yoshito Watanabe, once investigated and suspended, then reinstated, is being investigated again, against vigorous ILWU protests over reopening of the case.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, March 27, 1945

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San Francisco CHRONICLE, March 27, (P. 1, 2 in.)

"NISEI BECOMES WRA SECRETARY". Los Angeles, (AP)

Elva Shinozaki, 28, Seattle-born American-Japanese, today became a secretary in the Los Angeles office of the War Relocation Authority. She previously was associated with the WRA office in Cincinnati for two years.

Portland OREGONIAN, March 23, (P. 15, 8 in.)

"NEW TRIAL GRANTED IN LAND FIGHT"

Portland OREGON JOURNAL, March 23, (P. 5, 8 in.)

"COURT ORDERS NEW TRIAL IN NISEI PROPERTY CASE"

A new trial has been ordered in the Fujimoto vs. Bergh case, because the plaintiff had failed to comply with OPA rental regulations. Earlier, Judge Earl C. Latourette had found Mr. and Mrs. Dale Bergh guilty of encroaching on Fujimoto's farm, and had issued the first court order directing a farmer to return to a Japanese-American the lands leased during evacuation.

Bainbridge REVIEW, March 23, (P. 2, 5 in.)

"J. NAKATA SELECTS MOSE LAKE, AS NEW HOME SITE"

Johnny Nakata, Winslow, former owner of the Eagle Harbor Market, has declared he will probably settle in Moses Lake, because he feels the atmosphere there is "less tense".

Tacoma, Washington, TRIBUNE, March 23, (P. 2, 5 in.)

"NISEI SOLDIER HELPS COMRADES FOIL JAPANESE"

A Nisei soldier in the 7th Infantry Division in the Camotes Islands saved his comrades from disaster by listening to a Jap commander's instructions to his men, and then warning his comrades where to prepare for action.

Portland OREGON JOURNAL, March 23, (P. 5, 3 in.)

"ANTI-JAP MEET HELD"

The Oregon Property Owners Protective League, Inc., held a mass meeting on Thursday night and formed a local chapter.

Olympia, Washington OLYMPUS (Highschool), March 14, (P. 1,  $\frac{1}{2}$  page)

"BRING JAPANESE BACK, IS GIST OF OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL SENTIMENT"

Interviews with Caucasian students show favorable opinions on the return of Japanese-Americans to the community.

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DELAYED NEWS ITEMS

San Francisco PEOPLES' WORLD, March 20, (6 in.)

"NAACP HITS ATTACKS ON NISEI". San Jose.

The Santa Clara County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People unanimously voted a condemnation of the recent attack on a Japanese-American family in San Jose. Sheriff Emig was commended by the group, which offered its cooperation in every way possible to bring the criminals to justice and to prevent further outbreaks.

Hillsboro, Oregon, ARGUS, March 8, (10 in.)

"TOLERANCE NEED CITED BY LEGION LEADER: KEEP TO MAIN OBJECTIVES"

No occasion for alarm at the return of American-Japanese to the coast was seen by Dan McDade, national vice-commander of the American Legion, in a recent address to the Hillsboro Rotary Club. He pointed out that returnees are certified by the government, and under the Constitution there is nothing that can or should be done about it. As an officer of the American Legion, McDade reaffirmed his belief in the universality of man, where there is no room for racial differences, jealousies and bigotries.

San Jose MERCURY HERALD, March 15, (6 in.)

"60 AMERICAN-JAPANESE BACK"

Four returnees have already been placed on farms in the San Jose area. James Edmiston, of the San Jose WRA office, announced he has more job requests for returning evacuees than he can fill. Approximately 60 American-Japanese have returned to this area from relocation centers, he added.

(over)



Stockton, California, RECORD, March 15, (12 in.)

"COL. SANDMAN WARNS OF LONG, TOUGH FIGHT AHEAD BEFORE PACIFIC VICTORY"

Col. Otto E. Sandman, commanding officer of Schofield Barracks near Honolulu, told the Stockton American Legion that false notions that the war will be over soon must be discarded. He praised Nisei soldiers, saying, "No one hates an enemy Jap more than I, but these men of Japanese extraction who have worn the uniform of our country in battle have proved their loyalty and the American Legion should be the first to recognize the fact".

Hollywood, California, CITIZENS NEWS, March 14, (11 in.)

"NISEI RETURN RESULTS IN NO VALLEY PROTEST" By Rosanna Shamray. Van Nuys, Calif. Fifty Californians met to discuss the return of evacuees, but "nobody voiced a protest on their return or quarreled with the representatives of the WRA".

San Francisco PEOPLE'S WORLD, (Negro paper), March 10, (30 in.)

"TEIKO ISHIDA DOES HARD JOB WELL: RE-ORIENTING NISEI" By Paula Fox.

An enormous job being done by the Japanese-American Citizens League is described in an interview with Miss Teiko Ishida, JACL's local executive secretary. The JACL handles those evacuees not directly under WRA jurisdiction. Miss Ishida declared, "We were aware that there would be some difficulty but on the whole the reception has been good. I feel there is an awakening on the West Coast, particularly toward the Oriental races."

San Jose NEWS, March 13, (4 in.)

"STUDENTS DECRY ATTACK ON NISEI"

San Jose MERCURY HERALD, March 14, (4 in.)

"STUDENTS SUPPORT RIGHTS OF JAPS"

Attempted burning of the home of Joe Takeda, near San Jose, caused Abraham Lincoln High School students to go on record opposing actions taken by any individual against returned evacuees, the Student Senate announced. Student Body President Hal Boruck stated copies of the resolution will be sent to other high schools in the vicinity urging them to take similar action. A copy will be mailed immediately to Santa Clara High School, where two members of the Takeda family are enrolled.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, March 28, 1945

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San Francisco EXAMINER, March 28, (P.3, 1½ in.)

"OREGON JAP LAND BAN BECOMES LAW". Salem, Oregon, (INS)

Governor Earl Snell yesterday signed Oregon's anti-alien land bill, which prevents Japanese aliens from living on or using land purchased in the name of a citizen relative.

San Francisco NEWS, March 27, (p.5, 12 in., with cut)

"KEY TO 'MINORITY PROBLEM' IS CONSIDERATION OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS, SAYS YWCA LEADER"

Miss Esther Briesemeister, veteran of two years work in relocation centers, declared, "Just plain ordinary kindness is the answer to the returning Nisei problem in California .... I find that most people, regardless of private prejudices, are resolved to accept their fellow Americans of Japanese ancestry. In San Francisco, the Chinese Christian youth groups are taking the lead in planning to welcome the Nisei as part of the world fellowship gathering."

Portland OREGON JOURNAL, March 23, (p.3, 2 in.)

"MARKET SNUBS NISEI GARDENERS THIRD TIME" Maryhill, Wash.

A Japanese truck gardener and son left the Portland East Side Farmers' Market with a substantial amount of produce still on the truck for the third time.

San Francisco EXAMINER, March 28, (Editorial page, 5 in.)

"JAPS"

A letter to the editor, signed "Know a Little", advocated sending all Japanese back to Japan, giving an opportunity to those who lived in the United States to "be the makers of the new Japan".

Seattle TIMES, March 26, (p.4, 5 in.)

"FOES OF NISEI NURSE RAPPED"

An American soldier in France, Pfc. Yozo Miyako, criticized Seattle's Harborview Hospital nurses for their opposition to Masako Takayoshi. Pfc. Miyako stated his objections in an open letter to the Times.

San Francisco CHRONICLE, March 28, (p.5, 3½ in.)

"THE ARMY HAS INDUCTED 17,600 NISEI TO DATE"

Statistics on American-Japanese soldiers in the U.S. Army, released by the WRA, show 17,600 have been inducted since November 1, 1940. Fifty per cent of inductees are from Hawaii. Two thousand, five hundred and ninety-nine have been inducted from WRA centers, according to Dillon Myer, WRA director.

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DELAYED NEWS ITEMS

Tacoma, Wash., NEWS TRIBUNE, March 22, (p.5, 11 in.)

"TERRORISM SLOWS NISEI'S RETURN WEST". Washington, (AP). By James Marlowe.

Terrorization, discrimination, and intimidation - weapons of "hoodlums, arsonists, and nightriders" - have kept all but 1,700 American-Japanese from returning to the West Coast, according to the WRA. Of the original 110,000 evacuated, some sixty thousand still reside in relocation centers. Approximately one out of every 70 returnees on the West Coast has been subject to discrimination in some form. (Story also carried in the Prescott, Arizona, COURIER, etc.)

San Francisco CHRONICLE, March 26, (Editorial page, 5 in.)

"NISEI"

A letter to the editor from Sergeants Don T. Nichols and Emmett R. Greenwell, stationed at Camp Beale, California, protests the Hood River, Oregon, anti-Nisei discrimination. Citing their service records of three years fighting in the Pacific, and their status as native Californians, the two soldiers criticize the Hood River American Legion and the "big, bad, gun-twirling (and Nisei-threatening) Sheriff of some town in California". They declare, "Yes, I'd like to see this Legion post and all others with the same kind of thoughts...against a real enemy, a real Japanese, instead of another that can't help it if his skin isn't the same color as those around him, but probably has more right to be called an American."

(over)



Hood River, Ore., NEWS, March 9, (18 in.)

"USDA GIVES DATA ON JAP FARM HOLDINGS"

Statistics on pre-Pearl Harbor farms are compiled in a booklet published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The facts reveal that, prior to evacuation, Japanese farms represented 2.2 per cent of the number and value of all farms in the three Coast states; 0.4 per cent of all land in farms, and 1.5 per cent of all crop-land harvested. At the same time, the farm acreage owned by Japanese-Americans was less than two-tenths of 1 per cent of all land in all farms in the evacuated area. At the present rate of sale, "and assuming the post-war period will begin sometime near the end of 1945", post-war land holdings of Japanese will probably not exceed 22 or 23 per cent of the pre-war holdings, or, roughly 0.14 per cent of all the land in farms within the West Coast evacuated area.

Fresno, Calif., BEE, March 27, (p.1, 4 in.)

"MERCHANT IS MENACED". Tulare.

A "self-asserted" Japanese yesterday attacked Henry Smith, proprietor of a Fresno market, it was reported to Tulare police. Smith stated the man asked at the store for cigarets. Informed there were none, he said, "That's the trouble with you Americans - you won't sell anything to us Japs". After more words, the customer lunged at him with a knife, but was knocked down, according to Smith's report to police.

Los Angeles HERALD EXPRESS, March 27, (p.1 section 2, 10 in. with cut)

"NISEI: GIRL TRANSFERRED TO L.A. WAR AGENCY"

Los Angeles EXAMINER, March 27, (pg.3, 21 in. with cut)

"GIRL SECRETARY TO WRA OFFICIAL FIRST JAP-AMERICAN IN WEST COAST AGENCY"

Los Angeles TIMES, March 27, (p.1 section 2, 8 in. with cut)

"NISEI WOMAN EMPLOYED BY WRA HERE"

First Japanese-American to work in a war agency in the Los Angeles area is Miss Elva Shinozaki. Transferred here at her own request, she is now secretary to G. Raymond Booth, WRA Relocation Officer in the Los Angeles office. "One of her chief duties will be as interpreter," Mr. Booth stated. "Frequently Japanese, some of them aged and not too familiar with the English language, come to the office for information, and an interpreter will fill a long-felt need." A native of Seattle, Miss Shinozaki has been employed for two years in the Cincinnati WRA office.

Oakland, Calif., TRIBUNE, March 23, (women's page, 27 in.)

"PROBLEMS; BY GERALDINE: 'YOURS ALWAYS' AND 'PLAIN AMERICAN' ON JAP ISSUE"

One letter to "Geraldine", signed 'Yours Always', doubts the loyalty of returnees. She considers the return of evacuees a Government mistake, one that is "inviting trouble". "The wealthy people who own farm lands and some other people who want Jap labor for their own benefit, want them back, but I'll bet the boys who are fighting and their families don't think it is a wise move," the writer adds. The other letter is from "an average American girl, a member of the younger generation, the future America". Referring to a news broadcast on the Takeda incident in which the commentator reportedly remarked it was too bad the whole family wasn't killed, this letter-writer explains her opinion that "Japanese-Americans aren't the same as just plain Japs". She says, "I have friends and relatives in the service, and I know a couple won't be coming back. I hate every Jap that walks the face of the earth....but most Japanese-Americans are as good Americans as you or I....Just because their skin is a little different color, just because their outside appearance is different, doesn't mean they should be ridiculed and punished. That is the way young America feels".

McGehee, Arkansas, TIMES, March 15, (pages 22 and 23).

A special military edition, carrying stories and cuts of servicemen from Desha County, Arkansas, devotes two entire pages to armed forces personnel whose next-of-kin are residents at Rohwer Relocation Center. A dozen cuts accompany the complete list of these American-Japanese servicemen. The 21 gold star and 866 blue star service flags in Rohwer homes are honored, on the second page, in an advertisement by the Rohwer USO, Red Cross, Administrative Staff, and Cooperative Enterprises.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
San Francisco 5, California

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, March 29, 1945

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San Francisco CHRONICLE, March 29, (P. 5, 3 in.)

"FIVE SHOTS FIRED AT MADERA NISEI HOME". Madera, (AP).

Fresno BEE, March 27, (5 in.)

"BULLETS MISS MADERA VETERAN NISEI SOLDIER". Madera.

Santa Ana REGISTER, March 27, (P. 15, 4 in.)

"PROBE SHOOTING AT JAP HOME". Madera, (AP).

Five bullets from a .32 caliber revolver fired into the ranch home of a former Japanese American soldier Monday night caused no damage, and narrowly missed the owner, Minoru Ohashi. Other occupants of the house at the time of the shooting included two U.S. Army men. Ohashi, honorably discharged after several months in Italy, now has a brother fighting on the Western front. Deputy Sheriff Ray M. Address said the shots were fired from a speeding car, about 9:30 P.M. Also on the case is Special Investigator E. E. Pickett.

Portland OREGONIAN, March 25, (P. 9).

"SHUN OF NISEI EARNS REBUKE: REFUSAL TO PURCHASE PRODUCE CAUSE"

Wholesalers who have refused to buy produce from Japanese Americans returned to the Portland area were criticized by Harold Fistere, Area WRA Supervisor. Fistere's statement was based on economic rather than moral grounds, emphasizing the shortage of fresh vegetables in the Portland markets.

Bakersfield CALIFORNIAN, March 26, (Editorial page, 7 in.)

"JAPS IN WESTERN AREAS"

An editorial uses Japanese cruelty toward Spanish nationals in Manila and the Pearl Harbor attack as evidence of what would have happened here, early in the war, if the Japanese had gained a foothold on our coast, because "residents of the Pacific Coast who know the Japanese...have no faith in their protestations of loyalty to this country".

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DELAYED NEWS ITEMS

Los Angeles HERALD EXPRESS, March 21, (4 in.)

"TULE LAKE: PRO-JAP ACTION JAILS THREE INTERNEES". (INS)

This story, carried in the March 26 News Digest, appeared also in the Los Angeles EXAMINER, San Francisco NEWS, San Jose MERCURY HERALD, and the Portland OREGONIAN.

San Diego UNION, March 8, (3 in.)

"JAP-AMERICANS RETURN TO AREA"

With an announcement that several American-Japanese have returned to San Diego, Sheriff Bert Strand asserted he anticipated no violence. He also stated he would act with a stern hand to quell disorder if any occurred.

Sacramento, Calif., BEE, March 22, (5 in.)

"WRA DENIES PLAN TO UNITE ENEMY FAMILIES". Tulalake.

Any reports of reunions planned for Tulalake families and men moved to enemy alien camps are based on misinformation, according to Charles Rothstein, head of the department of justice staff at Newell. "The men removed have been placed in internment camps under more strict control because they were engaged in subversive activities," he added. "The Geneva Convention does not specify for such internees the right to have their families with them."

San Diego TRIBUNE SUN, March 10, (13 in.)

"NISEI SCHOOLBOYS RETURN TO SAN DIEGO CLASSES; FIND OLD FRIENDS, EVERYONE FRIENDLY"

Walter Ito 15, and Eugene Yamada, 17, are typical of American Japanese boys and girls returning to high school classes, according to the Tribune Sun's interviewer. These boys said, "It doesn't seem any different. We're just back home again, that's all." San Diego High School's Vice Principal W. J. Lyons remarked he was gratified to find that his qualms were unfounded. "There has not been the slightest bit of difficulty and now I anticipate none." Ito's brother Martin, wears the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for action in France.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
San Francisco 5, California

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, March 30, 1945

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Fresno BEE, March, (13 in.)

"STATE FILES SUIT AGAINST JAPANESE OVER LAND TITLE"

Escheat proceedings have been filed in Superior Court by the State against Ichizo Kitahara, his wife and four children. The family is now in Poston Relocation Center. Three pieces of land near Reedley and one in Kings County are questioned in the suit. Kitahara and his wife are charged with resorting to fraud and subterfuge in concealing true ownership of the land. The State of California charges the parents actually possessed the land and realized all monetary benefits.

Oakland TRIBUNE, March 29, (P. 5, 3 in.)

"SHOTS FIRED INTO JAPANESE HOME"

Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, March 29, (P. 11, 1 in.)

"JAP HOME FIRED ON". Madera. AP story carried yesterday.

Portland OREGONIAN, March 25, (P. 11, 26 in.)

"ANTI JAPANESE CAMPAIGN EMPLOYING PROFESSIONAL AID"

The Oregon Property Owners Protective League of Gresham, Oregon, has employed Art Ritchie, former editor of the Seattle Star, and A. E. McCroskey, professional organizer, also of Seattle, to handle the League's publicity and arrange for and handle meetings. The League announced the men are working on a percentage basis. "We want to exclude the Japanese from the U.S. legally, peacefully and permanently", they said, and also stressed it would be done "the American way".

Portland Oregon JOURNAL, March 27, (P. 5, 26 in.)

"BILL BANNING ALIEN JAPS AS LAND OWNERS SIGNED". Salem, (AP).

Oregon's Alien Land Law carried an emergency clause and is effective immediately, without the usual wait of ninety days after legislative adjournment.

San Francisco NEWS, March 29, (Editorial Page, 5 in.)

"SHIP THEM TO JAPAN"

An editorial urges shipping to Japan the six thousand Tule Lake internees who desire to renounce U.S. citizenship, and "assumes" persons over seventeen who were born in the U.S. are "thoroughly acquainted with the benefits and privileges of this country". The NEWS declares we should not waste time trying to persuade such persons to stay here.

Fresno BEE, March 27, (P. 4, 10 in.)

"WELFARE CHIEF SEEKS CASH TO AID JAPANESE"

Mrs. Minette Gutzler, Director of Fresno County Welfare Department, requested supervisors for authorization to make cash grants to needy Japanese returning from centers. One supervisor stated the government should set up its own "jackpot" to care for Japanese. The chairman of the board instructed Mrs. Gutzler to confer with the County Auditor on a plan to approve grants and make checks negotiable among local merchants.

Hood River, Oregon, NEWS, March 23, (P. 10)

"NO 'JAPES' WANTED IN HOOD RIVER"

"Occasionally there is something published in the paper that might lead you Japs to think that, after all, you will be welcome back to Hood River." With these opening words, another full-page advertisement by Kent Shoemaker warns potential returnees that "Here in Hood River, the people who knew you best...will never stop their opposition as long as there is a Jap in Hood River county or until Pearl Harbor has been completely forgotten....As evidence that the backbone of resistance to the return of Japs to Hood River has not been broken, there is published, herewith, the names of about five hundred more Hood River people who do not want you back." Also on the page is a slip which may be clipped, signed and mailed to Mr. Shoemaker by residents of Hood River County who "are opposed to the Japs returning to this county and favor every lawful means to keep them out."

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
San Francisco, 5, California

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS  
Saturday, March 31, 1945

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Los Angeles HERALD EXPRESS, March 29, (p.1 part 2, 5 in.)

"JAP PLOT: CHARGES WRA MEN SEEK TO CHEAT CALIF. LAW"

Dr. John Lechner, speaking before the California Nurserymen's Association, accused alien Japanese with secret attempts to circumvent California's Alien Land Laws, "with the aid of WRA officials". He also charged that delegates from the relocation centers met behind closed doors in Salt Lake City to adopt a 21 point program which included a demand "that WRA negotiate for the concluding of arrangements whereunder alien parents may be able to operate or manage properties with powers of attorney issued in behalf of their children."

Fresno BEE, March 29, (p.5, 8 in.)

"STATE WILL TEST BULLETS FIRED INTO JAPANESE HOME". Madera.

Deputy Sheriff Ray Andress stated a bullet dug from the wall of the home of Ninoru Ohashi has been sent to the State Bureau of Identification in Sacramento to determine whether it was fired by a rifle or a revolver. He added a deputy in Kenny's office had called for a complete report on the shooting. District Attorney Everett Coffee is launching a thorough investigation.

Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, March 30, (p.5, 5 in.)

"PROTEST ON JAP RETURN PLANNED" the

A meeting to protest the return of Japanese to Bellevue, Wash., area is scheduled for Monday night. George H. Crandell, Seattle attorney, will be among the speakers.

Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, March 30, (p.1, 2 in.)

"CHINESE TAKE BACK JAP BACHELOR"

Seattle TIMES, March 29, (p.5, 1 in.)

"CHINESE TO AID AGED JAP"

Jusuke Takemoto, 78, is leaving Rohwer Relocation Center to rejoin his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yip, in Lodi, Calif., with whom he lived for thirty-five years before Pearl Harbor.

Seattle TIMES, March 29, (p.15, 5 in.)

"HEART MT. NISEI GOING TO HOMES IN CALIF."

Since the lifting of the exclusion ban, 89 persons have returned from Heart Mountain Relocation Center to West Coast homes, and 369 have relocated in other parts of the country. Applications have been made by 109 families to return to the West Coast, while 467 applicants have been made to relocate in other parts of the country.

Seattle TIMES, March 29, (editorial page, 9 in.)

"SALUTE TO THE SERVICE MEN: CORP. WASELL LAUDS FIGHTING TEAMWORK OF NISEI TROOPERS"

Corporal Lester Wasell of Seattle, home from thirty-two months duty overseas, has a profound respect for the Japanese-American soldiers fighting in Italy. He said, "Those Japanese-Americans can't be beat as a fighting team". Wasell cited a case in which he was wounded and Nisei men aided him, moving him to the rear.

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DELAYED NEWS ITEMS

Willows, Calif., JOURNAL, March 5, (Editorial page, 20 in.)

"LOYALTY TO THE JAPANESE"

"W.T.D.'s" column, "Wise and Otherwise", discusses statements from General William H. Wilbur and J. Edgar Hoover as evidence of the existence of an enemy espionage system on the West Coast, concluding there is no way of determining the loyalty of returnees. During a Los Angeles court trial, General Wilbur had stated, "Things are constantly occurring which could not occur unless an enemy espionage was in operation." Mr. Hoover, in response to a letter, answered that the FBI does not "certify" the loyalty of individuals released from WRA centers.

Stockton, Calif., RECORD, March 17, (Editorial, 5 in.)

"NISEI AND LEGION ROLLS"

With a congratulatory comment on the Hood River Legion Post's restoration of Japanese American names to its honor roll, the Record remarks, "Happily, Karl Ross Post and others in this vicinity are not likely to display such bigoted discrimination against fighting men who have proved their loyalty and valor... Our 'white' troops in Europe who have fought beside them and seen them in action will have no tolerance for discrimination on the part of stay-at-homes against these Nisei warriors."

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San Jose NEWS, March 22, (10 in.)

"EVACUEES OCCUPIED 33 OF CONDEMNED HOUSING UNITS"

Thirty-three units of residence or business property owned or leased by Japanese or Japanese-Americans have been condemned or are about to be condemned by the San Jose City Health Dept. and the Fire Marshall, it was announced by James Edmiston, WRA Relocation Officer for the San Jose District. A recent survey by the San Jose Council of Civic Unity, undertaken to indicate to the National Housing Agency the need for repairs and new buildings to clean up the area, revealed the sites to be razed, Edmiston stated. He further added, "There is a disposition on the part of the officials of San Jose to be sympathetic with the problems of returning evacuees. Whenever a doubt has existed, it usually has been resolved in favor of the owner of the property."

Vallejo, Calif., TIMES HERALD, March 3, (25 in.)

"VALLEJO-BORN JAPANESE-AMERICAN TELLS PROBLEM OF RESETTLEMENT FACING NISEI"

Relocation centers must go, according to Charles Kikuchi, because the Government realized they are a symbol of undemocratic action which should be eliminated as soon as possible for the good of the whole country as well as for the minority group most concerned. Kikuchi, now a research assistant in the evacuation and resettlement study of the University of California, outlined for the Vallejo Council for Civic Unity the integration into American life achieved by relocated Nisei, as well as the problem of resettling the aged still in camps. He added, "The vocal anti-social element is not American; they are Fascist and they are a minority, I am convinced."

Los Alton, Calif., NEWS, March 8, (3 in.)

"RELOCATED NISEI MARY OKUMURA IN PALO ALTO"

A recently returned Los Altos native is Mary Okumura, now working and living with a group of relocated Nisei in the home of a Stanford professor, at Palo Alto.

Watsonville, Calif., REGISTER-PAJARONIAN, March 8, (3 in.)

"JAP EVACUEE HOUSING ISSUE TO GOVERNMENT". Fresno, (UP)

The Fresno emergency housing committee passed a resolution to question the Federal Government, in Washington, D.C., on what provisions, if any, have been made to provide housing for returning Japanese families who do not own their own homes.

San Pablo, Calif., BEE, March 9, (7 in.)

"LONG TIME JAP RESIDENTS OF SAN PABLO BACK". San Pablo.

Home again and in a familiar groove - caring for a 2½ acre nursery, planning to specialize in raising rosebushes - are Mrs. Masa Kawai, her son Henry, and two of her daughters, Kiyo and Dorothy. Local residents received the Kawais, some of the first returnees in this area, with no sign of any agitation. Dorothy soon prepared to enter the highschool in Richmond from which her brother and sisters graduated. Three other Kawai daughters have settled in the Midwest and East.

San Jose, Calif., NEWS, March 23, (4 in.)

"EVACUEES GIVEN AID"

Plans for facilitating rehabilitation of evacuees who return to Santa Clara County are under discussion by Civic Unity Council members Mrs. Frank Duveneck and Mrs. E.B. Minton. Aiding in the plans is James Edmiston, of the San Jose WRA office. Mrs. Minton has opened her large Mountain View home to certain evacuee families until their furniture is out of storage and their dwellings are readied.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
461 Market Street  
San Francisco 5, California

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, April 4, 1945

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Oakland TRIBUNE, April 2, (P. 19, 2 in.)

"JAP FAMILY BACK IN WARM SPRINGS". Warm Springs.

Ysuto Kato, his wife, and his parents have reoccupied his ranch here. They returned from the Topaz Relocation Center. Another visitor from Topaz, K. Nakamura, said he expected to return to the Center and remain there as long as it is in operation. Nakamura is a former Centerville grocer.

Fresno BEE, March, (2 in.)

"FILIPINO VETERANS OPPOSE RETURN OF JAPANESE"

Magellan Post No. 604, American Legion, has adopted a resolution opposing the return of evacuees to the Pacific Coast. The Magellan Post is composed of Filipinos.

Fresno BEE, March 28, (2 in.)

"CAPES REFUSE SERVICE TO RETURNED JAPANESE". Vacaville.

A. Kodi, 45, first alien Japanese to return to the Vacaville district, was refused service by two restaurants, Chief of Police O. E. Alley reported. The returnee is living on the Alameda ranch near Vacaville.

Los Angeles TIMES, April 1, (P. 3, 2½ in.)

"TULE LAKE GROUP GIVEN JAIL TERMS". Newell, (UP).

Fifteen men, residents of Tulalake, were sentenced to jail terms of 90 to 110 days on charges of pro-Japanese activities. In making the announcement, Acting Project Director Harry L. Black stated the men included officials of two pro-Japanese societies representing a minority in the center.

Fresno BEE, March 30, (P. 5, 1 in.)

"FIRE JAPANESE LABOR". Kearney, Nebraska, (AP).

Farmers in the Shelton, Nebraska, area successfully petitioned operators of irrigated farms there to discontinue employment of six Japanese American families. 125 farmers held a mass meeting, drew up the petition and raised a fund to provide transportation for the families to leave. The employers agreed to let the Japanese Americans go, after the meeting.

Oakland TRIBUNE, April 1, (P. 9, 11 in.)

"FIGHTING FORCES DECRY HOME HATRED FOR LOYAL JAPANESE". Berkeley, California.

Dr. Knowles A. Ryerson, of the University of California College of Agriculture, recently returned from the Pacific Islands, said, "Everywhere I went the men wanted to know what we are fighting for if we are going to persecute loyal American-born Japanese... They cannot understand stories they hear about the way some Californians are treating their Japanese comrades in arms." According to Dr. Ryerson, many of the men registering these protests are from California. Dr. Ryerson's mission in the Pacific concerned finding ways and means of supplying American forces with fresh food, and cutting down problems of tonnage.

San Francisco CHRONICLE, April 4, (Editorial Page, 3 in.)

"NISEI SOLDIERS"

A letter to the editor from Robert Brownscombe, repeats part of a letter received by him from a First Lieutenant with the U.S. Seventh Army. The Lieutenant wrote, "Always did think they (Japanese Americans) got a dirty deal, and after seeing those boys fight over here I'm more convinced of the loyalty of the vast majority of them."

Seattle POST INTELLIGENCER, April 2, (P. 8, 2 in.)

"ANTI-JAP GROUP PLANS PROGRAM"

Plans for bringing pressure on Washington, D.C., authorities were formulated at a public protest meeting under the sponsorship of the Japanese Exclusion League, Inc. They seek a forced removal of Japanese returned to the Pacific Coast. The organizer and principal speaker was George Crandell. The meeting attracted a crowd estimated at "several hundred" by Crandell.

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