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RELOCATION PROSPECTS - KANSAS, MISSOURI, IOWA, NEBRASKA

Vernon R. Kennedy
Relocation Supervisor, Kansas City

There are plenty of opportunities for employment in the area served by the Kansas City office, both in the larger city centers and smaller towns, as well as the rural districts. The wages are not as high as in some of the industrial centers where there are large war contract plants, but offsetting this is the fact that the cost of living is lower.

There are five metropolitan districts -- Kansas City, Wichita, St. Louis, Des Moines, and Omaha. Suitable housing can be secured with some effort in all these cities but is readily available only in Des Moines. The attitude of the people generally toward evacuees is particularly good in Des Moines and the surrounding area and in many of the smaller cities and towns of Iowa and Nebraska. This is largely because of the excellent support given the relocation program by the Des Moines Register which is an unusual newspaper with a circulation of 360,000 in a city of only 170,000.

In the smaller cities and towns there are plenty of opportunities in office and industrial employment. From five to ten evacuee families can be placed in each of these communities with very little difficulty and with reasonable assurance of public acceptance and an opportunity for the people to be accepted. The work available may not pay the top wages of wartime, but will be more permanent. People who go to these communities will be in a much better position to weather a depression than those who go to the highly industrialized centers.

The pattern of farm labor in the area served by the Kansas City office is entirely different from the distinctly seasonal picture in California. For the most part, the farm jobs represent year-round employment and greater security.

The normal method of employment on the farms is at a monthly wage which will range from \$60 to \$90 a month with a tenant house provided, the use of a cow, garden space and opportunity to raise chickens. The farmer usually kills several hogs and the tenant ordinarily gets some of the pork. The wife probably will have a pressure cooker and there will be ample opportunity to can a great deal of food. If there are other employable members of the family, they can generally get work nearby at hourly or daily rates of pay.

Schools and recreational facilities are good. School bus transportation is available in most of the rural areas. Most of the farms are not far distant from smaller towns or cities.

Many of the farmers have indicated to me their willingness to make some arrangement with satisfactory workers which will go beyond that of a salary basis of employment. This cannot be done, however, until the evacuees have proved themselves. They must first work on a monthly wage arrangement.

There are practically unlimited opportunities for relocation in this section on a family basis. This is true not only in the rural areas but in the small towns and cities. The residents of the smaller towns are able to raise gardens and can foods. They have much lower rents to pay than the large city dwellers and for the most part, greater security in employment.

I want to report a few instances which I believe will be interesting to people in the relocation centers. High wages when obtainable in this section are usually in the industrial centers where housing is almost impossible to find. Furthermore, since most of these high wage jobs are in lines of work directly connected with war production, those accepting them will be the first casualties of the change in our industrial program which is bound to come and may come even before the end of the war. Living costs outside these high wage centers are not excessively high. In Iowa, for example, you can get meals for 35 to 50 cents.

Recently I had an interesting experience visiting the town of Pella about 35 miles from Des Moines. Five evacuee girls are employed there in the Pella Overall Company. They are making 40 cents an hour with a certain amount of overtime, making their weekly earnings about \$20 a week. They were able to rent a four-room apartment for \$25 a month. The price of furnished rooms in the community -- there is no housing shortage -- is \$1.50 a week. Food is plentiful and cheap. I had a good dinner in the hotel dining room, including steak, vegetable and dessert, for 45 cents.

The evacuee girls say they have never been treated better. The other forty girls in the factory and the townspeople have completely accepted them. This same town has a roll screen factory which employs about 200 workers at wages ranging from 35 to 70 cents an hour. There is also a cannery which cans tomatoes, beans, peas, and corn.

I have mentioned Pella as a typical example of the smaller towns in this area. There are hundreds of jobs in communities much like Pella. The particular work opportunities may be different in each different town, but the general pattern is the same. People who get established in communities of this kind can ride through any sort of post-war adjustment and become a direct part of the community.

I can appreciate the feelings that many of the evacuees have about wages and their desire to make just as much money as possible. If I felt that the wage offers here were in any way sub-standard, I would be the first to complain. They are not sub-standard, but represent the wages everyone else is making in the locality. As a matter of fact, in many cases, employers seem to be anxious to make even a better deal for the evacuees than they would for local labor in the community. Possibly this is because they have been impressed by stories of the intelligence and ability of Japanese-Americans, and also in many instances, by a genuine desire to help out the program and do what they consider to be their patriotic duty as citizens of a democracy.

RELOCATION PROSPECTS - NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Robert M. Cullum
Relocation Supervisor, New York Area

New York, the nation's metropolis, is the one large city where there has not been an influx of war workers and consequently there is no great shortage of housing facilities. It is also the nation's center of art, music, and the theater.

The pressure of employment needs in New York City is lower than most other places. Building-trades workers, teachers, or social workers should not come to New York because there is a surplus of these workers.

While in comparison with the centers of war industry New York wages generally are lower, there are better opportunities to relocate permanently than probably in any other large city. This is particularly true for people who have had experience in the export and import trade and in the distribution of goods through domestic markets. These occupations centered in New York in the pre-war period and at present there is a lull.

While the cost of living cannot be termed low in New York, it is favorable in many respects. The city-owned rapid transit system makes it possible to have a five-cent subway fare, and the general level of rents for both single persons and families is lower than most cities. Clothing is also cheaper.

Stenographers and clerical workers who will command about \$25 a week in New York are not advised to come to the city unless they are in groups of two or more so they can live together. Two or more persons can live more cheaply in New York than two persons can live separately.

The city offers exceptional opportunities for people who want to get specialized training in such lines as interior decoration, clothes designing, home economics, business administration, accounting, etc., because of the many specialized schools for both day and night pupils.

There are good prospects for the establishment of a hostel, if need for one is shown.

Much the same conditions prevail in Philadelphia as in New York City with housing reasonably easy to obtain. In both cities more than one breadwinner is common in the family unit.

Because there has been delay in getting individuals approved for employment in the Eastern Defense Command area, we have no back-log of job opportunities. Now that some eight thousand people have been approved to come into the Atlantic coast area, we are developing jobs for individuals who are approved and want to relocate in this section. There is a demand for accountants and people with experience in income tax work. There are excellent opportunities for couples in domestic work and gardening, where very satisfactory housing is provided and good wages are paid. There are a few offers

with separate housing to accommodate families with children.

In some of the other larger cities of the area served by the New York office, industrial employment opportunities are available at higher wages, but the higher the wage, the more difficult the housing problem. This is true around the Albany district, Rochester and Buffalo, New York; Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport, Connecticut, with an especially acute housing situation in the Connecticut cities.

In the rural sections there are year-around employment opportunities, particularly in the dairy sections. We hope later to develop excellent relocation opportunities in the farm districts of the East.

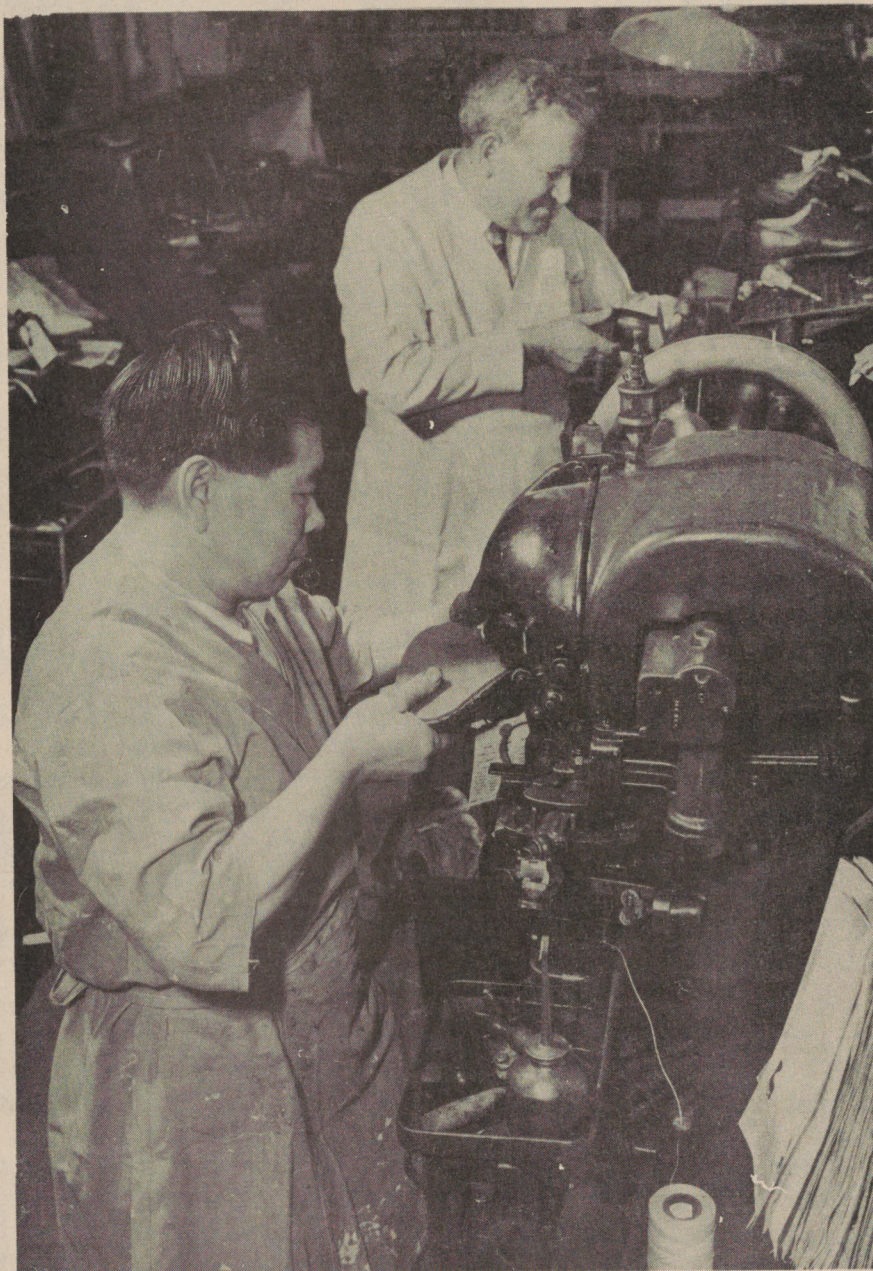
In the truck growing sections of Long Island and New Jersey, there is a shortage of labor and, doubtless, we could place as many experienced truck farmers as want to come here, but the wages are low compared to the wages paid for the same kind of work on the West Coast.

Many of the people at the relocation centers seem to have some mistaken ideas about the farm lands of the East. I happen to have a victory garden at my home and the other day remarked to my nisei stenographer that I wanted to hurry home to care for my tomato plants. She immediately said that she didn't know that tomatoes "grew so far north". Yes, there are good farms in the East, and there will be opportunities for farm workers and farm families to locate here if they want to do so.

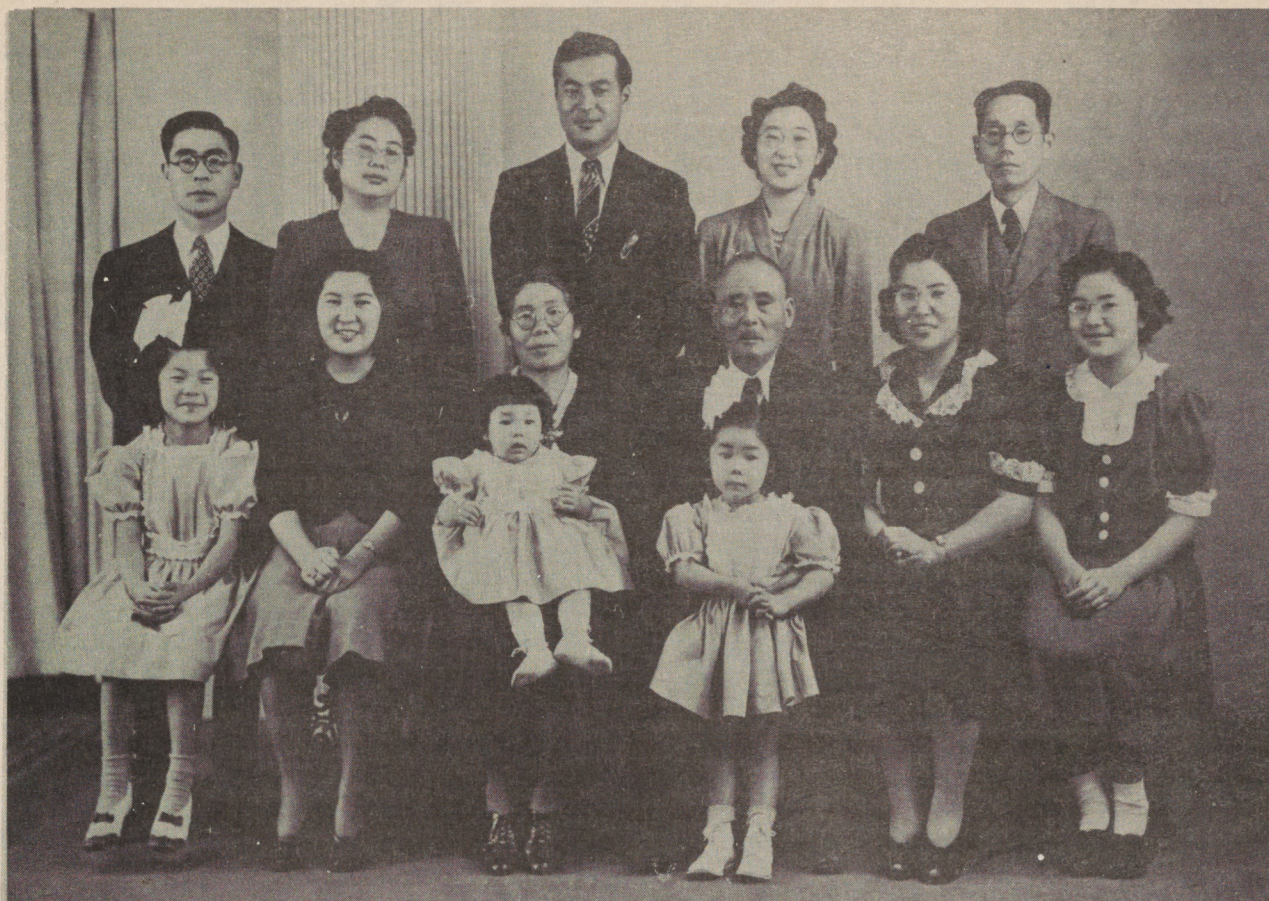
KANSAS CITY

a good place for family resettlement

Francis P. O'Malley, Relocation Officer, 1510 Fidelity Bldg.
Kansas City 6, Missouri



Mitsutaro Miyahara is one of many Issei who have made Kansas City, Missouri, their new home. Mr. Miyahara formerly operated a shoe repair shop in Sacramento, California. He came to Kansas City from Tule Lake.



Reunited in Kansas City, Missouri, in October, 1944, was this family group of former Californians. Standing left to right are: Ihei Hatanaka, Mrs. Matuie Hatanaka, Harry Yanaga, Mrs. May Koga and Paul Koga. Seated are: Marie Sumiye Hatanaka, Miss Shizuko Yanaga, Mrs. Kiriye Yanaga, holding Akiko Hatanaka, Hiyakuji Yanaga, holding May Tomie Hatanaka, Mrs. Fumi Minamiji and Miss Harriet Yanaga. Fumi's husband, Cpl. Minamiji is at Fort Warren, Wyoming. First to resettle were Fumi and Shizuko, who left the Poston Center in May, 1943 for domestic positions. Writing favorably to the family, the girls were instrumental in inducing them to relocate. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Koga came next in July, 1943, Paul, Issei, is employed in an essential industry while his wife, an expert seamstress, has her own business, working by appointment. In May, 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Hiyakuji Yanaga, elderly Issei, son Harry and daughter Harriet arrived. Harry is a Diesel mechanic. Harriet attends high school. Last to leave Poston were the Hatanaka's with their three little girls. Arriving in October, they had no housing problem since the Yanagas had purchased a duplex in a fine location. Mr. Hatanaka is working with Paul Koga. Mrs. Hatanaka, who has just enrolled two of her children in school, stated, "I was amazed and delighted with the kind and cordial reception given me at the open house held at the school."

KANSAS CITY

A Good Place for Family Resettlement

The Japanese population in Kansas City before the war consisted of about 33 persons. Of this number a few were gardeners and housemen, several were employed in large meat-packing firms, a dentist, a downtown merchant, a restaurant owner, and two farm families. Almost all of them were Issei. Today several hundred resettlers have made Kansas City their home. Most of them indicate that they are planning to make it their permanent home. It is not possible to name the occupations in which they are engaged since they are almost infinite in variety.

Housing

There is a definite shortage of housing in Kansas City due especially to the flow of war workers into the many war industries which have sprung up in greater Kansas City since the beginning of the war. Single evacuees and couples arriving in Kansas City have never had difficulty in securing temporary housing. The YMCA and moderately priced hotels have provided housing for this group with average weekly rentals for single persons between \$4 and \$7. Nisei boys have secured room and board in Caucasian boarding houses for about \$9.00 per week. Single girls have usually stayed with friends or relatives already relocated. Although there is no YWCA dormitory for women, the National Training School for Christian Girls has greatly assisted the WRA office and evacuees in providing both overnight and more permanent housing plus board to over 40 girls. The cost of staying in this pleasant dormitory is very nominal. Additional girls can be accommodated at this school where three of the students are Nisei.

War Housing Units

The War Housing Center continues to provide a number of both single and double units, consisting of a bedroom(s), living room, bath or shower, and a kitchen equipped with a gas stove, ice box, and built-in cupboards. These units rent from \$42.50 to \$45.00 per month, unfurnished but with utilities included in the rent. Several evacuee families have rented such apartments from this housing agency. Other evacuees employed in essential industries are eligible to lease these reconversion units.

Evacuee Homes

At least six evacuee families in the Kansas City district have bought homes in good neighborhoods, attesting to their desire to remain in this city permanently. In the case of larger families, family heads may find it desirable to relocate first, calling their families after adequate housing is obtained.

"Kansas City, A Good Place for Family Resettlement" is issued as a part of a relocation kit prepared by the Kansas City District Office. The complete kit gives a great deal of information about agricultural and urban opportunities in Missouri and Kansas. Center residents may consult the complete kit at the relocation office.

Food Costs

The resettler dining "out" spends between \$1.25 and \$1.50 per day for three substantial meals. According to an average of several menus selected from popular restaurants and cafeterias, breakfast costs from 30¢ to 50¢, lunch from 45¢ to 55¢, and dinner from 50¢ to 70¢.

A group of three evacuees living together reports that their weekly food bill does not exceed \$12.00 or \$4.00 each, cooking in their own apartment. Another family of four averages \$13.00 weekly.

Utilities

The average-sized home spends about \$5.00 per month for gas and electricity. The water bill is about \$1.00 per month. The fuel expense for winter heating varies between \$60.00 and \$100.00 depending upon the type of fuel used (coal, gas or oil). A two party telephone costs \$3.65 per month. Of course, in rented apartments and War Housing units, the above utilities (except telephone) are included in the rent.

Medical Care

For medical care, the WRA office has on file a list of doctors recommended by other Nisei as being both competent and reasonable. There are three practicing dentists. There are also a number of student dentists at the clinic of the University of Kansas City Dental College, who have done dental work on many resettlers. A Nisei optometrist has recently opened his shop for business in Kansas City and welcomes the patronage of evacuees.

Social Security Assistance

Cooperative relationships with the Missouri Social Security Commission has resulted in assistance to several evacuees. This assistance is not only financial, but covers medical and hospitalization expenses, room and board, family and welfare counselling, etc.

For those contemplating starting businesses of their own in Kansas City, it has been verified that there will be no difficulty for evacuees, Issei or Nisei, to secure a business license. A survey recently made in which pre-war business men were interviewed, indicates that there is considerable opportunity for resettlers to establish themselves in their own businesses in many lines.

While this leaflet is primarily concerned with Kansas City opportunities, there are opportunities for farmers in the district represented by the Kansas City District Relocation Office. Detailed information in regard to Missouri's agricultural possibilities may be found in the relocation kit; a copy of which is available at the center relocation office.

Employment

Near the geographical center of the United States, Kansas City is the gateway to the Southwest as well as the heart of a vast agricultural area which also includes a wealth of mineral deposits. Since 1943, the world's greatest cattle market, through Kansas City also flows the corn of Iowa, wheat from Kansas, oil of Texas and Oklahoma, and the coal and lead of Missouri.

Food is still Kansas City's basic produce. One of the country's largest livestock markets and meat packing center, Kansas City is also highly important for processed general food staples, and ranks second in the production of flour. Since December, 1941, Kansas City has been a hub of important war industries. Located in the area are a gigantic ammunition factory, a shell loading plant, a huge aircraft bomber assembly plant, a glider factory, and a new aircraft engine factory plus many plants producing vital aircraft accessories. In addition are hundreds of smaller factories and plants manufacturing enormous supplies of war equipment and material, including automobile assembly plants. Kansas City likewise ranks high nationally as a center of manufacturing for wearing apparel and also livestock feed. Among the largest railroad terminals and distribution points, Kansas City is an important producer of metal tanks, bridges, and fabricated steel and metal products. Many evacuees are employed in essential war industries including the Aluminum Company of America, the Butler Manufacturing Company, International Paper Company, the Caterpillar Tractor Company, the Corn Products Refining Company, the American Designing and Engineering Company, and the Wilcox Electrical Company, etc.

Cultural Life in Kansas City

In Kansas City are several institutions constituting an unusual center of art and culture. The Kansas City Art Institute has 350 regular students and with an international reputation, and for the last 20 years attracted national attention with the annual Midwestern Artists Exhibition.

The Kansas City Conservatory of Music is fully accredited by the National Association of Music Teachers. With a distinguished faculty of 70 teachers, it maintains a preparatory school and a college of music, awarding Bachelor and Master of Music degrees.

The Kansas City Museum houses more than 60,000 items including natural history rooms and other exhibits. Open five days a week, no admission is charged.

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art and the Mary Atkins Museum is literally in the heart of Kansas City. Over 5,000 objects of art are displayed, including paintings and art objects. A series of small galleries scientifically lighted and air conditioned, the collections from the Near and Far East are perhaps the best known. Also widely acclaimed are authentic reproductions. A comprehensive gallery make this trip to the museum an enjoyable one.

The Kansas City Philharmonic orchestra, conducted by world reknown Efrem Kurtz, performs twice weekly concerts which are broadcast over a nation-wide hookup. Famous singers, pianists, violinists, etc., are frequent performers to this popular orchestra.

Churches

There are 296 churches in Kansas City of all denominations. Nisei and Issei have been wholeheartedly accepted into many of these. There is also an all-evacuee Sunday service conducted by a student pastor of the Central Baptist Seminary and attended by a small number of resettlers who are hesitant to attend a Caucasian church. The Nisei churchgoers have on the whole fitted into their respective churches with remarkable ease. Many are active participants of church and Sunday school activities. Some are singing in choirs, a Nisei girl is a Nursery teacher, another is a leader in the Young People's department. There are also several Issei who weekly attend services in Caucasian churches.

Parks

Kansas City is famous for its extensive parks and playgrounds. Swope Park is nationally known for its zoo, golf links and swimming pool. Third largest in the country, it comprises 1386 acres out of a total of 2226 park acres for the entire city. There are 26 other parks, two municipal golf links and a number of privately owned golf clubs. There are miles of beautiful parkways which command panoramas of unusual beauty. Most notable of these are located in Swope Park and the Cliff Drive in North Terrace Park.

Recreation

For recreational purposes, there are over 64 moving picture theaters in Kansas City. There is also a large amusement center called the Pla-Mor which houses a ball-room, swimming pool, bowling alleys, billiard room and skating rinks. Many evacuees have found the Pla-Mor an enjoyable spot for their recreational needs. There are a number of other bowling alleys and several fashionable hotel ballrooms frequented by the Nisei. The YWCA has continued its war-time activity of providing facilities to the evacuees. Since September, 1944, a bi-monthly Nisei-Caucasian mixer party has been sponsored by the YWCA under the direction of a Nisei girl employed as their war service secretary.

Education

In addition to the public school system of Kansas City are three colleges, over fifty Catholic schools and colleges, a teachers college, a junior college, two trade schools and a part-time school as well as several professional institutions. The public school system consists of seventy five elementary grade schools, five junior high schools, and nine senior high schools.

In Kansas City is located the University of Kansas City, attended by a number of Nisei students, and its affiliated Dental College where over a dozen Nisei students have enrolled. An Issei, formerly an instructor of orthodonture at the University of Southern California, is on the faculty staff at this college. Within twelve miles of Kansas City are Park College (Parkville) and William Jewell College (Liberty) where many Nisei are in attendance. Within the territory serviced by the Kansas City district office of the WRA are over 10 colleges and universities with about 100 evacuee students.

The public schools of Kansas City have welcomed the Nisei into their fold. Some are completing high school while working part time in homes, earning their room and board. Nisei have been well received not only by the Board of Education, the Supervisor of Schools, and the various faculties of each school, but also by the student bodies. A young Nisei boy was elected president of his senior class recently. Another is very active in school club activities. Altogether, there have been seven Nisei, four boys and three girls, enrolled in high school, and five in grammar school, plus three in kindergarten.

There are technical, business and religious schools likewise attended by the resettlers. A number of evacuees have completed courses at an engineering college. Three girls are attending a well known business school. Several girls have enrolled at the National Training School for Christian girls. Another girl is completing a course in beauty school. A dress designing school near Kansas City is anxious to have Nisei students. An Issei and a Nisei are students at the Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas.

Location

Located on the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers, Kansas City is geographically the "Heart of America" and typifies the Mid-west. The Metropolitan area of Kansas City includes Kansas City, Missouri (population, 400,000, area 60 square miles), Kansas City, Kansas (pop. 122,000, area 20 square miles), Independence, Missouri, North Kansas City, Missouri, and many suburbs in both states. The total area embraces over 500 square miles with a war-time population of about three-quarters of a million people. Nineteenth in size in the entire country, the government of Kansas City, Missouri is the Council-manager type.

Transportation

The Union Station in Kansas City is the world's largest railroad depot outside of New York and Chicago, and services twelve trunk lines and 32 branch lines, with over 300 trains arriving and departing daily. There are a number of taxi companies. The first mile is 25¢ and 10¢ for each 1/3 mile thereafter.

Almost every section of Kansas City is easily accessible to transportation. The Kansas City Public Service Company operates a fleet of over 400 street cars, 300 motor busses, and 100 trolley busses, servicing more than 500 miles of street car and bus routes. The fare is 10¢, or 4 tokens for 35¢, transfers free.

Climate

The climate in Kansas City is moderate, with an average of 29.8 degrees in January and an average of 79.4 degrees in July. The annual average rainfall is 36.11 inches distributed fairly evenly throughout the year. There is also an annual average of 21.5 inches of snow. The elevation is 800 feet. Although the average temperature difference is only 50 degrees throughout the year, some sub-freezing weather is experienced in winter but rarely does the thermometer dip below zero. In the warmer days of summer, the temperature may approach a hundred degrees but seldom exceeds it. However, the high humidity may create the illusion of more heat. The warm lazy days of the Mid-west's Indian Summer may extend until November, during which one may behold the breathtaking spectacle of the city's thousands of trees whose leaves change into a myriad of hues.



KANSAS CITY





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

1510 Fidelity Building
Kansas City, 6, Missouri

January 22, 1945

To All Center Residents
Central Utah Relocation Center

As Relocation Officer of the Kansas City District, I welcome you and your friends to this district.

Kansas City is ranked among the first 20 cities in population. In addition, the great majority of this city's inhabitants are engaged in the processing of consumer's goods. In view of this fact, post-war employment, in my opinion, is assured.

Business, professional, clerical and laboring people of Japanese origin who have lived and worked in Kansas City prior to Pearl Harbor have found public sentiment to be favorable. Evacuees who have relocated here in the past two years report the same. Evacuees are living and owning homes in all sections of the city. This is indicative of public acceptance. Isseis who have relocated here with their families have been well received. Their employers are more than satisfied and are eager to employ others.

I ask that you carefully examine the Information Kit especially prepared to answer your inquiries about Kansas City. Should you desire additional data, your Relocation Program Officer can obtain the information for you. We, of the district office are eager to be of service to you. Your future is contingent upon good, sound resettlement and this is our ultimate objective.

Sincerely yours,

Francis P. O'Malley
Francis P. O'Malley
Relocation Officer

January 23, 1945

To the residents of
Topaz Relocation Center
Topaz, Utah

Dear Residents:

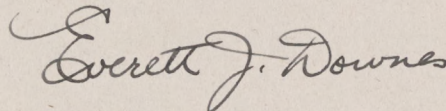
Three uncertain years have passed since the never-to-be forgotten day on which you and your family and your friends were uprooted from your West Coast homes and transplanted into the Topaz Center.

With the announced closure of all centers, perhaps another uncertain year lies ahead for you. It is within your power to make this year a year of certainty rather than one of speculative apprehension.

In making your decision to leave the center, you are confronted with manifold and complex problems - of that, we are aware. I and the members of the Citizens Committee whom I represent, are organized to welcome and assist you to resettle in Kansas City. We take it upon ourselves to be responsible for your welfare and happiness here.

Many resettlers have become gainfully and permanently employed as well as happy residents. This is our invitation for you to join your predecessors and to call upon us for whatever assistance you may need. The contents of this kit will tell you verbally and pictorially about Kansas City.

Most sincerely,



Everett J. Downes
Chairman, Citizens Committee

FACTS ABOUT KANSAS CITY

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Economic Metropolis

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Industries

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Pre-evacuation Isseis

The Japanese population in Kansas City before the war consisted of about 33 persons. Of this number were a few gardeners and housemen, several employed in large meat-packing firms, a dentist, a downtown merchant, a restaurant owner, and two farm families. Almost all of them were Isseis.

Cultural Life in Kansas City

In Kansas City are several institutions constituting an unusual center of art and culture. The Kansas City Art Institute, with an international reputation, has 350 regular students, and for the last 20 years attracted national attention with the annual Midwestern Artists Exhibition.

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Churches

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In addition to the public school system of Kansas City are three colleges, over fifty Catholic schools and colleges, a teachers college, a junior college, two trade schools and a part-time school as well as several professional institutions. The public school system consists of seventy five elementary grade schools, five junior high schools, and nine senior high schools.

In Kansas City is located the University of Kansas City, attended by a number of Nisei students, and its affiliated Dental College where over a dozen Nisei students have enrolled. An Issei, formerly an instructor of orthodonture at the University of Southern California, is on the faculty staff at this college. Within twelve miles of Kansas City are Park College (Parkville) and William Jewell College (Liberty) where many Nisei are in attendance. Within the territory serviced by the Kansas City district office of the WRA are over 10 colleges and universities with about 100 evacuee students.

The public schools of Kansas City have welcomed the Nisei into their fold. Some of the Nisei students are completing high school while working part time in homes, earning their room and board. Niseis have been well received not only by the Board of Education, the Supervisor of Schools, and the various faculties of each school, but also by the student bodies. A young Nisei boy was elected president of his senior class recently. Another is very active in school club activities. Altogether, there have been seven Niseis, four boys and three girls, enrolled in high school, five in grammar school, and three in kindergarten.

There are technical, business and religious schools likewise attended by the resettlers. A number of evacuees have completed courses at an engineering college. Three girls are attending a well known business school. Several girls have enrolled at the National Training School for Christian girls. Another girl is completing a course in Beauty school. A dress designing school near Kansas City is anxious to have Nisei students. An Issei and a Nisei are students at the Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas.

COST OF LIVING IN KANSAS CITY

Housing

There is a definite shortage of housing in Kansas City due especially to the influx of war-workers into the many war industries which have sprung up in greater Kansas City since the beginning of the war. Single evacuees and couples arriving in Kansas City have never had difficulty in securing temporary housing. The YMCA and moderately priced hotels have provided housing for this group with average weekly rentals for single persons between \$4 and \$7. Nisei boys have secured room and board in Caucasian boarding houses for about \$9.00 per week.

Single girls have usually stayed with friends or relatives already relocated. Although there is no YWCA dormitory for women, the National Training School for Christian Girls has greatly assisted the WRA office and evacuees in providing both overnight and more permanent housing plus board to over 40 girls. The cost of staying in this pleasant dormitory is very nominal. Additional girls can be accommodated at this school where three of the students are Nisei.

War Housing Units

The War Housing Center continues to provide a number of both single and double bedroom units, consisting of a bedroom(s), living room, bath or shower, and a kitchen equipped with a gas stove, ice box, and built-in cupboards. These units rent from \$42.50 to \$45.00 per month, unfurnished but with utilities included in the rent. Several evacuee families have rented such apartments from this housing agency. Other evacuees employed in essential industries are eligible to lease these reconversion units.

Evacuee Homes

At least six evacuee families in the Kansas City district have bought homes in good neighborhoods, attesting to their desire to remain in this city permanently. It is still recommended that family heads relocate first, calling their families after adequate housing is obtained.

Food

The resettler dining "out" spends between \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day for three substantial meals. According to an average of several menus selected from popular restaurants and cafeterias, breakfast can be purchased from 30¢ to 50¢, lunch from 45¢ to 55¢, and dinner from 50¢ to 70¢.

A group of three evacuees living together reports that their weekly food bill does not exceed \$12.00, \$4.00 each, cooking in their own apartment. Another family of four averages \$18.00 weekly. The index of food for Kansas City, based on a base period of 1935 to 1939 is 132.7, as compared to an average of 137.1 for 51 large cities in the United States.

Utilities

The average-sized home spends about \$5.00 per month for gas and electricity. The water bill is about \$1.00 per month. The fuel expense for winter heating varies between \$60.00 and \$100.00 depending upon the type of fuel used (coal, gas or oil). A two party telephone cost \$3.65 per month. Of course, in rented apartments and War Housing units, the above utilities are included in the rent (telephone not included).



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: A type of homes in one of Kansas City's residential sections where relocated Japanese Americans, employed in Kansas City, have found vacancies.



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: Shown with her principal, Mr. Harry McMillan, and typing instructor, Miss Carlotta Cuning, is Harriet Yanaga, 16-year-old Nisei student at the Southeast High School in Kansas City, Missouri. Formerly of Gardena, California, Harriet relocated from the Poston, Arizona, Relocation Center with her parents to join four other members of her family who had already relocated to Kansas City. Mr. McMillan and others of the faculty have done much to make Harriet's school life enjoyable, and she has made many new friends from among the students.

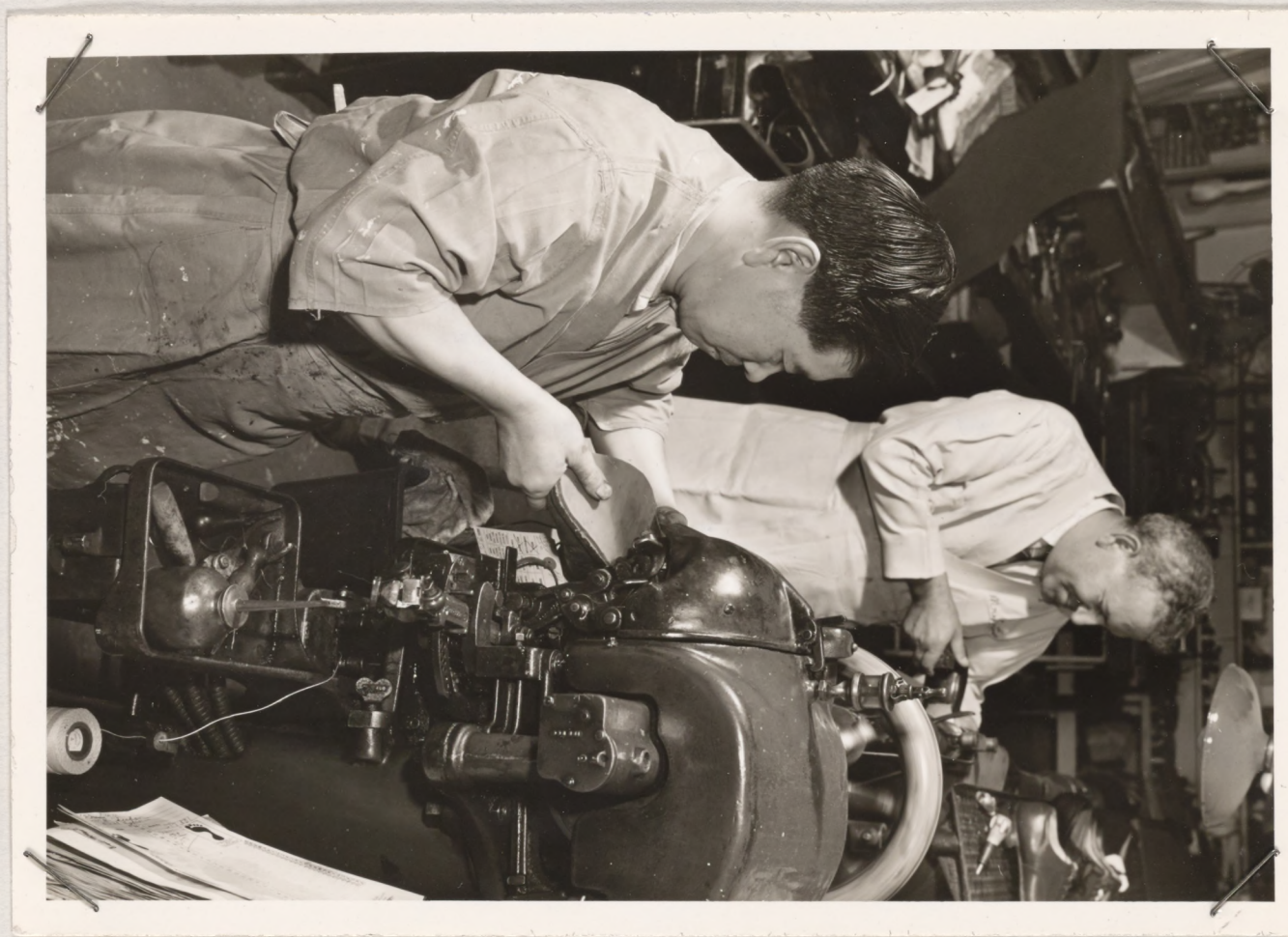


PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: Employed as a shoe repairman, Mitsutaro Miyahara is one of many Isseis who have made Kansas City, Missouri, their new home. Known as either "Pop" or "Jimmy", Mr. Miyahara formerly operated a shoe repair shop in Sacramento, California. Relocating on July 26, 1943, from the Tule Lake Relocation Center where he managed the shoe repair shop, he was instrumental in securing positions for other Issei workers in Kansas City. Mr. Miyahara has rented a large house belonging to his employer, Mr. Ventola, and is prepared to provide reasonably priced but comfortable accommodations to new resettlers to Kansas City.



PHOTO LOCATION: Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

DATA: Formerly of Redondo Beach, California, Miss Eiko Arao relocated from Rohwer, Arkansas, Relocation Center on July 29, 1944, to Kansas City, Missouri. She is now employed as assistant to the bookkeeper at the Elms resort hotel at Excelsior Springs, Missouri, about thirty miles from Kansas City. She is shown here with three of her Caucasian friends who work at the same office. There are five other Nisei girls employed at this hotel.



PHOTO LOCATION: Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

DATA: Mrs. Kiye Iyoya is shown at work with two Caucasian workers in the kitchen of the Elms Hotel in excelsior Springs, Missouri. Her husband is also employed as barman at the same hotel. Mrs. Iyoya, formerly of San Mateo, California, relocated from the Topaz, Utah, Relocation Center on April 11, 1944, to join her husband who had relocated some six months previously. Accompanying her was her daughter, Violet, age 11, who is now attending grammar school and enjoying her new environment immensely.



PHOTO LOCATION: Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

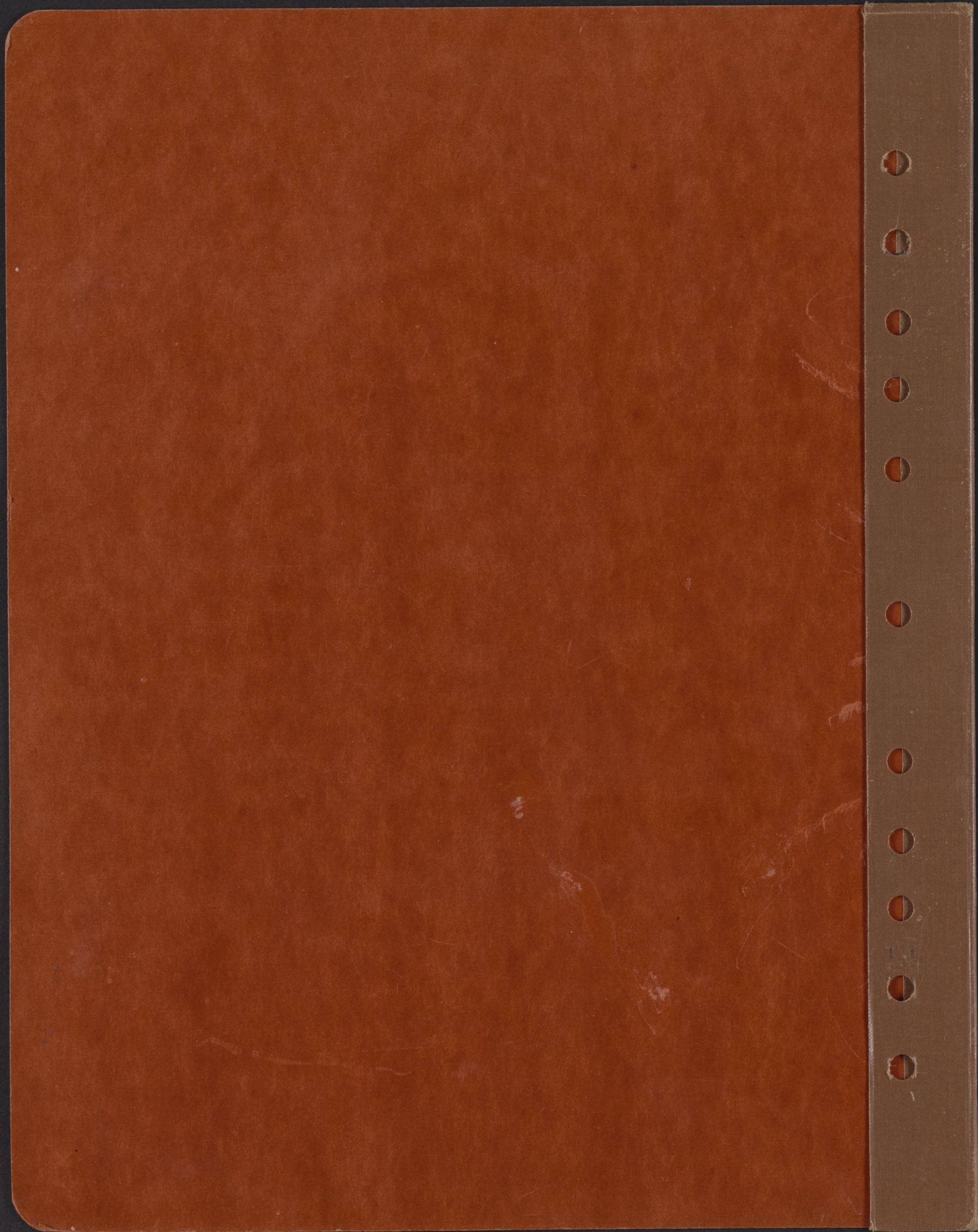
DATA:

As cook's helper, Mr. Shogoro Oka is enjoying his work at the Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Formerly of Delano, California, Mr. Oka was evacuated to the Poston, Arizona, Relocation Center from which he relocated on August 25, 1944. Here he is shown "dishing out" a dinner plate in the kitchen of the Elms. He is one of a dozen Isseis employed at this hotel.



KANSAS CITY FROM THE AIR

KANSAS CITY





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

1510 Fidelity Building
Kansas City #6, Missouri

February 20, 1945

To the Residents of Poston, Arizona
Colorado River Relocation Center

As Relocation Officer of the Kansas City District,
I welcome you and your friends to this district.

Kansas City is ranked among the first 20 cities in
population. In addition, the great majority of this city's
inhabitants are engaged in the processing of consumer's
goods. In view of this fact, post-war employment, in my
opinion, is assured.

Business, professional, clerical and laboring
people of Japanese origin who have lived and worked in Kansas
City prior to Pearl Harbor have found public sentiment to be
favorable. Evacuees who have relocated here in the past two
years report the same. Evacuees are living and owning homes
in all sections of the city. This is indicative of public
acceptance. Isseis who have relocated here with their families
have been well received. Their employers are more than satis-
fied and are eager to employ others.

I ask that you carefully examine the Information Kit
especially prepared to answer your inquiries about Kansas City.
Should you desire additional data, your Relocation Program
Officer can obtain the information for you. We, of the
district office are eager to be of service to you. Your
future is contingent upon good, sound resettlement and this
is our ultimate objective.

Sincerely yours,

Francis P. O'Malley
Francis P. O'Malley
Relocation Officer

MAR 7 1945



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
1510 Fidelity Building
Kansas City #6, Missouri

February 20, 1945

To the Residents of
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

Dear Residents:

Three uncertain years have passed since the never-to-be-forgotten day on which you and your family and your friends were uprooted from your West Coast homes and transplanted into the Colorado River Center.

With the announced closure of all centers, perhaps another uncertain year lies ahead for you. It is within your power to make this year a year of certainty rather than one of speculative apprehension.

In making your decision to leave the center, you are confronted with manifold and complex problems - of that, we are aware. I and the members of the Citizens Committee whom I represent, are organized to welcome and assist you to resettle in Kansas City. We take it upon ourselves to be responsible for your welfare and happiness here.

Many resettlers have become gainfully and permanently employed as well as happy residents. This is our invitation for you to join your predecessors and to call upon us for whatever assistance you may need. The contents of this kit will tell you verbally and pictorially about Kansas City.

Most sincerely,

EVERETT J. DOWNES
Chairman, Citizens Committee

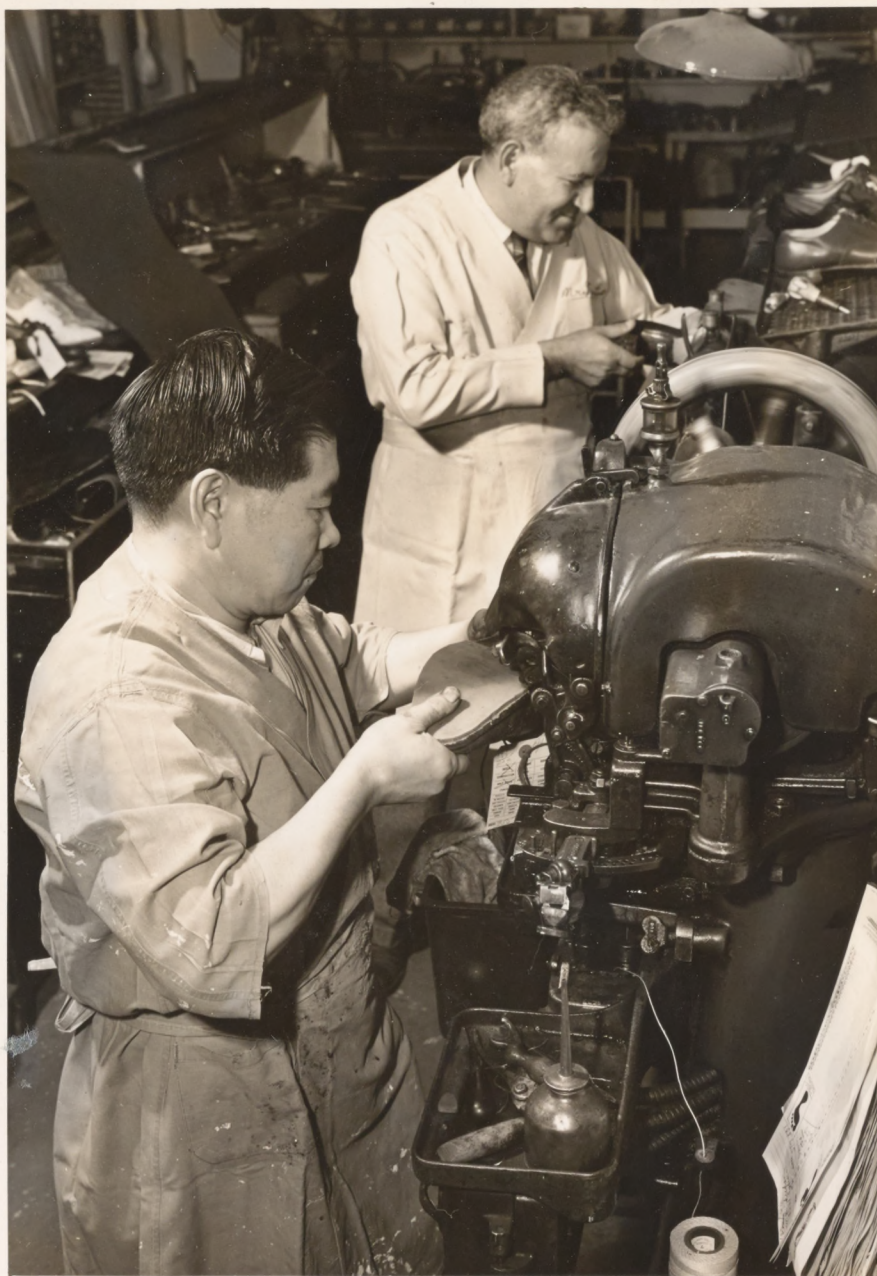


PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: Employed as a shoe repairman, Mitsutaro Miyahara is one of many Isseis who have made Kansas City, Missouri, their new home. Known as either "Pop" or "Jimmy", Mr. Miyahara formerly operated a shoe repair shop in Sacramento, California. Relocating on July 26, 1943, from the Tule Lake Relocation Center, where he managed the shoe repair shop, he was instrumental in securing positions for other Issei workers in Kansas City. Mr. Miyahara has rented a large house belonging to his employer, Mr. Ventola, and is prepared to provide reasonably priced but comfortable accommodations to new re-settlers to Kansas City. He is shown at work with Mr. Ventola.



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: The sky line as seen from the World War Memorial. In the foreground is the Union Terminal.



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: A type of homes in one of Kansas City's residential sections where
relocated Japanese Americans, employed in Kansas City, have found vacancies.



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: A view of the large duplex home at 5210 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri, recently purchased by the Yanagas, a reunited family consisting of thirteen members. The home is in a fine neighborhood near the city's largest and most beautiful public park.



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: Reunited in Kansas City, Mo. in Oct., 1944 was this family group of former Californians. Standing left to right are: Ihei Hatanaka, Mrs. Matuie Hatanaka, Harry Yanaga, Mrs. May Koga and Paul Koga. Seated are: Marie Sumiye Hatanaka, Shizuko Yanaga, Mrs. Kiriye Yanaga, holding Akiko Hatanaka, Hiyakuji Yanaga, holding May Tomie Hatanaka, Mrs. Fumi Minamiji and Harriet Yanaga. Fumi's husband, Cpl. Minamiji is at Ft. Warren, Wyo. First to relocate were Fumi & Shizuko, who left the Poston Center in May, 1943 for domestic positions. Writing favorably to the family, the girls were instrumental in inducing them to relocate. Mr. & Mrs. Paul Koga came next in July, 1943. Paul, Issei, is employed in an essential industry while his wife, an expert seamstress, has her own business by appointment. In May, 1944 Mr. & Mrs. Hiyakuji Yanaga, elderly Isseis, son Harry & daughter Harriet arrived. Harry is a Diesel mechanic. Harriet attends high school. Last to leave Poston were the Hatanakas with their three little girls. Arriving in October, they had no housing problem since the Yanagas had purchased a duplex in a fine location. Mr. Hatanaka is working with Paul Koga. Mrs. Hatanaka who has just enrolled two of her children in school, stated, "I was amazed and delighted with the kind and cordial reception given me at the open house held at the school".



PHOTO LOCATION: Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

DATA: Formerly of Redondo Beach, California, Miss Eiko Arao relocated from Rohwer, Arkansas, Relocation Center on July 29, 1944, to Kansas City, Missouri. She is now employed as assistant to the bookkeeper at the Elms resort hotel at Excelsior Springs, Missouri, about thirty miles from Kansas City. She is shown here with three of her Caucasian friends who work at the same office. There are five other Nisei girls employed at this hotel.



PHOTO LOCATION: Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

DATA: Mrs. Kiye Iyoya is shown at work with two Caucasian workers in the kitchen of the Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Her husband is also employed as barman at the same hotel. Mrs. Iyoya, formerly of San Mateo, California, relocated from the Topaz, Utah, Relocation Center on April 11, 1944, to join her husband who had relocated some six months previously. Accompanying her was her daughter, Violet, age 11, who is now attending grammar school and enjoying her new environment immensely.

PHOTO LOCATION: Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

DATA: Mrs. Kiye Iyoya is shown at work with two Caucasian workers in the kitchen of the Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Her husband is also employed as barman at the same hotel. Mrs. Iyoya, formerly of San Mateo, California, relocated from the Topaz, Utah, Relocation Center on April 11, 1944, to join her husband who had relocated some six months previously. Accompanying her was her daughter, Violet, age 11, who is now attending grammar school and enjoying her new environment immensely.



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PHOTO LOCATION: ELMS Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

DATA: Mr. Toshimichi Iyoya is known as "Nick, the International Bartender" to his friends and patrons at the Elms, resort hotel about thirty miles north of Kansas City. Though an Issei, Nick's English is flawless. Formerly of San Mateo, California, Nick relocated from the Topaz, Utah, Relocation Center on October 18, 1943. He was recently joined by his wife, who is also employed at the hotel, and his daughter, Violet, age 11, who is attending grammar school in Excelsior Springs. Here, Nick is shown behind the bar of the luxurious cocktail lounge of the Elms, waiting on several patrons.



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: Shown with her principal, Mr. Harry McMillan, and typing instructor, Miss Carlotta Cunning, is Harriet Yanaga, 16-year old Nisei student at the Southeast High School in Kansas City, Missouri. Formerly of Gardena, California, Harriet relocated from the Poston, Arizona Relocation Center with her parents to join four other members of her family who had already relocated to Kansas City. Mr. McMillan and others of the faculty have done much to make Harriet's school life enjoyable, and she has made many new friends from among the students.



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: Flanked by two of his newly acquired friends, Frank Miya is shown at the entrance to the Southwest High School in Kansas City, Missouri, where he has just enrolled as a senior student. Formerly of Hanford, California, Frank relocated from the Granada, Colorado, Relocation Center on July 6, 1944, to join his older brother who is operating a farm near Liberty, Missouri, 15 miles north of Kansas City. Frank has been well accepted by both the faculty and classmates and finds his new environment a happy one.



PHOTO LOCATION: Kansas City, Missouri

DATA: Surrounded by members of her typing class is Harriet Yanaga, Nisei student newly enrolled at the Southeast High School in Kansas City, Missouri. Also in the group is Vice-Principal George R. Powell who has contributed much towards Harriet's happy integration into the student body. Together with her parents, Harriet relocated from the Poston, Arizona, Center in May, 1944, to join other members of her family previously relocated in Kansas City. She is formerly of Gardena, California.



PHOTO LOCATION: Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

DATA: As cook's helper, Mr. Shogoro Oka is enjoying his work at the Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Formerly of Delano, California, Mr. Oka was evacuated to the Poston, Arizona, Relocation Center from which he relocated on August 25, 1944. Here, he is shown "dishing out" a dinner plate in the kitchen of the Elms. He is one of a dozen Isseis employed at this hotel.