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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
2nd and University Street
Seattle, Washington

Project Release No. 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welcomed by friendly Caucasian neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. George Yoshihara are "at home" once again in Shelton, Washington, having arrived a week ago from Granada Colorado Relocation Center.

While they are both working very hard to get their house and oyster beds in order again, the beaming couple took time off to tell two WRA representatives who called on them, of the wonderful welcome extended by neighbors. "When we arrived here, our good neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stevens, invited us to be their house guests for three days so that we could get our own place in livable condition again", Mr. Yoshihara said.

"They even had a chicken dinner for us on Sunday, and a lot of the other neighbors telephoned us to say that they were very glad we were back again", added Mrs. Yoshihara. "We have even had people stop by and try to buy Olympia oysters from us in the few days we have been here, but we had to tell them to come back some other time, because we haven't any yet. They all said they would be back."

"We went into Shelton to buy supplies and we called on several people we had done business with in the past, and others whom have always been friends. Mr. Carson, of the Shelton branch of the Seattle First National Bank and Mr. Elcott of the L & M Department

(more)

store were both glad to see us, and acted very friendly. One of the leading business men in town took my husband by both hands and tears sprang to his eyes when he told him how happy he was to see him once more," Mrs. Yoshihara added.

The Yoshiharas are the only Japanese family who has returned to the small community of oystermen along Hood Canal. They have lived there for nearly twenty years, and in the community for forty years. Mr. Yoshihara said they had always been a part of the community activities and civic celebrations, such as school Christmas parties, Red Cross Committees, etc.

After looking at pictures of the twenty-nine year old son, Jim, who is a tank driver in a "mixed up" unit, (Nisei and Caucasian), at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and hearing about thirty-one year old Elmer who is working in Chicago, the WRA representatives offered any assistance which the couple might need in adjusting to relocation. They bid the Yoshiharas goodbye and returned to Seattle, secure in the knowledge that one more Issei couple had been re-located very satisfactorily in their own former home.

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
2nd and University
Seattle, Washington

Project Release No. 2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 1945

"They even brought flowers to my wife--"

With these words Tamichi Yamada, former resident of Minidoka, summed up the cordial and friendly welcome which was extended to him by long-time residents of the Wabash Hotel when he returned to Portland, Oregon a month ago to resume its management.

Mr. Yamada told War Relocation Authority representatives he was very glad he had returned to his home and although he had previously harbored fears and qualms about going back to Portland, he found they were groundless. He and his wife, Hana, are adjusting very satisfactorily to their former life, Yamada reported.

When he left the center many of his friends were worried about the situation he might find "outside." He promised to inform them of the real conditions, so here's the story as he told it in the WRA office at Portland:

"Since I have come out I feel altogether different--I feel free--and I shall never go back to the center. Everybody was glad to see me, they even brought flowers to my wife and one old man cried when he talked to me," said Mr. Yamada. "I had been warned by grapevine gossip that if I returned to take over the hotel, all of the employees would leave. As a matter of fact, when they learned I was in town they came over one by one to see me and to welcome me home. When I returned to the hotel they all remained on

(more)

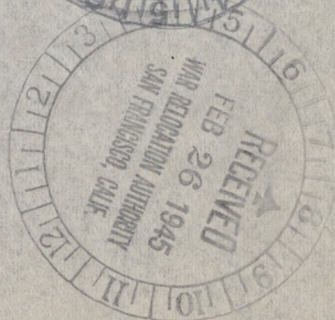


the job. I have eight Caucasian employees; two men and six women at present."

Yamada, an Issei, has been a resident of Portland since 1903, and is married to a Nisei graduate of the University of California. His daughter attends school in Lake Forest Park, Illinois.

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MAR 5 RECD



Department of Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
Seattle, Washington

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N.W. area
Project Release No. 6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The three Murakami children, Kay, Betty and Masako, are busy with their mother preparing the family store at 604 Jackson Street, Seattle, for a grand reopening. It is the Higo 10% store, well known in Seattle for many years.

The family arrived in Seattle from Minidoka Center on January 23, and only nine days later they were saddened by the death of Mr. Murakami, who was overcome by a heart attack. The two girls and their brother are helping their mother carry on in the business, which they hope to have in operation in about two months.

"There's a lot to do yet," said Betty, who acted as the family spokesman. "We have been getting orders right and left, from the people still in Centers, and people who have returned and think we're open. But we can't fill them yet. Other old customers are waiting for us to open and telling us to hurry." The family reported that they have been well received by everyone and have encountered no unpleasant incidents. Referring to some unfavorable rumors of conditions "back home," Betty said, "The people have been in the centers for three years, and they don't know what it's like outside now. We are waiting for other people to come back, but they're slow!"

(more)

There are office spaces over the store, and the former tenants are planning to return soon. "Many of them are doctors and dentists who are practicing in communities east of the mountains," Betty asserted; "but they intend to return to occupy their former quarters in Seattle."

The Murakamis have been in business in Seattle since 1907, and according to Mrs. Murakami, their store was named after the province of Nigo in Japan, where Mr. Murakami was born.



United States Department of Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
Seattle 1, Washington

Project Release No. 7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 1945

Nineteen year old Mary Ogawa, a recent arrival in Hood River completed preparations to receive her mother and sister who arrived on Saturday, March 31, and met them at the train.

Mary was busy around the ranch house for the first few days last week with her housecleaning. She didn't even go in to town to shop until Thursday, and she admitted she was a little bit worried about the reception she might be given.

"I went into the Safeway Store in Hood River, and I certainly felt conspicuous. I stuck out like a sore thumb among the other customers! Imagine my pleased surprise when the employes and the manager practically fell over themselves trying to serve me.. They even sold me some very scarce bananas, and told me they would call a taxi if I didn't have transportation back to my home. I had transportation, so I thanked them and left, feeling so good about the whole thing that I stopped in another shop on the way home.

"This shop, a small book and art store, was managed by a very friendly woman who called me by name, and talked with me for half an hour. I was sorry I couldn't remember her name."

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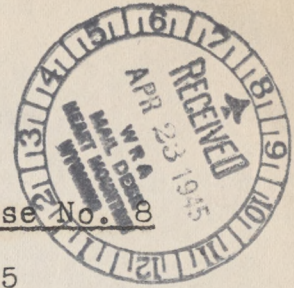
Mary relocated from Tule Lake with her family in the fall of 1943 to Cleveland. Her brother is serving in the armed forces, and Mary's mother and sister plan to help her run the orchard until his return.

She visited Portland on Friday and spent the night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tamaichi Yamada, who recently relocated from Minidoka. Mrs. Yamada is redecorating a guest bedroom, which she told the Portland WRA representatives, will be available for any returning evacuee who needs temporary shelter.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Shimizu, until last week of Block 32, Minidoka, are staying with the Yamadas and are helping them with the operation of the Wabash Hotel. Harry Yata, formerly of Block 30, Minidoka, is a frequent visitor at the Yamada apartment, and he reports that the Caucasian family with whom he has made his home for many years, redecorated his room as soon as they heard he was coming back. The Shimizus and Harry said they were all getting along fine, and were glad to be back in Portland, because "after all, it's home!"



Garrett
McChau
Dept. of Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
Seattle 1, Washington



Project Release No. 8

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. K. Taniguchi have done considerable wandering since they left their home in Seattle three years ago, but they are back home again at 1511 East Fir Street, and think it is the best place in the world. They left Minidoka Center two years ago and have lived in Billings, Montana and Chicago, Illinois, but they're very happy to see Seattle again. Mr. Taniguchi arrived from Chicago only Sunday, the 15th, but Mrs. Taniguchi has been here about a month.

"I'm so glad I came back," said Mrs. Taniguchi, "it is so good to be home! The people in Chicago were wonderful to us, but we have so many friends here and they were glad to see us-- after all, this is home." The Taniguchis have lived in Seattle for twelve years, and operated the "Evergreen Tavern" at 514 Jefferson Street prior to evacuation. They have three children; Lucy, doing secretarial work in Chicago; Ethel, about to graduate from high school at Billings; and Roy, a freshman in high school in Chicago.

Lead { Mr. and Mrs. Taniguchi are busy now rehabilitating their home which was ravaged by fire two years ago. They were pleasantly assisted in this work a week ago when twelve University of Washington students and members of the American Friends Service Society

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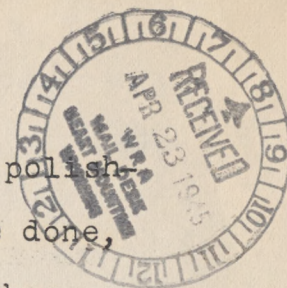
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MAY 15 1945

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dropped in on them and spent the entire day cleaning and polishing the house. There is a great deal of work still to be done, but when all is ready Mrs. Taniguchi wants to see all of her friends from the center, which she hopes will be soon. She hopes someday to operate her own "lunch counter" here in Seattle. "But that's just a dream!" she laughingly protested when I wrote it down. It's a wonderful dream, though, and we know it will come true.



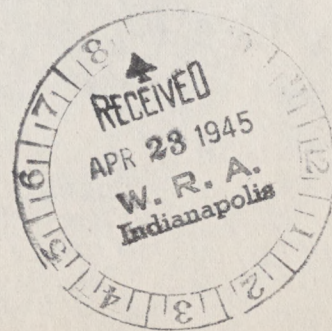
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War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
Seattle 1, Washington

Project Release No. 9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"I think rationing is a good thing, but you certainly have to be careful of your points at first, until you get used to it," Mrs. Buro Shigihara, relaxing happily in her own home at 1514 East Fir Street, Seattle, stated yesterday. "We've had no trouble in making purchases at stores, nor in finding what we want, either," she continued. "The merchants have all been very nice." She thinks that in a couple of months they'll "catch on" to the red and blue coupons and won't mind it at all. Commenting on the cost of living "outside", Mrs. Shigihara said, "Yes, we eat quite a bit of rice, but it hasn't gone up as much as we had thought it would-- China rice is 15¢ per pound. The increase in price of vegetables is more apparent." Mrs. Shigihara feels that living costs have not increased any more than could be expected, and she enjoys cooking the family meals again and doing the family marketing.

The Shigiharas have been keeping house for three weeks now, having just recently arrived from Minidoka Relocation Center. Mr. and Mrs. Shigihara have six children, but only four year old Deen is with them in Seattle. Ken is serving in the Army, now stationed in Warrenton, Virginia, and Kay and Nobi are attending school. Two daughters are married. Mr. Shigihara formerly operated a fuel business in Seattle.



Department of Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
Seattle 1, Washington

Project Release No. 10
April 19, 1945

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE STAR FAMILY

When Shigeo Itami, thirty-two year old greenhouse owner and former Minidoka resident, is inducted into the army on April 27, four stars in the service flag hanging in the window of the Itami residence will have to be moved closer together to make room for the fifth.

Shigeo, his wife Fumi, and three-year old son Frank have found their Caucasian neighbors are as friendly now as they were before evacuation. His sister Ruth Niiya and her one and one-half year old son Victor live with them while husband Fred Niiya is stationed at Fort Douglas, Utah. George, recently given a medical discharge, served for three years in the army and is helping in the greenhouse now so he can manage it when Shigeo leaves for the army.

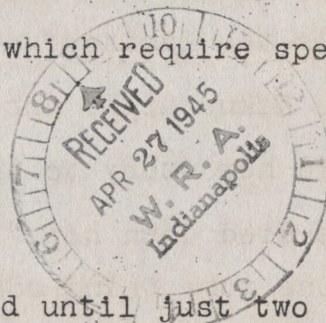
Charlie and Henry Itami are also in the army and Sukeemon Itami, the elderly father of this patriotic family, does his bit by tending the many flats of seedlings and small plants, which require special "nursemaiding" at this time of the season.

PRE-EASTER RUSH

...

The Itami family didn't arrive in Portland until just two weeks before Easter and they worked like beavers to get some plants

(more)



ready for the Easter trade.

"We had sixty customers during the two days before Easter, and that's not bad, considering we weren't selling Easter lilies; just cynareas and azaleas," said Shigeo. "Of course, I figure we took quite a loss when we were evacuated. The pipes in the greenhouse froze and we lost two hundred orchid plants, but it looks like we'll be back on our feet in no time--and we're sure glad to be back."

KIKUE GOES TO SCHOOL

Shigeo's sister Meddy, a capable looking young woman in denim slacks, took over the conversation at this time to tell of thirteen-year-old sister Kikue's experiences in the 7th grade at Kellogg school in Portland.

"Kikue is getting along swell--she's on the soft ball team for her class. She's made lots of new friends and renewed her acquaintances with old friends. One teacher kind of embarrassed her at first by having her tell all about the evacuation and her experiences at Minidoka. She was evidently well meaning, although too curious for Kikue's comfort. The teacher seemed to look at the whole thing in the light of a "tourist experience" and evidently didn't realize Kikue might not share her feelings in the matter. However, she told her story to the class, and all of the curiosity seems to have died down now."

"One more thing some of our friends at Minidoka might be interested in--a sailor came in the other day and got the address of one of my brothers, explaining he was an old friend from Kerm Park Christian Church and he wished to write to our brother. So I guess we don't have much to worry about as long as we have friends."

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
Seattle 1, Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

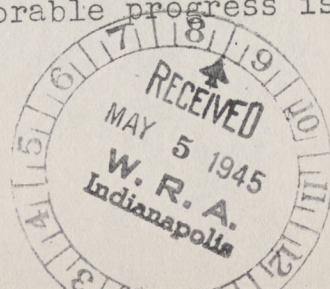
PROJECT RELEASE NUMBER 11 April 27, 1945

Harold S. Fistere, area supervisor of the Washington-Oregon WRA territory, stated today that the market situation in Portland is continuing to improve "slowly but surely."

"The latest reports we have are from B. Fujii of Troutdale, Oregon, who tells our Portland staff that he sold his supply of dry onions in the Portland market a week ago. He also said that the market master told him to tell other Japanese growers to bring their produce in and they would have no difficulty marketing it," said Fistere.

T. Tauboda of Maryhill Gardens, Oregon, who experienced a boycott of his produce in the same market several weeks ago, told WRA representatives that the Safeway Stores of Spokane, Wash., called him up and bought all of the parsnips and other vegetables he had been unable to sell in the Portland wholesale market. He reported that the Safeway representative told him they would have contracted to buy all of the produce he had dumped in a canyon after being unable to sell it in Portland, if they had known it was available.

Walter Mewing, marketing specialist from the Washington, D. C. WRA office is on special detail in Portland to work out the marketing problems of the area, and he indicates that favorable progress is being made daily, Fistere concluded.



For publication in relocation center newspapers; not for outside publication.

Denver Post rebuttal:

May 26, 1943

Project Press Release No. 21

The Washington office of WRA announced today that it had distributed to all field relocation officers and to private groups cooperating in the relocation program a statement commenting on charges made in a recent series of articles in the Denver Post. The articles alleged that (1) excess stocks of food were being "hoarded" at Heart Mountain; (2) that people of Japanese ancestry were not subject to the usual civilian food rationing restrictions; and (3) that life within the centers is so "soft" that residents refuse to accept lucrative outside job offers.

John Baker, Chief of the Washington WRA Reports Division, declared, "While the Post articles were notable for hearsay evidence, omissions, and misinterpretations of fact, we felt that they might have a deleterious effect on public attitudes toward evacuees unless active steps were taken to present the correct facts to the American public. Armed with the facts in the case, relocation officers and friends of Japanese-Americans are in a better position to answer any questions directed at them as a result of the Post series."

WRA's statement explains that the Post articles on mess operations ignored three basic facts: (1) center residents are rationed on the same basis as the civilian population; (2) food costs at Heart Mountain average less than 42 cents per person per day; and (3) the actual dollar value of the foodstocks was equal to a 60-day supply.

On the outside employment situation, WRA pointed out that it is just such antagonistic articles which create suspicion in the minds of the public and make evacuees fearful of the reception they may receive if they leave the centers.

Copies of WRA's statement are available at (name and location of project office) for any center resident who would be interested in reading it.

oOo

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
2nd and University
Seattle 1, Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE
OREGON STATE C.I.O. COUNCIL
IN AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AT
PORTLAND, OREGON, APRIL 7, 1945

RETURN OF AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY TO OREGON.

"The Oregon State C. I. O. Council in executive session in Portland, April 7, 1945, recognizes the recent order of the War Department and the War Relocation Authority permitting the return of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to the Pacific Coast as a commendable and correct step; one in line with the principles for which this war is being fought.

"In view of the established fact that thousands of our Japanese-Americans are now serving their country with honor and distinction on the battlefield, we believe that such action as taken by the American Legion, Hood River, Oregon, in erasing the names of Japanese from the honor roll of World War II veterans, should be condemned as regrettable and unjustifiable.

"This attempt to foster race hysteria must be recognized by all Americans as a threat to the unity of our people and further indicates a lack of confidence in the judgment of our War Department.

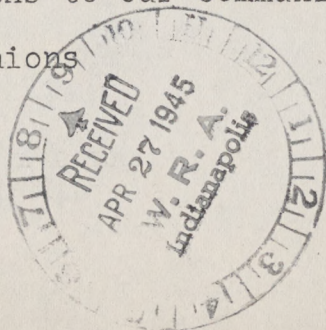
"The experience of our country since Pearl Harbor has been that these Americans of Japanese ancestry have proven themselves responsible and loyal Americans, participating in all phases of the war. As such they are entitled to as much protection under our constitution as any Americans regardless of race, creed or color.

"The Oregon State C. I. O. Council wholeheartedly supports the action of the War Department and condemns those who are attempting to split the American people by arousing racial prejudices for their own partisan ends.

"The Oregon State C. I. O. Council further calls upon all public officials of State, County and Municipal governments and all people of this State to do everything within their power to cooperate with the War Department in order to assist in the readjustment of these loyal Japanese-Americans to our community life."

To all Local Unions
in Oregon.
uopwa 115
cio

S E A L



Fraternally submitted,
/s/ Stanley Earl

Stanley Earl
Secretary-Treasurer
Oregon State Industrial Union Coun.
505 Woodlark Building
Portland 5, Oregon

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
2nd and University
Seattle 1, Washington

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To all Local Unions
in Oregon.
uopwa 115
cio

Fraternally submitted,
/s/ Stanley Earl

Stanley Earl
Secretary-Treasurer
Oregon State Industrial Union Coun.
505 Woodlark Building
Portland 5, Oregon

S E A L

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
612 - 1331 3rd Avenue Building
Seattle 1, Washington

file

2/6
Shaw

FOR RELEASE NOVEMBER 15, 1944

(The following story has been passed by field press censors with the Fifth Army in Italy.)

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY, Nov. 15.--A former University of Washington student, Pfc. Frank T. Okita, recently ministered to the wounded and supervised their evacuation to safety during a three-hour heavy enemy bombardment and, according to his buddies, his unselfish devotion to duty as a first aid man resulted in saving the lives of several members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, enlisted personnel of which is made up entirely of Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Southwest of Castellina, Italy, in the vicinity of Hill 140, Okita's heavy weapons company was dug in to withstand a heavy German bombardment. When a buddy was wounded, Okita left the safety of his slit trench and moved to the forward slope where enemy fire was heaviest to administer first aid. He carried the injured man to his own slit trench and for several minutes, lying prone on the outside of the trench, calmed the wounded comrade.

Okita then returned to the forward slope and for three hours, during the cannonading, remained in the danger zone, caring for the wounded and supervising their removal to places of safety.

Okita was a student at the university at the time he was evacuated from his Seattle home along with other persons of Japanese ancestry.

He volunteered for combat duty from the Minidoka Relocation Center, Hunt, Idaho, from which his mother, Mrs. Fusao M. Okita, later relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio. He entered the service at Fort Douglas, Utah, May 1, 1943.

RB



TO: SAC, NEW YORK
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO
SUBJECT: [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows, appearing to be a memorandum or letter with several paragraphs of typed text. The text is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side.]

cc: [Illegible]
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Graham
Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
Seattle, Washington

22 400
June 25, 1945

JAPANESE RELOCATION DISCUSSED AT INSTITUTE ROUNDTABLE

At daily round table sessions of the second annual Institute of International Relations, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, held in Seattle from June 17 to 26, discussions were held on race relations.

Robert W. O'Brien, member of the Sociology faculty of the University of Washington, and National Director of the Student Relocation Council for 1942-43, directed the round table discussion on the Japanese situation on June 21.

He pointed out to the group that in Hawaii, which one had the largest and oldest Japanese Language School, Japanese is now being taught in the public schools just as any other foreign language, thus eliminating the need of the Japanese Language School. This has also been accomplished in Portland, Oregon.

Norio Higano, a Nisei, Phi Beta Kappa, gave his opinion of the opportunities in America for professional men of Japanese ancestry. He pointed out that less discrimination was shown to such men in the East and middle west than on the West Coast, and that the majority of the Nisei who had gone into medicine, law, engineering, and other such professions, were now relocating in St. Louis, Chicago, Pittsburgh and New York.

"Our reception in St. Louis was wonderful. It was a magnificent compliment to the American way of life," Higano said.

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At the close of the session, one of the participants suggested that those present speak to the pastors of their various churches suggesting that the churches urge their congregations to patronize Japanese American business enterprises as they return to the community. The group was heartily in accord with the suggestions, and agreed to act on it.



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Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
309 Walker Building
Seattle, Washington

June 28, 1945

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HOUSING AND OTHER SERVICES OFFERED BY
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Seattle Council of Churches and Christian Education, representing fourteen Protestant denominations, has reiterated its assurance of assistance in securing housing and jobs to returnees in the Seattle area, according to Harold Fister, area supervisor of the WRA in Seattle.

The council is operating a hostel at 1236 Washington Street which is available to all returnees for temporary lodging at a minimum operating cost of 75¢ per day for adults. This hostel can accommodate up to 100 persons.

In addition to the hostel, the council will provide the following services:

1. Meet trains if notified in advance.
2. Provide counseling.
3. Guide about the city to assist in necessary shopping.
4. Assist in finding housing and jobs.
5. Introduce newcomers to local churches.
6. Cooperate in providing social and recreational life.
7. Arrange for legal services.
8. Provide liaison person for returning Japanese and government and local welfare agencies.
9. Assist in locating personal belongings and household goods.
10. Aid in securing medical care.
11. Provide Japanese-speaking staff persons for personal service.
12. Secure information regarding local schools and colleges.
13. Help cash out of town checks.
14. Provide detailed information for returning veterans.



- 2 -

Returnees are urged to avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Council of Churches by contacting the Seattle District WRA office, 321 Medical Arts Building, Seattle.

The Council reports that twelve reservations for the hostel have been made by evacuees who will be in Seattle over this weekend--five reservations for S. Urakawa and family, and seven for George Saito.

