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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
1105-8 Stephen Girard Building  
21 South 12 Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

February 14, 1945  
RO: Phila. - 11

PHILADELPHIANS BEFRIEND EVACUEE SCHOOL GIRL WHO LOSES HER PURSE

"Philadelphia is really a city of brotherly love," says Florence Setsuko Ozaki, 14-year-old Philadelphia resettler from Minidoka, who experienced the friendliness of Philadelphians when she lost her purse the other day on the way to school. This is how "Sets," as her family and friends call her, tells the story:

"I paid my fare as I got on the trolley and stood in the crowded aisle until it came to a stop at 45th Street. Lots of West Catholic High School girls got off at this corner, and I sat down with a sigh. Suddenly I looked down at my books and I couldn't find my purse. It had my allowance money, WRA identification card, lipstick, pen, and other little junks. I began to think. Did I leave it at home? No, I couldn't have, for I remembered carrying it on top of my books. Besides I had paid my fare a few minutes ago. I got panicky and started looking all around the trolley.

"The conductor asked me what happened, and when I told him, the others heard me. Some of them helped me to look for the purse, but it was nowhere in sight and I sat down. Then I felt a light tap on my shoulders. A lady said that she had seen a student girl getting off at 45th Street pick up a black purse and walk away. She suggested that I go to the West Catholic High office after school to see if my purse had been turned in. Then the conductor leaned over, smiled, and said: "Do you have money for lunch and fare home?" I shook my head 'cause I didn't. All I had was in my lost purse. The conductor fished into his pocket, and pulled out a half dollar. "Here, take this," he said. "Have a nice hot lunch at school and there'll even be some change left for your fare home. You can pay me back next time you see me. All right?" When I reached school I reported my loss. Dr. Gordan, the school's doctor, told me not to worry, that my purse would find its way back to me. After school I stopped at the West Catholic High to see about my purse, but no luck. When I got home and climbed slowly up the stairs, I opened the door and there on the living room table was my purse, or was it mine? I hurried over and looked inside, and heavens, it was mine! But gee whiz, how did it get here?

"I found out when my roommate came home from work. She told me that an aged man had come to the apartment in the morning with the purse. He had found it in the street near 45th Street. Thank goodness, it had my WRA identification card and some letters from friends. Nothing was missing from the purse. This aged man was honest and kind enough to take the time and trouble to bring it back to me!

"I have found that there are lots of kind people like him, the conductor, that lady on the trolley, and Dr. Gordan here in Philadelphia. People will smile and talk to you on the streets, and several times that I have been lost, they have looked at me wandering around and asked me if they couldn't help me. I didn't even have to ask! I have made a lot of swell friends here."

"Sets" Ozaki came to Philadelphia last December to join her sister Mariko, a secretary in the local WRA relocation office. Their mother, Mrs. Komatsu Ozaki, and brothers George and Henry will soon leave Minidoka to join the girls in Philadelphia, where "Sets" attends Shaw Junior High School. She has two other brothers, Corporal Mike Ozaki, who is stationed in Warrenton, Va., and Yukio, who relocated to Chicago, Ill. The Ozaki family formerly lived in Seattle, Wash.

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(1) ~~Relocation Program Office~~ LK

2. Reports F2.23

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
1105-1108 Stephen Girard Building  
21 South 12 Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

April 5, 1945  
RO: Phila. - 13

GIRL PROPRIETOR OF PHILADELPHIA BEAUTY SHOP, FIRST EVACUEE-OWNED BUSINESS,  
IS TOO BUSY TO ACCEPT TEACHING OFFER FROM BEAUTY SCHOOL

Philadelphia, Pa.--To Mrs. Miye Tachihara Ota, formerly of Santa Maria, Calif., and the Gila River Relocation Center, goes the credit for starting the first evacuee-owned business in this city. The beauty shop which she opened early in January at 841 Tainey Street, on the northwest edge of Philadelphia's main business section, has been keeping her so busy that she has not had enough free time to accept an offer to teach beauty culture at one of Philadelphia's biggest beauty schools. However, she hopes soon to make use of the teacher's license recently granted to her by the State of Pennsylvania, for her sister, Mrs. Hana Itow, also a hairdresser, is coming from Chicago to join her in Philadelphia.

"The woman who sold her business to me has been very friendly and helpful," Mrs. Ota recently said. "She is keenly interested in my success, has given me her entire list of clients, and has put in many a good word for me. I am getting new customers all the time from all parts of Philadelphia--some of them are very ritzy people, too. I've been so busy I haven't advertised at all."

Mrs. Ota came to Philadelphia in December 1943 and shortly thereafter found employment in a downtown beauty shop. She gave up her job there last November so that she could start her own business.

Her husband, Kenji Ota, uncovered the opportunity one day from a local newspaper advertisement. Mrs. Ota immediately investigated and learned that the beauty shop was for sale because its owner was ill. Mrs. Ota found that the equipment, including two permanent wave machines and two dryers, was in excellent condition, having been purchased only three years before. She bought all the equipment outright and took over the lease.

"My shop is an ideal set-up, with large windows on two sides and sunshine all day," Mrs. Ota said. "The equipment is in beautiful condition, and no repairs have been necessary."

Mr. and Mrs. Ota were married in Philadelphia on March 15, 1944. Mr. Ota, who had arrived in Philadelphia the preceding September, later studied at the Peacock Welding School here and is now operating a lathe at the Janney Cylinder Company.

Mrs. Ota, the former Miye Tachihara, was born in Guadaloupe, Calif., in 1918. She is a graduate of the Santa Barbara Beauty College and, prior to evacuation in April 1942 to the Tulare Assembly Center, was a beautician at the Ohashi Hair Designing Studio in San Diego. A dance student for years, she taught dancing and studied modern dancing while at Gila River with Miss Yuriko Amemiya, who is now a member of the famed Martha Graham Dance Company in New York City. Until recently Mrs. Ota gave performances of the Martha Graham type of dancing at a Philadelphia resettlement house.

(more)

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Mrs. Ota's widowed mother, Mrs. Hatsuke Tachihara, and two young sisters, Sue and Joyce, still reside at Gila at 40-13-A. Their relocation plans have not yet been completed. One of Mrs. Ota's brothers, Sam, is living at her home and entered a Philadelphia high school in February. Two other brothers are in the U. S. Army: Pfc. Ben is with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France, and Pvt. John is with a replacement unit.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
1105-8 Stephen Girard Building  
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Philadelphia 7, Pa.

*Report Officer*

April 13, 1945  
RO: Phila. - 14

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY NEWS SAYS NISEI GIRL, PRE-MEDICAL STUDENT,  
"LIKES PHILADELPHIA, TEMPLE, SNOW -- JUST EVERYTHING"

Philadelphia - Under the heading "Japanese-American Girl Plans to Be A Doctor," the local Temple University News recently reported that Miss Sumako Aihara, 18-year-old pre-medical student at Temple and former resident of the Central Utah Relocation Center, "likes Philadelphia, Temple, Snow -- Just Everything."

The article by student reporter Miss Catherine Walsh describes Sumako's experience as an evacuee at the Tanforan Assembly Center and later at Topaz, where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kakichi Aihara, and her 15-year-old sister Tetsuko still reside at 16-2-E. The article also relates that Sumako came to Philadelphia in August 1944 and lived at the home of her uncle, Dr. Y. Yoshida, who has been a well known physician here for the past 16 years, until the fall semester began and she moved into the University dormitory for girls.

Stating that Sumako "loves dormitory life," Miss Walsh's article continues:

"Although she misses her parents and younger sister. . . Sue likes the East so well that she hopes to stay here permanently. In spite of the fact that she is a native of California, she does not mind the chilly Eastern climate. When she spent the Christmas holidays with a school friend in northern New York state, the heavy snowfall there failed to make her change her mind about snow, which she thinks is beautiful. She hopes that when the camp is disbanded, sometime in the near future, her family will come East to stay.

"Sue is enthusiastic enough about life at Temple and in Philadelphia in general, to get work with the Chamber of Commerce at any time. Although she has seen more of this country than a great many of her fellow citizens, she has decided that this is the place where she wants to finish her education and practice her profession."

Miss Aihara is a native of Oakland, Calif., and was attending school in Niles, Calif., at the time of evacuation. While at Topaz, she worked as a waitress and as a clerk in the finance section. In addition to her parents and sister at Topaz, she has another sister, Michiko Grace, 20, who lives in Ogden, Utah. According to Sumako, the relocation plans for the rest of the family have not yet been completed.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Room 6301, 350 Fifth Avenue  
New York 1, New York

CULLUM *Ab*  
PAYNE *7*  
FRANKEL *7*  
NOBLE *7*

April 25, 1945 SATAYAMA  
RO: NY - 35

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

RECEIVED APR 27 1945

KIBEI ARTIST WINS RECOGNITION IN NEW YORK CITY

New York - "A Kibei should not hesitate to face life among Caucasian Americans - all he needs is courage," Masaji Murai, of Granada and San Francisco, recently said at the ceramic studio of John Junge at 40 East 19 Street. Working there under the pseudonym of "Buffy," which is becoming well-known in New York's art circles, Mr. Murai paints upon porcelain ware which is marketed through such exclusive shops as Abercrombie and Fitch and Georg Jensen's. He came to New York last August and lives with his wife in Brooklyn.

"Our immediate future may be difficult, but if we regard ourselves as the sons and daughters of immigrants with the responsibility of creating good public relations for ourselves, we shall not only get along better but shall be building for the next generation," Mr. Murai said.

Holding up a plate on which he had been painting a pheasant, he continued: "Today I am doing what I wanted to do all my life, yet I am a Kibei. When I returned to the United States in 1932 I had only courage to help me, for I did not speak English, and an artist of my ancestry was not welcome in most studios on the Coast."

After his return from Japan, Mr. Murai was determined to continue the art education which he had begun at the Veno Art School in Tokyo. He set about learning English by joining a Y.M.C.A. where no other language was spoken. Then for three years while working by day as a designer for the Madame Butterfly Kimono Shop in San Francisco, he attended evening classes at the California Fine Arts Institution. He encountered obstacle after obstacle, he said, in launching his career as an artist. From 1933 to 1942 he supported himself by working in his family's grocery store, continuing his art only privately and in the advertising departments of the Japanese-language newspapers, The New World and The North American. "The evacuation did not interrupt my art career," Mr. Murai said with a rueful laugh, "because I didn't have one! I worked in the silk screen shop at Granada, but it wasn't until I came to New York that I actually had my first opportunity to do what I had always wanted to do."

Asked whether his troubles had ended the moment he set foot in Manhattan, Mr. Murai said that they had not and that for almost a month, while living at the Relocation Hostel in Brooklyn, he had gone from employer to employer seeking work as a ceramic painter which he finally found with his present employer, John Junge. He found this job with the help of the WRA relocation office in New York, which worked through the local Art and Gift Center.

Speaking eagerly of the opportunity for artists in New York as "the city of tolerance," he offered as an example the fact that, in addition to his work for Junge, he had been hired on a free lance basis to paint birds from models at the Museum of Natural History in order to illustrate a scientific work by an ornithologist. There is such a great demand for specialists in New York, he said, that an Issei who could paint forget-me-nots, and only forget-me-nots, could find employment "in his field." The facilities for acquiring training, he added, are endless, and an artist could go on improving his skill indefinitely at the day and evening courses offered by the numerous art schools.

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Mr. Murai was born in San Francisco on March 16, 1913. In the same year he was taken to Japan, where he remained until 1932, attending elementary and high school there and studying at the Veno Art School in Tokyo. At the Santa Anita Assembly Center Mr. Murai helped produce camouflage nets for the Army. During his residence at Granada from 1942 to 1944, he was assistant supervisor of the silk screen shop, which was making posters for the Navy.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

April 28, 1945  
RO: Phila. - 16

EASTERN FARMS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESETTLERS,  
SAYS NEW JERSEY EMPLOYER OF TWELVE EVACUEES

Philadelphia - "While I certainly do not want to give the impression that Eastern farming is any 'bed of roses,' I sincerely believe that there are opportunities here for many evacuated Californians," Lewis W. Barton, who employs twelve evacuees on a nearby 300-acre fruit and truck farm, recently said. "They will find difficulties, but they will also find many friends of Japanese Americans who will be eager to lend a helping hand."

Three Issei and their families are among the resettlers living on the Barton farm, which is located 10 miles from Philadelphia at Haddonfield, N.J. The largest family includes Wakichi Endo, Issei widower from Poston, and his six children: Burton Yoshiaki, Karoku Freddie, Fusako, Haruko Irene, Tamiko Eileen, and Toshiko Alice. The two other families are Mr. and Mrs. Heiji Moriuchi, Issei, and their son Takashi, from Granada; and the Rev. Sadami Sam Mizukami, Issei, and his sons Osamu Daniel and Satoru Richard, also from Granada. Mrs. Mizukami and two younger children will soon come from the center to join the other members of the family.

Also working at the Barton farm are three young Nisei: Hiromi Sato and George Shimada, both from Granada; and Takeo Takeuchi, from Poston. Another Issei, George Seiji, is expected shortly from Heart Mountain.

"The advantages of farming in the East are not apparent to most Californians till they have been here awhile," Mr. Barton said. "An outstanding advantage is that there are many large markets within easy reach. One third of the people of the United States live within 300 miles of Philadelphia, an overnight haul for a modern produce truck. The capacity for food of these teeming cities is tremendous. Marketing costs are low, little refrigeration or icing is required, and freight charges often run not more than 10 cents per package. The experience of evacuee farmers in putting up fancy packs should be very worthwhile to those who relocate in the East. Since it has not been so necessary here, the average Eastern producer has not learned that it pays to market fancy packs."

"The first question asked by most California farm people is: 'How can you make a living in a single-crop season? I think the best answer is that, although we have only one growing season, we do not practice one-crop farming. A wide diversity of crops is possible."

"Truck farmers in the Philadelphia area start with asparagus and rhubarb in April, then to over-wintered spinach, radishes, lettuce, beans, tomatoes, sweet corn, carrots, beets, and many other crops during May, June, July, and August. The fall brings broccoli, spinach, carrots, turnips, celery, parsnips, and other root crops. These are often stored in pits or cellars and washed and packed all winter. Celery is stored in the rough and marketed through the winter."

"Poultry is one of the principal lines of endeavor, and of course provides year-round work and income. So does dairying.

"Fruit operators have several crops. Grapes, apples, peaches, cherries, and bush fruits are the most common. These provide winter work, pruning and getting ready for the next season.

"Nurserymen, greenhouse operators, and growers of blueberries and cranberries can all offer full employment in the East because of the wide range of jobs on any of these operations.

"Postwar prospects in Eastern agriculture are as hard to forecast as anywhere. Agricultural conditions depend upon full industrial employment and--this being a point not generally stressed--industrial conditions are influenced greatly by good or bad business for the farmers and the country towns. Two thirds of the industrial market lies on farms and such towns.

"Eastern farming will be as good or bad as farming in general. It is my opinion that we have here an advantage over Western farming which will always obtain.

"The best advice we can give anyone is to come out here and find a home and job which seems satisfactory for at least one season. This will give him a chance to get integrated and he will avoid the obvious mistakes which most newcomers to any region fall into."

Mr. Barton obtained his evacuee workers with the help of the WRA relocation office in Philadelphia and Takashi Moriuchi, one of the earliest arrivals at the Barton farm. A member of the Nisei Steering Committee in Philadelphia, Mr. Moriuchi has assisted a number of evacuee families in working out their relocation plans.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
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21 South 12 Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pa.

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

April 29, 1945  
RO: Phila. - 15

EVACUEE FAMILY IN PHILADELPHIA MEETS FRANK SINATRA  
AT MEETING ON RACIAL TOLERANCE

Philadelphia - When Frank Sinatra recently visited Fellowship House here to address the High School Fellowship Group on "Racial Tolerance," the occasion was especially exciting for the Kaneda family, formerly of the Rohwer Relocation Center, who have been making their home in a top-floor apartment at Fellowship House since coming to Philadelphia a year ago.

Ruby Kaneda, 15, a student at Girls High School, is co-chairman of the youth group, which represents 38 junior and senior high schools throughout Philadelphia. In addition to Ruby, her mother, Mrs. Tome Kaneda, her sister Grayce, a secretary at the Family Society of Philadelphia, and her brother Ben, a freshman at Temple University, were in the audience which heard Sinatra. Also present were Miss Yone Okamura, a neighbor of the Kanedas at Rohwer and now a teacher of Japanese at the University of Pennsylvania, and Miss Irene Tomino, Philadelphia-born Nisei friend of Ruby Kaneda.

This is how Graycé Kaneda tells the story of Sinatra's visit to Fellowship House.

"The night before Sinatra's visit we were told by Miss Marjorie Penney, director of Fellowship House, an inter-racial and inter-faith organization, that 'The Voice' would be the surprise speaker at the meeting of the High School Fellowship Group the next day.

"The meeting was arranged quite secretly through one of the board members, who knows Sinatra's manager. Over 200 school editors and student council members from 67 public, private, and parochial schools in Philadelphia heard him speak, but only the teachers who accompanied them, our family, and a few others knew beforehand that he would be present. Negroes, Irish, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Jews, Catholics, and Protestants, etc., were all there together. The surprising element was that Sinatra came to speak on 'Racial Tolerance' rather than to sing as 'The Voice.'

"I got the afternoon off from my work to join the bobby-sox brigade and got a choice seat by the aisle where Sinatra would pass to get to the front. My brother Ben helped with the admittance of students and teachers.

"Ten cameramen and reporters were at Fellowship House when Sinatra arrived. Some pictures were taken in front of the House, and my brother was picked along with a few lucky girls to pose with Sinatra. Later other pictures were taken while Sinatra was speaking, and these included my sister and her friend Irene Tomino. Were they thrilled!

"Sinatra was just what everyone expected him to be--friendly, natural, and sincere. He was dressed in a loose sport coat and deeply-pleated slacks, and

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wore a large grey bow tie. He was surprised by a new audience which did not go completely wild. However, 'ohs' and 'Fran-n-nkie' were heard whispered all over the room, and the young girl sitting behind me gave a sigh and began crying silently.

"During his talk Sinatra said that 'Fellowship House is one of the most wonderful things I have seen in my life.' He said that more should be done for the House and its cause. He added that after he returns from his overseas trip to the armed forces in May, he would organize a rally to raise funds for the House to carry on its inter-racial and inter-faith work on a greater scale. He indicated that he would interest other talents from the West and East Coasts in carrying forward this type of work, for, he said, 'disunity only helps the enemy.'

"After Frank Sinatra finished his talk, a mere dozen or so were fortunate in getting his autograph. My sister and Ruby Tomino, who were almost in front of him, were among those who got his much-prized signature. For the rest of the day they wore deliriously happy expressions.

"This is just one of the many happy experiences our family has experienced since coming to Philadelphia. We had previously met, through living at Fellowship House, Dr. Charles Drew, discoverer of blood plasma; Mrs. Curtis Bok, a member of the Curtis Publishing House and Curtis Music School family; and Alice Anderson, sister of Marian Anderson, famous Negro singer."

In addition to Mrs. Kaneda, Grayce, Ruby, and Ben, the Kaneda family includes Tsunayoshi George Kaneda, Issai head of the family, who is a cook at the Hotel Whittier in Philadelphia, and the following other children: George, a private with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy; Roy, a clerk at the local post office; Kay, who is taking a post-graduate course in church work at the Presbyterian Assembly School, Richmond, Va.; and Toshio, a student at the Yale University School of Music, New Haven, Conn.

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RECEIVED AUG 3 1945

FAYNE \_\_\_\_\_  
FRANKEL \_\_\_\_\_  
NOELE \_\_\_\_\_  
KATAYAMA \_\_\_\_\_  
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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
902 Stephen Girard Bldg.  
21 South 12th St.  
Philadelphia 7, Pa.

July 23, 1945  
RO: Phila. - 17

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

GEORGE YAMAMOTO, ISSEI FARMER OF "GREAT MEADOWS" FAME,  
NOW OPERATES PENNSYLVANIA FARM ON SHARE-CROP BASIS

"I just figure if we have spirit to fight like the first Issci who came to the United States about 50 years ago, I don't see why we can't put it through here in the East," George Choichi Yamamoto, Issci farmer from Gila River and Brentwood, Calif., recently told a visitor to the 50-acre truck farm in Pennsylvania which he is now operating on a share-crop basis.

"People are more noble here than back in California," Mr. Yamamoto continued. "There is nothing like a bunch of jealousy here. I have nothing to complain of and am getting along 100 per cent O. K. When I go into town once in a while, I'll bet no one even looks at me. I don't believe in sitting waiting for luck to come. If you keep on moving, you have some good luck somewhere. All my family was glad to come and be together again. I should have done it sooner, but it was impossible before."

Mr. Yamamoto is now share-cropping 30 acres of tomatoes and 20 acres of carrots on the farm of Herman S. Heston in Newtown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania--about 30 miles from Philadelphia. Last year he worked for Mr. Heston as a farm hand. Mr. Heston provides the land, seed, fertilizer, and machinery, and Mr. Yamamoto provides all the labor. Mr. Yamamoto will have the profits from one-half the tomatoes as picked in the field, and one-half the carrots as delivered to the cannery.

Mr. Yamamoto first came to the Heston Farm in April 1944 after he and four other Issci from Gila River were obliged to leave a farm at Great Meadows, New Jersey, because neighbors protested their employment. Previously, Mr. Yamamoto had had a somewhat similar experience at Lewes, Delaware. However, his experiences at the Pennsylvania farm--only 50 miles from Great Meadows--worked out so satisfactorily last year that Mr. Yamamoto and Mr. Heston decided to enter into a share-crop agreement for this year. He returned to the Heston Farm in March with Mrs. Yamamoto and their five children. They now occupy five rooms and have their own bathroom in part of the Heston Family house. Soon after their arrival, arrangements were made through the resettlement assistance program of the Social Security Board to provide them with some financial assistance until Mr. Yamamoto harvests his first crop.

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"The share-crop arrangement between Mr. Yamamoto and me is just a verbal agreement between us," Mr. Heston said. "George trusted me, and I took that as quite an honor. I won't let him down."

"We thought this thing over pretty thoroughly and have it all worked out. We worked it over for a month or two before George went back for his family. He knows how to manage things, and goes about his work in the right way. I think we are going to come out all right. Already the tomatoes look better than ever."

The Yamamoto children are Ayao, 20, a graduate of Gila River High School; Shinobu, 17, who was recently graduated from Newtown, Pa., High School; Kinzo, 14, a student at the same school; Yuri, 12, and Tetsuo, 10, who attend grade school in Newtown. The Yamamoto and Heston children go to and from school together in a free school bus. "The children are getting along fine, more than they expected," Mr. Yamamoto said. "They have good friends here and think it's wonderful."

When the Yamamoto family came East this spring, they were accompanied by two other Issei, Tamakichi Fujiwara and Tadao Ono, both formerly of Los Angeles and Gila River. They are now employed by Mr. Yamamoto. The two men live in a frame building formerly used as a shed which has been converted into a comfortable 5-room insulated house, equipped with electric lights and running water.

Also at the Heston Farm are Mr. and Mrs. Ted Eikichi Miyamura, likewise from Gila River.

They have been employed for the past year by Mr. and Mrs. Heston, in whose home they live. They all eat at the same table and share the bathroom. Before evacuation, Mr. Miyamura, an Issei, lived in Stockton, Calif., and his wife, the former Miss Chieko Fukumori, lived in Los Angeles.

"Ted Miyamura is the best farm hand I've had since 1938," Mr. Heston said. "He pitches in and does whatever he can do to help. He showed his spirit, for example, a few weeks ago when I raised his wages and he said, 'I'll try to earn it.' It is a pleasure to live with Mr. and Mrs. Miyamura. We have never had nicer people."

The rolling land of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where the Heston Farm is located, is known as one of the richest farm areas in the East. Newtown has about 2,500 persons, many of whom are members of farm families who have lived there for many years. A number of other families of Japanese ancestry are employed on farms in Bucks County. Six evacuee families are employed at one large farm, the Becker Farm of some 500 acres, which is only 12 miles away from the Heston Farm.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
1105 Stephen Girard Building  
21 South 12 Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Henry C. Patterson, Relocation Officer  
Hyman Sandow, Reports Officer

April 25, 1944  
RO: Phila. - 3

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

HOSTEL FOR RESETTLERS OPENED IN PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, April 25--A hostel for newly arrived resettlers which will comfortably accommodate twenty-five persons has been opened here under the sponsorship of a committee of private citizens in a four-story residence conveniently located at 3228 Chestnut Street, just a few minutes' ride by street car from the center of Philadelphia.

Temporary residents at the hostel will be charged \$1 a day for adults and 50 cents a day for children for room and meals for a maximum period of ten days. Individuals wishing to remain at the hostel after securing work will be charged \$12 weekly.

Resettlers desiring to stay at the hostel on their arrival in Philadelphia should make reservations by writing preferably **two weeks** in advance to Henry C. Patterson, Relocation Officer, 1105 Stephen Girard Building, 21 South 12 Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

The hostel is being jointly sponsored and initially financed by the Philadelphia Federal Council of Churches, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Citizens' Cooperating Committee. The Citizens's Committee includes representatives of the Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., and many of Philadelphia's civic and social service groups. Each of the three sponsoring groups has appointed two members to a governing council for the hostel.

Mrs. Saburo Inouye, formerly of the Tule Lake and Jerome Relocation Centers and the Cincinnati Hostel, is the housemother for the new residence. She has been assisted in redecorating it by her husband and a number of Nisei who have resettled in Philadelphia. A Caucasian woman will shortly be appointed manager of the hostel. The ground-floor living room and dining room will be used for a series of socials for Japanese-Americans and their Caucasian friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Inouye, whose own children George, William, and Miyoko are attending Swarthmore College just outside Philadelphia, are anxious that all the resettlers in the city should feel that the hostel is a home for them. "I like to feed them when they come," says Mrs. Inouye, who prepares the hostel's sukiyaki dinners. "It is important that they enjoy this place from the first time they visit here."

The hostel formerly was a rooming house for students at nearby Drexel Institute and the University of Pennsylvania. It is located near the stations of the Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads.

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*Brown* 2050  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
1105-8 Stephen Girard Building  
21 South 12 Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

September 25, 1944  
RO: Phila. - 6

5 ISSEI FARMERS WHO LEFT GREAT MEADOWS  
WORK QUIETLY FOR MONTHS ON NEARBY FARM

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 25--The five Issei farmers from the Gila River Relocation Center who were forced to leave a farm at Great Meadows, N.J., last April when neighbors protested their employment, have been employed since then on another farm only 50 miles away in a friendly atmosphere by a farm owner who praises their ability and faithfulness.

The Issei resettlers are Torazo Matsumoto, 58; George Choichi Yamamoto, 42; Katsuji Edward Taniguchi, 40; Ted Eikichi Miyamura, 38; and Kazumasa Frank Kitagawa, 37. For five months they have been working on the prosperous farm of Herman S. Heston in Newtown, Bucks County, Pa., which is about 30 miles from Philadelphia. Mr. Heston was assisted in arranging for their employment by the WRA relocation office in Philadelphia.

"Within a week after the five men came to work on my farm," Mr. Heston said, "I knew I could depend on them. I have found them loyal, hard-working, clean, and pleasant to work with. We like them a lot and have a high regard for them."

Mr. Heston's farm has been owned by his family ever since his grandfather came there in 1864. He raises wheat, hay, corn, and canning house vegetables, principally tomatoes, carrots, and asparagus. He also has about 5,000 chickens and 100 head of beef cattle. His family includes four boys and three girls between the ages of 10 and 23, all of whom work on the farm. One daughter is married to a staff sergeant stationed in England with the U.S. Air Force. When the five Issei came to work on the Heston farm, the sergeant's wife wrote him about their arrival. He replied that he was glad the men had been hired since they would help raise food needed to win the war.

Mr. Yamamoto's 19-year-old son Ayao also worked on the Heston farm for a month, but recently returned to Gila River on receiving notice of his impending induction into the U.S. Army. Early in August Mr. Miyamura's young Nisei wife arrived from Gila River to join him in Newtown. She is employed as a domestic in the nearby home of Mr. Heston's sister.

The four Issei whose families are still residing at Gila River occupy a large shed on the Heston farm which is divided into sleeping and eating quarters. The shed is equipped with running water, electric lights, and an oil stove for cooking. Heat is provided by coal-burning stoves. In a nearby smaller shed there is a Japanese type bath tub, a "furoba," which the Issei constructed.

All the Issei would like to share-crop and later buy their own land in this or some other Eastern area. They and Mr. Heston are hoping that suitable living quarters can be found for all their families near his own farm.

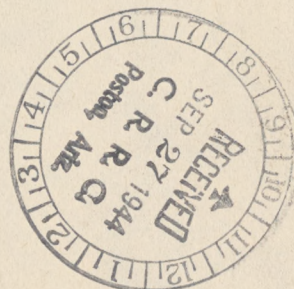
(more)

"We are not anxious to go back to the camp, and will do so only if we have to," Mr. Yamamoto, leader of the Issei group, recently said. "We would like to stay permanently in this part of the country if we can make enough money to support our families and can find good housing.

"After the trouble at Great Meadows, we decided to try once more to make things go on a farm here in the East. I do not believe myself in giving up too soon. None of us wants to return to camp unless we absolutely have to. Everything has worked out quite well here on the Heston farm. I think that proves we were right in not returning to camp when we had to leave Great Meadows. We could make it work out any place where we find real Americans."

Shortly after the incident at Great Meadows, Life Magazine published an article about Mr. Yamamoto which brought to him and the magazine hundreds of letters from readers who protested against the injustice done Mr. Yamamoto and the four other Issei. With three of these letters were enclosed gifts of money for Mr. Yamamoto which totalled \$13.50. Mr. Yamamoto turned the sum over to the American Red Cross.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
21 South 12 Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

October 8, 1944  
RO: Phila. - 8

PHILADELPHIA HOSTEL SERVES MANY EVACUEES AS RESETTLEMENT GATEWAY  
TO PENNSYLVANIA AND SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 8--A total of 149 resettlers, including 14 family groups, were among some 200 individuals who were provided with temporary shelter by the Philadelphia hostel and otherwise aided in relocating during the period from early April 1944, when the hostel was opened, until mid-September.

Twenty Issei and 15 children under the age of sixteen were among the hostel's evacuee residents, most of whom resettled in Philadelphia or in other communities in Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey.

In addition to incoming evacuees from relocation centers, the hostel sheltered 47 other persons. Among these were several Nisei soldiers on furlough and the five Issei from Gila River who were obliged to leave a farm at Great Meadows, N.J., by neighbors' protests and who were later employed by another farmer from nearby Newtown, Pa. Other transient guests have been members of delegations representing evacuee relocation commissions at several centers who have stopped at the Philadelphia hostel while surveying relocation opportunities in various Eastern communities and at Seabrook Farms at Bridgeton, N.J.

Hostel residents have been assisted in finding jobs and housing and in working out educational and other problems by the Philadelphia relocation office, the local Citizens Cooperating Committee, the Philadelphia headquarters of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council and the American Friends Service Committee, and other agencies and organizations.

The hostel is operated on a non-sectarian basis under the sponsorship of the Philadelphia Federation of Churches, the local branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Citizens Cooperating Committee. Leading citizens of Philadelphia and two resettled Nisei, Miss Yoneko Watanabe from Heart Mountain and William K. Fujita from Central Utah, are members of the hostel's board of managers. The board chairman is Henry Lee Willet, president of the Willet Stained Glass Company. He is also chairman of the local resettlement committee and a member of the executive committee of the Philadelphia Interracial Committee.

Colorado River, with 61 hostellers, was represented by the largest number of resettlers from any one center. Other centers were represented as follows: Central Utah, 20; Heart Mountain, 14; Minidoka, 11; Gila River, 10; Rohwer, 10; Granada, 9; Jerome, 8; and Manzanar, 6.

The hostel was directed for several months by Victor E. Goertzcl, formerly of Central Utah, who resided at the hostel until recently with Mrs. Goertzcl and their 2-year-old son Toru.

(more)

Early in April Mr. and Mrs. Saburo Inouye, formerly of Tule Lake and Jerome, came to the Philadelphia hostel as houseparents following a month as counsellors at the Cincinnati hostel. Mrs. Inouye was also the dietitian there. At the Philadelphia hostel, Mrs. Inouye does the cooking and Mr. Inouye is in charge of building maintenance. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Inouye counsel and otherwise aid Issei and Nisei with personal problems. Their three children, Miyoko, George Toshio, and William Yoshio, who had previously relocated to attend nearby Swarthmore College, are frequent visitors at the hostel.

The hostellers have included a number of young Nisei who have resettled individually in Philadelphia and vicinity largely because their parents are relatives or friends of Mr. and Mrs. Inouye and knew that they would look out for their children once they arrived at the hostel.

The largest family group to come to the hostel consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Shungo Shimomura, Issei from Salinas, Calif., and Colorado River, and five of their eight children, who have resettled on a farm in Riverton, N.J., which is 10 miles from Philadelphia. The children who came East with their parents are Joshua Yoshiya, 16; Lincoln, 14; David, 12; Chiyecko Ann, 9; and Mariko, 4. They all attend schools near the farm, where the family has its own 7-room house and Mr. Shimomura is employed as a farmhand. Two older daughters, Toshiye and Sachi, resettled last February to nearby Swarthmore, Pa. They aided the rest of the family in relocating and frequently visit them. Their eldest brother, Taro, who relocated to Saginaw, Mich., in April 1943, was recently inducted into the army.

Numerous gifts of household goods and money have been made to the hostel by committees, organizations, and individuals, including several Nisei from various cities. One gift of \$10 was sent from an Army hospital in Italy by Staff Sergeant Paul Daniel, who was wounded last spring while fighting alongside Japanese-American soldiers of the 34th Division. In a letter to his mother, who lives in Glenside, Pa., a few miles from Philadelphia, he wrote: "I have no question of the loyalty of the large majority of the Japanese Americans. I've seen them fight and know. Those I am associated with are really a swell bunch of fellows."

Various social and educational activities are regular features at the Philadelphia hostel. These include a weekly evening get-together sponsored by the local Nisei Steering Committee, informal discussion meetings for resettlers and friends, and an open house on Sunday afternoons.

The hostel building, formerly used as a student dormitory, is centrally located at 3228 Chestnut Street, which is just a 10-minute ride by street car from the center of Philadelphia. Within walking distance of the hostel are stations of the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Benjamin Franklin Institute, and Fairmount Park, largest city park in the United States.

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