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Decatur, Ill. files  
Mar. 1, 1943

POSTAL TELEGRAPH

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MAR 1, 1943

ELMER SHIRRELL - WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 W. JACKSON BLVD CHICAGO ILL.

NOKOMIS SITUATION ENTIRELY PACIFIED NOW INVESTIGATION JOB OPPORTUNITY  
FOR RAY MATSUYAMA NEAR HERE. ORIGINAL TRIP PURPOSE UNPREPARED  
FINANCIALLY AND OTHERWISE FOR EXTENDED TOUR APPRECIATE PERMISSION TO  
INVESTIGATE DECTUR IN FUTURE ANSWER HOTEL CLARIDGE

M C BLACK

MAR 1 1943

VIA POSTAL TELEGRAPH

M.C. BLACK, HOTEL CLARDIGE ST LOUIS MO.

POSTPONE DECATUR INVESTIGATION UNTIL LATER DATE

ELMER L SHIRRELL  
RELOCATION SUPERVISOR



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Elmer L. Shirrell  
From: E.E. Ketchpaw  
Subject: Community Survey of Freeport, Ill.

April 19, 1943

Freeport, Ill. is a city of approximately 25,000 population located 28 mi. west of Rockford. Center of a large farm area from which it draws much of its trade. People are mostly of German descent. Constantly reminded that "Freeport is a conservative town." Majority of Freeports' population are of Republican party or at least favor that party.



(COPY)

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Alliance Life Bldg.  
Peoria, Illinois

To: Milton Geuther

April 30, 1943

From: Perry B. Hall, Relocation Officer

Re: State Triple A Office at Decatur, Ill.

When in Decatur on April 28th, visited Francis Buck, ass't. to Mr. Gentry.

Mr. Buck stated that there had been some discussion of the possible use of Japanese labor with the State Triple A Committee. His statement is that the Committee approved of the use of this labor in commercial-vegetable farming since those farms have been used to "handling labor of this type in gangs". I am not sure whether the Committee voted to oppose the use of J-A's on general stock and grain farming, but Buck said that they were not favorable to it. I had the feeling that he, himself, would not be favorably inclined toward the J-A's, but he put all the responsibility on to the Committee in his discussion with me.

He explained that the use of any seasonal labor, such as in the canneries or the detasseling work of the Hybrid corn growers, would be handled for the State of Illinois thru Dean H.P. Rusk of the College of Agriculture at Urbana. I imagine that you may already know all these details, but thought I should pass them on in case they would be of any help, since, of course, Dean Rusk would probably be a "natural" for you.

Perry B. Hall



(COPY)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Elmer L. Shirrell

May 4, 1943

From: W.W. Lessing

Subject: Community Sentiment, Antioch, Ill.

As a result of request for farm workers by Dr. William P. Tague, the following citizens were contacted in Antioch in order to determine public sentiment:

The mayor, Mr. Bartlett, is familiar with the program and does not anticipate a reaction on the part of the towns people. He informed us that some Filipinos have worked from time to time in the community without causing comment and that Dr. Tague's reputation was such that there would be complete acceptance of Japanese-Americans.

Roman Voss, active member of American Legion and commander of Civilian Defense, to discuss matter with Lions Club in near future, anticipates no difficulty in the event the placement is made.

R.W. Rossing, township supervisor and garage owner, has same attitude. Suggested member of WRA staff speak at meeting of all supervisors in county on May 10.

Mr. Gaston, editor of town's only paper is in favor and will give the public a brief statement of the facts involved when the time comes.

Call made to high school and superintendent of schools, Mr. Burkhead, after understanding the problem said that he did not anticipate any unsatisfactory results from the people.

Father Flaherty was in accord with objectives of WRA and will do all in his



Lessing to Shirrell - 2

power to familiarize local residents with the facts.

Summary: So far as can be determined, Antioch has been ~~wide~~ broad-minded as a town; there are no opposing factions of any importance; the 1100 persons living there are primarily English; and there was no opposition on the part of anyone who was contacted.

--W.W. Lessing



Bloomington, Ill.  
July 17, 1943

Key people to contact in Bloomington:

Nakamura family. Mr. N. is janitor at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish school. family lives in basement apartment at school. Rev. Father Stephen Moore is very interested and is friend of Fr. Leopold Tibesar at Minidoka. Mrs. N. has been doing a lot of education work in Bloomington, such as contacting prospective employers.

Miss Misao Shiratsuki has been living with Arthur Smith family and trying to find suitable employment. Applied for position of Medical Records Librarian at Brokaw Hospital, but offer withdrawn by hospital. Also has a lead on position in a physician's office in Bloomington.



ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF EXPERIENCE OF

HENRY TAKETA

1297 E 142  
Cleveland 12, Ohio  
July 12, 1943

1. Public relation and publicity: This type of work has been primarily limited to my participation in the functions of several organizations which will be hereafter enumerated in and about Sacramento.

While serving as president, treasurer and director of Japanese American Citizens League Chapter in Sacramento since 1935 to the time of our evacuation and having charge of many of its functions, I assumed and was imposed with great deal of responsibility contacting our public, both Caucasians and Japanese, and in giving wide publicity to civic undertakings and programs sponsored by the Chapter such as: periodical social gatherings to bring the local nisei in contact with our community leaders, legislators, city officials, et. al., voters registration drives and political rallies, membership campaigns, assisting the Red Cross, Community Chest and other Civic and welfare organizations with their scheduled programs, Chapter's own benefit fund campaigns, and others. It was necessary for those who stood at the head to be in constant touch with upper crust of civic, business and professional leaders and to foster movements among ourselves or with others in order to give publicity to the fact that our thoughts were based on American ideals and ways of life. Some of us held interest in the League next to our own business and gave much time and effort away from our own work. The improved inter-racial relationship existing in Sacramento was partially due to public relation program promoted by the chapter, and I am satisfied in having had a part in it.

Prior to the war interested nisei business and professional men formed a small group around which the nisei voters would participate in political issues and election candidates. We affiliated ourselves with the central committees for the county, usually the democrats, or campaigned on our own. Much of our funds came out of our own pockets, but we often received financial aid or assistance from the persons or groups primarily interested in the election. The purpose of such activities was to make the nisei conscious of their franchise privileges and also to let the public know that we are a factor in operation of our local government and in the choice of candidates. We conducted such campaigns by distribution of printed matters and



fostering public gatherings bringing speakers, both pro and con, to explain the issues before the voters and the candidates or their authorized representatives directly in touch with the nisei voters.

I maintained other public activities from time to time such as speaking before welfare and church groups. Also, you can understand that during my practice in Sacramento, it was essential that I made and continue to make personal contacts with the influential people in various walks of life. Often, through such persons, are we able to serve our clients deservingly. I feel that this phase of my practice was never neglected.

## 2. Tule Lake Activities:

a. Member of temporary community council. I kept myself informed as to the purposes and functions of this body as well as its accomplishments and failures during its existence.

b. Temporary Judicial Committee: The members of the committee sat in trial on five or six occasions to hear minor criminal charges and render a report to the Project Director of our findings; I took turns acting as interrogator.

c. Examiner for Permanent Judicial Committee: The function of the examiner is to elicit pertinent evidence by questioning witnesses and persons charged in criminal complaint and otherwise assisting the members of judicial body. I sat as examiner in all of the cases while we were in Tule Lake, taking turns as interrogator.

d. Selective Service advisor: Since 1940 I was active as a member of Associate Advisory Board for Board 25, Sacramento, California. We sat in counsel for registrants weekly and often semi-weekly and also conducted registration program under the direction of the Board. This same activity was transferred to Tule Lake.

e. Tule Lake Permanent Charter: Without claiming credit due to others, I practically outlined and drafted the Tule Lake's permanent Community Council Charter. The document is by no means perfect, and I have always felt that a better job could have been performed with a little more inspiration, material for research, and cooperation from others. Chairman Yego delegated the job of drafting the charter to me because I had rendered similar services to the Japanese American Citizens League (basic Constitution adopted in 1938). I served as the League's chairman on constitutions with responsibility of reviewing all local and district constitutions and to provide the district and local chapters and their officers with suggestions for improvement and amendments.



I feel that I have rendered the people of Tule Lake two services, of which I can be proud of deservingly, and they are the legal aid assistance and the Community Council Charter.

f. Legal counsel associated with the office of Project Attorney. In such position, I rendered legal services to the evacuees of various nature, too numerous to enumerate separately. The work we performed differed only slightly from our private practice in that court appearance was necessarily absent. The services we rendered may be briefly set forth as follows:

1. Advice and consultation on various legal problems confronting the evacuees including taxes, contractual relations, property in storage, leased and held in trust and their disposition, personal and domestic relations, alien and frozen funds and estates under jurisdiction of the Federal Reserve Bank, selective service, corporate matters, cooperatives, etc.

2. Large amount of correspondences arising out of various legal problems. The letters were directed Evacuee Property offices, other governmental agencies, and private individuals, some of which were for the signature of the Project Director and others to be signed by the counsel or the evacuees themselves.

3. Drafting of legal documents and papers, including affidavits, leases, contracts affecting personal and real property, bills of sale, powers of attorney, deeds, wills, etc. Assistances were also rendered with income and corporate taxes, guardianship returns, claims, alien and frozen property returns required by the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve Bank, etc.

4. Assisting the Project Attorney with matters and issues affected by the laws of the State of California.

3. Civic and Welfare organizations in which I participated actively in the past:

- a. Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League Chapter, as its president, treasurer and director, and also as chairman in charge of many of its functions.

- b. National Japanese American Citizens League as its Chairman on Constitutions.

- c. Affiliated with Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee and other local political bodies.



- d. Took charge of Troop 25, Sacramento Boy Scouts, as Scout Master and Assistant Scout Master for many years.
- e. Associate advisor for Selective Service Board No. 25 since 1940. Walter, Tom and I carried on this function at Tule Lake during our residence there.
- f. Associated with the local Red Cross and Community Chest in their periodical drives.
- g. Some of other organizations in which I held membership:
  - Inn of Court (local society for younger attorneys)
  - National Rifle Association (associate)
  - San Francisco Y.M.C.A., Japanese division.
  - etc.

Regarding personnel work and vocational counseling, I feel perfectly safe in saying that undoubtedly my education and professional experiences, together with the fact that I endeavored to maintain constant touch with the public and to retain interest in public affairs, will help me fulfill a certain part of the needed qualification required in such fields of work. I feel confident without being able to show much for it. After all, being 30 doesn't make me a man of many experiences, although I have been out of law school fully 8 years.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Henry Taketa

Henry Taketa



Letter sent by WRA to boys who quit Shotwell

Mr. George Sakaguchi  
1621 W. Division, Chicago

7-21-43

We have been advised by the Shotwell Manufacturing Co. that you have quit your job with them last week without notice and exactly at a time when this company had given you a brief paid vacation--an unusually generous action the part of the company considering the brief duration of your employment with them. Irresponsible actions such as this do great harm to the relocation program and create a bad impression toward all Nisei in the community.

Will you please call at this office on Saturday morning, July 24, 1943, for a discussion with Mr. Mann in regard to your having left this employment. If it is altogether impossible for you to come in here on Saturday morning, please telephone at that time for another appointment. The telephone number is ANDover 3600, Ext. 113.

Very truly yours,

ELS



Mr. Elmer L. Shirrell, Relocation Supervisor

August 4, 1943

Harold Mann, Associate Relocation Officer

Fishermen in the Chicago area

Following up the correspondence between Ralph Merritt of Manzanar and John C. Baker of Washington, copies of which have been forwarded to this office, in regard to the placing of fishermen in the Great Lakes area, I have contacted Lt. W. I. Connors in charge of Coast Guard Intelligence here. Lt. Connors advised me that on the day before my call, he had received a confidential memorandum from the 9th Naval District in regard to the placement of Japanese American seamen or others employed on the Great Lakes. The wording was such as to definitely include fishermen along with seamen.

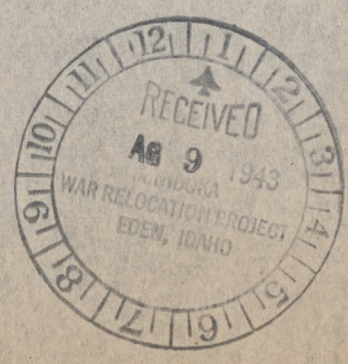
The gist of this memorandum was that Joint Board clearance would be required before consideration would be given to any individual for employment of this type in this area and that subsequent to Joint Board clearance, application might be made to the Commandant of the 9th Naval District at Great Lakes for each individual desiring such employment. Admiral Downs is, at present, the Commandant.

It is Lt. Connors' impression that this directly removes the question of employment of Japanese American on the Great Lakes from the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard and places it as a direct responsibility of the Navy. Commercial fishing, according to Lt. Connors, is negligible in the Illinois and northern Indiana Great Lakes area.



2866







MEMORANDUM

To: Elmer L. Shirrell  
From: M.C. Geuther  
Date: Aug. 13, 1943  
Subject: E.M. Swengel, Fithian, Ill. (Farm Job)

Contacted O.E. Banty, Postmaster, Fithian, Ill.

Swengel taught school until early 1942 when his wife inherited a farm. Swengels moved on farm and operated it during 1942 and operating it for present crop year. According to Banty, without neighbors' assistance, Swengel would not be able to farm. Swengel purchahse house in town (May, 1943) and planned to move there. He resumed teaching in April, 1943 and has a contract to teach the school year of 1943-44

Swengel's oldest child is reputed to be less than a year old. Swengel, thru church group, had arranged to bring a Japanese family. Community flared up and signed a petition, etc. and developed a strong feeling.

Appears to have been a combination of:

1. Jealousy over inherited farm.
2. Moving to farm - since farming is classified as essential.
3. Contemplated moving to town from farm and still hold farm status.
4. Return to school teaching.

Suggest staying out of Fithian for the present.



FITHIAN-OGDEN, ILL. FILES

SENTIMENT REPORT FITHIAN-OGDEN

E.M. Swengel reports that he was inviting an issei to work on farm between above towns. Kenji Nakane selected. Before he arrived townspeople rose up and protested, signing a petition.

Recommend this as a closed area.



Decatur, Illinois files

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
1112 Alliance Life Bldg.  
Peoria, Illinois

To: Elmer L. Shirrell

Aug. 31, 1943

From Madeline Jacobs, Acting Relocation Officer

Decatur, Ill.

Called on Henry Schaub, Sr., editor of Decatur Herald-Review but he was out. Mr. Hall's report indicate that Schaub was our most influential sponsor in Decatur.

Dan Bopp, Reo-Nash distributor in Decatur, has taken sincere interest in the program, however, was not too optimistic about chances of placing any evacuees there. It was his opinion that Decatur would be slow to welcome Japanese, altho he believed that there would be no active opposition to a few if they should come into the city. Bopp stated that last week he had attended a meeting of farm gropp in Decatur and was amazed at the amount of active opposition among farmers. At least 4 got up and emphatically denounced the relocation program; these men stated that they had sons ~~was~~ who were at present engaged in combat with the Japanese in the Pacific and simply could not tolerate young Japanese boys taking their boys' places on the farms. Bopp stated that he, himself, might later on be in need of some skilled mechanics in his place and also car washers later on. Bopp said he would inquire friends at Macon County Hospital about chances there. Suggested I call on Supt. of St. Mary's hospital.

Mrs. Conely, mother of Florence Conely, counselor for Junior High League of the First Methodist Church, mentioned that there might be a little reluctance on the part of people of Decatur to accept Japanese inasmuch as there was some feeling against the Negro group in the city. She herself was sympathetic and stated she thought most church groups were anxious to have a few Japanese resettled there.



Decatur, Ill. files  
July 17, 1943

Rev. Thomas B. Lugg, pastor of First Meth. Church, North & Church Sts., wrote us on July 7 requesting he would like to discuss refusal of James Millikin U. to accept nisei. He has a request from a specific young nisei who wants to go to school there and obtain employment in Decatur.

Charles Sands, 1453 W. Decatur St. wants experienced refrigerator repair man and has a qualified applicant but is hesitating about going ahead because of fear of reaction of his clientele.

Fred Kaiser, Jr., propt. of Food Arcade, 134 Merchant St., has placed offer for a maid. He may also be in the market for a butcher.

Expect increase in labor shortages in Decatur during next 6 months, as the nearby ordnance factories get into full production. Much of the success of the resettlement program here will depend upon cracking thru with 2 or 3 successful placements as soon as possible.



*Chicago*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

*HL*

TO: Harold S. Fistere

DATE: 10-4-43

FROM: Elmer L. Shirrell

SUBJECT: News story

Here is a copy of the Chicago Tribune's report of the speech I gave before delegates representing co-operative stores in the projects. The Tribune was the only paper to cover the speech.

*Elmer L. Shirrell*





## REVEALS PLENTY OF JOBS AWAIT JAP AMERICANS

### WRA Spokesman Warns of Growing Unrest

Employers in the Chicago area are clamoring for American Japanese workers because 3,500 job offers are going begging, Elmer L. Shirrell, supervisor for the war relocation authority in this area, told delegates from the 10 western relocation centers meeting yesterday in the Morrison Hotel.

Urging delegates to use their influence in persuading loyal American Japanese to leave relocation centers and return to normal life, Shirrell asserted that Chicago must find 375,000 new workers by Dec. 1 if the city is to carry its allotted load of war contracts.

"Tell every one willing to leave the centers to come to Chicago," Shirrell instructed delegates. "Assure them that we have the jobs and will stick with them until we find housing facilities. Several employers wanting groups of 50 or 100 workers have agreed even to provide the housing."

### Says Discontent Grows

Shirrell lamented "the deterioration taking place in Japanese Americans in relocation centers," and said he did not know whether the blame lay with war relocation authorities or with the inhabitants and their leaders.

"I do know, however, that the most industrious, frugal group of workers this country has ever known is deteriorating shockingly," he said. "When they come out of the centers they immediately begin to complain--particularly about how hard the work is, when before the Pearl Harbor attack many of them were in the habit of working from dawn to sundown.

American Japanese might as well face it, Shirrell declared as he warned: "They will have to start life over again when they leave the centers. No matter how fine their former positions were, they will be obliged to start at the bottom. They will get plenty of chances for progression in the middle west, but they must first show this area what they can do."

### Must Start Work Now

Shirrell, charging that those living in the centers are losing their will to work, said they evidently are afraid of losing face by accepting jobs beneath their capabilities. After the war they will have an even harder time, he prophesied, unless they begin now. Not only jobs, he said, but housing will be scarcer then, "because returning soldiers will have first chance at any vacancies, and persons of Japanese descent will be at the bottom of the list."



"Try to make your people see the wisdom of giving up an artificial cooperative existence for a normal life on their own," Shirrell urged. "Otherwise, at war's end we will have a new Japanese Indian reservation problem in America."



Belleville, Ill. Files

St. Louis office

Date: Sept. 11, 1943

Excerpts from letter as follows:

"Incidentally, there is no opportunity for any permanent relocation in the vicinity of Belleville, Illinois. The attitude of the community is definitely hostile and we had a task even to keep the seasonal workers satisfied without too much difficulty. We intend to do a lot of missionary work in ~~this~~ neighborhood, but I am convinced that we will never be able to place more than a few seasonal workers on the outskirts of this city."



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois

September 23, 1943

Mr. J. G. Lindley  
Project Director  
Granada Relocation Center  
Amache, Colorado

Dear Mr. Lindley:

At the suggestion of the Washington office we are sending you fifty copies of an article which appeared in some 300 Midwestern newspapers and which was released by the Western Newspaper Union, a syndicate which has a very wide coverage in the Middlewest.

Washington would like these copies posted on messhall bulletins and wherever they may be widely seen. This article was well received in the Middlewest and illustrates that the American Japanese are welcome when they leave the relocation centers. We believe this story will help bolster evacuee morale and help encourage more Japanese to leave the centers.

Please feel free to use this article in any manner you wish.

Very truly yours,

*Elmer L. Shirrell*

Elmer L. Shirrell  
Relocation Supervisor









# Need Farm or Factory Help? Thousands of Workers In Japanese Relocation Camps Waiting to Be Hired

## Nearly Every Trade Found Among Loyal Japanese-Americans

Farmers and factory owners who are looking anxiously about for help have available an almost untapped supply of intelligent and industrious workers. These people are the 90,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who are now in the ten relocation camps in the West and Southwest.

The War Relocation Authority has found employment for 16,000, and is seeking to place 25,000 more by the first of the year. More than one-third of these American-Japanese are farmers or have done some agricultural work. Others are skilled mechanics, and many are in professions. Occupations, in fact, range from doctors to ditchdiggers. Most of these people are American born, and are considered loyal to the United States.

These workers may be hired permanently or seasonally by any farmer or other employer anywhere in the country, except in the military zone, a strip running along the Pacific coast.

Procedure whereby American-Japanese and loyal aliens are brought out of the camps and placed in jobs is a simple one. A relocation office in each area has a staff of officers who look for jobs in different kinds of employment: farming, dairying, poultry raising, nursery, domestic, restaurant and hotel work, skilled and unskilled labor, factory work, various trades and professions such as dentistry, medicine, engineering, industrial designing.

Job offers received are screened as to suitability of wage and working standards. If legitimate, the offer is sent to any or all of the 10 relocation centers which are in the states of California, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and Arkansas.

In the camp, job offers are catalogued, posted in mess halls and administrative buildings, and printed in the camp newspaper. Each evacuee has filed his working qualifications and each camp has an employment staff to assist the proper person to get the proper job.

The evacuee is not forced to take a job. He can select one for which he thinks he is best qualified. He makes his own arrangements. He corresponds with his prospective employer and, if accepted, informs camp authorities who then place him on indefinite leave which means he is entitled to leave camp and go anywhere in the United States except the forbidden regions.

Both American citizens of Japanese ancestry and Japanese aliens are allowed to leave the relocation camps in the West once their loyalty has been assured. Each evacuee is investigated by the War Relocation Authority and males of draft age are checked upon by a joint board in Washington composed of the intelligence departments of the armed forces and WRA officials. Also, each evacuee is checked against FBI records.

On the other hand, before an American-Japanese settles in a community, it is canvassed by WRA officers who seek reasonable assurances from responsible officials and citizens that local sentiment will not be against the newcomer.

Indefinite leave usually is granted only to an evacuee who has a place to go and means of support. Each evacuee must inform WRA in Washington of any change in job or address. An evacuee must receive the standard wage rate of the commu-

nity. He can not enter as "cheap labor." WRA's motto is: "No more, no less than anyone else for the same work in the same community."

Both an American citizen of Japanese ancestry or a Japanese alien can obtain indefinite leave. An alien is checked more carefully and outside camp his movements have more restrictions.

WRA procedure to move American-Japanese out of the camps has been approved by the department of justice, the U. S. army and endorsed by the War Manpower commission as a contribution to national security and manpower needs.

WRA's program of relocating American-Japanese began in the spring of 1942 when, for military reasons, some 106,000 Japanese were taken from California, the southern third of Arizona, the western half of Oregon and Washington and placed in 10 relocation centers in the West. WRA officials point out that the centers are definitely not internment camps or places of confinement. They were established by the United States government for two chief purposes: to provide self-sustaining communities where evacuees can contribute to their own support pending gradual reabsorption



**WELDER**—Many Japanese-Americans, like George Y. Nakamura are excellent tradesmen. He is working in Chicago at a farm implement factory, whence he came from the Minidoka Relocation center, Ore., where he was maintenance machinist.

into a normal American life; and to serve as wartime homes for those who are unable or unfit to relocate in ordinary American communities.

Beginning January of this year, WRA initiated a program of steady depopulation of the centers by encouraging residents with good records of behavior to re-enter private employment in agriculture or industry.

Relocation offices were set up in Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Kansas City, Little Rock, Salt Lake City and Denver to seek jobs for American-Japanese.

Each relocation area has sub-offices. The Chicago area, for example, covers Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the eastern half of North Dakota. Elmer L. Shirrell is supervisor of the area. Sub-offices are located at Indianapolis, Peoria, Rockford, Milwaukee, Madison, Minneapolis and Fargo. Relocation officers there carry on the same kind of employment and placement service given in the area headquarters.

### Model Communities.

Life in an evacuation center is no picnic. American-Japanese were abruptly moved from their own homes and placed in barracks, which though adequately constructed, were bare of furniture, had no running water, toilets or any conveniences we accept as normal.

A camp is laid out in blocks like a city. Each block contains two rows of barracks housing 12 living units. Each block has its mess hall, lavatories, showers and meeting hall. No family cooks for itself, but must eat with the other inhabitants of the block in mess halls which are staffed by full time American-Japanese cooks and attendants. Food for evacuees at camp is received from army quartermaster corps and cost must not exceed 45 cents per day per evacuee.

Each camp has schools, churches, playgrounds, recreation halls, YMCA units and sometimes a boy and girl scout troop. Each camp has a police force, a fire department and each block is represented in the camp council which meets regularly with WRA officials to determine camp administration and other problems which come up.

Each family is housed, fed and, if one member of the family is working, the government gives a small monthly allotment from \$2 to \$3.50 to each member for clothing.

Any able-bodied American-Japanese can work at the camp, and gen-

erally can do the same job he did on the outside. American - Japanese serve as doctors, dentists, nurses, optometrists, watchmakers, clerks, civil engineers, carpenters, masons, farmers and in many other trades. Each one who works receives from WRA a monthly salary from \$12 to \$19 depending on his job. Since the WRA staff at each camp is very small, a huge amount of the administrative work is done by the evacuees who work as stenographers, typists, clerks, interviewers, translators, switchboard operators, etc.

Each camp has co-operative food and clothing stores, a canteen, notion counters, magazine racks and even a post office. Most camps have large agricultural tracts and become largely self sustaining.

American-Japanese and Japanese aliens sometimes are known as Issei, Nisei and Kibei. Issei are Japanese born in Japan but who came here to live. Nisei are second generation Japanese, born in the United States and citizens of this country. Kibei are American born Japanese who have gone back to Japan for education and then returned to America. WRA investigates Kibeis very closely, watches them carefully and is reticent about giving them freedom.

### Mostly 'Nisei.'

The great bulk of the 135,000 Japanese in this country at the outbreak of the war, including the 110,000 along the West coast, are Nisei. They are the young boys and girls, the men and women who have lived here all their lives and are just as American as we are.

They have broken away from Japanese customs. Their thought is American thought. They prefer American food and our way of doing things. They like to jitterbug, go to movies, have coke dates and parties like any normal American. Surveys have proven that the Nisei have a greater percentage of members with a college or university education than any racial group in the United States.

It is the belief of the WRA that the spreading of the American-Japanese throughout the nation instead of concentrated in groups along the coast will be a good thing both for all Americans and for American-Japanese.

Approximately 8,000 American-Japanese are in the United States armed forces. After Pearl Harbor they were given the opportunity to volunteer and thousands of boys enlisted from the relocation camps.

Two large units at Camp Savage, Minn., and Camp Shelby, Miss., contain most of the American-Japanese combat fighters. From Hawaii alone came a specially picked combat team of 2,500 American-Japanese boys. At Camp Savage many are training to be interpreters and language teachers.

Wherever they have been stationed, American-Japanese soldiers have won high praise from their commanding officers. They are training with extraordinary zeal even spending their free time in military study and voluntary drills. Instructors have to be keen and alert to avoid being tripped up by questions. It is a saying among these Japanese-American soldiers that "We have a year and three minutes to live," meaning a year of hard training, and three minutes in the thickest of the fighting.

WRA officials have found that adequate jobs can be found for the evacuees, but that housing is a serious problem. This is especially true in large cities where booming war plants have caused a heavy influx of war workers.

In the smaller communities this condition is less severe. WRA believes that a large measure of its success will depend upon how well the American-Japanese relocate in small towns and agricultural areas.



**SPINACH**—Miss Momayo Yamato cultivates the dark green stuff on the broad acres of the Gila River Relocation center farm. She formerly worked in Fresno, Calif. Thousands of skilled agricultural workers like Miss Yamato are looking for private employment.



**OVER THE PLATE**—Strictly in the American tradition, these Japanese-American sixth grade boys play softball at recess, at the Manzanar Relocation center in California.







WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

January 11, 1944

Dear Friend:

A national conference of Americans of Japanese ancestry will be held in Chicago, Illinois, January 28, 29, and 30. Two delegates from each relocation center and delegates from each relocation field area will meet with the Director, Mr. Dillon S. Myer; Mr. E. G. Arnold, Chief, Relocation Division; Mr. John Provinse, Chief, Community Services; and others.

The conference agenda will be:

- (1) Problems related to the future of resettlers and others of Japanese ancestry in the United States
- (2) Major problems facing center residents in terms of their future
- (3) Specific plans or proposals for creating better understanding and working relationships between the resettlers and the War Relocation Authority

Two delegates are to be chosen from the Chicago area. They may be Issei or Nisei, and may be former center residents, voluntary evacuees, or Japanese Americans who lived in the community prior to evacuation. We are requesting you to choose the best possible persons from the Chicago area--delegates who will truly represent the community.

Please state the names of the two delegates of your choice on the enclosed postal card and return it to us without delay.

While we are writing this letter, we want to assure you that we are anxious to discuss with you at any time, any matter which concerns the relocation of your family or friends who may still be at one of the projects. A simple hospitality offer from you directed to this office, will enable us to send the necessary invitation so that members of your family, or friends, may be brought to Chicago. This office will be glad to assist in temporary and permanent housing, as well as employment. If you are interested, please come in and see any one of our Staff, who will be delighted to help you with plans for your family.

Sincerely yours,

*Elmer L. Shirrell*

Elmer L. Shirrell  
Relocation Supervisor

Enclosure



MOTONOBU TED KAGIMOTO

10-6-43 To: ELS From: Murray E. Stebbins, Havre, Mont. Reloc. Officer

Hary Cooper, operator of soft drink establishment in Harlem, Mont., cashed Great Northern check which was returned to him, marked "Indorsement Forged". Cooper is of opinion that check was given to him by Ted M. Kagimoto who is known to be in Chicago. Hardy requests that if convenient you interview Kagimoto re signature on enclosed check. Cooper feels that there is a similiarty in hand writing of Kagimoto and signature of Sasaki on enclosed check.

10-9-43 To: M.E. Stebbins From ELS

Kagimoto very naively admitted signing Sasaki's name to this check and cashing it. I don't know whether he was attempting to deceive me or not, but he seemed to be totally unaware of the seriousness of his actions. I informed him that the only way he could get out of this difficulty he was in was to get a money order for ~~\$5x~~ \$5.10 made out to Sasaki. I, therefore, enclose this money order. Kagimoto is very anxious for you to send him Sasaki's present mailing address.

12-11-43 To ELS From MTK

I left Chicago on 12-2-43 and have just arrived at Spokane, Wash. As I have once troubled you on account of my minor forgery case, I feel it desirable to explain to you the reason why I came back to West. To begin with, I went to Chicago with the idea that I might be able to do a little schooling, which was my excuse of not volunteering for the Combat Team. As the matter of fact, I wanted to do so at that time, but it turned out to be mighty tough and I could hardly make my own living there, besides, to have no friends to talk with is distasteful, indeed.

On reaching here, I could get a job in track maintenance gang of Northern Pacific Ry. Co. at Spokane. For your information, I like to write down the address and name of R.R. official who handle the affair of J extram gang.



From: Mrs. Frederick E. Foster, Foster Apt., 414 Arlington Place  
To: Shirrell

12-10-43

Some time in Aug., 1943, I was advertising ~~for~~ an apt. for rent. Among many applicants I interviewed 2 Japanese women. A woman had called me from the Brethren Church of N. Sheridan Rd. or some place up north, she asked me by phone if I objected to Japanese as tenants. I told her I had made it my business in life to have no objections to any nationality. She asked me if I would consider taking in some Japanese people, well recommended. I said I would.

However, when the Japanese women came to interview me there were to be 5 in a two-room apt., all relatives. It was all agreeable to me but the young brother was learning to play a saxophone and to that I said: There are defense workers in my bldg. and men and women in the service and their hours of sleep vary and I cannot have a saxophone played for practice work here for it would be too great a disturbance. There are 5 beds in this apt.

On Dec. 9, 1943, a Japanese woman, Mrs. Tom Tomimatsu, called and wanted an apt. for 3. Later she brought her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tomimatsu ~~xxxx~~ took the apt. at \$70 a month and were well satisfied with the apt. They were to have the sister live with them.

Before completely consummating the business of renting Tomimatsu asked:

Is there anyone in the bldg. who would object to me?

Ans: I am the owner and I hardly think anyone would object.

Are you sure there are no cockroaches or bedbugs?

Ans.: I lived here 20 years and we have had no bugs of any kind.

I asked Tomimatsu if he had bugs where he lives.

Ans.: Oh no--they live nearby on Deming Place.



I looked over the rental schedule as per OPA ruling and told them the apt. they wanted was \$70 for I or II persons. Tomimatsu looked over the schedule and asked why the other ~~px~~ apt. on the same floor was only \$50.

Ans.: That apt. rents for \$50 for it is one room.

At that moment I had to interview another prospective tenant. Said tenant was anxious to take the apt. in question. This couple said they had a dog, etc. wanted a number of piece of furniture removed from the apt. They asked for a reduction of rent to \$65 but I told him that I could not afford a reduction, and that there would be no reduction.

Later. Tomimatsu apparent having listened thru closed doors:

Would you prefer these people to us?

Ans.: No.

Would you give them a reduction in rent?

Ans.: No.

I asked Mr. and Mrs. T. if they were perfectly pleased with the apt. and with the general set-up. Ans.: Yes.

T. asked: Would you evict for for anything?

Ans.: There are only 2 reasons whereby anybody can be evicted by OPA and I am under OPA supervision. I reason, apt. used for immoral purposes; and non-payment of rent.

T: Oh yes, I knew you could not evict us except for those 2 reasons.

Ans: Well, you know the law then, you are just checking up?



T: I am employed in the ~~Sta~~ Dept. of Interior and we all get together at times and we find out what is going on in other depts.

Therewith T. paid down \$35 as half month's rent and \$1.50 for keys. \$1.50 to be refunded on return of keys when vacating.

5 calls came in reference to apt. I said apt. was rented. About 2 hours later Mrs. T. returned with a sister. Said they were so sorry that they had a telegram in the hour that their brother was coming in and he would live with them and there would not be sufficient room for him to be with them so they asked to be free of apt. here. I acquiesced at once. Told them that it was unfortunate that they were in that difficulty but that I understood and released them at once returning all moneys to them. They handed me \$1.00 for the trouble--and I said I would hand the \$10 to the houseman for after all he had made several 3-story flights in their behalf.

I am handing you the above information for it is my opinion that these Japs didn't want this apt. in the first place. That they were snooping and trying to find out just how their race stands among us Americans. The apt. is furnished for 5 people. It is vacant and ready for occupancy. If the bed bug story doesn't work, they try the noise nuisance, or the extra guest. At the present moment I hesitate interviewing any more of them.



Harry M. Sakamoto (Minidoka) 4-3-44

*Stevens -*

Man in office - just arrived and has no money - asked loan - says cannot get advance from Stevens altho he says he will work there starting tomorrow. Telephoned Stevens and asked for "Johnny" the straw-boss over JA workers. When I called for Johnny, Sakamoto resented this - said he had talked to Johnny - asked to be excused and left.

Later Johnny phoned - says he doesn't know man well enough to ok advance wages - as he would be financially responsible. Says man is now working as bus boy - will get tips & 2 meals per day. Johnny has arranged to let him sleep at the Stevens - at least temporarily so he seemed surprised that we should be concerned about him. JKB



8-24-44 Ichiro Takehara (P) (#4167) in Cook Co. Hosp. Ward 21, out 8-23-44. Acute sinusitis. Entered 8-6-44, 17 days at \$5 plus \$15 X-ray Left center 7-25-44 went to Detroit. came to Chicago 8-2-44 Ref. to IPAC JKB

8-10-44 From GRB to IPAC

Mrs. Aiko Kida, sister of above was in office yesterday to ask for help in his hosp. bill. Mrs. Kida unemployed. Her husband ~~was~~ working for International Harvesters. Mrs. Kida is pregnant and husband unable to help her brother. She states mother, a widow, still at Poston and has nothing. She said brother signed agreement to pay but in no position to do so. Subject is 21, single, citizen, was residing in Sunnyside, Calif. before evac. His address in Chicago is with sister, 15 W. Erie St.



Re: Tokutaro Takayanagi (Topaz)

12-3-43 Takayanagi, alien, arrived here yesterday en route to McLean, Va. U.S. Atty, however, declined to issue travel permit on grounds that alien must first secure permission of Eastern Defense Command. In phone conversations with both Connor and Lang, they admitted that they had nothing in writing that prevented their issuing permit, but were taking this precaution in view of an experience they had with Western Defense Command. Following this conversation, telegram sent to Arnold. (See file) --HSJ

12-10-43 No answer to wire, phone call placed to Dolins in Wash. who stated he had not seen teletype but would look it up immediately and see what he could do about it. --HSJ

12-13-43 Phone call from Dolins stated he had taken matter up with Dept. of Justice and they had stated that there were no barriers to Takayanagi's entering EDC. Further stated they would take matter with U.S. Atty in Chicago. Later in day Lang os USDA office was called about case. He did not indicate that he had heard from Wash. but stated, nevertheless, that since they had written the EDC and had received no reply, he could see no reason for not issuing travel permit. Stated he wished to take this up with Connor, his superior, and would call back. This he did, making specific request that Takayanagi come in next day. Word sent to Takayanagi thru Mrs. Izumi. --HSJ

12-14-43 (From indirect sources it was learned that Takayanagi received travel permit without further delay and left on an afternoon train for Wash. D.C. --HSJ



10-6-44

~~To: IFAC~~  
From: GRB

We are attempting to complete a report on requests for financial or medical assistance for transmittal to our Washington office, and would appreciate any further information you may have on the disposition of the following cases. It would be extremely helpful if we could know the extent of the assistance given in each case, including specific amount allotted for financial aid.

Name	Date of Request
Akahoshi, George	8/12/44
Fukuyama, Bob Sanji	8-25-44
Harada, Mrs. Tomo	9-11-44
Hirami, Soichiro	7-26-44
Ichita, Tomokawa	8-12-44
Iwasaki, Cyrus	9-7-44
Koga, George Masami	9-6-44
Murata, Louise	9-11-44
Nakata, Sho	9-18-44
Okura, Joyce Yoshiye	9-11-44
Okutsu, Tom	9-18-44
Omori, George	9-25-44
Oyama, Jane	8-7-44
Sugioka, Albert	8-19-44
Takahashi, James	9-28-44
Takayama, Sumiko	8-29-44



Takehara, Ichiro  
Tanaka, Kichinosuke  
Tanaka, William  
Uyeno, Miye Nancy  
Matsumoto, Lily Yuri  
Nakamura, Sadamu Sam

8-10-44  
9-29-44  
8-15-44  
8-29-44  
9-25-44  
5-24-44



Tanaka, Kichinosuke, 70 (J) 304 Hillside Ave., Piedmont, Calif.

Arrived in Chicago 8-17-44 on indef.

Asked financial aid of IPAC

Dr. Wakatake diagnosed case as possible stomach cancer & requested X-rays. These taken by Walther Memorial Hosp. on 10-2-44 who reported a gastric ulcer strongly suspected of malignancy involving the pars-pylorica. No obstruction found.

Dr. Wakatake found that Tanaka could not undergo surgery, stated that prognosis was poor and life span indeterminate. For these reasons Dr. Wakatake felt that Tanaka might better return to center where he would have personal care of common-law wife. There is no medical treatment which would prove beneficiary to patient at this time.

Approval for reinduction received from Topaz 10-25-44. It is our understanding that he left Chicago a few days later. --GRB



Letter in Joe Yoshida file

3-11-44 To: LLNelson (Poston)

Reurtel March 13 re Joe Yoshida, wife, and baby daughter. Refer Washington wire March 11 from DS Myer. Note, it is the policy of WRA to discourage dependents of men called into the Army from returning to relocation centers. Dependency allotments are considered sufficient to support dependents outside. Everything possible should be done to assist them in making adjustments in community rather than returning to centers. However, they should be permitted to return to centers on the same basis as other individuals who have been unable to make local adjustment in case they insist after all other alternative have been explored.

--PCDaugherty



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 W. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois

December 18, 1943

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Staff and Sub-Offices

FROM: Elmer L. Shirrell

SUBJECT: Job Offers

Sometime ago we received an instruction from Washington regarding the discontinuance of job offers to the projects except for unusual and emergency offers. In order to make the procedure uniform in our area, please be guided by the following:

1. Such offers should be sent direct to all projects and should be sent by mail, not teletype, giving an expiration date.
2. Such offers should be definitely those which are unusual or must be filled at the very earliest moment and cannot wait for the arrival of people who are coming in to make job applications.
3. Such offers should be made in great detail, answering all possible questions. In this regard, we should hold the same standards as for the recent prize contest for the best job offer.
4. It should be explained and stated in the job offer that all persons who wish to apply for those positions should route their letters of application to the sub-offices concerned. In other words, we are doing away with the direct contact between the prospective employer and prospective employee and the relocation officer will act as the intermediary.
5. When the job offer is filled, the project should be notified at once, preferably by teletype.



Elmer L. Shirrell  
Relocation Supervisor



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

January 11, 1944

Dear Friend:

A national conference of Americans of Japanese ancestry will be held in Chicago, Illinois, January 28, 29, and 30. Two delegates from each relocation center and delegates from each relocation field area will meet with the Director, Mr. Dillon S. Myer; Mr. E. G. Arnold, Chief, Relocation Division; Mr. John Provinse, Chief, Community Services; and others.

The conference agenda will be:

- (1) Problems related to the future of resettlers and others of Japanese ancestry in the United States
- (2) Major problems facing center residents in terms of their future
- (3) Specific plans or proposals for creating better understanding and working relationships between the resettlers and the War Relocation Authority

Two delegates are to be chosen from the Chicago area. They may be Issei or Nisei, and may be former center residents, voluntary evacuees, or Japanese Americans who lived in the community prior to evacuation. We are requesting you to choose the best possible persons from the Chicago area--delegates who will truly represent the community.

Please state the names of the two delegates of your choice on the enclosed postal card and return it to us without delay.

While we are writing this letter, we want to assure you that we are anxious to discuss with you at any time, any matter which concerns the relocation of your family or friends who may still be at one of the projects. A simple hospitality offer from you directed to this office, will enable us to send the necessary invitation so that members of your family, or friends, may be brought to Chicago. This office will be glad to assist in temporary and permanent housing, as well as employment. If you are interested, please come in and see any one of our Staff, who will be delighted to help you with plans for your family.

Sincerely yours,

*Elmer L. Shirrell*

Elmer L. Shirrell  
Relocation Supervisor

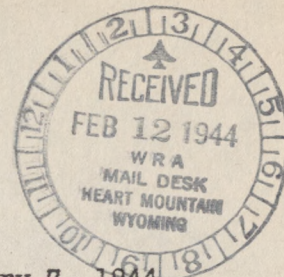
Enclosure



Ladd

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 W. Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois



February 7, 1944

TO: All Project Directors, Area Supervisors and  
Relocation Officers

SUBJECT: Area Changes

Beginning immediately the Indianapolis, Peoria, Rockford, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Chicago offices of the Midwest area will be known as "district offices" instead of as "sub-offices."

Beginning immediately the Chicago district office will be under the direction of Mr. Paul C. Dougherty, and correspondence pertaining to relocation in the Chicago district area will be addressed to Mr. Dougherty. Correspondence leaving the Chicago district office will go out over Mr. Dougherty's name.

The Chicago district office will be concerned with relocation in and around the Chicago metropolitan area. The Area office will have general supervision over the midwest states of Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the eastern half of North Dakota, and the upper peninsula of Michigan.

Correspondence directed to the Midwest Area office will be addressed to Mr. Vernon R. Kennedy, and correspondence leaving the Area office will go out over his name.

Beginning immediately the Madison, Wisconsin, office is consolidated with the Milwaukee office. Relocation in the Madison area will be directed by Mr. John H. Putz, Relocation Officer for Wisconsin with headquarters in Milwaukee.

*Vernon R. Kennedy*  
Vernon R. Kennedy  
Relocation Supervisor



Vernon R. Kennedy, Relocation Supervisor

4/19/44

Herbert Keno

Toshi Tsukuno

This morning, April 19, 1944, at 10:45 a.m., Mr. Toshi Tsukuno an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army made the attached statement.

Attachment

Herbert Keno  
Relocation Officer



April 19, 1944

I made an application for a job the latter part of January with the Veterans Administration of the United States Employment Service. From the beginning, he was quite reluctant in giving me an interview.

I talked to a man and during the course of the conversation, the interviewer implied and in fact, even stated to me "Don't you know you're Japanese and have two strikes against you?" He gave me one of those introduction cards from the Pullman Company about which I got a lead from someone else. But He did not do anything actually to help me.

So I went down to the Pullman Co. and filled out the application but it was necessary to get a release from the Navy before I could get a job and so I didn't even mail back the card.

That was the end of it. That is all the help the United States Employment Service gave me.

Toshi Tsukuno



311.1

W. W. Lessing, Relocation Officer

April 27  
May 1, 1944

Herbert Keno, Relocation Officer

### Difficulties of Discharged Soldiers Seeking Employment in Defense Plants

During the past four weeks, we have been visited by four honorably discharged soldiers who all had the same experience when seeking employment in this area. From their stories it is apparent that they have all applied for work through the United States Employment Service Veteran's Division and have received in each case the same answer; that is, due to their ancestry the United States Employment Service could not get them a job. In each case the boys have been referred to Mr. Perry, who represents the Veterans Administration of the United States Civil Service Commission, located in the New Post Office Building, Chicago, Illinois. In each case Mr. Perry has referred the boys to Miss Larsen of CAS for probable placement as common laborers at \$1200 per annum.

Because Miss Larsen has found it impossible to place these men, she has referred them to us. From that point on, I have contacted Major Millstead, Internal Security Officer of the Sixth Service Command, in regard to the honorably discharged soldiers' going into prime war plants without prior clearance from the Provost Marshall General. Major Millstead has informed me quite emphatically that this procedure is practically impossible to follow as all orders from Washington definitely state that no person of Japanese ancestry be allowed to work in any prime war plant without the Provost Marshal General's clearance.

In two cases in particular, the boys had been highly qualified as regarding their educational background. One case that Dr. Jacoby has been handling is that of a boy with eight months' service in Australia, serving under General MacArthur in the Military Intelligence. This young man is not only entitled to wear a Southwest Pacific ribbon, but he has also combat stars for the New Guinea invasion. He is entitled to a ten percent compensation showing that the disability was incurred on the line of duty. This young man has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and is certainly qualified as far as his educational background is concerned to be of prime assistance in any one of many plants in this area requiring the exact knowledge that he has.

The other case is that of a young man who was discharged from Camp Shelby due to injuries incurred in the line of duty. This man has a Bachelor's degree and is at present working for A. C. McClurg Co. in non-essential industry because he does not have Provost Marshal clearance.

There are several defense plants in this area that are willing to hire these young men as common laborers at approximately seventy cents



Mr. Lessing

- 2 -

April 27  
May 1, 1944

an hour. However, it seems logical considering their educational background that the boys are certainly qualified for better jobs and that due to their services in the United States Armed Forces, should be entitled work in a plant of their own choice.

The men have personally requested and insisted that no names be used in connection with this report as they are afraid of repercussions on the part of some men in the U.S.E.S.

Herbert Keno  
Relocation Officer



Memo To Edward M. Joyce  
From: W.W. Lessing, relocation officer  
Chicago Dist. office  
Subject: Perry Saito

5-22-44

For your consideration, we are herewith quoting a statement signed by Raymond Best, proj. dir. at Tule Lake re a hearing in connection with the case of Perry Saito.

"The Tule Lake Leave Clearance Hearing Board has not reviewed the transcript of the interview and does not concur with Mr. Joyce's recommendation. There is nothing in Mr. Saito's docket, including the interview given by Mr. Joyce, to indicate that Mr. Saito ever acted as an intermediary in supplying espionage information to Japan. There is an indication that his mother was suspected of such activity. After a hearing before an Enemy Alien Hearing Board, however, Mr. Saito's mother was paroled, an indication that the evidence against her was not strong. It is true that Mr. Saito classified himself as a conscientious objector to war. We do not believe, however, that conscientious objection to war constitutes a sufficient basis upon which to deny leave clearance."



Mr. W. W. Lessing

5/31/44

Edward M. Joyce

Indefinite Leave Hearing on Perry Saito

This will acknowledge receipt of your memo of May 22.

Contrary to the expressed belief of Project Director Best as stated in his letter to the Director, I did not base my adverse recommendation in connection with the leave clearance hearing of Mr. Saito solely on the grounds of his being a conscientious objector.

The combination of evidence and testimony plus the fact that the Japanese American Joint Board withheld favorable recommendation and that the F.B.I. is closely checking Mr. Saito's activities were all considered. It is my opinion that this man could endanger the public peace and security and interfere with the war program by advocating those peculiar philosophies he referred to during his hearing. Further consideration was given to his extensive travels and wide range of contacts and the harm he could do to W.R.A. relocation program, and the interests of patriotic nisei who are diligently striving to overcome prejudice and to prove their right to share the privileges and obligations of American citizenship.

I must, therefore, reaffirm my original recommendation in this case and ask that this memo be forwarded to the Director as a supplement to the docket of this subject.

To date I have conducted 41 leave clearance hearings and have withheld favorable recommendations in only two cases.

EMJ:ni



226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

June 1, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: All Relocation Offices—Minneapolis,  
Milwaukee, Greater Illinois, Indianapolis

FROM: Vernon R. Kennedy  
Relocation Supervisor

Here is a copy of a teletype which we received from the Washington office relative to the killing of a Japanese American by a sentry at Tule Lake:

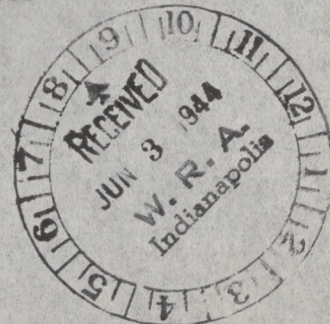
WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED THAT SHOICHI JAMES OKAMOTO, AGE 30, FORMER RESIDENT OF HEART MOUNTAIN, WAS SHOT BY SENTRY AT TULE LAKE CENTER WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND DIED IN HOSPITAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT. OKAMOTO WAS DRIVING TRUCK RETURNING FROM FARM TO CENTER AND WAS STOPPED BY SENTRY OUTSIDE CAPE. AS HE APPROACHED, SENTRY FIRST STRUCK HIM WITH BUTT OF GUN AND THEN SHOT HIM AT CLOSE RANGE. REASON FOR SHOOTING NOT YET CLEAR. ARMY AUTHORITIES AT CENTER HAVE ARRESTED SENTRY AND ARE CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION. NO SIGNS OF DISTURBANCE IN THE EVACUEE COMMUNITY. THESE FACTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO PRESS BY SECRETARY ICKES AT CONFERENCE HELD HERE THURSDAY MORNING.

/s/ D. S. MYER WRA WASHINGTON

The teletype is dated May 27.

*Vernon R. Kennedy*

Relocation Supervisor





WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 W. Jackson  
Chicago

June 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: All District Offices of the War Relocation Authority

The following story has been wired to all project newspapers:

"THE CHICAGO DISTRICT OFFICE HAS LEARNED THROUGH VARIOUS SOURCES THAT AN UNFOUNDED RUMOR IS BEING SPREAD THROUGH MANY RELOCATION CENTERS THAT CHICAGO HAS REACHED THE "SATURATION" POINT AS FAR AS RESETTLEMENT IS CONCERNED. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO TRUTH TO THESE RUMORS. JAPANESE AMERICANS IN METROPOLITAN CHICAGO REPRESENT LESS THAN ONE TENTH OF ONE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. EVERY INDICATION IS THAT SEVERAL TIMES THIS NUMBER OF RESETTLERS CAN FIND EMPLOYMENT AND READY COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE HERE, AND IT IS OUR OBSERVATION THAT COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYER ACCEPTANCE IMPROVES WITH EVERY ADDITIONAL RESETTLER ARRIVING IN THE CITY. HOUSING IS EASIER TO FIND TODAY THAN IT WAS WHEN THE FIRST RESETTLER ARRIVED HERE A YEAR AND A HALF AGO. MORE AND MORE WAR PLANTS ARE OPENING THEIR DOORS TO ISSEI AND NISEI ONLY IN CHICAGO. MANY HUNDREDS OF JOBS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH WRA'S OFFICE AND THOUSANDS THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE. CHICAGO ASKS NO PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION AS COMPARED WITH OTHER DISTRICTS THROUGH THE COUNTRY, BUT WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT NO ONE NEED GO ELSEWHERE BECAUSE OF ANY CONDITION EXISTING IN THIS CITY, WHICH HAS MADE ITSELF THE HOME OF 4,000 RESETTLERS, AND EXTENDS A WELCOMING HAND TO ALL OTHERS WHO WISH TO COME HERE.

*Vernon R. Kennedy*  
Vernon R. Kennedy  
Relocation Supervisor

JUN 10 1944



*Conf*

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

JULY 7, 1944

*70.100*  
*Chicago*  
*Area*

SEND SAME MESSAGE TO ALL PROJECTS:

GUY ROBERTSON, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION CENTER  
HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING  
SU RELAY

JAMES G LINDLEY, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
GRANADA RELOCATION CENTER  
AMACHE, COLORADO  
DN RELAY

RAY D JOHNSTON, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
ROHNER RELOCATION CENTER  
RELOCATION, ARKANSAS  
DL RELAY

✓ HARRY L STAFFORD, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER  
HUNT, IDAHO  
SU RELAY

RALPH P MERRITT, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
MANZANAR RELOCATION CENTER  
MANZANAR, CALIFORNIA  
LA RELAY TO INDEPENDENCE

LUTHER HOFFMAN, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
CENTRAL UTAH RELOCATION CENTER  
TOPAZ, UTAH  
SU RELAY

LEROY H BENNETT, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
RIVERS, ARIZONA  
PX RELAY TO CASA GRANDE

DUNCAN MILLS, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
POSTON, ARIZONA  
PX RELAY TO PARKER VALLEY

YOUNGER GIRLS COMING TO CHICAGO AS WELL AS THEIR PARENTS WILL BE INTERESTED  
IN THE OPENING OF A GIRLS CLUB OFFERING BOARD AND ROOM UNDER EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH SPONSORSHIP AND SUPERVISION ON CHICAGO'S WEST SIDE. THE GIRLS CLUB  
WILL USE PART OF THE DORMITORY AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, 2822 WEST JACKSON  
JUST FIFTEEN MINUTES BY BUS OR STREET CAR FROM DOWNTOWN CHICAGO. MR AND MRS  
KOHACHIRO SUGIMOTO FORMERLY OF SAN FRANCISCO, TULE LAKE AND HEART MOUNTAIN  
WILL BE IN CHARGE. APPLICATIONS FOR RESERVATIONS MAY BE SENT TO THE SCHOOL  
OR THIS OFFICE WILL REPORT BACK ON APPLICATIONS RECEIVED HERE AS ACCOMMODATIONS  
WILL BE LIMITED APPLICATION SHOULD BE MADE QUICKLY. GIRLS APPLYING SHOULD  
BE WILLING TO ACCEPT REASONABLE GUIDANCE AND SUPERVISION FROM THE SUGIMOTOS AND F  
FROM THE SISTERS AT ST. MARY'S.

G. RAYMOND BOOTH  
RELOCATION OFFICER

*56474*



RECEIVED  
JUL 10 1944

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
TO: SAC, DENVER  
FROM: SAC, SALT LAKE CITY  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]



TO: SAC, DENVER  
FROM: SAC, SALT LAKE CITY  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

TO: SAC, DENVER  
FROM: SAC, SALT LAKE CITY  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

JUL 10 1944

RECEIVED

Handwritten notes and signatures in the bottom right corner.



7-22-44

Ackerman of Kenwood Property Owners has had complaints regarding Japanese-Americans. 41 block on Ellis 4132, 4136 and 4138 also said to Japanese--new objections and how to prevent sale. Ackerman says no legal action as born Americans. Ellis Apt. on 42nd now solid Japanese-Americans. No legal impediment. Japanese-Americans discourage further resettlement. --BRBrenton

9-8-44 Paul Takeshita wants advice on conditions in rooming house contract. Owner agreed to make certain improvements which have not been made. Owner died and wife of owner wants to submit new lease. Will see lawyer of owners wife and call back later on suggestions of lawyer and further follow up. --FM

12-9-44 Opening 2 houses, boarding for boys. Took order. --CY



226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

August 10, 1944

Mr. John W. Lukens  
Illinois Public Aid Commission  
160 North La Salle Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Re: Ichiro Takehara ✓

Dear Mr. Lukens:

Mrs. Aiko Kida, sister of the above, was in this office yesterday to ask for help with his hospital bill. The subject arrived in Chicago from Detroit last Wednesday where he had been taken ill. He left the Poston Relocation Center the end of June, 1944. He came to Chicago and after a few days left for Detroit.

He was attended here by Dr. George Abelio, DEAborn 8725, who made the diagnosis of sinusitis. He was admitted to the County Hospital last Sunday and is now in Ward 21, attended by Dr. Hamilton. We have talked with Dr. Hamilton who makes the diagnosis of frontal sinusitis accompanied by abscess of the left eye. The doctor states that he has been very ill and is now somewhat better; he states that the patient will need hospital care for at least fifteen days more.

Mrs. Kida is unemployed. Her husband has recently gone to work at the International Harvester Company in the tractor division. Mrs. Kida is pregnant and her husband is undoubtedly saving for her confinement. She states that the mother, a widow still residing at Poston, has nothing. Mrs. Kida is very worried about the hospital bill which she thinks is about \$5.00 per day since her brother has signed an agreement to pay it and is not in a position to do so.

Subject is 21 years old, single, citizen, born in Spring Valley, California and was residing in Sunnyside, California, before the evacuation. He has been employed in the past only as a farm laborer. His address in Chicago is with his sister, 15 West Erie Street.

Very truly yours,

G. Raymond Booth  
Relocation Officer



C. Carter

226 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
Chicago 6, Illinois

August 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors

FROM: Prudence Ross  
Acting Relocation Supervisor

For some time, the staff of the Area Office and of the Chicago District Office have been greatly concerned over the need for careful planning to safeguard the relocation of resettlers under twenty years of age coming into Chicago without adult relatives.

We are most anxious to make such relocation possible under proper conditions and feel that the War Relocation Authority has a responsibility for providing as far as possible proper conditions for relocation, particularly where unattached minors are concerned.

We have requested that the Chicago Office be given advance notice when such minors plan to relocate in Chicago in order that we can make plans for their adjustment.

A series of conferences have been held with state and local child welfare agencies in Illinois and we have had offers of assistance from both state and local agencies in giving service to these young people.

On March 29, the following wire was sent to all centers by Wayland W. Lessing, Relocation Officer: "If there are persons eighteen years of age and under who desire to leave Project for Chicago, please notify us first. Otherwise the blanket invitation still holds." On August 7 because a number of resettlers had come into Chicago since our March wire without prior notice to this office, a further wire was sent by G. Raymond Booth, Relocation Officer, as follows: "In accordance with Administrative Notice No. 122, districts open on community invitation basis are declared open for "all families or individuals not presenting special problems". Because of conditions peculiar to Chicago, we desire to define all individuals of twenty years of age or under, unless they are with a parent, and families of four or more as constituting special problems. This put both groups in the category of "advance approval cases" for this district."

Since Administrative Notice No. 130 outlining relocation plans for unattached children makes provision for special attention to relocation plans for minors through eighteen years of age, we wish to revise the above restrictions to the open community invitation as follows. The Chicago Metropolitan Area will be open under the community invitation plan to all resettlers except unattached minors eighteen years old or less. This eliminates the restrictions concerning the nineteen and twenty years old resettlers, although we would like to point out that some of these young people also are in need of assistance and counsel from WRA or local agencies. We should appreciate having advance notice of reloca-



tion of nineteen and twenty year olds but will not insist upon advance approval by this office as heretofore.

The plan outlined below has been developed by the Area and District Staff in order to bring our procedures into conformity with regulations provided in Administrative Notice No. 130 and we believe it will provide valuable service to younger resettlers.

. Relocation Plans for Unattached Children in Chicago

- I. Youths sixteen years of age and under will be referred to the Illinois Aid Commission, the state agency administering Social Security funds. The Commission is placing on its staff a qualified child welfare worker with responsibility for handling all cases referred by WRA. We shall refer to this worker all youths under sixteen unaccompanied by parents or legal guardians. The service offered by the Illinois Public Aid Commission will include all phases of employment, housing, adjustment, counseling, and continued service so long as it may be needed by the individual resettler.
- II. The Chicago War Relocation Authority will approve requests from relocation centers for relocation of seventeen and eighteen year old evacuees only upon receipt of a relocation docket for these young people, including an interview with one or both parents in order to learn their wishes. These dockets should include information concerning the economic background of the family prior to evacuation, the type of community in which they lived, as well as specific data concerning education, prior employment, and relocation plans.  
  
This age group also will be referred to the Illinois Public Aid Commission for guidance.
- III. It will be of assistance in planning for young people of nineteen and twenty coming to Chicago without parents to receive relocation dockets concerning them prior to their arrival in Chicago. This age group will not need the services of the social agencies except in unusual instances.

I wish to re-emphasize the fact that this somewhat complex plan has been developed in order to provide opportunity for constructive and successful life in Chicago for these resettlers. Like other large cities, Chicago offers experiences both good and bad, and it is our hope that through this means, we may be able to insure that the experience of minors will be good and that their resettlement will be successful and happy.



F 2.80

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago 6, Illinois

September 29, 1944

TO:

FROM: G. Raymond Booth  
Relocation Officer

The War Relocation Authority recognizes that it is an emergency war-time agency and that it will, in all likelihood, be liquidated in the foreseeable future. In its task of relocating Japanese Americans, there are at least four clearly defined duties. They are:

1. The securing of jobs for resettlers.
2. The securing of housing information for resettlers.
3. Caring for emergencies which arise due to war displacements.
4. The discovery and cultivation of community goodwill to the end that assistance of public and private agencies and individuals of goodwill should undertake insofar as they find it possible such tasks as in their judgment will facilitate resettlement for the evacuees and provide against social problems which might arise due to such resettlement.

The present organizational plan of the Chicago District Office of the War Relocation Authority is a simplification of procedures. Specialized assignments to several officers, associates and assistants have been discontinued. Each is now advised to keep informed of the over-all program of relocation. Evacuees who come to our office will be interviewed regarding their total problem of relocation and not by several persons about various problems they encountered.

The staff has been divided into two sections. Three of the Relocation Officers spend most of their time in the field, cultivating good relations with other minority groups, meeting representatives of employers and labor, civil organizations, character-building institutions, realty boards, real estate agents, etc. The remainder of the staff has been assigned to work mainly in the office. They will be responsible for interviewing resettlers, corresponding with the centers and contacting staff members of cooperating agencies. The clerical staff has been reorganized to function more smoothly with the above arrangement.

Attached herewith is a list of our staff members together with their telephone extensions.

Att.



CHICAGO DISTRICT OFFICE

TELEPHONE

ANDover 3600

Extensions

G. Raymond Booth, Chief of District Office -----	178
Midori Makimoto, Secretary to Mr. Booth -----	179

Field Staff

Wayland W. Lessing, Chief of Field Staff -----	198
John K. Brenton -----	173
Ben Yoshioka -----	190
Jean Kawamoto, stenographer -----	198

Office Staff

William Kir-Stimon, Chief of Office Staff -----	113
Frank Muench -----	197
Ruth Morris -----	196
Chiyo Izumi -----	188
Clare Yoder	
Nobuko Ishida, Secretary to Mr. Kir-Stimon	

Other Clerical Staff Members

Yoshiko Nakatsu	Rei Kihara
Yasuko Suzawa	Emiko Dotemoto
Helen Suzuki	Shirley Yamaguchi

Receptionist

Mariko Nakaji -----	183
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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

*Indianapolis*

November 20, 1944

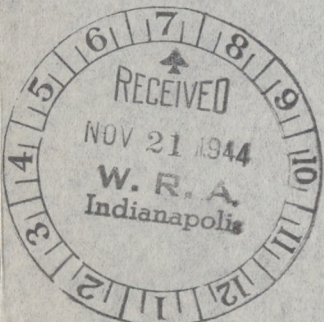
MEMORANDUM TO: All District Offices in the North Central Area  
SUBJECT: News Release

The following teletype was received from Washington on November 18, and I believe it is self-explanatory.

FOLLOWING STORY ON DISTRIBUTION OF RELOCATEES,  
BASED ON NOV. 15 REPORT INDEFINITE LEAVES BY AREA,  
RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION AFTERNOON PAPERS MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 20. NUMBER EVACUEES IN STATE AND LOCALITIES  
YOUR AREA MAY NOT COINCIDE WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE, SINCE  
COMPILATION IS BASED ON THOSE REPORTING ADDRESSES TO  
WASHINGTON. PLEASE AVOID GIVING ESTIMATES TO PAPERS  
OF NATIONAL TOTAL RELOCATED, OR TOTAL POPULATION RE-  
MAINING AT CENTERS. WILL ANSWER WIRE SERVICE AND  
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS' QUERIES ON THESE POINTS HERE  
FOR SAKE OF UNIFORMITY. NATIONAL NEWS OUTLETS HERE  
BEING GIVEN FULL NOVEMBER 15 REPORT BY STATES AND CITIES  
AS ATTACHMENT TO RELEASE.

"WIDER AND MORE EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF JAPANESE  
AMERICAN EVACUEES IN RELATION TO TOTAL POPULATION THROUGH-  
OUT THE UNITED STATES HAS DEVELOPED WITH RELOCATED FAMILIES  
AND INDIVIDUALS NOW REPORTED IN 47 OUT OF THE 48 STATES  
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SAID TODAY.

"ELEVEN STATES HAVE ABSORBED MORE THAN 500 RELOCATED





PERSONS EACH. ILLINOIS WITH 8,035 EVACUEES RESETTLED AMONG ITS 7,897,000 RESIDENTS HEADS THE LIST. CHICAGO HAS 6,593 BUT IN PROPORTION TO THE 4,500,000 RESIDENTS IN ITS METROPOLITAN AREA (1940 CENSUS) HAS A LOWER RATIO OF RELOCATEES THAN SOME SMALLER CITIES LISTED BY WRA.

"THE NUMBER OF RELOCATED PERSONS GIVEN FOR EACH OF THE NEXT 10 STATES, AND THE LOCALITY WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER IN EACH, FOLLOW -- COLORADO, 3,352, DENVER, 1,516; OHIO, 2,599, CLEVELAND, 1,641; UTAH, 2,146, SALT LAKE CITY, 878; MICHIGAN, 2,121, DETROIT, 940; IDAHO, 1,639, CALDWELL, 200; Minnesota, 1,396, MINNEAPOLIS, 876; NEW YORK, 1,239, NEW YORK CITY, 1,051; WASHINGTON, 914, SPOKANE, 602; MISSOURI, 650, ST. LOUIS, 231; NEW JERSEY, 555, BRIDGTON, 443.

"FOUR STATES ARE NEAR THE 500 MARK. OREGON HAS 498, NEBRASKA, 494, WISCONSIN, 477 AND MONTANA, 463.

"THE WRA BASED ITS ANALYSIS UPON A COMPILATION SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF 29,740 CIVILIAN EVACUEES, TWO-THIRDS OF THEM CITIZENS, REPORTING ADDRESSES AS OF NOVEMBER 15 FROM 47 STATES. ALTHOUGH NO EVACUEE REPORTED AN ADDRESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA IT IS KNOWN THERE ARE JAPANESE AMERICANS THERE WHO WERE NOT ON THE WEST COAST AT THE TIME OF EXCLUSION AND THEREFORE WERE NOT SUBJECT TO EVACUATION AND THE RELOCATION PROGRAM.

"DEPARTURES TO RESTRICTED SECTIONS OF ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND WASHINGTON ARE UNDER SPECIAL PERMIT ISSUED BY THE WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND, WRA SAID.





"THE RESETTLERS, SOME IN FAMILY GROUPS AND SOME RELOCATED AS INDIVIDUALS, ARE REPORTED LIVING IN 267 CITIES AND TOWNS SCATTERED OVER THE COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, ISOLATED CASES IN THE 29,740 TOTAL HAVE REPORTED FROM RURAL AND SEMI-RURAL AREAS TOO NUMEROUS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WRA COMPILATION.

"THE 2,146 AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WHO LEFT RELOCATION CENTERS TO ENTER THE ARMY AS VOLUNTEERS AND INDUCTEES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE NOVEMBER 15 REPORT, BECAUSE THEY ARE AT MILITARY CAMPS AND INSTALLATIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, AND ON FIGHTING FRONTS IN FRANCE, ITALY, THE PACIFIC AND BURMA."

SUGGEST YOU IMMEDIATELY ADVISE DISTRICT OFFICES WITH IMPORTANT CONCENTRATIONS OF EVACUEES SO THEY MAY BE PREPARED FOR NEWSPAPER QUERIES.

OTTIS PETERSON WRA WA"

*Prudence Ross by Col. L. L. Luning*

Prudence Ross  
Acting Relocation Supervisor





WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago 6, Illinois

DECEMBER 2, 1944

*Ind.*

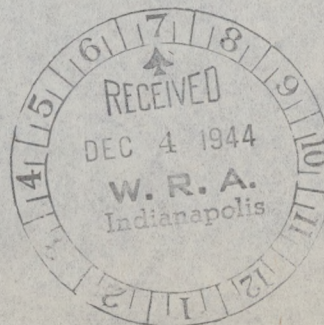
MEMORANDUM TO: All District Offices  
North Central Area

FROM: Prudence Ross  
Acting Relocation Supervisor

I am attaching for your information the full text of a news-release issued by the National Selective Service System, regarding the eligibility of Japanese aliens to volunteer for military service which I believe is self-explanatory.

*PR.*

Attachment





C  
O  
P  
Y

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Subsequently to the decision by the War Department to accept certain Japanese Nationals who volunteer for military service, National headquarters of Selective Service has sent a memorandum to all local boards prescribing procedure requested by the War Department for the forwarding for induction of such registrants as well as of those of Japanese extraction or parentage who are United States citizens, National headquarters of Selective Service announced today.

Primary requirements for induction of Japanese aliens are that they must volunteer and must be found to be acceptable after investigation by the War Department, and must pass the physical examination at an armed forces induction station. The determination of acceptability will be made on the basis of loyalty and other kindred factors.

Decision to accept, under prescribed conditions, certain Japanese aliens now residing in this country who are found qualified for military service was made by the War Department in order to make it possible for those who desire to do so to serve in the American armed forces. In no case will a Japanese alien be inducted into the Army unless he volunteers for service and his desire to volunteer must be evidenced by a request in writing signed by him. This request, together with a personal history of the alien, will be sent to the War Department for a determination of his acceptability.

When a Japanese alien has been found acceptable for service by the War Department and the local board is so notified it may proceed with the classification and forwarding for induction of such alien in a manner substantially the same as that prescribed for other aliens, whose acceptability also must be determined by the War Department.





CONFIRMATION COPY

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 18, 1944

SEND SAME MESSAGE TO THESE OFFICES

FRANCIS O'MALLEY  
ACTING RELOCATION OFFICER  
1510 FIDELITY BUILDING  
KANSAS CITY 6, MISSOURI

RELOCATION OFFICER  
727 PAUL BROWN BUILDING  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

WILLIAM K. HOLLAND  
RELOCATION OFFICER  
CITY NATIONAL BANK BLDG.  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

FRANK E. GIBBS  
RELOCATION OFFICER  
520 LIBERTY BUILDING  
DES MOINES, IOWA

NORWOOD A. DILLMAN  
RELOCATION OFFICER  
634, CIRCLE TOWER BUILDING  
INDIANAPOLIS 4, INDIANA

JOSEPH H. HANSEN, ACTING  
~~RELOCATION OFFICER~~  
~~ROOM 7022, PLANKINTON BUILDING~~  
~~161 W. WISCONSIN AVENUE~~  
~~MILWAUKEE 1, WISCONSIN~~

ELMER B. ISAKSEN  
RELOCATION OFFICER  
ROOM 548, MIDLAND BANK BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINNESOTA

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY PRUDENCE ROSS, ACTING AREA SUPERVISOR,  
NORTH CENTRAL AREA, HAS BEEN MADE TO NEWSPAPERS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL  
AREA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. IT IS SENT TO YOU FOR INFORMATION AND  
POSSIBLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT.

"THE LIFTING OF THE MASS EXCLUSION ORDERS BY THE WESTERN  
DEFENSE COMMAND ON JANUARY 2, 1945 WILL PERMIT PERSONS OF JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY WHO HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY THE WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND TO  
RETURN TO THEIR FORMER HOMES SHOULD THEY CHOSE TO DO SO. BOTH  
PERSONS LIVING IN RELOCATION CENTERS AND THOSE WHO HAVE RELOCATED IN  
OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY MUST MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS AS TO WHERE  
THEY ARE TO LIVE.

(more)



"RESETTLERS LIVING IN ILLINOIS, INDIANA, WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, AND THE EASTERN HALVES OF NEBRASKA, SOUTH DAKOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA, AND THE NORTHERN PENINSULA OF MICHIGAN, THE TERRITORY SERVED BY THE CHICAGO AREA OFFICE AND ITS DISTRICT OFFICES, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WEIGH THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATING ATTITUDES OF PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE WEST AGAINST THE PROPERTY AND HOME TIES WHICH MAY STILL EXIST FOR SOME ON THE WEST COAST.

"NO DISRUPTION OF ESSENTIAL WAR WORK IS ANTICIPATED THROUGH EXODUS OF RESETTLER EMPLOYEES FROM THIS AREA. JAPANESE AMERICANS HOLDING ESSENTIAL JOBS ARE BEING URGED TO TAKE A RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR EMPLOYMENT AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES TO LEAVE WITHOUT SECURING RELEASE FROM THEIR EMPLOYERS.

"ALL RELOCATION CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED WITHIN A MATTER OF MONTHS. SOME CENTER RESIDENTS WILL DECIDE TO MOVE EASTWARD. FAMILIES HAVING WAGE EARNERS ALREADY RELOCATED HERE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THEM IN THE MIDDLE WEST. DISTRICT OFFICES WILL BE KEPT OPEN LONG ENOUGH TO AID THESE FAMILIES TO BECOME INITIALLY ESTABLISHED.

"JAPANESE AMERICANS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO LEFT THE COAST AS VOLUNTARY EVACUEES AS WELL AS FORMER CENTER RESIDENTS CAN SECURE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR REUNITING WITH THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH ANY DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE WRA.

"THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT WHICH THE RELOCATION PROGRAM HAS RECEIVED

(More)



FROM VOLUNTEER ASSISTANTS, COMMITTEES, CHURCHES OF EVERY DENOMINATION AND FROM COOPERATING CIVIC, FARM, AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS AND FROM THE PRESS WILL BE NEEDED URGENTLY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. THEIR HELP HAS BEEN BOTH VALUED AND APPRECIATED BY THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY AND BY THE RESETTLERS.

"IT IS EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT AFTER A FINAL PERIOD OF READJUSTMENT, SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR AMERICANS OF ~~J~~JAPANESE DESCENT WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY. THE HEROISM OF MANY THOUSANDS OF THEIR SONS AND BROTHERS ON BATTLE FRONTS OF THIS WAR ENTITLES THEM TO ACCEPTANCE ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH ALL OTHER AMERICANS."

PRUDENCE ROSS  
ACTING RELOCATION SUPERVISOR



Incl.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard

Chicago 6, Illinois

December 30, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: All District Offices  
North Central Area

FROM: Harold M. Mann  
Acting Relocation Supervisor

On December 27 we submitted to the Washington Office the name of a person requesting transportation to return to the West Coast with a request as to how we should ascertain whether he is excluded from returning there. The reply in part read as follows:

"His certification that he has been named by the Western Defense Command for individual exclusion will be sufficient proof for WRA purposes."

Pending further clarification, we will interpret this as meaning that a certification, in other words, a signed statement by the individual stating that he has not been named by the Western Defense Command for individual exclusion will be considered as meeting the requirements outlined in Section 150.1.7 D(1)(a) of the Manual.

It is suggested that each district office prepare a small number of typed copies of a statement similar to enclosed sample, and that a certification of this type be made a part of the record of each individual for whom transportation to the West Coast is paid.

Enclosure

Rhm.





WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have received no notice from the Western  
Defense Command, or from any other source, excluding me  
from any part of California, Washington, Oregon, or Arizona.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have received no notice from the Western  
Defense Command, or from any other source, excluding me  
from any part of California, Washington, Oregon, or Arizona.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

January 1, 1945

*Prudence*

MEMORANDUM TO: All District Offices  
North Central Area

FROM: Prudence Ross  
Acting Relocation Supervisor

The following information has been received from Washington  
in response to a request made by this office:

"No further indefinite leave cards will be issued  
or leaves processed.

"All Areas on West Coast will be open on January  
3 for evacuees cleared by Army.

"Paragraph 7 of Proclamation 21 refers to orders  
establishing relocation centers as military areas  
and governing rights of ingress and egress. These  
orders not being lifted until January 20 in order to  
allow time for processing of Army's stop lists."

*PR*



Letter from Los Angeles

Feb. 1, 1945

Dear Paul:

Received your card during holiday season with all the good wishes for the season and the new year for which I thank you very much. Was not sure just where you were as so many have gone elsewhere after relocation..... Have had about 500 letter in past two months from my friends all over the nation, most from the centers wanting to know about the general condition here, have met many of my friends here during the past month; Carl Sato (formerly bookkeeper in wholesale market), also a fellow by name of Uyeta, buyer for store at Manzanar, he has returned again, Dr. Murakami and Susuki (former X-ray man at Japanese hospital here), they have gone to Poston but will return, Dr. Murakami will open his office here, the fellow who had the National Stores on N. Main St., can't recall his name now, also came with his son-in-law, Dr. Goto and his family from Heart Mt. they have gone back to Heart Mt. but will return to make permanent residence here, many more have come, Toda came here several times from Poston, he had the City Hall Grill across from City Hall formerly, many have good jobs here, at present the Pasadena homes want gardeners, cooks, domestic, not many white collar jobs have developed as yet but all kinds of help is needed badly, the drawback is housing, the government has built many units in all parts of the county, they have removed 100 colored families to "atts in new government housing and plenty more going up, also at Clawson and Alameda very large number of units are being built and will be ready in April for colored. This is a very busy place, L.A. is now 2 million population. If it is possible to get housing everything is hunky-dory as the Military has full charge of the return of all who desire to come; one broadcast (hill-billy show) on the air for 16 years made some derogatory remarks about Japanese and the very next broadcast he made an about-face and apologized, stating that he had learned from the Military that these people had the same right here as anyone else, I happen to know that he was "told off" by the Military in no uncertain terms; recently a fellow who was manager of Hub store (former Asia Co.,) a knichi, put out circulars for a meeting to be held over the store on 19th of January, well I read the circular and it stated that the colored people should be allowed to stay in the stores and leaned strongly against the Japanese returning, so this bird, while distributing the circulars spied me across the street and yelled to me to wait he wanted to talk to me, so he handed me a circular and I told him I had already looked it over, I told him that he had better be careful as the Military may start proceedings of abatement against his store, put a Military lock on his door, also he may find himself in the hoose-gow so he got somewhat scared and said that we are not against the Japanese I said that the circular did not sound that way, anyhow the meeting was held and the Mayor, Chief of Police, churches, etc. had representatives there and everyone went "down the line" 100% for return of Japanese and even made a resolution of a special welcome to them, even the colored who were there did the same. Was talking to Father Aver, the other day over the phone, invited him to dinner at Yet Quong Low, 229 1/2 E. 1st, he asked me how in the world I have been able to keep my body whole with all the fights and arguments I have had in the past few years, well, during the past 6 months there has been no arguments, the main reason for this is the fact that there has been so much in the papers about the wonderful work done by the Japanese American soldiers



and especially the boys who saved the lost battalion and now since the Military is in charge of the situation these few "eggs" who have been loud against the return of Japanese have to keep their "traps" shut; many of the Japanese who have returned are surprised when they make reservations for hotel rooms when they are cordially treated, most of them have been going to Civil Hotel (SW corner of First and San Pedro formerly Miyako Hotel) also to El Rey Hotel, 6th and San Pedro, this is a 10 story hotel, they always have a few transient rooms. They are also surprised in going about town that they are unnoticed and treated wonderful in theatres and stores, in fact I have purchased many articles for many in the centers and told them just who they were for, mainly to start a conversation and get a real reaction, every one of them were for the return of the Japanese and were of the opinion that it was not right that they be evacuated in the first place, they speak of the rotten fruit and produce and terrible cost of it, I know plenty about that too, half of the stuff coming in to wholesale markets is condemned, poor handling, too much harvested at one time, over half the celery has twice the solution allowed by State law 'to kill bugs'), I have seen hundreds of crates day after day condemned, also all kinds of other produce.

We are now getting a fine rain for past 2 days, first rain in a month. LA broke a 66 year record for no rain in January, it has been the best winter in man years but no good for farmers, now the rain has come and they will be able to get the ground ready for plowing if we do not get too much rain all at once.....

H.A. Bernardo  
Rm 311 - 704 S. Spring St.  
Los Angeles 14, Calif.



March 26, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Norwood A. Dillman, Relocation Officer  
Indianapolis District Office

FROM: Prudence Ross, Acting Relocation Supervisor  
North Central Area

Attached is a breakdown of the field work in the districts together with a number of interview blanks.

Please complete an interview blank for each interview you have with a resettler making plans for relocating his family or relatives. These interview forms should be complete enough so that anyone can understand and use them at a future date. You should spend by far the greatest proportion of your time for the next few weeks making these reports. It is hoped that you will have completed the first report on the resettlers in your district within the next few weeks.

The rating blank is to be completed, showing how you spent your time for the last week and for the next two weeks. Both the rating form and the interview form should be sent in by the end of two weeks.

Attachments





*Post  
Exclusion*

MEMORANDUM TO: Center Residents and WRA Staff

Social agencies throughout the Midwest have been fully informed on the war's dislocation of our Japanese-American population and have already assisted a number of Center residents in resuming normal lives again, according to Miss Prudence Ros Acting Supervisor of the North Central Area. Services of both private and public agencies will be available to Japanese-Americans long after WRA has been liquidated.

Grants from the Resettlement Assistance Fund are not limited to emergency situations nor are they strictly "relief". Grants are made on the basis of need, and a need may be defined as any obstacle to resettlement. A number of employed resettlers have requested grants for their travel expenses to a Relocation Center for the purpose of helping their family or parents leave the Center. Others have requested grants to purchase furniture or to rent larger apartments or houses on having their families join them in a Midwest community. Such financial assistance is not a loan but an outright grant to minimize for the evacuee undue stress and worry over finances in trying to begin life over again in the world outside the Centers.

A young married woman who is expecting her first baby and whose husband is in military service will receive \$500 from the Resettlement Assistance Fund for household furnishings shortly. She will set up housekeeping for her mother, now in a Relocation Center, and a married friend, also expecting a baby, who will join her soon from another Midwest city. The welfare workers were glad to assist this young woman in making a budget of her household needs.

Until recently most of the Assistance grants to resettlers in the Midwest have paid for medical services--dental, eye and internal surgery--and hospital bills and daily living expenses for persons having long-term illnesses such as tuberculosis or infantile paralysis. In the case of several older Issei who suddenly had a stroke and died, Assistance grants paid for their hospitalization and funerals.

An evacuee arrived in Chicago with his wife and three children during a cold winter spell. As the family had been living in a Relocation Center on the hot Arizona desert, the wife and children needed warm clothing. A family service bureau gave them money to purchase warmer clothes, fuel for their dwelling, and additional funds for incidental living expenses until the evacuee received his first salary check.

Future issues of the Field Bulletin from the North Central Area will include the names and addresses of social agencies which have assisted resettlers either financially or in family planning. The names of the resettlers will be withheld.



202 City Natl. Bank Bldg.  
Omaha 2, Nebraska

*W. K. Holland*  
April 14, 1945

MEMORANDUM

To: All Project Directors

From: W. K. Holland  
Relocation Officer

Many of the Centers send to us telegrams, checks, and various other material pertaining to the relocation of persons in that part of Nebraska which is not included in the territory under the jurisdiction of the Omaha District Office.

You are advised that the Omaha District Office has supervision over the eastern half of South Dakota, or all that portion east of the Missouri River, and the eastern half of Nebraska, or all that portion of the state east of the border line counties of Cherry, Thomas, Logan, Frontier, and Red Willow.

The western half of the two states of South Dakota and Nebraska is under the jurisdiction of the Denver District Office, and all material pertaining to resettlement in that territory should be forwarded to Mr. James H. Curtis, Relocation Officer, Midland Savings Building, Denver 2, Colorado.

Please call this to the attention of all of your staff members so that we may avoid confusion in the transmittal of telegrams, checks, etc.

/s/ W. K. Holland  
Relocation Officer



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Pacton, Arizona

April 19, 1945

MEMO TO: Mr. Hellenbeck - Unit I  
Mr. Wells - Unit II  
Miss Corrigan - Unit III

SUBJECT: Santa Rosa and San Jose District Offices

The following offices are to be added to your list  
of district offices now open in California:

SANTA ROSA

Oliver R. Dibbles  
Relocation Officer  
509 Rosenberg Bldg.  
4th and Mendocino  
Santa Rosa, California

SAN JOSE

O. B. Wilt  
Relocation Officer  
307 Burrell Bldg.  
240 W. First Street  
San Jose, California

Dorothy Stevick  
Assistant Relocation Program Officer

DE:ams

cc: H. Yagi  
Mr. Carter  
Leave Office



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

April 17, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All WRA Offices  
Relocation Centers

Recently there have been several staff changes in the North Central Area. Elmer B. Isaksen, who was Relocation Officer in Minneapolis, has resigned from the staff of the War Relocation Authority. Milton C. Gauthier, Relocation Officer in charge of the Greater Illinois District Office, has been transferred to the War Production Board. William K. Holland, who has been in charge of the Omaha, Nebraska, relocation office, has been transferred to Tule Lake Relocation Center. Pending assignment of new relocation officers to these three offices, mail should be addressed to them as follows:

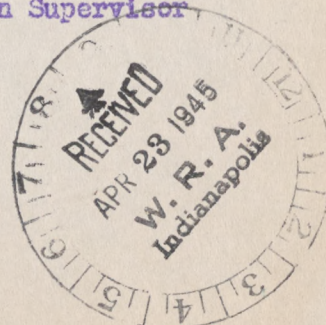
William Kir-Stimon  
Acting Relocation Officer  
Greater Illinois District Office  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

S. Allen Aldrich  
Acting Relocation Officer  
548 Midland Bank Building  
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

Mrs. Frances H. Hotz  
Acting Relocation Officer  
City National Bank Building  
Omaha 2, Nebraska

*Harold M. Mann*

*for* Prudence Ross  
Acting Relocation Supervisor





7702

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

April 18, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All District Offices  
North Central Area

SUBJECT: Housing Resources

The problem of housing large numbers of family groups within the very few months in which it appears that resettlement will largely be effected is the major problem in the various districts of the North Central Area. In this memorandum we will attempt to suggest ways to make use of every possible resource for meeting this problem. We will not attempt to lay out a hard and fast program to be followed by each district office since methods will have to be varied from one community to another, but rather we will suggest ways and means which may be effective in most, if not all, communities. Possible resources are given in the outline below with some supplementation of the outlined items in the second section.

I. Housing Outline

A. Housing Types Available

1. Rental

- a. Apartments or houses privately owned. (Substandard more likely to be available.)
- b. Apartments or houses publicly owned or operated.
- c. Stores and offices. (Where local ordinances permit their use for dwellings. Check with OPA rent control or city building commissioner.)
- d. Trailers (Public and private trailer rentals.)
- e. Houses held vacant for sale may be converted into rental by discussing WRA housing problem with owners.

2. Purchase

- a. Individual homes.
- b. Rental income property (including rooming houses and hotels as well as multi-apartment buildings).



3. In connection with employment.

- a. Domestic jobs. (Wife domestic, husband share room, work elsewhere, etc.)
- b. Clubs, institutional jobs.
- c. Housing which can be arranged in connection with operation of own small business. (In same building.)
- d. Housing provided by industrial or commercial employers in order to attract and hold their employees.

4. Temporary Housing

- a. Hostels
- b. YMCA, YWCA (In Chicago YMCA offers housing for unattached men and women, and families.)
- c. Hotels
- d. In homes of concerned individuals.

B. Cooperating Groups and Individuals

1. Individual resettlers planning family reunion.
2. Real estate associations and individual companies.
3. Housing sub-committee of resettlement committee.
4. Housing sub-committee of resettlers organizations.
5. National Housing Agency.
6. Federal Public Housing Authority.
7. Local housing authorities (such as Milwaukee Housing Authority and Chicago Housing Authority.)
8. War housing centers. (Federal or local.)
9. Other rooming and housing registries, public or private. (YMCAs and YWCAs frequently have room registries.)
10. Commercial and service organizations (Chambers of Commerce, Kiwanis, Rotary, Optimist, etc.)
11. USO (for families of servicemen).



C. Specific Methods of Locating Vacancies \*

1. Establishment or utilization of a central registry to which all interested organizations and individuals can refer housing information and to which applicants for housing can apply.
2. Employment of a part-time or full-time worker by the centrally responsible organization to operate or work in the central registry. (In some communities, Community Chest funds have been made available for this purpose.)
3. Answering "for rent" advertisements in newspapers by direct mail, telephone calls, or in person. (Amplified in Section II.)
4. Canvassing of real estate companies, apartment house managers, and owners of large blocks of rental properties by direct mail, telephone or personal contact.
5. Securing the cooperation of every interested local person, including especially resettlers in making known to the central registry every possible lead for housing.
6. Interesting individual churches in assuming responsibility for housing one or more families as a project of the whole church or one of its organizations.
7. Advertising directly by cooperating organizations or by the WRA itself in local newspapers through want advertisements. (Prior approval must be secured before district offices insert want advertisements at government expense. This device will presumably be used only in exceptional circumstances.)
8. Canvassing church institutions to obtain employment with housing.
9. Interesting large employers in providing housing for prospective employees. There have been instances where employers have purchased or built houses in order to attract additional workers. Some companies are willing to go to great lengths to provide living accommodations.

II. General Housing Information

A. Public Housing

There are several Federal agencies which may be of help in

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\* Responsibility for the actual finding of housing should be delegated to other agencies insofar as is possible. Only as a last resort should the district office assume this responsibility directly. In all instances, the district would work very closely with the agency taking responsibility.



meeting the housing needs of resettlers. The National Housing Agency (NHA) is the agency which coordinates and establishes policies for its three main subsidiary agencies, the Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA), the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), and the Federal Home Loan Bank Administration.

The Homes Use Division of the Office of the Administrator, NHA, operates War Housing Centers which are partially financed with Federal funds in some communities. It also advises on the operation of locally-financed Homes Registration Offices in some other communities. These centers serve as a central point in the communities where vacancies in existing housing may be registered and where war workers may be referred to such vacancies.

The Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA) constructs and manages either directly or through a local housing authority, all housing built with Federal funds and known as "public housing." Memoranda are being sent separately to each district in which vacancies are known to exist in public housing projects.

Through the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) the government leased certain structures from private owners for a period of seven years, and converted these for multi-family dwelling purposes. This is generally known as Federally-financed conversion. No more new leases are being executed and no new Federally-financed conversion is being undertaken. The management of the converted dwellings has been assigned to the Federal Public Housing Authority. The FPHA generally designates a local real estate broker in the community to handle the management of the property, including the renting of vacancies resulting from turnover, collective rents, and otherwise taking care of the government's interests. A list of brokers is being sent to each district in which the FPHA has made such designation.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) insures loans for the construction and purchase of single-family and multi-family dwellings. Some FHA-insured houses are for sale, others are for rent. This is privately-financed housing.

Relocation officers should explore all of the public and private housing resources in the community. The best sources of information locally are the local housing authority, the War Housing Center, the local office of the FHA, the real estate board, and the local home builders association. Not all of these agencies exist in every community, of course.

The Chicago regional office of the National Housing Agency has agreed to give us, upon request, complete information about housing resources and agencies in any locality in this area. Relocation officers should forward all such requests for information to the Area office, and we will undertake to obtain for you the information desired from the National Housing Agency.



B. Home Purchases

It is not generally our policy either to advise a person to meet his housing needs by purchase or to advise against such a plan. We have been advised by Federal Housing officials that real estate prices range from 20 to 45 percent higher than before the war. Average down payments are high, averaging about one-third of the sales price. Based on prewar evaluations, the large down payment is frequently simply a payment for immediate occupancy and is in the estimation of some real estate men to be regarded as a net loss should real estate values return to normal. In Chicago homes in the \$5,000 to \$7,500 class have shown a price increase between 1941 and 1945 of 44 percent. Loans are not normally available today at reasonable rates of interest to cover more than 50 percent of the inflated selling price on most homes. This factual information may be given to resettlers contemplating purchase. Prospective purchasers may secure some estimate of the real value of the piece of property which they are about to purchase by requesting a Federal Housing Authority appraisal for loan purposes. From the report made by the Federal Housing Administration as to the amount they would be willing to loan, some reasonable estimate of the real value of a property may be obtained.

C. Specific Methods of Locating Vacancies

If the mail is to be used extensively for locating vacancies, care should be taken by setting up files and listings and re-checking them as each letter is sent out about a vacancy so that not more than one letter is sent in response to a certain advertisement on vacancy. Also when the vacancy is filled by a resettler, another listing should be kept to be used in case of another vacancy.

It may be well to word the letters so that the receiver does not have an opportunity to say "no" and through experience in some of the district offices, it has been found better to give a telephone number rather than asking for a return of an enclosed card or letter. Personal conversation sometimes results in success where the return of a card will fail.

In using the direct mail plan, it will first be necessary to establish a listing of people that may be interested in accepting Americans of Japanese descent. This can be done by a telephone book, but experience shows that it is much more satisfactory to follow the newspapers and write to those people who are advertising. After one or more real estate men become interested in the housing of Americans of Japanese descent, it is advantageous to go over the complete program with them and ask permission to use their names as references in finding housing through other real estate men.



B. Home Possessions

District offices may be interested in attempting to get housing by the direct mail method to church organizations. In the case of the Catholic Church, the Bishop or Archbishop should be interviewed prior to this effort and if he will give his permission your letter would have more weight if it carries a statement of approval by a representative of the Church. This plan is being used effectively in the Chicago district.

*Prudence Ross*

Prudence Ross  
Acting Relocation Supervisor

C. Specific Methods of Locating Vacancies

If the mail is to be used exclusively for locating vacancies, care should be taken by setting up files and listings and to check them as each letter is sent out about a vacancy so that not more than one letter is sent in response to a certain advertisement at one vacancy. Also when the vacancy is filled by a resident, another listing should be kept to be used in case of another vacancy.

It may be well to word the letters so that the recipient does not have an opportunity to say "no" and through experience in some of the district offices, it has been found better to give a telephone number rather than asking for a return of an enclosed card or letter. Personal contact with the person in whose home the return of a card will call.

In using the direct mail plan, it will first be necessary to establish a listing of people that may be interested in accepting Americans of Japanese descent. This can be done by a telephone book, but experience shows that it is much more satisfactory to follow the newspapers and write to those people who are advertising. After one or more real estate men become interested in the housing of Americans of Japanese descent, it is advantageous to go over the complete program with them and ask permission to use their names as references in finding housing through their real estate men.



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

May 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors  
Relocation Offices

ATTENTION: Reports Officer

Supplementing our news release of April 14, 1945, in regard to the Shelton, Nebraska, incident, the two letters which are attached may be of interest and may be used in the project newspapers if desired.

The letter from Hi Korematsu indicates the adjustment which the individual resettlers who were involved in the Shelton incident have been able to make, and the letter from Mr. Joseph T. Votava, United States Attorney at Omaha, indicates the effective cooperation which the War Relocation Authority and the resettlers received from another branch of the United States Government. Mr. Votava's letter was sent by him to many of the signers of the petition which was being passed in the Shelton area, asking that the resettlers leave their employment on the Lippincott farm there.

*Harold M. Mann*

Harold M. Mann  
Acting Relocation Supervisor

Attachments



COPY

c/o Noel Cover  
April 13, 1945  
Cozad, Nebraska

Mr. W. K. Holland  
202 City National Bank Bldg.  
Omaha 2, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Holland:

We are now located in Cozad, Nebraska. We are working for Mr. Noel Cover, and we are finding the community of Cozad very friendly and we feel quite at home.

We did regret leaving Shelton because we had put in so much of our time and effort in farming; however, since the things became too unpleasant for us, we were glad to leave because it was no use for us to stay where we could not see any future in it.

We certainly want to thank you and Mr. Parmeter for all the support and assistance that you have given us in the recent incident.

We hope that whenever you have time we hope that you will be able to visit us in Cozad, Nebraska.

Mr. Norman Tanabe and Mr. I. Uyemori have already found a house for themselves and their family. Mr. Uyemori will call his family about the first of May. Pete Omachi will stay until his children finish this school semester and he will come here after that. We are quite happy to be in Cozad because we see a better future here than where we were before.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Hi Korematsu



COPY

Omaha, Nebraska  
April 4, 1945

Dear Sir:

Re: Possible Violation of Sections 51 and 52,  
Title 18, United States Code

It was brought to my attention that there appears to be a possible violation of the aforesaid two sections by certain persons in the Shelton-Gibson community. For your convenience and information, permit me to say that Section 51, Title 18, United States Code, reads as follows:

"If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same, or if two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured, they shall be fined not more than \$5,000 and imprisoned not more than ten years, and shall, moreover, be thereafter ineligible to any office, or place of honor, profit, or trust created by the Constitution or laws of the United States."

Section 52, Title 18, U. S. Code, reads as follows:

"Whoever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, wilfully subjects, or causes to be subjected, any inhabitant of any State, Territory, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States, or to different punishments, pains or penalties, on account of such inhabitant being an alien, or by reason of his color, or race than are prescribed for the punishment of citizens, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

As very often happens, upon investigation it turns out that the facts are somewhat different than the complaint. For that reason, I am writing you and several others, requesting that you tell me, if you will, what you know about this difficulty, if there is any.

The substance of the complaint is that there has been organized a committee in which some public officials participated, the objective of the concerted action being to compel the removal of certain citizens and also one or two Japanese citizens, all of whom are of Japanese ancestry, who were hired to operate the Lippincott farm.



The reason I am writing to you is that it was brought to my attention that you probably know considerable about this matter, especially pertaining to a certain called meeting, a petition that was prepared at the meeting, and certain representations that were made to the employers of these people and to these people of Japanese ancestry personally.

I want to make it plain that I am merely wishing information. I have not reached any opinion as to whether or not there has been any violation of the law. As a matter of fact, I do not have any evidence on which to base an opinion at this time. If you care to give me a statement as to what you know about this matter, it will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Joseph T. Votava  
United States Attorney



# TRAVELERS AID

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

May 25, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors

FROM: Prudence Ross  
Acting Relocation Supervisor  
North Central Area

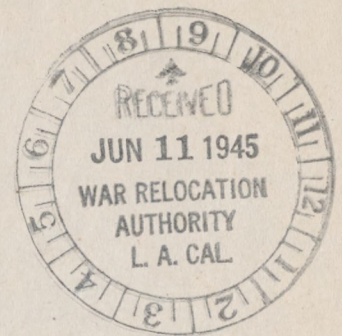
The Travelers Aid of Chicago has been most helpful to resettlers arriving in Chicago or passing through during the entire relocation program. In order to make efficient service possible, certain minimum information is required when the Travelers Aid or the Chicago District Office is requested to meet an evacuee, such as the exact arrival time, name or number of train, railroad and station in which the train is arriving, age of individual and a description of clothing. There are seven major railroad stations in Chicago and unless specific information is given, it is impossible to meet the train. There have been several instances lately where the information given by the project prior to the arrival of the individual has been so inaccurate or inadequate that it has not been possible for the War Relocation Authority or the Travelers Aid to locate the traveler.

If the traveler is ill and needs to be met with a wheel-chair or a stretcher, the nature of illness and physical condition of the individual should be given, also the space number he is occupying. We will appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

Prudence Ross



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois



June 1, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors

ATTENTION: Relocation Program Officer

The supplementary Field Bulletin, describing additions to and deletions from the North Central Area's complete Field Bulletin of May 15, is attached.

The Chicago, Omaha, Milwaukee, St. Louis and Indianapolis Districts report no change since their Field Bulletin of May 15.

*Prudence Ross*

Prudence Ross  
Relocation Supervisor

Attachments



MINNESOTA AND EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA - Evelyn M. Carroll  
Acting Relocation Officer  
548 Midland Bank Building  
Minneapolis 1, Minnesota

FIELD BULLETIN DESCRIBING RELOCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN MINNESOTA AND EASTERN  
NORTH DAKOTA AS OF JUNE 1, 1945.

Additions to Employment Summary and Job Offer Digest of May 15, 1945.

Male

ASS'T SHIPPING CLERK

Prefer man under 40 years of age; no experience necessary; 5½ day week; 1½ over 40 hours; \$125 to \$135 per month.

COOK

Must be experienced dinner or fry cook; cafe seats 75 to 80 people; \$40 per week; cafe has sleeping room for single man.

GARDENER

Must be experienced; on private estate 10 miles from city limits; \$125 per month.

GREASER

Lubrication man for Minneapolis garage; Issei or Nisei; \$32.50 per week; 48 hour week.

MACHINE OPERATOR

Automotive service industry; no experience necessary; 55¢ to 60¢ an hour; 51½ hour week; 1½ over 40 hours.

MACHINE OPERATORS

5 Issei or Nisei wanted; Minneapolis paper company; 60¢ an hour to start; 64¢ after 30 days; 67¢ in 90 days; 56 hour week; 1½ over 40 hours.

PRESSERS

4 wanted; must be experienced; hand and machine presser on silks, woolens, etc; 64-3/4¢ to 90¢ an hour.

WRAPPER AND PACKER

2 wanted; Minneapolis garment factory; no experience necessary; 75¢ an hour; 48 hour week; 1½ over 40 hours.

Male or Female

GENERAL FACTORY WORKERS

25 to 30 wanted; Issei or Nisei; packers, assemblers, and machine operators for toy factory; no experience necessary; industry will train; starting wage for women, 60¢ an hour; 65¢ to 75¢ for men; 5½ day week; 1½ over 40 hours.

SILK SCREEN PROCESS WORKERS

4 wanted; 60¢ an hour while training; raised as ability is proven; after training, will average 82¢ an hour; 40-hour week.



Female

ARTISTS

2 wanted; hand painting on souvenirs for Minneapolis concern; experience desirable but not essential; 50¢ an hour while training; should average approximately \$30 a week to start; after 5 to 5 weeks' training; earnings on piece work should average \$40 to \$45 per week; post war future.

COOK

Must be experienced dinner or fry cook; \$40 per week.

DOMESTIC

Single girl preferred; general housework; must be experienced cook; starting wage approximately \$90 to \$100 per month; private room and bath; St. Paul location.

HAND SOWERS

Garment factory manufacturing dresses and suits; 50¢ an hour to start, higher wage if experienced; 44 hour week; 1½ over 40 hours.

MACHINE OPERATORS

5 wanted in a paper manufacturing plant; 48 hour week; 1½ over 40 hours; 48¢ an hour while training.

PRESSERS

1 wanted; St. Paul dry cleaning establishment; must be experienced hand and machine presser on silks, woolens, etc.; employer willing to pay up to 90¢ an hour depending upon experience; 40 hour week.

Same description as above; 75¢ an hour.

STENOGRAPHER

Minneapolis automotive parts store; light stenographic work; typing and general office work; will train to operate small switchboard; starting wage \$100 per month; 44 hour week.



GREATER ILLINOIS DISTRICT - William Kir-Stimon, Relocation Officer  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

FIELD BULLETIN DESCRIBING RELOCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GREATER ILLINOIS DISTRICT  
AS OF JUNE 1, 1945.

EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY AND JOB OFFER DIGEST

Additions to May 15 issue:

Men

CARPENTER

Repair and maintenance; approximately \$1 hr.  
Peoria, Illinois.

DRAFTSMAN & ELECTRICIAN

Refrigerator Manufacturing Company, Morrison, Ill.  
Depends on experience.

FACTORY WORKER

Rockford. Work on automobile parts. 70¢ hour, 53 hr  
week. Overtime.

LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Kankakee hospital. \$175 per month.

Rockford. Salary open. To supervise large staff  
of assistants.

MAINTENANCE MAN

For downtown office building in Freeport. \$115 per  
month to start. Employer has unfurnished apart-  
ment over store available at \$25 per month.

Women

CLERICAL

Clerks, stenographers, comptometer operator. \$70 -  
\$120 per month. Morrison, Illinois.

Couples

COUPLES

With children. Several opportunities in Springfield  
for general maintenance, kitchen work, and house-  
keeping.

COOK

Couple to take charge of dining room at country  
club in Freeport. Open quarters available.

Delete these offers from May 15th issue:

MAINTENANCE MEN

One. \$30 per month plus room and board. Freeport, Ill

Three. 50¢ per hour. Peoria, Illinois.

HOUSING

Housing for four to six family units is now available in Peoria. Those  
interested should inquire immediately.



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

IOWA DISTRICT OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA - Mildred R. Nevenen  
Acting Relocation Officer  
526 Liberty Building  
Des Moines 9, Iowa

Field Bulletin Describing Relocation Opportunities in the Iowa District  
As of June 1, 1945.

I. EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY AND JOB OFFER DIGEST

Add these offers to May 15th Issue:

MEN or WOMEN

PHARMACIST

\$45 to \$50 per week for approximately 50 hours' work. Work in retail drug store. One Nisei employed in shop for past year.

COUPLES and FAMILIES

FARM COUPLE

Work on poultry farm near Des Moines.  
No farm work, just care for flock. Woman would gather eggs and grade them. \$135 per month plus housing, etc.

II. HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

See Field Bulletin of May 15th.



WESTERN HALF OF MISSOURI AND ENTIRE STATE OF KANSAS - Francis P. O'Malley  
Relocation Officer  
1510 Fidelity Building  
Kansas City 6, Missouri

Field Bulletin Describing Relocation Opportunities in Kansas and Western Portion  
of Missouri, As of June 1, 1945.

I. EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY AND JOB OFFER DIGEST

Add the following to the May 15th issue:

For Couples

COOK & COOK'S HELPER

Couple to work in kitchen of exclusive Country Club in Atchison, Kansas, as cook and cook's helper. 6 days per week. \$150 per mo. plus meals and furnished 2 room cottage.

DOMESTIC WORK

\$150 per month, room and board, for man and wife to work in home of family in Atchison, Kansas. Duties will be yard work and general housework.

There are a great many domestic offers in our files and this office would be happy to hear from anyone interested in this type of work.

\*\*\*\*\*



*Balderston*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

July 11, 1945

Mr. Duncan Mills  
Project Director  
Colorado River Relocation Center  
Preston, Arizona

Dear Sir;

We would like to advise that we always have a number of part-time domestic offers for students or working girls where they can earn room, board, and usually \$5.00 a week in cash.

The following are schools of dress designing and sewing where Nisei girls have been enrolled:

American Academy of Art and Dress Design  
25 East Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.

The School of Art Institute of Chicago  
Michigan Avenue & Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

Master College  
400 South State St., Chicago, Ill.

Vogue School  
116 South Michigan, Chicago, Ill.

Instruction in dress designing is largely on an individual basis, with day, evening, and part-time classes. The length of time required to complete the course depends on the individual student and the degree of proficiency she wishes to obtain. One school estimates the required time is from 8 to 16 weeks for the day course and from 5 to 10 months for the evening course. The day course requires about 5 hours daily. Rates for full time courses vary between \$30 and \$52.50 for a period of 4 weeks. Tuition rates for evening and part-time classes are proportionately lower. Usually the student can begin her course at any time provided there is a vacancy, though application should be made at least a week in advance. We do not know of any



Mr. Mills

- 2 -

July 11, 1945

scholarship or financial aid available for such classes.

We would like to point out the fact that in the past, some students of dress designing have found it necessary to take employment in ordinary dressmaking since the dress designing field is not always easy to enter.

If we can be of any further assistance in helping Miss -- to complete her relocation plan, please do not hesitate to write.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth E. Beck /s/  
for W. W. Lessing  
Relocation Officer



*Graham*

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY - 16  
226 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO 6, ILLINOIS

22.400.

JULY 21, 1945

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO ALL PROJECTS AND WASHINGTON:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD HIROSHI TANIZAKI WHOSE PARENTS  
ARE STILL AT POSTON WAS KILLED JULY TWENTIETH WHEN HE FELL DOWN SHAFT  
OF FREIGHT ELEVATOR AT CONTINENTAL PLASTICS, 314 WEST ERIE, CHICAGO, WHERE  
HE WAS EMPLOYED AS HANDYMAN. CORONER'S JURY GAVE VERDICT OF ACCIDENTAL  
DEATH. FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE AT POSTON.

PRUDENCE ROSS  
RELOCATION SUPERVISOR

82086.







*Balderston*

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

July 27, 1945

Mr. Duncan Mills  
Project Director  
Colorado River Relocation Center  
Preston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Mills:

We have been advised by Mr. Yoshitaka Takagi of 4960 Blackstone Avenue, Chicago 15, Illinois that a Japanese language newspaper is to be started in this city in a matter of two or three weeks. He has asked us to contact each center in an attempt to locate a type-setter who is familiar with Japanese characters. The maximum weekly pay for 48 hours' work will be \$40 and either male or female will be satisfactory.

Anyone interested in the position should write directly to Mr. Takagi giving their qualifications and asking for more details if necessary.

Very truly yours,

W. W. Lessing: /s/  
Relocation Officer



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

July 28, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors

FROM: Prudence Ross  
Relocation Supervisor

During the past week, two new laws became effective in the State Illinois which will favorably affect the security of resettlers in need of long term welfare assistance. The first of these affects the eligibility for Old Age Assistance, which was previously available only to citizens who had lived in the State five out of the last nine years. Under the revised law, citizens and aliens who have lived in the United States continuously for twenty-five years are eligible provided that they have lived in the State for one year, are over 65 years old and are in need. The new law also increased maximum assistance to recipients of Old Age Assistance to \$45 per month per person. Many Issei now living in Chicago will be immediately eligible for this type of assistance and many newcomers will be eligible after living here for one year.

The second law reduces the period of residence required before either a citizen or an alien who is in need can be given general relief assistance from local welfare funds from three years to one year. This type of assistance will be available to younger resettlers as well as to those comparatively few aliens who are 65 years old or over but who have lived in the United States for less than 25 years.

BY: Harold M. Mann  
Asst. Relocation Supervisor



Offer No. 8837

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
234 Atlas Building  
Salt Lake City 1, Utah

July 27, 1945

Mr. C. R. Carter  
Relocation Program Officer  
Colorado River Relocation Project  
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Carter:

During my recent visit to Ogden I inquired regarding the employment opportunities with the Utah-Idaho Central Railroad.

The Utah-Idaho Central Railroad is in need of ten employees at Mendon, Utah just outside of Logan, fifteen at Brigham City and fifteen at Ogden. No accommodations are available for families. An outfit car is available at Mendon for single individuals. The company furnishes utensils and bunks. Employees furnish bedding and ration stamps for food. The company hires a cook. Room and Board is \$1.00 per day. Wages are as follows: Eight hours per day at \$.64 per hour plus two additional hours at time and one-half. Time and one-half is given for work on Sundays and holidays. At the present time men are working every other Sunday.

I talked with Mr. R. L. McCraley, Maintenance of Way Engineer regarding the possibility of securing family housing. He intends to investigate possibilities of obtaining trailers to accommodate families, and will inform us if this is possible. We will in turn send any additional information to you.

Very truly yours,

LeGrand J. Dunkley  
District Relocation Officer



226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

July 31, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All District Relocation Officers  
North Central Area

SUBJECT: Feature Story on Relocation

The enclosed story from the St. Louis Post Dispatch is illustrative of the kind of feature article you might interest local editors in having written between now and December 1. The story, which was stimulated through the efforts of our St. Louis Officer, Miss Mary Elizabeth Brooks, is excellent except for one sentence — the statement that a person leaving a relocation center, after having been cleared by FBI, is free to go anywhere he chooses except back to the evacuated area is, of course, absolutely wrong. One should be most careful to state only known facts when being interviewed by the news reporter. If facts are not clear in the relocation officer's mind, he should tell the reporter he will get the facts for her. Of course, the reporter in this instance probably misinterpreted a statement made in the interview by Miss Brooks. Two slight errors occur in the statistics: (1) 112,000 persons of Japanese descent were evacuated from coastal areas of California, Oregon, and Washington rather than 120,000. Approximately 110,000 Japanese Americans found temporary living quarters in Relocation Centers — a number of Issei and Nisei having voluntarily moved eastward out of the military zone established by Western Defense Command prior to the construction of Relocation Centers. (2) Although the Monthly Reports from Washington state the number of terminal departures from the Centers to cities and states throughout the United States, we know that these figures are not accurate as to the present Japanese population in various cities and states. Thus, we use the figure approximately 10,000 Japanese Americans living in Chicago rather than 14,000.

If the District Officer is successful in interesting a local paper on doing a feature story on relocation in his district, this will serve as an excellent media to stimulate relocation in the Centers.

Prudence Ross, Area Supervisor

By 

Harold M. Mann  
Assistant Area Supervisor

Enclosure



# They Find St. Louis Hospitable

Japanese-Americans, Relocated Here, Happy Over Lack of Hate and Suspicion

By Dick Terry

HE was a small, frightened middle-aged Japanese who had lived more than 35 years in California, but had spent the past three years in a relocation camp in Arkansas.

He reported to the War Relocation Authority in the Paul Brown building here and Miss Mary E. Brooks, head of the office, set out to find him a job—one of the first steps in getting a Japanese relocated.

He had been a gardener, so she took him to the homes of several St. Louisans who had openings for gardeners, and before the day was over he had been employed by one of them for \$100 a month, with room and board thrown in.

He was happy about the job, but there was something else that made him even happier. "Those people," he said to Miss Brooks in a tone of surprise and relief, "they were all nice to me."

The little gardener's reaction to the kind treatment he received from people whom he thought would look upon him with hate and suspicion was not exceptional. On the contrary, it reflected the fears and apprehensions which beset all the Japanese when they leave the relocation centers to go out and find new lives in strange communities.

There were 120,000 persons of Japanese birth or derivation in the relocation centers. Two thirds of them were citizens. These people, except for a mere handful who have maintained their loyalty to Japan, are now in the process of being relocated. So far all but 55,000 of them have been released and relocated. All will have been relocated by Dec. 31 of this year, when funds appropriated by Congress for the relocation centers run out.

Of this number, 435 have settled in St. Louis. Before the year is over there will be considerably more, because they have been arriving at the rate of about 25 a month. This isn't high, compared to Chicago, which has received 14,000 of them, or Cleveland, which has taken in 2500. But it is high compared to pre-war days, when there were exactly 14 Japanese living in St. Louis.

This brings up the question of how the relocation in St. Louis is working out. The 435 Japanese have been absorbed into the community with hardly a ripple on the surface. There have been signs of prejudice, but they have been quickly overcome, thanks to the efforts of Miss Brooks, who is not only a diplomat, but who looks after her charges like a shepherd looking after stray lambs.

★ ★ ★  
WHEN a person leaves the relocation center, after he has been cleared by the FBI, he is allowed to choose where he wants to go, except that he may not go back to the area from which he was evacuated. If he selects St. Louis, the center notifies Miss Brooks that he is coming. He is given his railroad fare and \$25, provided he has less than \$100 of his own. If he has \$100 or more, he receives only his railroad fare.

He reports to Miss Brooks, who sets out first to find him a place to live, and then to find him a job. Until living quarters are found he will be housed in the Y.M.C.A. (or the Y.W.C.A., as the case may be). Several individuals, who have been interested in the relocation work, take them into the homes until they find permanent quarters.

There has been a surprising lack of prejudice on the part of St. Louisans, Miss Brooks reports, and only in two cases has she run into outright objection. Usually, when she finds a vacant apartment, she goes first to the neighbors, has a chat with them, and leaves them convinced, as she is, that the new tenants will be not only good tenants, but also good neighbors. "They are clean, considerate, and they mind their own business," she points out.

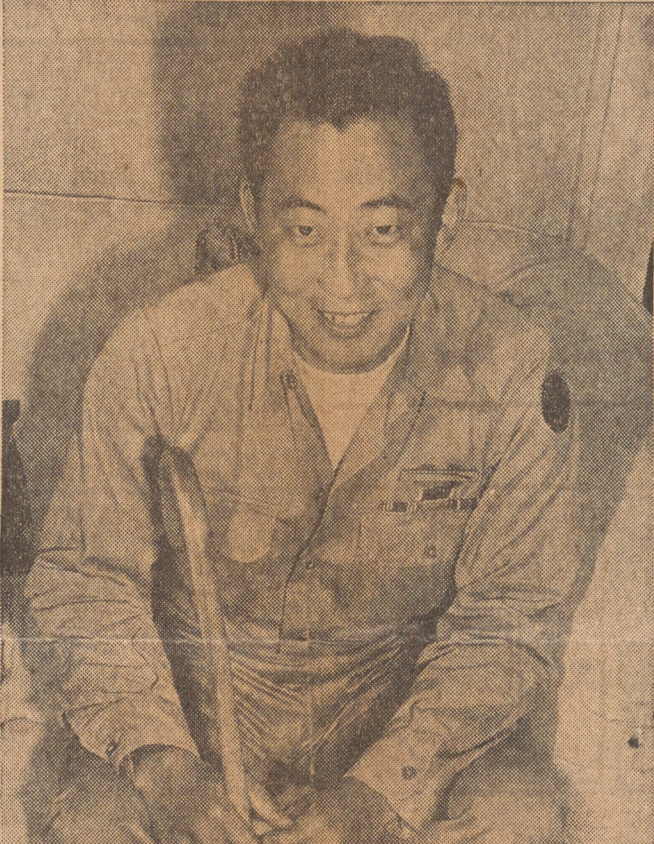
In one case a Japanese-American physician purchased a home in St. Louis county. When the



W. MARI, EMPLOYED AS A GARDENER, EXAMINING FLOWERS WITH MISS MARY E. BROOKS, HEAD OF THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY HERE. MARI'S HOME WAS AT SACRAMENTO.



ABOVE, FOUR AMERICANS OF JAPANESE EXTRACTION AT THE DENTAL SCHOOL OF ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY. THEY ARE, FROM THE LEFT, HIDE DAKUZAKU, FORMERLY OF OAKLAND, CALIF., KENETH CHIKAMOTO AND JOHN FUZIWA, WHO WERE IN HONOLULU AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, AND GEORGE SAKAI OF SAN FRANCISCO. AT LEFT, LOIS KITAZUMI, OF SACRAMENTO, CALIF., IN TRAINING AT DEACONESS HOSPITAL.



TED HATA, PICTURED WHILE VISITING HIS SISTER HERE. HE WAS WOUNDED BY SHELL FRAGMENTS IN ITALY.

neighbors learned of it they objected strenuously. Miss Brooks herself did some missionary work among them, but for once she failed. So she took her problem to a couple of ministers in the community. They paid some calls in the neighborhood, gave the neighbors some talks on the subject of racial tolerance, and the doctor was not only accepted, but has become a popular member of the community.

When the relocated person has found a place to live, the next step is a job. In some cases this presents no difficulties, because many types of workers are in demand. Gardeners and cooks, for instance, usually have jobs waiting for them. If there is no job available, they are taken to the United States Employment Service, which as yet hasn't failed to place one of these applicants.

While they encounter some prejudice, the employment service reveals, their chief difficulty is not the prejudice, but the extreme modesty peculiar to Japanese-Americans. They can always do more, and do it better, than they say they can. They have a tendency to play down their own abilities. There was the case of a Japanese-American who had studied radio repair work by correspondence while in a relocation center. There was an opening for a radio repair man. The employer was hesitant about a man who had learned by correspondence and had little or no practical experience. But he gave the Japanese-American the job, and now he has left word with the employment service that if any more come along to send them right over.

In case a Japanese-American is unable to find employment, Congress has provided a fund for his upkeep. It is doubtful, however, if any of the fund will ever be used, Miss Brooks says. The Japanese-American would refuse to take it because they look upon it as charity. They would go out and borrow the money first, as one did who, soon after being relocated here, became ill and had to have an operation. He refused government aid, borrowed the money instead.

Overcoming their fears is one of Miss Brooks' chief tasks, especially among the Issei, who are those born in Japan. They come out of the relocation centers fearing they will meet with hostility wherever they go. But they soon

discover their fears are groundless. Some of this is also encountered among the Nisei—the second generation Japanese born in this country—but like young people everywhere, they have more confidence, less fear.

★ ★ ★  
ST. LOUIS has already won a reputation among them for kindness and tolerance, not only because of the way the new residents have been treated here, but because of the activities of Miss Brooks, the Nisei Council and several church organizations in meeting the caravans of evacuees from relocation centers which have passed through St. Louis.

Eleven such caravans, consisting of 60 to 80 persons, ranging in age from infants to men and women in their nineties, have passed through St. Louis from the Rohwer Relocation Center in Arkansas.

The caravan trains have a five-hour wait in St. Louis. The passengers are met at the station, taken to breakfast, for a tour of the city and usually a trip to the zoo. They are invariably astonished at the kind treatment shown them, and their gratitude is boundless.

Many of the youngsters who were born in the relocation centers, or who entered when they were but a year or two old, are amazed by stairs, for example, which they have never seen before, and overjoyed by such things as ice cream cones.

The occupational levels of the Japanese-Americans relocated here extend from doctors and lawyers to gardeners, with many other occupations represented. Many of the girls work as nurses, stenographers and clerks. There are many students at both St. Louis University and Washington University and the kind of work they do is demonstrated by just a few examples.

Jiro Yamaguchi, law student at Washington University, won second prize this past year in the Samuel Breckenridge Law School awards for second-year students.

Ichiro Mori won the Samuel Cupples scholarship award in the school of architecture at Washington University. Ichiro's father, W. Mori ("just plain W." he insists), came to St. Louis in March and is now established as gardener at the home of Mrs. T. M. Sayman

at 5593 Lindell boulevard. He has another daughter, Patsi, who attends Soldan High School; a son, Kaz, who is eight years old, and another daughter, Ayako, who had relocated in Chicago, but who came to St. Louis a few days ago to relocate here, bringing the family together for the first time since they were evacuated from the west coast.

Last month, George Nobukazu Nishimoto received the degree of bachelor of divinity from Eden Theological Seminary; George Kazuto Shimizu received a bachelor of arts degree from Washington University. The same school conferred degrees of bachelor of science on Minoru Iwasaki and Ray Hajime Echigoshima. Harvey Itano and Norio Higano got their M.D. degrees from St. Louis University, and Susan Tamaki earned her degree of associate of arts from Harris Teachers college.

Mrs. Mary Hara, who was relocated here from the Tulie Lake relocation center, is laboratory technician at Deaconess Hospital. Both she and her husband, Dr. Maz Hara, are Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California.

At St. Louis University there are a dozen Japanese dental students. Most of them had started their education in dentistry in universities on the west coast before they were sent to relocation centers. Now they are picking up where they left off.

There is not only no prejudice

existing between these boys and the other students in the dental college, but, on the contrary, there is a healthy air of camaraderie which indicates that the newcomers are extremely popular. In fact, the other students will go out of their way to tell you, with obvious pride, that the Japanese-American boys have sold more war bonds in the various drives since they have been there than any of the other students in the school.

Virtually all the young people belong to the Nisei Co-ordinating Council of St. Louis, which was organized as both a social and welfare organization. It operates to promote the welfare of both the Nisei and the Issei in St. Louis, and to promote Americanization. For example, they are sponsoring a class in English for those few remaining Issei who have never learned the language.

As time passes, Miss Brooks says and believes, people will realize that the Japanese-Americans are like the great majority of Americans everywhere—everyday people working at everyday jobs, and determined to prove their loyalty to the United States.



*Balderson*

Job. Offer No. 8843  
Chicago, Illinois  
August 13, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All Relocation Centers

FROM: W. W. Lessing  
Relocation Officer

1. Job Offer for Issei. Campbell Soup Company, 2550 West 35th Street, Chicago, (see map), has several hundred vacancies that are particularly appropriate for older men and women. Although an essential industry, much of the work is light, requires no special skill, and can be performed sitting down. There are no educational requirements and inability to speak English will not cause rejection or embarrassment because the management has agreed to make adjustments on this basis. The plant is spotlessly clean, has a cheerful atmosphere, and a sound health protection program with a full time doctor and modern medical department. Clean uniforms are provided by the company twice a week. Good meals are served in the plant cafeteria at cost for as low as 25¢ per meal.
2. Background Preparation. The WRA and the War Manpower Commission have cooperated to investigate the company's offer. Staff members from both agencies have gone through the plant and discussed the proposition with executives. Sentiment of both labor and management appears to be good. The film, "Challenge to Democracy," has been presented as a preview and will be shown to the employees to insure good feeling and a friendly working relationship.
3. Wages and Hours. Employees work 48 hours a week, 8 hours a day. Women earn an average of \$34 a week at the rate of 57½¢ per hour plus piece work premium and bonus (55¢ an hour for first trial week period). Men average \$42 a week at the rate of 73¢ per hour plus premium on incentive plan and bonus (69¢ per hour for first trial week period). Higher wages will be paid as skill develops.
4. Overtime. Time and a half is paid for work in excess of forty (40) hours in any work week. Double time is paid for work performed on the seventh day. During the next three months, plenty of overtime will be available because of the tomato harvest.
5. Incentive Plan. Many Issei can be assigned to what is called "measured work" which will enable them to earn extra money in proportion to the amount of work done.
6. Bonus. A bonus of 10 percent will be paid for hours worked between 6 P.M. and 6 A.M.
7. Future for Issei at Campbell's. Although there are always uncertainties in the economic future of everyone, it does appear that considerable security is offered by this particular company for the following reasons:



- a. Retention in employment and increases in pay are based primarily on production records.
  - b. There is no problem of reconversion.
  - c. Food industries are less likely to feel the effects of a depression because they produce necessities rather than luxuries.
  - d. Campbell's plans on opening a plant at Sacramento in the near future and proposes to use Japanese Americans there when that time comes.
8. War Manpower Commission Referrals. We are assured by the War Manpower Commission that there will be no question about referring Issei to Campbell's inasmuch as the industry is essential.
9. Housing. Three and four room stoveheated unfurnished apartments are available within a radius of two to four miles from the plants. There is nothing luxurious about them but they can be made to do until better housing is available. For the past thirty days, members of our staff have concentrated on finding accommodations near the plant and will continue to do so as more resettlers move in. Schools, churches, and parks are easily accessible in most neighborhoods on the southwest side.
10. Suggestions for Proceeding.
- a. Any Issei who is interested is invited to write to Campbell's Chicago representative, Mr. C. T. Kawasaki, who is himself an Issei. Until August 24, 1945, his address will be 5323 North Wayne, Chicago. After that date, he can be reached at 4310 South Berkeley Avenue.
  - b. An individual or a group of Issei could come to Chicago to make personal investigations and decisions.

/s/ W. W. Lessing



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

August 18, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: All Area Supervisor (Copies enclosed for their  
district officers)

All Project Directors (For information)

FROM: Prudence Ross  
North Central Area Supervisor

At the request of Mr. Ottis Peterson, of the Relocation Division, I send you herewith a report on the accelerated speech-making phase of our public relations program.

Mr. Peterson has asked that all field offices have the opportunity to review this material. We thought also that Relocation Advisers in the Centers might wish to know that our District Officers are intensifying their program to develop a backlog of friendly sentiment toward resettlers in the North Central Area which should insure continued community acceptance after our offices close.

The district officers were requested soon after the revocation of the exclusion order to review and analyze their activities and to give increased attention to the two main phases of our final program. Their first responsibility is, of course, to give or secure the necessary service to resettlers in planning family reunions and to newcomers in establishing themselves. This program has a broad foundation and complex ramifications. The second principal responsibility is in reality the foundation on which our service to resettlers has been built and includes an educational program embracing all phases of public relations.

Report: One phase of the Public Relations Program in the North Central Area

About the middle of May, the Chicago District assigned two members of its staff, John Brenton and Tats Kushida, to solicit speaking engagements, establish a Speakers Bureau of Volunteer Japanese-American leaders, and compile a Speakers' Guide consisting of an outline of pertinent facts on evacuation and relocation (Chicago resettlers) which would be included in a Speakers' Kit of literature.







The Chicago office concentrated its first efforts on getting a place on the program of meetings of businessmen--Lions Clubs, Rotary, Kiwanis Clubs, Chamber of Commerce groups, and neighborhood businessmen's associations. As a result some 48 organizations of business and professional men have heard recently the story of evacuation and relocation, about a fourth of them having been shown the WRA film, "A Challenge To Democracy" and brief newsreel shots of Nisei soldiers in action on the European front. The majority heard the story from a Nisei speaker, either a Nisei staff member or a volunteer Nisei leader introduced by a non-Japanese WRA staff member. Favorable news stories on such programs have appeared in neighborhood newspapers and local news bulletins of, for example, the Oak Park Kiwanis Club, and others. Such audiences are usually small, averaging from 20 to 30 members, but they consist generally of civic-minded leaders who exercise some authority in their neighborhoods and correspondingly in Chicago at large.

A total of 65 speeches have been made in the last three months in the Chicago district, reaching an estimated 2,500 individuals of some prominence, who might be expected to have business, neighborly or other dealings with resettlers in the future. Although many organizations discontinue meetings during July and August, we are gratified by those reached thus far and engagements are now being made for September, October and November. We are soliciting time at meetings of some 110 local unions, at district meetings of Chicago's 300 American Legion posts, and in the in-service training period of the Chicago police force. Parent Teachers Associations, neighborhood women's clubs, and the churches will be canvassed in corresponding order. Of course, a member of PTA groups, women's clubs and many churches are already familiar with the story of evacuation and relocation, so that a city-wide survey of these organizations is not scheduled until the final period of the speech-making program.

Speaking engagements have been solicited by form letter, by telephone call, and by personal visits. About 57 per cent of the speeches have been made by two Nisei employees of the Chicago District and approximately 43 per cent of the speeches have been made by volunteer Nisei outside WRA. Supplements are added to the Speakers Guide and Kit whenever new facts are published.

All District officers of the North Central Area are now engaged in a similar program of community education. Since they are also responsible for every other phase of the relocation program in their district and staff is limited, they cannot be expected to achieve an intensive coverage of all neighborhoods in their statewide districts on the scale of the Chicago District. Several districts have obtained space for literature displays and time for showing WRA films at a half dozen county fairs during August. Our St. Louis officer made 14 speeches during June. Showings of the WRA film "A Challenge to Democracy", followed by several minutes of newsreels



on Nisei soldiers in action in Europe average 26 per month in the North Central Area.

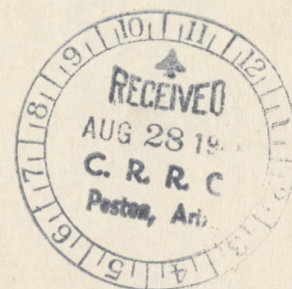
The Speakers Kit furnished every volunteer speaker on the program in the Chicago District contains a guide, or outline, of pertinent facts on evacuation and resettlement in Chicago, and in addition the following materials:

1. Chicagoans of Japanese Ancestry (Flyer similar to WRA flyer "Relocating A People")
2. Population Map (showing Chicago neighborhoods in which resettlers live)
3. Myths and Facts About the Japanese Americans (WRA booklet)
4. Hail Our Japanese American GI's (reprint from Reader's Digest)
5. Uprooted Americans in Your Community (WRA booklet)
6. Relocation of Japanese Americans (WRA booklet)
7. Nisei in Uniform (WRA in Collaboration with War Department)
8. Nisei in the War Against Japan (Clippings reprinted by WRA)
9. Illinois Evaluates Resettlers (Chicago WRA)
10. They Work For Victory (JACL illustrated booklet)

(Note: Copies of the less expensive leaflets mentioned above may be distributed to members of the audience, on request, following a speech.)

Prudence Rosen





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Incoming Teletype #227

Chicago, Illinois  
August 27, 1945

Regarding Offer No. 8843

Have just learned Campbell Soup Offer withdraw as result of sudden end of war and uncertain employment conditions at plant. Please discontinue recruitment upon receipt of this wire. Other types employment still available and care should be taken to avoid giving impression that all concerns are in Campbells position.

Wayland Lessing



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
226 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago 6, Illinois

January 31, 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: All District and Area Relocation Offices  
and Relocation Centers

The following offices in the North Central Area have been liquidated and inquiries in regard to the districts which they cover should hereafter be addressed to the North Central Area office, 226 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago 6, Illinois:

Greater Illinois District which included all of Illinois excepting Chicago Metropolitan Area.

Indianapolis which included all of Indiana, excepting Lake County, which is a part of the Chicago District office.

Kansas City office which included Western Missouri and all of the State of Kansas.

Des Moines Office, which included the State of Iowa.

Omaha Office, which included Eastern Nebraska and South Dakota.

The Milwaukee District which includes all of Wisconsin, and the St. Louis office, which includes the Eastern Missouri district, will be closed on February 28. The Chicago District office for Chicago metropolitan area, and the Minneapolis office for Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota will be closed on <sup>April</sup> March 1. Final liquidation of these last two offices will be as of April 15. The North Central Area office will continue until May 15.

*Prudence Ross*

Prudence Ross  
Area Supervisor



TO ALL STAFF MEMBERS:

It is hoped that each member of the North Central Area Staff will be able to purchase during the Victory Loan Drive at least one Roosevelt Bond, which is a special Bond in memory of our late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Victory Loan Drive runs from October 21 through December 31. This bond in the denomination of \$200 will be issued at \$150 and may be purchased either through payroll deduction or with cash.

The blank shown below is for your convenience in indicating your desire for payroll deductions or a cash purchase.

In commemoration of our late President and Commander-in-Chief, I hereby indicate my desire to purchase a Roosevelt Memorial Bond during the Victory Loan.

- (1) I would like to change my pay-roll savings allotment to make possible the purchase of a Roosevelt Memorial Bond during the Victory Loan Drive..... ☐
- (2) I will purchase for cash..... ☐

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Walter Rasmussen*  
Acting Relocation Supervisor



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Pursuant to a Presidential Letter, a forty hour work week has been established for WRA field offices.

For that reason, the Chicago WRA office will be closed Saturdays on and after September 15, 1945.

Persons who cannot arrange for interviews during working hours are invited to telephone for evening appointments, Monday through Friday. The telephone number is Andover 3600, Extension 198.

Please tell your friends.



AREA BULLETIN #1

To: All Area and District Employees  
From: Prudence Ross, Acting Relocation Supervisor  
Subject: Area Bulletins

The Office Services Unit of the area office has been reorganized under the supervision of Harold E. Gordon, Administrative Assistant. This unit will handle personnel, fiscal, procurement, and office services procedures.

In line with the reorganization we are initiating a series of Area Bulletins covering instructions on various phases of these functions.

We should appreciate it if area and district staff members will maintain a complete file of these Bulletins as issued in order that they may be utilized fully in helping keep the work of the Office Services Unit operating smoothly and efficiently.

If you have any suggestions for the improvement of any of the functions of this Unit we will welcome them.

PR



AREA BULLETIN #5

To: All Area and District Employees  
From: Prudence Ross, Acting Relocation Supervisor  
Subject: Re-employment questionnaire

Attached hereto you will find a memorandum from the Director dated March 17, 1945, a questionnaire, and three application forms 57.

If you are interested in further government employment upon termination of your job with the W.R.A., please complete the enclosed questionnaire and at least two forms 57 and submit them to our office as soon as possible.

If you do not plan further government employment, the questionnaire should be checked accordingly and returned to this office.

In view of the fact that all forms must be submitted to our Washington office not later than April 23, your prompt attention to this matter will be appreciated.

If you need any assistance or additional information, please do not hesitate to call on us.

