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JAPANESE-AMERICAN EVACUATION

RELOCATION CENTERS: TOPAZ, UTAH

1943-44

C-A  
171



4 - 10 - F  
Topaz, Utah  
April 21, 1943

Mrs. Harry Kingman  
535 San Luis Road  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

I was greatly mistaken in my last letter to you. The so-called riots and disturbances have not ceased completely, and things have seem to be rosy for Topaz from now on.

To put it bluntly, Dad was slugged in a typical kibe attack from the rear with a lead pipe on the night of April 3. It was about 11:30 p.m. and he was returning from his nightly shower; then some unknown assailant hit Dad with a blackjack on the left temple, gashing the head part severely, injuring the left eye. This Kibe must have had all intentions of killing my Dad as he kept after him, trying to slug him into insensibility by hitting approximately twenty times. But luckily, the blows did not fall on his head but on his left forearm as Dad tried to defend himself. Dad is not out of the hospital as yet, but he is doing quite well so there is no worry.

It has been a great strain and worry on my mother because there has been some more intimidations and threats against not only my Dad and Mother, but also against myself and Masa.

The inefficiency of the so-called safety wardens of Topaz is deplorable. I have heard from good sources that the wardens themselves are protecting this Kibe. They will not turn him into the authorities. At this time, it will be safe to say that the camp is about 90 per cent against Dad because of a thousand and one rumors and lies that are circulating around this camp against him. You see, he was condemned, previous to the attack, by merely greeting the Administration in a conventional manner and was accused because of this association of being a stooge and a stool pigeon. Perhaps one motive for this inflamed animosity is due to jealousy and envy of the position that has been held by my Dad.

As you quite well know, Dad has been working only for the people. He had felt that it was his duty and responsibility to help the people in this time of distress. He had been advocating that through Art, one could find solace and peace for an anguished mind. But being a strong-willed person, he became, through necessity, a leader in almost every type of functions in camp; for example, politics, misunderstandings of regulations, etc. Dad's mistake, as I see it at this time, was that he thought he was dealing with intelligent and normal persons. But as we analyze the circumstances, we find that they are all abnormal; in fact, the year that we have spent in a concentration camp has warped their minds and they are now definitely a case for psychiatrists. When evacuation was done



and over, the Isseis felt that they had lost everything which was natural. We all felt that way. We felt that we have been yanked out by our roots from our little world with a fence around it. They lost their sense of belonging to something. They became insecure, disillusioned, and discouraged; yet, being humans, their gregarious senses forced them to cling to each other to preserve their sense of security. The mere fact that they were together in misery made them a similar regimented type of minb. Thus, we find at this time the ebbing of American influences and traditions, and the resurgence of the Japanese culture because of the predominance of Issei controlling the major physical functions of camp life. The Kibeis are influenced by Isseis and they are influencing the Isseis. They have coagulated into an uniform body. The older Niseis, being educated and trained in American ways, have not deviated from their ideals. The ones that I am sorry for are these younger Niseis whose dependency are still on their parents and are easily swayed back and forth. They, too, are unstable.

The above points should be clear to you that any persons at this time who goes above the fascistic minds and states clearly the rights and wrongs of human principles in an intelligent manner are ostracized and shunned. These tiny Tojo dictators of Topaz, with a little schooling--distorting ideals with half truths--warping and pounding away the lies of their own makings to suit the tight situations that have arisen to confront the Administration, have naturally swayed the community to congeal into a mass of rumor-monging, quivering jello. Might is right. Violence is the only thing that can be understood. The few persons that stood up for themselves for unbiased understandings and intelligent outlook on the problems are now silenced by threats and intimidations against themselves and their families. As I have informed you previously about the terrible time we had during the Registration, Dad was out on a limb at that time because he was one of the few Isseis that were advocating for individual rights in Registration. That is, he said that it is up to the individual to make up his own mind on whether to register or not to register. Also previous to this, the Isseis had a field day yelling at the Spanish Consul, and, of course, Dad had to stick his neck out by being elected chairman--so that when nothing happened (which is natural--what can Spain do?) Dad was blamed for the inaction and the failure of the mission.

Now the last rumpus we had is the shooting of a resident by a military police. The tragedy is that the resident was killed inside the camp--approximately four feet from the fence. The blame cannot be placed on the M.P. He was killing a Jap--the blood is on the system and the conditions of a war-crazed world. Perhaps some day--everything will be settled again? Well, this last incident did some good besides allowing the agitators to organize again, it has put enough pressure on the Army to re-



move the M.P.'s from the Camp boundary during the day at least from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. But the way that the sons of beehives take every opportunity to breed discontent is really remarkable.

Now to get to the whole meat of my long rambling discourse. The main thing is--I wonder if you can do something for my Dad. Find a job someplace where he can fit in--some girls' college or a small college in a town built around its school system (like Berkeley). Perhaps, then, too, Mom can teach flower arrangements again.

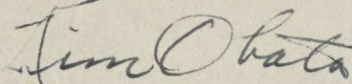
I think you know what I am getting at--or do you think it may be Utopia? At any rate, I am very worried and concerned over the future of my folks. I know it's easy enough for ~~me to~~ work as a dishwasher or menial job, but I hate to think of my mother doing the same. It seems so futile to have any sort of ideals and hopes to better oneself, or isn't it? I even thought that Dad could teach Japanese in a Navy school which is better than going on a farm. Imagine my Dad plowing with a tractor on the plains of Idaho, that's what he's planning to do as there is nothing better.

I know that I can depend upon your friendship to try and do something for Dad. At this time I am intending to write to Dr. Washburn of the Art Department. Is there any other persons for me to contact? I don't think the WRA can do anything here. I would appreciate it greatly if you can tell me what you can do or cannot do. In either case, I would keep trying other sources.

As I have told you in my last letter, I have volunteered for the combat unit which means front line action. Well, these requirements are tougher to pass and I find that my physical condition is not quite up to par. If I get rejected, I am intending to leave immediately, too. I thought we would be in the Army by the end of April, but I have not as yet received my physical examination. It seems that at this time that the examination will take place probably by the end of this month. This makes my concern greater in case I do get accepted.

Well, I'm awfully sorry that I had to ramble so long to tell you a little of what has happened. I know that you must be very, very busy doing your work and possibly Topaz is quite remote from your thoughts, but I really hope that I can depend upon you to find something for Dad.

Gratefully yours,



Kim Obata



Mrs. Harry Kingman  
535 San Luis Road  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

Thank you for your letter which I received so promptly. I know you must be very, very busy, and it was really a surprise to hear from you. I am very pleased to hear that you have been made Executive Secretary of the WCCAPFT. I know that you will do a stupendous job in organizing and directing these chapters. By the way, what is this, West Coast Committee? Is it advocating the Nisei principle again? I would like to know more about it; if you have time, send me some pamphlets on it.

The so-called riots and other disturbances here have ceased completely with hundred per cent registration of the people. The case here in Topaz has been that the people did a little too much thinking, I believe. You know how Mr. Ernst has worked previously, that everything has been above-board and he has allowed the people to express any sentiments that they felt. This may have been a mistake as the whole camp, Isseis, Kibeis, and the Niseis, got all tangled up in their beliefs. The interpretations of the various questions in the registration blanks were largely misinterpreted; in fact, so much so that it became an emotional and a psychopathic case instead of purely straight thinking. It became an issue for, why is evacuation? The separations from normal life and home was basis for argument against registration, and this added separation of young fellows from their <sup>parents</sup> homes was the catch that the Isseis worked on. The Kibeis here, I should say were almost hundred per cent against registration. Their issue was that we should fight for our civil rights before registration. To the Kibeis, it was a grand opportunity to make an "incident." I was never so disgusted or disappointed as I was then. If the Niseis were allowed to register first, I do not think that this would have happened. As it is, because of such pressure from our parents, the Isseis and the Kibeis, was so great that the majority of the Niseis were confused and bewildered so that the Niseis' answers were all mixed up. When the logical answer should have been, "Yes, yes," a great majority put down, "No" to question number 27 which was, "Will you bear arms for combat duty in the United States?" They put down "Yes" to question number 28 which was, "Will you swear allegiance to the United States Government?" This does not make sense at all.


The response for volunteering was very poor; in fact, I think that Topaz is about fourth or fifth in line with the rest of the relocation centers. I have personally volunteered because I felt that this was the only way that I could keep faith with my country. This is the only natural thing to do. I



believe that one of the principles of democracy is that you not only have the right, but you have the right to be able to fight for your right. All the past grievances and wrongs become purely a physical condition in the light of, shall we say, "conscience." Well, I hope by this volunteering, which is the extreme, as I see it, in trying to show our allegiance and loyalty, that this will prove to certain people that Niseis are loyal. It has been a hard decision to make because we now must bear arms as a soldier, leaving our loved ones behind in a concentration camp. But believing in the American traditions, I place my implicit faith and trust on people like yourself in order to make this country as it was, should be, and is. So in any case, if I am unable to come back to Berkeley due to unforeseen circumstances, I know that my family can resettle in Berkeley with a clear conscience and without persecution.

Thank you very much for recommending Masa and because of this new circumstances that have arisen, we do not know what the plans for the future will be. If I am able to enter the Service, I think that she will be with me; but as I have stated, we have no plans. I'll write as soon as something definite comes up. So long,

Till then,

  
Kim

*I just found out that I'm up  
for induction on or about the 15<sup>th</sup>  
of this month —*

KO:hk



Central Utah Project  
March 26, 1943.

REPORT ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY  
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION  
YOUTH GUIDANCE DIVISION

This division is very happy to report that up to this time we have been extremely fortunate, for the Juvenile Delinquency rate in Topaz has been almost nil.

To date, we have had twelve cases in all; however, the actual cases dealing with delinquency number but six. The others are cases involving high school students who use various alibis in order to leave school to seek employment outside of Topaz. We find this especially true among the machine major students. They claim that they are not interested in schools not having shop work, because that is the only course they'd like to study. Since Topaz High School lacks machine shops, these students seem to feel it is a waste of time to continue there.

This division checks upon family and educational background of these students in order to determine whether they are eligible to leave high school in accordance to the Utah State law which states that under the laws of the State of Utah, all persons under 18 years of age are required to be in school unless they have completed high school studies. The exceptions to the rule apply to those who can prove themselves to be the heads of their families or present necessary proofs of education equivalent to that of a standard high school graduate. All cases requiring proof of previous outside education are referred to Mr. Victor Goertzel, Director of Youth Counseling and Registrar of the Topaz High School.

We have two cases on Public Disturbances. These were reported to us by various adults who complained of late hour disturbances by young boys who stay up until all hours of the night playing cards. Those cases disappeared as the population increased, filling up the empty apartments where these games were being played.

We have a committee on prevention of delinquency which meets once a week for the purpose of checking any possible outbreaks of delinquency. On this committee are representatives from the Education, Community Activities, and our Community Welfare Youth Guidance and Child Welfare Divisions. From time to time, we have various guests representing the hospital, council, and various other organizations.



Report on Juvenile Delinquency -2-  
Community Welfare Section, Youth Guidance Division

According to national statistics on crime, we have learned that crime increases during the summer months. We believed that this is very true in our city for during the winter months weather conditions definitely made outside night activity impossible. With a possible increase in delinquency in the near future, the committee has been busy recommending various activities such as sport events, recreational games, crafts of all sorts, and many others to the Community Activities Department.

WEEKLY NARRATIVE REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY WELFARE

Youth guidance states that the Juvenile Board in Topaz will finally be an established organization. At a divisional staff meeting held for the purpose of discussing the Board, the following points were agreed upon and presented to the City Council as recommendations:

1. The Juvenile Board will handle all persons up to the age of 18 years of age who have been apprehended for a violation of a misdemeanor.
2. The misdemeanors over the 18 year age level will be referred to the City Judiciary Committee; however, this Committee may refer certain cases back to the Juvenile Board.
3. The Juvenile Board will decide which cases to have hearings on and which cases they will turn over to the executive secretary without a hearing for his disposal.
4. All delinquent cases will be reported directly to the Juvenile Board immediately. The other cases will be handled by
5. the Community Welfare Section. (all formal written complaints)
6. Show-cause letters may be sent to the parents of the juvenile delinquents by the Board. Failure of response by the parents constitutes a contempt of court.
7. The Board must always act according to the WRA ruling.
8. The Board shall have the power to decide whether to act upon various complaints.
9. The adults found guilty of promoting juvenile delinquency will be handled by the City Judiciary Committee.
10. The power of board personnel selection will be vested in the City Council. They may select anyone at random from the Topaz residents.
11. Mr. Lorne Bell suggested that the name executive secretary be changed to that of secretary to the Juvenile Board which was unanimously approved. The duties of the secretary will be to keep data, figures of each case, present various findings, notify Board members, and act upon the direction of the Board.
12. The City Council will select their secretary.



PROCEDURES OF THE JUVENILE BOARD--by ERNEST TAKAHASHI

Any case reported to the Juvenile Board will be handled by the following procedures:

1. The following record will be kept.

(a) Subject: Name, date, type of misdemeanor, names or organizations or persons who referred the case.

(b) Inquiries: Inquiry and investigations to get all the available facts concerning the child will be as follows:

- (1) Mr. Kitagawa of the Internal Security will collect all facts pertaining to the case concerned as the type of misdemeanor, investigation, search, and careful watch of the suspected persons.
- (2) Mr. Takeda of the Community Welfare, will collect all personal, family, and environmental background data.
- (3) Mr. Takahashi secretary of the Juvenile Board, will collect all data concerning health, education, and attitudes of the suspected persons.

(c) Consultant Board to study this specific case.

After all the above mentioned data has been collected, the secretary of the Board will invite several persons of professional background in criminology and youth guidance, as well as persons who know the child in his immediate environment, to study the case from the following standpoints--who, what, where, how, and why.

This study will be made with the attempt to re-establish the child into normal environment in as tolerant a manner as possible. This group will attempt to rehabilitate the child rather than enforce any drastic measure upon him and will attempt to solve the case with understanding and sympathy.

The permanent committee will consist of Mr. Takeda, Mr. Kitagawa, and Mr. Takahashi, with in addition from the members of the Educational Department. (Teacher and director of Youth Guidance), Church affiliation, Child Guidance Director (Community Services and Community Welfare), and other persons who might know the child and its problem. After studying the facts of the case this group will submit in writing recommendations to the Juvenile Board.



## Procedures of the Juvenile Board

- (d) The Juvenile Board will pass judgment accordingly.
- (e) A record of the conclusions and results will also be kept, and any information which concerns probation and other follow up work will also be recorded.

This briefly will be the types of record and data to be kept on all cases reported to the Juvenile Board.

## BILL TO INTRODUCE ESTABLISHMENT OF JUVENILE BOARD

## A. Establishment of Juvenile Board.

We hereby establish a Commission to be known as the Juvenile Board.

## B. Definitions:

- (1) Juvenile. The period during which a person shall be considered a juvenile extends in males to the age of 21 and in females to the age of 18 years; but all minors obtain their majority by marriage.
- (2) The word "Board" shall mean the Juvenile Board.
- (3) The word "child" means a person less than 18 years of age.
- (4) The word "adult" means a person 21 years of age or over.
- (5) The word "Parent" used in relation to child shall include guardian and every person by law liable to maintain a child.
- (6) The word "delinquent child" means child who has violated an ordinance of Topaz, a statute of Utah or a Federal law in a lesser degree than of felony; a child who by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient is uncontrolled by his parent, guardian, or custodian; a child who is habitually truant from school or home; a child who so reports himself as to injure or endanger the morals or health of himself or others.
- (7) The word "court" means Judicial Commission of the Community of Topaz.

## C. Jurisdiction of Board.

- (1) The Board shall have original jurisdiction over all cases relating to the delinquency of children under 18 years of age, except in felony cases, also trial and care of such delinquent children.
  - (a) Any case involving a neglected or dependent child shall be referred to the WRA authority, State of Utah or Federal agency, whoever has proper jurisdiction over such cases.
- (2) The Board shall have jurisdiction over all cases in which a juvenile violates any established ordinance of the Community.



- (3) The Board shall have<sup>5</sup>-
- (3) The Board shall have jurisdiction over all cases in which there is not an actual violation of any established ordinance by a juvenile, but where the action is serious enough to be community problem beyond the scope of the work being done by the WRA agencies or any other organizations in the community.
- (4) The Board shall not have jurisdiction over cases involving adults who contribute to the delinquency of the minors and such cases shall be referred to the Project Director for hearing and application of penalty.
- (5) No child under 18 years of age shall be charged with or convicted of a crime in any court except as provided herein. If during the pendency of a criminal or quasi criminal charge against any person in any other court, except in felony cases, it shall be ascertained that said person was under 18 years of age at the time of committing alleged offense, it shall be the duty of ~~the~~ such other court to transfer such case immediately, together with the transcript of the proceedings and all the papers, documents, and testimonies connected therewith, to the Juvenile Board which has jurisdiction. The court making such transfer shall order the person to be taken forthwith to the Juvenile Board or release such person into custody of the Secretary of the Board, acting in his capacity of Probation Officer, to appear before the Board at the time designated. The Board shall thereupon proceed to hear and dispose of such case in the same manner as if it had been instituted in that court in the first instance except in such case no verification of the formal petition shall be required.

D. Composition of Board. Qualifications and Term of Office.

- (1) Board members..The Board shall consist of seven members appointed by the Community Council of Topaz.
- (a) Qualifications of members. The members of the Juvenile Board shall be residents of Topaz who have reached the age of 21 years and be of good standing in the Community.
- (b) Term of office. Members of the Board shall serve for six months.
- (c) Compensation. The members of the Board shall serve on a basis of voluntary acceptance of such position and shall not receive any compensation or advancement of a pecuniary nature.
- (d) Discharge. Any member of the Board who is convicted of a felony during his term in office shall be discharged by the order of the Community Council.



Bill to introduce establishment of juvenile board

- (e) Vacancy. In case of vacancy Community Council.
- (f) Advisory Board. There shall be an advisory board, appointed by the Community Council which may be composed of either appointed staff residents or residents of Topaz.

E. Duties and Functions of the Board.

It will be the duty and the function of the Board to promote such corrective and preventive measures as are deemed necessary to keep Juvenile Delinquency at a minimum.

F. Duties of Secretary of the Board.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Board to keep a record of the proceedings of the Board and perform all clerical work and discharge such duties as the Board may assign to him from time to time:
- (2) The secretary shall by the order of the Board issue all subpoenas and other notices; and receive and present formal petitions to the Board:
- (3) The secretary shall notify all Board members of meetings, both regular and special:
- (4) The secretary shall act in the capacity of the Probation Officer of the Board, and as such will use all suitable methods to aid persons on probation and to bring about improvement in their conduct and condition, and shall perform such duties in connection with the care custody and transportation of children as the Board may require.
- (5) The secretary at the request of the Board shall make periodic visits to children who have been found delinquent by the Board and during the term of probation shall continue to visit such children and report in writing to the Board.

G. Procedure.

- (1) Formal Petition. Any case of juvenile delinquency may be referred by any individual or group persons in the City of Topaz to the Juvenile Board.
- (2) Preliminary Inquiry. Any person may and any peace officer shall give to the Board any information in his possession that a child is delinquent. Thereupon preliminary inquiry shall be made under direction of the Secretary of the Board to determine whether the public interest or the interest of the child require that further action be taken. Such inquiry shall include a preliminary investigation of the home and environment of the child, his previous history and the substances of the condition alleged. The preliminary investigation shall be reported to the Board in writing. If the Board is determined that formal jurisdiction should be acquired, it shall authorize a petition to be filled.



- (3) Pleadings. The petition shall be verified, alleging briefly and in a general way the facts which bring the child within the jurisdiction of the Board stating the name, age and resident of the child; the names and residence of his parents;
- (a) of his regular guardian, if there is one,
  - (b) of the person or persons having custody or control of the child, and
  - (c) of the nearest known relative, if no parents or guardian can be found.

If any of the facts herein required are not known by the petitioner, the petition shall so state. The proceeding shall be entitled: Community of Topaz in the interest of \_\_\_\_\_ delinquent child.

Date. & \_\_\_\_\_

- (4) Subpoenae. After a petition is filed and as such further investigations as the Board may direct, unless the parties herein after named shall voluntarily appear, the Board shall issue a subpoena reciting briefly the substances of the petition, and requiring the person or persons who have the custody or control of the child to appear personally and bring the child before the Board at a time and place stated. If the persons subpoenaed are other than the parent or guardian for a child, then the parent or guardian or both shall also be notified of a pendency of the case and of the time and place appointed. Subpoena issued requires the appearance of any other person whose presence in the opinion of the members of the Board is necessary.
- (5) Subpoena. Subpoenas shall be served by the delivery of attested copy thereof to the persons subpoenaed; provided however; that when a parent of a child are to be served with subpoenas and they are referred living together at their usual place of abode, service on both parents may be made by delivery where said parents reside.
- (6) Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Board shall have power to formulate and enforce such rules and practices of procedure as may be best suited to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

#### H. Decree

At the conclusion of any hearing, the Board may dismiss the care or render a decree that a Juvenile is delinquent within the provisions of this chapter. If the juvenile is adjudged delinquent; the Board shall enter in writing the facts constituting such delinquency and make further decrees as follows:



- (1) that a child be placed on probation or under supervision in his own home, or in the custody of a relative or other fit person, or in the custody of Community Welfare Section or other such community organization upon such terms as the Board shall determine;
- (2) that a juvenile or parents of juvenile be required to make restitution for damage or loss caused by his wrongful acts;
- (3) that a child be placed under such guardianship or custody as may be warranted by the evidence and for the best interest of a child; provided, however, the preference of parents; (consent of a child 12 and over is necessary).
- (4) that after due hearing, it is found by the Board that no community organization can manage the child, the Board shall communicate with the Project Director and at this discretion the child may be confined in the detention home as provided by WRA regulations, but that this procedure will be followed only when the child is found to be utterly incorrigible and unmanageable.
- (5) that a child be disposed of in any other way that may in the discretion and judgment of the Board, under all circumstances be for the best interest of said child, to the end that its wayward tendencies shall be corrected and the child be saved to useful citizenship.

#### I. Appeal

Appeal from any decree issued by the Board may be made to the Judicial Commission of the Community of Topaz.

Subject: Discussion on the establishment of a Juvenile Board

Date: March 17, 1943

Forward: A special meeting of the various divisional staff heads and members was called by Mr. Lorna Bell for the purpose of clarifying the numerous points dealing with the formation of a Juvenile Board to be presented to the city council as recommendations. The recommendations agreed upon are as follows:

1. The Juvenile Board will handle all persons up to eighteen years of age who have been apprehended for a violation of a misdemeanor.
2. The misdemeanants over the eighteen years age level will be referred to the city judiciary committee; however, this committee may refer certain cases back to the Juvenile Board.
3. The Juvenile Board will decide which cases to have hearings on and which cases they will turn over the the executive secretary without hearing.
4. All delinquent cases will be reported directly to the Juvenile Board.



5. The formal written complaints will be brought to the attention of the Board immediately. The other cases will be handled by the Community Welfare Section.
6. Show-cause letters may be sent to the parents of the juvenile delinquent by the Board. Failure of response by the parents constitutes a contempt of court.
7. The Board has the power to decide whether to act upon various complaints.
8. The Board must always act according to the various WRA rulings.
9. The adults found guilty of promoting juvenile delinquency will be handled by the city judiciary committee.
10. The power of board personnel selection will be vested in the city council. They may select anyone at random from the Torrey residents.
11. Mr. Lorne Bell suggested that the name executive secretary be changed to that of secretary to the Juvenile Board, which was unanimously approved. The duties of the secretary will be to keep data, figures of each case, present various findings, notify Board members, and act upon the directions of the Board.

The city council will select the secretary.

The question of jurisdiction between the state and federal powers concerning juvenile delinquents remains unknown.



Central Utah Project

The above recommendations acted upon by the following individuals:

Dr. WeHara--Hospital  
Mr. Takeshi Yatabe--Council  
Mr. Lorne Bell--Chief, Community Services  
Mr. Henry Tani--Chairman, Youth Guidance Committee  
Mr. Barnhart--Project Attorney  
Mr. Nuttal--Education  
Mr. James Lamb--Chief, Community Activities  
Mr. George LaFabregue--Head Counselor, Community Welfare  
Miss Eleanor Gerard--Education  
Mr. Moto Tawa--Visitor  
Mr. George Takeda--Community Welfare, Youth Guidance Section

Duly submitted,

George Takeda  
Acting Secretary



PRE SCHOOL

As with all who are concerned with young children our primary interest is to provide for the fullest development and welfare of each child physically, safeguard health, minimize over-exertion, establish proper habits of health and cleanliness; mentally, present opportunities for stimulating and developing his learning processes; socially, giving opportunity to associate with children of his own age and helping him to acquire social skills, emotionally, to wean from his home, establish basis for proper attitudes toward routine, people, and things. Our overall aim is to keep children occupied and therefore happy.

In this particular community the environment of the child is abnormal. There is a lack of privacy and opportunities for quiet in the crowded living quarters and communal living. There are often too many adult members in the immediate family. The limited surroundings is barren of ordinarily existing stimuli such as trees, flowers, birds. Lack of attention to child's needs such as in the dining halls and the latrines is evident. Because of these conditions, our schools must be concerned with the community needs for children. We must have space for freedom of play with protection and supervision. We must provide chances for quiet by simplified routines and freedom from time pressure and adult standards.

The hours in schools provide both the parent and child with needed separation. The parent may go about necessary duties knowing that the child is looked after. We must encourage the child to do things for himself and develop habits of independence and resourcefulness through such activities as creative work, free play, and the routine itself. The attitudes of the teachers help in this most. The schools must enlarge his horizons and stimulate the development of ideas by providing books, singing and listening to music, rhythmic experience, nature study, pictures, excursions. Most of the homes since they are temporary abodes and limited in space cannot provide for these opportunities for the child. The responsibility of the school becomes doubly important.

The schools desire to help in recommending and working with groups such as the Family Life Committee to provide for the needs of the children. We hope that steps and stands in the latrines and wash-rooms, tables and benches of children's sizes in the Dining Halls provided for every block will be an initial step in concern for the welfare of children in the community.

It is our sincere hope that our part in the educational unit of the community will open the way for greater interest and consciousness for the importance of early childhood.

Respectfully submitted,  
Grace Fujii  
Kay Uchida



FOREWARD

The following report is factual. The social problems mentioned are the actual existing conditions; by no means is it complete, however. From time to time this phase of social action may change for the worse or perhaps for the better; such a possibility will depend, by and large, upon the effectiveness of the proposed solutions and recommendations mentioned herein or upon the existing ideology of the Topaz residents.

The study of the school situation, the Boy Scout attitude and activities, conditions and influences of the family relations, and all pertinent data were added to our files through the coordinated efforts of the Educational Division, the Boy Scout Committee, the Community Welfare Division, the Inter Faith Headquarters and the Juvenile Board. Additional information is taken from personal observations and from:

"New Light on Delinquency And Its Treatment"--Healy and Pronner  
"Introductory Sociology"--Sutherland and Woodward  
"Social Psychology Of Modern Life"--Rinehart and Farrar  
"Sociology"--Ogburn and Nimkoff

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS EXISTING IN TOPAZ

INTRODUCTION

As complex as human beings are, it would be impossible to catalogue fully the social disorders in Topaz in relation to its biological and environmental causes. Only the surface blemishes of maladjustment can be adequately explored from this survey of delinquency. To name the causations of this pressing issue one would have to gather material from every source, starting from the hospital and concluding with the intimate and impervious problems of the family life.

The environmental factor is not a positive cause of delinquency because it is never quite the same for any two children. Reactions to unfavorable living conditions will differ from individual to individual and as such community life in Topaz cannot be termed with authority as a traumatic experience for the youth. It must be admitted, however, that Topaz is not a normal community; it has been artificially created, and whatever problems that breed here will be to a great extent peculiar to this Topaz life of concentrated confinement.



## -----INTRODUCTION

-2-

Granted that Topaz is an unusual community it is impossible to forecast that life in this center will invariably produce a certain trait of personality. "A group situation will always have some sort of effect on personality, but there are too many possible variations in the human beings themselves and in the group situation to be cognizant of a marked effect on the child's personality."

6 During the ecological development of the real city the sociologist states that no provision are made for the children--only the adults are considered. More so Topaz, as it exists, is a place designed and built primarily for adults. The one room apartments of the army style barracks, the streets rough and dusty, the latrines without privacy nor facilities for the small children and the large public mess halls--everything points to adult living conditions.

The dissimilarity of the first and second generation Japanese is now accentuated by the war and the entrance of the citizens into the armed forces. Amid the social differences of the people in Topaz the chief sufferers of cultural frustration will be the growing child who now lives in a "cultural-no-man's-land". An artificial community such as Topaz is a dangerous habitat of anomalous attitudes and behaviors for social values tend to be warped into a life of "substitution." How these young children of Topaz will emerge from this incarcerated existence will largely depend upon the unselfish guidance of the parents in moulding their children wisely and by keeping them candidates for the role of normal individuals.

LACK OF PRIVACY

The outstanding conditions existing in center life which definitely influences child development is the aggregation of human beings living in pell-mell fashion with little regard for the innocent child. Living in such close quarters infallibly alters personality development in some way for a hodgepodge community will greatly modify the entire group life of the children and for the older groups as well. The early stages of child life intrinsically determines the type of personality a child will have. Early contact with people will condition children to seek group contact without hesitation (if the child has extroverted tendencies), and in this respect they may acquire extroverted attitudes in these centers. However, the self-centered child who loathes social contact and the little insurgent may find that these concentrated communities are decidedly unhealthy for their mental well-being, since contact with neighbors and acquaintances will be a constant friction.



LACK OF PRIVACY

-3-

In connection with the crowded conditions privacy is an essential element which growing children must have if they are to acquire high social values and wholesome habits. Behaviors of all types of men and women in all of their functions are exposed to the children. The family must counteract the unethical attributes of the group for all adults do not serve as examples to the children in all cases. The latrines, showers, and the mess halls are all public places which the children must frequent side by side with the older people. Wholesome outlooks on life and the correct forms of etiquette will be difficult for the children to attain in this privateless mode of living.

If adequate partitions are built within the apartments much of the bleakness can be eliminated; privacy will be enhanced, and the apartment will be more home-like.

LACK OF PARENTAL CONTROL

When the parents' control over the child becomes lax gregariousness tends to form among the young children. The breeding of gang groups can be attributed to the common interests held among the children and the laissez-faire attitude of the parents coupled with the pronounced social stimuli of gang pressure which the parents find difficult to combat. Perhaps it is not due to parental neglect of children that gangs function: an influencing factor may be the monotony of the one room apartments which furthers the environmental drabness. An outlet into something more attractive is the gang where children find suited activities and mutual approval among their own circle. The gang influence is, of course, unfavorable for the result usually creates rowdism, insubordination, and boisterousness among the affected group.

Instances of gang behavior:  
Playing in the latrines (marbles, burning paper on the floors and extinguishing the fire with water) smashing wall of the shower rooms, playing in the showers, going about chasing other gangs, playing games in the night under the barrack lights (marbles, rough and tumble activities), extinguishing safety lanterns about construction areas, bullying the weaker individuals, petty thefts, stealing of personal mail from the doorstep mail boxes.....

Under such conditions the parents are solely responsible for the control of their children; even if the gangs are strong influence for the children the parents must make home life more attractive than the common streets, latrines, and the showers in which they pass a great deal of their leisure time.



LACK OF PARENTAL CONTROL-4-

One of the Intrinsic functions of the (in the early years of the child) parent is to choose the friends for the child. In an artificial and congested community as Topaz the parents can no longer point out the proper companionships for their children; how morally pernicious the new found freedom will be for young children will greatly depend upon the type of people residing in the block, and this is the "chance" life in which the child evacuee finds himself.

SOLUTIONS

Apprehension, correction, and prevention is the threefold program which must be utilized before delinquency can be erased from the list of social ills. A solution is not possible unless consideration is given to social as well as to the individual factors. Workable methods of solution can be drawn up, practiced, and actually solve the majority of the delinquent problems that breed in these unwholesome centers. Measures of care rest with the social workers, who are inadequate in number. Trained leadership must be instituted so that the parents can be educated to give more parental guidance to their offspring; trends of child delinquency must be made apparent to the parents so that they will be able to combat the tendencies of delinquency at home. Recreation should be carried out on more of an inclusive scale so as to embrace all age groups. The building of adequate playground facilities will eliminate most of the breeding places of delinquency. Parents' Teachers' Associations, if carried out consistently, will create more child interest in the parent group, and such a movement will make the parents conscious of their children's development, as a result many of the potential "germs" of child seduction may be arrested in the dormant stage.

Since child extroverts are more liable to delinquent problems, they must be accorded suitable satisfaction. In this respect introverts and ambiverts are also liable to lead to delinquent trends. Activities which are adequately attractive and interesting should be instituted in the centers.

In the center a child will have the opportunity to attend movies regularly; if they attend incessantly the movies may have a pernicious influence in marked degrees, but if they were enjoyed just as an escape from unpleasant experiences perhaps the pastime may have not been harmful. It may be recommended that gangster type of moving pictures be eliminated from the list of movies to be shown. The canteen furnishes the children with an over-abundance of comic books which should be replaced by more educational reading matter.



PROGRAM OF PREVENTION

The Juvenile Board, which is highly cognizant of the effectiveness of prevention as a remedy of social cure, has proposed the following procedures:

A. The Accumulative File Record.

- 6 1. The teacher will strive to Know the child. (ability, attitude) report card, health record, achievement IQ, family background (parents' opinion of school and information similar to WRA #26), teacher evaluation of pupil, example of outstanding work of students, former school record, pupil reading record, all case history pertaining to child.
2. The teacher will pass on to the next teacher all records and knowledge of each child so that no data will be lost in the transfer of the child from one grade to the next.
3. All such data, as in no. 1 & 2, will be filed so that it will be available when the child and his family go into a new area, namely relocation.

Whenever delinquent cases occur this material will serve as a reference.

Through the Community Activities Section the attitudes of the Youth will be objectified through the church group as the Young Peoples' Group etc. and through the schools. In the event of delinquency the ideals of the delinquent will be ascertained; usually the existence of hero worship is discernible, and the CAS will attempt to bind the gang into a constructive group for the attainment of recreational goals and other wholesome activities.

The CAS is proposing to combat tendencies of delinquency this coming summer by the following program: swimming (construction of a pool is being planned), formations of clubs (interest groups, hobby group), overnight hikes into the cooler areas of the county, camping in the local CCC camp.

HIGH SCHOOL

The isolated kibel is to be integrated into the social activities through the high school, which is to be coordinated into the recreational division: extra curricula activities will be extended one hour every Friday (under the guidance of a teacher forums, interest groups in literature, airplane clubs, science clubs, etc.)

INTER FAITH

Protestant and Buddhist conferences will be held with the



assistance of the CAS so as to weave interest into a large scope of people.

#### INTER COLLEGIATE

A club room is being contemplated for the collegiate group. The attitude of the students of college age will be objectified.

It must be noted that the Juvenile board does not intend to brand the delinquent after apprehension. Rather the Board will be a "go-between" for the child delinquent (between the family, or whatever group is concerned.) Also it must be emphasized that the Board is not an enforcing agency but a study group of case-histories of all the maladjusted children.

Many cases of social problems will not come to the attention of the Juvenile Board. The stringent mores of the first generation Japanese may be the cultural pressure which suppresses much of the anomalous behavior among the younger set; if, however, suppression is the cause of preventing problems coming to the fore and to the attention of the Board the effectiveness of the Board will be lost in the veil of secrecy.

One of the most emphatic problems in any group is the existence of illicit sexual relations, but it is also one of the most difficult cases to combat, especially if such action is performed in mutual agreement oblivious of the consequences that are bound to befall them.

#### -----Conclusion.

In carrying out the preventitive measures of the Juvenile Board, extreme care is to be instituted so as to deal effectively with the over-sensitiveness of Japanese parents who possess cultural and parental pride to such an extent that they often times hesitate to acknowledge the misbehavior of their children. Not only will the Juvenile Board instrument tact in the approach of delinquent problems but also due consideration will be given to all ethical codes of jurisdiction.

#### CONCLUSION

No mention was made of the biological aspect of this social problem for it would require psychiatrists, psychologists, or social workers who are trained in their professions to analyze the actual causes of social maladjustment. With the change in diet, climate, altitude, etc, in Topaz perhaps some glandular disorders may result. Such glandular disorder as the malfunction of the thyroid gland should be considered. Also the abnormal personalities such as neurotic, psychotic, etc. must be referred to competent psychoanalysts. Glandular



disfunctions can be traced in many cases, but they are very indirect; nevertheless it remains a potent cause of many serious cases of erratic over behavior. Neurotics and personality deviates, the aggressive, the overrestless or overlively, those showing uninhibited impulses, and various functional causations are all accountable with the delinquent problems in Topaz.

Another attribute of delinquency is poverty, which may not be the absolutely source of it, but it is a condition which furthers much child unhappiness. In order to comprehend the influence of poverty in relation to delinquency an investigation of financial resources of the family would be necessary.

Thus the incidence of delinquency cannot be positively stated in this report for figures are unobtainable, and an insight into certain types of social deviation such as promiscuity among the particular classes are impervious or very difficult to obtain if ever congenially possible.

It is expected that when the weather permits, delinquency will become more widespread, and between spring and autumn special emphasis must be placed upon apprehension, prevention, and solution of delinquent cases. Since the incidence of delinquency will fluctuate with various conditions, supplementary studies should be made periodically by the Board so as to facilitate social improvement.

In the subsequent pages the function of the Juvenile Board will be explained. It shall be the intention of the Board to employ social therapeutic methods, not regimentation, for the mitigation of the delinquent tendencies.



-8-

The following information was received from:

Pre-School: Miss Grace Fujii and Miss Kay Uchida

Grammar school: Mr. Nuttal

High School: Dr. Woolf, Mr. Goertzel, and Mr. Henry Tani

Boy Scout: Messrs. Tyler Nakayama, Keigo Inouye

Juvenile Board: Mr. Ernest Takahashi

At the present time specific serious cases have not appeared in the schools. Case histories, of whatever incidents which may occur, will be reported as soon as the Juvenile Board begins to function.

#### PRE-SCHOOL

In the pre-school types of misbehavior are innocent and not a serious problem to the teachers. The problems that do arise are easily apprehended and cured. Often times parents express the desire to have disciplinary action placed upon their children by the teacher because discipline tends to wane amid the crowded conditions of the center.

The types of misconduct are: climbing on top of tables, sneaking into the school building after school after school hours in order to play with the toys, and the ordinary fights which are prevalent among any group.

Outside play is very limited due to the lack of lumber and playground facilities. The major schoolroom activities are also limited; the children have not trees, flowers, or anything green to draw. Their art must become barren and artificial; therefore, the only subject of interest is the human form. With the activities numbered to a few, the teachers must emphasize singing as one of the chief activities.

What effect will such a barren training (in regard to nature) have on the later development of these children?

Now that the children live with their relatives more Japanese is spoken among the school children; of course, the children of issei tend to be more fluent in Japanese than the children of Nisei, and as a result of such a difference in the language a mild dissension exists in the child relations. Of course, this problem will diminish with the passing of time when all the children will learn to speak more English after their association with the teacher and the schoolmates.



A reflection of parental attitude was made evident in the discrimination of three Caucasian children by a minority of the Japanese children. In order for young children to be conscious of racial differences to such a degree, the parents undoubtedly must have been the influencing factor. The Caucasian children were shunned by the Japanese children as in the following instance: whenever all the children were required to sit next to one another a few of the Japanese children would express open dislike for the Caucasian youngsters and walk away to their preferred places among the Japanese children.

During the army registration of the Topaz residents restlessness was expressed by irritableness, fighting, and other acts of discontent. From time to time the child attitude and behavior can thus be expected to change temporarily as a direct consequence of the pending issue in the center.

The weather has been one of the vital factors of child behavior in Topaz. In the cold climate the hands of the children become chapped. During the cold crying tends to be more widespread, and naturally they want to sit near the stoves, since the space heaters do not adequately heat the school barracks. Often illness results because the children are oblivious to the cold.

The Parents' Teachers' Association is well-integrated into the pre-schools, therefore relations between the family and school is favorable under the circumstances. In addition, the outside church organizations contribute toys which alleviate the shortage of the playground facilities.

Thus this critical period of child development, while confronting many deprivations and physical hardships, is proceeding quite successfully under competent guidance.

#### GRAMMAR SCHOOL

To date the delinquent behavior among the grammar school students is termed as "not serious". Examples of misbehavior are: breaking of windows, insubordination, and isolated cases of absenteeism.

The breaking of windows probably arise out of general rowdism and perhaps due to the fact that the buildings of the school are substandard which are often times referred to as "barns" and "barracks" instead of "school". Of course, it would be difficult to ascertain the actual reason for vandalism. Also the backless benches, the roughly made tables, etc., are not considered as "respectable" pieces of furniture.



GRAMMAR SCHOOL

-10-

Insubordination usually arises from the unwholesome attitudes of the pupils coupled with parental unrest in the homes. One instance of such behavior was exemplified by one pupil who stated that he did not care what he did because his "mother said that they were going to Japan after the war."

Truancy is not a serious problem. A method has been devised whereby absenteeism has been reduced to a minimum. Daily a list of absentees are given to the clinic nurses by the teachers; the block nurses check the list, and the absentees are visited by the block nurses in the afternoon. If the visit reveals that the absentee is not ill a report is forwarded to the principal and vice-versa when the absentee is ill.

Recreational facilities are very much under the needs of the grammar schools, and, with other needy departments, the grammar school is awaiting appropriation which will enhance recreation and physical education.

HIGH SCHOOL

The high school problems can be numerated as follows:

1. Books being lost or taken--this is serious problem especially when there is about only one book to every six students.
2. Electric bulbs taken from the school buildings, also pencils.
3. Failure to cooperate with the instructors.
4. Failure to study.
5. Absenteeism
6. Breaking of walls, windows

Insubordination and failure to cooperate usually arises from the desire of some students for the appointive teachers instead of the resident instructors. Failure to study can be explained, in part, by the one-room apartments and the crowded conditions prevailing about the homes and the lack of school supplies, but more important the students exhibit much unrest over their future status.

Truancy is expected with the coming of good weather, but to a large extent "cutting" is discouraged due to the lack of recreational pastimes during the class hours, and the space in which the room is also limited.

There are two recreation halls in the high school grounds--one for the girls and one for the boys. Recreational facilities are steadily improving, and when the Community Activities Section institutes their proposed plan into the high school recreation is to be further improved.



In view of the present adequate educational facilities, the high school youths are well adjusted to the unusual atmosphere, except, of course, the students who were formerly pursuing a machine shop course. Under such adverse conditions widespread problems can be expected, but to date, fortunately, the school system is progressing without uncontrollable problems.

With the construction of the high school gymnasium and classrooms many of the physical maladjustments will undoubtedly be corrected, and with such an improvement student attitude also will probably improve.

### BOY SCOUT

When the scouts are about 15 years of age they begin to lose interest in the scout movement. This lack of interest is attributed, by the scoutmasters, to ring leaders who coax others to retire from Boy Scout activities. As a result of such unfavorable influences one Scout troop was disbanded.

Many of the scouts ask: "What do I get out of scouting; what's in it for me?"

The probable cause of problems may be listed as follows:

1. Empty recreation halls which hold little appeal for the boys.
2. The inability of the scouts to purchase complete scout uniforms and handbooks.
3. No flags, no Court of Honor.
4. Hiking is not anticipated due to the parents' complaints.
5. Swimming is demanded, but swimming pool is not constructed yet.

Whenever trouble arises the scoutmasters trace the matter to the family where preventive measures are attempted; usually emphasis is placed upon the need of more disciplinary action on the part of the parents.

Scoutmasters realize the need for more athletic activities and less socials as dancing, especially for the 15 to 17 age group. Since funds are lacking, the scouts are now contributing 10¢ monthly to the scout treasury. A summer camp is to be established, and a swimming pool is also under plans for construction. The Chief Steward is now providing materials for the cooking tests, and "bean feeds" are available for the scouts.



Misbehavior is inhibited to a large extent during the period of the scout meeting, but what these scouts do outside of their role as Boy Scouts one cannot discern unless full-time Scout-masters are assigned to the matter. As a result of this study delinquency is not widespread within the scout group, but such attitudes as indifference, "gang psychology", and the lack of discipline must be corrected or, at least, attempted to be improved.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

Topaz, Utah  
April 2, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. L.O. Noble  
Superintendent of Education

FROM: Ernest Takahashi  
Executive Secretary, Juvenile Board

SUBJECT: Possible procedures and technique to be followed to keep the principles of democracy alive in these relocation centers.

Since the policy of the W.R.A. is for relocation of as many Japanese into areas outside these centers, as soon as possible, the problem of keeping democracy alive has become increasingly important for the following reasons:

As you probably have noticed, most of the evacuees leaving the center are Nisei seeking jobs of employment which do not require too much salary. Persons with families and persons who have answered "no, no" to questions 27 and 28 will remain in these centers.

In the city of Topaz it seems that the population remaining in the city may be classed into two separate categories:  
(1) Parents, who constitute 33% of the population, and  
(2) the 2,000 younger Nisei who will be going to your schools.

Unless a definite educational policy is established to keep the principals for which we are fighting for alive, it seems that the students attending your schools will become more "Japanesey" than ever. For this reason I am proposing certain measures to be carried out in your schools which might lessen the sting of evacuation and educate each student to look objectively at this problem of democracy as it affects them.



I am listing briefly the procedure that might be followed in your classes.

First of all, to lessen the sting of evacuation, it might be worthwhile to study minority groups throughout the world. In so studying a student will realize that the discrimination that they are now facing is not peculiar only to the Nisei but is a general discrimination of all minority groups.

Secondly, most of the nisei in these centers left normal American life in an era of comparatively peace and quiet. For this reason they do not understand the meaning of rationing, control pressed, etc. It might be worthwhile, therefore, that the student study America in peace as compared with America at war, and therefore could realize that we are now under the virtual dictatorship of the army.

Thirdly, most of the schools in California have taught these students the ideals of democracy. They know democracy only as has been taught by the constitution, bill of rights, four freedoms, and emancipation Proclamation. They have never taught democracy in America as it actually operates and cannot realize the effects of pressure groups, lobbying, political measure, etc., as it affects their lives. Therefore, in the core classes a frank picture of American democracy at work might better acquaint the student to realize just how democracy operates in America.

Fourth, as we probably all realize democracy as knew prior to evacuation still clung to the principles of rugged individualism, laissez-faire, and the individual rights of man. It might be therefore worthwhile to acquaint each child with the America in which he will live in the post war period.

American democracy is no longer based on the above principles but has tendencies towards state socialism, managerial system and the principle of voluntary cooperation, and finally, in view of the above-mentioned points, I believe that each student should be made to realize that the America in which he will live will necessitate him to understand the actual problems and discriminations that he will be forced to bear. For this reason an objective viewpoint on the whole Japanese American problem must be taught in the high schools.

This briefly is my opinion of how democracy may be taught in the high school in an objective manner so that it will benefit not only the people concerned but the nation who hopes to keep them as Americans.

Ernest Takahashi  
Executive Secretary  
Advisory Board



GREAT MAJORITY OF EVACUEES  
IN TOPAZ CENTER LOYAL,  
SAYS DESERET NEWS

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"At Topaz 981 answered No to the loyalty question -- 981 of 6,208. As of mid-June an even 300 had changed their answers to Yes, leaving 618 who claimed allegiance to some foreign power," wrote C. L. Eddy of the Deseret News of Salt Lake City. Eddy has been writing a series of articles on the true conditions of relocation life in the Topaz center.

He described the loyalty question as: Biggest "head-ache" for both administration and evacuees at Topaz during the first nine months of existence of the Japanese relocation center, was the much-discussed loyalty pledge questionnaire. The last two of the 28 questions caused all the trouble and discussion. One hinged on the other.

"Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?"

That was the controversial poser which concluded a four-page form which Japanese adults at the center and the others in the country, were called upon to answer by last Feb. 28. The question preceding that one was merely whether the evacuee would agree to serve in combat duty wherever and whenever ordered.

LEAVE FORM

Accompanying the original questionnaire was another form, an application for leave clearance. This application must be cleared by WRA officials at Topaz and in Washington and further approved after a careful check by other governmental agencies. Then the applicant is ready to begin hunting a job which will support him on the "Outside".

827 RELEASED

Several weeks ago, 827 residents of Topaz had gone "outside" to jobs, to make new homes. More than 1200 have left the center on temporary leaves to accept seasonal or temporary work. Of those who left to relocate permanently six have returned.



## DANGER KIBEI!

Ready to put a knife in our backs, the smiling secret agent, trained in Japan, hides among loyal Americans, coiled to strike . . . . . By William F. French

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Californians do not worry about Hirohito's army or navy. It is the Japs in America, especially the kibeï -- pronounced "kee-bay" -- who appear to Westerners the trickiest and smoothest article the devil ever spawned. Nobody can be sure what Japs among the nisei -- loyal, American-born Japs -- are the deadly kibeï.

Kibeï are American-born Japs who were sent to Japan at an impressional age to be taught Shintoism, militarism and what to do for the god-emperor. They returned to America as special agents for Japanese imperialism. Because he is American-born, an American citizen, and almost 100% American in his manners there is no way to distinguish him from the nisei who have demonstrated their complete loyalty to the U. S. A. The most dangerous ones make it their business to appear harmless. They have charming manners, but are the most infernal,

Californians say the kibeï Jap is with us by the thousands. He is, they say, the brains of the Japanese espionage and sabotage in this country. He organized the issei, the Japan-born Japanese in America, who were still loyal to their emperor, for activity against the United States. Working with the notorious Japanese secret society, the Black Dragon, he planned fifth column activities. Only interning all Japanese prevented the kibeï's diabolical plans from working.

The kibeï is held 90% responsible for the rioting at Manzanar camp on December 6, 1942, in which pro-Axis Japanese attacked loyal American Japanese, killing one and wounding nine. He stirred up 4,000 of the 10,000 Japs in the Center, and, according to California newspapers, started the crowd yelling: "Pearl Harbor, banzai, banzai, banzai!" The kibeï then attacked democratic issei and nisei. Yet not one of Hirohito's kibeï agents was arrested as such because they could not be distinguished from the loyal nisei. Loyal American Japanese, beaten by pro-Axis Japs, said that they could not spot the kibeï even though they were operating all around them.



Joan Fontaine, the movie star, declared: "Although I was born in Japan, and while there in 1934 had a chance to study the kibeï boys in training for their sinister work over here, I cannot tell a kibeï from the collegiate, American-trained Japs I've known around Hollywood."

Some Japanese who were sent back to be indoctrinated with Japanese propaganda and trained to be secret agents refuse to work for Hirohito. Thus not all so-called kibeï are dangerous. Some are 100% American. One of these is Shuji Fujii. When he returned to the States after several years of Japanese schooling, he turned sour on the Rising Sun and made himself Bull's eye No. 1 for a Jap firing squad.

"I went to Japan when I was five," he said. "I came back at twenty-one, in 1931. I didn't like what they taught me over there. I was glad to get out of Japan. In 1938 I started a paper called Doho which was one of the first publications in America to protest the sale of oil and scrap metal to militaristic Japan. I wanted to make the Japanese here see how wrong Japan was, and to fight Japanese propaganda here."

Shuji says that the only thing to do is to put all Japanese into internment camps. The loyal Japanese accept internment willingly, he declares, because they know there are dangerous kibeï in their midst. He asserts it is better to inconvenience 117,000 Japanese than to imperil 130 million Americans.

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"P I C"

July 6, 1943 issue.



## AMERICANS IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS

By Harry Paxton Howard

Over 70,000 native Americans, citizens born, are now lodged in concentration camps in the American West, with no criminal charges of any kind against them. No court has found them guilty of any offense against American law; indeed, no formal indictment has ever been drawn up against them. It is acknowledged that the great majority of them are loyal, law-abiding Americans, true to the country of their birth. Some of them have given most useful assistance to the American government against enemy spies and other agents. Even in their present situation, most of them are trying bravely to make the best of things, and are willing to accept the government's explanation of "military necessity."

Why are they there? First of all, because the United States is at war, and the Army has secured tremendous power in national affairs. The hapless citizens who have been deprived of their constitutional rights and constitutional protection have the misfortune to include among their ancestors persons of a non white country with which the United States is now at war. It is the "non white" which must be emphasized. American citizens of German, Italian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, or Roumanian ancestry have not been legally discriminated against. It is only our citizens of Japanese ancestry who have been put into concentration camps. They are not "white." They are "not to be trusted."

There are also some 40,000 enemy aliens in the same camps. These aliens also are not "white." If they were "white", the great majority of them would not be aliens at all. Most of them have been in this country over thirty years; their average age is sixty-three years. But they have not been permitted to become American citizens, as they are "Asiatics." During the generation and more that they have been in this country, over a million Germans and Italians have entered the country and been naturalized as American citizens. German Nazis and Italian Fascists are "white" -- whatever their politics. But American naturalization laws, as interpreted by the United States supreme court, deny the right of naturalization to Asiatics. So Asiatic immigrants remain "aliens." If we are at war with their homeland, they become "enemy aliens" -- including hundreds who fought in the American armed forces in the first world war! They are "aliens" only because America has refused them citizenship.



ITALIAN-AMERICAN VS. JAPANESE-AMERICAN

Along the eastern coast of the United States, where the number of Americans of Japanese ancestry is comparatively small, no concentration camps have been established. From a military viewpoint, the only danger of this coast is from Germany and Italy. Enemy submarines are carrying on a terribly successful war against American shipping along the coast. They have landed agents along the coast, some of whom have been apprehended. But the American government has not taken any such high-handed action against Germans and Italians--and their American-born descendants--on the east coast, as has been taken against Japanese and their American-born descendants on the west coast. Germans and Italians are "white."

Illustrative of the situation, and in some significant ways symbolic, was the great "New York at War" parade on June 13. Mayor LaGuardia, New York's capable and energetic chief executive, was in charge. It was a most spectacular and comprehensive affair, including not only American and Allied forces and delegations but loyal German-Americans and Italian-Americans. It even included Soviet Russians--whose loyalty to the war against Hitlerism dates only from June 22, 1941, when Hitler invaded Russia. Together with our Italian-American mayor on the official reviewing platform were our capable Jewish governor, our "Nordic" vice-president, and the Fascist King of Greece--now transformed, like Stalin, into our "ally." It was both representative and significant.

There was one little omission in the parade. Americans of Japanese ancestry were not permitted to take part. A group of them, of unquestioned loyalty, were turned down flatly while Germans and Italians, marked proudly up Fifth avenue. Four members of the American Civil Liberties Union--Miss Florina Lasker, chairman of the New York City committee, Rev. John Paul Jones, Mary Dreier, and Guy Emery Shipler (editor of the Churchman)--sent a shocked and indignant protest to Mayor LaGuardia and Police Commissioner Valentine:

"We learn with amazement that the committee in charge of the patriotic parade in support of the United Nations on Saturday has refused to permit loyal Japanese-Americans to march, although permitting German-Americans and Italians-Americans to participate. Such discrimination on purely racial grounds is a shocking violation of our democratic professions."



Mayor Laguardia did not deign to reply. It was, indeed, a somewhat embarrassing question for him. How did it happen that an American of Italian descent should bar Americans of Japanese descent? Their "national" position was precisely similar. And there was no doubt of the loyalty of either. But he was "white" and they were "colored." It made a difference.

#### OUR CONCENTRATION CAMPS

It was at the end of March--almost four months after Pearl Harbor--that the Army started the forcible removal of west coast Japanese-Americans to concentration camps. It was not due to some urgent and pressing "present danger"; things were more fully under control along the Pacific Coast than they had ever been before--and far more than they had been during the previous December. It was not due to the sudden shock and hysteria occasioned by Pearl Harbor itself--that had long passed. Neither was it due to any new revelations regarding Japanese espionage or sabotage in Hawaii had been officially disproved. The Tolan Committee had received an official statement from the Honolulu Chief of Police, W. A. Gabrielson stating clearly and without qualification: "There were no acts of sabotage committed in the city and country of Honolulu on December 7, nor have there been any acts of sabotage reported to the Police Department since that date.....There was no deliberate blocking of the traffic during December 7 or following that date by unauthorized persons."

Possibilities of sabotage, indeed, were pretty well disposed of along the Pacific Coast during the weeks and months after Pearl Harbor. Loyal American of Japanese descent, and Japanese residents loyal to their new homeland, had given full cooperation to the American authorities in tracking down Japanese spies and agents along the coast. By the end of March, these creatures seemed to have been pretty well cleaned up. The propagandist Japanese-language schools, which our authorities had permitted to carry on despite criticism from democratic Japanese, were at long last closed down. But then, at the end of March, the Army clamped down on the loyal Japanese-American and put them into concentration camps. (There may be a "moral" to this, but it's not a "good" one; it does not assist the current line that the "Japs" are treacherous.)

Down to March 29, the Western Defense Command under General DeWitt had encouraged voluntary evacuation of Japanese-Americans from the coast into inland states. On that date, however, the Command reversed itself; General DeWitt forbade further voluntary evacuation, and ordered persons of Japanese ancestry to stay where they were at the time. Later, they were moved by the Army.



They were forced to liquidate their farms and their little businesses at ruinous prices. White speculators, farmers, and business men took over their farms and shops. Second-hand men and junk dealers got the contents of their homes. It was a famous victory.

Though there were only a few hundred of these contemptible profiteering creatures, they were aided by various forces. Race prejudice is still a factor along the coast, and was exploited to the utmost by the foul press--particularly that of Hearst and Otis--featuring absolutely false statements about "what happened in Hawaii" and the "Yellow Peril." Local politicians had competed with one another in showing their courageous patriotism by reviling the "Japs." The Associated Farmers and Chambers of Commerce cooperated with those of their members who were eager and anxious to plunder their yellow skinned competitors. And there was widespread ignorance as large numbers of persons had never come to know any of the Japanese-Americans, and were worked into actual fear and hysteria by the anti-Japanese blasts of the press and radio. Even among the Negroes along the coast, many failed to realize that the issue was basically racial, and directly concerned themselves.

The Army was not wholly above these things. If it was immune to the pressure politics of A Farmers' Associations and Chambers of Commerce, it was certainly not immune to race prejudice, nor indifferent to the American Legion. Nor was it interested in contradicting the anti-Japanese propaganda of the press and radio, which presumably helped "morale" and the war effort. And it has pretty definite aims of its own--the extension of military authority over as wide a field as possible, supplanting civil authority everywhere the opportunity offered. In Hawaii with its great colored majority, which has never been given State's rights and still remains a territory, the Army obtained absolute powers from the President on December 7, since which time the military dictatorship there has extended even to the criminal courts. Army authority, it should be added, is Federal authority.

#### "PROTECTIVE" CUSTODY

There was, however, another factor present in March, Army and Federal government officials, in private conversations, expressed real apprehension of Japanese reprisals against American prisoners-of-war. If Japanese were lynched in the United States. The increasingly rapid fury of anti-Japanese invective, and the murderous howling of the "vigilantes" for yellow meat, seemed to presage some terrible outbursts. Lynchings had to be prevented; for this, it was necessary to herd Japanese and Japanese-Americans into concentration camps--"for their own protection."



A high official in Washington said gravely to a representative of the Federal Council of Churches: "It is a sad commentary on the American way of life when we find it necessary to put American citizens behind barbed wire in order to protect them.

There was, certainly, direct association between the Army's moves and the war situation in the Far East. On March 25, the Japanese had launched their final overwhelming drive against the Filipino and American defenders of Bataan--half starved, most of them sick and without medicines, watching daily for reinforcements and supplies which never arrived. The government knew the end was near; MacArthur had already left for Australia; by March 26 it was clear that Bataan could not last another two weeks--though the soldiers were not told this. On March 29 came the Army's order on the west coast, reversing its previous orders and forbidding further voluntary evacuation. Members of General DeWitt's staff gave as a reason his fear lest the evacuees suffer physical violence on account of the strong hostility to them in many communities east of the First Military Area. Events on Bataan soon made clear why this fear developed at that particular moment. By April 10 several thousand sick and starving American prisoners were in Japanese hands--and several times that number of Filipino prisoners.

If General DeWitt's idea was really to protect Japanese-Americans from their white fellow-citizens, he must be given due credit. It must be noted, however, that this laudable impulse does not seem to have developed until it became certain that the Japanese would soon have thousands of American prisoners in their hands--upon whom reprisals might be taken. The lynchings of yellow American would be no light matter if it were countered by shootings of white American prisoners by the Japanese. Japanese-Americans had to be protected--not for their own sakes, but for the protection of American soldiers in Japanese hands. The Japanese now had American hostages for our good behavior.

There was, indeed, another way out. The government, with its thousands of official censors and propagandists, could have clamped down of the Hitler-like racial fury of the anti-Japanese press could have given wide circulation to the facts regarding Pearl Harbor and the splendid loyalty of most Americans of Japanese descent, could have emphasized Secretary Hull's official statement that he expected the Japanese reply to his note of November 26 to be "war," could have stressed the fact that Washington had notified Hawaii on November 27 that negotiations with Japan "had ended" and that an attack was to be expected at any time. But this would have gone counter to the official propaganda about "Jap trachery," and might not have helped war



morale. So, instead, we slapped the "Japs" into concentration camps--for the protection of American soldiers in Japanese hands. So our Army also got some "prisoners"--and hostages.

#### FILTH AND SQUALOR

If the Army's aim was the protection of Japanese-Americans, this aim seems to have been forgotten as soon as the evacuees were got into the pleasantly named "reception centers" and "assembly centers." They were treated as dangerous aliens, and their accommodation was of the worst. The Army was in charge, and it was almost impossible to obtain permits to leave; the Army accused evacuees of "trying to escape" (from "protection") Ten thousand or more persons would be confined to an area of less than a square miles, sometimes surrounded by barbed wire and always by armed guards. At Manzanar and some other centers the guards would not permit parcels--soap, clothing, shoes, baby things--to be brought into the camp. For a long time such urgent necessities as goggles--to keep dust from the eyes in windy and semi-desert centers--could not be brought in.

There was no direct torture. It was an American, not a Nazi, concentration camp. Some of the older inhabitants--most of the Japanese born were over sixty--suffered from insufficiency of their customary rice. Persons accustomed to daily bathing and the most scrupulous cleanliness found it "trouble-some" to live in filth, lacking tubjs, buckets, washing machines or sufficient soap. Perpetually dusty and dirty eyes were painful and "troublesome." Babies found unwashed diapers painful as well as odorous. Parents suffered as their children sickened and died, living in a filth and squalor such as neither they nor their ancestors had known within their long memories. But there was no "torture."

Not all the evacuees were yellow. There were some white and other non-Japanese--mostly women married to Japanese-Americans. And some of the Japanese-Americans were not more than one-eighth Japanese, owing to inter-marriage. But a "Jap" was anyone with traceable Japanese blood--just as Hitler's "Jews" means anyone with traceable Jewish blood. A Japanese grandfather to a German in Berlin--or a Negro grandfather in Atlanta. Some of the women--Americans of Japanese descent--were separated from non-Japanese husbands who could not or would not make the sacrifice from following them into bondage.

Housing conditions vary in the different camps. Usually the houses are long barracks, with a single community toilet and laundry for a block of houses with hundreds of persons.



At Manzanar and some other centers, the houses are built of rough lumber; dust sweeps in continuously. At Manzanar there are two to three families, or eight to ten persons, to a room--assigned regardless of age or sex. The population density of Manzanar is about 30,000 persons, per square mile--equal to that in Metropolitan New York.

There is no running water in houses in most of the camps. At Manzanar only two of the twelve blocks of houses have hot showers in the community toilet, and hot water for diswashing. For weeks, there were almost no laundry and washing facilities--in a dusty and windy area, for a people accustomed to daily bathing at all times. At Puyallup, to the north, there was one small washroom for every 250 persons; on endless line was standing and waiting at all times--in a broiling sun most of the day, and with no shade. It is not so dusty at Puyallup. The dirt does not come through the walls, but from the ground. The shacks are laid flat on the ground, and mud oozes up through the floors during the after frequent rains. But the roof is only plank plus tarpaper, so the sun soon bakes the mud--and the inmates. Sometimes the sewage-disposal pipes break, and the sewage flows down the streets. Children play in the filth they must play somewhere. But there is no "torture."

Food is adequate. Anyway, no one has died of starvation. But some old persons, accustomed to rice and vegetables, cannot digest stale bread and canned wieners and beans. Tea is their great solace--but some of them cannot drink it when it is dosed with saltpeter, as it done at Camp Harmony and some other "resorts." Also, some of them find it difficult to stand in line for half an hour or more, in the long mealtime queues, out in the rain with their feet in the mud, or in the fierce sun farther south, waiting for their miserable portions of canned foods. They grew beautiful vegetables, of course. But other persons are eating them--when they are being eaten. Some times the patriotic whites who grabbed their farms simply plowed the vegetable crops under, not knowing how to handle them.

#### IT CONCERNS THE NEGRO

What has happened to these Americans in recent months is of direct concern to the American Negro. For the barbarous treatment of these Americans is the result of the color line. This cannot be too often repeated or too clearly understood. These men, women, and children have been taken from their pleasant homes and long-cultivated farms, and businesses because their skins are yellow and their eyes have the tell-tale



Mongolian eyefold. Americans of Germans or Italian descent are not being discriminated. against. Wendell Willkie and Florella LaGuardia are not being stuck into filthy and noisome shacks in vile concentration camps because they are of German and Italian ancestry; they are white. Old Germans and Italians who have lived in the United States for a generation are not being discriminated against; they are white, and most of them are citizens. Even the Germans and Italians who have reached these shores during the past twenty years are not treated as "enemies." Many of them, in fact, are giving loyal service to their adopted country: these service to their adopted country; these services are welcomed. They are white.

Negroes have been told again and again: "Work quietly, be industrious, mind your own business, and you will get justice even in America." That is what these yellow-skinned Americans believed. They worked cheerfully and industriously. They turned deserts into beautiful and fertile farm-land, grew vegetables and fruits for themselves and for others. They distinguished themselves at school, abstained from politics, had the lowest crime-rate of any group in the entire country. They earned the respect of all decent white persons who came in contact with them, over-coming racial prejudice among tens of thousands; many of these tried ineffectively to help them during recent months; most significant is the fact that there have actually been no lynchings, and that Japanese-American felt safe in their own American communities where they were known. They did not ask for the Army's "protection," it was thrust upon them.

What has been their regard? They have been plundered of every thing, and crowded in concentration camps fit only for pigs. If West brook Pegler and the southern senators have their way they will be deported to Japan when the war is over. There is already a move to deprive them of citizenship--a more headed by the "Native Sons of the Golden West" and the Senate's Immigration Committee. If this move is successful it would disfranchise not only Japanese-Americans but other "Asiatics." It is using as its basis, indeed, an 1898 court decision disfranchising an American of Chinese descent--later overruled by a majority United States supreme court decision. And if native-born Americans, of Asiatic descent, can be denied all civil rights and civil liberties, what about Americans of African Descent?

Down to the Civil War, American citizenship was for "free whites." The Fourteenth Amendment ended this limitation--on paper--and racial limitations on citizenship were formally



abolished. It has taken a long while to approach this. Most American Negroes are still disfranchised--by poll tax or other restrictions in the states where they are most numerous. But much has been gained, and colored Americans are now struggling with increasing success for a position of political equality.

The drive against Americans of Asiatic descent is a direct counter to this. It is significant that southern senators and congressmen are among the most rabidly anti-Japanese. For if Asiatic-Americans can be done to Afro-Americans--and to Jews.

This is an integral part of the struggle for human and racial equality. It concerns every Negro. It concerns every believer in democracy and human equality, regardless of color. "For evern as yet have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

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EDUCATIONAL REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND  
PROCEDURES OF THE PRE-SCHOOL

STAFF

6 Each group is directed by a leader, who is responsible to the directors for the running of her particular group and also for the assisting teachers under her. The number of teachers in each school vary according to the number of children enrolled with from 6 to 8 full-time teachers.

There are certain individuals who give part-time assistance. They are often married women who are interested in our program but cannot work full time because of their home responsibilities.

The whole pre-school program is directed by two co-directors who are directly responsible to the superintendent of education. The responsibility of the administrative and organizational work, the coordinating of all the groups, teacher training and teacher selection rests with them.

One secretary takes care of clerical matters in the administrative work. She assists by making copies of lecture material and stories and songs for the use of the schools. Minutes of every meeting are kept according to government regulations. She also looks after correspondence.

The members of our staff are required to work 44 hours per week. The morning hours are given to practical nursery school teaching experience in the schools.

FACILITIES

There are certain limitation imposed upon us because of the peculiar set up. Cooperative use of our school buildings is necessary by various departments and agencies because of the lack of available facilities.

The service of an interested custodian is of vital importance to our work. Each building is equipped with three large stoves and all of them must have large fires built in them early enough in order that the building is warm enough before the school opens. The building has no partitions and heating it thoroughly takes some time. A thorough daily sweeping and mopping is essential in this particular climate and atmosphere.

One of our major problems is the lack of toilet and wash facilities within the building. The distance to the latrine is especially problematic when the weather is cold and frosty or when the roads are muddy after a storm.

Since the facilities at the latrines are of standard size, steps leading up to the wash bowls, toiletseats, and platform around the toilets have been made for the use of our schools.



THE CHILDREN

The Pre-School/centers accept children from the ages of 2 to 5 years (until they are accepted in Kindergarten). The enrollment in the two centers although not compulsory have been very gratifying. The enrollment continues to grow; in fact, so much that we have had to make an adjustment in our program. Pre-Kindergarten group to accommodate the children from 4 to 5 years of age has been organized for afternoon sessions. In this group were also those children who were sent back from kindergarten because of the age requirement for the public schools in the state of Utah.

We have found that the school adjustment has considerably eased in Toraz. We felt that much of this was due to the carry-over of the training at Tanforen. Also, the feeling of permanence on the part of the parents has no doubt contributed to the lack of tension among the children. For example, there has been much less crying by the children upon re-entering school. This also makes it easier for the new children who enter.

Since the physical surroundings are not like those from which they came, the responsibility of our schools is that much greater. The schools must offer them not only maximum physical asset, but must provide affection, stability, and a sense of belonging. We feel that we are gradually working toward that goal as illustrated by the children themselves. Children feel ~~that~~ and show pride in their schools as was shown during open house when children who accompanied their parents, took it upon themselves to show "their" school to the parents--one child that evening upon entering, immediately took off her outer clothing and placed them in her locker in the habitual way, showing her mother just how it was done. In specific cases, we are working toward definite adjustments: two boys were referred to us from the Community Welfare Section because they were lacking in home care and affection. They were gruff in manner and speech and dirty and grimy in appearance. We are teaching them personal habits, a responsibility toward play material, and social technique of learning to be accepted by the group. We have found that it is easiest to appeal to them through affection and interest. Another child from a motherless family found affection and warmth at school which were lacking at home. Teachers at times went beyond the school into the home to extend a helping hand. ~~Teachers~~ We have tried to have the children accept on equal terms children from all types of homes. This is a difficult problem.

In one of our schools, Caucasian children have enrolled and we have found that they adjust more readily when they are younger. This depends greatly on personality difference, but we would like to feel that children at this age have very little feelings of racial distinction.



## Central Utah Project

We are lacking in outdoor equipment mostly. Since our school has no yard, we cannot provide as much outdoor activities as we wish. Certainly, equipment such as swings, slides, bars, climbing bars would help a lot.

For the large number of children in our centers and number of centers....there is a lack in the number of toys so that one must continually report to utilizing available material. Such items as empty milk cartons (paper) are washed and used as a "drop box" for milk tops. They can also be covered and used as blocks, trains, or filled with stones for rattles.

In Their creative work, we have noted the influence of barren surroundings in the pictures that they draw and the objects they make out of clay. In their clay work for instance, there is a predominance of pancakes, a rare breakfast treat. After the first few snow falls, many snow men were made out of clay.

A nature study nook has been made in each school where contributions of unusual stones, twigs, leaves, and even at times birds or fish are brought. Children collect many of these things on their walks.

Because of our lack of outdoor equipment, we are not able to carry on the much needed outdoor activities. But we try to give more attention to our walks, and on warm days, almost every child joins a group. It is possible to encourage conversation on these trips and to help children to be observing of their surroundings.

Children have little opportunity for quiet where a whole family live in a one-room apartment. Even a short period helps. At the beginning when we did not have the facilities for the rest period, we discovered the children were more irritable and the school more noisy and unsettled.

Their free play include more material for group activity such as playing store, building trains, etc. They enjoy more highly skilled activities such as carpentry. Their mid-afternoon lunch is organized in amore formal way: children sit at tables and wait for the group. They are asked to help with table setting, putting out and away of mattresses. Activities such as singing, and story telling are participated in by the children much more. Dramatizing of stories by the children are enjoyed. Excursions are planned for the entire group to various centers of interest in the community. Emphasis is placed on broadening the children's knowledge by the introduction of a more varied program.



## HOME-SCHOOL RELATIONS

Since it is not possible to begin regular PTA meetings, we are in touch with parents by letters. Our first letter explained the aims of the school and the purpose of different aspects of the daily program. We asked for their cooperation in providing proper clothing for the children and in enforcing us of any unusual occurrences at home that would help us to better understand the child at school.

The problems of winterization proved to be an excellent point of contact with the parents. One school parent groups instigated among themselves a mass meeting to solve the problem and were brought closer together and to the schools through this cooperative effort.

In our work here at Topaz, we have felt an increased understanding and cooperation on the part of the parents. For example, several parents whose older children are already in our schools are very anxious to enroll their younger children just as soon as they reach the required age. Some ask for recommendations of play material for their children for use at home. In response to these many requests the department has provided a toy loan section. Parents may borrow toys for a period of two weeks. This is also a means of parent education concerning the play materials suited to certain age levels.

## PHYSICAL HANDICAPS AND LIMITATION OF OUR SET-UP

Lack of toilet facilities within the building precipitated many problems, such as cleaning of the latrine at hours during which the schools would be using it. We spoke to the custodian in charge of the particular latrine asking for his cooperation. The sizes and height of toilet bowls and seats were standard ones and were out of proportion for our children. We asked for steps, stands, and removable seats for our school use. Lack of wash facilities in the building is felt after such activities as clay and painting. Basins of water are used, although they are not very satisfactory.

The distance to the latrine and the increasing cold weather increases these problems. Often children did not have adequate outer garments and over-shoes, so that commuting was a hazard to their health. Problems of getting muddy and wet made more complications for the school routine. We found it helpful to place a mud-scraper near the steps. Smaller children without adequate protection from the weather often had to be carried by the teachers. With a limit on the time due to the number of children enrolled and the staff, this is very unsatisfactory.

We found it helpful to put up nails in the latrines both near the toilet and the wash stand on which children could hang their towels as they brought individually from the school room. A bench was taken to the latrine upon which children could lay their outer garments... Bundling up in cold weather added further problems in the toilet routine.



## Central Utah Project

Then there is the problem of emergencies and accidents with very young children. The teachers with the aid of toilet charts are able to know which children need to go in addition to the regular routine and how often. Cold weather increase this difficulty.

### BOY SCOUT

#### Monthly Report for March

##### HIGHLIGHTS

1. Scout Field Day--March 6 at high school ground. 86 scouts, 11 leaders, and 300 spectators. Events: Drill teams, tug of war, relays, first aid, signaling, string burning, water boiling, knot tying.
2. Senior Scout Dance--March 7 at Rec. Hall #34; 60 participants.
3. Induction of Hawaii people--March 14, 72 scouts. Drum and bugle playing, ushering, guiding, handling of baggages, building fires in stoves, checking of equipment.
4. Taking part in Volunteer Ceremony--March 14, at Rec. #4. 4 scouts.
5. Taking part in YBA Conference--March 20, DH #32. 9 scouts.
6. Inauguration of District Committee Council--March 30 at Boy Scout Lodge. 6 leaders participated.
7. Discussion on Cubbing with Chief Anderson--March 30 at Boy Scout Lodge. 6 leaders participated.
8. Ushering of Hawaii people for Camp Tour--4 Scout leaders.

##### MEETINGS

1. Council Meeting--March 10 at Boy Scout Lodge; discussion on registration of scouts. March 16 at Boy Scout Lodge; discussion on Cubbing. March 23 at Boy Scout Lodge; Planning for District Council Inauguration.
2. Four lodge staff meeting every Monday; Discussion on future plans, activities.
3. Cubmasters and Den Chief's Training session--March 24-14 participants.  
March 31-9 "
- 4.



Central Utah Project

HIKINGS\*\*patrol hikings

GAMES\*\*Softball & baseball games

ADVANCEMENTS\*\*8 tenderfeets; 7 2nd classes; 11 merit badge test passed.

COMMENTS

Several Scouts cannot pass the First Class Tests due to the fact that no swimming facilities available.

Handicraft work went down somewhat, due to the lack of scrap lumber. Conferences held with the parents on Cubbing indicate that they have more interests on Cubbing rather than on Scouting.

With the change of weather, more residents are visiting the Scout Lodge. We have had ten school classes visit us during the month of March.



RESOLUTION TO SECRETARY OF WAR HENRY L. STIMSON

We, the citizens of the United States of America, residents of the Central Utah Relocation Project, Topaz, Utah, in order to perform our duties as loyal citizens of the United States and in order to uphold the principles of democracy as established in the constitution of the United States do hereby state that:

WHEREAS, we the citizens of the United States have been asked by our Government to pledge our unqualified allegiance to this country.

WHEREAS, we have accepted in good faith and in full cooperation the extraordinary orders of the United States Army.

WHEREAS, we feel that we have given our fullest cooperation to this program of evacuation.

WHEREAS, we have temporarily surrendered many of the rights and privileges of citizenship which we have heretofore enjoyed

WHEREAS, the Government through the Federal Reserve Bank has promised us full protection from unscrupulous people at the time of evacuation.

WHEREAS, we feel that the Federal Reserve Bank has failed to protect the people

WHEREAS, we suffered losses of homes, properties, work, freedom of movement, separation from friends, and all things we felt dear to us without protest

WHEREAS, we wish to prevent in the future, the mass evacuation or confining of citizens without trial

WHEREAS, we feel that there is only one class of citizenship in this country and a loyal citizen of one race should not be treated any different from another

WHEREAS, we believe that some of these things mentioned above constitute a violation of our civil rights

WHEREAS, we believe sincerely and honestly in the principle of freedom of Speech, freedom of Worship, freedom of the Press and freedom of Assemblage as embodied in the Constitution and its amendments

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That we ask Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson that after a thorough investigation by the Military Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other Federal authorities that persons that are cleared should have



absolute freedom of movement and the choice of returning to their homes.

2. That we request President Roosevelt to give us assurance that he will use his good office in an endeavor to secure all constitutional and civil rights as American citizens.
3. That the security for the Isseis be assured.
4. That we ask President Roosevelt to use his good office to bring favorable impression to the public regarding the loyal citizens.
5. That we ask that those Isseis considered by the Government as being not disloyal to this Government be classified as friendly aliens.
6. That we have the Government note the advantage of the good publicity to be gained by disbursing Nisei soldiers into the Army at large rather than by forming a separate combat team; and that the Government further note that the education of Caucasian soldiers can be made through deep comradeship that grows between soldiers facing a common task and thereby educate the American public.
7. That the Government recognizing that we are fighting for the Four Freedoms as embodied in the Atlantic Charter should apply these democratic principles to us here at home.
8. That we believe that if satisfactory answers can be given by a Government spokesman, preferably the President of the United States, to these questions we can go and fight for this our country without fear or qualms concerning the security of our future fights.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That we respectfully ask for immediate answers to the questions in this resolution.



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February 16, 1943

TO: Charles F. Ernst

FROM: Dillon Myer

SUBJECT: Regarding Resolutions Addressed to Secretary Stimson

THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY SECRETARY STIMSON WAS MADE IN GOOD FAITH. THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS IN MY JUDGMENT THE STEPPING STONE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THOSE THINGS OUTLINED IN THE RESOLUTION PROVIDED THE EVACUEES ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT IN GOOD FAITH. THE WRA HAS URGED SOME SUCH OPPORTUNITY BY WHICH THE GOOD FAITH OF THE JAPANESE AMERICANS COULD BE DRAMATIZED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IT MIGHT BROUGHT QUICKLY AND CLEARLY INTO THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO QUIBBLE OR BARGAIN. THIS IS THE CRUCIAL TEST. IT IS THE TIME FOR THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION AND DECISION. SECRETARY STIMSON CANNOT GIVE THE ANSWERS TO THE RESOLUTION. THAT ANSWER WILL BE PROVIDED IN A LARGE MEASURE BY THE EVACUEES OF TOPAZ AND THE OTHER RELOCATION CENTERS DURING THIS WEEK AND NEXT. IT IS MY HOPE AND MY BELIEF THAT THEY WILL NOT FAIL THIS CRUCIAL TEST.

DILLON MYER



## UTAH'S STRANGEST COMMUNITY: TOPAZ RELOCATION CAMP

By Arthur Gaeth

*Salt Lake Tribune 3/1/43*

What do you know about Topaz, the sixth largest community in Utah? Mail clerks and telephone operators very often cannot find it. Located some 165 miles southwest of Salt Lake City is historic Pahvant valley, named after a mountain full of transparent prismatic crystals which form semiprecious stones, this strange place has a unique homogeneous population. Except for a troop of soldiers, a group of governmental administrators and educators, a construction foremen and some workers, the 8500 people at Topaz are all of Japanese extraction.

One year ago the wastelands of Pahvant Valley provided winter pasturage for flocks of sheep. Along the banks of the Sevier river and the canals of the irrigation system there were some promising farms. There were and are such communities as Delta and Hinckley which once prospered on alfalfa seed and lambs. But off toward the Confusion mountains, there was nothing but juniper and greasewood and alkali soil, a few relics and arrowheads, and mountains that looked inviting to the artist but sustained little life. In 1900 the land had been classified as unproductive.  
TEN THOUSAND HOUSED IN ONE\*STORY BARRACKS

Because populated areas protested against Japanese infiltration, it was decided to settle 16,000 evacuees from the Pacific coast in Pahvant valley, 10 miles west of Delta. Late in the summer of 1942, the army had 500 120x20-foot one-story barracks built and on September 10 the first inhabitant moved in. A month later a population of 8500 had been established. The brush began to disappear; the barracks began to look habitable. Industriouslly the inmates began to search the desert and the mountains to provide decorations and desert landscaping and to create the foundations for a new desert environment and civilization.

Most of the Japanese population of Topaz came from the Bay district of California. Only 7 per cent of the community settlers had been engaged in agriculture. They were predominantly urbanites. Among them is a university professor whose work is known throughout the West. There are doctors and dentists. One man owned several nurseries and a dozen automobiles. There is the owner of the Golden Gate Tea Gardens. Some of Grant Avenue's most prosperous "China Town" merchants are among the inhabitants. Then are thousands of young people, born and educated in the United States. Most of these speak little Japanese. They play football and basket ball, jitterbug, appreciate hamburgers and hotdogs, not sukiyaki. In many ways they are typical American-born descendants of foreign-born parents-- often in conflict with their elders who still retain the ways of the old world. These young people had already broken away, many of them, actually to resent the stigma of the alien which has attached to them. They wanted to be Americans but found it difficult. Most of them came to Topaz determined to show that they could take it. They would prove that they were loyal Americans. They are being put to the test;



it will bring out the good in them or break them and ruin their lives.

#### Families Live in Single Rooms of Varying Size

Today the people of Topaz live in hurriedly constructed army barracks. Families live in single rooms of varying size, depending on the number of family members. The rooms are simply furnished; they are without plumbing fixtures, electrically lighted, heated by iron stoves. The climate lacks the mildness of the bay area. It runs to extremes, but it is invigorating. It will require the hardiness of pioneers to weather this ordeal, but as Professor Obata told his art students: "We will survive if we look to the mountains for inspiration and forget the sands at our feet."

The people are fed out of community kitchens, three times a day, at government expense. Their meals are adequate. They conform to the requirements of sound dietetic principles. They are cooked by Japanese chefs and the average cost of a day's rations is 45 cents. Topaz is affected by the contingencies of war, as is everyone else in America. The community faces certain shortages everyday. It consumes about 17,000 pounds of meat a week, which is about two pounds per person. There is only one cup of coffee and two cups of tea per day. Margarine must often be used instead of butter. Rice is the major food. There are meatless days and days with few vegetables. However, there is always enough to eat. The food is cleanly prepared and tastely served by Japanese men and women who earn \$16 and \$19 a month doing it. The talk about the people of Topaz living in luxury beyond that of the average American is unfounded.

#### Camp Provides Work For All Who Wish It

The camp provides work for all who wish to work. As long as jobs are available inside and outside of the community, no relief will be paid to those who wish to work. Many of the people of Topaz were well to do and are supplying their "extras" out of their own pockets. Those who have no means can obtain jobs at the rate of \$12, \$16 and \$19 a month. After all, 35 mess halls must be maintained. The safety of the huge square mile "city" must be assured by fire and protection wardens. The community must be kept clean. A 175-bed hospital must be staffed and 700 acres of fair farming land must be made to produce a good part of the food that will be consumed in the camp next year. The limited job experience of the camp members will be expanded through the school system, which is comprised of two elementary schools, a junior and senior high school and a vocational training and adult education center.

The population of the camp is preponderantly under 45 years of age. Over 3000 of the 8500 people are between the ages of 16 and 30. Sixty per cent of all the inhabitants are American born citizens of the country. More English than Japanese are spoken. The Nisei or second generation American-born Japanese generally act as Americans and would like to be Americans if they were not "branded."

The impression that all Japanese are created according to one pat-



tern, that they all think and act alike, is not well-founded. They too, have their groups and differences and American environment has tended to make them more pronounced, although the mark of race and discrimination against them has driven these people together much more than they ordinarily would be.

#### Certain Dangers Grow Out Of Topaz Plan

Communities on the Topaz pattern are recreating certain dangers to the country. Japanese youth in this country has often shown a tendency to get away from the influence of its elders. Shintoism, the national religion of Japan, emphasized a veneration for the past and for elders and emperors. Where the Japanese have lived together, the old folks have wielded influence and controlled the habits and customs to a wide degree. In the confinement of a Topaz, the influence of tradition and family may be even stronger than it was in the little "Tokyo" on the coast. Many of these Isei or Japanese-born elders have never lost the influence of the old country and their regard for their home-country is still high--although that is not universally the case. Although the Shintoists were all interned and there are none in the war relocation centers, the development of the youth in these centers will not be as freely along American lines as it would be if they had been completely cut loose from the nationalistic influence of their past. The Japanese family system needs to be broken down. The relocation and settlement of the Nisei or Japanese-Americans in different parts of the country, outside the former little "Tokyos" and, even away from these camps, may help them become better Americans unless American prejudice makes it impossible for them to survive.

#### Young And Old Get Educational Chance

The education processes for the youth and even the old folks of Topaz have not ceased. Two elementary schools about 350 students each are in operation in 12 barracks. Professor John C. Carlisle, formerly of the school of education at Utah State Agricultural College, is superintendent of schools. His institutions are meeting Utah state school requirements. There is a junior and senior high school for 1000 students -- of that number 245 are juniors and 165 seniors. Many of these students will want to go on to college but that is a hurdle which has not yet been crossed. More than 2000 adults have registered in the different adult education classes which operate under the direction of Professor Laverne C. Bane, formerly of the University of Utah. Professor Chiura Obata, until recently on the faculty at the University of California, is conducting an art school for more than 350 students. His wife, one of the outstanding flower arrangement experts in the country, has a large following, although she only has cactus, juniper, and greasewood with which to work. Hundreds of adults are studying music, textiles, handwork and a dozen other subjects for which talented American and Japanese teachers have been found in the community. The



construction of a high school and two elementary school buildings is definitely on the building program.

#### Good Stores Provide Necessary Extras

The "city" reveals many aspects of normal life. It has two stores. They are cooperatives and provide the extras that people must have. They do more than a thousand dollars in business each day and former Grant Avenue merchants operate them. They never knew business was so much fun. It is easy to show a profit with little competition and the wages of clerks pegged at \$16. At the end of each quarter profits are divided among the members of the cooperatives in ration with their purchases. With 28 births and 11 deaths, the community is not far behind the Utah mortality average. There are 73 patients in the hospital, an institution which may well become the pride of Topaz.

The "city" operates under American governmental supervision, but it has its own city council form of government. Each of the 36 blocks elects an unpaid councilman, who must be Japanese-American. The council elects its chairman, at present a Dr. Hirota, who was a dentist in the bay district. The council passes its own ordinances in conformity with the basic government regulations set up for these centers. In addition to its councilman representative, each block of 12 barracks and 275 inhabitants has a paid manager and a safety warden. The block-manager is the "go-between" for government and people. His office is in the block "mess hall" one of the three block buildings not dwellings. There is also a block recreation center and a building which houses latrines and washrooms, for there are no lavatories or washrooms in any of the dwellings. The block wardens look after safety and cleanliness. These community representatives and agents do not operate without friction, for many of the people are having their first intimate experiences with local government. A judiciary committee functions to arbitrate and adjudicate disputes and conflicts. Only one case has come up that it was felt should be passed on to the county court.

#### Sociologist Heads Camp Officials

The United States government representative and director is Charles F. Ernst, one of the outstanding "practical" sociologists in the country. For years he has been engaged in social work in state and national capacity. His "humane" understanding will help these people adjust in this strange new environment. There were no precedents except concentration camps for the establishment of these communities. They are a great experience. Many mistakes could be made. The army operates at Topaz, but only in supervisory capacity and to maintain order. It is located outside the inclosure. So far, there have been no serious troubles at Topaz. The people are well treated.

Topaz is an American war relocation project. The title gives an clue to its purpose. With the outbreak of war at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese population of the United States created a serious problem.



There might have been an invasion of the west coast. There was a subversive Japanese element in the country. It was practically impossible to differentiate biologically between the Chinese and Japanese. If the Nipponese had landed three or four hundred civilian-dressed parachutists on our west coast, they might have disappeared among the Japanese population and done untold damage to vital American installations. To meet every eventuality, the Japanese had to be moved. They were given a few weeks to leave the coastal area voluntarily, but voluntary evacuation broke down. The government took a hand and moved more than 100,000 people of Japanese extraction into camps, where their movements could be observed and controlled. There had been no time to differentiate between loyal and subversive elements except in those cases where the Federal Bureau of Investigation had files on some of the individuals. A half dozen large camps were established in the unpopulated regions of the west and now a segregation process is under way.

#### Communities Set Up As Stop-Gap Need

These communities are not to become a permanent fixtures in the life of any state. They are mere stop-gaps. The Japanese and the Japanese Americans were asked to help establish them. It has been a test of their loyalty; the younger people have accepted it as such. They are working hard to make life bearable under the strange new conditions, but they are also, awaiting the day when the relocation processes will begin to take effect. That is the purpose behind these camps. Their inhabitants are to be resettled. The American citizens will be aided in reestablishing themselves in communities in which a place for them can be found. The Federal Bureau of Investigation will have to clear them. Then they can leave the community when the relocation service can find a "niche" for them. The first generation Japanese or the Issei, who are aliens, will remain in these communities until after the war, when a definite policy toward them will have to be formed or the country revert to the prewar status.

The United States do not propose to go to the peace table after this war with any black marks against its record for the way it dealt with its aliens or its citizens of foreign extraction. America needs to protect and safeguard her position, but the United States do not use Nazi or Jap methods of torture and mistreatment because it happens to be at war with countries from which it has attracted inhabitants. America hopes to help establish a peace after this war in which the basic human freedom will be the right of all. Topaz offers Utah some complications and problems, but the affairs of Topaz are not beyond adjustment. A wise handling of the problems of the people of Topaz by the war relocation administration will not settle more Japanese in Utah than the industries of the State can absorb.



"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.

"That we here highly resolve that these dead should not have died in vain; that their nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF TOPAZ CITIZENS FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (NON SEGREGATED UNITS)

In a public statement directed to the Sec'y of War Stimson, on Feb. 1, 1943, President Roosevelt expressed his views on the nisei's exercising their responsibilities of citizenship as follows:

"The proposal of the War Dep't to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly 5,000 loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country. This is natural and a logical step toward the reinstitution of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

"No loyal citizen of the U.S. should be denied the democratic right to exercise his responsibilities of his citizenship regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution--whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, gov't service, or other work essential to the war effort.

"I am glad to observe that the War Dep't, the Navy Dep't, the War Manpower Commission, the Dep't of Justice, and the WRA are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort."

After reviewing the action of the 100th Battalion in Italy, the War Dep't has taken a great step in reinstating the Selective Service to American citizens of Japanese descent; "The excellent showing which the combat team has made in training and the outstanding record achieved by the 100th Battalion, a former Hawaiian Nat'l Guard unit now fighting in Italy, were major factors in the present plan."

Before and after Pearl Harbor, through evacuation, and relocation the nisei, American citizens of Japanese descent, have shown their loyalty by complying with all government regulations although it meant undue hardship. After a thorough investigation of the activities of the nisei prior to and after the war, responsible government agents have made the following statements:

- a. James Rowe, Jr., assistant to the Attorney General on April 20, 1942: "Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has advised me there was no sabotage committed there (in Hawaii) prior to Dec. 7, on Dec. 7, or subsequent to that time."
- b. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, on March 30: "The War Department has received no information of sabotage committed by Japanese during the attack on Pearl Harbor."
- c. Honolulu Chief of Police, Gabrielson: ".....There were no acts of sabotage committed in the City and County of Honolulu Dec. 7, nor have there been acts of sabotage reported to the Police Department since that date."



d. Chief Agent, Hawaii, Federal Bureau of Investigation to Blake Clark, summer of 1942: "You can say, without fear of contradiction, that there has not been a single act of sabotage."

To further test our loyalty to the U.S. the 100th and the 442nd Japanese American Infantry Battalion combat teams, composed mostly of volunteers, were organized. Tried as no other citizens have been tried and proven to be worthy Americans, we feel no further proof of our loyalty is necessary.

We are not only fighting for the sameness of purpose with other fellow Americans, but we are also fighting the war of American prejudice and intolerance at home.

President Roosevelt has stated that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry, but in actual practice the acceptance of the people of this statement can only be achieved by fighting side by side with other free Americans of other descent; and with the co-operation of the War Department.

With the above facts and the principles of American democracy in mind the Topaz Citizens Committee is opposed to the discriminatory segregation of all Japanese American draftees. Therefore, we make the following recommendations to the President of the United States and to the War Department.

1. No further segregated units of Japanese Americans be formed.
2. Draftees are not to be made replacements for the segregated 100th nor the 442nd Battalions.
3. All draftees to be assigned to various units of the army as other Americans.
4. If qualified, all branches of the armed forces to be opened to the Japanese American draftees.

In making these recommendations we are thinking of the post war advantages in fighting side by side with other Americans. Our fight for equal rights, equal privileges will not stop with the armistice. Our fight must continue, because we must fight the war of American prejudice. As well as winning the war at the battle front we are desirous of winning the war against intolerance that has subjected the minority groups at home. Buddies, regardless of color or ancestry, made on the battle fields can best help to accomplish this great task that is before us---a task that is for a greater America.

Topaz Citizens

Chairman: Frank Yamasaki

Secretary: Seiko Yakahi



## Leaves

July 8 to 15

### INDEFINITE

FORT DOUGLAS: Peter Kama, Tom Kitagawa, Yoneo Maruyama, George Matsui, Tony Nakayama, Hideso Nishishi, Ken Nihei, Hiroshi Nishikubo, Raymond Nomura, Shunsuke Ochi, Masami Sado, Tomio Sakurai, Kenichi Shimomura, Tsutomu Sumimoto, Shizuo Taketa, Satoshi Tamura, Toshio Tamura, Joe Taniguchi, James Toda, Sakae Hayashi, Junji Ozaki.

SPOKANE, WASH.: Nobuto Tanakatsubo.

CALDWELL, IDAHO: Shizuo Sutow.

CHICAGO, ILL.: Fumiko Kondo, David Saito, Mitsuo Yamada, Alice and Harold Nakamura, Risaku Nagasawa, Jiro Shinto, Henry Obayashi, Hideo Oshita, Edward and Herbert Taketoshi, Kazuo Takahashi.

EVANSTON, ILL.: Frank Yamamoto.

CLEVELAND, OHIO: Thomas Teruko Nakashige, Shin and Tsuruko Toguchi, Fujita, Fred Hayashi, George Oku, Jim Kawamura, George Higaki, Keng Nakamura, Joe Tsuruda.

CINCINNATI, OHIO: Victor, Shizu and Tomiko Kasai.

DETROIT, MICH.: Jim Nakayama, Koichi Fujioka, Takashi Hirotsu, Kikuko, Jane, Clara, and Richard Kuroko, Alice Nakatomi, Hitoshi Maniwa.

ANN ARBOR, MICH.: Sachiko and Bernice Arimoto, Horikoshi, Shigeki Sugawara.

ROYAL OAKES, MICH.: Nobuko and Takashi Kajiware, Tamiyo Kinoshita.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.: Johanne Hanamoto, Minoru Hidenaka.

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK: Asato, Meriko, and Junko Imai.

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK: Henry Shin, Yasuko Ishida.

CAMP POLK, LA.: Hisaye Nogami.

### TRIAL INDEFINITE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN: Abe Watanamura.

CLEVELAND, OHIO: Sayoko Kakehi, Masa Shishido.

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK: George Shimamoto.

### SEASONAL

SPANISH FORK: Harry Kogae and Alpine Public Schools.

## MILWAUKEE OFFERS NURSERY SERVICE TO NISEI MOTHERS

MILWAUKEE, Wis. -- With two sons of a nisei serviceman already in attendance, the Milwaukee State Teachers College Federal Child Care Center will give every consideration to applications from other nisei families with work-

ing mothers, it was announced recently by Mrs. Hans Weisel, supervisor.

The boys are Gerald Sakura, 4, and his younger brother, Chester Sakura, Jr., 3; formerly of the Minidoka project. They are the sons of Sgt. Chester Y. Sakura of Camp Shelby and Mrs. Sakura, who is working in Milwaukee.

The nursery school, which is financed with Latham Act fund, is for children, 2 to 4 years old, of employed mothers. It is open all day for six days a week at the Alexander Mitchell school.

All children receive daily health inspections from a part-time nurse, and those with minor ailments are given care in an isolation room. In-between meal snacks of fruit juice, crackers and milk are provided. A storyteller enlivens the rest periods which follow outdoor play.

Alpha Chi Omega sorority is giving financial aid for the purchase of recreational equipments. The school will accommodate 30 children. A physical examination is a pre-requisite for entrance.

The professional and service staffs are supplemented by a number of volunteer helpers from the child care classes of the Committee for National Defense.

## FIVE MASAOKAS SERVE IN ARMY

Five brothers seem to be the largest number enlisted in the United States Army from a Japanese family, according to a survey now being conducted by the National Headquarters of the Japanese American Citizens League. The five Masaoka brothers, four of whom are now overseas, engaged in the battlefront with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of which the famed 100th Battalion is now a part, and the Nakada boys from the Gila Relocation Center seem to be the largest.

The next are the Yoshino brothers, formerly of Alameda, California, and the Sakura brothers from the Minidoka center.

Anyone who knows of any brothers or sisters in the armed forces are requested to notify the names of the soldiers, their ranks, their family background, and a photo if available. The report should be sent to JACL National Headquarters, 415 Beason Building, Salt Lake City 1, Utah.

## MUSIC PROGRAM SIGN-UPS SLATED

Sign-ups for the various courses under the high school music program will be open from 10 to 12 M on Monday and Tuesday at 32-8-EF, according to Miss Pauline Austin, new music director. Courses include choruses, quartets, band, and theory of music classes.

Miss Austin was formerly director of music at Jerome, Arkansas Tech, Russellville, Ark., Sul Ross College, Alpine, Tex.; East Texas State Teachers College, Commerce, Tex.;

### BIRTHS

NAGAMOTO--To Mrs. Hiroshi Nagamoto, 19-4-D, July 28, a boy.

OSHITA--To Mrs. Jack Oshita, 13-4-B, July 28, a girl.

OKADA--To Mrs. Thomas Okada, 9-5-E, July 28, a girl.

AKIYOSHI--To Mrs. Denjuro Akiyoshi, 6-2-B, July 29, a girl.

IHA--To Mrs. Seiko Iha, 33-12-D, August 2, a girl.

### DEATHS

KIMURA--Keijiro Kimura, 59, 5-9-C, August 3.

OHAMA--Aijiro Ohama, 71, 8-1-D, August 4.



# DAILY VACATION NUMAJIRI LEAVES BIBLE SCHOOL TO BEGIN AUG. 14

Registration for the Topaz Protestant Church daily vacation Bible school which will begin August 14 is now open at the four Sunday Schools. Bible school will be held from August 14 to 19 for grammar school students and from August 21 to 26 for the junior and senior high school students.

School will be held daily from 8:30 to 11:45 in the morning. The program each day will include a singspiration, worship service, classes, and recreation such as group games, crafts, hobbies and interest groups.

Rev. Shimada will be the general superintendent of the daily vacation Bible school.

## FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE ELECTS OFFICERS

Officers for the group were elected at the Fellowship Circle meeting held last Sunday night at 2-4-CD. The organization is open to all young people of college age and over, regardless of their religious beliefs, it was stated.

Newly elected officers are as follows: Harumi Kawahara, chairman; Eiko Honda, vice-chairman; May Hayashida, secretary-treasurer; Edward Yoshikawa, activities chairman; and Terry Ishida, social chairman.

The advisor for the group is Rev. Harold Jow.

Chojuro Numajiri, YMCA co-ordinator in Topaz, left Tuesday for Zephyr Cove, Lake Tahoe in Nevada, to attend the Pacific Southwest Area Secretary's Summer Institute from August 3 to 10.

At the institute, Numajiri will meet with YMCA co-ordinators from other centers and other Y workers helping the Japanese Americans.

Previous to the evacuation, he was associate secretary of the San Francisco Japanese YMCA for 23 years.

## RACE DISCUSSION SET FOR SUNDAY

"Color-The Unfinished Business of Democracy" will be the title of the race discussion to be held tomorrow night at the Fellowship Circle at rec 4 from 7:30 o'clock.

Two residents and one member of the appointed personnel will speak on the topic.

The evening's program will also include games and refreshments.

## 33 COMPLETE TEACHER TRAINING

The high school teacher training program under Dr. Golden Woolf was completed last week by 33 students who will assist in the education program next semester.

A luncheon in honor of Dr. Woolf and to celebrate the completion of training was given by Mrs. B. Watson's home science class.



The hunger strike of 13 nisei confined in the stockade went into its 9th day today. Spokesmen for the men stated that they have not eaten since the night of July 19 and they will not eat until they are released from the isolation area.

The Newell Star

A total of 30 Hunt residents are now in the custody of federal authorities awaiting trials for failure to comply with selective service regulations, announced Frank Barrett, project attorney. Most of the first group of delinquents are being held at the Boise Federal Detention Prisoners' Center, while others are being detained at the Emmett and American Falls jails.

The trials for these draft evaders have been set for Sept. 7.

The Minidoka Irrigator

Rohwerites again sampled Mother Nature's fury Thursday afternoon in a terrific dust storm, followed by lightning, thunder through the night.

Shingles were torn off roofs, chimney pipes were knocked down in a few blocks and the wind left town awnings in its wake, but no heavy damage was reported.

The Rohwer Outpost

Joe Yoshiteru Fujiwara, a 56-year-old kitchen helper, is still missing from his apartment since July 11, according to the internal security.

He is of medium build, has chapped skin, and wears a mustache,

The Poston Chronicle

54 Amache youths entrained early yesterday morning for Fort Logan, Colo., to answer Uncle Sam's call for induction. Only one was listed as delinquent.

Granada Pioneer

## SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

SERVICE	SPEAKER	PLACE	TIME
<b>CATHOLIC</b>			
Mass	Father Stoecke	Rec 28	8:00 AM
<b>BUDDHIST</b>			
Sunday School	Rev. Motoyoshi	Church	9:00 AM
Junior YBA	Rev. Sanada	Rec 8	9:00 AM
YP Service	Rev. Kashima	Church	10:15 AM
<b>PROTESTANT</b>			
Holy Communion		Church	8:00 AM
Sunday School		Recs 5, 23, 27, DH 32	8:30 AM
YP Service	Rev. Jow	DH 32	10:00 AM
Fellowship Circle Discussion		Rec 4	7:30 PM



# TOPAZ TIMES

S E M I — W E E K L Y

Vol. VIII, No. 7

TOPAZ, UTAH

Wednesday, July 26, 1944

## 40 PERCENT OF FAMILIES SAY NO RELOCATION

Of the first 495 families with whom family discussions were held, 130 or 26% indicated a desire to relocate; 199 or 40% had no desire to relocate; 127 or 25% were undecided and 39 or 9% were contingent.

The most frequent reason given by those who do not contemplate relocation is that there is poor health within the family. Other reasons given in order of their frequency are fear of economic insecurity, poor knowledge of English, and fear of discrimination. Fear of housing difficulty was given only 61 times out of the 495 interviews. Insufficient WRA assistance was given as a reason 74 times. Ninety-two said they wanted to leave their families in the center during their army service.

Although 144 families indicated fear of discrimination, 238 families stated that they had no such fear. More than half of the family heads interviewed spoke good English. Almost one half had special skills or training.

## TENNESSEE JOHNSON SLATED BY JOURNAL

The high school journal staff will present a feature length movie, "Tennessee Johnson", Thursday and Friday night at the high school auditorium. The movie stars Van Heflin and Ruth Hussey.

The price will be 25 cents for adults and 12 cents for children. Tickets will not be sold; admission will be paid at the door.

## SPANISH CONSUL

Captain Antonio R. Martin, Spanish vice consul representing the Japanese government, will visit the center on August 7.

## MANPOWER COMMISSION STUDIES LABOR PROBLEM

To meet the critical labor situation created in the center by the advanced pace of relocation in recent months, a manpower commission, composed of key appointed personnel heads and leading resident groups, has been organized.

The group will study the manpower problem in an effort to make the best use of the available personnel so that adjustments may be made between sections in order to maintain services that are essential for the health and welfare of the residents.

As of July 29, there were 2529 full time resident employees on the project. 90 workers were lost during one week prior

to this date owing to seasonal and indefinite leave departures.

"The solution of the problem of labor shortage will have to be found within the resources which we now have," stated Dillon Myer, national WRA director, in a letter here discussing the situation. "There needs to be an immediate reevaluation of all our activities with the end in view of elimination, curtailment or consolidation. There will need to be an evaluation of the efficiency with which current manpower resources are utilized and steps taken to eliminate overstaffing and inefficient use. It will be impossible, both from the standpoint of personnel available and from budget limitations, to expect to meet these needs through the recruitment of additional appointed personnel."

The commission which meets every Tuesday, yesterday decided to set up an information committee and a group to study local manpower resources.

Members of the commission are L.T. Hoffman, project director; Roscoe Bell, Raymond Sanford, and Gilbert Niesse, assistant directors; Walter Honderich, acting supplies officer; Brandon Watson, mess management head; Henry Watson, senior engineer; Wendell Palmer, farm section chief; George Lafabregue, personnel officer; Dr. Oscar Hoffman, community analyst; Leah Dickinson, relocation program officer; Mas Nara-hara, council chairman; Henry Fujita, council vice-chairman; and Rev. J. Tsukamoto, Inter-Faith representative. Representatives of the block managers and the Co-op are expected to be added to the commission for the next meeting.

## SEN THOMAS COUNCIL TO BE INDUCTED AUG. 4

Senator Elbert D. Thomas, US Senator from Utah, will arrive on August 4 to induct the fourth term councilmen to office at a ceremony to be held in the auditorium, according to Masuji Fujii, council office manager.

Accompanying Senator Thomas will be Dr. and Mrs. H.L. Marshall. Dr. Marshall is a professor at the University of Utah. Several other guests from Millard County will also be invited, Fujii stated.

The formal induction ceremony will be preceded by a banquet at dining hall 16.

## RACE DIFFERENCES DISCUSSION PLANNED

A discussion on racial differences will be sponsored by the Young People's Fellowship group Sunday night at dining hall 32 from 7 o'clock.

All young people are invited to attend. The YBA and other organizations are cordially invited.



## HOSTELS INSTITUTE NEW RATES FOR RELOCATORS

New rates for all hostels operating in the east and mid-west with the exception of the Detroit Fellowship House were announced today by Robertson M. Fort, secretary of the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The new rates which were effective from July 1 are as follows: \$1 for all unemployed adults; 50 cents for children under ten years of age; \$1.50 for employed individuals for the first ten days; \$2 for employed individuals after ten days, and \$1.50 for all overnight guests for room and board.

Meals a la carte at the hostel are 25 cents for breakfast, 35 cents for lunch, and 50 cents for dinner.

These rates apply to the hostels in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Des Moines, Minneapolis, New York and Philadelphia.

Rates for the Detroit Fellowship House are \$6 a week, not including meals.

### USO TO HOLD GET TOGETHER

The USO committee will hold an informal get-together tonight for all visiting soldiers and their friends tonight from 9 o'clock at the USO building, rec 4.

### PLACEMENT LISTS JOB OPENINGS

According to the placement office the following jobs are open in the center:

Mechanics  
Relocation Interviewer  
Procurement clerk  
Clerk typist  
Secretary  
Sr. property clerk  
Agriculture workers  
Salvage crew  
Sports reporter  
Night watchman  
Cost clerk  
Accountant  
Dishwashers (Hospital)  
Fireman (Age 30-45 yrs.)  
Mimeograph operator  
News reporter  
Editor

## CITY COUNCIL NAMES STANDING COMMITTEES

The following council members were recently chosen to serve on the new council's various standing committees, according to Masuji Fujii, office manager:

ADMINISTRATIVE CABINET MEETING: Masaru Narahara, Henry Fujita.

EDUCATION: Iwao Takahama and Shichisaburo Hideshima, co-chairmen; Dr. Masanori Iriki, Gihei Takeuchi, Miyoji Mumebara.

FOOD: Takashi Tsuzuki and Shigeki Igarashi, co-chairmen; Sanjiro Kawaguchi, Tokuji Sugiyama.

HEALTH: Shizuo Sasaki and Toshio Nakata, co-chairmen; Masaichi Tawa, Hideo Kaneko, Kuraichi Suwada.

LABOR: Kuraichi Suwada, chairman; Shichisaburo Hideshima, Sakae Toda, Tsuna Watanabe.

LEGAL: Isao Yano, chairman; Shichisaburo Hideshima, Geihei Takeuchi, Dr. Masanori Iriki.

OPERATION: Hikoichi Shimamoto, Shizuo Sasaki, Miyoji Mumebara.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Kiichi Nodohara, chairman; Takashi Tsuzuki, Shintaro Murakami, Somenosuke Muramatsu.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Kichizo Kanzaki, chairman; Takaaki Kawasaki, Iwao Takahama, Miyoji Mumebara.

RELOCATION: Gihei Takeuchi and Kichizo Kanzaki, co-chairmen; Kuraichi Suwada, Isao Yano, Kiichi Nodohara.

SELECTIVE SERVICE: Bruce Kawamoto, chairman; Takashi Hashiguchi.

STAFF MEETING: Tadashi Hashiguchi, chairman; Iwao Takahama, Henry Fujita.

WELFARE: Chojuro Numajiri, chairman, Toshio Nakata, Tadashi Hashiguchi, Gihei Takeuchi.

SPANISH CONSUL: Tsuna Watanabe, chairman; Shigeki Igarashi.

WANTED: Pinking shears or pinking machine and a button-hole attachment for a White machine. Contact Mrs. F. Murata, 30-1-C.

## New Orleans Offers Varied Types Of Resettlement Opportunities

The largest city in the Deep South, New Orleans, offers a variety of relocation possibilities for evacuees in skilled and semi-skilled occupational fields, according to a report from R. E. Arne, area relocation officer.

New Orleans with a population of six hundred thousand is the third largest city in the US. The average temperature from October through March is 60.7 degrees. During the summer, the average is 78.3.

Nearby localities offer plenty of opportunities for truck farming in nearly every month of the year. Crops that are raised are cabbage, beans, tomatoes, peas, broccoli, lettuce, eggplant, carrots, celery, and beets. The orange groves in Plaquemine Parish, south of New Orleans, fur-

nish fine quality citrus fruits. Productive soils of varied textures suited to all crops of the temperate zone, a warm climate with a long growing season, abundant rainfall and good transportation facilities favor the enterprise of the planter.

Other job openings in New Orleans include automobile mechanics, photographer, truck drivers, watch repairman, office clerical workers, hospital workers, caretaker and gardener, warehousemen and stock clerk, laundrymen, fishermen, dairymen and poultrymen.

Housing in New Orleans is difficult but not impossible, Arne stated. Evacuees should be prepared to pay hotel rates for at least three or four days. Rates at the better hotels are from \$2.50 up.



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U.S. Department of the Interior  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Washington, D.C.

*Mrs. Kingman*

(The following letter was written by Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director of the WRA, in answer to a letter from the Acting Chairman of the All Center Conference in regard to WRA's comments on the recommendations made by the All Center Conference on the resettlement program.)

July 14, 1945

Mr. S. Hideshima  
Acting Chairman  
All Center Conference  
Central Utah Relocation Center  
Topaz, Utah

Dear Mr. Hideshima:

I am sorry to see, from your letter of June 18, that you believe that WRA is not giving the evacuee resettlers as much help as it could.

It is my belief, on the contrary, that we are doing everything we possibly can to help the evacuees get back to a normal, self-sustaining and independent status. Moreover, considerable progress has already been made toward this goal. About 48,000 evacuees have already left the centers to resettle in normal communities. During the four months since the Salt Lake City Conference, well over 7,000 persons resettled from the centers.

It is true, of course, that there are still many problems which have to be met by each relocating family and individual. Unfortunately, there is no way in which this agency or any other can simply wipe out the results of the evacuation as though it had never taken place. All we can do is to help the evacuees in bridging the gap between life in the relocation centers and normal life in outside communities. And there are definite limitations, because of our limited personnel and limited funds, on the amount of assistance we can make available. However, we have so far found a solution for every family relocation problem that has arisen, and we do not believe that any of these problems are unsolvable.

We are carrying on a planned program of resettlement which takes into consideration the many problems facing each evacuee resettler. Where the original evacuation took place suddenly, on a mass basis, without time or opportunity for individual preparation or individual choice, the present program of resettlement is one of individual readjustment on the basis of individual choice. The evacuees have been free to decide when to leave, where to resettle, and how to travel. We do not direct the evacuee's choice of occupation. We merely try to give the resettler every assistance within our power to enable him to make an intelligent choice on the basis of adequate knowledge and to carry out the plan of resettlement he has chosen.



The financial help available to evacuee resettlers is one example of this kind of assistance. It is not an indemnification for losses suffered during the evacuation; the whole question of indemnities is an entirely separate one which will have to be decided ultimately by the Congress. The relocation grants are not meant to offer long-term support, and even if the grants were doubled, many of the evacuees would still have to regain their pre-war status the slow way, by getting out of the center and getting to work at a paying job. Especially now when jobs are so plentiful, I am convinced that the assistance which is now available is sufficient to help the evacuees in doing just that.

Similarly, a great deal of progress has been made in solving the problem of finding housing. We are arranging for a WRA staff member in each large District Office to devote full time to working with local housing agencies, exploring sources of additional housing, and advising local cooperating committees as to the help which they can provide. Hostels have been established in Los Angeles, Pasadena, Sacramento, San Jose, Oakland, Fresno, San Francisco, and San Mateo, and in thirteen cities in the East and Midwest. In Portland as in Philadelphia, Cleveland, and several other cities, arrangements have been made to open public housing projects to evacuees. A recent amendment to the Lanham Act making families of servicemen eligible for public housing in FPMA projects (except those limited to workers in specific industries) will make many evacuee families eligible for public housing. There is a very rapid turn-over in housing in most cities, and I am confident that with the many procedures which we have developed for finding housing, any evacuee family which can find a temporary place to stay -- in a hostel or elsewhere -- and will devote time to looking, can find a permanent place in course of time.

I am distinctly surprised and disappointed in the statement in your letter that the closing of the schools in the relocation centers "seems like an underhanded method employed to oust people from their respective centers." I can place no other construction upon this statement than that it is a charge of bad faith on the part of WRA. If this is true, I am convinced that the great majority of center residents do not share this view. Regardless of individual differences of opinion which many center residents may have with WRA, I feel sure that nearly all of them have always given us credit for being straightforward and for making an honest effort to help them in the solution of their problems. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that a charge of bad faith has been made against us by center residents. I earnestly hope that it will be the last.

Actually, there is no hidden or mysterious motive at all behind the closing of the center schools. It is, on the contrary, a natural and inevitable result of the program of center liquidation. Since all the centers will be closed by December, it would be obviously impossible for WRA or anyone else to provide an adequate educational program for the few children still remaining in relocation centers next fall. Consequently, it must be made clear that there will be no schools. The sooner families can get their children out of the centers where they have already spent too many of their formative years, and into normal



schools and communities where they can grow up like other Americans, the better it will be both for them and for the evacuee group as a whole.

I think it is worthy of notice that in the two months since Secretary Ickes' press statement condemning incidents of terrorism against evacuees on the West Coast, there has been only one "incident" against a returning evacuee. There has at this writing been none of any importance since May 24th. I consider this evidence of the fact that the race-baiters and terrorists are actually only a small minority of the people on the West Coast, who, as a result of the publicity given to their actions, and the resulting protests against this type of activity from newspapers and individuals all over the country, combined with the actions of police authorities, are coming to realize that their fight to scare the evacuees away from their West Coast homes is both a losing and an unpopular one.

Thousands of evacuees have returned, and there have been some thirty "incidents." They have been played up in the papers because they were dramatic. We have helped to publicize them because we believe that that is one of the best ways of preventing further incidents. I am entirely convinced that as the evacuees come back and settle down, and it becomes more and more evident that the small exclusionist groups have not succeeded in their campaigns to keep the Japanese Americans permanently evacuated, the agitation and terrorism which is now distinctly on the wane will cease entirely.

I want to repeat that the people of Japanese ancestry have more active friends than they ever had before. Americans all over the United States are aware of the outstanding achievements of American soldiers of Japanese descent in Europe and in the Pacific. Groups and individuals all over the country are doing what they can to help the evacuees find homes and jobs. I sincerely hope that the people still in centers will do nothing to turn these friends away.

However, evacuee resettlers will still find that there is prejudice on the part of some people, a minority of Americans, against people of Japanese descent. This is not new. There was prejudice before the evacuation. And before the evacuation, the Japanese Americans seemed to have learned pretty well to take occasional prejudice in their stride. They will certainly never get rid of prejudice now by sitting in the centers and asking the government to support them indefinitely. Such a move would only intensify prejudice.

There can be no change in policy regarding center closing. They will be closed in accordance with plans announced more than six months ago. Anyone among the evacuee leaders who tries to convince center residents to the contrary is doing a distinct disservice to the residents.

We are doing and will continue to do everything we can to help the evacuees move forward to a future where they can be independent and respected. I believe that we have already made substantial progress



toward that goal and that as more evacuees come forward for relocation assistance, they will find that their individual problems can and will be solved.

Since I note that your letter to me has been mimeographed for distribution, I am also having mimeographed copies made of this letter for distribution at relocation centers.

Sincerely,

/s/ D. S. Myer

Director



Topaz, Utah  
May 21, 1944

Dear Friends:

It is my turn to be on "Sunday duty" in the office today so what could be a better occupation for a quiet Sunday than to write to some of my friends to whom I owe letters. Even though time for letter writing is scarce, we do think of you often and wonder how you are. I know you will understand my having this letter mimeographed just so I can write to more of you. So many of you commented favorably on our Christmas letter even though it was mimeographed. I'm ready to try again on a "wholesale" catching up of my much neglected correspondence.

Much has happened since the Christmas season with its programs, Christmas carols, New Year's celebration and all that combined to make it another highlight in our life at Topaz. The Young Peoples' choir at the Protestant Church (about 50 voices) rendered the "Hallelujah Chorus" beautifully—a real compliment to their director, Gladys.

At the end of January, Gladys and I took a much needed vacation. Two weeks' trip to Spokane and Pasco, Washington visiting our parents, Portland (visiting my sister and friends and checking on property), Berkeley (friends), Los Angeles (friends and relatives) and home to our children who had been batching during this time. It was a strenuous but very welcome vacation. Shortly after returning to Topaz, Mr. Ernst (Project Director) went to Washington so I was Acting Project Director during that time. Everything went fine, thanks to the full cooperation of all members of our good staff.

Spring started to come in February but backslid a little during March and April with blizzards and rain so that we've only had about two weeks during which time we could do field work. We used the two weeks tho, and have some of our early garden in—peas, lettuce. Most of the land is ready so we can go right ahead (probably it will be dry enough tomorrow) to plant our 800 acres of grain (total 1100), our 300 acres of vegetables and finish cultivating, diking, ditching 1000 acres of alfalfa, and 1500 acres of pasture land.

Beef cattle and hogs are going fine much as stated in my last letter but we have about 5600 new chicks with 6000 more coming. They are doing very well indeed.

We now have our greenhouses in operation and are we proud of them! Constructed mainly from salvage materials—short scraps of 2x4 and 4x4 which we picked up last summer at Remington Arms plant in Salt Lake City. Salvage water pipe (for our steam line) welded together and exposed so we can repair any leaks which develop. Salvage flour sacks and cereal (cracked wheat) sacks sewed together by a crew of women this winter to make the covers of the cold frames 100 feet long and 15 feet wide. Some sewing job!!!

The plant "flats" were constructed from rejected ammunition boxes, picked up last summer from the Remington Arms plant—"Swords into plowshares".



The cabbage, tomato, celery, pepper, broccoli, etc. plants are growing fine and many have been transplanted from seed flats to plant flats where they will remain till set in the field starting with the more hardy plants about May 15. We expect to save about \$6000 in plant costs and have better plants too.

A new industry has been developed in Topaz by our Industry Section. It is the manufacture of Tofu, a kind of cottage cheese made from soybeans. In the process, we use everything from hull to whey! The process in outline is as follows--soak the beans, grind them, cook the soup for about 20 minutes, strain out the pulp and hulls leaving "soy bean milk". Curdle the milk by adding lime, press out the whey in a wooden mold about 18" square, wash and cut the "cheese" into cakes 2x2x4" for delivery to the dining halls. We like both the milk and the ~~tofu~~ and oriental people are very fond of both. The milk is excellent substitute for cows' milk and tofu for meat (both of which are rationed to us). Our little factory turned out about 3500 cakes last week--each of which will serve 3 people so we had enough to go around twice to the center. We make tofu 3 days a week and milk three days.

Easter Sunday was an eventful day here, especially because it was the Buddhist celebration of the birthday of Buddha. An outdoor Easter sunrise service was well attended even though it was cold and cloudy an inspiring service near the east side of the city with a huge white cross outlined against the sunrise. The Protestant service held in the auditorium was attended by a capacity crowd of about 1300 persons. The Buddhist service in the afternoon was similarly well attended.

Two church buildings (Buddhist and Protestant) have just been completed from portable CCC buildings which were moved in and erected by volunteer crews. The dedicatory service was held on Tuesday. It gives the people real satisfaction to have a building they can call their own for use as a chapel, for weddings, funerals, and for regular worship although a 20x100 building is only large enough for church services of the issei (old folks) Japanese speaking church. The young peoples' services are held in a dining hall.

We certainly have made intensive use of our high school gym-auditorium since its completion. Basketball, gym classes, high school assemblies, plays, community events, etc. keep it busy practically all day every day and every evening. We are not expecting to complete our other school buildings but rather use barracks for everything except auditorium, shop and science building for which barracks are not adaptable.

Fortunately we were able to get some 1939 models of motor vehicles to replace some of the old 1925-1935 models which were pretty badly worn out before we got them and which were a real problem to maintain with parts (especially for old models) almost impossible to get. Our evacuee mechanics and truck drivers are mostly (58 out of 98) young men of draft age so we will be losing them soon. Mechanics' positions are available outside the center, many of them relocate too. We constantly train new men on the job so operating training schools is an essential part of our work.

The re-institution of Selective Service for loyal citizens has been a big forward step and generally is being welcomed as a citizen's privilege even though it creates many problems unique to the relocation center. Boys not



wanting to leave their families to grow up in a relocation center, and yet not having a home to which to send their families outside the center, is one of the major problems. Some are leaving the center to get their families established before they are called. It was an inspiring sight to see 130 boys leave for pre-induction physical exams in one day. Those who failed to pass were pretty heartsick. The U.S.O. is active here entertaining soldiers returning to visit relatives and giving send-offs for the new inductees.

The daily farewell ceremony at the gate is a Topaz institution. Farewells to relocating families - 2 or 3 up to 20 leaving in a day, an average of 125 per month.

So goes life at Topaz--ever changing--always interesting and providing opportunities to learn that the so-called "oriental psychology" is simply human psychology after all and that skin color is really a very thin veneer.

Our children still enjoy school work, all four of them happy and busy. It keeps them on their toes to keep step with their classes.

Gladys had to drop her activities because of illness (glandular) but she's getting back on her feet now. Says she "hates to have to be lazy all the time". She would rather just "be lazy when she wants to". I'm feeling fine - too fine in fact!

I'll not tire you further with reading a long letter, but do remember that Gladys and I always enjoy hearing from you. ~~We do sincerely hope that you are using every opportunity to improve your skill at doing something and preparing for a life of greater usefulness in the years to come.~~

Sincerely yours,

*Roscoe and Gladys*

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe E. Bell

*Dear Mrs. Kingman. No doubt you have heard that our friend June Shizaki will be returning to San Jo. for permanent residence on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. She will be staying with Mrs. Owenek. A.F. S.C. The enclosed letter will interest you also.*

*Mr. Bell*