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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Report Submitted December 1945

Wendell P. Gee, Reloc. Officer



The War Relocation Authority opened an office in the Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan in April 1943. George Graff was appointed Relocation Officer for the District. Marie Doi of Poston Relocation Project was appointed Office Secretary.

The geographical boundaries of the District included all the territory within the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The Upper Peninsula was serviced by the Chicago WRA office. Greater Detroit, Flint, Pontiac, Saginaw, Jackson, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Benton Harbor, and Traverse City were populous centers with industrial, commercial, or agricultural activities. Small communities such as Ann Arbor (University of Michigan) and Monroe and Mt. Clemens, centers of nursery production were important points of early evacuee resettlement movements.

Rural communities in Macomb, Wayne, and Livingston Counties in Eastern Michigan and Berrien, Van Buren, St. Joseph and Cass Counties in Southwestern Michigan were interested in early Japanese American resettlement to provide manpower for the dairy, vegetable and fruit industries. Grand Traverse County in Northwestern Michigan sought information as early as May, 1943. County Agricultural Agents and individual employers began negotiating with the WRA office for seasonal laborers and permanent tenants shortly after the office was opened. The drift of manpower to the industrial cities and the drafting of young men from the farms had drained off much of the rural labor supply and as early as 1942, Michigan agriculture was feeling the pinch.



The industrial community of Greater Detroit was the most promising center for relocation in Michigan in 1942 - 1943. It was the center of heavy defense industry. Wages were on par with any in the country. The war plants swallowed all available labor and left the "non-essential" factories and service industries in a desperate plight. Labor was generally receptive to relocation once the leaders knew the basic issues. The Teamsters Union (A.F.L.) was an outstanding exception. It resisted the employment of Japanese Americans and its reactionary leadership refused to admit Nisei to membership.<sup>1</sup>

The Powerful C.I.O.-U.A.W. dominated the industrial labor scene.<sup>2</sup> Its top leaders publicly endorsed the War Relocation Authority resettlement program and assisted WRA officials in opening Detroit public housing to resettlers.

Within the rank and file of labor, there was considerable confusion in respect to the employment of Japanese Americans and their admission into union ranks. Union officials in plants sometimes opposed the employment of Nisei; but WRA officials working with management and labor were frequently successful in overcoming this opposition. Detroit was regarded as a powder keg because of the many national groups

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1. In a heated debate which was held in the Penobscot Building in November, 1943 this issue was raised. The meeting was attended by WRA Relocation Officers, Carl L. Spicer and Herbert Passin; Sam Hurst, President of the Teamsters Union, Detroit; owners of interstate trucking lines and War Manpower officials.
  2. R. J. Thomas, President of the International Organization; Walter Reuther, Director of General Motors C.I.O.-U.A.W., and Richard T. Leonard, Director of Ford Motors C.I.O.-U.A.W.  
Cf - The Regional History. In June, 1944, Walter Reuther and Richard T. Leonard gave support to Robert M. Cullum and Carl L. Spicer in putting the question of public housing before Chas. F. Edgcomb, Director-Secretary of the Detroit Housing Commission.



living there. Negroes and whites from below the Ohio River had moved into the city by the thousands. They crowded into the slum districts and pressure developed in the overcrowded districts. Nisei went into Detroit's industrial shops and factories and worked shoulder to shoulder with Poles, Alabama Negroes, and Tennessee Hill people, and they worked without any serious disturbances. Among Detroit's large industries employing Nisei in January, 1944, were: the Briggs Manufacturing Company, the Essex Wire Company, the Chrysler Division at the Chrysler Corp, the Ford Motor Company, Gar Wood Industries, Ex-cell-o Corporation, and others.

Outside Detroit, the WRA program encountered opposition in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Ann Arbor from labor. In Grand Rapids, the American Federation of Labor went on record as opposing the opening of an office in that city and bringing Japanese Americans into the community.<sup>3</sup> In Ann Arbor, the C.I.O., refused to accept Japanese Americans in a war plant.<sup>4</sup>

Outstanding in the early history of resettlement in Detroit was the cooperative spirit of the United States Employment Service. George Graff, Relocation Officer, carried the message to the War Manpower Commission and the U.S.E.S. department heads, in such a way that good relations were established. Chris Hagerup, of the Detroit U.S.E.S. staff, a Norwegian by birth, was assigned to the supervisory work of handling all matters relating to the evacuees. This was a fortunate

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3. Cf - See Regional History on Grand Rapids.

4. Reported by Veda Satterfield, Associate Relocation Officer of the Detroit Office.



selection. Hagerup was a practical man with the liberal, democratic outlook of the Social Democrats of Scandinavia. He had a great respect for the spirit and form of the Constitution and a scant respect for "red tape", prejudice or "hide and seek" policies which denied to citizens their rights under the fundamental law of the Constitution. He wasn't a theorist; he isolated prejudice and attacked it with conviction; he set an example for other workers in his department by giving the Nisei the same consideration and service as was accorded any other applicant; and he worked intelligently with the Relocation Officer. He regarded the President's statement that all Americans, regardless of ancestry, had the same rights to work and share in the war effort, as a pronouncement that should be carried out to the letter. He referred Nisei to war plants, and at the same time explained to them that Provost Marshal General's Office clearance was necessary.<sup>5</sup> If an applicant was rejected by one plant, he was referred to another. The office of the War Relocation Authority and the U.S.E.S. worked together in placement. There was a continuous interchange of information, and in actual operation, Detroit developed a placement service that was second to none in

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5. A special clearance demanded by the Sixth Service Command from all Nisei who were employed in war plants. The applicant for a job in a war plant filled out a long questionnaire and filed it with the personnel director of the plant. The questionnaire was then received by Army Intelligence and was either approved or rejected. During the years 1943 and 1944, this clearance required from one week to six months. Frequently a Nisei was called into military service while waiting for clearance. During the latter part of 1943 and the first months of 1944, many Nisei were removed from war plants. They were given the right to appeal to the P.M.G.O. in Washington, D. C.



the country. Despite the many blocks erected by indifferent officials, prejudiced persons in governmental service and private industry, and stringent P.M.G.O. requirements, hundreds of Nisei found jobs in the war plants and non-essential factories of Detroit.

From the inception of the War Relocation Authority resettlement program, it was realized that the participation of the community was vital and necessary for the successful carrying out of the program. Early steps to organize the community were taken in 1942 when George Rundquist, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans, and Tom Holland of WRA, organized a Resettlement Committee in Detroit for the purpose of assisting evacuees in finding employment, homes, and social life. This Committee was composed of some of the leading public men and women in Detroit. Mr. George Graff, Relocation Officer from May, 1943, to September, 1943, and Carl L. Spicer, Relocation Officer from September, 1943, to January, 1944 worked with individual members of the Committee. This committee gradually became inactive although some of its original members were deeply interested and showed their concern by putting pressure on the WRA designed to keep the committee alive.

The subject most frequently discussed in the early meetings of the original committee was that of housing and a great deal of assistance was rendered by committee members in this respect, particularly in the location of homes that could supply rooms and other temporary living facilities. The chairman of the committee was the Reverend Father James McCormick, the vice-chairman being the Reverend E. Shirley Johnson. As



the program of relocation advanced, the problem of providing housing for resettlers became increasingly difficult just as the problems of finding employment for resettlers were more easily solved. The problem of housing became so greatly intensified however that the committee was left with little that it could really do in this respect and the War Relocation Authority staff became so overwhelmed with work which kept it tied closely to the office or at some distance from the office that the meetings of the Resettlement Committee were held less frequently and were finally discontinued. The Resettlement Committee reached its lowed ebb as far as relocation activities were concerned with the departure in October 1943 from Detroit of Father McCormick.

At about the time of Father McCormick's departure<sup>6</sup>, namely in September 1943, the Detroit Council of Churches made up of representatives

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6. As early as the Spring of 1942 the Board of Directors of the Detroit Council of Churches had gone on record as follows:

RESOLVED THAT WHEREAS it has been called to our attention that traditional American liberties are being abridged and Constitutionally guaranteed rights violated in the forceful internment of more than 100,000 American residents of Japanese descent, nearly 80,000 of whom are native born American citizens:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we do hereby express our regret that the national emergency has been so interpreted as to thus abridge the rights and liberties of so many innocent persons; that we do hereby urge those responsible, therefore, a reconsideration of the extent to which military necessity requires such measures; and, that we petition our Federal Government through its regularly constituted agencies to establish some form of hearing courts before which the loyalty (or disloyalty) of these of Japanese ancestry, and especially of those who are American-born citizens, may be discovered and, whereby, from those proved loyal, the taint of suspected treason under which they now labor may be removed.

WE DO FURTHER urge upon our fellow-Americans and fellow-Christians the obligation to give to these whose sole misfortune at this time seems to be that they were born of Oriental and of Japanese blood, a fair opportunity to live as free men in some part of the United States, to work for a livelihood, and to make their proper contribution in the war production program in which our nation is fervently engaged.



of all Protestant denominations, sensing the need of a ministry to those resettlers of Protestant faiths, organized a special activity called the United Ministry to Resettlers of the Detroit Council of Churches. This council had as its director the Rev. T. T. Brumbaugh who was peculiarly fitted for and in great sympathy with the problems of relocating Japanese Americans. Dr. Brumbaugh had spent 17 years as a Protestant minister in Japan, learning to speak the language and becoming familiar with the characteristic traits of the Japanese. Coincident with the establishment of the United Ministry to Resettlers, the Rev. Shigeo Tanabe arrived in Detroit at the invitation of the Council of Churches to become a staff member of the Council and the active head of the United Ministry to Resettlers. He met first with the United Ministry Committee on September 20. The Chairman of the Council Committee sponsoring the United Ministry was the Rev. Charles Scheid, Pastor of the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church.

Rev. Tanabe moved his family from the Tule Lake Relocation Center to Detroit and took up residence at 130 East Grand Boulevard in a large home which had been rented by the Council to serve as living quarters and as a hostel for the temporary quartering of newly arrived resettlers. This hostel, called Fellowship House, was opened in November 1943.

As part of his work Rev. Tanabe traveled to points outside Detroit and met with resettler groups at Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Lansing and other cities in Michigan. In this way the Council of Churches made important contributions to the lives of young Christian Japanese Americans but did not exclude from its meetings or its services those of the Buddhist faith



or those who had no church affiliation. There were a number of Buddhist young people however and those who had in the centers been termed "zoot suiters" who were, for the most part, without the services which could easily have been made available to them and were offered by the Fellowship House. As family groups arrived they were in great need of community action in assisting with housing, counselling and of social adjustment. Detroit and other communities were in great need of concerted action by all religious groups.

Housing was the "nightmare" of all newcomers to the city. Jack Shimoda, a Japanese American businessman, not an evacuee, who professed an affiliation with the "Oxford Movement" and who was animated at least in part by altruistic motives, ran a lodging house on Forest Avenue and hundreds of resettlers found rooms or lodging there while in passage to permanent rooms or homes. The WRA office spent a major portion of its time in trying to locate housing for resettlers. The Detroit Housing Commission with an Intake Office on Fort Street, turned a deaf ear to all applications made in 1943 and early 1944. The WRA office, however, persisted in its efforts to open War Housing to resettlers. They were encouraged to apply and the Relocation Officer frequently accompanied the applicant to the Fort Street office. In June, 1944, housing was opened after Mr. Robert Cullum, Carl L. Spicer and William Fluke had carried the issue to the mayor, Walter Reuther of General Motors U.A.W., Richard Leonard, Ford U.A.W; and Chas F. Edgecomb, Executive Secretary of the Detroit Housing Commission.



Many of the resettlers found their homes without assistance from WRA or community agencies. Employment as caretakers of furnaces in apartments sometimes carried an apartment for the family. Converted store rooms were available but never proved practicable because of their thin partitions and the nearness of neighbors. Institutions such as hospitals, homes for the aged, and child orphanages offered employment and housing to a limited number of single people. A few people with means, purchased their homes. A considerable amount of housing was available fifteen miles from Detroit in privately owned, newly constructed projects, but the distance from work and transportation costs made such housing unpopular. Real estate offices were more interested in selling than renting and few openings were found through this source. Individual home owners with a background of experience with Japanese American neighbors or tenants were oftentimes located by advertisements and called the WRA office to assist; occasionally, an apartment or room was located through these contacts. The problem was common to all and did not ease as time went on.

In communities outside Detroit similar conditions prevailed. There was prejudice but it did not exist on any large scale. When it came to the attention of the WRA office, the Relocation Officer personally visited the owner or neighbors in an attempt to clear away the misunderstanding.

In the early planning of the War Relocation Authority, the Regional Supervisor, Harold Fistere, recognized the potential opportunities offered by Ohio and Michigan in agriculture. Both states, rich and diversified in agricultural production would need farm help to grow the crops and expand the growing acreage. Procedures for developing interest in the Relocation



Centers in Michigan and Ohio farming did not exist. The Middlewest was a strange land to the Japanese American farmers of the coast. The recruiting of Center residents for the beet sugar industry in Colorado offered few guide posts for successful mid-west relocation.

The farmers of Michigan and Ohio were, with a few exceptions, without any background knowledge of Japanese American labor. Wages paid on Ohio and Michigan farms were lower than those paid on the Pacific Coast and the inter-mountain states. The climate of the mid-west was considered severe. It was thought and believed by Japanese American farmers in the Centers that Ohio and Michigan were states where the winters were long drawn out seasons of intense cold, and the summers scorching and humid. Relatively few of the Center residents were familiar with general farming. The majority thought that irrigation was used the same as in California. Dry farming was something new in their experience. Farmers of the coast were also interested in two crops a year. The one crop system in the mid-west was not based on the 65-35 agreement that was common in California. More often, it was 50-50 or 40-60, and in vegetable production when a great amount of labor was needed this did not seem equitable to the evacuee.<sup>7</sup>

Housing on the average farm in Ohio and Michigan was sub-standard. Running water, electricity, and other conveniences were the exception rather than the rule. The "home place" was often comfortable, or in a state of continuous improvement, but the tenant house or living quarters for seasonal workers were, on the whole, comparable to the worst city

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7. Cf - Regional history on Michigan and Ohio farm relocation program.



slums. Tenant houses on the large general farms were generally more livable than the temporary quarters provided for season labor.

Ohio reflected a more conservative pattern in its rural mind than Michigan, possibly because it was farther removed from the pioneer stage of development.

There were many other factors not mentioned above which influenced the success or failure of the rural relocation program. Community acceptance, cooperation and understanding of other governmental agencies, and lines of communication between evacuees, employers and WRA offices had important influences on the program.

In March, 1943, Everett L. Dakan, on leave of absence from Ohio State University was appointed to the WRA staff as Relocation Officer in charge of farm placement and as head of the Columbus office. He set about organizing meetings in Ohio and Michigan without delay. In April, a meeting was arranged through President John A. Hanna, Michigan State College.<sup>8</sup> The meeting was held in East Lansing and was attended by farm leaders and other pivotal personalities in the agricultural field. The Dean of the College of Agriculture, Michigan State College, officials from the Eastern Michigan Vegetable Growers Association, the Director of Emergency Farm Labor, and the Secretary of Agriculture were present. This meeting opened the door for the beginning of resettlement in rural Michigan. A committee was named to go to Rohwer Relocation Center, McGehee, Arkansas and recruit for farm labor. The Michigan State College sent a representative, H. A. Cardinall, Horticulture. The members of this committee spent

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8. Everett L. Dakan to President John A. Hanna, April 5, 1943.



two weeks at Rohwer and interested a small number of evacuees. The first resettlers moved in around Almont and worked on farms of Everett Bristol.

Professor Dakan also began getting out information to the greenhouse and nursery operators. It was in this early period that the manager of the Mt. Clemens Nurseries, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, made a trip to Rohwer to recruit workers. He had the foresight to provide housing. Beginning with a handful of recruits from the Centers, the nursery industry built up its labor force to fifty Japanese American workers.<sup>9</sup> A number of families settled in Mt. Clemens.

In the exploratory phases of work in farm placement, Mr. H. A. Cardinall, of the Michigan State College, was the most active person in Michigan. He was loaned by the College to the WRA to assist with relocation in Eastern Michigan. Much of the public relations work with the County Agents and the Eastern Vegetable Growers Association was handled by Cardinall. He also took a keen interest in Ann Arbor and assisted officials there in ironing out labor troubles.

One of the developments in the relocation program in Michigan which was to prove of extreme interest in the natural movement of the people to a favorable community where the conditions for reasonable standards of living, a free environment, and a cultural atmosphere was the relocation of Japanese Americans to Ann Arbor.

The community of Ann Arbor, although having a small population compared to many cities where resettlers have gone in numbers offered early opportunities through the University of Michigan. A naval training

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9. The highest figure showed sixty-five Japanese Americans taking Indefinite Leave to Mt. Clemens. Washington Reports, November, 1945.



program had been set up there and personnel was needed to work in the dormitories, in the hospital, a cafeteria, and the offices. Labor was impossible to get and F. C. Shiel, Acting Director and Business Manager of Residence Halls of the University of Michigan, began communicating with the Cleveland Regional Office of the War Relocation Authority and the Columbus office in regard to securing workers from the Relocation Centers. In April, 1943, Mr. Shiel made a trip to the Rohwer and Jerome Relocation Centers. In a report to the Columbus office dated April 6, 1943, Mr. Shiel listed twenty-seven Nisei youth and older men who had accepted employment with the University of Michigan.

This was the real beginning of a flow of people from the various Centers to Ann Arbor. At first, all of the workers were single men and they were housed in the dormitories on the campus or in the Michigan Union. Later on, girls secured positions in the hospital and in the administrative offices at the University. By the summer of 1943, quite a few single girls had relocated to Ann Arbor. There was a natural movement from this time on which resulted from the favorable letters written back to the Centers by the young men and women who were working in Ann Arbor. Mr. Shiel made several other trips to the Centers because the University was never successful in keeping its labor quota at a level to handle the great amount of work connected with the maintenance of the naval program.

In Ann Arbor several interesting situations developed in regard to the integration and social adjustment of the Nisei in the community. The employers were, of course, as strange to the Nisei as the Nisei were strange to the employers and several times, misunderstandings developed concerning



working conditions.<sup>10</sup> Some of this misunderstanding was due to the wrong leadership among the Nisei youth while some was due to the inexperience of the Caucasian supervisors in explaining just what was to be done and what was expected from the workers. Mr. Shiel was able to arbitrate most of these differences. On two occasions the Relocation Officer was summoned from Detroit to arbitrate differences.<sup>11</sup> The result was a meeting of all of the supervisory personnel in the University of Michigan in which a free discussion ensued regarding all phases of employment, both from the viewpoint of the employer and the viewpoint of the workers. Similar discussions were held with the matrons of the residence halls and many questions were cleared up through this frank method of approaching the problem. The leadership where it was contrary to the interests of the Nisei and to the University was gradually eliminated by the Nisei themselves or because of the departure of the individual from Ann Arbor. However, it might be added that there were but few cases where Nisei were discharged.

There was nothing spectacular about the opening up of employment opportunities in Detroit. The need for able-bodied workers existed in all lines of industrial, commercial, professional and service fields. The job in the early period of relocation was to find suitable places to match the skills and aptitudes of the Nisei, and to find employers who were willing to employ them during this time when the public was poorly informed or not informed on evacuation and the whole question of the Japanese-American problem.

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10. Recreation and community adjustment were important questions. See Herbert Passin's report on Ann Arbor Investigation *at end of this report.*

11. Shiel to Spicer Telephone Conversations.



The first opening of major significance in Detroit came with the employment of Nisei girls by the Johnson Milk Company. The girls were employed as sales clerks in the outlet stores for milk products, and they built a tremendous amount of public relations and favorable community sentiment among the patrons.

Domestic jobs were looked upon with favor because the problem of housing was solved. Good wages were paid and many young Nisei girls took employment in Detroit homes. Father James McCormick, Chairman of the Detroit Resettlement Committee was the most active community leader in finding domestic jobs for single girls and couples. The first Issei couples came to Detroit because of his interest and were placed in homes. As time went on the WRA office received great numbers of such offers; more really than could be filled.

Using the know techniques to uncover job opportunities,<sup>12</sup> the WRA staff solicited business firms, private individuals, institutions, hospitals, business offices, drug stores, transportation companies, garages, milk plants, candy shops, toy factories, dental laboratories, glass factories, machine shops, heavy industries, including automobile plants; foundries and steel plants, dry cleaning establishments, men's clothing shops, department stores, Federal, State and City offices, sanitoriums, colleges, parochial and public school institutions, beauty shops, flower shops and greenhouses.

The volume of relocation increased monthly during the summer and fall of 1943. Job opportunities were more than sufficient to place all the

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12. Thru correspondence, telephone calls, direct visits to the plants, and thru government agencies such as the U.S.E.S,



applicants and take care of "repeaters" or those who changed from one job to another. The strain of placement, combined with administrative duties, public relations, housing and counseling told on the small office force. The Relocation Officer requested additional staff members of Harold Fistere, Regional Supervisor. During the months of October, November and December, three new appointments were made.

One event in employment activity stands alone in its importance and lasting significance to the resettlers. The real success behind this achievement belongs to the resourcefulness of the Nisei themselves and to the turn of fortune. In September, 1943, the Detroit Civil Service employed a young man to enter its school for 'bus drivers'. The word got around and more boys were employed including a Nisei youth who had moved to Detroit from Dayton, Ohio. He reported his success to the WRA office, and Herbert Passin, Associate Relocation Officer, was assigned to develop public relations with the Director of Personnel, Detroit Civil Service Commission. He was successful and the Commission agreed to employ Nisei who obtained eligibility by passing the Commission Examinations. It was also agreed that the Commission would submit job lists to the WRA office for transmittal to the Relocation Centers.

A partial list of job opportunities with the City of Detroit is set forth:

Accountants	\$2415.00 to \$2691.00
Social Case Workers	\$2232.00 to \$2460.00
Junior Engineers	\$2760.00
Transportation	
Equipment Operators	.97 to \$1.17 per hour



These openings and many others, including office clerks, stenographers, mechanics, hospital nurses and draftsmen, attracted many Nisei, men and women, into the field of public service and into positions which offered opportunities for their skills and previous training.

George Graff, school teacher and government worker, was the first Relocation Officer to serve in Detroit. He laid a pretty solid foundation for the program by his missionary zeal. He had a talent for creating interest in the national and local needs of the Japanese-American people. The Detroit Press supported the program with favorable editorials and front page news items. Graff joined the staff in March 1943 and was transferred to Detroit in April. In September 1943 he returned to the New York School System and was succeeded by Carl L. Spicer, who had been Associate Relocation Officer in the Columbus, Ohio, WRA office. In January 1944, Spicer returned to Columbus and in February took over the Columbus office when Professor Everett L. Dakan returned to Ohio State University after having served a year with WRA on leave from his University Post.

Herbert Passin, a youthful and talented person, and not long out of the Graduate School, Northwestern University and University of Chicago, was appointed Associate Relocation Officer in October 1943. In December Veda Satterfield, a young woman, and a graduate of a Western University was added to the staff as Assistant Relocation Officer. Miss Satterfield had worked in the Minidoka Relocation Center.

Mrs. Marie Doi os Poston, Arizona was appointed Office Secretary in April 1943. This was an important step for the success of the Relocation



Program in Detroit. Mrs. Doi quickly mastered the administrative details and assumed responsibilities in counseling and assisting resettlers in finding homes and employment. She worked with reason, restraint and understanding.

In December Shigeko Korenaga was added to the staff to assist Mrs. Doi with office detail and to serve as receptionist.



Some key people who assisted in the relocation of Japanese Americans in Detroit and other parts of Michigan during the early phase of WRA History, April 1943 - January 1944.

H. A. Cardinell	Department of Horticulture	Mich. State College, East Lansing
Father James McCormick	Chairman of the Detroit Resettlement Committee	
Rev. Andrew Y. Kuroda	716 Arbor Street	Ann Arbor, Michigan
Miss Inez Bozarth	Director of Lawyers' Club	Ann Arbor, Michigan
Everett Bristol	Eastern Michigan Growers Ass'n.	Almont, Michigan
Cornelius Bus	South Haven Fruit Exchange	South Haven, Michigan
Jim Ouye	Soil Dept., Mich. State College	East Lansing, Michigan
Harold Hanna	Poultryman	Grand Rapids, Michigan
Charles Gritzner	Farmer	Freemont, Michigan
Dean E. A. Anthony	Extension Dept., Mich. State College	East Lansing, Michigan
President John A. Hanna	Michigan State College	East Lansing, Michigan
F. C. Shiel	Acting Director of Residence Hall	Ann Arbor, Michigan
Dr. A. C. Kerlikowske	Assistant Director of Univ. Hospital	Ann Arbor, Michigan
Dr. Edward W. Blakeman	Counselor in Religious Education	Ann Arbor, Michigan
Norma Stouffer	Y.M.C.A.	Grand Rapids, Michigan
Henry Van Wolvelaar	Business man	Grand Rapids, Michigan
Chris Hagerup	U. S. E. S.	Detroit, Michigan
Richard Leonard	U. A. W. - C. I. O.	Detroit, Michigan
Carl H. Hemstreet	County Agent	Traverse City, Michigan
Ruford F. Bittner	County Agent	Cassopolis, Michigan
George A. Johnson	Johnson Milk Company	Detroit, Michigan
Rev. T. T. Brumbaugh	Detroit Council of Churches	Detroit, Michigan
Donald J. Sublette	Detroit Civil Service	Detroit, Michigan
Rev. Shigeo Tanabe	Church Council	Detroit, Michigan



Following Mr. Spicer's departure from the Detroit office for resumption of his duties at Columbus, Ohio the Detroit office was serviced by both Mr. Spicer of the Columbus office and Mr. William J. Fluke, Relocation Officer at Toledo. These men alternated with each other in the operation of the office until July of that year at which time a reorganization of the Michigan district took place. It was decided to give up operation of relocation offices at Grand Rapids, Michigan and Toledo, Ohio. The Relocation Officer at Grand Rapids, Mr. William Kir-Stimon, was assigned to the Greater Illinois district office in Chicago and Mr. Fluke was brought into the Detroit office with the expectation that he would be able to service the Toledo area one or two days each week by going there from Detroit and giving the rest of his time to the Detroit office.

In June, 1944 Miss Bernice Murata who had been employed at the Cleveland Y.W.C.A. became affiliated with the Detroit WRA office as a stenographer. In July the staff was further increased by the addition of two more Relocation Officers, Mr. Lee A. Marsa and Mr. Wendell P. Gee. The former came to WRA from several years of service with the Farm Security agency and the latter from a war time experience with the pre-induction training branch of the Military Training Division of the War Department and later with the Chicago Regional Office of Civilian Defense. The staff was still further augmented in October of 1944 by the addition of another stenographer, Miss Aiko Nakatani, who had just relocated to Detroit from Poston.

A new alignment of duties and responsibilities was made. Mr. Marsa's work, it was planned, was to be concerned chiefly with farm placements



and Mr. Fluke's with industrial placements and all matters pertaining to the Toledo office. Miss Satterfield's assignment was concerned particularly with relocation in the city of Ann Arbor where she spent from two to three days each week, but she was also subject to special assignments and to general relocation work in connection with the Michigan district. Having proved in many ways her capacity for obtaining results in relocation, Mrs. Doi had been promoted first to the position of Junior Relocation Officer and shortly thereafter to Assistant Relocation Officer. She seemed best fitted to assist in the placement of resettlers in domestic positions, but it was also found that she was particularly effective in the placement of all female resettlers outside of those portions of the district that were not in the particular province of the aforementioned individuals. Mrs. Doi proved also to be especially competent in the placement of particularly the older ones since a great deal of confidence and trust was placed in her judgment by the Issei themselves.

At the time of Mrs. Doi's promotion to the rank of Relocation Officer, Bernice Murata was promoted one Civil Service step and was given the responsibility for the maintenance of files, records, etc. in addition to serving as secretary to Relocation Officers. Miss Nakatani performed general stenographic duties and Miss Korenaga served as receptionist and typist. From late in July, 1944 operation of the Michigan district was under the general direction of Mr. Gee.

The Michigan district as reorganized at the midpoint in 1944 comprised the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and two tiers of counties, eight in all, in Northwestern Ohio, the most populous of the latter



containing the city of Toledo. Included also in the district are the cities of Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, South Haven, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Muskegon, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Lansing, Bay City, Saginaw, Flint, Pontiac, Mt. Clemens, Jackson, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and metropolitan Detroit. Extensive relocation is not known to have taken place in some of these cities but as has been pointed out in other portions of this report resettlement was extensive in some of the aforementioned population centers. Relocation took place also in many less well known places, particularly in farming areas. These latter have been mentioned elsewhere but may be summarized as the areas pertaining to Southwestern Michigan including such villages as Davison, Capac, Romeo, Allenton, etc. and in a number of other more or less isolated rural areas.

Resettlement in Michigan took place very largely in three types of communities: 1. Those populous centers in which employment was readily obtainable; 2. Those cities that offered cultural and educational opportunities as well as employment opportunities; 3. Those areas which were featured by favorable farm conditions.

At the time of final reorganization of the territory served by the Detroit, Toledo and Grand Rapids offices into the Michigan district it may be said with honesty that most of the pioneer work had been done. There were still many obstacles to be overcome but the ground work required for successful relocation had been firmly established by those who served earlier in the program. So well had the preliminary phases of relocation been carried out that from the time of reorganization of the district to the cancellations of war contracts following the close of the



war there never was a time when it was possible to obtain more than a fractional part of the number of evacuees for whom employment was possible. Hundreds of domestic jobs for example went unfilled. The difficulties encountered in making farm placements have been described elsewhere in this report and scores upon scores of industrial jobs went unfilled.

Not only, however, was a sound basis for relocation established by those Relocation Officers who worked early in the field, but the work done by these people was made more substantial and good relationships with communities were more firmly cemented, by the evacuees themselves. They seemed to be possessed of the right combinations of courage, ambition, hopefulness and far-sightedness as to enable them to impress upon the great majority of their contacts their true worth.

The work of the district relocation offices fortified by the general good picture furnished by evacuees themselves was still further aided by the reports coming back from the fighting fronts of the extraordinary courage, hardihood, and heroism of Americans of Japanese descent who were fighting ~~and~~ for their country, and who realized that possibly they had more at stake than any other American.

The turning point in the relocation program came when, just prior to January 1, 1945, it was announced that the War Department was giving back to evacuees the privilege of returning to their former homes. Such an announcement had been hoped for by all evacuees even though in many cases resettlers had long since made up their minds to remain in their new-found homes. Even these latter were concerned, however, with the



principle involved. A new phase in the relocation program got under way immediately after the lifting of the exclusion orders. Various means of giving accurate information to resettlers within the district were employed. Meetings were held, letters sent out, and many telephone messages were responded to. The news columns in local papers were made use of in spreading needed information. The trek back to the west coast began almost immediately, but it was expedited somewhat by the announcement coming later of the scheduled closing dates of the various relocation centers.

As this report is being prepared the return to the evacuated territory is still viewed with hope or apprehension by many resettlers, but by others, the matter of return is not being seriously considered. As the dead line for the granting of the Government travel assistance draws near it is difficult to predict just what action in this respect will be taken by remaining resettlers within the district, but it is being freely predicted that most of those who still remain will not avail themselves of Government travel assistance.

The value of Social Security in the program of relocation can scarcely be over estimated. It has been verified that if the grants which made possible the purchase of furniture and other home furnishings after arrival on the new scene had been continued, there would have been fewer evacuees returning to the coast from the centers. But even though this special feature of Social Security assistance had later to be confined to service granted in this respect before departures from the centers, Social Security benefits given to those already relocated were of immeasurable value. A final report covering this phase of the



relocation program must certainly include a tribute to the cooperative, understanding administration of assistance by case workers and others in responsible positions.

At an earlier point in this report there appears an account of the activities of a committee designed to aid in the relocation of evacuees. It may be said in all fairness that this committee served out its purpose. When it became apparent that WRA was to withdraw its services to resettlers early in 1946 there were many who felt that Americans of Japanese descent who had relocated into new communities were going to be left without recourse to means of assistance that had previously been available to them. Since WRA was officially to die, it was decided in Detroit that a new committee to aid resettlers might still be able to fulfill a very great, though different, function. Assistance in organizing such a committee was sought and obtained from the Nationality Division of the Detroit Council of Social Agencies. This division, chaired by Mr. Fred M. Butzel, and served as secretary by Miss Florence Cassidy, took the responsibility for organizing such a committee as the consensus of a number of interested individuals and agencies indicated would serve.

The Detroit Committee to Aid Resettlers of Japanese Ancestry is composed of some 60 or 70 responsible community leaders, who through organization under five headings have made themselves available for assistance to resettlers as and when needed or desired. Organized before the expiration of WRA the committee to aid resettlers will take over responsibilities upon the closing of the Michigan district office. It is not the function of this committee to initiate action of any sort unless it seems desirable from the standpoint of expressed need on the part of resettlers. It does not expect to be aggressive in hunting



out or stirring up hornets' nests of problems to be settled, but it is expected that committee members whose presence and purpose is known to resettlers will render assistance whenever the need becomes apparent.



REPORT

on

ANN ARBOR ACTIVITIES

Veda Satterfield



Ann Arbor has a picturesque setting in the rolling hills of Washtenaw County on the Huron River 36 miles west of Detroit. It is the home of the University of Michigan, founded in 1817, in many ways, a typical American university-town. Though steeped in the traditions that are built up in such situations, it is also an alert, broadminded, progressive city, definitely reflecting the influences occasioned by its closeness to a great industrial area.

The population of Ann Arbor according to the 1940 census was 29,815. Conservative estimates add another 5,000 due to war time extingencies. According to the United States Employment Service and the Washtenaw Council of Social Agencies a great number of the former Willow Run bomber plant employees have decided to make Ann Arbor their home so during the time evacuees have been resettling in Ann Arbor they have encountered all the problems found in a war time community.

The Chamber of Commerce report following the 1940 census states that the foreign born and Negro population in Ann Arbor is much smaller than in the average industrial community in the Mid-west. Ann Arbor's 10.7 per cent foreign born population is even less than average for the state of Michigan. However, because of the extensive "student exchange" program in which the University of Michigan has long and actively participated, the presence of a different racial group in Ann Arbor, at the coming of resettlers from the relocation centers caused little comment from the townspeople. From the very beginning of the resettlement program in Ann Arbor, WRA officials have experienced little difficulty finding willing and informed participants.



The first community group to actively assume responsibility for the welfare of evacuees was the Ann Arbor Council of Churches. Ann Arbor is distinctly a church-going community. Twenty-five churches of practically all denominations have an unusually large membership. The Chamber of Commerce statistics estimate that Sunday School attendance represents approximately 75 per cent of the juvenile population. Ann Arbor Council of Churches has a chairman who is a Negro, Rev. C.W. Carpenter, the only Negro minister in the group, an illustration of the liberal thinking of this council.

In 1943 a committee of three members of the Ann Arbor Council of Churches was appointed to interest itself in evacuee affairs there. This nucleus committee consisted of:

1. The Rev. Mr. Blakeman, a former Californian, who is well acquainted with Japanese Americans and the problems they encountered on the west coast. He was anxious to welcome the resettlers and pledged himself to see that their rights were respected in their newly chosen homes. He was in a large part responsible for the proper community acceptance of them from the beginning. The Rev. Mr. Blakeman is the religious counselor for the University of Michigan. As such he is well acquainted with most of the University personnel and has well interpreted the relocation program to them. He might be described as the active liaison between the evacuee and the University and WRA and the University.
2. The Rev. Mr. Yoder, who, at the time of the organization of the committee, was one of the best informed members of the Council of Churches on community affairs aside from the University. He has



actively participated in the interpretation of the program to the community.

3. The Rev. Mr. Pickerell, who until the time of a serious illness a few months ago, continued to take an active interest in evacuee affairs and was responsible for bringing both the forces of the community aside from the University, and the University itself, into a close cooperation with the WRA resettlement program. He is chairman of the committee. Much credit is due him for a great deal of actual "leg work" in solving such resettlement problems as housing and social organization.

The work of this committee was greatly accelerated by the leadership of the Rev. Andrew Kuroda, an early Ann Arbor resettler from Tule Lake Relocation Center, who was at the time employed by the University as a Japanese language instructor. Mr. Kuroda took an active interest in the affairs of the evacuees and could be relied upon to supply a fairly accurate list of names and addresses of the early resettlers there. As a Nisei minister he was close to their problems.

The objectives that the committee recognized as desirable follow:

1. Community acceptance and integration of new Japanese American families. One example of committee participation is here cited. The committee personally attended to the placement of a Nisei family, Mr. and Mrs. Nishita who were very difficult to please in the matter of employment and living conditions. A committee member interviewed the couple, gave them professional advice and prepared an employment situation to meet their own peculiar needs, after they had left two other jobs.



2. To help with housing difficulties. Through the Rev. Mr. Pickerell and his committee in cooperation with WRA, Mr. Alfred Shanklin, president of the Ann Arbor realty board recognized the evacuee housing need and was helpful in alleviating it in every way possible.
3. To advise in moral and disciplinary problems. The University of Michigan employed a number of Nisei minors who were working their way through school, and who were, for the most part, away from home and parental influence for the first time. The committee, realizing the need for guidance and counsel, together with Rev. Tanabe and interested Issei were able to keep such practices as drinking and gambling at a minimum.
4. The committee offered definite constructive aid in certain vocational issues such as the nurses training program.
5. In the problem of University entrance the committee worked on the citizenship, military, Board of Regents and financial aspects and aided in the final interpretation of the situation both to the University officials and to the Nisei who wanted to enroll.\*
6. Minority difficulties were discussed by the group and in cooperation with WRA definite action was taken to correct the few "situations" which have arisen. For example:

A high school boy was arrested and charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm while intoxicated. Certain irregularities of his detention were investigated by the committee and WRA. An appeal was made to the attorney and the judge and the charge was reduced to that of

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\* See Satterfield's memo to Cullum, February, 1945.



misdeameanor. The committee supplied a loan for his bail and ultimately aided in the transfer of the boy to a California university.

Early in 1943 the original committee recognized the need for a member minister who could spend at least one full day each week investigating the Japanese American situation in Ann Arbor and making recommendations to the committee. Rev. Shigeo Tanabe from the Detroit Council of Churches was asked to do this work and the committee recommended to the Ann Arbor Council of Churches the appropriation of funds for his services. Shigeo Tanabe has continued his weekly visits to Ann Arbor visiting the sick, reporting any incidents of discrimination, working with and for youth groups and organizations such as the Nisei Plus club (a group which meets on Sunday evenings for discussions, debates, socials and non secular church services).

This committee, which functioned so efficiently and worked in cooperation with all other community groups in demanding fair play for Japanese American residents in Ann Arbor, recently expanded to include several people whose cooperation had previously been given. The chairman of this new citizens' committee is Professor Waterman, retired head of the Oriental Languages department. Some of the members plus those of the original committee are:

James E. Stermer, an agent for the Tremmel Company, an real estate firm. He is a former University sociology professor and worked with the Michigan Child Guidance Institute.

Mr. John Allison of the Perry School in Ann Arbor who has worked with community groups and especially high schools in carrying out an educational program of tolerance toward minority groups. He with Mrs. Hashimoto and Rev. Van Prentiss were advisers of the Teeners club, a



high school social group which was active especially during the summer when school and school activities were not in session.

Mrs. Melinda Stevens a social worker in charge of the Washtenaw County Bureau of Social Aid.

Mr. Francis Shiel, business director of residence halls, University of Michigan. Mr. Shiel was one of the first and chief employers of Nisei in Ann Arbor.

Dr. Arthur Dunham, head of the Graduate School of Social Work, University of Michigan, chairman of State Goodwill Committee. He is well known throughout the state for his work with interracial groups.

Mr. Clement Luke, employer's representative of the United States Employment Service. Mr. Luke from the beginning took an active interest in Nisei employment in Ann Arbor.

Professor Redman of the University of Michigan, and Mr. Theodore Dames, manager of the Allenel Hotel in Ann Arbor and an employer of several Japanese Americans.

Many others also interested in the program are included on the committee citizen's list and represent a fair cross section of Ann Arbor's population. This group may be relied upon to aid in carrying out the resettlement program after WRA district offices close.

The Washtenaw County Bureau of Social Aid which in Ann Arbor is ably administered by Mrs. Melinda Stevens has given 100 per cent cooperation with the resettlement program. According to latest statistics this agency has successfully aided in twenty emergency illness cases, twelve transportation requests from evacuees, and five long-time dependency cases who are still receiving aid in the form of allotments. No discrimination has



been shown and workers state that "they enjoy evacuee cases".

The evacuees in Ann Arbor have been accorded a high degree of acceptance by townspeople and employers alike. At any time one may see Caucasians and Japanese Americans walking together, eating together in public places or jointly participating in campus discussions. The majority of Ann Arbor citizens and members have gone "all out" in assuring their public acceptance. Any resentment felt or experienced cannot be generalized beyond the specific individuals involved. To briefly discuss a few exemplary incidents:

1. Mrs. Ruth Hashimoto, a language instructor, received word that her children were en route to Ann Arbor, being sent to join her fully a month before they were expected to arrive. Housing conditions were critical and she was having extreme difficulty finding suitable accommodations for her children. Her classes of ASTP (Advanced Specialized Training Program) military personnel took an evening away from their personal pursuits and studies, canvassed the town and secured an apartment across the street from the school which the children would attend.
2. Michigan Union swimming pool was open to all Union Nisei employees at the same time as the other employees, however, the Nisei boys decided that they wanted a special night and the pool would be theirs. Mr. Kuenzel, manager of the Union, felt they would be segregating themselves but agreed to a trial of the plan. The boys soon stopped swimming at all so the original pool schedule was resumed whereupon they actively participated again. This incident is mentioned to show the cooperative attitude of Ann Arbor employers toward the group.
3. A joint memorial and recognition service was held in May, 1945 for



Nisei service men and for those who had done war work in Ann Arbor. Candles were lighted for nearly 150 servicemen of Japanese ancestry who were lighted for nearly 150 servicemen of Japanese ancestry who were formerly in Ann Arbor or whose families had resettled in Ann Arbor, eleven of whom had been killed in action. The Rev. Mr. Lemon of the Presbyterian Church and the Commandant of the Army contingent in Ann Arbor were the principal speakers. The service was a well attended, beautiful expression of recognition and memory and in all but one instance received very favorable comment from Ann Arbor townspeople. The one exception was a dean of one of the schools at the University who felt that "too much was being said and done for the Japs -- nothing of the sort was done for others". He was silenced by Dr. Blakeman and his committee and, except that the newspaper accounts were temporarily held up, there were no adverse consequences. The committee and WRA efforts to "educate the educated" were redoubled due to the incident.

One situation which caused considerable discussion among evacuees and their friends was the report circulated that Nisei were not allowed to enroll at the University. It is true that the University proceeded cautiously in accepting Nisei in 1942 and 1943 but this fact should not be interpreted as being prejudicial in nature. These facts must be noted:

1. According to Dr. Smith, registrar of the University of Michigan, approximately 175 applications for admission to the University were received from relocation center residents in the 1942-43 school year. At that time, because of the military program at the University, the Army



had decreed that Provost Marshall General Office clearance was required for admission but the addition of clerical help to the staff enabled the registrar's office to process approximately 100 Personnel Security Questionnaires. From these facts it may be assumed that waiting for clearance was a major factor in keeping the Nisei admitted to a small number.

2. The University of Michigan has always been a very popular state university and was over-run with non-resident applications. The board of regents required the registrar to keep the number of non-residents to a minimum, accepting only non-resident transfers from other universities and graduate students.

The University now accepts "emancipated minors". Nisei students may fully participate in the extension program while gaining residence. The WRA office in cooperation with the local committee met President Ruthven, who asked that any case of actual discrimination on racial grounds in University practices be reported to him. None from that date to the present have occurred or have been brought to the attention of the committee or WRA.

#### EMPLOYMENT

In order to understand the "comparison" of Japanese American employment in Ann Arbor, an overview of all Ann Arbor employment is important. The growth of Ann Arbor and the University was concurrent. Fortunately for the University, Ann Arbor has not had a rapid industrial expansion and the University has grown proportionately far more than the town and it may be noted that the University has thus had quite a part in the type of industry brought to Ann Arbor. This in turn has resulted in



highly specialized products with consequent employment of skilled personnel. Aside from the University service program Ann Arbor industrially offers opportunities almost exclusively for skilled workers. The Chamber of Commerce computes these interesting statistics:

1. In Ann Arbor 23.6 per cent of the entire population is employed in professional service. The average for Michigan as a whole is 6.6 per cent.
2. Domestic and personal service in Ann Arbor 18 per cent, the whole state 8.9 per cent.
3. A higher percentage of women are employed in Ann Arbor than other Michigan cities mainly in the professional and clerical capacities.

With this brief picture of Ann Arbor's employment situation, the picture of Japanese American relocation there becomes more clear.

The first resettlers in Ann Arbor from the relocation centers identified themselves with one of six major groupings.\* These include language instructors, hospital employees, students, domestics and University residence-hall workers. Now to those general groupings have been added general industrial employment and it would appear that the percentage of Japanese Americans working in Ann Arbor elsewhere than with the University is as great as the percentage for the population as a whole. To mention a few cases:

Japanese Americans are employed in all the largest restaurants in Ann Arbor and vicinity--Allenel Hotel dining room, Victory Cafe, Weber's Tavern and the University Grill. Two girls are doing clerical work for prominent engineering firms. Drug stores employ at least a dozen resettlers;

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\* See Passin's report *at end of this report.*



service station and garages will account for eight more. Clerical help and bookkeepers are employed at Hoover Roller Bearing Plant and International Industries. Goodyear's Department store has employed Nisei and domestics are retained in many families throughout Ann Arbor and nearby residential section of Barton Hills. The largest group is still retained by the University as:

1. Residence hall employees. Mr. Shiel, director of the residence-halls, University of Michigan, on two different occasions in 1943 and 1944 visited relocation centers and recruited men and older boys for the residence halls to do many of the tasks pertaining to operating residence halls which during the war have housed and fed the military personnel. These halls include West Quadrangle, East Quadrangle, Lawyer's Club, Michigan Union, Michigan League, dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses. Their occupations there include kitchen helpers, dietitian helpers, caretakers, cooks, assistant cooks, porters, etc. Though the turnover in these halls has been great, the working condition have been excellent and the pay equal to that for similar services elsewhere. This employment has provided the springboard for other jobs in Ann Arbor and Michigan in general. Most of those who left these jobs entered the armed services or found other employment in this general area. Residence-hall workers and their families still constitute approximately 100 resettlers.

2. Hospital employees. University Hospital, Washtenaw County Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital, all in Ann Arbor, have employed a number of resettlers as resident physicians, pharmacists, nurses, engineers, research workers and as orderlies, nurses aides, clerical workers and store room clerks.



3. Language instructors. At one time when Army, Navy and Marine Specialized Training Programs, Civil Affairs and Adjutant General Training Programs were in full swing approximately 80 instructors of the Japanese language were employed by the University Japanese Language school. That number has been considerably diminished and the last military group under ASTP will leave this month. (December) Many of this group will remain in Ann Arbor, especially women, to study or accept other employment. A number of them are accepting government work in Japan and will leave their families in Ann Arbor. Eight in this category have already left. Others are returning to the evacuated areas, other turning to farming and other employment in this area.

4. The University retains a great number of clerical workers and stenographers in the library, graduate school, extension division, religious institute, language school and the different colleges within the University.

5. Still others are doing research in chemistry, philosophy, engineering, fisheries, etc.

6. A group of 25 or more, including graduate students, are studying at the University.

In general their employment opportunities have been great here as in any like community in the country, and few incidents of actual discrimination in employment have been experienced.

The United States Employment Service in Ann Arbor from the very first has displayed a most cooperative attitude toward resettlers and the relocation program. All interviewers and U.S.E.S. employees have



been well schooled in the history of evacuation, the resettlement in their own community, and the problems they encounter in employment. The training supervisor of the Ann Arbor office who at that time was Miss Mary Dietrich devoted several sessions to discussion of the resettlement program and the cooperative agreement with WRA on a national scale. She invited the local WRA officer to speak with the group. The manager of the office made all files available to the local officer and the employer representative together with the WRA officer carried the message of the resettlement program to community employers and called for their assistance.

The program with U.S.E.S. has been a joint one in cooperation with the WRA and the agency is well prepared under the leadership of their supervisor, Mr. Lawrence Hamburg to carry on the work of Japanese American employment in cooperation with the local citizens committee.

Late in 1943 Mr. Herbert Passin, Relocation Officer, reported that the local program might be in serious peril in Ann Arbor due to conditions of employer status, living conditions, etc.\* At that time there appeared to be wide-spread dissatisfaction on the part of evacuees with the community of Ann Arbor. In order to objectively view the situation described by Mr. Passin, a few facts must be stated.

1. Ann Arbor was a war time community with all the attendant problems, main of which was crowded living conditions.
2. The majority of the evacuees present at that time were young men that came to work from relocation centers and were holding their first jobs. They were restless and displayed little job responsibility as

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\* See Passin's report *at end of this report.*



evidenced by their threatened exodus at Christmas time and their absenteeism. In other words they were desirous of "shopping around".

3. Employment in war plants in Ann Arbor was closed to them unless they had a Provost Marshall clearance. Due to the skilled nature of factory jobs few were qualified for them.

4. At first they too were distrustful of the community due to the experience of evacuation, making it difficult for interested community groups to help them.

5. High wages in nearby Chicago and Detroit beckoned them but did not provide the security of room and board offered by their Ann Arbor employment.

No restaurant in Ann Arbor ever refused admittance to Japanese Americans and they have been welcomed at University functions, dances, socials, athletic events, lectures or concerts which they wished to attend.

By April, 1944 the situation had considerably improved due to more evacuee stability, activity of community groups, the opening of selective service to Nisei, the weeding out process of those interested in war plant employment, regulations making return to the centers more difficult, and beginning of more family relocation to Ann Arbor.

The Nisei Plus Club under the leadership of Andrew Kuroda, the citizens committee and Rev. Tanabe was organized in 1943. The membership was designed to be Nisei plus any other interested people. Meetings were held every Sunday night, a short worship section followed by discussion, dancing, games or refreshments. Such subjects as community adjustment, community participation and extension division programs were discussed



and the club provided a fine medium for expression of grievances. True it is that those who faithfully attended were already integrated into the community and those most needing its influence "were not among those present". The Club, acting on its own initiative stopped meeting in the summer of 1945. The reasons for disbanding gave evidence of excellent community adjustment — "they were all too busy in other organizations".

In the spring of 1945 a group of high school students banded together for summer activities and named their club "The Teeners". They elected a peppy Nisei boy, David Kuwada, as president. He soon rallied the other teen age Nisei around him. The group was mainly Caucasian but with several Japanese Americans and Negroes. They met under the leadership of Mr. John Allison, Rev. Van Prentice and Mrs. Hashimoto and planned at least one social a month. These socials were of the usual teen age variety, picnics, jam sessions, bicycle parties, etc. When school started in October they agreed not to meet so often as to interfere with high school activities but to keep a skelton organization to facilitate their return to activities next year. All members have unanimously agreed it was a good thing and have made many friends which are carrying over into their school year.

The Nisei in Ann Arbor hold class offices, play on athletic teams, participate in debating matches, attend school functions, belong to school organizations. They can be seen in most congregations on Sunday morning, belong to most of the Union clubs and golf clubs. Ann Arbor American Legion post has two Issei members who fought in Wrold War No. 1 thereby gaining citizenship. Two girls are members of a business and



professional sorority and one Nisei is a member of the State Federation of Churches laymen's committee. Public and private agencies have cooperated to the fullest and pledged themselves to continue their support. Miss Hester at the Family and Children's agency, a private agency, and Miss Melinda Steven, Washtenaw County Bureau of Social Aid, discussed budgets, Ann Arbor living conditions, community opportunities and other problems offering their assistance at a Nisei meeting. Mr. Arne Erickson at present children's worker of the State Child Welfare Division with offices in Ypsilanti has cooperated in finding licensed homes for minors wishing to attend school in Ann Arbor. The number of cases brought to the attention of the Washtenaw County Bureau of Social Aid has already been discussed and at least one family, the Nomachi's, formerly of Amache received definite help and received budget advice from Miss Hester.

The International Institute in Ann Arbor is operating through the University of Michigan and is located at the Michigan Union. It has not been a popular place with Nisei in Ann Arbor, its unpopularity possibly being traceable to such factors as the following:

1. The lack of any definite program for Nisei at the International Institute.
2. The concentration of the Director of making it more a meeting place for foreign exchange students and not for American students and workers with a different racial background. The Institute, however, has opened its facilities for piano practice, music, reading and games to the Nisei and they are always welcome. The fact that Nisei do not spend



a great deal of time at the Institute may be further proof of their community adjustment.

#### HOUSING

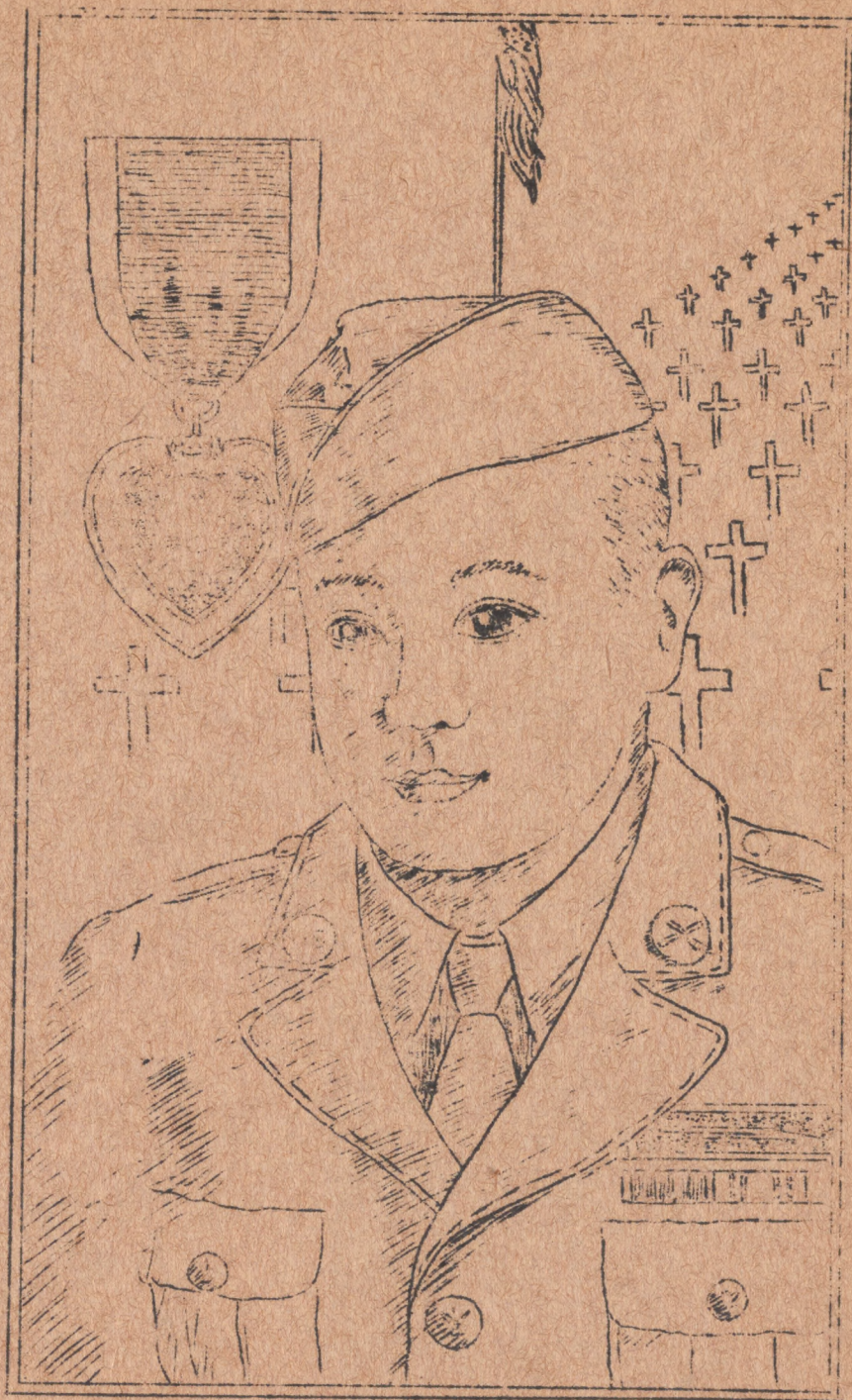
Housing in Ann Arbor has already been noted as a problem, but the problem of course is intensified in the fall when the students return to school. During the war military personnel crowded all available facilities and now a high enrollment of veterans and their families taking advantage of the GI bill of rights keeps the housing situation tight. With the cooperation of private owners, real estate agents, citizens committee and University officials the housing problem has and is being solved. Few landlords in Ann Arbor have expressed unwillingness to rent to Nisei. The University houses many of its own workers. Most of the instructors with families live in rented apartments and houses in the University section and at least two families have purchased homes in Ann Arbor.

The resettlers have found housing in every section of the city of a quality that is above the average of the type obtainable in larger metropolitan centers. They experience the same difficulties in obtaining housing as all newcomers but there have been few cases of actual discrimination.

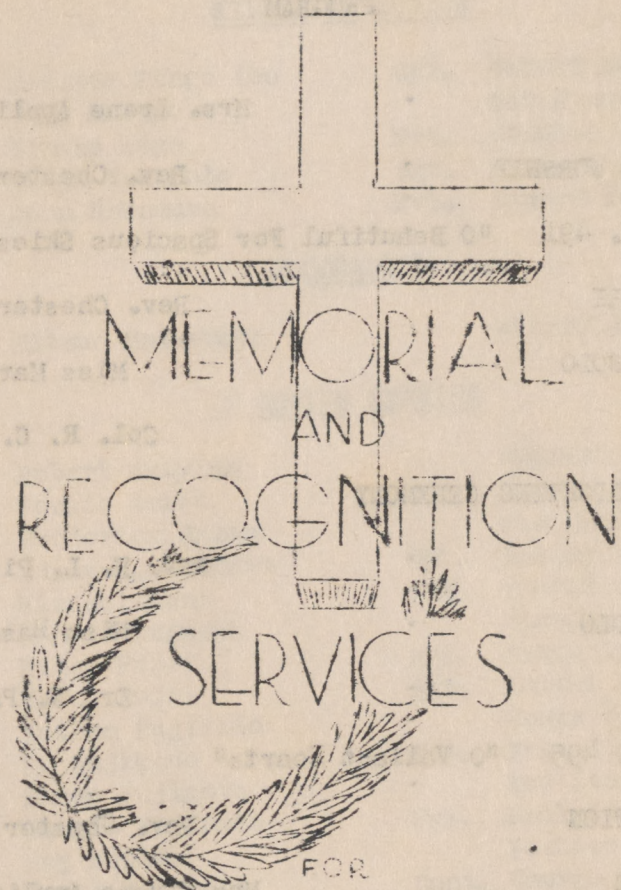
To measure the results of social engineering is a difficult task but definite strides in the direction of better understanding of a minority group have been made in Ann Arbor.

Life in Ann Arbor has a certain intangible quality. It is at once gay and dignified. It has a distinctive atmosphere peculiarly its own compounded of youth and age, culture, beauty and permanence.









☆ NISEIS IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES ☆

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
Corner of Huron & State Sts.

May 20, 1945

8:00 P.M.



# PROGRAM

PRELUDE Mrs. Irene Applin Boice

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Chester Loucks

\*HYMN No. 491 "O Beautiful For Spacious Skies"

SCRIPTURE Rev. Chester Loucks

VIOLIN SOLO Miss Mary Kanno

ADDRESS Col. R. C. Miller

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

PRAYER Rev. H. L. Pickerill

VOCAL SOLO Miss Masako Ono

SERMON Dr. W. P. Lemon

\*HYMN No. 495 "O Valiant Hearts"

BENEDICTION Rev. Chester Loucks

POSTLUDE Mrs. Irene Applin Boice

\* Congregation Standing

Officiating Pastor - Rev. Chester Loucks

Host Pastor - Rev. Ralph Dunlop

(Partial List)

## KILLED IN ACTION

Pfc. Chester Kengo Abe	Cpl. Robert Nakasaki
Sgt. John Harano	Ted Ninomiya
Thomas Kuge	Pvt. Stanley Oba
Seiji Nakamoto	Sgt. Richard Otsubo
John Nakamura	Pvt. Minoru Yoshida

## DISCHARGED

Mitsuo Matsumoto	Albert Koyama
------------------	---------------

## IN ACTIVE SERVICE

Pvt. Robert Akiyama	Satoshi Hoshi
Yoshio Amino	George Hoshi
Frederick Arima	Joe Hosoda
Elgar K. Arimoto	Cpl. Harley Hybridge
Hiroshi Asai	Pvt. Keichiro Inai
Masato Deguchi	Charles Inada
Hideo Fujii	Sgt. Kazuo Inouye
Kazuo Fujii	Sgt. Koichi Inouye
Yutaka Fujikado	Henry Isogawa
K. Fujikado	Pvt. Fred Ito
Masao Fujimoto	Koo Ito
Tsugio Fujimoto	Pvt. Paul Ito
Roy Fujita	Yoshiro Iwahashi
James Funamura	Capt. George Iwashita
Charles Furuyama	Gerald Kakehashi
Sgt. Haruo Hanamura	Pfc. Bob Kanai
Pfc. Tatsuo Hanamura	Hachiro Kanow
Tom Haratani	Lester Kashiwa
Pvt. Tom Hatano	Sgt. William Kawahara
Hiroshi Hattori	T. Kishiyama
Masami Hayakawa	Samuel Kobayashi
Sgt. Davis Hirahara	Yutaka Kobori
Pfc. Michael Hirahara	Lindy Koga
Larry Hironaka	Pvt. Hiroshi Kunitake
Hideo Hokoda	Tokuo Kurosaka



# IN ACTIVE SERVICE

Pfc	Joseph Kinoshita				Heichi Oka
Pvt	George Makoshima	Pvt			John Okamoto
Pvt	Henry Makoshima				Suse Okamoto
Pvt	Mike Masuda				Akio Okazaki
Pvt	Misao Matoba				James Okazaki
	Yasuo Matsuda				Kay Okazaki
Pfc	Charles Mayehara	Cpl			Glenn Oku
	Kei Mikuriya				Masuo Okuhara
Sgt	James Mitsumori	Capt			Pete Okumoto
Pvt	John Mitsumori				Tei Ono
Pfc	George Miyamoto				Minoru Osaku
	William Miyagi				George Oto
	Misao Miyazaki				Henry Oto
	Teruo Miyazaki				Toshio Otsubo
	George Miyoshi				H. Oshima
	Johnson Morozumi				Yasuo Ozaki
Pfc	Hugh Muronaka				Albert Saijo
Sgt	Patrick Nagano	Pfc			John Sakai, Jr.
	Richard Nakamura				Hisaji Sakai
	Thomas Nakamura	Pfc			Kiyoshi Sanuki
	George Nakayama				Aki Sasaki
Sgt	Eichi Nakazono				George Sakata
Pfc	Hiroshi Nakazono				Kenji Sayama
	Earle Namba	Cpl			Takeo Sekiya
	Shuji Naza	Pvt			Toru Shimi
	Henry Niizawa	Pvt			Shiro Shiraishi
Pvt	Frank Y. Nishio	Pfc			Shigeo Shiroishi
Pvt	Kongo Nitta	Pfc			George Yukio Shoji
Pvt	Masato Nitta	Sgt			Isao Tabata
Pvt	Noboru Nitta				Nobuo Tagawa
	George Noritoku	Pvt			Calvin Tajima
	Joseph Noda	Pvt			George Takagi
	Arthur Noda	Pvt			Makoto Takagi
Sgt	William Nosaka	Pvt			Harry Takahama
	Frederick Obayashi	Pvt			James Takahama
	Richard Ochiai				Donald Takahashi
Pfc	Franklin Ogawa				Randall Takahashi
	Thomas Ogino				Scott Takahashi
Pfc	Yoshiaki Ogita				Frank Takahashi

# IN ACTIVE SERVICE

	M. Takai		George Uda
	William Takai		Thomas Uda
	T. Takeia		Frederick Ujihara
	Henry Takeshita		George Ujihara
Pvt	Richard Takeshita	Sgt	George Urabe
	Otto Tanamachi		Tetsuo Uyeki
	Talao Tanagi		Yoshio Uyeki
Pvt	Tomio Tanaka	Sgt	Steven S. Wada
	Harold Tateyama		Miyoji Yamada
	Richard Teragawa	Sgt	Samuel Yamada
	S. Teranishi		George Yamadera
Pvt	Duke Frank Tokunaga		George Yamada
	Frank Tomita		George Yamamoto
	Masao Tomita		William Yamashita
Pvt	Masato Joe Tomita		Ryoji Yamazaki
Lieut	Theodore Tomita	Cpl	Tetsuo Yoda
	Henry Tomoda	Sgt	David M. Yoshida
	Takuzo Tsuchiya	Pvt	James Yoshida
Sgt	Makoto Uchida	Pvt	George Yoshihara
	Frank Uda	Pvt	Hideo Yoshihara
	Pvt Robert Yoshimoto		

Where ranks are not indicated, they are not known.

\*\*\*\*\*

We gratefully acknowledge the generous aid given us by the following people:

Dr. Edward W. Blakeman  
 Rev. Ralph Dunlop  
 Mr. Scott Miyakawa  
 Mr. Joseph D. Sasaki  
 Rev. Shigeo Tanabe  
 Miss Fujiyo Yoshihara  
 and all others whose names are not mentioned.

Harry Matoba  
 Chairman of Memorial Service

NISEI-PLUS CLUB



REPORT

on

FARM PLACEMENTS

Lee A. Marsa



### RELOCATION ON FARMS IN THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Farming in Michigan is highly diversified, there being no extensive unbroken stretches of a single crop. It is predominantly a state of general farms. A major portion of crops grown is marketed through livestock feeding. Almost 70 per cent of the annual farm income is from livestock and livestock products, with fruit and vegetables accounting for but 15 per cent.

Since evacuees have shown interest only in the fruit and vegetable areas, we will confine our description to this type of agriculture. The most concentrated fruit and vegetable area in the state is southwestern Michigan, in the counties of Berrien and Van Buren. Benton Harbor is known as the fruit market center for Michigan. It has one of the largest open air fruit markets in the United States. Wholesale buyers come from many major cities in the country. Most fruit farms in this area are relatively small family-sized units. Diversification on these individual farms is the usual practice. Tree fruits include apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries and grapes. Small fruits such as raspberries, dewberries, strawberries and vegetables as tomatoes, asparagus, peppers, eggplants and cantaloupes are grown in the area.

Other fruit areas in the state are centered in the village of Romeo, which grows a good deal of apples and peaches, and in Traverse City which is mostly a cherry growing section.

Scattered muck areas are quite important and include the Decatur, Kalamazoo, Davison, St. Johns, and Imlay City districts. Crops grown on muck soils are celery, onions, carrots, cabbage, lettuce, mint and potatoes, etc.



Major market outlets for fruit and vegetables are important factors in permitting growers to compete with other states. Michigan is one of the most highly developed industrial areas in the country, and offers a huge market for all food commodities.

In the history of the development of the fruit and vegetable areas in Michigan much of the labor supply came from southern states known as migrant labor. These workers moved from state to state following the harvest. Many lived in tents and carried their household equipment with them.

As result of this relatively unlimited supply of help during the nineteen-thirties, very little effort was made by growers to provide permanent housing or any sort of facilities except garages, vacant chicken coops, etc. The fact that housing facilities were mostly inadequate to meet evacuee standards proved a major handicap to acceptance of farm employment opportunities.

#### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FARM RELOCATION

Very little effort to begin with community committees was made. It seemed more practical to begin with individuals offering employment, and developing acceptance in the community by this method. Individual employers, financially independent, have proven the most reliable. They are not subject to criticism of "public opinion", but rather "make" public opinion.

#### PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE

We used the "back door" method in farm relocation. It works somewhat as follows:



An employer hires evacuees and is satisfied with them. Neighbors are curious and make visits to the farm. Evacuees help the neighbors when not busy with their regular employer. This is positive experience and presently the neighbors want evacuee help. Should the rabble rousers oppose and agitate, the neighbor already has had "experience" and is not influenced. He has found that they "seem like good people" and the battle is won before anyone is aware of what is happening. Evacuees attend the "Methodist" church and that proves they are o.k. to the "Methodists." They have shown unusual capacity in selling themselves as individuals and cultivating favorable public sentiment. Many employers asked for evacuee help whose requirements we could not fill.

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### 1. Seasonal Employment

Seasonal workers have contributed considerably in creating good community sentiment. In the fall of 1943 the South Haven Fruit Exchange employed about 75 seasonal workers to harvest and process the peach and apple crop. These workers gave very satisfactory service and Mr. Cornelius Bus, manager of the Exchange, advertised evacuees a good deal throughout the state. About 50 seasonal workers were employed by J. C. Van Lierop and other farmers in Van Buren County in the fall of 1943 assisting with vegetable and potato harvest.

During the summer of 1944, 100 high school boys from Rohwer, sponsored by the camp P.T.A. spent 30 days in the Traverse City area picking cherries, then moved to Weidman after cherry harvest and assisted in picking string beans. Employers were pleased with the attitude and behavior of these boys.



The South Haven Fruit Exchange again used 75 evacuee seasonal workers from Rohwer and Heart Mountain centers to harvest and pack their apples and peaches in 1944. (about 8-20-44 to 11-1-44).

Harry Becker and Company at Decatur also employed 100 seasonal workers from 9-10-44 to 11-1-44 to harvest celery and onion crops. These were from the Rohwer Relocation center.

Therefore, seasonal leave accomplished two objectives in the main, namely, acquainted evacuees with the fruit and vegetable areas in the state and created a demand for evacuee help on Michigan farms.

## 2. Permanent Employment

Individual farm offers were investigated and forwarded to all centers, describing them in detail. Acceptance of offers was mostly on this basis. In some cases share cropper and evacuee recruiters, hired by employers, recruited at the centers. During the spring of 1945 recruiting was mostly done by this method. Paul Shimada, labor supervisor, for Harry Becker recruited about 70 workers, families and single workers for the farm.

Shibo Hayashi of Capac, Michigan recruited workers to assist him in his farm operations. He assisted many other evacuees in the community in finding housing and other share crop opportunities. Jack Matsumoto recruited help for a share crop deal at Baroda. The boys at Davison, Michigan, namely Dick Okinaga and Al Sato brought out several families and singles for their share deals. Charles Ogata was instrumental in getting about 15 workers for a wage deal at Eau Claire. R. Horibe accepted a share crop offer and the wife's family accompanied him. Most of the stress was put on selling the key individuals the deal and they brought along their friends.



#### INDIVIDUALS PROMINENT IN DEVELOPING ACOMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE

Jack Matsumoto, Jimmie Ouye and Paul Shimada took terminal leave from the Rohwer Relocation Center to East Lansing, Michigan approximately July 1, 1943 where they secured employment with Michigan State College in its vegetable experimental section. Their object was to acquaint themselves with Michigan agriculture and make contacts with vegetable growers in the state. Professor Keith Barrons with whom the boys worked at the college was instrumental in introducing the boys to vegetable growers in the state in need of farm help. As a result of this employment Shimada and Ouye secured share cropping arrangements with Howard Baldridge and Smith Lauderman of Davison, Michigan for the year 1944. Matsumoto concluded a deal with William Bolthouse of Clarksville, Michigan on a share crop basis for the same year. These three boys were very effective in developing acceptable community sentiment as a result of their contacts in the communities where they farmed that year.

August 1, 1944 Shimada made arrangements to have Jimmie Ouye continue to harvest their crops and he together with Mr. S. Toda recruited 100 workers for Harry Becker farms at Decatur to harvest celery and onion crops. They supervised the seasonal workers through the harvest and Mr. Becker was so well pleased with the service rendered that he requested evacuee help to operate his farm entirely in 1945.

Shibo Hayashi from Rohwer relocated to Almont, Michigan in the spring of 1943 where he was employed by Everett Bristol on his vegetable and fruit farm. Shibo worked on a wage basis the first season. During the 1944 season he was able to cash-rent land near Capac and secured



financial assistance from the local bank in order to operate. In the fall of 1944 he was able to secure an F.S.A. loan to finance the purchasing of additional equipment. During the 1945 season Shibo has been instrumental in encouraging and assisting other evacuees to relocate in that community. His ability in making new friends and securing the cooperation of local business people has been exceptional. During the spring and summer of 1945 as a result of Shibo's outstanding work approximately 50 evacuees had relocated in that community.

Another family that was exceptional in developing favorable community sentiment is Royal Kaji who relocated to Wayland, Michigan in the spring of 1943 working as a wage-hand for the season. The season of 1944 he share-cropped for the same landlord. In the spring of 1945 moving to Springport, Michigan where, at present, he is growing vegetables on a share-crop basis. As indication of the popularity of this family is the fact that a shower was given for their baby daughter in the fall of 1944 at which time the family received approximately 70 presents. Regular church attendance and an effort put forth to cultivate influential or friendly families in the community proved very valuable to this family and also to WRA officials in breaking down community prejudice in other communities.

Relocating to Sodus, Michigan in the spring of 1943, the Harry Itaya family pioneered in this community in developing community sentiment. This family was employed on a wage basis during the summer months and in the resort during the winter months. Community attitude in this section of the state was originally quite negative and there were innumerable difficulties to overcome including sickness in the family.



However, the Itayas moved in quietly and began the slow but sure process of making friends. Before very little time had elapsed they were accepted as permanent residents. In the season of 1944 Harry and his brother, Tom, operated this farm on a share-crop basis. However, due to a crop failure they returned to a wage basis for 1945.

All of the above families are unusually aggressive in developing community acceptance. Considerable ingenuity was used to unravel problems that developed in the community. There were other evacuee families who, perhaps, accomplished equally as much; however, we mention the above families as good examples of Japanese-American pioneers in Michigan farming areas.

#### PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO RESETTLEMENT OF EVACUEES

One of our major problems in the early days of the Michigan farm resettlement program was difficulty encountered with Mr. A. B. Love, state Emergency Farm Labor Supervisor. Mr. Love was hesitant to certify as to need for seasonal evacuee workers, fearing criticism from farm groups such as the Farm Bureau and the Grange. No doubt he was aware of the fact that some elements in the farm group were extremely jealous of their position in Michigan agriculture and entertained many fears that evacuee farmers might endeavor to concentrate in some communities. We overcame this difficulty by working with individual offers and coaching the individual employers as to necessary procedure required to secure certification, that is, we felt that Mr. Love would hesitate to reject an application for evacuee help when same was requested by farmers.

Some difficulty was encountered when the 100 high school boys from



Rohwer endeavored to extend their 30-day contract an additional 30 days. Mr. Love was quite effective in trying to out-maneuver us. However, Carl Spicer, Relocation Officer, in charge of the cherry pickers was able to secure an individual offer from Lewis Gray of Weidman, Michigan to pick string beans. Under pressure, Mr. Love certified as to the need for workers. We had the same difficulty in securing certification for Becker's seasonal workers in 1944. However, again Mr. Love yielded and by that time evacuees were making such favorable impressions with their employers that we had no further difficulties in this respect.

#### HOUSING

This was a major problem in the sense that many share-cropping opportunities, desirable in every respect, were eliminated because of lack of housing facilities. It was extremely difficult to solve this problem mostly because of building restrictions in effect during the war. Many employers wanted to provide suitable housing but could not obtain priority on materials. We feel that acceptance of farm offers might have been greater had more desirable housing been available. Perhaps this one factor was a major cause of non-acceptance by evacuees although we did have offers where housing was adequate and still evacuees did not accept.

#### SCHOOLS

No difficulty of major importance was encountered with regard to school attendance. In almost every community evacuee children were accepted in the schools without incidents or discrimination. In one country school district near Davison, Michigan one of the directors of



the school district objected to evacuee children attending that school. This problem was overcome through the influence of the Methodist and Baptist church leaders in the community. A Relocation Officer visited the school official and was advised that under no circumstances would he tolerate evacuee children in the district. This problem was taken to the ministers of the Methodist and Baptist churches of Davison. The official was a member of the latter church. The ministers organized a committee of long-time substantial residents in the community who were members of the same church and made a personal visit to the school official's home. They prevailed upon him to change his attitude and we were advised that the official's objections were eliminated. This seems like a very good example of effective means of combating racial prejudice. We had little hopes of anyone changing the school official's attitude but the influence of his long time friends proved effective. Ministers of the above churches in Davison put into effect an aggressive program on a community basis combating racial prejudice particularly with regard to the evacuee question. Copies of "Nisei in Uniform" and other pamphlets were distributed to all members of the churches and several sermons were delivered on this question alone. We have very high regard for the aggressive, practical activities of these spiritual gentlemen.

#### RECREATION

Evacuees experienced no difficulty attending local theatres in farm communities throughout the state. As an example Harry Itaya of Sodus remarked that neighbors stopped by to take his family with them to the local theatre since they were without transportation. Evacuee



students participated in school extra-curricular activities including recreation. As far as we know they attended school dances and mixed with Caucasians and were accepted by the Caucasian students on an equal basis. Several of the boys share cropping at Davison joined the local soft ball teams. We discouraged efforts of evacuees to organize evacuee ball clubs feeling that this would tend to set them apart from the community. The only qualification local ball teams required was athletic ability and many evacuees did not lack this qualification. A few evacuee high school students participated in athletics and were outstanding athletes.

We feel with regard to the schools that this was one field where democracy was put into effect without reservations. We have mentioned previously that community acceptance as a deterrent to relocation disappeared in the later phases of the program. Employment offers and share crop deals were not limited by discriminatory attitudes, but in almost all communities, with the exception of the position taken by the schools, we define community acceptance in relative terms. There were a few business places who would not accept evacuee trade. Some beer gardens refused to serve evacuees and there are many individuals who would not accept evacuees on an equal social basis. We can say that where evacuees have been exceptionally aggressive, in a major sense they were accepted on an equal social basis. Churches were outstanding in their efforts to welcome evacuees as well as putting into effect a practical program of eliminating race prejudice to the point where they almost demanded practicing these policies.



#### PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES

The outstanding agency with regard to service for evacuees for farm families was the Bureau of Social Aid. From the beginning of the program this agency has made a special effort to service evacuee families and gave them, in many cases, better service than Caucasian families received. In the early part of the program the Itaya family served as a good example. A few weeks after Harry had relocated, an operation was necessary and the Bureau of Social Aid took over in this emergency and financed expenses for the family until Harry recovered. One of Harry's boys was injured by a runaway horse on the farm and the Itayas state that under no circumstances could they have received better service. Most of the volume of service performed by this agency was in the spring of 1945 with regard to the furniture program. During the period when furniture assistance was given in the field this service alone was instrumental in encouraging families to relocate on Michigan farms that would not have done so had the assistance by the Bureau not been well carried out. Evacuee families that had experienced this excellent service wrote to the centers and advised their friends of the fact and this was much more effective than information that could have been given by WRA officials. We know of no counties in which evacuees were not serviced to the fullest extent of the means of the program.

Farm Security Administration granted assistance to evacuees operating on a cash rent basis. While there were only four evacuees granted such loans in the district there were no instances of loans being rejected on a race basis. One application by an evacuee for an FSA loan was



rejected temporarily because the evacuee was classified L-A in the military draft. This family, however, had not put forth any effort to cultivate the confidence of the local FSA supervisor. Since many of the evacuees operating farms were on a share crop basis the landlord assisted with the financing. Additional FSA assistance was available but more evacuees were not in a position to be eligible.

In one community the local bank financed several evacuees, namely, Capac, Michigan. This banker also acted as legal and business adviser to evacuees. No doubt the relationship between the evacuees and the bank was primarily due to Shibo Hayashi's intensive cultivation of community resources.



Partial list of individuals influential in developing favorable  
community acceptance;

Cornelius Bus	Mgr., South Haven Fruit Exchange South Haven, Michigan
Harry Lane	Berrien County Package Co., Benton Harbor, Michigan
Joseph Bachunas	Tabor's Resort, Sodus, Michigan
Lewis Waldron	Mgr., Michigan Mushroom Co., Niles, Michigan
Harry Becker	Harry Becker Produce Co., 7201 W. Fort, Detroit, Michigan
Keith Barrons	Horticulture Department, M. S. C. East Lansing, Michigan
Roswell G. Carr	Michigan State FSA Director 304 Evergreen, East Lansing, Michigan
Wilbur C. McMath	FSA County Supervisor, Federal Building Lapeer, Michigan
Leo Southworth	Mgr., Harry Becker Farms, Decatur, Michigan
John A. Hannah	President of M.S.C., East Lansing, Mich.
Everett Bristol	Almont, Michigan
Ward Webster	Mgr., Holly's Restaurant, South Haven, Michigan
R. C. Lott	County Agricultural Agent Court House, Flint, Michigan
Earl J. McBratney	Former Sec., Board of Education Davison, Michigan
Fred Thompson	12001 Lapeer Road, Davison, Michigan
Smith Lauderman	12001 Lapeer Road, Davison, Michigan



REPORT

on

TOLEDO ACTIVITIES

William J. Fluke



## TOLEDO, OHIO DISTRICT

### DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICT

The Toledo, Ohio district office was assigned no definite geographical boundaries upon the establishment of that office. Efforts of the relocation officer were usually confined to a district bounded on the west in Michigan by the westerly line of Lenawee county and by the Ohio-Indiana state line south to the southerly lines of Van Wert, Allen, Hancock, Wyandott, Crawford and Huron counties in Ohio; on the east by the easterly county lines of Huron and Erie counties; on the north by the northerly lines of Monroe and Lenawee counties, Michigan. This area comprised 18 counties in northwestern Ohio and two counties in southeastern Michigan, some counties being purely agricultural while others were both agricultural and industrial. Lucas county, Ohio, being the largest single unit of the area, presented both agricultural and industrial employment possibilities.

Toledo is the largest city in the district, followed by Lima, Sandusky, Fremont, Bowling Green, Defiance, Van Wert, Findlay, Tiffin and Bucyrus in Ohio, and Monroe and Adrian in Michigan. Toledo ranked first in popularity for evacuee resettlement, followed by Monroe, Michigan and by Lima and Defiance, Ohio. Most resettlers located in Toledo because of diversified employment opportunities with fairly high wage rates; through cooperation of individuals, close proximity to Detroit, Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio as well as Chicago, Illinois. There was also probably some attraction to this city as a result of information from friends already relocated. Monroe, Michigan ranked second in popularity with young males predominant because of employment opportunities with a local outdoor nursery



which paid fairly high wage rates with housing furnished and subsistence at cost. Monroe is located within easy commuting distance to Detroit, Michigan. There was a definite lack of interest in other communities, probably due to fear of isolation, lack of possible association with persons of the same nationality, and lack of remunerative employment which was available in the larger cities.

The population of resettlers fluctuated from time to time. From the most accurate figures obtainable a total of approximately 221 persons came into the district. Of this group all but 40 relocated in the urban areas. The rural resettlers located on farms or nurseries in Allen, Ottawa and Wood counties in Ohio and Monroe and Lenawee counties in Michigan. Of the group relocating in urban areas 23 were students entering either Toledo public schools or Toledo University.

#### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

In Toledo there was no organized resettlement committee. On several occasions attempts were made to organize such a committee; however, in each instance the Friends for Reconciliation Group attempted to dominate the meetings. This situation caused dissatisfaction among other groups, cliques or individuals and each time the attempt was abandoned. This fact was brought to the attention of the area Relocation Supervisor who agreed with the thinking that one group should not dominate said committee; however, there was whole hearted participation on the part of individuals interested in the program. Dr. Arthur R. Siebens, Secretary of the Toledo Council of Churches, who later in the program was appointed Welfare Director for the City of Toledo, was especially interested in the program as will be noted in the following paragraphs:



Ministers of all denominations lent a helping hand; for example, Rev. Thomas Rehorn, Director of the North Toledo Community Center, who employed a male Nisei as Director of Boys' Activities, in a recreation center located in a mixed nationality community.

Rev. Eugene Barnded, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Maumee, Ohio, a former missionary to Japan, on numerous occasions promoted the program in that community, which is a suburb of Toledo. He provided social gatherings for a large part of the relocating group.

Rev. William L. Steffens of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Toledo, acts as counselor for those resettlers remaining in Toledo who may need advice in various social, financial and other problems. He was also instrumental in organizing social gatherings in his church.

Rev. and Mrs. E. G. Berger entertained in their home for small groups, especially in the holiday season.

Mrs. Ernest W. Weaver, active member of the Toledo Council of Churches, and Mrs. Sprague of the Y.W.C.A. organized a Nisei club known as the JA club. This organization holds semi-monthly meetings and social gatherings.

The C.I.O. auto workers' union, local 12, were especially cooperative in acceptance and placements of workers. The A.F. of L. regional office gave a helping hand in Defiance, Ohio as will be related in the following paragraphs.

Most county and city officials were in sympathy with the program; however, they seldom took an active part in the promotion of relocation. Several privately offered employment opportunities for evacuees. Most active in promoting good will among various groups was Joseph Toll of the Lucas County Juvenile Court.



Both the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. furnished splendid support in making their facilities available which consisted of emergency housing for single persons, a meeting place for groups and the inclusion of individuals in their various club activities. The Y.<sup>w</sup>.M.C.A. furnished office space for administration and counseling of the relocation program after the close of the Toledo office.

The Infantile Paralysis Fund assisted with funds in one case of polio by paying all hospital expenses for a two week period of one resettler.

The American Red Cross assisted with medical attention and counseling in cases of service men's wives in distress.

The Lucas County Relief Association and Child and Family Committee stood ready to render assistance if necessary.

Gene Schenefield, Secretary of the Toledo Council of Social Agencies, has agreed to act as counselor and advisor in routing distress cases to the proper agencies during and after the close of operations of the WRA.

The Toledo public schools along with the Toledo University were especially cooperative in the cases of students wishing to further their education. The public school system accepted both grade and high school students without the usual payment of non-resident fees. The university willingly accepted students and furnished part time employment and scholarships to those interested in higher education.

The local newspapers - Toledo Blade and Toledo Times furnished favorable publicity not only of local interest but of national scope in the promotion of the program. Both newspapers are owned by the Paul Block interests and the local editor of the Toledo Blade, Mr. Grove Patterson, published several editorials advocating acceptance of Japanese Americans in the community.



### PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE

Public acceptance generally throughout the district was excellent; however, in several instances isolated cases of hatred and discrimination came to the surface, all of which was met and subdued or counteracted with the help of local citizens.

Shortly after the Toledo office was opened a resolution was introduced in the city council by one member with the backing of two individuals, (members of the American Legion but without the sanction of this organization) to prohibit the relocation by the Government of evacuees in that community. The relocation officer organized a group of citizens in cooperation with the Toledo Council of Churches. This group was composed of ministers, a former mayor, the area relocation supervisor and other influential citizens to attend a special council meeting in the interest of defeating this resolution. It should be of interest to note that the councilman who introduced the resolution, at the start of the special meeting, offered to withdraw his resolution; however, the chairman of the meeting insisted on a hearing due to local interest and attendance by citizens at the meeting. One of the two individuals backing the resolution, an American Legion member and a protector, so to speak, of public safety (self appointed) plus a representative of the American Federation of Labor, Oliver Myers, spoke for the resolution. Mr. Rosenberg, a legion member, presented his thinking as to the possible and probable happenings which might result from the relocation program. He presented no definite concise facts but assumed things would happen. Mr. Myers in a very short speech stressed the point of "cheap labor".



The interested citizens group then spoke against the resolution. First to speak was a former mayor, Mr. Roy Start, followed by the Area Relocation Supervisor, Harold Fistere, and by a group of five ministers. It was interesting to note that these ministers were of various racial backgrounds. The last speaker to present his case was the Executive Secretary of the Toledo Council of Churches, Dr. Arthur Siebens, who made a fervent plea for acceptance of the Japanese American group. The chairman of the meeting then offered the floor to any interested persons at the meeting; however, none spoke on either side although the council chamber was crowded. In the final analysis the council voted 7 to 1 to table the resolution. The one vote for the resolution was cast by an A.F. of L. member, Ruther Jurriss. It was the consensus ~~of opinion~~ of all interested parties that this resolution would remain "on the table" and probably would never again be brought to the front. The entire citizens group who spoke for the resolution agreed the program had hurdled a major obstacle and agreed to again defend the position of resettlers, in case an attempt were made to reopen this subject in the city council.

It was the above circumstance which caused the Toledo Blade to publish an editorial on the rights and privileges of loyal Japanese Americans with the additional comment that Toledo should accept the Government's program and welcome resettlers to the city. This publicity brought many employment opportunities plus offers of assistance in combating adverse public opinion.

In May of 1943 the Relocation Officer was invited by the Commander of the Lucas County Council of the American Legion to appear before the



council to present the program of relocation, with a very adverse introduction by the Americanization Officer of the council. The Relocation Officer, who is a member of a local post, outlined the plan for relocation, the circumstances of the evacuation and the necessity for returning evacuees to a normal life outside of the relocation centers. At the conclusion of the presentation numerous questions arose, probably the most pertinent being "Why are male citizens within the draft age not uniformly accepted for military training?" "Why bring these people to the midwest?" "Why not return them to the coast states?" All questions were answered with definite reasons or statements of Government policies. At this point in the meeting one delegate immediately introduced a resolution to the effect that the council go on record as opposed to the program. This resolution was immediately seconded and a vote called for. However, before the vote could be taken several delegates opposed such a resolution and spoke on behalf of the relocation plan. Their efforts were in vain and in a final vote the resolution was passed, not however without opposition. Those who opposed the resolution were of the opinion that there would be no organized effort on the part of the Legion locally to publicly oppose the agency's program. This prediction became a reality. The outcome of the vote also made several new friends for the program. It was curious to note that the Legion member, a delegate to the county council, who was the instigator of the resolution in the Toledo city council was not present at the above mentioned meeting.

In Defiance, Ohio late in December 1943, employees of the American Steel Packaging Company threatened a walkout because the president of the



company, Mr. G. F. Behringer, employed an evacuee couple as domestics in his home. The employees were members of the International Electric Union, A.F. of L. A union meeting of the employees was called to take a strike vote. The relocation officer was notified of the situation and the date of the meeting. Arrangements were made to attend this meeting and contact was established with the regional office of the American Federation of Labor in Toledo. The situation was explained to William Sturm, Regional Director for the A.F. of L. He promised that he or a representative of his office would attend this meeting.

It was agreed with Mr. Behringer that no matter what the outcome of the strike vote might possibly be, he (Behringer) would not release the couple. He was adamant in his opposition to the thinking of the rank and file of the union that they could and would attempt to dictate to him in the operation of his household. During a stormy session of the union employees who were addressed by the relocation officer, the regional officer for the American Federation of Labor and the local president of the union charges and counter charges were exchanged by the union members and officers of the union. The meeting finally broke up with no decision as to a strike vote. In this instance the A.F. of L. cooperated with the relocation officer in diverting a possible walkout.

Rev. W. A. Rex of the Presbyterian Church and Rev. Leroy V. Simms of the Methodist Church in Defiance were interested in the outcome of the above mentioned incidents and both agreed to use their influence in overcoming prejudice against Japanese Americans. In the three above mentioned incidents antagonism and discrimination was either entirely or partially overcome.



Favorable acceptance for the resettler group was built by talks given by the relocation officer, office secretary and other interested persons to religious groups, to elementary and high school children, to fraternal organizations, union groups, county farm agents and farmer groups; by referral of evacuees by the U. S. Employment Service; by favorable news items published in local news papers; by evacuees joining various clubs, both religious and civic; by evacuees association with mixed groups and in industrial employment; by their cooperative attitudes and their willingness to accept responsibility; and by public appearances of both male and female Nisei members of the armed forces.

#### EMPLOYMENT

Employment opportunities were developed by several different methods. Immediately following a news item in the Toledo daily papers to the effect that the War Relocation Authority would open a relocation office in the city, numerous telephone and personal calls were received offering various types of employment. A great number of such offers were of domestic type; some attractive, some sub-standard. In order to enter into a higher plane of placement it was found necessary to make personal contacts with individuals, employers and personnel managers, U. S. Employment Service, Civil Service, county farm agents and also contacts with those employers advertising in the want ad section of the local papers. The last mentioned contacts were made by telephone and personal calls. These other opportunities came from exponents and friends of the program.

Domestic offers being most numerous consisted of employment for single persons, male and female couples, some allowing children in the household.



Next in volume were those offers for unskilled industrial employment; farms, both rental and share crop; clerical; skilled and professional types. Domestic, clerical and farm employment were most acceptable to resettlers. Some skilled and professional openings were filled.

Employment in war plants holding prime contracts in Toledo was extremely difficult, principally due to the length of time necessary to process Provost Marshal approval; however, eventually several male and one female resettlers were placed with Willys Motors, Incorporated. Others worked for an insulation manufacturing company and quite a number of young inexperienced workers were employed in packing case construction. Several female clerical workers were employed in offices of plants holding war contracts. One female, trained as an electric arc welder in a local vocational school, was employed in that capacity on the construction of ships, both for the coast guard and navy.

U. S. Employment Service office in Toledo gave full cooperation in the placement of evacuees. The usual policy of referral to first time employment in the locality was made by the district relocation office in cooperation with the employment service. The procedure usually followed was to refer the worker to the employer, then if the employment was suitable and the employer was agreeable to employing the person, he was then sent to the U. S. Employment Service and obtained a referral card. This policy was in effect during the period of War Manpower Commission regulations. In some instances referrals were made directly to employers by the employment service.



Most industrial workers were placed in manufacturing plants having contracts with the C.I.O. In each instance of placement the local accepted the new employee into full membership. One local of the A.F. of L. accepted the above mentioned electric welder as a full member. Most agricultural employment developed after contacts with county farm agents; however, some were received from individuals who were seeking experienced vegetable growers. While some acceptance on such offers was made by evacuees, the majority of the farm offers were turned down. For the most part, farm employment consisted of day labor, share crop and rental. A few offers of farm sale were received, but none was accepted. No rental offers were accepted due to lack of confidence on the evacuees' part in their ability to earn a living and because of inexperience with local conditions. Day labor was not conducive; however, there was some acceptance, in which cases employment did not usually continue any great length of time. A number of excellent share crop and rental offers found no interest although full cooperation was offered to resettlers by both the owner and county farm agent.

Usually when particular types of employment were requested by evacuees such employment possibilities were found. The methods followed in obtaining such offers involved contacts with the U. S. Employment Service, want ads in newspapers, and by contacts with individuals or companies having such employment opportunities. The greatest difficulties in obtaining acceptance of such offers seemed to be due to the fact that resettlers were "not quite satisfied", "undecided on leaving centers", and "pay rate considered inadequate", although in each instance a going wage rate



was offered. In most instances in which acceptance was effected the worker was more than satisfied after a trial period in which time he became accustomed to routine.

In the district there were no new businesses established. Several offers for rooming houses and restaurants were received but found no resettlers interested although some Japanese had previously established themselves in business. The experience and advice of these proprietors was offered and available.

#### COMMUNITY ADJUSTMENT

The Nisei group organized for social and education benefits through the cooperation of the Toledo Council of Churches and the Y.W.C.A. Social gatherings were held at least once a week during the early period of relocation and on numerous occasions these meetings increased from two to three per month. However at the present (December 1945) only monthly meetings are held due principally to lack of interest and a lessened consciousness of the need for such meetings on the part of resettlers. The Issei group scattered over a wide area, never organized; but on several occasions this group were guests of the Nisei Club at social functions. Some female Nisei joined religious, social and civic clubs. One male student at Toledo University acts as an official in athletic events principally in high school sports. Another belongs to hiking, skating and golf clubs at the Young Men's Christian Association.

Private and public welfare agencies stood ready at all times with their facilities to render assistance. However, in only two instances



was such help needed. As stated previously, the Infantile Paralysis Fund gave assistance and at the present time the American Red Cross is assisting with medical care for a serviceman's child. The Travelers' Aid, when called upon, helped those arriving in the city. Both Ys' and church groups lent full cooperation to any programs suggested. In the case of family planning reunion, no particular difficulties were encountered. There were no long term adjustment plans necessary and usually reunion plans were worked out with the evacuee and relocation office.

#### HOUSING

Housing, while scarce, never presented a major problem in the urban area. Emergency facilities for single persons were always available at both the YMCA and YWCA. In addition several private dwellings always had rooms available for either long or short time duration. Housing never reached the acute state because no large volume of resettlers located in the district. Housing for families, while extremely scarce in 1943 and 1944, could be found by diligent search and the cooperation of real estate agents. Individuals interested in the program located vacant houses on numerous occasions. Generally speaking such housing was of moderate rental cost, and some were substandard; however, this latter was only used until such a time as acceptable premises were available.

Outside of Toledo the largest group located temporarily in Monroe, Michigan but, as mentioned before, this group were mostly young inexperienced male workers. They were employed by an outdoor fruit tree and ornamental shrubbery nursery. After employment of about one year's duration this project no longer interested workers due to the fact that higher earnings were possible in the larger cities nearby.



MEMORANDUM: Report on a survey of relocation conditions at Ann Arbor,  
Michigan.  
FROM: Herbert Passin, Associate Relocation Officer, Detroit, Michigan.  
TO: Harold S. Fistere.

Evidence of serious evacuee dissatisfaction in Ann Arbor has been before this office for some time. Proof positive, however, appeared in the evacuee responses to the questionnaire sent out from the centers on relocation. The results seemed to show that Ann Arbor rates among the lowest sites in the country in respect of satisfactory relocation. In the small returned sample, dissatisfaction was markedly predominant, and attitudes seemed sharp and intense. In addition, rumors about a certain Red Cross incident spread from the town to the camps and to other localities. All these circumstances strongly suggested that the relocation program might be in serious peril - both in terms of an actual withdrawal from Ann Arbor and prospective difficulty in future resettlement in the area.

In order to determine what the objective circumstances might be, and concurrently, what this office might do to help, a brief, though intensive, reconnaissance was made. Both Caucasians - employers and friends - and evacuees were visited at length. Representatives of every major evacuee grouping were intensively interviewed for periods of one to three hours' duration. The results, taken together with prior information available to this office, are herein presented for consideration. Some suggestions for melioration of the situation will be offered.

#### General Background

Ann Arbor is a university town of approximately 40,000 peacetime in-



habitants. As a consequence of wartime exigencies, the town has been profoundly shaken out of its normal course. The diminution of the male student population has been more than compensated by the entrance of both Army and Navy training programs. Thousands of soldiers and sailors crowd all the available facilities, and even students have been pushed to the outer margins of possibility for housing. In addition, there has been a vast influx of workers from the nearby Willow Run bomber plant. These physical circumstances have brought about great pressure on the limited housing conditions, boosted prices, and have put a severe strain on all normal civilian accommodations and facilities. The entire aspect of this quiet little college town has been changed, so that now it presents all the familiar problems of wartime centers.

The immediate circumstance which has facilitated evacuee relocation in the area has been the siphoning off of service and lower trade personnel into the armed forces and into the strongly magnetic war plants nearby. As a result, the University has been strapped for hospital help, dormitory, club, and residence hall assistance. Months ago, University representatives personally visited the evacuation centers and enlisted labor. Since then, there has been a steady stream, expedited both by the University business office and this WRA office. Now some 350-400 evacuees are to be found there.

#### Nature of the Relocation

In terms of the problems subsequently encountered, several major relocation groupings may be distinguished. (1) A large group of approximately 40 persons is retained in the Army ASTP program as instructors in the Japanese language. Some of these have been or are in process of



bringing their families up from camps and other parts of the country. (2) Some 80 men and women are employed in the University Hospital in various capacities. The great majority of the women are nurses' aids or ward helpers, plus a few registered nurses, dietitians' helpers, and office girls. The men are usually orderlies, porters, stockmen, messmen, etc., although a small number of technically qualified persons is engaged in professional medical work. (3) There are approximately ten full time students in attendance at the University. (4) A small number of persons is found in domestic occupations around the town. (5) Finally, the largest group consists of boys and younger men employed in the University residences. These include the Michigan Union, West Quadrangles (where the Navy men are billeted), East Quadrangles, Michigan League, Lawyers' Club, dormitories, and fraternity and sorority houses. The great majority of the evacuees here encountered are young men, and the occupations include porters, messboys, cooks, dietitians' helpers, caretakers, janitors, cleaners, etc..

It is clear on all hands that the evacuees have been accorded a very high order of acceptance - gratefully by employers and in a friendly manner by local townspeople, fellow workers, and servicemen. The only incident to mar an otherwise exemplary record is one which has apparently been magnified out of all true proportion in passing from mouth to mouth. The circumstance may be briefly related as it was explained by the chairman of Red Cross activities of the Nisei Plus Club, the person most directly involved in the affair. An offer to help was transmitted to a small Red Cross unit and was accepted. As the group chairlady and expected only three or four girls and fourteen had appeared on the scene,



not enough instructors had been secured for the occasion. The descent of such a large group also suggested in the mind of the chairlady the possibility that the Japanese-American girls had wanted a separate group. In order to have time to discuss these two matters, the rather flustered chairlady suggested that the girls come back the next day. The initial reaction of the girls was that a deliberate discrimination was intended, and they were resentful. These circumstances apparently provide the factual basis for the subsequent rumors. However, the affair did not end at this point. The next morning the chairlady called the Nisei group chairman, apologized for the preceding night's events, assured them that no malice was intended, and invited them all to join the group. The nisei chairman was satisfied in her own mind, and in due course several girls began to attend regularly and continue to do so as of this moment. It is, however, true to add that a few of the girls continue affronted nonetheless, and some very slight resentment may be found among other members of the evacuee group. The affair hardly warrants such extended comment except for the fact that it generated many rumors.

Even where resentment exists, however, it is not generalized beyond the specific Caucasian group involved. It is, so far as can be observed, unanimously agreed that attitudes toward the evacuees are unusually good, among both civilians and military. One may at any moment of day or night see Caucasians and Japanese walking together, eating together in public places, and chatting amiable. The soldiers seem particularly friendly, almost, as one nisei suggested, to the point of embar-



rassment. As an example of the genuine and sincere attitudes on the part of the soldiers, we may make reference to the fact that a group of soldiers has petitioned the University for accommodations for a Christmas party to include niseis.

#### Nature of the Grievances

What, then, may be said of the grievances? While the precise extent of the dissatisfaction can properly be gauged only by means of an extensive sample analysis, both the samples represented in the questionnaire returns and in the interviewed group show it to be widespread and thorough-going.

It will be most convenient to visualize the picture by taking the above enumerated groups in order.

(1) The instructors group. On the balance, this is a highly adjusted group in respect of all major problems. With high professional and social status and a sense of vital mission in their work, its problems are no cause for discontent. It labors under the same general disabilities, in respect to housing and high living costs, as operate for comparable Caucasian groups. Its acceptance and integration are high, and morale is concurrently high. An occasional instance of discrimination has occurred, as in the case of the attempts of one instructor to lease or purchase a poultry farm, but there is little complaint. Indeed, this group is the backbone of evacuee morale. The men tend to be older and more experienced, their jobs have importance, relative security, and adequate emoluments of cash and prestige.

(2) The hospital, on the other hand, evinces a picture of deep and serious disaffection. The grievances may be briefly noted. Among the



nurses' aids, there is a great deal of restlessness. The girls feel that the work they are performing is well below their skill and prior experience. Many have performed far more skilled nursing operations back in the camps. What is perhaps more important - and certainly enhances the foregoing grievance - is the fact that they may not, in virtue of naval regulations, take advanced nurses' training. Thus they cannot "get ahead", they are "going nowhere," there is "no future or improvement" in the work. This has also resulted in resentment as well as a feeling of futility and frustration. Furthermore, it is a widespread feeling that the work will terminate with the war, and the girls will once more confront an insecure world without in the interim having been able to improve their professional standing or their financial position. Psychologically, they do not regard it as "real relocation." It is temporary, uncertain, unrewarding, and static. In addition, most of the girls live in nurses' homes with little or no privacy. Thus they feel temporarily barracked in a temporary situation. There is virtually no social life for them because of the lack of facilities and accommodations and the lack of "anything to do." Many of these girls are planning or wish to return to their families in the camps. Some also expressed the fear that there were too many evacuees in the town, and they were beginning to feel conspicuous on the streets. This is another reason that they tend to eschew extensive social activities - in order not to appear publicly in large evacuee groups and thus attract attention.

The grievances of the hospital men are, if anything, even sharper. Although the women lack privacy, their abodes simulate in some measure



a genuine home atmosphere. For the men, accommodations are unsatisfying, discommoding. They do not like their places, they lack privacy, they cannot have visitors, they cannot conveniently so much as boil up a pot of coffee, the appointments are inconvenient, the sink is in the wrong place, the doors do not lock, there is always noise, etc.. There is also a current uneasiness induced by the fact that a "disease clinic" is being opened by the United States Public Health Service in an adjacent wing, and a "disease cafeteria" directly below them. The principal attitude expressed was resentment over the fact that the hospital superintendent had failed systematically to comply with his prior promises. They report that promises are made and go unfulfilled, or else are complied with only perfunctorily. Linen, for example, is supposed to be provided, but they receive only one sheet per week; locks were promised and never forthcoming. Many men were promised accommodations for spouses brought up from the camps, but when they acted upon the promise, the superintendent had failed in his obligation. Thus several couples are even yet compelled to live apart. In addition, many of the men work a "split shift" and feel that much of their time is wasted in waiting around. Again there is resentment over the fact that they cannot "better" themselves by attending the University. And as in the case of the girls, they are only "helping out temporarily" and will have the whole problem of relocation anew after the war. Among the boys, however, the problem of social life takes on an acute form. There are simply not enough women to go around the evacuee group; and of those available, they are not the "right kind" - they are "unfriendly" and unbending. The Nisei Plus Club has



little or no attraction for the younger men because it is "too churchy." Meatier social fare is wanted and not forthcoming. Minor complaints suggest that the saturation point of relocation has been reached, and that perhaps there are too many young people who cannot adjust and have little sense of work responsibility. This latter factor leads directly into occasional inter-evacuee conflicts, such as the shifting of work burdens by "irresponsibles" to the more conscientious ones. In this group, the desire to leave, temporarily or permanently, is very high. They will, furthermore, not recommend that their friends come to Ann Arbor, although they know that the hospital needs help and the local sentiment is favorable, until the hospital proves more conscientious about its promises and some of the existing grievances are cleared up. Many also feel that the work is below them and that its menial status is not compensated for by any possibilities of financial savings or future advancement.

So far as could be noted, the few produce, stock, and medical specialists among the men, and the office help and registered nurses among the women seemed to have no insoluble grievances and evinced a very high level of adjustment.

(3) The students, like the instructors, have few complaints other than those common for their status. Indeed the only grievance on this score is the fact that so few of the younger people are able to acquire the cherished status. Much frustration was encountered among school-age youth whose education was interrupted by the evacuation and who wish to further their college training. Some of the non-student evacuees chafe



somewhat at this evidence of discrimination. There is a minor overtone of insecurity among students which derives from the unpredictability of Army and Navy regulations; some worry over whether or not they can be removed from school. By and large, the students have little to do with the other evacuees, and they seem to have achieved real integration in the general student body.

(4) No domestics were interviewed, but reports of others would indicate little or no outstanding grievance among this small group.

(5) The residence hall workers, however, seem to be the sector of greatest dissatisfaction and grievance. Accommodations and the split shift figure largely in reported grievances. The feeling of being "exploited" and "underpaid" is highest here. Again, this is not "real relocation," it is temporary, menial, unimportant, with no future and little compensation. But the social problem here is perhaps worst of all. It is felt that the hospital boys have the advantage of a more normal life because of their constant daily association with the hospital girls. For some reason the residence hall boys cannot seem to effect satisfactory contact with the hospital girls. As one boy reported:

"The girls out here are so goddamned stuck-up  
it ain't even funny."

When asked why this was, he stated:

"Well, there's maybe a 5-1 majority of men  
here. Them girls have got the upper hand now  
and like anybody else they're gonna keep it!"

Many reported soliciting 3-5 girls for dates on certain occasions and being rejected by every one. This is certainly a principal grievance of the younger male group and a factor in their desire to return to the



camps, as was explicitly stated by many. Recreational facilities are also inadequate. While a swimming pool is available for them once a week, they would prefer to play basketball in wintertime and have no place to do so. The University facilities are pre-empted by the military, and they have experienced a rebuff at the local YMCA. However, this latter situation is improving since the intervention of influential Caucasians, and now a few boys are in regular attendance at the Y. The resolution of the problem is still in progress, but is impeded by the desire to avoid large groupings which might render them odiously conspicuous. There is no privacy; social life and courting must take place publicly. All the complaints enumerated for the hospital group are applicable here in even more intense form. The life is artificial, unsatisfactory, suspended, futile.

The widely distributed caretakers, cooks, etc., who service the smaller residence units, such as dormitories and fraternity houses, are even more isolated. Some, however, seem to relish the seclusion because it enables them to save money. They all wish to return home for a while so that they may have a bit of a "fling" once more.

Most of this entire group express the desire to go into war plants and are bitterly resentful over the obstacles in the way of such employment. There is little doubt that many will "Fly the coop" at the first opportunity, refuse to extend seasonal into indefinite leave, discourage others from coming up, and seek other types of employment elsewhere.

If we sum up all the grievances, it is clear that they fall into several well-marked groups: (2) the menial character of the work; (b)



the general wartime restrictions of facilities and opportunities; (c) the specific grievances operating against evacuees - in school, defense plants, etc.; (d) occasional minor discrimination; (e) the lack of social and recreational life; (f) the fear of being conspicuous; (g) the desire for higher pay. Later in this article, these factors will be evaluated at greater length and their significance for remedial action will be assayed.

#### Complaints of the Employers

It would be well, in terms of rounding out the whole picture, to bear in mind the fact that local employers, for their part, have many complaints to make about the evacuees. Dr. Spicer is more familiar with this aspect of the matter than the writer because he has had occasion to confer with employers, and it is hoped that he may have opportunity to record the facts in full. A few comments that turned up in these discussions will be noted, although it must be cautioned that they are subject to modification from Dr. Spicer's fuller experience.

It is suggested that the evacuee work is somewhat "below average." In spite of a few "good worker," the complaint runs that the majority have little sense of job responsibility. Extreme reactions specify that they are unstable, "difficult workers," that they shirk responsibility, are uncooperative, engage in "strange behavior," are "insincere." As one employer said:

"Goddammit, you can't trust them. They won't work unless somebody stands over them all the time. Every time you turn your back, they're loafing."

Many extreme instances of non-cooperative behavior were cited, including



deliberate refusal to do certain things and "insubordination." The naval officer in charge of West Quadrangles is currently furious and has proposed "strong-arm" military methods. Apparently there is also a great deal of job-changing. Many of the boys also dislike working for female bosses, as was evident in the evacuee interviews. It seems to conflict strongly with their home experience of the place of women. Less extreme comments point out that they feel the attraction of higher-paying war jobs, they feel the work is below them and that they are uncertain about the future.

The chief employer fears at the moment center around the prospect of having many leave for Christmas vacation or simply decamp if permission for such is not granted. They demand "special privileges" as against the Caucasian workers and feel no responsibility about leaving the employers - whether it be fraternity house or hospital - in the lurch.

#### An Appraisal

All of these facts have been cited without interpretative comment or judgment. This writer holds to the view that the existence of strong attitudes is every bit as important as whether or not there is "objective" truth in the allegations. The present section will attempt an evaluation both of fact and significant attitude. It seems to the writer that each in its own way is making contribution to a difficult situation, and no remedial program can go far without taking into account both orders of fact, the objective and the subjective.

Many elements of discomfort, such as housing, high prices, and lack of facilities, clearly derive from the general war situation, and can in



no way be regarded as specific evacuee problems. The difficulty in Ann Arbor is twofold; on the one hand many tend to feel that these things point specifically at them and are unable to see them as general American problems; on the other hand, they do contribute to the genuine evacuee difficulties and must be reckoned with. More attention to Ann Arbor may help to alleviate the conditions. This may be done by having a central reference point for housing questions, e.g., where the office can keep in constant touch with the housing turnover. In reference to recreational facilities, the office can make an enumeration of these and work systematically to locate people. General experience warrants the statement that a systematic effort can work wonders even in a tight situation. Specific plans are already in preparation by the Detroit office in consultation with interested parties.

A large class of grievances pertain to general employer-employee relationships, and evacuees stand in the same position as comparable Caucasian groups. Again, however, since evacuees predominate in these places, they tend to think of them as evacuee problems, rather than as general problems. Certainly some of the conditions can be improved, especially at the hospital, through the offices of this agency. Miss Satterfield has some proposals elaborated here under consideration, and will set to work on them in the near future. Others, of course, can perhaps never be solved as a specific evacuee issue but only, ultimately, by means of a general change in employer-employee patterns in Ann Arbor.

It will be clear that there are some things we can do and some things we cannot do. Insofar as it is within our power and competence, the mat-



ters will be cleared up. Insofar, however, as they are beyond our control and within the general province of wartime life, the dissatisfaction to which they give rise can only be reduced by a thorough educational program. This latter is not being proposed simply in an ad hoc opportunistic sense. It has been evident throughout the survey that a basic, underlying factor is the serious lack of understanding of American life (especially in wartime) and its problems. An educational program designed both to explain and to provide a meeting place for discussion will help to place many problems and grievances, big or small, in a better perspective. In the long, as well as the short, run this will help the whole nisei group. As an experiment, the writer had long give-and-take discussions with the boys and girls. The sequence of attitudes that developed in the course of these parleys is very instructive. First came the grievances, pouring forth in an irresistible stream. Then came the questions, and the slow process of relating each and every item to a wider context of understanding of American and nisei problems. At the end, it was an invariable experience that the grievances shook down to proper perspective, and the boys always left with immensely improved feelings.

Those disabilities which result from the ambiguous civil status of the evacuees are much more difficult. But since, under the tense Ann Arbor conditions, they have great weight, we must do something about them too. While we certainly cannot provide all of the answers, we can help ultimate individual and group adjustment by educational effort. The future perspective of the nisei, the prospects of individuals, the probable post-



war scene must all be brought into the foreground of attention, rather than be allowed to wreak havoc in the lumber-rooms of the mind, once again with long and short range objectives in mind.

It is the opinion of the writer that the prevailing bad social situation is the key to most of our problems, and concurrently, that every degree of amelioration will mean a proportionate reduction of grievance. One part of the situation is perhaps insoluble - the frightful sex imbalance in the younger age groups. But the systematic promotion and development of social facilities are certainly within our capacities. The task will be one of effecting closer relations between the younger evacuee group and other community groups - Japanese and Caucasian. The Nisei Plus Club solves the problem in part only for those interested in the church. Some other solution must be found for the rest. As more housing facilities are developed, an increasing social normality will tend to follow. More houses - more private social life. The "barrack feeling" will decline; the fear of public conspicuity will be subverted.

These few remarks will serve to indicate the proposed lines of solution. The specific plans, however, are being worked out and will go into effect in increasing measure as our work there develops. In sum, then, most of the problems in Ann Arbor have developed from a piling up of petty grievances which have gone unsolved, from a fundamentally bad social situation, and from what may be termed the "evacuee psychology." Our report, then, is: the situation is middling objectively, bad subjectively, and reasonably good prospectively.



Detroit Relocation Committee  
for Americans of  
Japanese Ancestry

July 25, 1945

I. General Committee

Chairman - The Reverend H. G. Bovenkerk  
First Presbyterian Church  
39 Edmund Place  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Ex-Officio Members

Mr. Fred M. Butzel  
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Council of Social Agencies  
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Mr. Wendell Gee  
Senior Relocation Officer  
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Miss Florence G. Cassidy  
Secretary, Nationality Division  
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51 W. Warren  
Detroit 1, Michigan

General Members

Members of all sub-committees  
(See attached sheets) -- Pages 2 - 10

Members at large (See attached sheets) -- Page 10  
Most of the members at large are still to be appointed.

II. Executive Committee

Ex-Officio Members

Rev. H. G. Bovenkerk, Chairman  
Miss Florence Cassidy, Secretary  
Mr. Wendell Gee, WRA  
Mr. Fred M. Butzel  
Chairmen of the five standing sub-committees.



Members-at-large  
(To be appointed.)

III. Members of Sub-committees

(See attached lists.) -- Pages 2 - 10

Ex-Officio members of all sub-committees.

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Mr. Wendell P. Gee  
Miss Florence Cassidy

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(Nisei)

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(Nisei)

Mrs. Alice Goddard  
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404 Park Avenue Building  
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Miss Nancy Grayson  
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51 W. Warren  
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Mrs. Fern Gunkel  
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2431 E. Grand Blvd.  
Detroit 11, Michigan  
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Mr. Ralph Hileman  
YMCA  
136 E. Elizabeth  
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Miss Toshiko Hirama  
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2431 E. Grand Blvd.  
Detroit 11, Michigan  
(Office Sec'y, Nisei)

Mr. John Holland, Director  
Catholic Youth Organization  
8200 Mack  
Detroit 14, Michigan

Mr. George Ishioka  
4120 Cass  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Mr. Lloyd Joichi  
Fisher Branch YMCA  
2051 W. Grand Blvd.  
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Miss Edla Laurson, Chief  
Foreign Language Dept.  
Downtown Library  
Farmer and Gratiot  
Detroit 26, Michigan

Mr. Edward McGowan  
Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
735 Randolph  
Detroit 26, Michigan

Mrs. Wayne Mohr  
14544 Rosemont  
Detroit 23, Michigan  
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Association)

Mr. Tad Muraoka  
Northern Branch YMCA  
13220 Woodward  
Highland Park 3, Michigan

Miss Dora Nelson  
Sophie Wright Settlement  
4141 Mitchell  
Detroit 7, Michigan

Miss Hazel Osborn  
School of Public Affairs and  
Social Work  
Wayne University  
5185 Cass  
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610 Donovan Bldg.  
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Mrs. Rachel Rose, Director  
Dearborn Branch, Council of Social  
Agencies  
22168 Michigan  
Dearborn, Michigan

Miss Sarah Selinski, Director  
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Dr. Margaret Ruth Smith  
Counselor, Student Activities  
Wayne University  
Cass & Warren  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Mr. Victor Spathelf  
Counselor, Student Activities  
Wayne University  
Cass & Warren  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Mrs. Elizabeth Spear, Executive  
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51 W. Warren  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Mrs. Shigeo Tanabe  
Fellowship House  
130 E. Grand Blvd.  
Detroit 7, Michigan

Mr. Paul Weinandy  
Bureau for Intercultural Education  
119 W. 57th Street  
New York, New York (19)  
(In Detroit part time)

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130 Farrand  
Highland Park 3, Michigan  
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Mr. Clarence W. Anderson, Executive  
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906 Transportation Building  
125 W. Lafayette  
Detroit 26, Michigan



Mr. Alex Barbour  
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(National CIO War Relief Com.  
Michigan Area Director)

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War Manpower Commission  
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Mr. Roswell G. Carr  
Michigan State Director  
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Miss Mabel Conat  
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Woodward & Kirby  
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Mr. Ivan D. Cuthbert  
Personnel Dept.  
Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc.  
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243 W. Congress  
Detroit 26, Michigan

Mr. Charles Hagerup  
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112 E. Jefferson  
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Mr. Charles Johnston  
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112 E. Jefferson  
Detroit 26, Michigan

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Mr. Glen Miwa  
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7900 Jos. Campau  
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Mr. Dale Oka  
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Mr. George Romney, Executive Dir.  
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Mr. Donald Sublett  
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Members of the sub-committee on Public Information

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Detroit 16, Michigan  
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United for World Organization)



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sub-committee, Intercultural  
Conference of S. E. Michigan)

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Bureau  
City Hall  
Highland Park 3, Michigan

Rev. John D. Rose  
34 W. Dakota  
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North Woodward Congregational  
Church, United Ministry to Re-  
settlers, Detroit Council of  
Churches)



Rev. Charles W. Scheid  
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Resettlers, Detroit Council of  
Churches)

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Detroit 11, Michigan

Mr. E. J. Soop  
University of Michigan Extension  
Service  
60 Farnsworth  
Detroit 2, Michigan

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Mr. Howard Studd  
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Council of Social Agencies  
51 W. Warren  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Rev. John J. Sullivan, M.M.  
Maryknoll Mission House  
9001 Dexter  
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Mr. George Tanaka  
c/o Franklin Settlement  
3360 Charlevoix  
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Miss Rita Tarrier  
Speakers Bureau, War Chest  
51 W. Warren  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Miss Helen Thorpe  
Detroit Public Library  
Woodward & Kirby  
Detroit 2, Michigan

Mr. Hoy Traylor  
A. F. of L.  
82 W. Montcalm  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Miss Edna Noble White, Director  
Merrill Palmer School  
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(Nationality Committee, Council of  
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Mr. Jack Zeller  
1324 Maccabees Bldg.  
Detroit 2, Michigan  
(Educational Director, UAW-CIO)

Members-at-large. not serving on sub-committees

Mrs. Willard Pope  
1705 Seminole  
Detroit 14, Michigan  
(Chairman, Detroit Community  
Nursing Council)

Additional Members to be appointed.



From: Council of Social Agencies  
51 West Warren Avenue  
Detroit 1, Michigan

Series on Ethnic Groups  
in Detroit

January 8, 1946

BRIEF BIBLIOGRAPHY AND BACKGROUND NOTES

ON

JAPANESE AMERICANS

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McWilliams, Carey  
Prejudice; Japanese Americans: Symbol of Racial Intolerance.  
Little, Brown - Boston, 1944

The most comprehensive study of the movement of Japanese Americans from the west coast, the establishment of relocation centers, and the beginning of the resettlement movement. Prepared at the request of the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations.

McWilliams, Carey  
What About Our Japanese Americans?  
Public Affairs Pamphlet #91  
Public Affairs Committee - New York, 1944

A brief resume of the main topics treated in "Prejudice" (listed above)

Rostow, Eugene V.  
Our Worst Wartime Mistake  
Harper's Magazine - September, 1945

An article by a professor at the Yale University Law School which questions the validity of having forced loyal fellow-citizens of Japanese descent to leave their Pacific coast homes.

Sickels, Alice L.  
Around the World in St. Paul  
University of Minnesota Press - Minneapolis, 1945

See section entitled "The Nisei Come". Page 200.  
Also recipe for Suki-yaki, page 229.

War Relocation Authority  
Nisei in Uniform - 1943

Nisei in the War Against Japan - 1945

Myths and Facts about the Japanese Americans - 1945

Three excellent pamphlets published by the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. (Available at the Main Library and at the Council of Social Agencies.)



The Displaced Japanese Americans  
American Council on Public Affairs  
Washington, D. C.

Originally appeared in Fortune Magazine, April 1944 under the  
title "Issei, Nisei and Kibei".

Kuroki, Ben (Tech. Sgt., U. S. Army)  
Ben Kuroki's story  
Published in the Pacific Citizen for November 3, 1945, under  
the caption, "Nebraska Boy Over Japan".

Transcript of a national broadcast on October 28, 1945 over the  
Mutual Network from the Herald Tribune Forum at the Waldorf-Astoria  
in New York City.

"They Work for Victory" - The Story of Japanese Americans and the  
War Effort  
Published by The Japanese American Citizens League, 413 Beason  
Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
(May be consulted at the office of the Council of Social Agencies.)

Moore, Wallace (Lieut. Col., U. S. Army)  
As told to Don Eddy  
"Finding Japanese Hidden Treasures"  
This Week Magazine - December 16, 1945  
United Newspaper Magazine Corporation, 420 Lexington Avenue,  
New York 17, N. Y.

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TERMS FREQUENTLY USED

Nisei (pronounced Nee-say) - Persons born in the U. S. of Japanese  
parentage.  
Issei (pronounced E-say) - U. S. residents who were born in Japan.  
Kibei (pronounced Key-bay) - U. S. citizens of Japanese ancestry born  
in the U. S. who were taken to Japan as  
children and educated there and who later  
returned to the U. S.

POPULATION GROUPINGS USED BY CAREY McWILLIAMS

Issei or first generation (aliens)  
Nisei or second generation (American-born citizens)  
Sansei or third generation (American-born children of American-born  
parents)



## HOW MANY JAPANESE AMERICANS IN METROPOLITAN DETROIT?

It is difficult to answer this question both because of the great mobility of the population, and because the Japanese Americans came to Detroit too late to be counted in the 1940 census. Approximately 2000 persons were resettled in the vicinity of Detroit through the efforts of the War Relocation Authority. Others came independent of the WRA. Most of them came to Detroit before the lifting of the West Coast Exclusion Order in December 1944. Now that return to the west coast is permitted, a great many have left Detroit to return to their old homes. On the other hand some new people came to Detroit from the Relocation Centers or other communities in the summer and autumn of 1945.

## HOW CAN YOUTH LEADERS GET IN TOUCH WITH INDIVIDUAL NISEI?

The International Institute can assist you in making personal contacts with Japanese Americans drawn from a wide variety of professions. The Council of Social Agencies has prepared three confidential invitation lists for the use of Council agencies wishing to invite Nisei youth to participate in their activities. One gives the names and addresses of Nisei students attending colleges and universities in this vicinity, another lists the "teen age" Nisei group, while the third lists Detroit children of Japanese ancestry, ages 5 - 11. If you are interested, call Miss Hollis Vick or Miss Florence Cassidy at TEmple 1-1600.

## ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH JAPANESE AMERICANS

### Official Governmental Agency

War Relocation Authority, U. S. Department of the Interior

Detroit office - 427 Penobscot Building, Detroit 26, Michigan  
Randolph 1280 - Extension 72  
Wendell P. Gee, Senior Relocation Officer  
(Office will close March 31, 1946.)

Area office - 960 Union Commerce Building, Cleveland 14, Ohio  
Robert M. Cullum, Relocation Supervisor  
(Office will close June 1, 1946.)

### Local Private Agencies and Centers Offering Hospitality and Service to Japanese Americans on a Year Around Basis.

Fellowship House, 130 East Grand Blvd., Detroit 7, Michigan  
Fitzroy 5943  
Rev. Shigeo Tanabe, Director  
A center sponsored by the Detroit Council of Churches

Buddhist Church, 3915 Trumbull, Detroit 8, Michigan  
TEmple 2-2285

International Institute, 2431 East Grand Blvd., Detroit 11, Michigan  
Madison 7341  
Mrs. Alice L. Sickels, Executive Director  
Mrs. Fern S. Gunkel, Activities Director and  
Adviser to Nisei Groups.



In addition many churches and settlement houses have organized hospitality committees which sponsor occasional gatherings.

#### LOCAL CASE WORK SERVICES AVAILABLE TO JAPANESE AMERICANS

Wayne County Bureau of Social Aid  
4707 Rivard, Detroit 7, Michigan - Temple 1-1360  
Mrs. Mary Guiney, Assistant State Deputy

Japanese Americans are remarkably self-sufficient. If, however, they are unable to maintain themselves, provision has been made for them through funds of the Social Security Board which are administered in Detroit by the Wayne County Bureau of Social Aid.

Community Information Service  
51 West Warren Avenue, Detroit 1, Michigan - Temple 1-1600  
Mrs. Caroline Burlingame, Director

Stands ready to advise Japanese Americans regarding a wide variety of community services which may not be known to them as newcomers to Detroit.

#### NATIONAL NISEI ORGANIZATION

Japaneso American Citizens League  
National Headquarters  
413-415 Beason Building  
Salt Lake City 1, Utah

A nation-wide organization composed entirely of American citizens of Japanese ancestry; promotes loyal citizenship and American ideals through varied educational, civic and social programs for better integration of its members into the community.

#### LOCAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Detroit Relocation Committee for Americans of Japanese Ancestry

Rev. Henry G. Bovenkerk, Chairman  
39 Edmund Place, Detroit 1, Michigan - Randolph 3211  
Miss Florence G. Cassidy, Secretary  
51 W. Warren Ave., Detroit 1, Michigan - Temple 1-1600

A central planning committee made up of representatives of public and private agencies and Japanese American leaders. This committee was organized by the Nationality Division of the Council of Social Agencies.

For additional reading lists or further suggestions, please call the secretary of this committee.



COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

Nationality Division  
51 West Warren Avenue  
Detroit 1, Michigan  
Telephone: Columbia 1600

Plan for the Structure and Program of a Council Committee

to be known as the

DETROIT RELOCATION COMMITTEE FOR AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

A Memorandum prepared by  
Florence G. Cassidy  
Secretary, Nationality Division  
July 19, 1945



COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES BOARD

NATIONALITY DIVISION  
of  
COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

DETROIT RELOCATION COMMITTEE  
for  
AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
(Committee Chairman --  
Interested Individual)

SUB COMMITTEES

EMPLOYMENT

CASEWORK & HEALTH  
SERVICES

COMMUNITY  
ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC  
INFORMATION

HOUSING



DETROIT RELOCATION COMMITTEE FOR AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY  
STRUCTURE AND PROGRAM  
A MEMORANDUM PREPARED JULY 19, 1945

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Purpose

The Detroit Relocation Committee for Americans of Japanese Ancestry is being organized for the purpose of bringing together representatives of government agencies, public departments, social work organizations, churches and previous committees on work with evacuees in order to pool experiences and to plan for a comprehensive program with emphasis on employment, housing, case work and health services, recreation, social activities and public understanding.

Historical Background

Detroit churches, social agencies and citizens generally have been deeply interested in the local office of the War Relocation Authority and in the needs of Americans of Japanese ancestry. A local citizens' committee to explore housing and employment possibilities for persons coming to Detroit from the relocation centers was organized on Jan. 21, 1943, even before the opening of the local office of the WRA. After the office was opened the committee acted as advisory to the WRA. This committee was under the chairmanship of Reverend James A. McCormick, M.M. and represented a cross section of the community. Its principal activities were in the field of providing employment opportunities and overcoming community resistance to the idea of resettlement. It also attacked the ever difficult problem of housing.

The Detroit Council of Churches was also concerned with housing. It carried on a campaign to get church members to open their homes to Nisei who were coming to Detroit at that time more largely as individuals than as family groups. It organized the United Ministry to Resettlers, established Fellowship House and supported the work of the Reverend Shigeo Tanabe. Both committees assisted the WRA in educating public opinion.

So long as there was assurance that the War Relocation Authority would give leadership to the efforts of volunteer committees, the status of being "advisory to the War Relocation Authority" was a very logical and happy one. By the end of 1944, however, our government's announcement of a new policy towards Japanese Americans caused members of both of the original committees as well as other bodies, such as the International Institute and the settlements, to suggest that we should work out a new plan which would conserve committee membership, interest, experience and enthusiasm.

The Present Situation

The lifting of the West Coast Exclusion Orders in December 1944, eliminated the cause for the operation of relocation centers. The War Relocation Authority, United States Department of Interior, has determined that the centers will be liquidated by January 2, 1946. Shortly after that time the War Relocation Authority will be discontinued.

Over 50,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry have already resettled throughout the country but the 45,000 remaining in the centers need the help of welfare and other agencies and public-spirited citizens in order to make successful relocation plans. It is hoped that continuity of services for these uprooted Americans



will be planned as a regular part of existing community programs, especially when local WRA offices and special field services no longer exist.

#### Proposed Community Plan

In order to insure this much needed continuity and in order to develop plans in the light of the programs of established community agencies, the Nationality Division of the Council of Social Agencies has been asked to assume responsibility for setting up a committee and calling regular meetings of citizens and agency representatives interested in Americans of Japanese descent. This general committee on Japanese Americans is authorized to elect an executive committee, to request various members of the committee to specialize on various phases of the question, and in the case of some of the more pressing and difficult problems to appoint sub-committees or interest groups.

It is suggested that at the beginning the general committee meet approximately four times a year and that the executive committee meet at least once in two months, with the sub-committees meeting in the alternate months or more frequently, if the urgency of a given situation requires immediate action.

It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary of the Nationality Division of the Council of Social Agencies to send out notices for meetings of the general committee, the executive committee and the sub-committees. The Council will gladly give office space, telephone facilities, mimeographing, stenographic service and postage.

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE

It is suggested that the general committee be known as the Detroit Relocation Committee for Americans of Japanese Ancestry and that all persons who have been active on previous local relocation committees or projects as well as selected additional citizens interested in the problem be invited to serve on the new committee.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It is recommended that the Executive Committee be elected by the members of the general committee and that it consist of persons who have been particularly interested in the past program of the War Relocation Authority in Detroit and who are already familiar with the more pressing needs of the families and individuals who have resettled here. The Executive Committee shall have as ex-officio members the chairman of the general committee, the chairman and secretary of the Nationality Division of the Council of Social Agencies, the chairman of the sub-committees on Case Work and Health Services, Community Activities, Employment, Housing, and Public Information, and officials of the local WRA.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE ON CASE WORK AND HEALTH SERVICES

##### Need For Such A Committee

Generally speaking the evacuees formerly lived in communities on the West Coast where persons of Japanese descent formed closely knit colonies within large cities or resided in smaller settlements which were largely Japanese. They had few contacts with case work agencies. They had the lowest relief record of any group



on the West Coast. In the past, during the periods of economic or physical stress, they depended almost entirely upon themselves or upon each other rather than upon the assistance of social agencies. They are thus completely unfamiliar with the functioning of such agencies.

General Purpose of the Committee:

To facilitate social service assistance to persons of Japanese ancestry.

Specific Functions:

1. To acquaint various social agencies with the relocation program generally, and to indicate to each, those specific points at which services will be most needed.
2. To provide the WRA, as long as it exists, and other groups working with Americans of Japanese ancestry with information about particular agencies whose services are available for these people.
3. To make known to persons in need and to interested community groups the special financial assistance already available through the Social Security Board.
4. To serve as a channel through which case work agencies may exchange information.
5. Prior to the discontinuation of the relocation centers, to act as consultants to the local office of the War Relocation Authority on case work problems which may result from the actual or contemplated transfer of individuals and families from the centers to Metropolitan Detroit.
6. To be a resource on facilities for medical care.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Need for this Committee

Only by becoming intimately acquainted with members of other racial groups in Detroit and by actively participating in various community organizations and interest groups can Japanese Americans hope to gain the understanding of the community, prevent the growth of racial prejudice, and make their maximum contribution to community life.

General Purposes of the Committee:

To give Japanese Americans opportunities for a satisfying group life and normal social experiences in the community, and to develop an understanding of them on the part of the community at large through encouraging Americans of Japanese ancestry and other Americans to join in common group activities.

Specific Functions:

1. To assist Japanese Americans in desired programs of recreation, informal education and group activities.



2. To serve as a channel through which churches and group work agencies may exchange current information regarding areas of need, successful methods of work, and available leadership.

3. To stimulate community organizations to open their facilities to evacuees and at the same time to encourage Japanese Americans to make use of them.

4. To suggest that community agencies make greater use of the actual and latent leadership found in the Japanese American group for the general enrichment of our civic life.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

##### The Special Need for this Committee

Due to the tightness of the labor market, the high skills possessed by many of the Nisei, the helpfulness of employers, and the fine cooperation of the U.S.E.S. and Detroit Civil Service, employment, although far from easily attained, has not presented as many difficulties as had been anticipated. It is believed, however, that this problem will require a great deal of careful work in the very near future both because of anticipated changes in the labor market and because many of the persons who will be coming from the relocation centers in the next few months are older and less readily employable than the majority of those already settled in Michigan.

##### General Purpose of the Committee:

To develop employment opportunities, utilize existing placement facilities, and keep abreast of the constantly changing employment situation.

##### Specific Functions:

1. To cooperate with the U.S.E.S., Civil Service, and other employment facilities in finding suitable employment for persons of Japanese descent.
2. To devise plans for a canvass of possible job openings not known to the U.S.E.S.
3. To devise similar plans for a canvass designed to discover opportunities for independent business.
4. To interpret to potential employers the acceptability of Japanese Americans as employees.
5. To cooperate with officials of labor unions in interpreting to the rank and file of their membership the importance of accepting Japanese Americans as fellow workers.
6. To make recommendations for the provision of counselling service where not already available through existing agencies.
7. To cooperate with the U.S.E.S. and the Metropolitan Detroit Council on Fair Employment Practice on specific cases of discrimination in employment.



SUB-COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Need for such a Committee

Japanese Americans are arriving in Detroit each week. Both because of the acute housing shortage, and a certain amount of discrimination on the part of landlords, these people are finding it extremely difficult to obtain satisfactory housing. Those who have obtained housing are, in many instances, living in unsatisfactory quarters. The housing of family groups who will be coming to Detroit in the near future will present even greater problems.

General Purpose of the Committee:

To assist persons of Japanese ancestry in locating housing facilities.

Specific Functions:

1. To acquaint public housing agencies, landlords and real estate agents with the housing needs of Japanese Americans in an effort to enlist their help in providing housing for new arrivals in town and to open up other housing possibilities for those now living in inadequate housing facilities.
2. To explore the possible need for a hostel for family groups.
3. To cooperate with the Council of Churches' Committee on Fellowship House.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

Need for this Committee

The climate of public opinion is extremely important as it is difficult to obtain good results in an atmosphere of indifference or hostility. In Detroit there are many people who are either indifferent or prejudiced toward Japanese Americans. This is usually due to a lack of information and understanding. In order to build a wholesome public opinion and to prevent inter-racial tensions the public needs education and information.

General Purpose of the Committee:

To create among residents of Metropolitan Detroit an active interest in and an understanding of the problems of Americans of Japanese ancestry in the interest of community harmony.

Specific Functions:

1. To promote and interpret the relocation program through a central plan for
  - (a) releases to be sent out by various cooperating institutions and organizations
  - (b) radio broadcasts
  - (c) utilization of existing speakers' bureaus.



2. To arrange for public meetings, conferences, institutes and such other gatherings as may be necessary to assist in creating an informed public opinion.

3. To furnish speakers, discussion leaders and study materials to luncheon clubs, women's clubs, trade unions, educational institutions and other civic groups.

4. To develop and utilize other methods for combatting discrimination against Americans of Japanese ancestry.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES OR CONSULTANTS

The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint such additional sub-committees as may be necessary from time to time; also to enlist their cooperation and draw upon the experience of consultants who may be needed for a special case or problem.