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COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Poston, Arizona

Norris E. James, Reports Officer

Feb. 10th
1943

TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ASKED LIEUT. JOHN BOLTON,
U S ARMY TEAM, AT MESS HALL NO. 310, POSTON III

2nd Day

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The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. Following an introduction by Administrator Moris Burge, Poston III, during which Lieut. John Bolton was greeted by applause the leader of the U S Army Team drew on questions and answers from the previous day's meeting. Then, the meeting resolved itself into fresh inquiries:

- Q. Is the War Department planning to induct those who are not in the Relocation Centers.
- A. I presume you mean those who have already left here on Indefinite Leave. Yes, the same thing holds true for those who are not now in the Center--those, too, who were never in the Center, those who have two kinds of Leave, short-term and Indefinite. May I enlarge on this. For those who are not in the Center, they may go to their nearest Draft Board if they want voluntary induction into this Combat Unit. You may write to your friends in this category and tell them that. The Draft Board will fill out for them the same two forms you are to fill out here.
- Q. Is any system being worked out to let those on the outside know about this Combat Team and our volunteering.
- A. I have no answer to that. Perhaps Mr. Burge has.
- (Mr. Burge says that WRA is taking steps to inform Japanese Americans on the outside).
- Q. What assurances have we that we shall have all the rights and privileges in all the states and California if we volunteer.
- A. (After consultation) My staff suggests I bring this idea to your attention. That question cannot be answered one way or another. The Federal government cannot speak for the States.

Nor can the states speak for the Federal government. The states have certain rights reserved to themselves. But,-- may I emphasize this point--the future is in your hands! The answer you seek depends on how you react here, how well this program goes over. The Federal government has never entered upon a program of discrimination.

- Q. How can we be assured we won't be deported after the war is over.
- A. I wish you would stick to the point. You can't deport American citizens.
- Q. We aren't fighting only for ourselves, our American citizenship. We are fighting for our parents. What about them.
- A. Remember this. There is no involuntary Repatriation--or Deportment, if you wish. Repatriation is purely voluntary.
- Q. A pressure group in Congress might start a bill which would jeopardize our position. What about that.
- A. There is a great deal to be done in this country in educating the people. You people are very smart people. May I speak, not as a representative of the War Department. May I suggest to you as members of a Minority Group that you join in this program for educating the American people. I think, up until now, you have more or less "missed the boat" by neglecting to educate America. Any minority group should make itself understood throughout the country. I can't speak on this officially. That's my personal opinion, however.
- Q. Quite a few of us had occupational deferment before. Will Selective Service recognize this now.
- A. The **basis** upon which Selective Service is being set up, is, of course, not based upon what you are doing here, or what you were doing at the time of Selective Service on the outside. May I go back to a second phase of our mission here, that is to assist in WRA's Leave Clearance program so that you may engage in important war work.
- Q. In other words, there is no such thing as occupational deferment in the Center.
- A. I think you are right. If you remain in the Center, I think you do not get deferment.
- Q. How about those who go out to the beet harvests and then return to the Center when harvesting is over.
- A. As I understand it, Selective Service does not have a general policy of deferment for Agricultural workers. But don't miss the point--no one is going to force you out of the Centers. Selective Service, however, knows nothing about you. I can't

speaking for Selective Service. They will learn about you from the machinery--the forms--we are setting up here. (Consultation) The Sergeant (Bass) suggests I make it clear that agricultural work is not a basis for exemption. There are many farms in Illinois which have been stripped of their workers and hands.

Q. Say, will a Japanese American be able to work in defense plants.

A. Yes, That is an essential part of our mission here. We want to clear you for that very thing.

Q. Is it compulsory to fill out both the Selective Service and Leave forms.

A. Yes. But may I make it clear again that no one is going to force you out of the center.

Q. In regards to the dependents. Will they be classed as such while we are in the Center and eligible for exemptions.

A. That is a question which technically and legally should not bother you. Of course, they are still dependents.

Q. (Additional answer by Sgt. Woolsey) If your parents are here and are being taken care of by WRA, Selective Service will determine whether you are eligible for the draft. I am not an expert on Selective Service, but am drawing on the experience of friends. It is always a question of fact--that is, how much contribution you are actually making toward your parents.

Q. What branches of the service can we go into. The Navy.

A. No. We can't tell you about the Navy. We understand that the Navy department, however, has this under consideration.

(Here Lieutenant Bolton made it clear he could not speak for the Navy Department)

Q. Is there a possibility of granting citizenship to our parents.

A. This program is being conducted in all the centers. What further things can be done depends upon how the program is received. I can't prophesy what will happen. I wish I could.

Q. Can you give us information as to what Combat Zone this Combat Team will be sent into.

A. It is not contemplated at the present time that the Combat Team will be sent to the Pacific Zone.

(The Lieutenant then read from the Official Answers)

Q. It is our understanding that members of this Combat Team will be given opportunity for rapid advancement. How about fellow Nisei-soldiers already in the army. Will they be given the same opportunity. Won't that be fair.

A. I think I can rephrase that question: Have soldiers of Japanese ancestry been discriminated against.

(Lieutenant Bolton reads from Official Answers)

Sergeant Jim, perhaps you would like to discuss that.

A. (Sergt. Kinoshita) On the whole, I think I can speak for a number of fellows like myself. The treatment has been very good.

Q. You said Japanese American soldiers would rank equally with Caucasian soldiers. Why can't they go back to work any place on the Coast as they please.

A. (Given by Sergt. Kinoshita and repeated by Lieut. Bolton over the loudspeaker) The restrictions are definitely there against Japanese American soldiers entering Military Zone "A". But I think I ought to make this clear. Because of the dangers of the enemy putting men into American uniforms and enabling them to move around at will, the Army had to take steps to prevent possible sabotage. Is that clear.

Q. Have you any information as to the reclassification of alien parents where a son volunteers.

A. That is a question which, of course, has to be settled individually. Very definitely the War Department will consider the case of your parent for the most favorable classification, if you volunteer. It is up to you, therefore. The whole success of this program depends upon your acceptance in complete good faith. I mean that very seriously.

Q. There are cases where the father is in an internment camp and the son is in the army. What about the father. Will they let him go.

A. I say more power to the son! We have many cases of Americans of German descent whose fathers are behind bars. Don't ask for something more than someone else is getting.

Q. Many Kibeis, who are loyal, are unable to talk good English. Are they acceptable.

A. The Army's present standard of education for acceptance is a fourth grade education. (laughs)

- Q. Will preliminary medical examination be waived for volunteers.
- A. Yes. Medical examination will not be given until the applicant arrives at the point of induction.
- Q. If he goes to Camp Shelby and is rejected because of physical defects, can he go some place and get a job.
- A. Yes. Before he leaves here, he will have secured Indefinite Leave Clearance and he has the choice of either relocating or returning to the center.
- Q. This question is in two parts. If a soldier is killed in action, will his beneficiary receive the insurance in a lump sum. If he is disabled, what compensation will he receive.
- A. My answer to both questions is: The same provisions apply here that apply to every other American soldier. I have a "Manual on the Personal Affairs of a Soldier and His Dependents." I'd be glad to consult it with you. The same rules of procedure will apply to members of the Combat Team as to all men wearing the uniform of an American soldier.
- Q. Will a moratorium be placed on mortgages, private insurance, debts, etc.
- A. The Congress of the United States a little more than a year ago passed an act making provision for a Moratorium on Debts. I shall ask Sergeant Woolsey to briefly explain it.
- A. (By Woolsey) This act, known as the Soldiers and Sailors Act, enables the government to make loans for the payment of insurance premiums and mortgages. Incidentally, you can even get a moratorium on your income tax, on all obligations like that which can be put over until after the war.
- Q. In case my father is the only beneficiary. If he is an alien, can he receive the same benefits as any other beneficiary.
- A. The answer is yes, subject only to the law relating to the receipt of money by those who are interned.
- Q. Is a person, 17, liable to the draft.
- A. Not at present. The draft age is 18 to 38.
- Q. In looking over the questionnaires, No. 27 seems to be confused. Will you explain it please.
- A. Yes. I realize Question 27 may confuse some of you. But

there is no trick to that wording. By no means. I had an answer to that question from a fellow yesterday, and it read: "No. Unless I get into a non-weapon bearing unit." He was a Conscientious Objector. I liked that. I appreciated his position. What we want, is honest answers.

Q. That question--Question 27--does not mean: Are you volunteering?

A. No. It does not mean "Are you volunteering?"

Q. I'd also like to have you read Question 28 and explain it.

A. Very well. (Reads question). Now the word so many people seem to trip over is "forswear". There is no single substitute, no synonym for it in the English language. It means literally "to swear against." I don't know of any equivalent word. It means do you feel in your own mind that the government of the United States is supreme over any other government.

Q. Is it possible to know how many volunteered from yesterday's group.

A. No. The figures are kept secret. I know, but I don't believe the sergeants here know. That is an official secret. I wish I could give them to you. Those figures are in Washington now.

Q. I don't say you are wrong. But on the outside they always print the figures--and the names--of those enlisting in each town. Why should we be any different. Why can't we do the same.

A. There is one essential point. I don't think any of you who are loyal quite appreciate it. And that is: that in these centers we have people who are definitely disloyal. And for your protection and for the protection of the country, we have to do things that we don't do elsewhere!

Q. When will volunteers be leaving.

A. From March 1 to April 1, volunteers will be received at Camp Shelby.

Q. What should be taken along.

A. You will be given instructions upon receipt of your orders of induction.

Q. I understand you are taking volunteers only while you are here.

A. That is correct. Did all of you hear that?

Q. Is any attempt being made for those who are going out into War Work to be taken into labor unions.

A. You will not be sent into areas where labor unions will not accept you.

Q. Lieutenant, just in case the number of volunteers is too small to form the Combat Team, what will be the procedure. Will draftees be sent to the Combat Team.

A. Officially the position is this. We are depending upon your loyalty and your desire to join the army. We have not considered that point. It depends upon you. We are not planning now to draft Japanese Americans for the Combat Team. I do not think you fully appreciate that the future of Japanese American people in this country may be assured if you wholeheartedly support this program. But it depends upon your choice. You are still free American citizens. Remember that the solution of after-the-war problems depends upon this matter before you now. It is more vital than any of you, I am afraid, realize.

As it was now approximately 12 o'clock noon, the meeting adjourned with registration scheduled to start at 2:30 p.m.

COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Poston, Arizona

Norris E. James, Reports Officer

Feb. 11th
1943

3rd Day

TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ASKED LIEUT. JOHN BOLTON,
U S ARMY TEAM, AT MESS HALL NO. 310, POSTON III

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The meeting opened at 9:45 a.m. Following an introduction by Administrator Moris Burge, Poston III, Lieutenant Bolton drew on questions and answers from the previous two days' sessions.

Lieut. Bolton - We have some pictures of the 100th Battalion over there on the wall. That is the Hawaiian National Guard group. That is a top outfit. They're just tops.

Q. Like you say, if we go into an all Japanese unit, we may make a record as good fighters. But will be segregated after the war.

A. You aren't going to be put off in a corner. You'll have exactly the same priveleges as all other soldiers. Sergt. Kinoshita can tell you about that.

Q. Does that mean the Combat Team is going to fight as a unit alone--or is it going to be backed up by other regiments.

(loud laughs)

A. I'm afraid that question is not as foolish as it sounds. No one ever fights alone. No officer ever puts his unit out alone. You are not going to be put out on the front and have everyone else walk out on you. (LAUGHS) The point is that it takes at least \$2000 to train a single soldier. If I know my government, it is not going to train a soldier and then throw him away. I'll even revise my figures and say with equipment the cost would be closer to \$5000.

Q. You were talking about the good faith that comes out of the Combat Team. Does that mean that the government is going to have a publicity campaign. I've never seen any pictures of Japanese soldiers in the roto sections. I've never seen anything about that Hawaiian soldiers.

(Here Lieut. Bolton pointed out that the War Dept. has sanctioned such publicity. Drawing from personal knowledge,

he cited an article in Reader's Digest news accounts in the Washington Post, January 9, the El Paso Times and the Phoenix Republic and Gazette.)

Q. After the Combat Unit is formed, if you are drafted 10 months later, can you transfer to the Combat Unit.

A. No. There can be no assurance on that.

Q. I have some brothers in the Army and they have not received furloughs as other soldiers have.

A. I was talking to a man who was in the Army 18 months and who has had only one furlough. Sergt. Bass here says he had had only one furlough in 20 months and that for only 10 days. Sergt. Woolsey had had a furlough in 12 months, but he's married.

Q. If you send us to the European front, what close contact would we have with our parents.

A. No more, no less than any other American soldier. I talked with a lieutenant in maneuvers near Parker, who got his first letter from his wife six weeks after she'd mailed it. But the War Department is speeding up soldiers' mail. You'll get the same treatment as everybody else.

Q. Am I correct in assuming that Japanese Americans who want to serve in other than the Combat Unit can do so through the draft.

A. Yes. The only difficulty is we don't know when Selective Service will take care of you.

Q. Could I write to my Selective Service Board and ask for voluntary induction later.

A. Yes. (Sergt. Woolsey suggested this statement be checked). We have the whole month of March to move the Combat Unit to Camp Shelby. I should say you would have to take your chances with your Selective Service Board.

Q. Will there be any restrictions on Japanese American soldiers in uniform visiting their parents in California on a furlough.

A. If you have a good reason for going into Zone A, you will be granted a permit. There are however, restrictions against everyone entering that Zone.

Q. In the discussions of the past two days Question 27 seems to be of paramount interest. Can you clarify that, sir.

A. (The Lieutenant reads the question and gives conventional answer)

Q. What constitutes a Combat Team.

- A. This is a self contained team. I can't give you the figures but I can give you that much. The Sergeant calls to my attention that all of Non-Coms and Commissioned officers will be procured from the volunteers insofar as possible.
- Q. Will there be any restrictions against any of us going into other branches of the service, such as the air force or tank corps.
- A. I should say you would have to take your chances with everyone else on transfers, since the Combat Unit does not include the air branch.
- Q. Are there any young Japanese Americans in the Air Corps or Tank Corps.
- A. I don't know. (Sergt. Woolsey says there are in the Tank Corps)
- A. (By Sergt. Kinoshita) I believe there are some exceptional cases, sir. I remember reading about it in the paper.
- Q. How about these Japanese Americans who served in the last war and had to wait 14 years for their citizenship. How about those Negroes who are being sent to Africa. I don't see any publicity about them.
- A. (By Sergt. Bass) In filling out 27 and 28 yesterday and the day before, some boys brought out that question for personal reasons. (Cites reasons).
- Q. Supposing we are drafted and do not serve. What happens. Why were we discharged before.
- A. There were two reasons for your discharge. Military necessity was the first. The second was that there was no clear-cut policy for utilizing you in the army.
- Q. Right now there are relatives and friends serving in the Army. Does the War Department plan to incorporate them in the Combat Unit.
- A. A few of them are being taken to Camp Shelby as training cadets. It is necessary to have trained men to train you. Several men here have already told me their brothers have been transferred to Shelby.
- Q. This question may be for WRA. In case the Father and Mother are separated by his internment would it be possible for a volunteer to see them united.
- A. (By Mr. Burge) That would depend upon several things. First, if the Mother wants to go to visit her husband or to stay with him. Second, How much time the Army allows for

furloughs, WRA, however, is making special dispensations for volunteers. We have not, however, any control over the wishes of parents.

- Q. Another thing that carries a lot of weight is the internment of our fathers. In my case, my father served 14 years in the Navy. Still he's in an internment camp.
- A. The War Department policy will be to give special consideration to parents of men who volunteer. We realize you are so loyal you have differed with your parents. I should be very glad to discuss individual cases as individual cases. However, I can't go off the record here. I'm speaking for the War Department here.
- Q. I was asked to ask this question. About this WAAC business. It may be something to think about. Can a Nisei girl join the WAACS if her husband joins the Army and she is left at home with nothing to do. (LAUGHS)
- A. When we first went into conference in Washington, some officers of the WAACS were there. I'm sorry we were unable to bring into the Center a WAAC representatives. You may inform your wives--and lady friends--that WAAC representatives will be here just as soon as they can train people for this mission.
- Q. Is it true that no one has dependents in this Center.
- A. No, this is not true. You have dependents here just as anyone else has.
- Q. I have a brother in the armed forces. My father is interned because of no obvious reasons. They won't give us any reasons for his internment. Why not.
- A. I can't answer that. All I can say is that a definite policy was formed quite recently.
- Q. How about debts. Will they be postponed.
- A. Congress has passed a Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, providing a moratorium on contracts. You should consult an attorney, however, before applying for benefits under this Act, if you volunteer. By and large, however, payments are suspended while the war is continuing and you are in the service.

(Here Mr. Burge took over and announced the afternoon schedule for registration).

Japanese-Americans Have Cage Team Here Organizer Tells Why

Bill Sasagawa dropped around the other day to tell us about the Japanese-American basketball team he has organized here in Cincinnati.

Bill, himself, is a Japanese-American. Anyone could guess that by the way he spells his name. He came here several months ago from the west under a government relocation plan.

Bill likes basketball. He played with the Skelly Oilers of Kansas City last season. Skellys were amateur champs in Kansas City. When the cage season rolled around this year Bill's thoughts naturally turned to basketball again.

So, he got all the other Japanese American boys in town together. There were 15 of them interested. He picked 12, which is the limit under AAU rules, and asked for admission to the AAU league of which George Chumard is the operating head. George welcomed the team into the league. When the league season opens Dec. 17, Bill's Jap-Americans will be right in there with the other five teams, ready to make the race for the championship.

Brother in U.S. Army. As Bill pointed out, it might seem to some people that he and his teammates are going out of their way to make their presence felt in the community.

"But there's another way to look at it," he said. "The best place in the world for people to get together and learn to understand one another is in the field of sports.

"By playing basketball in the AAU League I believe we will convince many persons we are no different from other Americans."

To talk with Bill is to understand just what he means when he says he and others of Japanese racial origin can be real Americans.

He has one brother who is serving as a private with our armies in the European theater.

Two of his sisters are married to Japanese Americans who are U.S. Army officers. One is a captain, one a first lieutenant.

Not so long ago Bill received word that one of his closest Jap-American friends had been killed in action in France.

Bill talks and acts like any other Californian. There isn't a trace of a foreign language accent in his speech.

CINCINNATI PEOPLE OKAY According to Bill, he hasn't had one bit of misunderstanding with people since he came to Cincinnati. He thinks Cincinnati is a fine place that way.

In other cities he has had several brushes with people who thought they were doing the right thing in showing a hostile attitude.

Once, in Kansas City, a woman started giving him a going over right on a crowded street car. He said he listened until she had finished and then asked her if she didn't feel silly. The woman made no reply. Other persons on the car just looked and said nothing.

Small boys sometimes give him trouble, especially junior commandoes who happen to be out on a Jap hunt.

Not so long ago he had an experience with a youngster that was a little different. The boy was in the middle of the sidewalk thrusting around with a big stick. Bill asked him what he was doing. The boy said he was killing Japs. Bill then asked him if he'd ever seen a Jap and the boy said yes, and went on to describe Japs as he had seen them in funny papers. The boy didn't even notice that Bill looked a little different from other people in the neighborhood.

WHAT TRIBE, BROTHER? Only incident of any kind Bill has had in Cincinnati took place in a restaurant. He was eating his meal when he noticed a dark man at another table staring at him. Soon the dark man rose, walked over to Bill and asked:

"What tribe you belong to?"

Bill explained he was Jap-American.

The dark man said: "Oh, no you're not. I know Indian when I see one."

He kept insisting Bill was an Indian, so Bill finally let him have his way.

COACH IS FORMER U.C.L.A. Player Three of the 12 players on Bill's team, including himself, are over 30 years of age. The others are of high school age and not yet ready for military service.

Two of the younger boys are Fred Sato and Paul Hamasaka who won football letters at Hughes High School this year.

The team members intend to do most of their practicing at Deer Creek field-house. All AAU league games this year will be played on Sunday nights at the Friars Club at McMillan street and Ohio avenue.

The coach of the team is Sho Iino, a former UCLA basketball player. Bill, organizer and manager of the team, went to Southern California. He studied architecture.

Bill said he doesn't expect the team to win a lot of games, because the boys are all pretty small. To offset their size they intend to play a fast break and do a lot of ball-hawking on defense.

(Article in San Francisco, California, NEWS, Nov. 17, 1943)

FAIR-MINDED

EDITOR:

May I congratulate you on your splendid editorial of November 12 on the Tule Lake situation? I had been so disappointed over the way in which the news of the incidents occurring had been reported, with the readiness to give currency to fantastic rumor, and in particular the baseless insinuations against the pacifist teachers in the center, that it was with real pleasure that I read your sane, fair-minded and thoroughly American editorial.

-- Donald F. Gaylord





-- Donald E. Galyard

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EDITOR:

FAIR-MINDED

(Article in San Francisco, California, NEWS, Nov. 17, 1943)

Colorado River
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For Project Newspaper

Minneapolis Star Journal - November 23, 1943

EDITORIAL

MR. GREW AND TULE LAKE

Nobody has warned Americans about the tenacity of our Japanese enemies with more insistence and insight than Ambassador Joseph C. Grew. Therefore he is entitled to be heard with especial respect when he examines the other side of the coin, as he did the other night before the Holland society of New York, which presented him its 1943 medal for distinguished achievement.

Pleading that a distinction be made between enemy aliens and loyal Americans of Japanese descent, he said:

"Like the Americans of German extraction, the overwhelming majority of Americans of Japanese origin wish to be and are wholly loyal to the United States. Not only that, but they wish to prove that loyalty in service to their native land.

"It does not make for loyalty to be constantly under suspicion when grounds for suspicion are absent. I have too great a belief in the sanctity of American citizenship to want to see Americans of Japanese descent penalized and alienated through blind prejudice. I want to see them given a square deal. I want to see them treated as we rightly treat all other American citizens, regardless of their racial origin."

Undoubtedly, Mr. Grew's vigorous words were evoked in part by public reaction to the trouble early this month at the Tule Lake, California camp where disloyal Japanese are segregated. The careful, factual job which most newspapers did in reporting what actually happened there was tarnished by the colored accounts published by a few newspapers on the Pacific coast and by the Hearst press elsewhere, and by inflammatory treatment of the episode on the radio.

The facts are these: The loyalty of about 19,000 of the 120,000 persons of Japanese origin in the United States is suspected either because of their own declaration, or because intelligence or other records indicate that they might endanger national security or because they are close relatives of persons in the first two groups and have chosen to remain with them. Some 15,000 of these disloyal Japanese have been placed at the Tule Lake camp and the other 4,000 were to be moved there.

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The War Relocation Authority probably erred in treating the disloyal Japanese at Tule Lake much like the loyal Japanese at our nine other relocation centers. The Tule Lake Japanese were entrusted with self-government, and they were policed within the camp by only six outsiders--and they unarmed!--although army guards functioned outside the camp. There were disorders Nov. 1-4. They were soon put down, after several persons had been injured.

The point is that this was at a camp where are concentrated Japanese citizens, or Americans of Japanese origin, who are known or believed to be disloyal, and that these are fewer than one-sixth of our Japanese population.

The happenings at Tule Lake ought not to be allowed to reflect upon the more than 100,000 loyal persons of Japanese origin among us, most of whom are citizens, all of whom are as eager as the rest of us to see a United Nations victory and to have a part in it.

The Japanese-Americans have a higher percentage of men in our armed forces (10,000) than any other racial group. Before the war they had a smaller crime percentage than any other group. They had a higher per cent of their young people in college. Almost none ever were on relief. Secretary Stimson is authority for the statement that there has been no known case of sabotage by Japanese in Hawaii, either on Dec. 7, 1941, or since. The FBI says there has been no known case of sabotage by the Japanese on the Pacific coast.

Surely this is proof to any intelligent American that suspicion and distrust of those of Japanese origin among us simply because they are of Japanese descent is as unwarranted as distrust of all persons among us who are of German, Italian, Rumanian, Bulgarian, Finnish or Hungarian stock.



Colorado R43311

Editorial from Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, Wisconsin)
December 27, 1943

For Project Newspaper

FOR FAIR PLAY

Atty. Ben Bull forwards a clipping which is a strong argument on the side of fair play for Japanese Americans. It is taken from the Rohwer Outpost, the mimeographed publication from one of the Japanese relocation camps in Rohwer, Ark., and it tells how three jeeps costing \$3,505.95 were contributed to the United States armed forces by the center's schools this month.

Sponsored by the National Honor Society of Rohwer high school, the three-week war bond and stamp sales campaign opened Nov. 16 with the goal set at one jeep costing \$1,165. By Nov. 29, the goal was passed with sales recorded at \$2,507.95. Exceeding the goal by more than 200 per cent, the campaign closed with the grand total of \$3,505.95. Student leaders in the campaign were Shinya Honda, Satoshi Oishi, Ruth Kambara, and Grace Ogata.

These are young people taken from their homes, deprived of their normal funds and fun, held behind barbed wire, yet doing this because America is their country. Are we, with all the freedom we still have, doing as much?

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Ernest L. Stinson



Edith

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D. C.



Release on receipt

Project Press Release No. 135
For publication in project newspapers

22-

GILA RIVER PARENTS TO WEAR 551 SERVICE PINS

551 Five hundred and fifty-one silver service star pins, one to a family, have been ordered for parents of Gila River boys serving in the armed forces, Project Director Leroy H. Bennett announced.

The local Red Cross furnished funds for the purchase of the pins. Each pin will contain as many stars as there are service-connected sons in one family. Because none were ordered for families who have relocated, the Nakada family with seven boys in the Army, having relocated to Azusa, Calif., is not included among the Gila service parents.

The three ranking service families at Gila will receive pins with a star for each of five sons. Four will receive pins with four stars each. Three-star pins will go to 34 families. One hundred ten will receive two-star pins, and 400 one-star pins.

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Poster for project news paper J 1.86

33231

Japanese Relocation Papers
Bancroft Library

Excerpt from
"The News-Sentinel"
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Friday, September 24, 1943

GOOD EVENING

by

Clifford B. Ward

The War Reallocation Authority--that Government agency which is commissioned to correct the injustice which our Government has felt itself compelled to do toward thousands of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent--is taking some of these fellow-Americans out of internment camps and placing them over the country. Indiana will get some of them and Fort Wayne will get some of them. These fellow-Americans whose loyalty to their country has been checked by the FBI and other Government investigative agencies, are no less entitled to the respect and co-operation of all of us than President Roosevelt, Cordell Hull or anyone else. They are being placed in jobs through the co-operation of good American employers and are entitled to all the courtesies that one American shows to another.

Some of these Americans of Japanese descent have sons loyally fighting for the United States. Unless we have adopted the Nazi notion of race superiority, there should be no discrimination against them. One of these days, Americans must make up their minds whether they actually believe what they say they believe or throw our whole political code out of the window and start being honest.

Our Government had no ethical or legal right to throw all good and bad persons of Japanese descent into concentration camps, any more than it would have had a right to throw all good and bad persons of German or Italian descent into concentration camps. However, we did it and our Government is now trying to correct the injustice that was done. The Government's efforts should receive every good American's co-operation.

I think it is General Vandergrif who always refuses to speak of the Japanese in any other way except Japanese. It is one thing to rate the Japanese as an enemy who should be destroyed, but it is another thing to call them "monkey men," "yellow men," etc. When you ridicule the height of Japanese, you are ridiculing a characteristic which they have in common with many good Americans. When you ridicule their color, you are again ridiculing a characteristic which they have in common with many good Americans. Unlike the Germans, we don't believe that one man is superior to another because he happens to be six feet tall, white of skin, and blue-eyed. The only thing that matters in an American is the heart that beats within him. If that heart is an American heart, that is all that matters.

We must not forget that what we call Americanism is on trial. We are broadcasting to the whole world the virtues of the American scheme of

Japanese Relocation Papers
Bancroft Library

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Foster
Mr. [unclear] [unclear]

Friday, September 24, 1943
Fort Wayne, Indiana
"The News-Sentinel"
Excerpt from

GOOD EVENING

by

Clifford B. Ward

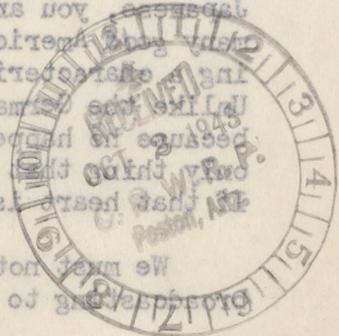
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Excerpt from
"The News-Sentinel"
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Friday, September 24, 1943

political liberty. We are leading with our left when we take good Americans and throw them into concentration camps only because they resemble physically the men who are fighting on the other side, especially when we are doing it only to persons of Japanese descent, not persons of German or Italian descent. The Japanese radio stations have had a holiday laughing at America's claims of tolerance while this country was doing what it did to Americans of Japanese descent in California.

Persons of Japanese descent in this country should be judged on their merits. If there is any evidence that they are not loyal, they should be kept in concentration camps until after the war, then deported. If there is no such evidence, they should be allowed to exercise all their rights as Americans, else our claims for American tolerance add up to a huge joke.

If an American of Japanese appearance comes to this community, don't call the police. Merely take it for granted that the FBI is still on the job and that if the stranger is free, he is free because the Government has found him deserving to be free.



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Sumida

Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

July 9, 1945

Report Of Investigating Trip By
Tsuneo Sumida, J. Obata and M. Hane

The following are reports of the area visited on our exploratory trip made under the provisions of the WRA:

NEW ORLEANS AREA

Climate: Sultry, though the mercury seldom hits 95, it feels hot and sweaty. They say that the winters average 55 degrees, but that they do not use blankets when sleeping even in February. There is no frost south of New Orleans, however, there might be a little toward the north.

Rain: Forty inches of rain yearly is normal. It rains more in April than in any other month of the year. The farmers depend entirely on the rain for their crops.

Insects: Sultry weather breeds more insects; therefore, we think that insect damage will be great. This will necessitate spraying and dusting of various types throughout the year.

Fertility: Most of the tillable soil seems to be rich, but there is some which is worn out. We saw some very good string beans and tomatoes which were cultivated in an unscientific way.

Marketing: The marketing conditions are excellent. New Orleans itself has over half a million population and in comparison to its population, it has a small marketing place doing only a little business. If quality products could be put on the market, there are possibilities of this city consuming twice what it uses now. Furthermore, the transportation facilities to other large cities are excellent; products may be shipped by rail, trucks or water.

Farmers' Opportunities: Most of the vegetables are imported from the Western States; therefore, if growing conditions are favorable, the evacuee farmers should be able to raise a good crop with all their experience and knowledge of farming. Thus an ideal place for relocation.

Fishermen's Opportunities: We were asked by former California fishermen to find out whether there are any opportunities in the State of Louisiana. Since California forbids the Japanese from entering the fishing business, they are eager to relocate to a state that would give them a chance to resume their former trade. In order to obtain a fisherman's license, Louisiana requires the person to be a resident of Louisiana for a period of at least two years. The chances of entering other jobs connected with fishing such as fish cannery, fish marketing, etc., seems nil.

Possibilities of Relocation: There are many good lands with houses that owners want to sell. We consider the prices reasonable; therefore, those contemplating relocation to this area, must have capital to invest in the land and to purchase a small tractor and other farming equipment and a market-going truck.

Public Sentiment: The public sentiment of this area seems to be favorable, but there is a political movement to restrain the evacuees from coming in large groups to farm (for example; in some counties (parishes) adjacent to New Orleans, a Parish Audience law was passed by the landowners, that they cannot sell or rent lands to persons of Japanese ancestry). The movement is based on a misunderstanding and the WRA officers of this area are endeavoring to straighten out this problem; we should appreciate their efforts. We must acknowledge the fact that the feeling towards an unknown new-comer cannot be good always and that we must "sell" ourselves before they accept us into their society.

WILSON PLANTATION
Wilson, Arkansas

By the kindness of Mr. Ragon, WRA officer at Little Rock, Arkansas, we were able to make a thorough survey of the Wilson Plantation. He met us at Memphis, Tennessee, some one hundred forty miles from Little Rock and took us to Wilson Plantation, forty miles further north of Memphis.

Mr. Crane, Manager of Wilson Plantation, planned to convert his 63,000 acres of cotton and alfalfa land into vegetable farming by inducing several hundred evacuee families to settle on his land.

Mr. Ragon and representatives of Rohwer residents met with Mr. Crane and formed an agreement to settle evacuees on the Wilson Plantation. We must appreciate the efforts of all parties concerned for the agreement was reached in the face of difficult circumstances. The offer was very reasonable and it gave the evacuees with insufficient funds and equipment a good chance to reestablish themselves. But unfortunately due to some misunderstanding, those families who were to relocate to Wilson Plantation changed their minds which caused Mr. Crane to withdraw his offer. This left Mr. Ragon in a difficult position, but Mr. Ragon still has hopes of Mr. Crane's reopening his original offer.

The Japanese farmers are afraid that if they once start with a large company, they won't be able to leave just like the slave tenants, for they have had a bitter experience in the western states by being squeezed dry by the large companies or money-lending shippers or absent landlords. We hope that Messrs. Ragon and Crane understand why the evacuees are so careful about entering new deals. We knew a case where a Japanese farmer, although an independent farmer, made a 200 mile trip every Sunday for 6 months before he moved to this new place, because he failed previously due to hasty judgement. The bitter experience has made them very cautious.

Land: Land is black sandy soil usually found along a river and seems fertile.

Rain: The records show an average rainfall yearly to be 45 inches. During our two day stay in Memphis, it rained both days.

Insects: Mr. Crane stated that he has never dusted his crops and there was no sign of insects on the plant when we visited. We think that the warm, rainy and sultry weather will induce insect damage to some plants. Mr. Crane has promised that he will furnish dusting for his farmers when necessary.

Housing and Schools: We saw three or four-room houses, one for approximately every fifty acres. There are two schools on the plantation, one for the Caucasian children and one for the colored children. According to Mr. Ragon, both schools are highly accredited by the State of Arkansas.

We think that this land will be suitable for celery, broccoli, carrot, swiss chard, etc. The rain, during our stay, gave us the impression that vegetables are easily damaged---watermelons and tomatoes are not suitable, however, the farmers in Rohwer center made some profit on watermelons and tomatoes (Rohwer Relocation Center Agricultural Report).

We recommend that a committee be established to furnish information to those interested.

DENVER, COLORADO

Through the courtesy of the WRA officers of Denver, Colorado, and the following people, Mr. Cloughesy, United States Employment Officer, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Sutter, both Civil Service Engineers and Mr. James Yanari, a prominent young Nisei, we were able to understand thoroughly, various problems regarding Japanese relocation in that region.

This area, once, was prohibited by the administration for the Japanese from Relocation Centers to resettle because there were a greater number of Japanese there than it was able to absorb. However, in the course of our survey, we found that there were comparatively more jobs opened than there are workers to fill them. One of the many jobs opened in this area is the wood-cutting work. Mr. Yanari has been supplying labor help for this Government Timber Industry and according to those who have experienced this job have found it profitable. Although jobs like these are plentiful, we think that the relocation problem facing Poston residents is family relocation and not the job situation. The majority of those who are able to work have relocated already, and only a few will be able to take advantage of the job situation there, because of the very acute shortage of housing facilities.

Public sentiment in Denver is very friendly, far better than in any other places we have viewed.

GREELEY, COLORADO

Greeley has about one hundred families who came after Pearl Harbor.

Several families are planning to go back to California if public sentiment improves there. Most of the Japanese are farming on a share basis, which they say is much better than rental, because of the danger of hail storms almost every year. They had a windstorm and hail in June of this year and although the potatoes, green peas, and sugar beets we saw on the roadside were growing very nicely, they don't expect much profit. Two evacuee farmers whom we met separately said they had farmed for three years and had not made any money. They are both planning to go back to California at the earliest chance.

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O'DAY

O'Day

AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WELCOMED BY SANTA ANA METHODISTS
Page-B-One

SANTA ANA, Jan. 8. (U.P.) Shosuki Nitta, patriarch of the first Japanese-American family to return to Southern California, today shuffled about his 100-acre ranch here after a two and one-half-year exile, gratified by a heart-warming welcome home from worshipers at the Methodist Church, in which he was active for years.

The Methodist minister, mindful of the church Shosuki organized at the Poston, Ariz., relocation center and the Sunday School teachings of his son and daughter-in-law welcomed the Nittas yesterday with a brief sermon on racial tolerance. After services, the churchgoers crowded to shake their hands.

It was a happy moment for the three generations of Japanese-Americans, who had so feared prejudice against them they stopped for food only once on the trip from Poston to Santa Ana, and that at the home of a Methodist minister in Indio. "We didn't want to cause trouble," Shosuki said.

FAMILY OCCUPIES SHACK

The family ranch, growing oranges, lemons and vegetable, had been leased during the evacuation. The Nittas were giving the tenants six months to evacuate and planned to fix up the place a little while they lived in a shack on the edge of the property.

Accompanying 65-year-old Shosuki and his wife, Taka, to the family ranch was a son, Hitoshi, 25, a graduate of California Polytechnic Institute, San Luis Obispo. For a time he was active head of the Poston department of agriculture. His wife, the former Mary Yagagata, Reedley, is a registered nurse. Both are Sunday School teachers. They have a 10-month-old son, Hitoshi Alan.

Unable to help his father re-establish was Minoru, 23, also a graduate of Calpoly, employed at the Cleveland (Ohio) Steel Products Company, a war plant. He is classified 4-F because of a knee injury he got as a blocking back on the Santa Ana Junior College football team. His wife, Mrs. Nitta added, expects a baby any day.

SON U. S. ARMY OFFICER

A third son, Mitsuo, is not with his parents. After three years of Army Service, he received his commission as a second lieutenant on his 25th birthday Saturday at Fort Benning, Ga. He is married to the former Toki Kumai of Los Angeles, now secretary to the dean at Park College, Parkville, Mo.

A graduate of California Agricultural College at Davis, Mitsuo played three years on the varsity football team and was the first Nisei to be named honorary captain.

The Japanese-Americans faced formidable opposition to their return from some patriotic organizations and the Orange County sheriff's office. "We hope

that our friends will remember us," Shosuki said.

BARRED BY LEASES

HARBOR CITY, Jan. 8. There will be no Japanese farmers on the near-by Palos Verdes, overleat two years, A. E. Hansen, locking the harbor area, for at representing the Palos Verdes and Rolling Hills land companies, revealed.

All available farm land is leased for two years and longer to others, he said. The company has not yet determined a policy to be followed in leasing property to the Japanese who now are free to return to the coast under recent Army orders.

Palos Verdes Land Company was one of the first to order Japanese land leases canceled after Pearl Harbor when 150 families were ordered to leave on Feb. 12, 1942.

Nearly 5000 acres in the hills are under cultivation, most of it in field crops, Hansen said. About one-tenth of the area is under lease to a San Diego firm which grows peas and tomatoes.

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS, EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, January 10, 1945

PAGE FOUR

A story on "a two-day conference aimed at solving the foremost problems of returning Japanese evacuees to the west coast opened here (San Francisco) Wednesday between leaders of racial relations groups and federal officials."

PAGE SIX - JAPANESE FILTER BACK TO COUNTY

Japanese, residents of Imperial Valley before they were evacuated a few months after the Pearl Harbor disaster, are gradually filtering back into Imperial Valley, a survey revealed Wednesday.

Latest to arrive, as far as could be ascertained Wednesday were the Nakamoto brothers, who farmed northwest of Calexico.

An army order released the Japanese from relocation centers where they were kept since the evacuation. When released from the centers, officials said, the Japanese are free to go where they wish.

It was understood that Japanese had arrived in several districts in the northern part of the county and have been interested in getting back property leased or rented at the time of the evacuation.

PAGE SIX - ORGANIZATION RENEWS STEPS TO PREVENT JAPS' RETURN

Brawley, Jan. 10--Spurred by reports that Japanese-Americans evacuated from Imperial Valley are contemplating returning, a few at a time, officers of the Imperial County United, an organization formed last month to oppose their return, announced Wednesday that efforts would be increased to convince the Japs themselves that it would be inadvisable for them to consider relocation in Imperial Valley at this time.

"Forty-five hundred Imperial Valley residents demonstrated their attitude that the Japs are not wanted here at the mass meeting recently held in Brawley. Elmer Sears, president of the organization, said, "and we cannot let up now in our efforts to convince the war department, the WRA and the Japs themselves of this attitude."

THE CALEXICO CHRONICLE, CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA
Thursday, January 11, 1945

PAGE ONE - NATIONAL COMMANDER BACKS STAND AGAINST RETURN OF JAPANESE

Admitting that because he is from the East he knows very little about the Japanese problem in California, an admission almost unheard of among national leaders, Edward N. Scheiberling, national commander of the American Legion, declared in Calexico last Thursday night that he will back the stand of the Legion in California which is opposed to return of the Japanese until the war with Japan is won.

Scheiberling, with Mrs. Scheiberling and Ed Bolt, department commander for California, and other Legion officials, were guests at a dinner in Elks hall Thursday night prepared by ladies of the Calexico American Legion Auxiliary.

Legion members from posts all over Imperial county came here to meet the national commander and hear his talk. The affair ended a busy day which included a tour of the all-American canal and a trip over the Eastside mesa.

As commander of the Calexico post, Earl Roberts welcomed visitors and after preliminary ceremonies turned the meeting over to Superior Court Judge Elmer Heald.

PAGE ONE - LOCAL JAPANESE REPORTEDLY VISIT CITY THIS WEEK.

Several local Japanese, released from the federal relocation center at Poston, Arizona, were reportedly in Calexico this week attending to business affairs and examining the advisability of returning at this time to the area they formerly called home.

Paid newspaper advertisements warning the Japanese not to return have appeared in northend newspapers, but little agitation of that kind has been apparent in the Calexico district.

It seems to be the opinion locally that the inevitable return of American citizens of Japanese ancestry will be accepted philosophically by local residents, regardless of their personal feelings during the war time.

copy
TAKEN FROM THE UPLAND NEWS
December 29, 1944 - Page 2



1945 AND THE LOCAL PROBLEMS---

Many problems will be faced by people of this community during 1945.

Japanese will be returned here to resume normal living. Our attitude toward them will be very important in building a foundation for post-war racial relations.

Another racial question ever present involves the Mexicans and Mexican Nationals. Negroes have not as yet located here, but many communities have a Negro problem.

More newcomers than in any previous year are likely to be here---due to the erection of 200 temporary houses for employes of the Kaiser Co. shell plant. New houses and new population mean more school rooms, more stores, increased public services and other changes.

While 1945 will be a year of changes in Upland, it will also be a year of planning for the future, of making a pattern of the city-of-the-future. Post-war construction projects will be planned and the city's post-war growth will be guided more or less by the plans formulated by the leaders during the next 12 months.

Upland is changing and that change may be noted more during the next year in any previous period.

Industries, large or small, are likely to want to locate here. Seldom a week passes without inquiries being received from persons wanting to establish a business or an industry in or near Upland.

Will Upland have an airport? That question may be decided before long, but this project is only one of several "Changes" which may occur.

The question of the citrus district obtaining additional water supply from the Metropolitan Water District may be up for decision during 1945.

And then our servicemen and women may be returning home to stay. At least, that is the fervent hope of everyone. Their return will bring great joy and relief. Their return

will also enable the community to begin to live normally, but their return will also mean new problems for the community.

Post-war problems are ahead. People in this community along with leaders throughout the nation are thinking of next year---and the next, and the next.

Here in Upland if we can face the problems, if we can realize what is ahead, we can be better prepared to accept the changes and to plan for a brighter, better future.

It is prudent to plan for the future, but the ever-present job is the war and its earliest possible victory. War bonds must be bought to the limit. Fullest cooperation must be given to the war effort and Uplanders can be counted upon to make an early victory their first concern.

UPLANDERS URGED TO TOLERATE RETURNING JAPS -- clipping undated

As of midnight tonight, Americans of Japanese ancestry will be permitted to reside in Upland and other coastal communities, but there has been no indication yet that any of Upland's former Japanese families are planning to return.

The proclamation of Major General H. C. Pratt, commanding officer of the Western defense command at San Francisco, fixed tonight at midnight as the re-entry time, after which selected Japanese whose loyalty is unquestioned may return.

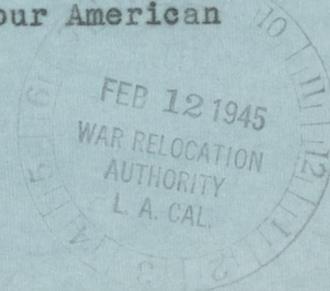
As American citizens, they will not be required to report to or register at the police station or any other office, Chief of Police Eugene L. Mueller states. They will be accorded all the rights and privileges enjoyed by all citizens.

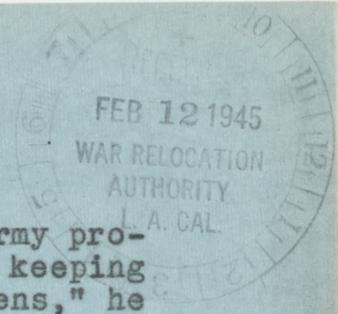
If Japanese come here, Upland's reputation will be at stake during the period of adjustment, Chief Mueller stated.

"We confidently expect all citizens to join with us in furthering full respect of the rights involved.

"There should be no difficulty in this transition unless incidents are provoked by intimidating words or thoughtlessness.

"Any mistreatment of Japanese within the city will not improve the conditions which must be faced by our American boys in Japanese prison camps.





"It is our belief that cooperation with the army program will be in furtherance of our war effort and in keeping with our war purposes and our duty as American citizens," he said.

While press dispatches report the Japanese will be unwelcome in some communities and may be discriminated against or boycotted, Uplanders seem disposed not to put difficulties in their way. There were only about a dozen families of Japanese ancestry here before the war, and three or four have sons serving in the United States army.

The Upland post of the American Legion is taking no stand for or against resettlement of the Japanese here, I. J. Linkey, post commander, said.

Gen. Pratt has said that the records of all persons of Japanese ancestry have been carefully examined and only those persons who have been cleared by military authority have been permitted to return.

Reports from the relocation camps indicate that the Japanese will not return in large numbers.

NO WORD FROM LOCAL JAPANESE - January 26, 1945

Very little interest has been shown by former Upland residents of Japanese descent as to returning here from the various relocation centers, according to a survey today.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Shoji, who have property here, were in Upland recently to look after business matters but they gave no indication of returning to live soon. During the last year they farmed in Oregon.

The Liberty Groves Operating corporation and local orchard care specialists maintain properties for the local Japanese but other than from the Shojis no report has been received from the former residents.

In accordance with modified restrictions relative to the American-born Japanese, it is possible for some of the former residents to return.

copy

Trona Calif.
Dec. 26, 1944
Box 63

My dear Raymond:

I read about your treatment in Time Magazine, Dec. 25 issue at the hands of one Andy Hale.

I want you to know that you have my sympathy as one soldier to another.

I hope that you do not get the idea that all Americans are like this ignorant person Andy Hale.

You Nisei U.S. soldiers have legions of friends. You are better finer Americans than many Anglo-Saxons that I know and your friends are proud of you and we will do all in our power for you in post-war settlement.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent Mr. Hale. I want his picture to hang along side of a Jackass.

Yours very truly,

/s/ J.C. Boyles, "Sergt"
(former soldier 143 F.A.U.S.A. BT. F.)

Trona Calif.
Dec. 26, 1944

Dear Mr. Hale:

You are an American we all should feel proud of. Your type is upstanding and outstanding, a real double barreled American. I'll bet that you have either an eagle or a battle-ship tattooed on your brawney chest.

Would it be asking too much of you to send me an autographed picture of yourself. I want the picture to hang along side of old Jack who has passed away. He jumped the corral fence and ate an over-dose of camp beans and died of "gas-he-haws". He was a great Jackass.

And by the way, I'll wager you belong to the American Legion. The Hales are a great family. Wasn't there a Hale of revolutionary fame? Could you be a descendent by any chance?

J.C. Boyles
(former soldier 143 F.A.U.S.A. BT. F.)

P.S. Why didn't you kick the poor little Jap soldier in the teeth while you were at it.

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COPY

JOHN C. HELENORE
42 West Twelfth St.
New York

--
GRamercy 7-9048

Dec. 26

Pvt. Raymond Matsuda
c/o War Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

My dear Pvt. Matsuda:

I presume I am one of the many Americans who have written to you about your unfortunate barber shop experience.

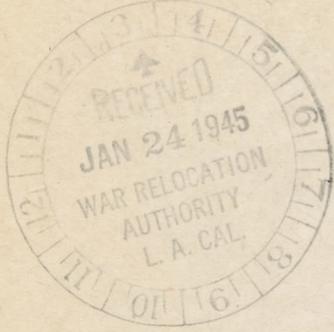
I hope you won't let it bother you. You are an American and a good one, and no one can really disturb you in the long run. Some day the whole story will be understood.

In the meantime, if you have any trouble, come to New York. I'm sure we could go into any shop here and no one would give it another thought. If you ever get here, be sure to visit me and we will go out and get dozens of hair cuts - and no trouble whatever. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

/s/ J.C. Helenore





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LETTER TO BE SENT TO ASSOCIATIONS IN WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND
by YWCA

President and General Secretary:

There are indications that the present ruling excluding Japanese from the Western Defense Command will soon be relaxed to permit those who are loyal to the United States to return to their former homes if they so desire. The army has been issuing a limited number of permits to students and evacuees of Japanese ancestry and there is reason to believe that the number will soon be materially increased.

Both in the assembly and relocation centers, our Japanese YWCA members have made an outstanding contribution during the last two and a half years. I have visited several of the centers and know that in each one there has been a group of women who know and belong to the Association and who therefore worked hard to organize and maintain one in the center community. Former Board members, staff members, club members and students have joined together to continue and enlarge the YWCA activities. They have held regular Board meetings, organized club groups for Girl Reserves, young matrons and older women, co-ed groups, student groups and sponsored a variety of other programs. Members of the National staff have worked with the leadership in the centers and have thus maintained for them a contact with the outside world. Our staff has been instrumental in encouraging and arranging resettlement for hundreds of evacuees, preparing them for life in new parts of the country, promoting inter-Association events between the YWCA in the center and that in the nearby community, stimulating conference attendance and in working with the War Relocation Authority in ways indicated by it. YWCA's all over the country have found housing and jobs and friends for the resettling Japanese-Americans and have made a significant contribution to the building of favorable public opinion.

Most of this work has been done by Associations outside the Western Defense Command. Now it seems that the YWCA's on the West Coast and near to it will soon have the same opportunity. That the job will be difficult I do not question; that it is important is also evident, not only because many of those returning will be our own members but also because they are loyal American citizens with the rights of citizenship. Mrs. Ingraham has written a letter to President Roosevelt in which she said: "The Y.W.C.A. is equipped to help girls and women in their reorientation to community life and we stand ready to be of assistance in effecting their return to the west coast. We would welcome suggestions as to the manner in which we could be most helpful."

The National Y.W.C.A., the churches, the American Friends Service Committee and the California Committee on American Principles and Fair Play are already working on this problem. Each local Association can contribute most effectively by joining and cooperating with the other groups just mentioned. If there is no such organization in your community, the YWCA could take the initiative in gathering representatives of such groups together. It is peculiarly our concern to help build favorable public

opinion because of the kind of organization we are and we are inventive enough, I think, to find ways of enlisting the support of our membership, our club groups, and our constituencies if we accept a responsibility for helping to welcome our former members and their friends back to their communities.

To those of us on the Pacific Coast who all too frequently see hospital ships and transport planes bringing in their cargoes of wounded men, the enmity of Japan is a stark reality. I hope that this will not blind us to the fact that thousands of our Japanese-American citizens are fighting beside other Americans in the South Pacific, in Burma, in Italy and around the globe for the country they love; that their blood has been shed to preserve our democracy. I hope and I believe, that we will make room in our organizations in our communities for the loyal Japanese who wish to return. To do less will be to fail as a Young Women's Christian Association in realizing our Purpose.

I shall be tremendously interested in knowing what your community has been able to do on this. Is there a community group at work with which you are cooperating or will it be necessary for you to take the initiative in getting the groups which should be concerned about this problem together to work on it. Won't you let me know how matters stand in your community.

Sincerely yours,

Winifred Osborne Heard
(Mrs. Bartlett E. Heard)
Chairman Western Region.

10 Roble Road
Berkeley 5
California

copied 11/22/44
copied 12/16/44 by Poston Reports Office

Miss G
Cary
Wheat

MODERN PIONEERS

The pioneering, adventurous life is the true life of any existence, a life that has the scope for diverse experiences, a life that will cut itself off from the old and the familiar to the new, a life willing to gamble the present for infinitely better possibilities. What I mean by the pioneering life is a life unwilling to linger at the wayside, but impatient to march along to thrive in progress.

Today, we are, in a sense, modern pioneers--those who go before, preparing the way for others. To better understand our future, we must review our past.

The Issei, in their prime of life, never had the opportunity from the beginning to realize the truly American way of life for themselves. It may be said that they have always been internees. Their very existences was being made miserable by the constant malicious abuses in the newspapers, compelled to protect themselves against unscrupulous attacks, and often their loyalty was strained to the breaking point by subjection to arduous trials.

They came to this country, not to escape religious or political conditions, but to find work in order to improve their economic status. Self respect was esteemed the highest by the Issei. Crime was no problem among them or their second generation children. And they paid their debts. Even during depression, they did not seek public relief or assistance. They were proud people,

frugal, and met all financial obligations. They believed in mutual aid and assistance.

They made a record for themselves in the California vegetable market. They reclaimed useless sub-marginal lands and turned them into productive gardens. At the same time, they raised their standard of living.

When the Nisei followed, the Issei resolved that America would be the permanent place they would call home. The Nisei was confronted with many social obstacles for many years. True they took their place as accepted citizens in the high schools and colleges, but difficulties in finding their places in the civic society after graduation was cumulative. Consequently, they retreated into Little Tokyos.

Then--came December 7. Everyone knows too vividly the panorama of human grief that took place among the Japanese a direct consequence of evacuation. We have come to know that it was not so much military necessity, as it was the result of the constant clamoring of the minority bigtos of California, who urged the mass evacuation.

Isolated into a compressed racial community, the residents of these camps became almost completely separated from the American way of life. "The teen age boys and girls became ostentatiously American in clothes, slang and behavior. It was as if they were trying too hard to convince themselves that they too, were Americans.¹

They said: "How can you teach democracy here? Or praise American labor standards where people get \$4 for a 44-hour week, and nothing for overtime? Or talk about racial equality?....We're not individuals here, but cogs--that

¹--American Council on Public Affairs

eat and sleep and work and live all alike. Look at that mother--she used to be the core of her family, providing the meals, training her children, doing those little things that build family unity. Now, other people throw food at us, the kids no longer eat with the parents, but learn their manners from the roughnecks."²

When there was a question of self-government in the centers, it was found that the Issei could best provide the authority, the stability, and the seasoned wisdom. The leadership of family and community was theirs; it was the tradition. But now, their spans of life is fast being spent. It is for us to assume the leadership.

Walter Lippman has said, "No mariner ever enters upon a more uncharted sea than does the average human being born in the twenties century. Never has the road been wilder, or the sign posts fewer. Our ancestors thought they knew their way from birth through eternity; we are puzzled about day after tomorrow. Never before have we had to rely so completely on ourself for we have no guardian to think for us, no precedent without question. We are homeless in a jungle of machines and untamed powers. The iconoclasts did not free us. They threw us into the water, and how we have to swim."

Fear grips our heart as we enter upon the society which had excluded us a few years ago. The society beyond the fence appears to be ambiguous, vast and forboding. Accustomed to the protected life of the crowded centers, it is difficult to venture off into the unknown, and face more

discrimination than our parents did as immigrants. Antagonism is apt to increase--not diminish--now, that the European war is ended.

But reflect. Our forefathers, the Issei, journeyed across 5,000 miles of the largest ocean in the world to a land completely foreign. Undaunted by differences of language and custom, they carried on, courageously. Their vision and spunk should be an inspiration to us who are only moving within the borders of our own native land--and have the linguistic and cultural advantage.

There, then, is the open road to the future. Wherever we look in America, we find men pioneering the unknown ways: pioneering science, pioneering business, pioneering literature, pioneering religion and philosophy. A brave man asks for nothing more than a fighting chance against the odds. Our fighting chance is in relocation.

What will these camps produce? Out of them come great leaders and prophets. Faithful, patient men and women blazing the ways to overcome racial prejudice. Adversity will serve to intensify their great faith and make it strong. The imperfections are but a challenge that we might more actively assume our obligations and responsibilities as Nisei citizens, Americans in a greater America.

We must accept that challenge.

Mollie Ohashi, Valedictorian
Camp 111

10 Days

REMEMBRANCE

Commencement is an occasion when each graduate's joy is incomplete without the presence of teachers, parents, and friends. So it is tonight, that we,--the members of Parker Valley's class of 1945--say to you with all sincerity, "Welcome, everyone. It is heart-warming to see you here tonight, to have you share with us the joys of this--our most memorable high school event".

As we welcome you, we recall the things that you have done for us during our school years. To our parents and to our friends--we express our deepest appreciation,--for it was you--always so understanding, who helped us solve our many difficult school problems. You gave us hope and courage when our minds were clouded with troubled thoughts of the future.

To our teachers we can say, "You are the ones who have made our school life so enjoyable and so profitable. You are the ones who have made Parker Valley High School a school of which we can proudly say, "This is my school".

To each graduate, commencement means that another rung in the ladder of achievement has been attained. Commencement promises the beginning of a bigger life--a life which holds greater responsibilities, new experiences, and a deeper significance in living. It is a time when mixed emotions rule each graduate as his head is held erect with pride or bowed in serious contemplation of the future, as curious lumps form in his throat, as his eyes grow misty with tears of gladness or dim with a questioning, unre-

resolved fear of the years to come. It is a time when unforgettable events of school days are reminescently reviewed.

Two and one half years ago, we, the members of the class of 1945, were attending schools in twenty-five different communities along the Pacific Coast. Tonight we are gathered here as one class. We represent such towns and cities as Los Angeles, Reedley, Visalia, Santa Barbara, Monterey and San Diego. As a result of the years spent together a deep understanding of one another has grown and lasting friendships have been formed. In relocating we will go our separate ways. We will live in communities scattered all over this vast United States, but whatever our destination, we will take with us memories of Poston school days.

Will we ever forget that day in 1942 when word was received that a school term would begin in October? The news seemed almost incredible, for many of us and many of our parents had feared that educational facilities would not be immediately provided for us in camp. Can we ever forget our first year of school in Poston? Classes were held in unimpressive, black, tar-papered barracks. The rooms were crowded with students but empty of the barest essentials of a school. We will remember our teachers and will always be grateful to them for they were the ones who so valiantly guided us through our difficult moments of re-adjustment. We will always remember our first assembly, our first student body election and the first commencement exercises of Poston III. A hastily constructed outdoor stage was the setting of that great event. The one hundred

and twenty-three graduating members did not wear the traditional cap and gown.

Remembrances such as these will fill the chapters of a book of memories created in our minds. Other chapters will consist of notable events of the following years.

We see, as like a motion picture, the summer of 1943 as it lagged on. We see that fateful storm in August which destroyed half of the constructed adobe buildings. We hear the urgent call for volunteers to help complete our school. We remember the quick response of students, teachers and parents. Those willing, determined workers can justly say, "We helped build this--our school". We see rows of adobe buildings, some of them still incomplete. We see ourselves on that first day as we walked curiously about the campus. We see the well-equipped rooms. We know that the adobe buildings are indeed a great improvement in our school and we know that there are many ways by which we can show our appreciation and our gratitude.

With keen anticipation, we look forward to a better school year. The year begins with a whirlwind of activities such as the student body election, class elections, a football game, the A.S.B. Get-Together. The faculty and student body unite in an effort to produce a profitable second school year. Yes, indeed, we know that the year '43-'44 was a profitable one and one which holds many memorable events. That was the year the construction of this auditorium began, "Old Glory" was first raised to the sky, our first Kampus Karnival was held and our first "Campus Echoes" was published. And we musn't forget that during that year our school received

Arizona's accreditation and our school was officially named Parker Valley High School. The commencement exercises of the class of '44 were held here in this auditorium. We remember that as we looked up at a portion of the ceiling, we saw the stars twinkling at us from above. We remember those ninety-eight graduates as they, clad in caps and gowns, marched down the aisles with faces suddenly serious.

Remembrances such as these will increase the pages in our book of memories, but there are other pages which must be added before our book can be complete.

In reminiscing about our final year at Parker Valley High School, we can see that long chain of school activities in which we participated and we can see the great accomplishments we achieved in leadership, scholarship and citizenship. Successful projects such as the A.S.B. assemblies, the Kampus Karnival, the Prom, our Senior Ball, our class play, our Senior Day and our Banquet were the result of initiative, determination and diligence of the groups involved. As we, the members of the class of '45 leave the portals of Parker Valley High School forever more, we can assure ourselves that we leave behind us a school record of which we can be justifiably proud.

With the passing of the summer and winter of 1945 each of us will find himself in his former hometown or in an entirely new community. We may be in Chicago or New York, in Milwaukee or Kansas City, in San Diego or any other city located across this country. Wherever we are we may encounter hardships and misunderstandings. As we try to

solve our difficulties our lives may become a turmoil. During trying times such as these we will recall the days that we have spent at Parker Valley High School. We will remember that success and happiness was attained only through real understanding between one another--a common interest in creating a worthwhile school life. With these things in mind, we will try to sweep away our worries with an uplifted chin and with a grave determination to become a vital part of the community life.

From time to time we will open our book of Poston memories and we will gain courage with what we see within. We will remember this night as we look with hope for success in the future, "The experiences of camp life have not made us thoroughly bitter. Instead they have given us a broader outlook upon life. They have prepared us to become better people and with our knowledge, we will resolutely strive to make this--a better world".

Misako Mayumi

Salutatory Address
Parker Valley High School
Poston 111

O'Day

EXPERIMENT IN LIVING

I presume that most of you have taken science of some kind. You know that the scientific approach to a problem is called induction. A scientist with a problem gathers all his resources, and by using the method of experimentation and elimination of unsatisfactory results, finally arrives at a conclusion. So it is with everyday things. Whether it is the problem of cooking rice, or the making of a rock-garden, we need these two things--materials with which to experiment and a method to follow.

A human life is similar to this. Man is the material with which he must work and his equipment is his traits, abilities, and personality.

His results and his observed reactions in his lifelong experiment will differ widely from that of his neighbor because the material with which he works and the situations of his life are always different. There are no reactions, no observed results in many cases, because in his trial and error method he may have used the wrong equipment. He must adjust his equipment of traits or his method of work in order to correct the errors.

But a scientist may call upon the results of others to aid in his experimenting. By research, he discovers what methods have been tried and found wanting, what materials have been faulty, and he avoids them in his own work. The scientist constantly builds on the results of their attempts to create worthwhile, successful lives varied from disillusionment, despair to high attainment. So, like the scientist, we too can choose from the lives of others the equipment of character traits that seem to have aided them and develop those same qualities in our own lives, discarding the things that seemed useless or harmful to them.

One such man was Jessie Lazear. Lazear was a member of the committee sent to Panama in 1900 to investigate yellow fever--the threat that was destroying more American soldiers than had been killed by Spanish-

American War. He and three other men embarked upon a huge experiment. Three of them saw it through, but Lazear, using himself as material with which to work, died a victim of his own experiment. Lazear's life ended unhappily; it stopped short of success. But the Lazear Battery in Baltimore Harbor is a mute testimony to the fact that his name is still revered by his fellow men.

Helen Keller was another such person. When she was 19 months old, she was stricken by a terrible disease which left her both blind and deaf. But once she caught a vision of a world which she could neither see nor hear, she couldn't rest until she had made that world accessible through the eyes and ears of other people and through her other senses which she strengthened. Helen Keller, then, is another successful person in this experiment in living, for with her limited capacity and materials, she created a beautiful life.

George Washington Carver was born into a slave family. In those days it was much harder for a Negro to climb the ladder of society. Slaves were considered as property by their owners. Yet George Washington Carver was eager and determined to get an education and through years of hard work prayer, and courage under miserable conditions, he finally worked his way through high school, college, and on to fame. When he was finally recognized as a great scientist, having developed some 300 products from a Common Source, thus helping to raise the economic status of the Negro people, he was offered positions of great honor but refused, remembering the bigger task of helping his people. He devoted the rest of his life agricultural research and in the betterment of the South and his race. He never patented his findings, for his only thought was to transmit his knowledge into useful things and to share his learning and success with his own people. He discovered those products with only the

scant artificial equipment of test tubes, beakers, and chemicals, and also with his own home-made equipment of courage, devotion, kindness, faith, and a determination to succeed. Today, Dr. Carver is considered one of the greatest scientists in the world. He is what I truthfully call a human being in its highest degree.

What am I driving at? Just this: if you look for the key to the success of these three, you will find contributing traits common to all.

The most outstanding of these is the ability to stick to a job. They tried and tried and tried. The vastness of the thing did not discourage them. It gave them a strong conviction that they must succeed and it strengthened their courage. In their vocabulary they had no word called "fail". They gained knowledge and learned to eliminate all bad equipment through their unsuccessful experiments and faulty choices. If Helen Keller had not stuck to her task, she would have been lost in her own world. She fulfilled her ambition--that of uniting her unhappy life with the gay, colorful world about her. The machine of determination is greater and more powerful than the resistances of any obstacle.

Another piece of equipment common to these three was the ability to overcome handicaps. We talk about ourselves as being handicapped because we have lived abnormal lives in this center where our possibilities for greater achievement have seemed very dubious, being Americans of Japanese Ancestry. Dr. Carver was a Negro, but he never pitied himself. He never "lost fight". Determination, then, and the ability to overcome obstacles is vital--but something else--that is courage.

Lazear knew what Yellow Fever was. He had watched scores of victims ravished by the disease gasp for breath and die. He had every reason to forget the challenge and go back to his family and safe home in the States. History could not have blamed him for that, but history would

(4)

not have recorded his name, we would not be speaking of him today, had it not been for the courage that made him a victim of his own experiment. And in different ways, in different degrees, we also need the courage that Lazear possessed.

Commencement is a "commencing". Now for the first time the future is real and vivid. This diploma is a challenge to us to meet the future, a chance to experiment with the tools we have acquired, the materials we possess, the qualities we know from others to be those of promise. Let us meet it with open eyes. Let us experiment wisely.

--John Atsushi Inouye
Parker Valley High School
Poston III

*John Inouye was chosen by Parker Valley Hi
Student body is one of Commencement speakers.*

o'Day

NOTE: This speech has some passages which are direct quotations from McGarvey William's "Prejudice". If the speech is to be printed, you should check with Sadao and find out which parts are quotes, and acknowledge it in the proper fashion.

Saduo Damon, author of this speech was selected by Barker Valley High School Faculty, as one of Commencement speakers.

A NISEI PAGES THE FUTURE

Nisei graduates are not alone in that Commencement brings them to the moment in their lives when they must realistically face the future and decide what they are going to do with their lives. That is true of all high school graduates, to some degree at least. Graduation is the fork in the road, beyond which lies college, or a job, or the army or marriage, or a hundred possibilities, and graduates of all races in all parts of the country, share in this common facing of the future.

However, we as Nisei graduates do have an additional adjustment to make and an additional responsibility laid upon us. Not only must we bridge the gap between high school and whatever lies ahead, but we must make the additional adjustment of leaving camp life behind us and by ourselves or with our families, start life again on the outside. Those of us who leave first, will, whether we realize it or not, be acting as representatives for those of our group who still remain behind us within the center. Easterners or Middle-Westerners, many of whom are coming in contact with Japanese-Americans for the first time, will form their opinion of all Japanese and Japanese-Americans from our actions.

However, we are not striking out alone. Those who have gone ahead of us have paved the way.

The heroism and valor of the Japanese-American combat team has won the admiration of the American people. As a result of this, evacuees have been more readily accepted into American life. The officers who have trained them praise their attitude. Japanese-American soldiers realize they have perhaps more at stake in this war than the average soldier. They have known from the beginning they would be under close public scrutiny, each soldier, in the words of their commanding officers, a symbol

of the loyalty of the Japanese-American population in our country. Their motto is "Go For Broke". It is a soldier's slang, born of dice games, and it means shoot the works, or risk all on the big venture before them. There are approximately 10,000 nisei soldiers in the United States army. They have given an excellent account of themselves on all the major battlefields. General Mark Clark has repeatedly praised the Nisei soldiers under his command.

The farmers of the Middle West will always remember that in the beginning of the fall of 1942, thousands of evacuees were released on seasonal leaves to relieve the manpower shortage in agriculture and their efficient cheerful work helped save much of the crop that was so desperately needed that year.

Many nisei went directly from relocation centers to take skilled positions in essential war industries, thus contributing greatly to the recent victory in Europe.

Nisei students who have relocated to college all over the country, by their scholastic achievements and leadership in campus activities, have created a feeling of good will.

All these are contributing factors to bring about a much better feeling toward Japanese-Americans than existed even before the war.

Three years have elapsed since the evacuation of people of Japanese ancestry from the west coast. Although evacuation distorted the life philosophy of many Japanese-Americans, we are gradually recovering from the initial impact. Many have kept faith and have taken it as a sacrifice. Life in the centers has not been wasted, but has actually resulted in a further developing of personality. Wherever a new community springs up there must be leaders in order to carry on the various activities harmoniously. The centers have a great demand for leaders in various

school organizations, clubs, and athletic teams. It has given many of us a place to exercise our undeveloped abilities.

In facing the future, we realize that, as a group and as individuals, we still face problems. We must go more than half way in our friendliness in order that other Americans may have a better understanding of us. We must see to it that all the Japanese are assimilated into American life, that there will be no "Little Tokyo's" in Cleveland, Chicago, or New York as there were in many West Coast cities. Realizing that any activity in which only nisei participate is a form of segregation, even if self-imposed, nisei leaders realize the necessity of mixing in all community activities.

Because it concerns us so deeply, we often lose perspective of our own problem. The minority problem of the Japanese-American is only a small matter in comparison to the minority problem in the United States. But it is one that all the other minorities watch with vigilance. They recognize the similarity of their problems. As a nation we are beginning to realize that we have a race problem in the United States and not a series of unrelated local issues. We, as nisei, must also begin in our own backyard by eradicating our own prejudice against people of other races and creeds. By being prejudiced against the Negroes, Jews, Chinese, and Filipinos, we are contributing to our own self destruction.

Whenever the future ahead may seem discouraging as a result of the few who try to breed fascism in America, let us keep in mind as a guiding star the Japanese-American creed. "Although some individuals may discriminate against me, I shall never become bitter or lose faith, for I know that such persons are not representative of the majority of the American people." That is what we must believe.

--Sadao Damon
Farker Valley High School
Poston III

U.S. War Relocation Auth. Poston

*defence
unit*

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION PROJECT

Poston, Arizona

June 6, 1945

Jerome Wilcox, Assistant Librarian
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

For your file and I hope for your interest, I am enclosing copies of commencement talks by students in the three high schools here. A copy of the commencement address by Dan Garvey, secretary of state of Arizona, is also enclosed.

I should like to call your attention to "Saga of a People" written by Ruth Tanaka, junior student in Poston III high school. This poem was awarded fourth prize among six thousand entries in a national contest sponsored by Scholastic Magazine. Any use of it I suppose would have to have their consent. A second poem, "Mary" dedicated to Mary Nagata, a schoolmate who died during the year, is also enclosed.

"The Years Between" written by Kaizo Kubo, also an 11th. grade student in Poston III high school won honorable mention in the Scholastic Magazine competition.

Thank you for your interest as expressed from time to time in requests for material from this center.

Sincerely yours,

Pauline Bates Brown

Pauline Bates Brown,
Reports Officer, W.R.A.

SAGA OF A PEOPLE

They have sprung from a race as old as Time,
Their backs are bent, their hands are wrinkled and brown,
For they have toiled long years under a harsh master--Life;
Each passing year has left its mark
Upon their seamed and weathered faces
That show as other faces do,
A heart-deep yearning for a far-off land;
A land of frail houses, stunted trees, a sacred volcano
Sleeping under a blanket of snow.
Traces of half-forgotten customs
A love for the life-giving sun, the freshening rain, the
 deep brown soil,
Still lingers in their hearts.
Deep scars of pain and grief are etched on their worn faces
And yet their wise twinkling eyes
Have looked on life and found it good.

They have come to a fabulous land,
While still dreaming the long thoughts of youth;
They have sowed their seeds, weeded furrows,
Hoed a sun-parched land, watered it and nursed it,
Harvested their plentiful crops, built a home
And borne their children.
Last they forget the islands of their fathers,
They have brought their little treasures with them--
A miniature chest of drawers, lacquered dragon-red;
Two dainty fans gay with dancing girls;
A bamboo screen with a tiny arched bridge
A fragile lilies reflected in still water;
Little dolls in bright kimonos of hand-painted silk;
Delicete tea cups set on a polished tray.

The seeds they sowed took root and sprouted,
Grew tall and straight with bursting pods;
Giving rich promise of fulfillment.
So grew their black-haired children
Straight and tall, drawing nourishment from the free soil
Of this, their native land.
Their lives were like a deep, peaceful river
The old familiar customs of their ancestors
Mixing with the new bewildering ones of their foster country
And slowly giving way before them
Eating a breakfast of crisp bacon and scrambled eggs
Instead of the hot soup and rice they had eaten
In the home of their fathers;
Raising a huge paper carp on Boys' Day;
Awkwardly tying a silver star to the tip of the family
 Christmas tree;

Reluctantly going to a movie with the children,
Leaving behind a friendly game of Go
And a cup of steaming, green tea;
Driving to the beach and learning to roast hot dogs
Over a driftwood fire,
And eating them with seed-covered rice cakes;
Passing on to their children the ceremonious courtesies
That they had learned so long ago.
And so they lived out their lives
Guided by their sons and daughters
Through this strange new world,
Slowly changing their deep-rooted ways.

They have come to a new home
Living in a single room
Behind barbed wire--
They know that peace has been shattered throughout the
world

By heavily laden bombs of terror and destruction;
But they who love the deeply tranquil soil
Are stunned, bewildered by it all,
By the cold wall which their American friends
Have built about them.

Now they are standing on the beloved soil of their
Western mother,
Their wizened bodies huddled together
Against the bitter cold.
Rising they look toward the sea
Vainly striving through the mists of the past
To live again the dreams of their youth,
Thinking of a pleasant land where cherry blossoms
Warmed their hearts in spring,
Where placid goldfish lazily swam in sunny ponds,
Where all was contented and peaceful;
They turn towards the red glow of a sinking sun
Seeing through the distant hills, seeing over all the
land
The rolling hills and valleys of their western mother.
Then they turn towards each other with eyes full,
Unashamedly,
Understandingly;
For deep in their almond, brown eyes,
Deep in the innermost depths of their soul
There shall always glow a hope,
A hope that peace shall come one day
A peace forging with understanding and friendship,
The islands of their long-lost youth
And the far stretching land of their children's birth.

Ruth Tanaka
Fourth Prize,
Scholastic Literary Contest

MARY

Against the black hood of night twinkled the stars
Like the lights in Mary's dark brown eyes.
Jupiter, Saturn and lovely Venus
Watched over our quiet world.
A bubble of joy seemed to swell within me
As I thought of the hale of happiness that surrounded
her
And gathered others into its warmth.

Wispy clouds trailed across the face of a troubled
moon.
A thin mist seemed to envelop the stars.
It grew blacker, denser;
The bubble broke!
My soul grew heavy and grey
As I thought of the heart-shaped face and laughing
eyes
Now gone forever. . .

--Ruth Tanaka
~~Fourth Grade~~
~~Scholastic Literary Contest~~

From

THE YEARS BETWEEN

My name is Kaizo Kubo. I have a story to tell. It concerns three years of my past, years which will no doubt leave their marks on me to the end of my days. My name probably sounds strange, foreign; so will my story.

I am an American, although for the last three long years I have been so in name only. I am writing these very words behind the shadows of barbed wire. I've done no wrong. My only crime is that my hair is black, my skin yellow, my eyes slant; because I am of Japanese ancestry. This is my personal account of prejudice and of human blindness. This is a plea for future justice and tolerance.

I was born in a small town in California not far from the Pacific Ocean. If not for an unfortunate quirk of fate, I would in all probability have never stirred from the scene of so many happy memories. That black day I read the news in the daily papers left me momentarily paralyzed. I stared in mute incredulity at the words emblazoned in bold print: GOVERNMENT ORDERS MASS REMOVAL OF ALL JAPANESE FROM COAST HOMES TO INLAND WAR CENTERS.

I took it hard. It meant leaving the only life I knew, parting with my boyhood friends. It spelled goodbye to life. Was this what I had believed in? Was this democracy?

In the ensuing weeks I was spared little time to brood or to think. In the upheaval that followed, we lost our home. Our belongings were either discarded or at best sold at pitiful losses. Before my very eyes my world crumbled.

From the instant I stepped into the barbed wire enclosures of our destination, I felt that queer alienable presence within me. All the rash bravado I had saved for this precise moment vanished like a disembodied soul. I suddenly felt incredibly small and alone. So this was imprisonment.

The oppressive silhouette of the guard towers looming cold and dark in the distance affected me in only one way. They seemed to threaten, to challenge me. I hated their ugly hugeness, the power they symbolized. I hold only contempt for that for which they stand. They kept poignantly clear in my mind the unescapable truth that I was a prisoner.

Thus my life as an evacuee began, with a government granted broom, a bucket, and a twelve by twenty foot room. We were quartered in converted horse stables which fairly reeked with evidence of recent occupation. Men, women, and children shared these discomforts alike. I learned to eat with strangers, to wash and bathe side by side with unfamiliar faces, and I learned that to hear and not be heard was the best or at least the most healthful policy to follow.

At first I was inclined to think my imagination was provoking the wall of silence that seemed to shroud my being, but it was real, as real as evacuation itself. An incomprehensible air of tension hung over the confines of the entire center. Twenty thousand souls brooding. It was not pleasant. The next abruptly discernable phase was a lifting of the silence and in a surprisingly short time, the atmosphere had changed to a noisy, equally unpredictable show of human emotions. Camp life is like that--uncertain.

Three years of a hard existence behind steel and armed guards, no matter what the conditions, cannot go without its ill effects. Our family, like most Japanese families prior to evacuation, was very

close. Today, after these years of communal living, I find myself stumbling over words as I make vain attempts to talk to my father. I don't understand him; he doesn't understand me. It is a strange feeling to find such a barrier between my father and myself.

The fixed routine existence offers little incentive for progress; hence, a gradual loss of individual enterprise and initiative is in evidence. I have undergone a similar period of lethargy myself. It is like living in a realm of forgotten people. It was a strange and disturbing malady developed under unusual circumstances, but I overcame it, and with the restoration I won back my faculty of logical and clear thinking.

Here is what I say: there is no need to be bitter. We are situated thus through no fault of our own, but there is nothing to gain by eternally brooding for things that might have been. I have exacted lessons from my past which I hope to put to advantage in my future.

I shall be on my own. It will be no new experience for me. Evacuation was a pioneering project; re-establishing myself into the American stream of life can be looked upon as another such enterprise. Now I stand on the threshold of freedom. I face the future unafraid, proud of my ancestry, but even prouder of my heritage as an American.

--Kaizo Kabe
Honorable Mention
Scholastic Literary Contest

O'Day

Parents, Teachers, and Friends--

We, the Class of 1945, feel highly honored to be the first, the last, and only class ever to graduate from such a fine auditorium and to complete three years of high school in this Utopia isolated from the rest of the world.

To the teachers, who so unselfishly stayed together with us, to provide us with high ideals and a broader outlook on life, especially in times like the present, we cannot express in mere words just how we feel toward you and of your kind in the community. Your work will always be remembered as we depart and strive for a bigger and better goal in the outside world. Our intentions to get ahead will undoubtedly be based on your teaching. And to the parents who quietly and patiently encouraged us ahead when everything seemed so blue, we are very very grateful.

The teachings and advisings of the two unforgettable personalities of the Senior Class will always be lingering on in our memories as we look back to one the best years in our lives. To our advisers, Miss Helen Hirata, and Mr. Stowell Sandmeyer, we owe a great deal more than a word of thanks, and wherever you are and wherever you go, the Class of 1945 extends its sincerest blessings, and we hope that in the near future, we can repay you for the trouble we have caused.

Tonight, to our Commencement Program, we bid you welcome!

Richard Shindo
Senior Class President

Boston, HI

University
Cathy
(revised)

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Made by Dan Garvey, Secretary of State
of Arizona, to students of Miles E. Cary
High School in Poston 11, June 1, 1945.

The British historian H.G. Wells has characterized the period in which we live as a race between education and catastrophe. On the one side we have our schools, churches, character-building organizations, and progressive enlightenment. On the other we have imperialism, selfishness, and greed.

Your graduation occurs at one of the most trying periods in the history of the world, and without doubt one of the most intense periods in the history of our Country. You boys and girls will go forth into a world embroiled in war, and war is deplorable. It engenders deep hatreds between peoples and between races.

Your country is at war with the country from which came your ancestors, and despite the fact that you are true and loyal Americans, and that many of your brothers, fathers and relatives are now in the armed forces of our Country, and despite the fact that many of them have made the supreme sacrifice by giving their lives for their country, you will have many trials to endure, much bitterness and many problems to overcome.

Do not permit this to deter you from taking your place in life and your rightful place in the Country of which you are valuable and a valued citizen.

History shows that in all wars in which this Country has been involved, hatreds and prejudices were just as intense against the races and nationalities with which we were at war as they are today. Time alters all things, and the passing of time softens and eliminates these hatreds and prejudices. Peace again is just around the corner. Within a few months, or a few years at the most, these hatreds and prejudices will begin to melt away. You will find in the years to come when you are going out into our own great Country to take your place in its life and its affairs, that the United States has been and is now, a Country of all people and all races. It has taken into citizenship individuals of every nationality, every race and every color in the world, and it has assimilated them and welded them into the greatest nation and the greatest people in the world. It has become, within 150 years, the richest, the most powerful and the most enlightened Nation in the world, a peace-loving nation, and now a nation against which the ruling faction of no other nation will ever again dare to lift its hand in war.

You are a part of that nation. For a short time, it may be (and I want to caution you to expect it) that the hatred which has been engendered by a war in which you had no part and could in no way prevent, will cast its shadow in some measure over you. But

(2)

that will pass, and it probably will pass much quicker than many of you may at this moment believe.

The big thing-and the big thought that I want to leave- is that we will soon be entering a new era of peace in which science and industry and effort will probably play a greater part within a shorter time than during any other period in our history.

What you make of that opportunity is largely up to you. No matter how hard the path may presently be, go along in peaceful ways, with peaceful thoughts. Be diligent and apply your diligence. Be willing to work and apply the knowledge you have gained and will be daily gaining through the years to come. If you fancy that you are wronged, pay attention to solving the problem which that wrong presents, but do not harbor enmity - for it is of no value.

Be true to your country, and true to yourselves. Be tireless and patient. Be loyal and willing. Be always ready to work and ready to serve. Those attributes will pay you well.

May I extend to you my very best wishes for good luck and God Speed.

*Miss Gail
Robert*

Miles E. Cary High School
Salutatory Address, June 1, 1945

By Hiroshi Kamel
Class of 1945

We are gathered here tonight to witness the final commencement ceremony of Miles E. Cary High. It is fitting and proper that we have with us those who made our graduation possible. To you, our parents, the faculty, the administration, and the community, I extend a very hearty welcome in behalf of the graduating class.

As I look into the past, the debt we owe to you stands vividly in my mind. To our parents, we owe everything--our very existence. It is you who have cared for us and have given us consolation when we needed it. There is no price we could pay in exchange for this.

Words cannot compensate for our indebtedness to the faculty of Miles E. Cary High. Each member has contributed to the welfare of the school and of the community. Each has taken a personal interest in us; each has given us valuable guidance. To Mr. McLaren and Mrs. Courage we owe special thanks. The faculty has sacrificed in order that all may profit. Perhaps you will never realize how much we appreciate this. One tribute we could pay to you is to succeed, as you would want us to, and prove that your sacrifice was not in vain.

In you, the residents of Boston, we have found friendship and understanding--by your words and by your deeds. We can never repay you for the service you have rendered to us,

Salutatory Address--2

wholly through your unselfishness, courage, and sacrifice. I take this means to express our most sincere gratitude.

Three years ago this was only a barren desert. In this desert has sprouted a thriving community, blessed with a school far better than could be expected in this day of chaos and uncertainty. Before long Miles E. Cary High will be but a lingering memory which shall remain with us and be cherished forever.

It is difficult to convey our thoughts on departing from the school we have come to love. But in a larger sense, it is a departure not only for us; everyone will soon be leaving to pursue his destiny.

We seniors are prepared to embark toward a new horizon. This graduation service is a symbol of our eagerness to challenge the future; the diplomas we will receive are our passport to the destination we so earnestly seek. The future belongs to those who prepare for it. Already we have spent years in preparation. We now look to the future--and success--with renewed confidence and determination.

Once again I wish to express our thanks to all of you and say again--welcome.

Write copy
with me

COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

Today's youth of America are the men and women of tomorrow. They will be the leaders---who are to guide the destiny of our Great Nation in a new era.

Yesterday, the world was built on a foundation that rested on shifty sand. There were some nations which used inadequate building material. So---at this very moment, on the various battlefields, lives of our gallant men are being sacrificed in order that the youth of today may build a solid and firm foundation for the generations yet unborn.

The defeat of the Nazis in Europe is but part of the battle. The final collapse of our other remaining enemy will take a long and costly struggle. Japan's defeat will also be only a part of the greater battle yet to be won.

Fascism and imperialism were cheap materials to be used in building the foundation of this world. With the poor construction material taken out of the mixture, the stronger and firmer elements would unite to cement together a rock solid foundation on which the generations to follow would stand.

Yes....We have a war to be won. In time, V-Day should arrive. What then? Our final victory over our last remaining enemy would only signify the fact that there is still a more important struggle...the struggle to attain and secure a world of everlasting peace and security.

Dumbarton Oaks and San Francisco have brought the dreams of a firm international organization closer to reality. Our great leaders are depending on the youth of today to carry on! To our generation, they are leaving the task of finishing the job.

We...the Nisei, the Americans of Japanese ancestry, have even a greater problem than the average youth of America. We have enemies abroad and enemies within!! It is true that the majority of the people throughout the nation have been liberal and often, a little extra nice, to the Japanese-Americans. But...always...as in a cart of apples, a few bad ones may spoil the lot.

In the past years, we Americans of oriental features have been striving to achieve and share the level of our fellow Americans.

Since the outbreak of the present conflict, we have witnessed and experienced seemingly undemocratic practices. However, we must remember that America is not a complete democracy!! No nation on earth can claim to be a complete democracy! But---rather...America is continually striving towards that goal. Through the pages of history we learn

that America is progressing rapidly towards that golden achievement.

Sure!---We were sent to camps--We read the Hearst papers; We hear of certain anti-Jap groups! But, we know that they are the few bad apples!!

Just as a Nisei is fighting fascism--side by side--with his Caucasian comrades on the battlefields, we back home must work hand in hand with our Caucasian friends in the battle against fascism within our own midst.

America as a whole did not lose faith in us and we kept our faith and loyalty in her.

Many of our boys joined the ranks of our fighting men. In due time, G. I. Nisei became known as one of the fightingest men in the world. The outstanding record of the famous 100th. Battalion and the 442nd infantry gave the nation little doubt as to the true loyalty of the Japanese-Americans and their love for this land.

The blood--tears---and sweat that our courageous boys have shed will not have been in vain. We who remain--ye---we the youth must see to that!!

We, the Nisei---as the youth of America---have a challenge. We must complete the foundation for a new and firmer America and a solid and secure world.

The right and duty to struggle for a democratic world does not belong to one race. It belongs to all people in America and a solid and secure world.

In a recent letter from Dr. Miles E. Cary, former Director of Education here in Poston, he wrote-----

".....I wish you success and happiness in your new life. Don't give up faith in the democratic ideal. It is the only social idea and way of life that offers the common men everywhere a chance to enjoy a full sense of dignity and personal worth. But this movement will not go forward automatically. We common people must work for this larger life and opportunity and, on occasion, fight our enemies if we are to make progress in this direction.

"You young people of Poston, and the other centers, know what democracy is...and what isn't...through personal experience. I expect you to make a real contribution toward improving our America and.....perhaps.....the world in the years to come....."

We.....The youth of America will meet that challenge!!

--Pete K. Hironaka, Valedictorian
Miles E. Cary Hi
Poston 11
(Originally from Salinas Hi (1 yr.)

COPY FROM: PRESS BULLETIN (Poston, Arizona)
DATE: September 12, 1942

OVER FOUR-FIFTH OF POSTON III
VOTERS TURN OUT AT POLLS

The high average of an 83 per cent participation of all eligible voters of Poston III was recorded at Poston III was recorded at Thursday's election for temporary City Councilmen, official figures showed.

Block 306 turned in the highest percentage with 98 per cent of its eligible voters, 226 out of 231, casting ballots. Another exceptionally large percentage of voters participating was observed at Block 317 where 94 per cent of the voters turned out at the polls. The least amount of interest was shown at Block 316 where 66 per cent voted.

The total number of ballots cast in all of Poston III was 1,799 out of 2,171 eligible voters.

SUGIYAMA TAKES OATH AS
CLERK OF COURT AT MEET

Franklyn S. Sugiyama of Blk. 22 was sworn in by Dr. Ishimaru, chrmn of the Law and Order Committee, as Clerk of the Court, 11 a.m. Sept. 9, at the Ad annex.

The Council also granted the Issei Advisory Board to be present at all Council meetings in the future, to help "smooth out" many problem which may arise in this Center.

It was decided that one Issei representative, and an alternate be selected from each quad compose the Board, which will be voted by that quad residents. There are nine quads now, namely 2-15-16-19; 3-4-13-14; 5-6-11-12; 17-18-31-32; 21-22-27-28; 35-36-45-46-30; 37-38-43-44; 26-39-42; and 53-54-59-60.

COPY FROM: PRESS BULLETIN (Poston, Arizona)
DATE: September 11, 1942

COUNCILMAN VOTED FOR POSTON III

Poston III selected ten City Councilmen at its first election Thursday when surprisingly intense interest was manifested at the polls in every one of the ten blocks represented. Block 308 registered the largest number of voters as 203 men and women over the age of 16 turned in their ballots during the election hours of 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In blocks where competition was especially keen, voters were reported to have turned out as soon as the booths were opened early in the morning.

461 STUDENTS ENROLL FOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSES AT POSTON III

A total enrollment of 461 students was recorded by Wednesday night after the conclusion of three days of registration under Mr. Chester A. Potts, new school principal.

Each class had over 100 students enlisting, with the Seniors leading. The number per class, according to figures compiled Thursday, follows:

Freshmen, 105; Sophomores, 113; Juniors, 119; and Seniors, 124.

The course on general homemaking led in the number of students enrolled with 88. 86 signed up for arts and craft.