

J 12.00

67/14
C

Aug 29, 1942

399 - 8 - A

C.Y. is a young man in his early thirties and one of the younger of the five brothers. Born in the United States and at the age of 5, went to Japan with his parents and brothers. He is classed as the so called Kibei group, in other words, he is a citizen of United States but educated in Japan. His father is a retired Carpenter and is now living in Japan with his oldest son who is also a Carpenter and a successor to his father. C.Y. has very little English education, however, he is able to understand and speak enough to run a business.

C.Y. came back to this Country about 10 years ago with his three other brothers, and started working independently as day laborer. Few months later the four brothers got together and purchased a 10 acre land near Gardena California. The little ranch was located near Redondo Riverside and Avalon Avenue, a road that leads to various Beaches and small town from Los Angeles. Naturally, there would be heavy traffic through this driveway. The chief purpose of this ranch is to raise their own vegetables and retail their produce at their little roadside fruit stand. By so doing, they can eliminate

the trouble of trucking them to the wholesale houses and naturally would save on commission that they would charge. They raised most all the truck gardening produce that could be grown in that vicinity. It so happens that, that this particular district is very seldom hit by frost nor extreme heat, therefore, their vegetable supply for their fruit stand is continuous year around, all their vegetables, such as Beet, carrots, radish, turnip, cauliflowers, spinach etc, are planted in small lots, possibly about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre of each, and each vegetable is planted about two or three weeks apart so that they may have a continuous supply throughout the year. of course there are certain items that they do not raise there at that farm for their fruitstand and in that case one of the boys goes to the wholesale market and purchase whatever fruit or vegetable necessary.

All the brothers and their families in one big house with a separate room for each family, however, they all dine at one large table. The farm and the business belongs to all the brothers. They do not keep track of what each one spends for their personal use, in other words, for instance, if one would have only \$5 and the other would happen to have \$20 in his pocket then he would borrow from the latter and this continues back

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and forth without any difficulties, however, their
wives are given equal weekly allowance for spending
money such as candies for the children and simple luxuries
for themselves. He stated that this system of living is very
rarely practiced among other Japanese families and is almost
impossible between non relative families.

The profit of this particular C.Y. business is not
divided among brothers but invested for business
expansion or anything that they decided upon which would
be a profitable investment. All the important matters
are decided upon the approval of all brothers concerned.

C.Y. feels that if all the people here in Boston would
cooperate like C.Y. brothers, the farm project would be very
interesting and enjoyable. He feels that if the farmers
of each block would cooperate as one big family
and be given a certain acreage of land to farm for
each block, the project would be a successful.

Aug 29, 1942

S.K.N. is a middle aged man, a non citizen Japanese who lives with aged father near the foothill of Seattle, California. This town is located about 15 miles northeast of Visalia, in Tulare county.

He has a family and 5 children all under the age 10. As a Issei he would be classed as average and could speak and understand English.

His father purchased this particular ranch in 1911 and about 10 years ago S.K.N. became the successor to him. His father originally planted orange trees and grapes. Unfortunately, the grapes vines died out with certain type root disease and were all pulled out. Ever since then, they have started truck gardening such as peas, tomatoes, cucumbers and squash. S.K.N. owns and operates the ranch and attend to all the business matters with his father acting as adviser to him. His father who is almost 70 years of age, helps S.K.N. out in the ranch wherever he is physically able. They operate a small farm about 20 acres and $\frac{1}{2}$ of it is in Orange grove and the profit whenever there are any, would be used for ranch improvement and home furnishings. Sometimes, they would lease the neighbor's ranch for their vegetables.

All business is under the management of S.K.N.

account and the Income and expense is operated through this account. None of the family draw any definite amount of wages, but whenever anyone need money to buy something for their personal use, S.K.H. would give he or she the necessary amount.

He suggested that every block should plant as so called Victory Gardens between the barracks. He claim there is sufficient ground for bunch vegetable to supply the respective kitchen. Bunch vegetable such as carrots, Beets, Turnip, spinach, radish and nappas, he believes, would not take too big of an acreage. However, such vegetable as lettuce, celery and different varieties of melon would consider larger acreage and therefore should be grown elsewhere on a larger scale.

Dr. Spier
arrange for me
here a
in the
add more
time ~~needed~~ ~~needed~~

I

309-6-a

aug 28, 1942

K.S. is a Issei farmer of about 55 years old and has been engaged in farming ever since he came to this country. A family of 2 boys and 4 daughters. Settled in the vicinity of Cutler California for the past 35 years. He owns approximately 120 acres of land of which 40 acres is in grape vineyard, and the remaining 80 acres in open land of which ^{different varieties of} vegetables is grown in rotation, such as Tomatoes, peas, beans, cucumbers, squash, melons, and celery. His two sons work with K.S. and also have operated a trucking business as a sideline. According to K.S., the main idea of the trucking business is to take advantage of the freight charges for their own produce that are hauled in Los Angeles or San Francisco market plus a business education for their two sons in the business world.

Mr K.S. is a very energetic, hard working man and operates the farm under his own management, except the bookkeeping and the responsibility the bank account, and other simple business matters. In other words he is concentrating mainly on growing first class product, and K.S. also has the full supervision of sales of the merchandise. He stated that producing fancy produce and clever salesmanship of merchandise is most important toward successful farming.

Sept 10, 1942

K. a successful Issei Grower and shipper of San Diego California. He is about 45 years old and his education is considered better than the average Isseis, both Japanese and English. Mr K, has characteristic of benign gentleman.

K. has been farming in the San Diego vicinity for the past 25 years and specialized mainly in celery growing. In the last 15 years there has been approximately 120 celery growers in this district and Mr. K. was one of the original organizers of the San Diego Farmers Cooperative Marketing. Being a good sized Celery grower himself, he organized the Co-operatives not only for his own advantage but for the neighborhood farmers so that they can get the best possible returns for their product.

Out of the 120 celery growers of that district there were only 4 independent growers which I feel, is very good percentage of membership. With this percentage of membership they can easily monopolize the San Diego Celery Market. The organization was divided up into several units with one main office and packing shed where the marketing of the merchandise takes place. The units cooperates and is always in

His properties are legally owned by his eldest son because of the alien land law in California, which prohibit any non citizen Japanese from purchasing land. Apparently Mr. K. S. is working under his son, legally speaking. This one of chief reasons that their sons are working together with his father instead of going elsewhere and work independently.

Mr K. S.'s ideas of farming here at the present is to call a meeting of Issai and Yisei at each block and organize a club and select a committee of about 5 or 10 well experienced farmers to act as a leaders of the project. Then hold a mass meeting for this whole camp in which each block sends their representatives of their respective block. Then whatever conclusion they arrive to, present it to the administration. By so doing, the project would advance more rapidly.

As to Mr K. S.'s ideas of growing vegetable, is to ask the administration to divide up the land into few acres to each respective block, and plant the necessary vegetable for their own block use. This is to be managed on a competitive basis in order to maintain the full interest of the growers.

Sept 11, 1942

The soil analysis division has been organized a few weeks ago with Mr. George Kitahara as chairman of this group. At the present there approximately 11 members of in this soil division of the Agricultural department. The members composed of 4 University of California Agricultural College at Davis and several well know growers of Central California.

The activities inasmuch as this department is concerned is limited due to the shortage of equipment at the present. However, they have borrowed a transit and few other minor equipments necessary for soil study from the Agricultural Department at Camp #1.

So far they have dug several holes for soil analysis in an open ground south of the Fire Department. but, otherwise they are anxiously waiting for additional equipments to continue on their plans.

J.F. reports that this group consist of energetic members and is confident that the Agricultural Department of Camps ^{III} will operate successfully if and when the proper equipment is furnished.

Sept 19, 1942

I. T., a retired farmer of San Diego California, has been in United States for the past 40 years. He has a family of 3 daughters and 1 son. His ^{25 years old} son is not the oldest children of the family, but in the last few years has taken over the supervision of the farms and management of the business. His confidence in the young boy has allowed him to ^{take} this responsibility because he has worked very hard to help his father with the farms.

I. T. first arrived in Salinas some 40 years ago as a laborer in a large camp in that vicinity. He came to this country with the idea of making extra money, like many other issei in those days, and return to Japan after few years earnings. However, the outcome of the plans did not turn out satisfactory as predicted and apparently his savings were not sufficient enough to be considered a successful man in Japan.

He worked in Salinas for a few years then the family migrated to Southern California in the Redland district with the other migratory laborers to pick oranges there. Due to the fact that he came from a farming family of Japan, he became interested in agriculture and so

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He made his first attempt in farming as a potato grower. He has been farming in the Redland vicinity for about 20 years or so. His system of leasing the land is not more than two years because such crop as sweet potatoes would not produce successfully for more than two seasons on any one ranch.

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About 15 years ago J.T. became interested in truck gardening so he moved near the coast district about 10 miles north of San Diego, where the weather conditions is more favorable in raising vegetable the year round. There he specialized in Cauliflowers where he's planted as much as 30 to 40 acres a season. Other vegetables such as carrots, Beets, turnips, and several other bunch goods were planted in 3 to 10 acres lot. His harvest season is almost the year round with the exception of Cauliflowers where the harvest season is once a year. The cauliflowers were mostly sent to Los Angeles market or sold to ^{the} shippers but the bunch vegetables were trucked in the local market in San Diego.

Two years ago his son started a wholesale business

~~It~~
in conjunction to his farms whereas they would
eliminate the middleman's commission which amounts
to about 10% to 15%. At the beginning it ^{was} very hard
but business improved little by little as he learned the
trade.

I feel, states I.T., that large scale farming ~~under~~
under one supervision is the only way of farming here
in Boston. As to the individual or group farming where
the farms be divided into several small lots would be
almost impossible, because, the Japanese people as a
whole, especially issei, are independent and has a tendency
to become jealous of the others. In other words the
Japanese lack cooperation.

Sept 9, 1942

325-11-B

R.K. is a nissei gentleman about the age of 35 to 40 years ~~old~~. He is originally from Hilo Hawaii and came to the mainland about 15 or 20 years ago and ever since has been engaged in ~~farm~~ large scale farming and shipping business. He is a well educated bachelor, with very sharp mind and a good businessman, and speaks both English and Japanese very fluently.

after graduating High School in the Island he came to the mainland on his own initiative and expected to work his way through a higher education. He talked his way into a job at the Pismo Oceans Vegetable Exchange at Pismo California, and was promoted to a position as a Secretary of the Association. After learning a few tricks about the shipping business as a secretary of the Exchange, he went into business independently in the Santa Barbara and Oxnard District. There he leased land and farmed in large scale both in share basis and independently in conjunction to his shipping business. He has specialized in growing such vegetables as Peas, tomatoes, lettuce, and beans and at one

time had as much as 500 acres of peas alone in cultivation.

About 8 years ago he sent for his ^{two} brother who was still in Kila Hawaii, to work with him on ^{the} business deals he had here in Oxnard California.

I want say one thing, he states, that farming in this valley is going to be a failure for the 1st 2 or 3 years. There are many varieties of vegetables that will ~~not~~ grow favorably due to the climatic and soil condition of this valley; However, such vegetable as lettuce, melon and possibly alfalfa ~~may~~ ^{may} be grown here in Poston ^{successfully} because the condition is similar to that of Imperial Valley. Small scale farming in camps will be a success to a certain extent but will not become a profitable profit inasmuch as the administration is concerned because of lack of ambition and anxiety of the people of these camps.

Sept. 1, 1942

S.Y. is an issei farmer who came to United States some 35 years ago and worked as farm labor in different localities of Fresno County in Central California. He is a man in his early sixties and have 3 sons, whom are all young and able bodied men between the age of 22 to 27. The oldest son is married and has a family of 2 children. Mr. S.Y.'s wife passed away some 17 years ago and as a result all the boys were taken to Japan and had their schooling there. When they came back to this country they attended grade school to the extent that they were able to read and understand English.

Mr S.Y. made their first attempt in actual farming as a Pea grower in Delano, with his oldest son. They raised mostly fall peas there where the seeds are planted around middle of September and are harvested between 15th of November throughout December provide that there is no heavy frost. Two years later in 1932 they moved to the vicinity of Reedley and Dinuba and ever since has been engaged in farming Grapes, Peas and Tomatoes. They have been farming about 20 acres

of which about 10 acres in Peas and Pale Tomatoes.
all the three sons and the wife of the oldest son lives together
with S.Y. and operate the farm as ~~are~~ big family.
S.Y. manages the farm in general and the oldest son
looks after the legal matters. They draw no definite wages
and all the income from the farm is deposited in one
account. All expenses are paid from this account and
each one can draw whatever is necessary for personal
use through the approval of the oldest son.

S.Y. state that the most difficult problem of farming
here in Paston is, to what extent can the Issai and
Nissei cooperate? This has been a problem in any Japanese
community and will always be as long as there are Issai
living. Most of the Issai farmers have had from 20
to 35 years of actual experience, whereas the Nisseis
uses the scientific method and modern machineries. If and
when the cooperation of Nisseis and Issais is possible, there should
be about 100 acres of land divided to each group of prospective
farmers.

Sept 2, 1942

Mr Y.Y. an Isewi farmer of Reedley who was engaged in truck farming. He is in his early fifties now and have a large family of six children. The oldest son is about 20. As a young man, Y.Y. came to Idaho and worked for a large potato grower for about seven years. After seven years of potato work, the job got stale so he went to Northern part of Utah about 80 miles north of Salt Lake City. There he concentrated on farming for himself by leasing land and growing sugar beet. In Utah, the possible vegetable farming is only about six month out of year. During the slack winter months they raised poultry and had few cows and hogs to keep them busy. They had enough egg to exchange with groceries for their home use and milk was sold to one of the neighborhood Creamery. This was sufficient to make his living until the depression hit the sugar beet industry in about 1930. After continuous disappointment and discouragement for several years, he decided to come to California. He brought the whole family and purchased a 20 acres ranch in northeast Reedley. There he raised vegetables, specializing on Tomatoes, Cucumbers and Squash. He planted his

Crops in rotation on the 15 acres of open land. He also has about 5 acres of Emperor grapes.

He feels that Hog farming in Boston is very important and ways and means should be provided for, immediately, in order to facilitate this industry. The daily consumption of meat in our mess is great and therefore Hog raising is very important, in order to be able to supply our kitchen sufficiently with fresh meats. He stated to the fact that procedure of Hog raising is much more simple than other domesticated animals because the food is furnished from the garbage that is collected from the kitchens. This will eliminate the wastage of garbage and so ^{at} ^{some time} the garbage problem is solved.

317-7-a

Aug 31, 1942

G.T. is an Issei of average ability and education came to this country about 25 years ago, and worked as a coal miner in Utah. Has a family of 9 children and the oldest son is about 23 years old.

Since the coal mining situation became bad and naturally the jobs were getting less and less, he decided to go to Los Angeles. There he operated a barber shop and Turkish Bath business for 7 years. Then the family moved to El Monte California about 10 miles or so from the great metropolis. There he again started a barber shop for several years. As the children became older he decided to go out in the farms and raise truck gardening.

They raised mostly bunch vegetable such as ^{Green} Onions, Radish, Turnip, Romain and cabbage. G.T.'s purpose of getting away from city life is take advantage of the labor situation where their sons can help on the farm, whereas, by so doing, their profit will be greater. Each members of the family who is old enough to do any simple work, would be assigned to do their share and during summer vacation times the boys are able to put in full day's work. During vacation

¹⁰
time the whole family can do the work equivalent to 8 outside labor, which would be a great savings in labor for the G. T. family.

They were at one time operating as much as 60 acres of truck gardening but has decreased the acreage to about 25 acres due to labor difficulties. Mr. G. T. has the complete supervision of the farms, and Mrs. G. T. is in charge of business of the farms, that is the hiring of the labor, sales of the crop etc. Their oldest son drives their truck and hauls their produce to the local market every morn except Saturday. He also attends to legal matters of the farms.

Their farms as a whole is operated on a family affair basis and the profits, that is the certain percentages of it is deposited for savings and the remainder is invested in mechanical equipment. They prefer leasing all their land because every few years they can change to different ground where there's more fertile soil.

G. T. feels that when the land is subjugated, there is a prospect of growing Rice in Paston and possibly Potatoes where there is lighter soil. Of course as far as bunch vegetables is concerned, he suggested that

III.
any big family, who is interested in this so called "Victory
Garden," should be given about an acres of land and
manage it to please himself. This avoid conflict with
other people as to the management of the project.

Sept 4, 1942

328 - Kitchen fight

all the family of this particular block came from Santa Anita Assembly Center, voluntarily, due to relatives in Boston. In this block there are both the City and the country people from various locality.

Involved in this argument at 328 Kitchen, are J.F. who formerly was a mechanic in Glendale Calif., J.O. a Salesman in the Los Angeles City Wholesale produce market, and T.A.D. who is also an employee of some Produce Market.

It is in the opinion of the people of this particular block that J.F. was a self appointed dictator as a Chief Steward of that kitchen. ~~He~~ Being a Chief Steward, he took advantage of the Ice Box and was supplying his family with extra food. Since this has been quite noticeable J.O. and T.A.D. went to him to see J.F. about it. At this time J.F. accused J.O.'s father of opening the Ice Box whenever he pleases, however,

according to J.O. this is not so and at that time
J.A.D. cursed J.F. of being a liar. Immediately,
J.F. picked up a kitchen knife and started chasing
after them and unfortunately J.A.D. and J.O. were cut
up in the back. Everything happened so fast that
before the people of the block knew about it was
all over with. The police took them in and questioned
them at the office.

As to my opinion, the Santa Anita group does
not seem to side with either member of the fight,
due to the fact that they have only been here a
little over a week and are not very well acquainted
with each other.

These three parties of this case are missei.

Sept 4, 1942

T.Y. is an average Issei Gardener and California licenced Landscaper from Alameda California. As an Issei he has modern ideas, is a sportsman and very Americanized. Is a man of about 45 years of age, has a Nisei wife ^{and} 4 children.

at the age of 14 he came to America with his parents who settled in a big ranch in Northern California near Sacramento. He attended grade school to the extent that he is able to understand and speak the English language.

at the age of 25 he became independent from his father, went into partnership with his friend in subjugating a 200 acres Island on the Sacramento River. after subjugation was completed in 1919, T.Y. and his partner planted potatoes on this virgin soil. The result according to T.Y. was very satisfactory inasmuch as the crop is concerned, however, due to drop in market prices on potatoes after the World War I, he was forced to discontinue the farm because of financial difficulties. Since then he has been engaged in smaller scale farming in northern Sacramento district and raising such vegetables as Celery, asparagus

and onion.

In the last 10 years or so he has been a gardener and landscaper contractor in Alameda.

T.Y. is very much interested in experimenting with different varieties of flower seeds and the use of chemical fertilizer in order to obtain the best of results.

at the present he is interested in the soil study and has signed up to experiment with the Department of Agriculture on soil analysis in camp III.

as to farming in mass production in Paston is almost impossible if the farm is divided up in small groups. The best possibility of farming here is to have the whole farm under one supervision and through him the workers will be assigned to their respective jobs. This will avoid conflicts and arguments between different types or groups of people.

Sept 7, 1942

Rubbish Fire at Santa Anita Section.

A group of young ~~enthusiastic~~ baseball players got together and were cleaning out some rubbish for their future baseball diamond. After the rubbish were cleaned out from the field and gathered in one big pile, one of the boys lit a fire to it, and as a result caused quite an excitement in the camp due to its big bon fire like flame. According to the fire chief, this particular fire was purposely started by these young men around 7:30 P.M. to cause excitement. Some of the policemen were there at the early stage of the fire to extinguish it but the Santa Anita boys did not bother about assisting them. Meanwhile the firemen came along and extinguished it, but at this time through an argument, almost started a fight between the firemen and the Santa Anita boys. The fire chief of Camp II stated that there were ^{to be} no ~~for~~ rubbish fire in this camp by the order of director Mr. M. Bury, but the boys said there are signs here stating that burning of rubbish is allowed certain hours of the evening. According to the fire chief, there are no such signs posted by the fire

department.

The Santa Anita boys seems to be silent about the whole affair, but merely stated that it was a poor thing for the firemen to squirt water on us.

Sept 12, 1940

308-5-B

J.F. an issei farmer of Santa Barbara is 58 years of age and has 3 daughters and one boy in the family. Has an education of an average issei both English and Japanese. In the earlier days of his life he has been working as farm laborer in the coast areas as Lompoc and Guadalupe. In the last 25 years J.F. and the family has lived in the outskirts of Santa Barbara about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the city limits.

J.F. has been farming there as a truck gardener. Leased about 20 acres at a time and raised such vegetable as lettuce, peas, tomatoes, beets, carrot, turnip and spinach. His farming is more or less in small scale and the harvesting season is almost year round. The produce is delivered by him to various independent retail fruit and vegetable stands in Santa Barbara and whenever he has more than he can sell in the City, the surplus is sent to a commission merchant in the Los Angeles Wholesale market.

He has always made a fair living on his small farm but never was able to get financially ahead because two of his eldest children were girls, however, in the last few years, that is since his son graduated from school, his financial condition were improving due to his sons added help on the farm.

His idea on the situation here in Paston ~~mainly~~ as agriculture is concerned is will be a failure so far as large scale farming is concerned. But, I am willing to volunteer to raise sufficient vegetable for our kitchen and furthermore I do not expect any wages for my services, however if I am to work under the administration on a large farm, I personally refuse to work on such a ridiculous, low wage that the governments are paying. If in the case that I am compelled to work, I will frankly admit that I can never put my heart and soul in the work. I personally feel, he states, that this ^{is} the opinion

if the majority of the issei here in the camp, because, after all, we're ~~all~~ not here with the intention of working in the hot desert. There is not one of us ^{that} volunteered to come to this Relocation Centers but we are compelled to be concentrated here in the camp due to the war condition on the Pacific, and being an enemy aliens, we have obeyed the mass evacuation order from the government. Most of us have lived here in ^{the} United States for the past 30 or 40 years and today we are here to prove our loyalty to this country we have lived so long.

I would suggest that if the workers were paid the soldier's wages or even near their pay, this government will be financially ahead because of the moral support and result they will receive from the people, to this effect.

attempted suicide reported
by J.F.

308-5-13.

Sept. 12, 1942

B.F. has been a farmer of Pisano Oceano district near San Louis Obispo for several years. He was a very quiet and industrious ^{man} of about 45 years old, has 4 children and the eldest has graduated high school recently.

Mr. B.F. was working out in the field when suddenly 3 coarsion officials came up to him and asked him to come with them for a few minutes on a business matter. This happened in early part of January 1942 and since then he has never returned until the about the first of September. According to B.F. he was very roughly treated by these F.B.I. agent and was transferred from one jail to the other in spite of the fact that he was innocent inasmuch as the war situation is concerned. However, when he was sent to Bismack S. D. where he was interned, B.F. was very much satisfied over the treatment there and until his return to Pastor. According to the family, B.F.'s condition was as

normal as he ever was, and would tell about the various experiences at the camp in Bismark.

On Sept. 8th during noon hour while everybody were in the mess hall, he committed suicide with a razor blade. Fortunately, his cut was slight and his attempted suicide was a failure.

According to J.F., Mr B.F. has never at any time threatened to any of his family of his intention, however he has mention several times of the dissatisfis settlement of his farm assets by the Wartime Civilian Control Administration. The crop was considered to be sold at 500 dollars but he has not received a single cents for the crop, although it has been harvested long ago.

If there are any reasons at all for his attempt it would be on account of the above reasons for he was satisfied with the living he was making and own no personal debt.

Vegetable Gardening in Block 325-

There are approximately 3198 sq. ft of garden in this block.

Such Vegetables as Beans, Peas, Nappa, Daikon, Green Onion, Radish, Tomato, Cucumber, Cabbage, Corn

Girls' Club
Santa Anita.

Several days ago notice was served upon every block manager to send a representative to Block #30 manager's office where distribution of seeds to be planted within the resident block areas would take place. Representatives were asked to bring their own containers for the various seeds. Distribution hours were designated as between 1:00 P. M. and 5:00 P.M., but at 1 P.M. several men were already awaiting the distribution at the block office. Mr. Joe Yoshimura of the Agricultural Department was in charge of the distribution and was ably aided by three men. By 2:30 P. M., when I left, 22 blocks of the 36 in the city had already called for their share of seeds, which was equally divided and weighed by the Agricultural Department.

Enough seed was distributed for the planting of five acres of ground; however, the open spaces within the block grounds cover approximately only an acre. By a system of rotation, the seeds should last a year or five plantings.

Blocks filled solidly with urban people were well represented at this first one-and-half hour's time of rapid distribution. They however made the admission that they knew very little about planting, but were obtaining the seeds anyway. These urban blocks were reassured by the Agricultural Department that advice would be given them in the planting, but that they will have to provide the labor themselves. The city representatives seemed very perplexed and lost amongst the representatives of the rural blocks who seemed to recognize all the seeds by sight.

Nine varieties of vegetables were handed out in the following weights:--

1#	green summer <u>squash</u>
12#	prickly winter <u>spinach</u>
8#	Grimson Grant <u>radish</u>
1#	Chilhi (no head) <u>nappa</u>
1#	Purple white globe <u>turnip</u>
1#	Clark's special <u>cucumber</u>
1#	Southern Grant <u>mustard green</u>
1#	Paris <u>Romaine</u>
1#	Swiss <u>Chard</u>

Every representative with whom I had the opportunity to talk felt that there was a real need for a "Victory Gardne", especially the farmers who felt that there will positively be an acute vegetable shortage very soon, and that the only way to offset this shortage was by planting vegetables in one's own block and do it right now. It is the understanding on the part of the residents that the crops to be realized and harvested within the block area are to be used by members of the block in addition to the fresh vegetable rations allowed them from the warehouses.

A check-up at 5:30 P. M. disclosed that the last of the block representatives had called for his share of the seeds. (JNF)

via John D. Evans:

2 transfers arrived from Pomona Assembly Center. (AHL)

Visit with Sharpe, Nieschmid, Utz, Ward, and Shepard involving a tour of the agricultural projects under way.

Utz is a WRA director of Agriculture here on a tour. He has just come from Gila River and he is full of the other camps and told us a great deal about the features of topography, soil, irrigation systems and so on that they have. He was very little disposed to listen, however, and kept cutting Sharpe off whenever Sharpe tried to explain what is going on here.

Two things only need description from this trip:

1. Utz, on questioning, said that the plans for agriculture shaping up on the WRA program are to work the projects as big farms under direct management using the Japanese as foremen and sub-managers where possible and as labor here. Nieschmid and Shepard had some plans for various kinds of settlement and for moving the people out into the land in adobe houses on their farms and so on, but Utz frowned on this and said he didn't think that would be the policy of the WRA elsewhere and even here, because as they have been discussing the policy, they are very much aware and in sympathy with the strong political pressures against giving these people any kind of right or ownership or equity in the land and of the obligation for the WRA to turn over improvements and government land to the public after the war. They are even opposed to individual or

family allotment of holdings in working the land because of the equity in the land such a practice might develop. He seemed to feel that these political pressures were the most important consideration and to sympathize with them.

(Later - Mr. Head: This pussyfooting foolishness shows they know nothing of either Japanese or farming. Mr. Evans and Mr. Burge: "typical agriculture man's point of view". The real reason is that it makes less headaches for them as farm managers and they like to think of themselves smooth running huge commercial firms.)

(Later - Dr. Leighton from Provinse: This is not the policy by any means.)

(Later - Mr. Head: What is to be decided here is up to the Secretary of the Interior anyway, not the WRA: if he wants to he can announce today they are going to stay here permanently and have the land. Anyway it will be fourteen years or so before the Japanese all clear out of here after the war, not the fourteen days set down in the WRA memorandum giving grant of power.

(CA)

Saw these projects shaping up and being cleared and subjugated:

1. Northeast, a large field where a high school is going up, some may be saved for farming.
2. A large chicken ranch round an arroyo where the mesquite is left, underbush cut, and where there is to be planted and scattered a few grains for their scratching.

3. A huge field, about a section in size, where they are going to plant this fall, toward the river.

(CA)

Via John G. Evans:

- 1 parolee from Sharp Park Detention Station.

(AHL)

VISIT TO AGRICULTURE PROJECTS.

The question here was of windbreaks how wide apart and what should be left. Nieschmid wanted corner plots leaving ten acres as a woodlot in every center point of a quartered section and strips at the southwest edge. Utz wanted only a great row strip over the whole area.

Another site shown: the pig farm between two and one, this is going to be run with some representation from the other camps--how, is not worked out.

NOTABENE:

This is one of the most important programs from the research point of view and needs far more attention than associations or churches or even the council. I strongly advise at least two research workers be set to follow this through from the first. Because in it all departments of the administration are going to run head on into the habits, the organization sentiments and technology of the Japanese American community.

This program is the focal point of this entire project. A community without an economic and technological organization is a mere bedroom suburb or a place of detention, furthermore if an effort is made to turn the best most highly organized and most efficient family farmers in

the world into American style industrially managed factory, the field farm workers you are going to have an eventual explosion. But, caution: Don't get townsfolk research people to do this job; they are emotionally unsuited for it by reason of the strong drive in them to rise into the professions and other urban walks of life and its influence on their attitudes toward farmers; attitudes of disdain and class-superiority. Make sure the men who do this job know something about the farmer's way of life.

(CA)

8-28-42

177
B
8
AGRICULTURE

52
SOIL TESTS

PRIVATE OFFICE OF
MR. FURUTA, EMPLOY*
MENT OFFICE.

MR. NIESCHMID, MR. ZUROSKE, MR. GERALD WUMINO, MR. FURUTA

A considerable group of young men, mostly farmers but one with chemical training and one a San Francisco boy who spoke quite often in the meeting and was eventually prominent in the organization. There were three or four only of the older men and some of these were adult education people ready to translate. Yet this is the greatest interest shown yet and rather overwhelmed Nieschmid with its magnitude and with the readiness of the boys to start.

Nieschmid explained his program: to pick people and train them in making soil tests, trenches, maps and profiles for all the area here that may be farmed. They are to proceed systematically and they will learn as much as is necessary to know here from texts and pamphlets he will supply. They will thus both do and learn, then he intends to alternate them at jobs so that they will be learning all the time and so that no one will have any trouble with being merely stuck at digging holes. He can use anyone with either some school or college chemistry or anyone with practical farming experience.

There was some speculation as to whether this wasn't thought of primarily as a first agricultural meeting. Mr. Furuta thought that was why so many turned out. He kept telling me to get Nieschmid to start something immediately and not even to let them adjourn for lunch or most of the crowd would evaporate on him. They were eager to go but Furuta said they wouldn't stand much wait-

ing and inaction before drifting off into something else.

Gerald Wumino says that Moris Burge is not so happy about this meeting because he fears it an opening wedge of the agricultural department. Moris Burge is holding back on that till he gets his experimental plot started from the artesian well and till he gets a large crew of up even to five hundred starting on that and on clearing out the green belt which he has now cleared with Head and with Rupke. He has tried hard to be pleasant and nice to the agriculture people but he doesn't want them down till they have a chance to present them with some plans. He doesn't want them just moving and setting up a department. (CA)

181
✓K
Sept. 30, 1942 S

Three boys from block five left for Colorado to participate in the harvest movements which was needed very badly. I extended my best wishes and headed for the Employment Service, Block 27, Recreation Hall. I saw many other friends that were leaving on this trip. There were approximately 500 people around the corner of Block 27 and 28. Friends, parents, and wives were waiting for the trucks that would take their beloved ^{ones} many miles away. In one instance I knew a mother who stayed behind the crowd but never dropped a glimpse of her son that was leaving, temporarily. Her son may return when the contract expires and he may not. Just before the boys were leaving toward the truck, the mother ran to her son's side, eyes filled with tears said, "Take care of yourself son, and do hurry home". Are all the mothers that have their sons leaving facing the same situation? Evidently this mother was not very happy, but the boy was nonchalant, and shook his mother's hand. Another case, a boy told his dad, "Okay, Pop, I'm going". The father just nodded and shook his hands. In this particular case, the father was more interested in going out than his son.

Most of the mothers and wives don't want to see their beloved ones to leave, but this may be the opportunity to ~~grab~~ ~~the chance~~ you have been waiting, to get outside for more freedom. Are you going to have more freedom outside? This may be a chance to settle down and make preparation for the post-war conditions.

The boys that were leaving and the friends that were remaining filled the time ~~for~~ ^{for} departure with the common words, "Good-bye, I'll write and don't forget to answer." There were

many groups of 5 or 6 talking continuously until some other party would break it up. This continued until about 9:00 p:m. I had to attend a Sunday School Teacher's meeting; so I bade my friends good-bye, and headed for the Temple.

The meeting was already started and the Chairman, Mr. Art Takemoto, was discussing the "Four Noble Truth and the Eight Fold Path" from the Buddhist Bible. There were 28 teachers present. Reverend Nagafuji and Sogabe were represented from the Advisory staff. The main topic for discussion was what type of material shall we, as teachers, present to our Sunday School classes. A definite training was scheduled for the Teachers. The chairman requested more male teachers, and additional female teachers.

The banner for the attendances was left up to Miss Mitsuko Sugita, head of the Sewing Department in Poston. The names for classes were presented by Reverend Sogabe and Nagafuji. Names of flowers were suggested e.g. roses, lily, lotus, and plum. Other suggestions were pine, bamboo, plum, and lotus. The following names were decided: Senior, Junior, Intermediate, and Primary. The Name of the school was left up to the respective superintendant. The meeting came to a close with "Gassho".

george yamaguchi

CONVERSATIONS AT THE AGRICULTURAL DEPT.

At 4:30, on my way home from the canteen, I dropped in at the Agricultural Department and found Frank Mizusawa, head of the Agricultural Department, with his wife. They were getting ready to close up the shop but upon seeing me they came out and chattered for a few minutes. Mrs. Mizusawa said, "That's the only thing that grows around here," pointing to the camouflage factory. Then Mr. Mizusawa said, "We have made considerable progress in our first half year in spite of the terrific summer heat." I counted back the months and sure enough it had been six month since we had come here to camp. However, in spite of the improvements shown in the land, there has been very little improvement as far as our barracks are concerned. We still don't have the wall boards promised us nor have we the free use of electrical appliances that was also promised us at the time of our intake. "Yes, we were promised many things, but now, I don't think we should have too much of a let down if we didn't get those things," said Mrs. Mizusawa. "If they would let us use the ironing room for our little heaters then we could warm some tea for ourselves in the cold nights and that would help out a great deal."

"Another thing that gets me down is this new inspection of packages before being brought to the owners, although I don't think anyone is having real contraband sent in. I do know that liquer has been sent in but why should they deprive us from a little pleasure that is not harmful to anyone," said Mr. Mizusawa.

(T. S.)

172. Agriculture
Interview with Lily Nishimoto & Mr. Okuma. TS
Agriculture personnel.
cr. Relocation

5-12-43

5

In front of Miss Nishimoto's apartment I talked to her for about an hour on various problems of the department, and relocation.

What is happening at the Ag Department?

L.N. Well, Tom, we are running short of men at the office with everyone leaving. Frank is going to leave as soon as he finds a good job. Henry Sakemi of the production department is going to leave Saturday. Why don't you join up, you can have your choice of jobs. You don't have to have any experience, and I think you can handle it. Charlie Kikuchi is leaving soon, Harvey Suzuki, and Hatsu Morita. Dr. Takahashi is leaving soon too. I've been wondering why he can't get a job. He has good training, but doesn't seem to locate anything. I've writ ten bout 40 letters for him.

The isseis are gradually being broken in for the office jobs, but I think they will have a pretty difficult time because so much of Frank's (misuzawa) job is to contact the caucasians. Another thing too, is that they don't like to put things down on paper.

TS What do the members of the department think of Frank? (Misuzawa)

LN Frank has the best background for his job of any man in camp. He works hard, and whenever someone doesn't do his job, he does it for them. He has all of the respect from the members of the office staff, but I don't know about the field crew. Frank likes to put things down on Black and White. He likes organization, and he runs the department that way.

TS What part does Dr. Takahashi play?

LN He is on the technical staff, and is the chairman of the Executive Committee. He has a lot to do with the policies, and influences the issei members quite a bit. He spends a couple of hours every morning with the other members of the committee to listen to the gripes, and to try to iron them out. He works hard, but is discouraged because the administration personnel doesn't do anything about the requests that they make.

At this time Mr. Okuma walks over from the Ball game.

LN Mr. Okuma, where are you working now?

Mr. O. I'm taking a vacation. But I am still working in the Agriculture department.

I have been told that the administration of the War Relocation Authority is not doing a very good job of handling the situation.

MR. OKUMA: IS

INTERVIEW WITH LILY NISHIMOTO

115. VALIQUOLES

5-13-43

Interview with Lily Nishimoto &
Mr. Okama. TS.

By the 53 Ball park in front of Miss Nishimoto's apartment,
I interviewed Lily on the situation at the Agriculture department.
About a half an hour later,

TS What are they going to do with the plowed up ground on the other side of the ditch. (field between 53 and Warehouse)?

Mr. O. I don't know yet. We haven't decided what we ~~are~~ going to plant. But pretty soon.

TS What is wrong with the department?

Mr. O. Well, Mr. Sharpe never comes around. When we want something, we have to go all over camp for him. He never does anything. Camp I doesn't have anything to do with him, and he doesn't like Camp I. He likes Camp II. When Camp I isn't sure of something, they turn it down; but camp II, they take anything, and if they can't do it, they let it go. They are supposed to take care of the Hogs now, but now, they don't have the men. We don't like that. If we aren't sure, we don't take it.

LN. They have little pigs at the farm now. I guess there was one boar in the midst of all of the sows.

Rinso (messenger boy for the Dept.) Sakemi: Yeh, they have the little ones, looks just like puppies.

Mr. O. The papa sneak in some way.

Mr. O. left at this time. He was a foreman for one of the American Fruit ranches in the valley growing melons.

LN. I am thinking of leaving soon too. I have job offers from Columbus Ohio, and Chicago, but I don't know which one to take.

172. Agriculture.
Interview with Mr. Mathieson. TS
Agriculture Reports. Personnel.

I dropped in to see Mr. Mathieson to ask for the Divisional Reports of the Agriculture Department. He was very pleasant, and said that he saw no reason for looking at them.

H.M. The first months, the reports were coming in regularly, but for the past three or four months, they haven't been too regular about it. I know that Frank (Misuzawa) is busy, and the rest of the staff are too. He is working up a thesis for a doctors degree, and I don't know whether he is having the girls working on that or not. It is all right and I have nothing against that, but for the past several months, I haven't seen any of the reports.

Q. Could it have been that the college trained men left camp and no-one was able to write them?

HM. Yes, that could be true. What we want to get away from now is the office work as much as we can. We want practical farmers to run the show. Frank is an Agriculture Economist, and measures everything in terms of pounds per dollar distribution. That is fine, but we have to get in more dirt farmers. That is why I don't care whether they have handed in the reports or not. Just a minute, I'll call up Mrs. Hamada at Mr. Sharpe's office.

At this time Mr. Mathieson calls up Mrs. Hamada, to ask if the reports are up to date. She said that they were, and Mr. Mathieson told me to make all of the arrangements with her. The folders for Camp II, and III are also available.

Whether Mr. Mathieson's intention was to make me feel that he reads the reports or not, I don't know, but it seems that he hadn't read any of the reports for the past three or four months. This is implied when he called up Mrs. Hamada to check on what reports were in.

SJ

6/10/43

Conversation with Rev. Morikawa by A HL
Camp goings

CR Agriculture

Rev. Morikawa came to my office today and asked if I would write a letter of recommendation for him. It seemed he wanted it in case he was stopped and questioned by anybody in the course of his next three months of going about the country lecturing to different groups. I said one from Mr. Head would be much more to the point. Not being a member of the administrative staff here, I wasn't in a position to write letters that would have any value.

I asked him how things were in the community. He said everybody was on edge expecting something or some big change or announcement in July. They didn't know what it would be, but were expecting something. Even so, however, community was relatively calm, nothing like it was last November and October.

He thinks only incentive that will get people to really work in agriculture is a good wage. Money has been the goal of the Japanese farmers all their life and they aren't going to change now. Most of them came here expecting to make a fortune and return. They didn't make the fortune, but all their lives they have been working and working very hard with that goal in view. Another thing they need is security. If the government could just guarantee that they could have some land and be allowed to stay on it after the way.

He thinks there should be some town meetings about once a month at block 4 stage with entertainment, speeches by the administration and other lectures on the happenings of the month. He thinks doing this at a block level would take so long, and would be impossible, but also that it would be bad for the community. There is too much block consciousness as it is and the move should be to break down the block isolation.

Getting information over the Issei and keeping them adequately informed so their opinions will be realistic is a very difficult problem. He is very skeptical of the success of Issei leadership in the community. Most of them feel they are too old to be active and just want to stay here, and be protected and don't want to run the community. He said agriculture should be on a "piece work" basis.

172. Agriculture.
Interview with S. Hara. TS
✓ Agriculture possibilities in Poston.

I had an interview with Mr. Hara, block manager of 53, who had been farming on a small scale in the Imperial Valley.

Q. Now that Poston is going to have to raise much of the foodstuffs, Do you think the farmers will respond to the call from the Agriculture department?

SH. If the people have to go out to work, they will. But the people all got the necessary block jobs first like the kitchen, block manager job and the gardeners job.

Q. Could it have been that the issei farmers were against the agriculture department?

SH. No, I don't think the people thought of it in that way. They don't seem to have any feelings against the department. But the people are discouraged last summer because the land is not very good. It has too much alkali, and when they leveled it, the top soil was moved off. In a couple of years it might be all right, but right now, they can't grow much, and even when the crop comes up, it still is bad. They can't harvest much.

Q. The best land is located outside of camp. And the possibilities are much better out there. But I understand the irrigation ditch is not ready yet.

SH. If the people have to go out to work, they will go out. As far as growing stuff for the camp is concerned, I don't see why not, but during the next couple of months, it will be too hot to grow anything.

K ✓ 172. Agriculture.
Interview with HS., TS.
Ag. Department Personnel.

6-24-43

HS. is a lady from 53, who formerly resided in Brawley.
She is a christian, and has known Mr. T. Sonoda for a long time.

Q. Do you know how the people feel about Mr. Sonoda?

HS. I don't know for sure; but when his daughter came back from Japan, she gave lectures to different women's clubs in the Valley, about the true situation in Japan, such things as the ersatz clothing, the unhusked rice, etc. The people in the valley did not think quite well of that, and it reflected itself on Mr. Sonoda. But what the people think of him, they don't say to me because he is a christian, and a member of good standing in the El Centro Church.

Q. Do people consider him a good farmer?

HS. He made a lot of money at one time, and everyone knew who Tom Sonoda was. He had a lot of contacts with the "Hakujins" and they all thought he was pretty good. He did everything on a big scale, and that is probably one reason why he finally went broke. He is a Kogoshimaken, and they all like to do things in a big way. Mr. Sakamoto, Mr. Uchizono were also from Kagoshima, and they always did things in a pretty big way. When they made money, they made a lot of money, and when they failed, they lost a good deal.

Interview with Ben Sakamoto. TS

Attitudes toward's Poston's Agriculture Project.

Ben Sakamoto is about 23 years old, lives presently in Block 53, and is working in the Warehouse as a clerk. He has been farming in the Coachella Valley since his graduation from high school about 4 years ago.

Q. How do you think the people would respond to working in the agriculture Department, now that we are only going to get .31 a day? Why don't you think the farmers hesitated in joining the department when they first came?

BS. There is no percentage in working there. Back home they people made money, but here, there is no future. I had my own farm, and I expect to go back to it after the war. A Mexican is running it, and using the equipment, we pay them a wage to take care of things. All we want is for them to break even. But right now, I want to do something different.

Q. Why don't you join up?

BS. It's too much work, and besides, I'm thinking of going out pretty soon.

Q. Do you think the people will work in the agriculture department if they knew about the .31¢ a day for subsistence.

BS. Sure. When they know that they will have to grow their own food, they'll come out. It is just like the painting of the hospital; the people will come out when they know the facts. That's the funny thing about the people in camp.

Q. What do you think is the cause of the slowness in the development of the project?

BS. I don't know too much about it, but I remember they didn't have any water for a long time; when we came in last summer, the weather was too hot, and the people didn't want to work that hard. Then when they got the seeds in, they only had about 10 pounds of different kinds of seeds for the whole camp. You had to get the land subjugated first, and the people didn't want to work that hard.

172
✓
Agriculture.
Interview with George Nakamoto; TS
Subjects: Agriculture Dept. Personnel.

5
6-16-43

The interview was informal, taking place at the Agriculture Department about 3:00 PM. Frank Misuzawa was going in and out of the office, and was Mrs. Misuzawa the secretary.

George Nakamoto is now in charge of the Harvesting crew, having assumed the position about two weeks ago. He is a large scale farmer from the Imperial Valley, having grown lettuce, cantaloupes, and carrots.

G.M. You know, there is no cooperation between the people within the same department. The other day, we harvested 500 baskets of turnips, and we were not thru. But the truck driver said that he did not want to haul anymore to the reefer. We have to have baskets too, but we can't get enough; Jimmy Ito sits in the office a couple of hours a day, and then goes home. He doesn't arrange these things for us. It gets me disgusted. Today, we took some cucumbers to the reefers, but they told us not to bring anymore in because there was no more room. I told them to get rid of the Nappa that we cleaned up to Camp II and III, but they are still keeping them in.

Q. What else are you harvesting?

GN. We are harvesting onions, carrots, and cucumbers. We also have been taking in beans. The people are surprised about the cucumbers. The state of Arizona, and the Appointed personnel members told us that they wouldn't grow in Poston, but Mr. Morita said that it would grow, and we planted it. We got 190 baskets the first picking; the people are surprised.

Q. What does Mr. Morita do? Does he go in the field to do the work?

GN. He's an advisor. He tells them what to do and the workers do it.

Q. All of these farmers who used to own their own farm; now don't they want advisor jobs? Don't they like to be the boss instead of doing the labor?

GN. Funny thing, they don't like to advise anything because if they make a mistake, the whole camp people will know about it. Before, they were the boss of their own farm, and no-body could say anything. Nobody likes to give advice.

Agriculture

6-16-43

Q. How did you happen to go into the harvesting department?

GN. Until November, there was nothing to do, but now we are busy every day, harvesting. I had nothing to do. Just before evacuation, I had my appendix taken out, so I just rested until that time.

At this time, George left for the reefers to weigh some baskets of beans. He felt that they were being short-weighted

Mr. Kondo, an issei had been waiting around for two hours waiting to hear about whether he was going to get a job on the pig farm or not. The manpower commission set a quota, and that had been fulfilled. The employment department would not take him and give him a work card. Frank called up the Commission, the Labor Relations Board, and Mr. Shapps office to clarify the matter.

Mrs. Hamada called up to ask what the yield would be from the cucumber field. She wanted an estimate so that she could tell Mr. Snelson, who was about to order some. Frank did not want to make any estimate, and be blamed for it if they estimated too high. Mrs. Misuzawa stated that Mrs. Hamada was going to break down soon if she did not let up. She said that she worked the people until 10 and 11 at nite. Mr. Sharp maintains that Mrs. Hamada is the boss of the office, and leaves him nothing to do. The 37 people are beginning to wonder whether she is on the AP side, or the evacuee's side.

Frank, Mrs. Misuzawa, and H. Ogawa are all planning to resign at the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Sharpe thinks it a joke, and does not take it seriously. Both Frank and Mrs. Misuzawa have been working every nite until 10 and 11, and feel that they will not be able to keep it up. The two members of the Executive Board also resigned, but come around occasionally. Mr. Mathieson wants to streamline the department, and has started by saying that the Executive Board is non-essential....When he returns, he is going to give an answer as to whether they will be kept on or not. Frank and Mrs. Misuzawa feel that this board relieves Frank of the work so that he can attend to other things. He feels that the department is necessary, and that the other members will also resign if they are officially ousted.

With the present stir in the Agriculture Department and the problem faced by the residents of Poston the Agriculture Department met at Unit one to solve the on coming problem of supplying the shortage in the subsistence department. This meeting aroused much interest among the residents, especially, the Isseis who are not so contented with the present Agricultural staff in Unit one. The following is an opinion of farmer who has had previous experience in this type of country, the Imperial Valley. Mr. X has been farming in the Imperial Valley since 1910.

The interview was conducted around 10:30 a:m in the home of the interviewee. The room was neatly arranged and to my opinion there weren't very many in the family and that the Mrs. always had her room neat and comfortable under the circumstances. The Mrs. served some cantaloupes, and she arranged the table so that the fan would be directed toward the interviewee and me. We sat in line with the door so the breeze would keep us cool.

Q: What was your first job in the center?

X: I volunteered my service as a dust control man of our block and the first thing we did to control the dust was to plant some bermuda grass that the department dug out from Parker valley. Before the planting of the bermuda grass I planted some vegetables such as daikon, napa, cucumbers, cantaloupe, casaba, and squash between the barracks. It was hot during the day so I couldn't during the mid day, but I got up around 5:00 a:m and sprinkled water on the grounds to control the dust. I did the same after supper and the people in the block were pleased that some one took the initiative to help control the dust. We had about 14 volunteers from the block to bring back the

bermuda grass from Parker valley, and the first step for dust control was started. We planted around the edge of the Block and gradually filled in the spots where the vegetables and melons weren't planted. The people in the block didn't take time to build any walks next to the barracks. I have been working as a block gardener ever since. I have been elected councilman from our block so I have asked someone else to take over the duties of block gardener, but there hasn't been any response; so I have asked some of the school children to help me take care of the block gardens. At the present the ruling is that the people of the respective barrack will be held responsible to plant anything between their barracks, and the block flower garden, the fish pond and the area around the block will be left up to the block gardener.

Q: Did you have any formal connection with the Agriculture Department?

X: I was asked by some of the members of the department to attend the meetings. I have been asked to take care of a rice field in Parker, but I didn't like the idea of assisting with the financial angle. I don't think anybody else in the Center will like to start something in the Parker Valley without having at least a little more experience in this area. The climate and physical environment are similar to that of the Imperial Valley; so it won't take so long for the Valley people to adjust themselves to Parker, but assisting with the money is another proposition.

Q: Why did they have Niseis at the heads of the Departments?

X: At that time there was a ruling that all appointed personnel, evacuees, must be citizens. Regardless of their experience they were appointed. That's why you see lots of farmers in the Imperial Valley who prior to the evacuation had hundreds of acres, but are acting as sub-forman, and even some are irrigating while the young Niseis who

were working under them are acting as foreman. Because the lack of experience there were many mistakes in the department. However the people of Poston should be grateful that the Isseis went out to the farm and worked under such inexperienced leaders. I grant you there may have been many misunderstanding, but the Isseis were good enough to take the mistakes on their shoulders and leave it as was, and another thing why the Isseis didn't want to feel around the Department and voice themselves were the facts that being an enemy alien may have something to do about the silence among the Isseis. One of the biggest handicap was the lack of equipments, and the distribution of the equipment that they did have. Some of the sub-department couldn't use the equipment and there were many dissatisfaction. The department used lots of unnecessary gas because the distribution of material and equipments were inefficient. Some of the people in the department think that they can replant or transplant in this country, but they should realize that with such inefficient irrigation system transplanting is worthless. I don't know who propose the idea of transplanting the tomatoe under the water tower, but any Imperial Valley farmer would know that transplanting is not going to work in this valley. It's faster if you plant the seed. The people in the department may be efficient, but I don't think we got the right man in the head. He may be a good man from the marketing angle, but let's get the vegetables on the ground and think about the marketing. We should have experienced farmers from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. Just because the Isseis couldn't understand the English language as fluently as the Niseis shouldn't have been any barrier. We should have a man who has had lots of experience in this type of farming. I think the department and the council should work close hand in hand. It's up to the council to

assist the department with the man power shortage. It's pretty hard for the department to recruit men to work out in the fields; so that's where the council comes in. This is also true with the getting of equipments and supplies such as insecticides and fertilizers. The most important thing that must be accomplished soon is the ditch. Without the ditch the Agriculture department can't get ahead. There should be a rotation of crop. One thing that has to be grown quickly is alfalfa. You know as well as I do that this soil has lots of alkalai and probably the only solution to this problem is to have a good drain and plant some alfalfa. There should be some rotation of crop. I'm not a full fledged poultry man, but I raised some chicken in the Imperial Valley and I didn't coop the chicks in pens I had them running out into the alfalfa fields where they ate the insects and kept themselves cool. The alfalfa could also be used in the hog department. With the lack of shades something must be done to assist the hogs to survive through the summer. I would suggest to have mud puddles; so the hog can cool themselves in the mud. The fat on the hogs get hot during the warm days of the summer.

Q: How would you suggest to promote some of your ideas?

X: Frank Mizawa is a good man, but he has to have some body that will push him along. I suggest Mr. Sonoda, Sato, and some of the farmers from the Cochella valley. With the assistance from the Isseis I think the Agriculture project may work in Poston. At first the Niseis in the office had a superiority complex over the Isseis, but things have changed since then. The people should take this matter more seriously. Some may think it is up to the government to feed us, but with the appropriation all set the government isn't going to break down and meet the demand of the people in the relocation centers. This is war. The people are getting lazy and

leaving everything up to the government, but we can't go on like this and wake up realizing the grave situation and propagate to the people that if we don't get started eventually all of our mouths are going to suffer. The main thing is get the ditch done.

Q: What is your opinion of Frank Fukuda?

X: For the head of an Agriculture department Mr. Fukuda won't be so good because he lacks experience. However I must say that he may be good in the handling of the produce, but the actual growing of the vegetables he lacks experience. He gets too cranky, and a man who is going to control so many thousands of people won't be too successful if he gets cranky too soon. I think Mr. Okamura would make a good department head. Mr. Sonoda who had a lots of experience in the Imperial Valley would also make a good head. Mr. Sato who was working for the Acrean Company in Brawley will also be a good man. Mr. Sato was the foreman of about 800 to 1000 acres.

Q: How would you suggest to get the people out on the farm?

X: I don't think farming on a big scale will work in a community of this size. I think the only solution to this problem is allot a certain portion of the land to the respective blocks and have the residents of the block go out and grow their vegetables which could be consumed in the kitchen. If there is an excess of vegetables the project could buy the produce at market price and the money either go back to the block fund or if the block doesn't want to sponsor the project individual families could grow the vegetables, and after deducting the expenses the proceeds would go to the families.

Q: Wouldn't the competition cause some dissatisfaction from some of the people, especially with the shortage of equipments?

X: If that's the case the families should get the regular pay of the project and on top of that receive a bonus.

Q: Won't you have water difficulties?

X: That's not so hard because we have Zanjehro, water inspectors, that will regulate the amount of water you could use in a day. The trouble is that the ditch isn't complete and the vegetables doesn't grown on dry ground at least not in Poston. We can talk of how this should be done or what will be good, but without the water, and the necessary equipments how do you expect to produce anything.

The lunch bell interrupted so I excused myself. The interview was a continuous flow, and the interviewee allowed the interviewer to take notes.

via John Collier:

Poston Three is facing a deep reaching frustration. There is no possibility of getting water for irrigation for 10 weeks, at least. In other words, there can be no start of agricultural activity for that length of time. An overwhelming majority of Poston Three arrivals are farmers and this will mean great frustration.

(EHS)

Via Conrad Arensberg:

Mr. Utz who is head of agriculture for the WRA was here for a day and says that all the farm work will be done under the management of foremen without regard to community, family or individual wishes. There will be no group farming or family farming or private monopoly of certain plots of ground. This appears to be the result of current political pressure to avoid pottering with the evacuees and to get them out of the relocation centers as soon as the war is over. The idea seems to be that they will be simply used to prepare the ground for someone else to reap the benefit. Conrad Arensberg appeared quite discouraged as a result of this conversation.

(see August 28, page 3)

(AHL)