

Charles Kikuchi

Diary

March 2, 1945

March 2, 1945

Dear Emiko, Bette, Alice, etc.:

Well, I went over to Vallejo last night and made the speech! I won't have time to write each of you individually so I hope you don't mind the carbon copies. Eileen, will you let Mariko read the one I send you. (I am making four copies in all.)

Mr. Kratz and his daughter, Phyllis, came over to our office to pick me up about five p.m. last night. I went over to their home to have a roast-beef dinner. < There are four children in the family and two of them go to the high school. Mr. Kratz Crabb sent a message over saying that he remembered us in high school and to convey his greetings to you. The Kratz family lives away out by Highway 40 but that is a part of Vallejo now. The housing authority has built thousands of homes out there. There are 40,000 people in Vallejo living in the housing project. The ones which were new when you left look pretty decrepit now. They will be dismantled and sent to the south for the use <sup>of</sup> share-croppers, or else sent to the Orient. I looked down on Vallejo from the top of the hill and the city certainly is large now. We drove around the residential district and up by the high school for a while, but I didn't get a chance to stop in and see anyone.

Phyllis introduced me to an aviator who has just returned from the Marshalls. He is in the Vallejo General Hospital. His friend was a sailor who came back from the Pacific about two weeks ago. The aviator, Ken, is originally from Missouri and he was very suspicious of me. He started to tell me about how they had to exterminate all of the Japanese soldiers because they were treacherous. He said that the



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American soldiers did not dare to take their eyes off of the captured Japanese soldiers because they would even try to pick up sticks and stab them in the eyes. He said that in Saipan, the Japanese soldiers used to steal into the camp and try to kill the American soldiers while they were asleep and then sneak out again without having a battle at all. The American troops are still cleaning<sup>up</sup>/some of these islands after all formal resistance has ended. It was quite interesting to hear his experiences about how desperate Japanese aviators tried to go out in a flame of glory when their plane was shot down. They would dive for the closest American plane in order to take them down with them. Ken thought that every Jap has to be killed off before the war will be ended. I didn't quite agree with this point of view as I pointed out that it was the military machine in Japan which had to be eliminated so that the people would not be indoctrinated to be such fanatics. When we parted, there was a sort of strain and Ken was still suspicious of me. After the meeting, however, he came up and said that he certainly did learn a lot of new things and from now he was going to distinguish between Nisei and the Japanese of Japan. He said that he never knew about any of these things before, and he shook hands with me and we parted very good friends. I am sure that the trip to Vallejo was worthwhile for this alone because it means that one more person will have a more tolerant view towards Nisei hereafter.

The meeting was held at the Vallejo Junior High School. <They have another junior high school in Vallejo now (Franklin) but I didn't get to see that. Mr. Kratz is the chairman of the Council for Civic Unity. He said that the Vallejo Council had been very anti-evacuee in its sentiments up until last year, and a resolution was passed favoring their deportation. The Council partly was a result of liberal



individuals and groups getting together to oppose such measures. The negro-wide <sup>white</sup> tension had been getting very difficult so that this group decided to organize. They really are just getting underway now, as an organized group. The old mayor has been defeated and the new one is a little better, but not too much. Vallejo is a waterfront town essentially, so that it is quite frontier in its attitudes. Open prostitution and gambling has been going on for a number of years but the federal government has finally cracked down on it. The Council has been very active in opposing any vigilante type of group from springing up. It has been rather effective in this way. It also has worked upon the Times Herald and the other Vallejo paper in order to take a more democratic attitude toward racial relations in the city. Since the Council is just getting started as a formal body, the membership is only about 50 but they expect to have about 500 within the next few months. I would agree with Mr. Kratz that the majority of the people in Vallejo do not want racial conflicts in their city, and they want to avoid a race riot most of all. The Japanese question is not a live issue at the present time. No publicity was given to the meeting last night because of the policy of the Study against this sort of thing. Dr. Thomas made an exception in my case, and it is the first time that any member of the Study has made a public speech. >

w A They only expected to have about thirty or forty people come out for the meeting, but twice that many came. The Reverend Eisel told me that it was the largest audience they have ever had for any meeting. I suppose that some of them came because the news was passed around through word of mouth that a Kikuchi was going to speak. Rev. Eisel thought that several hundred people would have come if publicity had been put in the papers. The result of the meeting will be put in the papers, so Paulina may send you a clipping if there is.



The Council is composed of Vallejo educators, church people, "Y" and USO representatives and other liberal elements in the city. They plan to get in business men and labor leaders too. Its purpose is to encourage good legislation on the state and federal level in relation to inter-racial harmony in this country. It wants to foster cooperation and understanding; to review the community needs for minorities there; to protect civil liberties; and to promote civic unity. During my talk I mentioned that one-third of the pre-war "Japanese" population of Vallejo was not contemplating an immediate return to the city, although we appreciated the kind invitation which was extended. I refer to the Kikuchi family, of course. I don't know which of the following people you kids remember, but I'll just list a few that I met since they mentioned knowing you or the family: Rev. Eisel; Dr. John Thomas (Jack's classmate); Caroline Owen; (graduated with Alice); Mr. Owen (he knew Pop 41 years ago); Mrs. Anthony; Rev. MacCormack; Mr. Harrison; Miss Watson; Dolores Wing, and a lot of others whose names I can't recall. Dodo is the program chairman for the Council. She told me that the biggest problem in Vallejo was the Negro question now, and the Council is trying to get a restaurant which caters to high school children to take down the sign saying "colored children not served." There is a law in this state which says that no public place can discriminate, so that a committee is going to talk to the proprietor. Vallejo still does not have a public swimming pool. A recent bond issue for it was voted down because a lot of the Caucasian people were so afraid that Negro children would go into the pool and contaminate it! That's cutting off their nose to spite their face! The Council is convinced that this is not the majority view in the city so that they are working on the mayor now to call for an open election on this bond issue. A lot of southerners who have come into



the shipyards have been the ones to agitate the most.

Of course, I spoke to thunderous applause!! Well, it did go over very well because they were so interested in what became of the family and my other comments on the general nature of the problem. The publicity chairman of the group actually proposed that I come back and speak over the Vallejo radio "because other people should hear what you have to say and there wouldn't be so much misunderstanding then." I backed out of this by saying that I would be leaving California next week. The publicity chairman said that her friend managed the radio station KSRO located at Casa Vallejo, I think, and that she could easily get me on since the Council would sponsor me.

What I attempted to do in my talk was to relate all of the minority problems in this country as a part of the general American problem. I wasn't prepared at all but I managed to speak extemporaneously for 40 minutes straight ! I said that I was there as an American speaking to a group of Americans and that we should not lose sight of this fact in discussing the problems which faces a group because of certain obvious physical and cultural characteristics which tends to set them apart. The audience was composed mostly of Caucasians but there were a sprinkling of Negro, Chinese, Filipino and Mexican-Americans. I said that I was making the assumption that all of us at the meeting were believers in the democratic ideal without regard to race, creed, class or color. I felt that they were just as anxious to preserve the democratic blessings for all Americans so that they would be anxious to see that minorities, including labor unions and religious groups, would not be trampled on because of minority characteristics. I said that as soon as tolerance was restricted beyond the ordinary limits of law, democracy would face an in-growing decay which would



threaten our whole social culture. From then on I entered into a general discussion of the Nisei problem to indicate that it was a small part of the general American problem. I won't repeat the things that I said since it was mostly on the resettlement phases of the problem in relation to future integration into the normal stream of American life. I suggested that the group work on the 90 percent of indifferent Americans who were not particularly concerned with the problem instead of wasting all of its energy on the 5 percent who were anti-everything. As a result, the group passed a resolution for committee discussion recommending that the World Peace Conference in SF in April take up the discussion of colored minorities problems!

I then went on to use the Kikuchi family as a case history of how the impact of evacuation has affected the lives of certain evacuees. When I told about Pop sitting in the stables at Tanforan sharpening his razors hour after hour because he missed Vallejo so much, some of the women in the audience got tears in their eyes. I then told about how all of the family has gone into the new life without bitterness, but with a definite hope and optimism for the future. Everytime I mentioned one of your names someone in the audience would exclaim "I knew her," or something like that. After my main talk, it seemed like a sort of testimonial because different people got up and praised the Kikuchi family that they knew before evacuation. Mr. Owen's said that he knew Pop just after he got out of the U.S. Navy and he often used to see the honorable discharge papers on the barber shop wall, and then some lady got up and said that she used to teach the Kikuchis one after another as they came through the elementary school. I forgot her name. Rev. Eisel got up and said that Emiko and Bette were just as American as any other person in Vallejo because he had baptised them in his church about 12 years ago and they were still kept on the member.



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ship rolls of the Presbyterian church. He said that he knew Mom well and for me to be sure to extend his greetings to them. They were all sorry to hear that Pop had passed away. One man got up and said that Pop was one of the real old-timers in Vallejo and that he certainly had contributed a lot to the city by working hard and being a law-abiding citizen and bringing up his children to believe in this country. I guess you kids didn't realize that so many people still remembered the family. A Dr. John Thomas said that he was in Mariko's class and he wondered if she had become an artist yet! Caroline Rudd, formerly Owen, is a secretary of the Council and a classmate of Alice's. She will write you a letter, Alice.

From then on they asked me questions for about an hour. I didn't get a chance to see anyone at all since Rev. Eisel drove me back to Berkeley after the meeting. Quite a few people asked me for your addresses so I hope that they will be writing to you soon. <Dodo again asked me to tell you "hello." I didn't even get a chance to phone up Doris or any of the other kids that you know. I don't think that they knew about the meeting else they probably would have come up.> It makes me feel pretty good to realize that the family was so well established in Vallejo prior to the war and that so many people still remember you so that you did leave a good impression behind you.

You don't know under what difficulties this letter is getting typed off. I had a lot more to say, but I think that I will have to cut it short. Write to me in care of 74-1~~st~~ A, Rivers, Arizona as I shall be leaving here next Friday evening. I don't think any of you will have the energy to write before then. Be seeing you!

Love,

Charlie.



We had a hell of a noisy day at the office, and everyone was practically going nuts except Mrs. Wilson who remains cool as a cucumber under any circumstance. Morton was the only happy one as he got his work done--purely mechanical though! People came coming in and out. I don't see how Dorothy ever gets anything done. Some of these professors for her conference have to be babied along as they are lost in a big city. Dorothy was so distracted that she almost forgot to take her pie home. Morton's comment, "My God, that is the payoff!" I'm still struggling along with my stuff, and I hope to get some work done in the peace and solitude of the office this evening. Peace, it's wonderful! I didn't get much done in the officex during the day. One compensation about going back to the Chicago office is that Frank is so quiet that full concentration is possible all day long. This has been a busier than usual day, and I suppose it is because of the conference which Dorothy has to direct, and also because she has to council a lot of new students. Johnie wasn't around today as she went to SF to work on some files with Geo. Sabath. Next week, Jimmy will arrive and that will cause further consternation hereabouts. I think I am getting a fairly good hold on my stuff now, but I am not confident about it. A few more days should definitely set the pattern for this initial stage of the report.

Miss Write wrote and said that the SSA would be "glad to go on with the tuition scholarship we have been granting you" so that is another problem solved. I guess I'd better write to Kobe College to see what I can do for Bette.

Bill Tuttle dropped in to bring my permit for entering the camp. A wire came from Gila in response to my letter as I "forgot" to send the form Tuttle had given me the other day. But I'll get to stay as a non-paying guest so I should complain now.



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Tuttle was quite happy because he relocated his first family in this area today. Some rich woman gave the rent of a house in return for 24 hours of work in the home by the wife and 8 hours in the garden by the husband. She will also help the resettlers with a poultry or garden farm. There is plenty of work in gardening out here so that the evacuee couple should~~not~~ get along without too much difficulty. There is some talk about starting a hostel out here, but I think the real need is finding permanent housing. Tuttle doesn't know what he can do about that. It took him two months to get the first family out so at that rate, he may get out 5 or 6 more by the end of the year! It will take longer than a year to empty 60,000 people out of the camps by the end of the deadline period~~x~~ at this rate. Tuttle gets to use a gov't car to travel around in and he has an office and secretary, but no work to do except to fill out forms showing how much gas he used in the car. He has about the easiest district, but not many takers from the camp yet. It should pick up a little, but I don't think the flow will ever be heavy as there is too much resistance in the camps. I asked Tuttle about eligibility requirement for public assistance in case a family goes to another state and the WRA folds up. He said that they could get residence for state relief, but I don't think that is true. Under the poor laws of most states, indigents are not eligible to establish residence. I don't know how the WRA can get around that since it has no control over state laws. In some states it is a misdemeanor to import indigents into the state so that the WRA may actually be breaking ~~laws~~ laws if evacuees are taken into states without residence and on public assistance of the gov't. Maybe this might be a break in getting rid of some of our outmoded poor law requirements, but I doubt it. Tuttle doesn't even know the poor laws and he got his MA in social work! He said that it was a good thing there were not more evacuees like me to locate WRA



weakness, but Morton and Dorothy defended me by saying that this was the only way in which the WRA could fill up the flaws. Tuttle invited me to dinner, but I had to decline as I am so far behind now. I won't get out of the office tonight until after 12:00. Tomorrow afternoon, I will pay a visit on Peggy, George, Bonnie and Clarie.

I can't blame the WRA people too much for their insistence upon the present program since they only see things from the administrative point of view and they don't know the real feelings of people like the staff members who are in the camps collecting data right in the thick of things. Meyer's reasons for closing the centers are sound enough on the basis of principles, but they don't get at the real root of things. His five main points are that 18,000 school children must be given all the benefits which their citizenship entitles them, and they should of necessity get back into normal communities; that from the standpoint of employment it is best to relocate now because there is a shortage of manpower and it will be easier for the camp people to find jobs now than to wait until the end of the war; that due to the smaller load which welfare agencies are now carrying because of the employment boom, they will be better able to help evacuees (not such a good argument to propose they go out to relief!); and that he must insure Congress that he will close the camps soon as "he couldn't be honest and ask for more than the year established (who in the hell cares about saving his face when the lives of 60,000 people are at stake?); and that the centers are the best targets for the agitators who are against the return of the Japanese to the coast. (another weak argument as they would yell anyway.)

I think Jimmy's comments about an Issei attitude is classical. He quotes: "He (Meyer) makes an inconsistent thing sound logical" and "The door is open, but I am a bird in a cage with damaged wings!" On the other hand, he tells about the neurotic who beat up another man for



demanding \$500 from the gov't to go out when he should have asked for at least \$1000! The Minidoka people have real, and logical fears, and the WRA just can't answer them; nobody can. Jimmy said that the great majority of the people there are still going to sit tight. The same thing is true at Tule and Poston, according to Rosalie and Dick. I still can't see any solution in sending those people out to slum lives. It's a big problem for the children tho as the Issei have been quite insistent throughout the stay in camp that the children should have the proper facilities. There is going to be one hell of a squawk at the end of this summer if the schools are not open. Some families may leave for the sake of their children, but that doesn't seem to be a very humane way to push them out. But the longer they stay in, the less likely they ever will be to taking a chance. God, I will hate to see the little slums springing up once more, but this is the way it is going to be if the WRA continues on its present path and it won't be a very pleasant thing. I still think that the people will be better off in camp rather than having a slum life which will be with them for life, and down to the second and third generation. I can't very well approve of that. The WRA should take time out and reconsider its plans and approach the thing on a more realistic and practical basis--give them more money and guarantee housing for one thing. If I can't work out adequate plans for the family in Gila now, I don't see how many other families can do anything either. But guys in the WRA like Tuttle will sit around with a smug expression and say that it has to be done and the WRA can't be wrong ~~xxxxxx~~ in it's present approach! It can be done for maybe 30% of the people in camp, but not for the rest. That is the big clog in the wheel. I hope the WRA is prepared for the "next phase" instead of thinking this is the last.



March 2, 1945

Miss EK Eckwall  
Hobe College Corporation  
19 S. La Salle St  
Central Y College Bldg.  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Miss Eckwall,

I am writing to inquire whether it will be possible for my sister, Bette, to obtain further financial assistance from your group. She has profited immensely from the work she has done there so far, and she is most anxious to continue on for another year. I do not know if I will be able to help her too much since it costs over \$500 a year to attend the University of Chicago. I thought that it would not be necessary for a further application, but recently the WRA has announced that the centers will all be closed by January 1, 1946. I have a mother, younger brother, and younger sister in Gila yet. It will be a heavy burden to bring one or more of them out to Chicago, but there does not seem to be any other way to solve the difficult problem. I am going to Gila soon to arrange for the departure of my 16 year old brother next week. I am out here at the U. of California at the present time in connection with my work, but I expect to return to Chicago by the end of the month. Our situation is complicated by the recent changes in the draft regulations, and it is possible that I may be inducted in April. Under any circumstances, I don't think that I shall be able to assume the full load for Bette next fall. She plans to work during this summer and in this way, she will be able to meet part of the school expenses for the coming year.

I believe that Bette will write you independently in a short time, but I thought it might help in the interpretation of her request for further aid if I explained a little of the present conditions. Bette is most ambitious to continue on with the second year at the University, and I know that she will appreciate any consideration your group takes on her application. We appreciate the past assistance your group has given as it has made her education possible for her first college year.

Emiko is making fine progress at the Mt. Sinai hospital in her nursing training. She was capped recently. All of her grades so far have been over 90% as she has taken a keen interest in her future profession. It has been partly the result of your group's assistance that she has been able to progress to this point. From now on, the Cadet Nursing Corps will take care of her incidental expenses. I am sure she has written to you thanking you for all past assistance.

I hope that your group will consider a further application for financial assistance from my sister Bette.

Very truly yours,

Charles Kikuchi



March 2, 1945

Re: File No. 2661

Miss Betty Emlen  
Financial Adviser  
Student Relocation Council  
1201 Chestnut St.  
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Miss Emlen,

I am out here at the University of California doing some organizational work on my data, but I will be back in Chicago later this month. The reason I am writing this letter is to inquire if it would be possible for Bette to obtain further financial assistance from the Student Relocation Council. Bette is very anxious to do her second year of study at the University of Chicago, but she cannot continue without some sort of financial assistance. I do not know if I can help her too much since it costs over \$500 a year to attend the university. I thought that it would not be necessary for a further application, but recently the WRA has announced that the centers will all be closed by January 1, 1946. I have an ill mother, younger brother and sister in Gila yet. It will be a heavy burden to bring one or more of them out to Chicago, but there does not seem to be any other way to solve the difficult problem. At the same time, it would be indeed unfortunate if Bette had to interrupt her education. I am going to Gila next week to arrange for the departure of my younger brother next week.

Our situation is complicated by the recent changes in the draft regulation and it is possible that I may be inducted in April upon the expiration of my present deferment. Under any circumstances, I don't think that it will be possible for me to assume the full load for Bette next fall. She plans to work again during the summer so that she will be able to meet part of her school expenses in this way. But it will be rather difficult for her to raise the full sum. I will do what I can, but I am worried that it will be impossible for me to help with all the rest.

I believe that Bette will write you independently in a short time, but I thought it might help in the interpretation of her case if I explained a little of the present conditions. Bette is most ambitious to continue on with the second year at the University, and I know that she will appreciate any consideration from your group. We appreciate the past assistance which has made her first college year possible.

Emiko is making fine progress at Mt. Sinai. She was capped recently, and she has taken a keen interest in her future profession. She fully appreciates past assistance from the Council.

I hope that an application for further assistance for Bette will be considered.

Very truly yours,

Charles Kikuchi



Charles Kikuchi  
Insert:

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March 2, 1945 7/17

(another letter from Marge Lipchik of Pittsburg. I have never seen her)

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Feb. 27, 1945  
304 Saline St.

Dear Charles,

Your letters are very inspiring. I could appreciate your last one more fully than the others because I have been trying to read up on the subject, get some background for thinking about the race issue. Two books about the nisei, written by two members of that group, were as objective about it as any reader could hope for. They ~~pointed~~ pointed out the whole Japanese background and its effect on the children of emigration; they criticized the Nisei both ways, and tried to forecast the future of these people, their chances of assimilating into the conglomeration of American races. I wrote to the places you suggested and I'm anxious to read anything they have to offer on the subject. If with I lived near these people, I would like to know them and do my best to help them. But here in Pittsburgh, out of 671,000 people, I doubt whether 50 of them are nisei Americans. I have never seen them nor spoken with them. But I do see and speak with Negroes and like them immensely. At school, I admire the manner in which the girls of both black and white races intermix, have fun together, discuss vital problems with one another. But that is in a university where the large majority are broad minded. A Chinese and a Korean recently graduated. Both were tremendously popular and people thought no more of their skin color than they do of their own. Now we have a Hawaiian girl and a Chinese boy who are as home here as the rest of the gang.

A girl from Brazil is studying social work at our school. Today, I read in an article about her that she was deeply impressed by the way in which Pittsburghers regard the race problem. I was surprised, not at Pittsburgh, but at the implication that other cities regarded it



Charles Kikuchi  
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Diary

March 2, 1945

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differently, coldly perhaps!

Don't you think, Charles, that the issue flared up mainly because of the war and that a few years afterwards, we'll have a chance to shape people's opinions along righteous lines? It is natural, I think, for the layman to hate, not only the Japanese, but any persona remotely resembling them. They don't stop to think or consider the full picture! I had a great uncle who spoke more highly of the Japanese, with whom he had been intimately acquainted, than of his own group of people. He lived out West for many years and knew them well. Unfortunately, he was an old man and he passed away 2 years ago. I would like to have found out more from him. But it seems to me that you can't expect spectacular results from work done during wartime. The mere fact that our country is fighting the Japanese tends to offset any plans for the Nisei Americans. But, of course, a foundation of good will and social kindness must be laid now, today and everyday. I imagine that one of the first things we can do is bring the situation out into the open, discuss it from all angles, keeping in mind that America is a democracy, or means to be. Here in the East, we can sympathize readily with the minority groups, and we do! But we don't actually have the problems in our sections, except for that concerning the Jews. It's such a big thing, I can scarcely comprehend it. But I am convinced that there's work to be done, a great deal of work, so that the races of our country and the races of the world will become one race, the Human Race. May you have the strength to carry on and courage to suffer the anxieties this work will involve.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Marge.



Dear Emiko and Bette,

(This typewriter won't make more than two copies so, Alice, will you please send this on to Emiko immediately, and I shall send the other copy to Bette.)

I really do not have too much to say this time, but I thought you might be interested in some notes on public sentiment which I picked up in a personal way. I am not trying to flaunt off my former friends to you; just using them as references. I guess you know that it is not all sunshine and roses as far as public sentiment here in California is concerned, but my limited observations have led me to tentatively conclude that, in general, the "anti-return" pressure groups do not have the whole public support even if they make a lot of noise. For example, some Issei man was driven into a dark alley by a taxicab driver and robbed of \$65, but that could have happened to anyone. If we add allx of the little incidents together, things look bad, but that is distorting the picture a little because we don't know about the 10 good deeds which may have been done for every bad one.

The rural areas and some of the farm growers associations appear to be about the most rabid on the subject of deportations, etc, and if they are not watched, they make do some harm, altho I ~~may~~ suspect that their days of influence was passed with the evacuation since the people are getting wiser to them. But they may influence the new-comers into the state who do not know anything about the question as they probably have never seen an Issei or Nisei. Morton showed me what is happening up at Hood River, Oregon. You may have read about the Legionnaires up there who took the names of the Nisei soldiers off of the roll of honor. Actually, the group made saps out of themselves and they were called down very severely by other Legion posts in the U.S. and liberal newspaper editorials after one of the Nisei soldiers whosex name was taken off was killed in action in the Pacific. Morton has pretty good documentary proof revealing that this whole movement is economical in nature. The Japanese farmers in that area used to own a lot of land. Now the



defenders of lily "white-supremacy", led by the Legion Post up there, have taken it upon themselves to try and force the Nisei landowners to sell out cheaply under the threat that they will get hurt, etc. An open letter was published in the paper up there and a copy was sent to every Nisei landowner who still had property in that area. The names of all these Nisei were printed in the newspaper advertisement and the open letter claimed that it was mighty suspicious that they surrounded "white" farmers on the farms. The letter said that it was their aim to deport all of the "Japs" back to Japan, and implied mob violence.

In spite of such reactionary and fascist movements, I still don't think that it is widespread. The Legion in California is playing a sort of two-faced role, it seems. Gov. Warren wants to be president some day and he does not want to be embarrassed so he is playing the big hearted "liberal" and making favorable statements. He has asked the Legion to lay low and not do anything which would put the State in a bad light throughout the rest of the nation. (The Japanese question is only incidental to the general campaign.) But the Legion Posts are by no means inactivated on the Japanese question. For example, Jack saw some keep the Japs out of California sign up in an Disabled Veterans office so he went in and asked them to give him some of the pamphlets as he thought I would like to have them. The man said that he would send them. Jack gave Mr. Ingojo's name. A few days later this letter came: "Following the Rules layed down by our Committees and Officers, we are not voicing any opinion in the matter pertaining to the Japanesex situation here in California---Jerryx Schubert" Jack thought that they had changed the policy to a more favorable one. But Saturday, a representative of the Veteran's office came to the Inggo grocery and talked to Jack. (The man apparently thought that Jack was Filipino.) He said that although they are not doing anything officially, that did not mean that they did not have a plan of action. He gave Jack some: "DemandCongress--Send the Japs back to Japan" stickers" and asked him to pass them around to car owners. He said that it was the plan to call all of the Filipino community together one of these days in a mass meeting and try to get



them to pass resolutions to this effect. It ~~max~~ clearly brings out the double cross nature of this veterans group. It will, of course, stress Japan's invasion of the Philippines and attempt to confuse the issue by lumping all Nisei and Japanese residents of the U.S. into the same category. It will try to get the Filipinos in SF to imply violence if any evacuee comes back. It's a dangerous fascist sort of thing. The idea is to pit all minorities against each other, and you can be sure that the same sort of tactics will be applied to the Filipinos next, and also to the Mexican, Negro, Jews, and eventually Chinese. The underlying program which is not publicized is that they want to keep California for the "white man". They are so reactionary that they will even attempt to put "Nuremberg laws" into the State statutes. There have been some of these laws put into the statutes from before the war, such as no intermarriage between certain Americans with different racial backgrounds, land ~~max~~ laws, etc. It all adds up to a general pattern, and that is why these things may be potentially dynamite to this country, and it may push Fascist doctrines on us.

Jack and I talked the thing over and we decided that the best thing he could do would be to stress the general picture and not just the Nisei "problem." "e will try to contact certain Filipino leaders indirectly and point out ~~ide~~ to them how they are being used and that the same tactics may be applied to them someday if they fall for it. I think that you, Emiko and Bette, could also do something if you would write Paulina and other Filipino Americans and try to get them to work on their parents. Every little bit does help. The same thing could be done for your Chinese American, Negro American, etc friends. It could be done quite effectively in an indirect way merely by keeping up your friendships with them and showing them how you are becoming more and more integrated into this country. It does not have to be a heavy "message" to preach at all; just tell them of your activities and indicate your interest in other racial minorities in this country occasionally. At school, you can get a lot of these points over among your friends. It is too bad that more Nisei will not take it upon themselves to make this sort of contact instead of sticking to their own group, as that won't help to solve anything.



The important point, it occurs to me, is that the California situation is not localized to this state alone as it could be potentially as dangerous and reactionary in Chicago, Minneapolis or any other city or town in the country. Bette, I am sending you a letter from Marge Lipchik which might interest you because this type of letters can be very effective.

There are many liberal groups and individuals in California who are doing things quietly so that the picture is brighter than it seems if only newspaper reports are read. Certainly, neither Jack nor I have encountered any unpleasantness yet, and Jack has been in contact with many groups of average Californians since coming out here. I think that some of the Nisei coming back may have too much of a chip on their shoulders. They should be firm, but they have to get over the mental attitude that they are being persecuted. Jack was telling me about "Sugar" Mizono's brother who came back to look at his house on Pest street. Mizono found that some people were living in it illegally so he had an argument. He told Jack that "nobody was going to push him ~~and~~ around and that he was going to take any s--- from anyone." He had a right to be angry, but I wonder if he could not have solved it more tactfully instead of threatening court action, etc. There is a housing shortage out here and people move in where they can. (It reminds me of the difference in ways in which Alice and Mariko would handle landlords!)

Saturday afternoon, I went over to Oakland to visit Peggy Clifford Penneman and her husband George. I knew both of them in college as I guess I have told you. It hardly seemed as if it were three years or more since I have last seen them. I didn't know that they were married, and had a nine months baby. George is a radio announcer for KGO and he hopes to go to Hollywood soon for a national program. Another friend, Bob Sweeney, is now the announcer for the Hoagy Carmichael national broadcast. Any way, George was a little disappointed because he had hoped to have a couple of the other announcers over to talk with me. He said that there were nine staff announcers for the Blue network at KGO and they used to be anti-Nisei. But George said, "I would tell them that not all Japanese were treacherous and I would mention you and



Jack at SF State and stress how well you both were Americanized. Now I've got to the point where they are very favorable and we all twist the news to give it the most favorable slant whenever there is anything about the Nisei to be broadcast. That is why my announcer friend wanted to meet you. I also have a marine friend who has recently come back from the Pacific and when I told him that you were coming over today he tried to get an extra pass so he could come over and talk to you, but he could not make it."

George and Peggy couldn't understand why I was not bitter about the whole thing. George said that he knew how it was to be pointed out as "different" as he was at 4-F in the draft and people were always making nasty remarks to him. He said that he knew exactly how it would feel if the same person asked me if I were "Japanese" or "Chinese." George is more pessimistic about the future than I am as he doesn't know how race problems are going to improve in this nation when the prejudices actually seem to be increasing.

Claribel Bley and Bonnie Eaden were also at Peg's house as this was the only chance I had of seeing them. On the campus they used to be the rivals for the queen contests but they are all good friends now. (Alice, you met all of these girls at the Senior Prom.) Clarie said that her father was the Mayor of Corning now and he was the same way as a lot of the reactionaries. She said that she has had a lot of arguments with <sup>him</sup> ~~them~~ on the Nisei question. At one time her home town was going to pass some kind of resolution and she argued with her father about it. It wasn't passed and she felt that she had "a very small influence there." When I knew her in college, her father got very upset because she knew a "Jap" at school, but she never paid any attention to him. Bonnie's fiance, Kenny Wilks, who used to go around in our general group at college was killed in action in France recently. She is teaching at Pittsburg, Calif, now and she said that she has to work on race problems all the time as there are a lot of Mexican and Negro students in the school. Clarie is a dental hygienist and she said that she meets a lot of prejudiced people in her office. She put a copy of the gov't pamphlet, "The Nisei in Uniform", in the office as she got tired of hearing them blast at the Nisei so much.



Peggy told about the time that her father almost broke a bloodvessel because she joined the International Relations Club which I was the president of in 1939 at college. She said that her father was very prejudiced against all minorities and she used to have big debates with him. "I wish that my father had not passed away last year because I always wanted him to meet you so he could see for himself that good Americans don't have to have just white skin." I suppose this sort of thing could be multiplied many times in your experiences and it does have some effect. The trouble was that not enough Nisei took the trouble to mix in enough at school before the war. My whole point is that individual Nisei can do more for possible integration of the Nisei through their activities than by trying to approach the thing on a group basis like the JACL does. If one can get people to judge on an individual basis, I think that much more will be accomplished than to organize "Nisei groups" to work on them. Think back over your friends; I would say that they have formed their idea of the Nisei through their intimate contacts with you and not through reading JACL "white papers" in defense of the group. I suppose I am nuts, but it discourages me when the majority of the Nisei just can't seem to see this and they want to have their own groups and live apart from the rest of the American society.

Peg and George have a beautiful home up in the Oakland hills and the view of the Bay is the best I have seen yet. George had planned to go into teaching, but he got sidetracked and he certainly has gone up in the three years since the war. The thing which encourages me is that all of the group there mentioned that their parents had race prejudices, but it was not fostered on them because of the liberal tendencies which they got in college. That offers a lot of hope for the future, and it can be done. George is an amateur photographer so he put up his projection machine to show us some of his latest pictures. Peggy, Clarie and Bonnie are attractive as anything so you can imagine the glamorous pictures I saw. Peg almost went to Hollywood before she got married. She has a son named Clifford Penneman which has satisfied both sides of the family as Clifford was her last name before she was married! They all said I got "fat" but Clarie was kinder and said I was "stouter!"



I spent all Saturday afternoon with them and Peg served us a cake she had baked. She is a good cook. She said that when she was having her baby, she was making cinnamon rolls as the labor pains started. She sat down and ate two of them, left a note for George, and then went to the Hospital! It only took her four hours to have her baby, and she was quite sympathetic, Alice, when I told her that yours lasted for 18 hours. (or was it nine?) The nine months boy is always dripping on the floor so that she is going to make George "tie a knot in it or else cap it!" Geo. gave me a ride down as he had to go to the Station to broadcast. He did an imitation of an announcer doing a "breakfast cereal" and it certainly was funny. Geo. introduced Bob Hope once, and he thinks that he will get on some of the big national programs when he goes to Hollywood. He also wants to do some acting. I listened to him over the radio the other night.

Saturday night, I stayed over with Jack. When I got over there, he introduced me to Vincent Salamon of the Navy. Vincent is a steward and he waits on Admirals. He got a priority to come from New Caledonia (military secret) so he flew across. He had a note from Mr. Altre which introduced him to Jack and he had just arrived when I got there. He is on the way to New York. He said that Mr. Altre sent his best greetings to the family. Altre is going to get a furlough soon, and I suppose he will be dropping in one of these days to propose marriage to you kids! Vincent said that Altre was a swell guy. Nobody knows his real age, but they all call him "pop." They never get fresh vegetables over there so that Vincent really did enjoy the salad which Dolores had made for dinner. Vincent is able to buy cigarettes (Cassels) for five cents a package so he had smuggled in two cartons which he gave to us. Jack gave me all of them since he does not smoke so I certainly was in luck! He also got a couple of packs from Mr. Ingojo so that my smoking problem is solved for the next few weeks and I won't have to roll my own in camp!

Vincent proved to be a very interesting guy. He just wanted to talk as he said that he was tired of listening to the sailors talk about Sex for 27 months. He wanted to know all about the racial situation in California since he has never been



here before so Jack and I proceeded to elucidate. It was darn interesting because Vincent has some good ideas on things. He was an orphan in the Philippines and 18 years ago some naval officer took him to New York with him. Vincent lived in Rochester from then until he went into the Navy four years ago. He does not believe in segregation and he thinks that the East Coast is the best. "How can all the different groups get to know each other if the Filipinos stay in one corner, the Nisei in another, and the Negro in another. They will get suspicious of each other and then you have racial discrimination. In Rochester, it was not like that at all. We went everywhere. Of course, there were only five Filipinos there, but the other racial groups mixed too. All of the Filipinos were doing quite well back there. One had a factory of his own, and another was an assistant engineer for the city. I have heard that on the Coast, the college educated Filipinos could only get jobs in the farm work. That is no good."

But Vincent is a little pessimistic about the future. He does not think that there will be any bettering of the racial problems in the U.S. after the war and so he is thinking of going to the Puerto Rican Islands. He is saving 85% of his money for this purpose. He has never seen a Nisei before, but Mr. Altre always talked about the Kikuchi family. "That Pop really thinks a lot of your family, and he told me that he was in the Navy fighting the war so that every other minority 'Kikuchi' (meaning racial groups) would be understood better. I never heard of the Nisei until Pop started telling me about your family. Jack then told him about my work and Vincent felt that there might be some hope for the future if enough people took an active interest in solving these things, not completely but a step in the right direction. Vincent said that he did not think he could be too effective himself here and that was the reason why he was going to Puerto Rico "to avoid the possible race riots in this country." He said that he did not hate anyone in this war, not even the Japanese people. "If I get sent back to the Philippines after my leave is over, and I find that the Japs have killed my brother, I won't hate all of the Japanese people. What's done is done. I just want to get the whole thing over with so that all the people in the world can live in peace with one another."



This cannot be done if all the nations (and racial groups in the U.S.) got off in a corner and think it is superior to everybody else. That is why Japan and German military groups have to be eliminated. I don't know if the Japanese people will ever be educated right because they are so fanatic. They have wrecked the Philippines so much that it is put back 50 years." Vincent seems to be better educated than the average Filipino immigrant. He does not like the "suit zooters" who give all the Filipinos a "bad reputation." While he was in New Caledonia, he went around with a girl from Java who has discarded her sarongs for western clothes. He left for New York by plane yesterday. Our conversation was stopped Sat. night when Ralph came over and wanted to play poker. He has the fever. I tried my best to break him, but he departed with all the money, or half of it!

Yesterday (Sunday) I helped Jack lay the linoleum on the kitchen floor and paint the hallway in the front. Jack has finished painting the kitchen and his apartment is really going to look good when it is finished up. He is junking all of the old furniture. They have opened up a charge account at the Ingojo grocery, and the bill for the first month is very high as they eat extravagantly! Jack does not have a job yet so he is getting worried. Dolores wanted to get a set of the coldest dishes so badly, but Jack said they had plenty from among those we brought over from Vallejo. So Dolores goes out on the sly and buys a set with her own money. She thought that Jack was going to get mad, but he appreciated the sentiment. Dolores is trying to become domesticated, but it is a little difficult for her yet although she is making a lot of progress. She had the flu so she did not go on duty Sunday. While we were painting in front, she got out of bed and made some apple dumplings. It smelled so good, but it did not turn out very well. I didn't have the heart to tease her when I saw her taking all of the crust off to throw away. Jack is going to buy her a cook book. They are getting on very well together so far and I think that it will continue to be that way although D said that "Jack nags her once in a while." He scolded her today for "wetting" the toilet seat! Did she blush! What a mean thing for me to tell! It's a secret now!



After giving Jack one of those famous haircuts which grows out in a few days, I dashed back to Berkeley to go to dinner at George Sabath's house. His wife, Renee, is one of those striking girls and she served an exotic meal. They have a very nice apartment. Renee is teaching in a Jr. High school in Berkeley and she teaches them "more about race relations than English." Her father is a philosopher who has written a book about what is life, but it is so deep and mystical that nobody can understand it. Dorothy said that she married George against her family's wish. She strikes me as very a sort of a rebel against things, extremely liberal and very interesting. She is a native American but she has traveled in the Orient. Denshah "Dick" Gharda was also at dinner. He is from India. He studied in London and then came here four years ago to get his MA in economics. Now he is waiting for transportation to get back home. In the meantime, he is working as a machinist. Denshah's father is a Zoroastrian priest in India. This group came from Persia around the 7th century and there are still 100,000 followers in India yet. Denshah told us ~~xxx~~ many interesting things about how all western religions have borrowed from Zoroastrianism. "Mazda" (electric globe) was one of the deities of the religion. Denshah pointed out how the New Testament have "adopted" a lot of ~~stories~~ stories from his religion, like the sermon on the mount, resurrection of Christ, etc from the old stories of his group. The same for a couple of other religions.

Denshah is very anti Imperialistic. George tends to be that way too as he knows about the British in the Near East where he came from. We got to talking about what was wrong with Western Civilization, and Geo and Denshah said that it was too materialistic and doomed to failure. They claimed that the only hope was an idealistic belief on the spiritual level, not particularly connected with any religion, but a belief in something beyond man. I felt that a materialistic world could develop a set of ideals without resorting to a "spiritual" beyond, and the debate was on. It was so darned interesting to hear Denshah quote from old Indian philosophies even if I could not agree on the basic assumption. I felt that Man could solve all of his problems and that there was no need to worry about the beyond. They said that this spiritual belief was what gave direction to life. I didn't think



there was any special order in the Universe which was not accidental in nature, and that I was agnostic anyway as I was a product of western civilization. I thought that under such a system, there could be changes, goals and ideals. They said that they had the same goals, but they had a little different basic premise. I think I learned quite a bit from them. ~~George~~ George can read Arabic and he knows alot about the culture of the Near East. He feels that these religious philosophies do not need to be escapes from the realities of life and an opiate for the masses as certain fundamental truths are beyond man and he will never solve the riddle of his civilization without them. For this reason, he is convinced, as is Denshah, that the future hope of civilization is in the East (India and China and a few other countries) if they do not get corrupted by the "westernization" idea. They almost sounded like they had a mystic belief. George said that he tended to be materialistic too, but that did not give him enough of the answers or a direction. Both Geo. and Denshah seem to be brilliant individuals and I must confess that some of their concepts were way over my head. Dr. Thomas thinks quite highly of George and he will be working for the Study after he gets his Phd. (on the economic aspects of evacuation.)

I played a sort of dirty trick on John "Jonking" Lau as I was supposed to go to China town with him last night. But some of the fellows at the "I" House said that he was staying up at Yosemite for a few extra days. I felt quite badly about it, but he didn't mind as he went out with some other fellows. He's a good kid. I told him to look Jack up. He wants to know all about the "Hissay" because he believes that if the "Chinese" and "Japanese" can get along in America, he doesn't see why they couldn't do the same thing in China. "We want to trust the Japanese in our country, but the Japanese do not play the rules of the game fair." He might go to Chicago before he goes back to China so I gave him my address and he will look us up.

This noon Morton and I went down to see Mrs. Kingman and Geo. Rundquist at the Fair Play Committee office to see if they could not do something about the Veterans group who want to inflame the Filipinos against the returning evacuees. They are going to report it to the FBI and trace the thing down. The Fair Play



Committee has a great deal of work in public opinion and there is a distinguished list of prominent names of the Sponsoring Committee. Mrs. Kingman is a little worried with the present WRA program of closing the camps in a year, and she does not think that the WRA will follow through with this insistence "or else it is going to make one awful mess." They want to do something practical, but like all of us, they don't know what the final answer to the mess is. They ~~will~~ mentioned that they plan to go to Washington and talk to the WRA about changes in the present program. They still support the WRA in principle, but they feel that the actual working out of the program is going to be much more difficult. They certainly said a mouthful there. The situation is complicated by the fact that the people just don't want to leave camp regardless of what is done for them because they feel so insecure. The WRA has to be hardboiled up to a certain point, but something definite has to be done at the same time, and not a lot of vague promises. The centers, I understand, are getting very worked up over the whole thing and there may be some disturbances this summer, which would be bad for all the evacuees and the WRA too. The WRA doesn't quite realize that it is not dealing with "normal" people as the camp attitude has done something to twist the people's thinking. At the same time, a lot of what they say is legitimate. It's too bad that so many of the <sup>Issei</sup> are still are convinced that Japan is going to indemnify them after "she wins the war." It doesn't sound possible that they could actually believe that, but it isn't exactly a political matter at all. They are afraid of the future and they don't want to face life. I guess they would prefer to sit in camps for the rest of their lives. Too bad for the <sup>Nisei</sup> children left behind, I think.

Well, back to work for me now! This is the last letter you got from me from here as I will be bus for the rest of the week. Betta, the SF still won't buy me a new bag and I am not satisfied at all with the repair job. I will have to put in another claim after I get back there. I feel pretty bad about the whole thing, and mad too! They say that the bag is much better than before, but the repair mark is still there and that is what I object too.  
write me in camp.

Love,  
Charlie.



Charles Kikuchi  
Insert: letter from  
opl Naj to Dorothy.

Diary

March 5, 1945

7131

March 2, 1945  
Topaz.

Dear Dorothy, WI,

.....Topaz is dead and, gosh, not many young people around. Many people with whom I've talked to are interested in the possible return back to their former homes in Calif, but they are more interest in hearing about crowd conditions, money, negroes, and 'dust bowler's and possible discrimination. These, they seize and find excuses for not returning or rather not leaving the camp. They want something to justify and rationalize themselves into staying here. You just can't tell them otherwise. There is a story going around about Mr. Sadamune of Oakland who is back there. An Issei, I think I told you about him, who returned from Gila and lives with his hakujin wife in Oakland who was supposed to have been threatened by phone 2 am one morning to leave Oakland or have his throat cut. (Many versions of this--some say phone; others, letters; some say his throat slit; other, shot) It was supposed to have been in the Oakland Tribune a few weeks back (others say last week), some say it was also in Pacific Citizen. But the funny part of it all is that I saw Sadamune last Saturday, and he said nothing about it. In fact, he said he had found letters welcoming him home from people he didn't even know.

Topazians, ditto other Centers, I suppose, are looking for excuses and are willing to believe almost anything which they want to believe and will believe not nothing from a ~~skimorkisak~~ known fact, which they don't want to.

As you might suspect they can't understand the fall of Manila nor Iwo Jima either.

Relocation East is out of the question. They won't even consider it. If they can't find some form of discrimination--any kind--they just say no jobs and no housing. It may be true but isn't the point that with them it's an excuse. They hate like hell the idea of moving, the idea of facing the world again. Where Issei have gone East, in most instances, have been because of their kids. Nisei have tremendous influence upon their parents, perhaps indirectly.

Nisei here are remaining for various reasons--but predominate one seems to be because of parents pull some sort of bitterness and hopelessness. School aged kids after graduation seem to have hopes of leaving this dead place.

As you said the Issei here are going to 'Ganbaru' They aren't even taking WRA threat seriously--but they seem passive too. If WRA is going to throw them out, then they say 'shikataganai'--it can't be helped.

Issei don't believe a word about FED., State, or County help. They remember too well the fate of people who were on WPA and they don't want to be like them. Deep underneath they feel since US put them here, it's up to the US to take care of them.

My regards to Charlie and his blond girl friend, Johnny, Mrs. Wilson, and to Morton.

/s/ Naj.



I've worked for about three hours this evening now and I am getting weary. I guess I don't have the drive that Morton has. He has Ruth up here with him now working on proof reading of his theses and every two minutes she says she wants to go home, but Morton insists she stay a little longer. Mrs. Wilson is another energetic one. She has a terrible cold but she came to work today despite it. Jonnie was around again today too. She has been over in SF doing some typing. I guess I am satisfied enough with progress today, considering the long time it takes to go through a case. Dorothy does one in less than half of the time, but I can't see things as easily as she can so I just sit and sit and think at times without writing a word. It goes along much easier now, and I think that I will be able to keep going in Chicago for a while. Dorothy said today that she was going to take a three day rest after I left, but I am sure that it wasn't my anxieties which is driving her to it. She has been having a hectic time over the weekend with a conference in SF.

Eileen says things at Mariko's are back to normal now, but "Bob" was over and when I was talking to him, he said that there was a vacancy across from his place. Don't know if he just thought of it but naturally since the tide has come up, I have my suspicions. I should see a psychiatrist as just imaginary factors seem to ply my mind constantly. Whether or not I am not big enough to overcome all of this or whether it is lack of self confidence, I really can't say." She has put in an application for an apartment on Sedgewick St with Lily. She seems to be coming along in school, and having her social life at the same time. Her work is about the same, and she still tells me corny jokes which she thinks are "cute" but which I don't appreciate very much.



Last night, it suddenly started to rain so that I was stranded in the office. Fortunately Mrs. Wilson had left an umbrella here so I started home about midnight during a slight lull. I had no sooner gotten down to Sather Gate, when it started to come down in a heavy downpour. My clothes got soaked by the time I got back to the "I" House. I had to take about an hour to press my pretty new suit all out as it was limp and drenched. It came out ~~much~~ well so I quit cursing and the Persian boys were able to go back to sleep.

Still working on the case "analysis" but my days here are really numbered. I haven't got my suitcase back yet, but it looks like a hopeless case so I will have to accept it as it is. Jimmy is not coming until the middle of the month so that I will not see him before I leave. Dorothy is satisfied with our progress, and I do believe that I am getting to write a little more objective and I have the pattern all set. Jonnie is still working on the indexing of the data and it will all be sent back to Chicago.

Morton reports that Mrs. Kingman is very mad at the WRA and the Army because she is not allowed to hold a series of meetings up and down the Coast to create favorable public opinion for the evacuees. The Fair Play Committee hasn't been able to do too much lately. Kingman claims that the local WRA, headed by Cozzens, will not allow her to give any public talks until ~~the~~ the Western Defense Command will send along a representative to make a statement too. The Western Defense Command, notably Maj. General Wilbur, washes its hands of the whole thing. "He is a De Witt type of Army man." Mrs. Kingman is going to Washington, DC once of these days in order to persuade Ass't Sect'y of war McCloy to put the pressure on the Western Defense Command and force them to make a statement. It has not been putting up those signs rescinding the prohibition of evacuees entering this territory.



Charles Kikuchi

Diary

Tues. March 6, 1945

Sun. March 4, 1945  
207 Capitol St.  
Vallejo, California

Dear Charles,

How does it feel to be famous? I'm enclosing a write-up from yesterday's Times Herald about your talk Thursday nite. You really gave a wonderful speech. Everybody I have talked to so far has been enthusiastic.

I hope your ride back to Berkeley with Rev. Eisel wasn't too painful. In his senility, he has suddenly decided to ~~pop~~ pop out in print in the newspapers every once in a while for social reform, usually vice crusades. He's quite a character. (He's really not a bad sort at all!)

You really touched the Negro man, Mr. Owens, off on a sentimental reminiscing. He's been talking about you ever since. I wish that Rev. Eisel hadn't whisked you off to Berkeley so soon. We would have liked very much for you to have joined a small group of us later for a bull session. Dr. Thomas particularly wanted to know you better. He's a pretty good Joe--young physician out of school only a short while with some fairly liberal ideas instilled in him at McGill University in Canada.

Francis Watson was thrilled to find so many friends in common with you. I had dinner with her tonite. She told me she corned you for quite a little gab-fest before the meeting.

Have a pleasant trip back to Chicago, Charlie. I'm writing Marion Jacobs to watch for you. She has heard a lot about you from Rachael Greene. If you run across Alice James or Liesel Berlin I know them too. Good luck!

/s/Dodo



Charles Kikuchi

Diary

Tues. March 6, 1945

VALLEJO TIMES HERALD

March 1, 1945

COUNCIL FOR CIVIC UNITY WILL MEET

The Vallejo Council for Civic Unity will hold its regular monthly meeting at Vallejo High School on Amador street tonight.

At 7:30 p.m. members will meet for a short business session. Two members-at-large will be elected to serve on the executive committee with the recently-elected officers and with the appointed chairmen of standing committees.

At 8:15 p.m. a general meeting will be held at which Charles Kikuchi, research assistant at the University of California, Berkeley, will be the speaker.



Charles Kikuchi

Diary

7136  
Tues. March 6, 1945

VALLEJO TIMES HERALD

March 3, 1945

Vallejo Born Japanese American Tells of Nisei Resettlement Problems.

Resettlement of Americans of Japanese descent must be complete by Jan. 1, 1946, for the War Relocation Authority has announced that it intends to close the relocation centers by that time. Younger Japanese-Americans have left--40,000 of them--to find their place in the American stream of life. But there remain 80,000, many of them old and fearful of the hatred and violence which they believe await them if they return to their former homes and reluctant to start life anew in strange places.

This was the picture presented to the Vallejo Council for Civic Unity by Charles Kikuchi, at present research assistant in the evacuation and resettlement study of the University of California. Kikuchi, born in Vallejo, was introduced by the president, Rev. David L. Kratz, as "an American citizen who has attained a high place in his field at the University of Chicago."

CENTERS MUST GO

The centers must go, the speaker said, because the government realizes they are a symbol of undemocratic action which should be eliminated as soon as possible for the good of the whole country as well as for the minority group most concerned. Most of the evacuees were sent to the ten centers because of military necessity, not because of sabotage or threat of sabotage. After February, 1943, when the loyal were segregated from the disloyal, bitterness even among the Japanese-born alien population, due to their experience, has faded. They are more settled in their minds since they know they will continue to reside in America.



Charles Kikuchi

Diary

The Nisei know their future lies with America and they want to acquaint fellow-Americans with the truth that they have nothing to do with Japan and that all their sentiment, training and loyalties are with America. They are finding their places, mostly in the midwest, beginning with the assumption, Kikuchi said, that to be a real American one must be an integral part of an American community and not belong to a segregated pattern such as formerly existed on the Pacific coast.

## THREAT TO ALL CITIZENS

"If the United States can settle minority problems, it will be an example for the world," the speaker declared. "If one person's citizenship is abridged, this affects the citizenship of every person in a democracy."

Problems confronting young Nisei are jobs, housing and taking part in community activities. Many are maladjusted, unsure of themselves because of their camp experience, away from their parents for the first time, but the majority are making satisfactory adjustments with the help of friends in churches, social agencies, labor groups, etc.

Few young Japanese-Americans will return to the West Coast, according to Kikuchi. He traced the origin of an anti-Oriental movement of California back to the Gold Rush and recalled that Japanese were first brought by American railroads in 1880 as laborers who later developed a certain type of farming, especially fitted to the state's cultivation.

## EXPERTS ONLY HERE

Older Japanese who want to return do so because they do not understand any other kind of farming, such as that of the midwest. "Race tensions, class tensions and labor tensions which will keep the young Nisei from returning to the state have implications for our whole way



Charles Kikuchi

Diary

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of living," the young man declared.

There are now 13,000 Nisei in the military service of the United States, many in the intelligence service, according to the speaker. The 100th Battalion is the most decorated group in <sup>the</sup> American army, he stated, and the 442nd is also highly decorated for valor. Segregation is not now practiced, however, Japanese-Americans being put into regular American units and treated with true democracy.

The greatest problem of resettlement is with those still in camp. Kikuchi spoke of an old Japanese mother in whose window is hung a flag with seven stars. Seven sons she has given to the American service, but she has nowhere to go, so she stays in camp. Where she will go when the camp is discontinued is the problem, for she knows only the farming economy of California and the reports of burnings, of physical violence and the like make her and others like her afraid to return.

#### EDUCATIONAL JOB

"A great educational job must be done," the speaker concluded. "The vocal anti-social element is not American; they are Fascist, and they are a minority, I am convinced. The great majority of persons are simply indifferent. They are the ones we must educate not to identify a person by his physical characteristics alone. When tolerance is restricted, that is a sign that democracy is suffering from ingrowing decay."

A question period followed the speaker's address, specifically on definite ways in which resettlement problems are being handled with the aid of community social agencies. A government office for family planning for evacuees has been opened in Oakland, it was stated.



I went over to Bob's last night for dinner, but we didn't enter into any political arguments. It's no use. Elizabeth is a wonderful cook even if she has funny ideas about "superiority." Saul and Martha came over later in the evening, and we just talked about income taxes, music, use of gasoline in war, the draft, etc. Bob said that the standard oil officials are informing the deferred workers that a new draft regulation will be announced on April 1st which will ~~cancel~~ cancel all deferments, and they will be drafted with the exception of one-third of the total. Each large company will be allowed to select the one third which it still considers most essential. Bob is worried now as he took the job at <sup>A</sup>Standard in order to get a deferment. Martha said that she was going to speak to one of the labor officials to see if something could not be done about my damaged baggage since the SP is anxious to keep on good relations with labor. She won her case against the SP over the management of the Hospital. The SP will have to give \$700,000 a year for this hospital and not have control over it. Elizabeth thought that it was awful for labor to control the hospital instead of the Company, but we didn't argue about it. I am afraid that this friendship between these neighbors <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ not going to develop.

On the way home, I stopped in at Martha's and Saul's home and they made a remark that they did not seem to have much in common with Bob and Elizabeth. They did not think they could do much in "enlightening" them. Martha thought that Elizabeth seemed to be the most reactionary. She said that she thought about it a lot the night we had the discussion and she just couldn't get over the fact that anyone would openly come out and be favorable towards "fascism." I thought that Bob and Elizabeth did not exactly advocate going that far as they were more interested in themselves. Saul thought that it was too bad that anyone could believe that he could get along without considering the welfare of society. I suggested that they work on them anyway, but ~~him~~ Martha and Saul thought it was hopeless. "It's too bad because they don't seem to be bad sorts. But it is this type of people who would not say anything if the Jews, Negroes, Chinese, etc were all thrown in concentration camps."



Dick sent a copy of the resolution of the evacuee Salt Lake Conference on the closing of the centers, and he said that Meyer remarked that he did have an "alternative plan" in the event that the centers were not emptied by the end of the year. This is the first indication that Meyer is backing down a little, something that would have had to come eventually. The delegates to the conference submitted a statement of facts and recommendations to Meyer and it went on record that they would like the camps kept open for the duration of the war "and for some time thereafter as may be needed and, further, be operated with a view to providing residents with necessities, facilities and services on at least an equal level as in the past." The conference was held from Feb. 16 to Feb 24.

Statement of facts.

1. Mental Suffering has been caused by the forced mass evacuation.
2. There has been an almost complete destruction of financial foundations built during over half a century.
3. Especially for the duration, the war has created fears of prejudices, persecution, etc, also fears of physical violence and fears of damage to property.
4. Many Issei (average age between 60 and 65) were depending upon their sons for assistance and support, but these sons are serving the United States Armed Forces. Now these Issei are reluctant to consider relocation.
5. Residents feel insecure and apprehensive towards the many changes and modification of WRA policies.
6. The residents have prepared to remain for the duration because of many statements made by the WRA that relocation centers will be maintained for the duration of the war.
7. Many residents were forced to dispose of their personal and real properties, business, and agricultural equipment, etc, at a mere trifling of their cost; also drew leases for the "duration", hence have nothing to return to.
8. Practically every Buddhist priest is now excluded from the West Coast. Buddhism has a substantial following, and the members obviously prefer to remain where the religion centers.
9. There is an acute shortage of housing, which is obviously a basic need in resettlement. The residents fear that adequate housing is not available.
10. Many persons of Japanese ancestry have difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage on life, against fire, on automobiles, on property, etc.



RECOMMENDATIONS

## We recommend:

1. That special governmental agencies or units be established solely for providing assistance to evacuees who might require funds in reestablishing themselves.
  - a. Resettlement aid (grants)
  - b. Loans.

2. That the present relocation grant be increased. It should be given to every relocatee. The penalty clause on the present form should be deleted.

We further recommend that federal aid be granted according to every individual's particular needs until such time as he is reestablished.

3. That long term loans at a low rate of interest be made available, without security, to aid the residents in reestablishing themselves as near as possible to their former status in private enterprises, such as business, agriculture, fisheries, etc.
4. That the WRA make every effort to obtain a return of properties, for evacuees who, due to evacuation and consequent inability to maintain installment payments, have lost the same; further, in order to prevent loss of property, to obtain some definite arrangement for the granting of governmental aid, as may be necessary, to evacuees unable, as a result of evacuation, to maintain installment payments.
5. That the WRA use their good offices so that consideration may be given on priority by OPA. Because of evacuation, residents, were forced to dispose of their equipment, trucks, cars and etc; many of which at present require the approval of an OPA Board. These equipments are essential to many residents in order to reestablish themselves in former enterprises.
6. That the WRA give financial aid to residents with definite plans, for the purposes of defraying the expenses of investigating specific relocation possibilities.
7. That the WRA establish adequately staffed offices in important areas and employ persons of Japanese ancestry since they understand Japanese psychology; and also establish in these field offices, legal advisory and employment departments.
8. That the WRA continue the operation of evacuee property offices for the duration, to fulfill the needs of relocatees.
9. That the WRA accept for reinduction into centers those who relocate and who find themselves unable to make satisfactory adjustments.
10. That the WRA arrange for the establishing of hostels and other facilities in various areas; and furthermore, build new housing through the PHA, with WRA assistance.
11. That the WRA provide transportation of evacuee property door to door.
12. That the WRA negotiate for the establishing of old people's homes exclusively for persons of Japanese ancestry.



13. That the WRA make negotiations to arrange (1) so that evacuees formerly civil service employees will be reinstated and (2) so that persons of Japanese ancestry will be able to secure business licenses as formerly.
14. That short term leave regulations be changed to permit an absence of two months with one month extension privileges. Also, that the evacuee investigating relocation possibilities be permitted to become employed, without change of status.
15. That when an evacuee relocates or returns to his former business or home, WRA should make every effort to release frozen assets (blocked accounts), both in cases of individuals or organizations.
16. That the WRA negotiate for the concluding of arrangements where under alien parents may be able to operate or manage properties with powers of a torney issued by their children, particularly by sons on the US armed forces.
17. That the WRA arrange to secure outright releases for parolees who relocate.
18. That the WRA obtain the establishment of some avenue of government indemnities for relocatees who may become victims of anti-Japanese violence in terms of personal injuries or property damage.
19. That the WRA arrange for adequate gov't compensation against losses to evacuee property by fire, theft, etc while in gov't or private storage or while in transit
20. That the WRA arrange to provide students of Japanese ancestry with adequate protection in case of need, and opportunities equal to those enjoyed by caucasian ~~xxx~~ students.
21. That the WRA make every effort to secure work opportunities for returnees and relocatees on equal basis with caucasian citizens, particularly in reference to admittance into labor unions.

#### Suggestion.

The foregoing is a partial list of appeals emanating from center residents, and each item is founded on factual cases. We made the suggestion that the WRA should verify the existence of these problems, possibly by adopting some such procedure as follows:

The WRA should conduct a more accurate and intensive relocation survey than at present, with intent to determine what are the actual needs of the residents in terms of making their relocation possible. This Survey might be conducted in every project, by interviewing a number of evacuees selected from among those unable to make relocation plans, and further selected with a view to obtaining an accurate cross-section. The assistance of interpreters recommended by the Community Councils might be enlisted.

Note; The suggested survey should, perhaps, be conducted so that all center residents will be interviewed; however, as a first step, we recommend the interview of lesser numbers, in the interest of expediency, because we desire the earliest possible acknowledgment of the conditions, and establishment of adequate policies for the furthering of relocation.

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The requests in most of the items listed to do sound unreasonable to me. But



even if granted, the people in the camps would have further excuses because they are afraid to death to come out and they want guarantees for security for the rest of their lives and that could never be done even if an attempt were made. Most of the people in the camps sent these delegates out to Salt Lake with the intent of demanding that the centers be kept open and that they did not even want to consider relocation. They are tired of moving around. Many of the old men and women don't want to go out and struggle for a living anymore, and I can't blame them for that. It seems to be a general psychological state of insecurity, and these requested items all indicate that. Dick said that there was a terrible debate on whether the Spanish Consul should be asked to the meeting or not. The camp people are still not counting out Japan as they mistrust the RA so much, not realizing that the WRA is only one small governmental agency and not the US government. The WRA has it's hands tied and I doubt if it could do much more in the way of financial aid than to give larger grants, and possible help on federal housing. It has a budget to operate within and Congress would never give monies for all the things asked in Salt Lake as it would bring loud cries of "pampering" and "coddling." A better solution might be worked out, but I think that it is going to be very hard on the 80,000 left in the camps. I hope that it is not going to ruin the progress of the 39,000 out already, but it is sure to do just that if "Japanese slums appear. That is too much of a price to pay for the closing of the camps and I certainly can't see it as a democratic functioning from this viewpoint. The Japanese residents/<sup>of Canada</sup> are facing an even more difficult future, but two wrongs do not make a right and that can't be pointed out that the U.S. Japanese residents are fortunate. From the democratic point of view it is a tragic mess. I suppose that the Japanese issue in this country is just part of the general struggle now going on between the reactionary and liberal elements in the U.S. and it touches the lives of all Americans. If the reactionaries take over, it is going to be an era of great disillusionment for everybody in the U.S. I hope it "can't happen here."



It seems that intolerance grows to a certain extent during wartime since emotions are aroused. Every little incident which happens to the evacuees coming back to the Coast is widely spread around the camps. Add to these, the other racial incidents such as growing anti-semitism and anti Negro feelings in this state and the picture is rather ugly. But all of these actions are taken by small minorities and I still am convinced that 90% of the population are decent, altho indifferent because they don't think that it will ever hit them directly. But the group concerned, in this case the evacuees, feel that this is the typical pattern in the state and they don't get too much of the news on the other side. And it isn't very pleasant if the "incident" happens to them. Enough stories of "incidents" have now gone the rounds of the camps to scare the people from even thinking of taking a chance. Those without citizenship do not feel protected because they have lived lives of insecurity ever since the war started. Meyer tells them in camp that all these threats of vigilante committees, etc is just bluff, but to the people, it is a real thing. It is unfortunate that they do get such a distorted picture of things from the newspapers which only publicize the extreme things. Even the Pacific Citizen is guilty of that. More incidents have happened in California since the return of a few evacuees than in the Midwest because the prejudices are a little stronger from past developments. But the great majority of California people are no different than those in Illinois and other states. Sometimes, I get mighty disgusted with misguided "patriots" but it is unfair to condemn the whole population like the camp people are apparently doing.

Last night's incident at San Jose will be sure to make the rounds of the centers quickly and reinforce their fears and further delay eventual resettlement. A group of unidentified men unsuccessfully attempted to burn down the farm house of a "returnee" family and fled after firing some shots. Mr. Takeda, five children, and a son-in-law were the victims. The fire started by gasoline was put out by the family, but they were shot upon at this time. Such things are hard to understand. Economic jealousy seems to be at the basis since San Jose is



in a rich farming community where Japanese farmers used to have quite a hold. Up in Auburn, all of the stores have signs saying that "Japs are not welcomed and will not be served." The four men who burned and dynamited the Doi home. Two of them were AWOL from the Army. They thought it was a good idea to run all of the "Japs" out of the country. Similar incidents have happened in Fresno and Visalia. On the other hand, Parker, Ariz, near Poston, sent an official letter from the businessmen and citizens of the town inviting the camp people to go there to do business as they had no ill will towards the evacuees now. This was the town where the Nisei soldier with a Purple Heart was refused service a few months back. In Boston, the VFW has been censured strongly by other veterans groups for protesting the use of blood donated by Nisei. The Hood River Legion post has also been censured by many Legion posts for its racist stand on the Honor Roll. (This action clearly motivated by those who want to take over the farms of former evacuee residents.) The National American Legion has officially renounced this sort of action. National Commander Edward Scheiberling's statement on the Hood River issue: "The American Legion has always maintained that bigotry and race hatred have no place in American life. The action of this individual post out of more than 12,245 posts of the American Legion was ill advised and contrary to the ideals and purposes for which the American Legion is organized." I wish that more Legion posts in this state would heed this good advice, instead of being hypocrites and doing things "unofficially" while subscribing to this belief all along.

Politicians can be the biggest hypocrites. Bowron of L.A. officially welcomes back evacuees with ceremonies in his office and makes a statement that "We want you and all other citizens of Japanese ancestry who have relocated here to feel secure in your homes and in your community life", but tells the press that it is too dangerous for the evacuees to come back and that he cannot guarantee lawful protection!



Up in Placer County, the California Preservation Committee, organized by the VFW post and Deputy Sheriff had 300 local citizens pass a resolution to boycott "all Japanese products and persons who handle Japanese merchandise or do business with them" in the locality. The Anti-Japanese League in "inters (near sacramento) are also holding meetings to keep the "Japs" out. Portland's City Council (as of Feb 9) will refuse to allow "alien Japanese Americans" to operate business establishments there. "What in hell is an "alien Japanese American."? A Chinese American in Seattle was slugged with a whiskey bottle after being mistaken for a "Jap". Another Chinese American, Valdeen Pon, was forced to leave a public bus. The Summer Remember Pearl Harbor Leave has recruited 65 new members since Jan.

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Favorable Press statements in Jan and early Feb on the "return to Coast" question:

"We judge by words and deeds and so we must judge the Japanese. It was not so long ago the West Coast was demanding the Chinese must go... They had lived here for years. They had become Americans in spirit." DR. MONROE E MEUTSCH, Vice pres., U. of Calif in Oakland Tribune, Jan 7.

"Unwarranted persecution and discrimination against American citizens of Japanese ancestry" is condemned in American F.d. of Labor Resolution, Jan. 13

"Our members will through their organized democratic strength combat any movement designed to breed disorders against our American citizens of Japanese ancestry" Internat'l Labor Workers Union resolution, Jan 12

"Everyone expected a great deal of resentment and resistance to the Japanese on the part of the Negroes. However, the opposite is true. We want them to have all the privileges to which they are entitled as American Citizens, and we are willing to make common cause with them to alleviate the housing situation here." J. James, SF president of NAACP in SF News, Jan 12.

"The course of racial unity on the West Coast will determine racial relations throughout the country..it is not a racial difference but what people think about racial difference that is the real problem." Carey Mc Williams, SF News, Jan 30

"Why can't they be accepted as Americans?" Joe E. Brown at Commonwealth Club Feb

"We go on record as disapproving any words or overt acts which indicate discrimination against these Japanese Americans or any other race." San Diego CIO Council, Jan 27

"As long as I am in office I will stop anybody with vigilante ideas." Chas. Carr, U.S Att'y for So. Calif.



"We considered him a cocky little person (the Japanese in the state) with a chip on his shoulder, overly aggressive and often with little patience. As a competitor especially in agriculture, he was feared chiefly because he was not afraid of work. He is still so feared--which is one of the reasons why resolutions for boycott have been passed against him and those who deal with him when he returns. I imagine such things went on in the dead days when the Nazis started on their road to ultimate reproach and final infamy." Part of speech by Frank Clarvoe, Ed. of SF News before Commonwealth Club in SF on Jan 19, 1945

Unfavorable sentiment in Press during Jan and early Feb, 1945

"We think it is an effrontery to the people of Calif. that the WRA should come here and use every means to return the fishing licenses to the "Japanese." Sen (State) Irwin Quinn, Sac. Union, Jan 17)

"But how are we going to tell without identification of the Japanese Americans are not aliens or those excluded from the coast and who have disobeyed their orders? And if they're not spies brought over by Japx submarines.?" Al Cohon, LA Police Commissioner in LA Herald Express, Jan. 5)

"Their return to Calif. in any large numbers would abet the movements and operations of Japanese agents." WW Gray, Executive Sect'y of Americans League of Calif in SA Times, Jan 21

"Allowing Japanese to return to the Pacific Coast states doesn't set too well with veterans returning from the S. Pacific. I do not believe that returning Japanese are intent upon sabotage, but I am worried as to espionage. This move to bring them back is just what Japan has been waiting for. She has already said she would win the war that way." Gov Mon. Wallgren in various coast papers, Jan. 23.

"No Japa Trade Solicited for the Duration" "No Japs allowed to Trade Here." Signs in Gresham, Oregon stores as reported by Port. Oregonian, Jan 18

"It is neither reasonable nor just to expect that our men in uniform will accept the situation of the return of Japanese who will be occupying homes and farms now being operated by families and friends." Calif. State Grange, in Stockton Record, Dec 22, 1944

"To discourage the return to the Pacific Coast of any persons of Japanese ancestry not in the uniform of the U.S." Resolution of Monterey Bay Council on Japanese Relations, reported in San Jose Mercury Herald, Jan 22.

Other organizations passing anti Japanese American resolutions.

LA. County Board of Supervisors, rescinded after Jan 11.

Seattle Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Riverside Pomona Grange

Yuba County Board of Supervisors.

Molokini Grange.

Joint resolution by the American's League, Native Sons, "Women of the Golden West," Americanism Ed. League, Sino-Korean People's League, United Philippine War Veterans and "B'n the Japs" league.

Anti-Japanese Association of Vacaville.

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Jack phoned up to tell me that Dolores was rather sick. She has had a high fever for three days. The doctors at Stanford Hospital think that she might have pneumonia, but Jack believes that it is only flu and that she will be well in another day or so. I hope so. He sounded rather worried. He is going to look for another job now as he is tired of waiting for the permit to come in from the Western Defense command saying that he can go work at Bethlehem shipyards. It was supposed to come in ten days, but it has been over two weeks since he first applied for clearance. Jack tried to get unemployment compensation, but the USES told him that he was available for work so that he cannot get it. Jack will start job hunting in earnest next Monday as he wants Dolores to get well first. He didn't sound too enthusiastic about any of Mr. Ingojo's propositions as he wants to be independent.

Last evening Dorothy gave her "party for Charlie." It really was for Jimmy's arrival but he was delayed. Since there were all couples there, Dorothy had "one of the Jones girls" there to keep me from getting lonesome! Leslie Jones is going to Stanford next quarter. Her father is a professor. She seems to have a lot of personality and nice looking too. Dorothy said she was going to invite Jonnie, but she didn't want the "sweet girl to get <sup>DARN!</sup> corrupted by a lot of drunkards." She thinks a lot of Jonnie as "she is very bright and liberal." ~~Buzz!~~ I think so too. Dorothy said that as a compensation I could sit between Leslie and Renee at dinner! Morton and Ruth, Bob and Elizabeth, and George S<sub>n</sub>bath were the others present. WI plays the host in a magnificent manner, and we all thought that he was the life of the party on the way home. He is full of repartee and quick on the draw so he keeps right up. It was a most enjoyable meal--turkey, tomatoes, pie, etc. I made the rice!! It came out well, I guess. WI served his special cocktails, and we also had wine for dinner and highballs later in the evening. Dorothy gave each of the girls a pin made out of fossil shells by the Topaz people.

It was a very pleasant evening and everyone enjoyed it. After the



heavy dinner, I got Leslie on the scales and by putting my foot on it, she thought she had gained 10 pounds and she was quite worried. Renae also thought she had put on a lot of weight. I had Bob up to 250 pounds, but he got wise. We sat around and talked for the rest of the evening. On the subject of "human decency" which Bob questioned, Dorothy said it was character and Morton said it was selflessness. Bob did not see the point and he started to tell about the zulu men who ate no vegetables between the age of 18 and 30, but we could not see his point. WI was much too quick for him. He is the first one I have met who says that the younger generation is "brighter." Of course, he had an exceptional group there to judge by. Bob did not like to give in easily even though we all agreed that there was such a thing as "human decency." He said it was relative and depended upon the mores of a group. Dorothy said that it included good traits of character such as dependability, lack of extreme selfishness, regard for others, etc. She gave Mrs. Wilson and Jemie as examples of people with "human decency" and we all agreed on that.

I found out that WI did improve the golf ball by putting something in the core. He has an elaborate workshop in the house and he mends shoes, sews, and sharpens knives there. He also has his office where he is working on his book.

Morton drove us home, and Bob gave me a pipe as a last gift. I surely do regret leaving California now because it has been an interesting five weeks here and I have made a lot of nice friends. I shall miss the good climate also.

This morning I ate at the "I" House for the first time in a week. Afterwards, I walked down to the campus with Ellen Carnot from Luxemburg. She has been here for 2½ years. She is a charming and attractive girl. She said that she did not think she would go back to Luxemburg as she has outgrown the country and it was too puritan. "Only thing to do is go to the movies." She has such a pretty accent. She invited me to go to the I House dance on Friday, but I won't be here. Too bad! No wonder I will miss Calif with all these nice people!



I rushed around most of the day getting all of the stuff together to be sent back. In the afternoon, Dorothy and I talked over some of the plans for further work when I get back. Dorothy had to go to the doctor because she has some kind of an allergy from cosmetics so I took the opportunity of getting all the papers in order from her desk as I was worried that it would get all scattered. "Nothing is ever lost in this office," she says so calmly, but...

It makes me feel sad to be leaving here after getting to know everyone so well. Now I won't get to hear Mrs. Wilson's accent anymore or look at all the new clothes which Jonnie wear every day. But I suppose they will get more work done after I leave as I am a disturbing influence. I don't see how they can concentrate so well.

We had a major incident in the office this afternoon. The university phone operator, Miss Harrison, called up and said that a lot of "Japanese students" were using the phones and she resented the fact that the professors were "kowtowing" to them. Dorothy then went into action. She phoned back and asked what it was all about. It seems that I made a mistake in calling to SF and from that the rumor starts that a lot of "Japanese" students come up here to the office at night and laugh and phone their girl friends all over the Bay area! They listened in to my phone calls too, and that is peculiar altho they have the right to do this on long distance calls. The funny thing was why did they have to listen to me? Dorothy was burned up and she didn't see what business it was of theirs to make an issue of the ancestry of the person calling. She said that the professors were not kowtowing and that it was justifiable if some special privileges were given to Nisei students, which she did not know of though, since they were victims of the war, just like war veterans. She said she resented the fact



that members of her staff were put under suspensions as "Japanese" and she was going to write a note to President Sproul about it. This scared the old bag on the other end of the line and she started to backpedal like anything. She tried to put the blame on the boy who is on the switchboard in the evenings. Dorothy said that there were only 11 Nisei students on the campus and she was not aware that they were going up to professors' offices to use the phone in a boisterous way! "It is strange indeed that you say such things. Do you have any evidence? Do you ask the ancestry of all people who make phone calls. The janitor is of Italian descent. I just don't like it at all and I expect to have my staff treated in a courteous way. I shall drop the matter of writing to Pres. Sproul if you talk to the boy on the switchboard and ask him to be more careful hereafter about spreading such rumors." Miss Harrison was probably scared out of her skin by this time, but she tried to talk herself out of it. It is such a silly thing, but it shows how dumb some people are. Dorothy certainly gave the old hen a good working over, and I don't think the phone issue will come up again. The idea of listening in to my phone calls! My god, what did I say over it these past days!

Mrs. Wilson was burned up too. Apparently her daughter is a lot conscious of the Nisei now as she phoned up Mrs. Wilson at noon and said that she had a big argument with somebody in the office who wanted to exterminate all Japs regardless of where they were born, etc. Jonnie invited me to go over to her sorority house for lunch tomorrow after the "great phone incident." What a nice refreshing girl! If they were all like the people in this office, it would certainly make a nice country to live in! Jonnie is so ambitious that she doesn't even have a lunch period all day on Tue and Thurs. Page Bette!



Last night I went over to Morton's and Ruths for dinner. Jack, Myrtle, and Bill were also there, and Merrit and Thelma dropped in for desert. Bill is a navigator in the Air Force and he flies on those large transports across the Pacific. He just returned from Hawaii. Jack is working in the Kaiser shipyards in the planning and engineering room and he had a lot of things to tell us about shipyard experiences. His wife also worked in the shipyards as a draftsman. They own a very swant car, but are "proletariat." Jack Rudinow was born in Russia. They gave me a ride home. I didn't stay too late as I had to go home and pack my things.

It took me several hours to get all the stuff in my bags. The excess will be sent by express as I have accumulated more things than what I had when I first arrived. I was exhausted by the time I finished the task and I just couldn't fit my heavy winter coat into the bag. I guess I will have to wear it, but people are sure to think I am crazy until I get east of the Rockies at least. Talked to some of the fellows in the house while in the showers and they were sure that the war in Europe would end in another two weeks. The Allies have broken over the Rhine now and Juan said that Germany was much weaker now than France was when Paris fell back in 1940. People are all getting optimistic that it will be over soon, but Bill said on the way home that he did not think it would be over in Germany until well into the summer. I hope that it will be soon.

I paid my bill at the I house this morning and waited for about an hour for Mr. Blaisdell but he did not show up so I came on down to the office to finish packing the box to ship out. Dorothy was upset because she went out to dinner with an old N.Y. friend, Colonel "Larry" last night and she discovered that he was getting very military and reactionary. "He used to be such a great liberal but the Army has done something to him. He is out here for the Eastern Defense Command to investigate the "Japanese" on the East Coast. Larry has changed so much. He is sure that the 'Kibei' are going to blow up bridges and all of these things. He is not interested in the justice of evacuation, but he says that this experience has made them so bitter that they might be dangerous! I worked on



Charles Kikuchi

Diary

Sun. March 9, 1945

him quite a bit, but he has those stern military lines in his face now. In two years he has gotten like that. He used to be a judge in the domestic relations court and known as quite a liberal, but he's so changed now. I usually do not take issues with anyone since I am not optimistic enough to think I can change people's minds, but I am going to work on him tomorrow when we go out to play golf. It is too much that he got all 'brass', including his thinking. If the Army can indoctrinate him that much in two years, then he should see how the Kibei might have been a little indoctrinated. The trouble is that I don't think he has ever seen a Nisei. He is going to fly down to Manzanar for a quick look of one day. The war department just doesn't coordinate these things because of the autonomy of different Defense Commands. If the Eastern Defense Command goes by what the Western Defense Command has in its files, it is going to be a whole lot of silly things all over again." Morton felt that the Individual exclusion business would be all eliminated soon as "The Army knows that the Supreme Court would rule against it if it came up."

Jack phoned to say that Dolores did have pneumonia, but that she was well out of danger now. He was quite relieved about that. I told him about the switchboard operator who listened in to my call "and if she is doing it now, she is an old bitch." Jack followed this up with some remarks that she ~~was~~ probably had Japanese blood in her and she was no doubt getting orders from Tokyo. If she were listening, her ears are probably still burning! They have the right to monitor calls which do not follow the right procedure on long distance calls, but they do not have the right to question one's ancestry. The idea!

I have all the stuff just about ready to send out now, and this noon Jonnie is going to take Mrs. Wilson and I to her sorority for lunch. My train leaves late this afternoon. I sort of hate to leave here as it has been so pleasant for the past month, but business must come first.



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This noon I went over to Jonnie's Phi Mu Sorority House for lunch. Just before I get over there Jonnie innocently remarks, "You know, you are the first male person to have lunch here since I came." My gosh, that scared me to death! There I was surrounded by girls and girls; I blushed! I bet not many fellows ever have lunch in a Sorority House. Life in the Sorority House is a lot of people who look like other human beings and they all look like they were modeling clothes. Snappy fashions too. No wonder Jonnie dresses so well!

We had a very nice lunch. Afterwards the girls started to sing Cal songs and Jonnie said that they sang an Irish song for me, but they didn't sing a Scotch song for Mrs. Wilson! We were introduced to Nipper, I think, who is the president of the U. of Calif. Student Body and the president of the House, "dear old Phi Mu!" The House itself is some place, large and comfortable. The girls sit around on the floor and play bridge and sing songs. I guess they have a lot of fun. It seems to be a different sort of world, but that is college. Rusty, a girl in a cream green sweater, had a birthday so they sang "Happy Birthday" while she blushed. Jonnie wouldn't sing louder as she said that she went off key. I wonder what would have happened if I suddenly broke forth in a loud male voice into that feminine choir! Jonnie is so proud of her sorority house; I hope that she does not get that snobbish attitude ever. All of those girls seemed to be very nice, natural and refreshing. Jonnie said that I was quite brave in going there, but she was braver in taking me! Anyway, it was a nice experience for my last day in Berkeley. Now I can go back to Chicago and tell people that I was a one day honorary member of Phi Mu Sorority, appointed by Jonnie! Aele Hall, "Heigh-do-ho", was at lunch too and she remembered me from that time she came up to the office to get Jonnie. She is one of the "pets" that Jonnie talks about at the office. "Mike" and Francis(?) too.

Afterwards we walked back to the office by way of Shattuck avenue in the warm sunshine and I grasped at it as if it would be the last I would feel for a long time. Just thinking of that Chicago wind in March is enough to give me the shivers. Oh well, I shall have a week in Arizona first so I might get acclimated. >



Berkeley

9:00 P.M. Well, we are now well on the way to Los Angeles. No trouble at all in getting started <sup>for my trip to camp and return to Chicago.</sup> I was getting a little impatient for a while at the office once it was decided in my mind that it was all set. { At the last minute, I discovered that Mrs. Wilson had left a parting gift of a box of candy on my desk. That certainly was nice of her. Jonnie says I "must come back to Cal". I think I shall miss seeing her pleasant personality around, because she is such a swell person. I hope those "sorority sisters" don't spoil her. She has brains, but I don't see how she gets too much studying done with her heavy schedule.

Mrs. Wilson should be able to get some work done now without having to bother with all my typing! Dorothy said at the station that I should seriously try to get my M.A. completed for further supervision in the report writing near the end phases, if everything else goes according to plan. { <sup>no it</sup> I don't know what my future is, but I don't think I shall be seeing California again for quite a while. I should be enthusiastic about getting back to Chicago, but I'm not. Maybe I will feel more that way after I stay in camp for a day or so. I suppose it was because I had too good a time. Our work plans went along fairly well and now I have a little more confidence in myself for a while. { <sup>t 7160</sup> Dorothy is the brains behind it though and all I had to do was perform automatically. Now I am lost adrift on my own.

Morton drove me down to the station and Dorothy decided to have a beer so we went for that. I was worried that we might miss the train but we made it in plenty of time. I went to eat right away so I didn't have to wait too long. Since this is only an overnight trip everybody seems to be retiring early.

I was fortunate in getting a very attractive girl for the



occupant of the opposite chair. Too bad the porter put the berth up so early! The girl goes to Mills College where she is a junior in pre-med. She is going to L.A. for the weekend to see her boy friend who is in the air force and going overseas soon. The girl is very friendly and we had an agreeable conversation together. She doesn't like sororities because it makes girls unhuman! "My mother belonged to one at the U. of Oregon and we are always having battles about it. She thinks she is a college co-ed yet. At Mills we don't have any sororities at all as we are more 'advanced'. Mills is one of the most liberal schools in the country. It doesn't ~~matter~~ matter if it is a girl's school or not because all schools are girls' schools now." Mills girl has never been in L.A. before. While I was in the men's smoking room a sailor asked me if I wanted to trade seats but I declined! How unpatriotic! I guess today was my lucky day.

I also picked up a marine who has appointed himself as my escort to Los Angeles! He came up to me and asked me if I were from Hawaii. We got to talking and Weston Hill started to tell me all about himself when we discovered that we had several friends in common. I ~~had~~ used to play on the high school basketball team with one of Weston's classmates at McKinley High in Honolulu. Then we discovered that we both knew Doris Tom, etc. in Vallejo. He was stationed at Mare Island.

Weston worked in the American Samco for 3 years under a private contractor. He joined the Marines on Dec. 8, 1941 and he has been in ever since. It's been 7 years since he last saw Hawaii and he said he was mighty homesick. Weston took part in the Marine landing on Tulagi and he was wounded. He was sent to Pango Pango and then to New Zealand. In November, 1944 Weston was sent to Mare Island. In the 4 months there he was put in jail 5 times for dis-



orderly conduct. He opened his sealed envelope to prove it. He said that he used to get <sup>in</sup> a lot of fights when he depended on the Hawaii Nisei. "But the thing that got me mad all the time was when these tough Marines would come up and ask me if I was a Mexican. I would say to him, 'What do you want to know for? Writing a book?' He would say, 'Yeah!' and then the fight was on. I don't like these 'haoles'. I'm glad I'm being shipped to Hawaii from San Diego soon. They're not so friendly over here." Weston was of Portugese, English and Hawaiian extraction and he knew a lot of the "fellows in the 100th battalion. Those boys know how to fight and I'll fight along side of them any time." Weston wanted to know all about the Coast evacuation and he was angry about that. "Let any of those haole civilians pick on you and I'll show them whose a real American!" So that's how I got my bodyguard! He's rough and tough, but sincere. It's funny that he is prejudiced against Caucasians, but that may be because other Marines make too much of his darker skin and are always asking his nationality.

10:00 P.M. Passing through all the San Joaquin Valley towns now but it's too dark to see outside. I remember all these little towns well, but they seem to be so changed as there are so many Army buildings around in every little town we go through. We passed by Port Chicago where that explosion of a munitions ship killed 600 people.

Guess I shall sleep now since there doesn't seem to be a soul left to talk to. The porter doesn't look like a good prospect as he is too glum. Anyway, I have to get up early as the train is scheduled to pull into Los Angeles at 9:30 in the morning.

Gosh, what a good "vacation" I had in Berkeley though!

Dorothy won all the Giannini Hall profs over to the "cause" when she told them about the dumb chief switchboard operator and



and her Gestapo methods in hunting down "Japanese spies" who are kowtowed to by the college! Dorothy said the profs were rather upset that a University employee would start such vicious rumors.



Los Angeles

Los Angeles on time. It looks like the whole of Southern California is a bunch of factories now, with tall palm trees sticking out all over to make the scene crazier! I slept well and got up about 8:00. Talked to Mills College girl until about 9:30 when we arrived in the station. I am sitting here getting my bearings as the Station here is immense. Los Angeles does things in a big way, they say. The city is supposed to have a population of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million but that takes in a lot of suburbs. It is 450 square miles in size, or 10 times the size of San Francisco. They have 3 major industries here--aircraft, shipbuilding and small defense manufacturing plants. The man on the train was wondering how L.A. could ever absorb all those people after the war as the population has jumped almost a million in the last 3 years. I saw all the defense housing on the way in and they look about ready to fall apart. Well I shall go sightseeing now.

4:10 P.M. Whew! This city certainly is a sprawling place. My feet ache. I walked all the way up to 8th St. to see Mandel Lieberman in his law office, but he didn't come in today. The secretary said that he did not have a phone in his home, but he had left directions for me to go out to his house. Since it took  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours to go out there by streetcar, I decided not to go. I wandered around the downtown district. The crowds are just as thick here as in Chicago or S.F. Everybody dresses informally. I walked through the Mexican district and I never saw so many extreme zoot suits in all my life! It's quite a colorful place, but I would say that it's not very sanitary. All of these slums are within sight of the imposing City Hall.

I saw the old "Rafu Shimpo" office where Togo used to edit his newspaper. The former Japanese district has been taken over by the



colored people, but many of the old Japanese signs are still up. The Negroes call it Bronzeville now and the place is jammed. Chinatown is very small in comparison to the S.F. one. The Jewish district is also run down. All of these segregated communities run into each other and they are all located in the worst part of the city.

Broadway and So. Hill St. are more prosperous looking since that is the main business district. It's so warm here today that I didn't feel like walking anymore so I came back to the Union Station. to rest my feet. The station here is a wonder in itself. It is built in the Spanish style and all of the seats in the waiting room are leather covered. I guess that must be the Hollywood influence. I went to a show this afternoon - only 40¢ and I saw "To Have and to Hold" (Bogart and L. Bacall) and "The Woman in the Window". In Chicago, it would cost 95¢ each to see them. There are movie houses all over the city.

9:30 P.M. In a short time we shall be out of California. It is a lot cooler now than it was earlier in the evening. I feel tired out from all that walking today so I shall retire early. Had dinner in a Chinese restaurant just before I left. It is very comfortable here on the train as I have the whole compartment to myself. Met a Mexican gentleman and his wife. He is a chemist and on the way back to Mexico City. He said that he had a new kind of chemical treated shoes which he made and he came up to L.A. to see if he could establish a US branch. >

By the time this trip is over, I will have traveled over 2700 miles from S.F. to Chicago via Los Angeles. I definitely shall see the last of California in a while and I don't feel any particular pangs of regret now that I have been away from the nice Berkeley atmosphere for a day. I'm looking forward to Gila now. I think I



shall ~~xxxxwhxxxxxx~~ re-visit that stinking restaurant in Chandler which gave me an unpleasant time last year just to see what happens. I'm a little worried about getting there on a Sunday as there might not be any transportation to camp. I leave there on a Sunday too. I hope I get back to Chicago in time for the opening of the new quarter. I should be missing Eileen but it doesn't particularly occur to me and it hasn't in the past two weeks. I guess that's because the personalities of Jonnie, Peg, Claire, etc. are fresher in mind and also the good time I had in Berkeley for a month. I don't think I had a lonesome feeling once as it felt as if I had never left there at all.

< Los Angeles didn't particularly impress me. I still think S.F. is a nicer city. There are few cities in the country which can compare with S.F. I suppose. L.A. is big and sprawling and the dirty factory influence is seen these days. It looks like Chicago in spots. The poor pedestrians, unlike Chicago, get a ticket if they don't obey the traffic signs! L.A. impresses me chiefly as a city of contrasts: pretty women and many tramps; modern buildings and slums, etc. All the cities are close together near L.A., but now we are getting more towards the desert. I have to go through Phoenix to get to Chandler and I can't understand that. It must be a roundabout route. >



Gila, Arizona

8:20 A.M. Phoenix - Just woke up about an hour ago. We should be in Chandler in another hour. This trip was certainly different from the one we took when we first went to Gila. Nice looking girl upstairs. Only girls and soldiers travel these days, I guess.

8:30 P.M. Had a very tiring day, but I expect the rest of the week to be rather quiet. I was in luck this morning as I got a ride to camp just as soon as I got off the train. The Kibei fellow from the Internal Security office had brought some fellow down to meet the train so I hailed him. After he looked over my pass, he agreed to give me a lift. I had to check in at the M.P. and leave office after I got to camp. On the way I asked the driver about resettlement and he said, "The WRA can't close the camp. Too many old people here. No place to go. I stay here. Sold all farm equipment so government will have to buy some more for me. Otherwise I stay for the duration. All the people in camp are going to stay. Some go back to California, but too dangerous there for the Nihonjins." I told him that the newspaper accounts did not present the true picture of things but he didn't want to be convinced.

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The camp doesn't look very different from the last time I saw it as they are not doing any more building around here. The barracks are beginning to look run down. Not so much farm land is under cultivation this year. All I saw was old people and young children. I don't know what is going to happen to them as they seem all worn out.

◀ Mrs. Sato is one who is going to stay "until the end". She is in the hospital now with some heart trouble from overwork. She said that Toshie wanted her to go out and take care of the babies while she worked. Mrs. Sato said that she did not care to do this



as she felt there would be too many arguments over modern child care. Furthermore, her husband has been in the hospital for two years now. "He is 73. Too old and no more good for work. What could he do in Chicago? I don't want to have my children support me. They have hard time themselves. The weather not so good in Chicago. Too hard for old people and babies." Mrs. Sato said that only a few people in her block are thinking of returning to California, altho more would be willing to go if the government gave "more money. But I don't like relief."

I met Marsha Iki and her girl friend Otoni up on the hill when Beverly and I went up there for a hike this afternoon. They are very attractive young girls about 19. They were the "queens of the camp" in 1944, but now they are both impatient to go out as "it is so sad here now. They are going to Rochester, N.Y. The Otoni girl went out to Chicago once but she returned to camp because she felt that she couldn't adjust herself. She thinks that it will be much better in N.Y. The girls said that their parents were quite worried about the pending closure of the camp as they didn't exactly know what to do. I don't know what all the other people in our block will do because they just don't have a thing to go out to."

Beverly also said that very few of the people in her block are leaving. "It's a problem. I think that it is better for the old people to stay here. They get good food, shelter and they don't have to work hard. All those old people are retired from work now anyway. I could stay too as my children are not in school yet, but I am fed up with the place. I just returned from a 5-day visit to Santa Barbara. The lady I used to work for wants me to come and work for her again. As soon as she gets a house for me, I will leave. If I don't like it there, I might go out to Chicago. I'm a little worried now as Joe just wired and said that he might be



shipped overseas soon.

Beverly took me to a basketball game in the new gym this afternoon and later we walked up to the top of the hill to look at the memorial for the Nisei soldiers from Gila. Later in the week we are going bike riding and picnicking. Beverly said that she hardly knew anyone in camp anymore. I went bike riding this evening around the camp and I am quite worn out now. >

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When I got in this morning Mom and Miyako were in bed. Miyako had a slight cold, but she got up. Mom has been sick in bed for a week. She has a cold and asthma. She hasn't seen a doctor yet so I will have the ambulance come and pick her up in the morning. She seems to get ill quite often so I don't know about the advisability of her going to Chicago where the weather is so much colder.

We talked over some of the resettlement plans for Tom and I made a few tentative arrangements to take him out after the end of the school year. < He is all set to go as "those kids are too pro-Japan. One guy even bet me 50¢ that Japan would win the war. I told him that he was crazy and he went and told his father that so now both of them don't like me. But I have my gang to play with so I don't care." >

W4 Mom said that she didn't care to go to California and she would go to Chicago if there were no more school after this fall. She really would prefer to remain in camp but she is so worried that the people would all get kicked out. I told her that she did not need to fear that, but it would be quite a problem when the schools close this summer.

< Mom? "I don't care go take care of Alice baby. It better for her do that by self. I want to work. Maybe I get job in nursery like I do now and I like that. I don't want take care baby under



2 years old. Too much trouble and responsibility. Lots of Issei catch good jobs in Chicago I hear. I go with Miyako and Tom. Only thing I worry that I get sick all time and doctor bills high. Too hard to get good place to live too. Maybe Mr. Pleasant will give me some money."

Mom doesn't look too well to me. I told her not to worry about resettlement now as we would work something out. She doesn't want to live with Mariko or Alice as "Children when they get old, they boss me too much. Better to live with young children, then I can be boss more." It's too bad that I can't talk with her better. I doubt if she understands a lot of things I say to her altho she gets the general idea. That's irony--not being able to speak to one's own parents in the same language. All the old ladies and men in the block greet me in Japanese and I don't know how to answerx them except to smile and say "yes". Tom is no help ~~xxxx~~ as he doesn't understand very much either. Miyako is a little better at it.

Tom scares Mom by saying he wants to volunteer into the Armyx and get killed instead of just going to school "as I'm too dumb anyway." He thinks he just flunked a test but he guesses he "might get promoted as I really havent<sup>2</sup> flunked any courses yet." His Sunday schedule is devoted to sports - "8 games of basketball in the morning, track in the afternoon, and football at night." Tom works in the relocation office from 10-12 and 4-5 as an errand boy. He has a lot of free time on that job so he studies. Once in a while he studies at night. Usually he is running around with his gang. They are mostly interested in sports but once in a while "we go whistle at the girls." He has grown quite a bit, but does his feet stink, when he comes in from playing!

Miyako doesn't argue with Tom very much any more. She has a



great sense of responsibility in looking after Mom. When she goes out to play with her friends at the club house, she comes back every 20 minutes to look in on Mom to see if she is all right. She prepares the food for Mom every meal and cleans the house. This evening she made sandwiches for all of us, but she has to consult Mom to see if she is doing it right. In the meantime, the toast burns. Miyako isn't sure if she wants to leave camp or not as it's not that important to her. I was thinking of taking her out first and then let Mom stay on for a while longer until her health improves, but that would be too cruel. Tom helps around the house once in a while too. This morning he washed all the dishes by himself as Miyako was in bed. That ~~is~~ is why Miyako is cooking for him now. She looks so serious when she puts salt on the potatoes! The people in camp are now allowed to eat at home so that the mess halls are only half full these days.

Our apartment is a mess, but I guess I'd better not raise a protest for another day or so. This place needs a spring house-cleaning. Tom wants to wrestle me now, but I guess I'd better not because he would pin me down and I would lost prestige. I told him I was too tired from bike riding. "Just for that I won't give you any fried potatoes," he says. It's only 10:00 P.M. now but the whole camp is dark already. I guess I shall shower and then retire to read "Superman" comics.



I was rather active today getting nothing done. I arranged for the ambulance to come after Mom. The doctor gave her some medicine for her asthma and told her to come home and rest. She doesn't look at all well. Miyako helps around as much as possible but she has to go to school so that there really isn't anyone around to look after her. The hospital has a great shortage of staff so that only serious patients are taken in. Marsha said that they just couldn't get enough girls to act as nurse's aides. It is almost impossible to get anyone to work in the TB wards because of the great fear of contracting it. It is considered worse than a "social" disease among the Japanese. The doctors are hard pressed and they are leaving one by one. This worries the people a great deal and they put a lot of pressure on the doctors to stay because of a social responsibility to the people. A collection is taken up each month to give to the hospital staff as extra pay. It seems that a number of people in this block are considering resettlement. Gila has sent more people back to California than any of the other centers, about 200. The people in this block are going East. They are the remaining professional group. The residue is the old people and the families with young children. There are very few Nisei in the late teens in the corner of the camp as they have all gone out or have been taken into the Army. The people seem to worry a great deal about the closing of the camp, and a "passive resistance" idea is setting in. It really has not dawned upon them completely as the administration keeps telling them that they can stay until the end of the year.

Mom has also worried about this problem. She doesn't want to be a dependent so she keeps saying that she will work when she goes out. This isn't very realistic as her health is rather poor and she would not be able to hold a regular job very long. The house



is in a mess from lack of house cleaning, altho Miyako makes an attempt to clean up every day. But it is a little too much for her and all the junk is piled up helter-skelter. I haven't put in my annual protest yet because of Mom's illness. It is almost impossible to have a spring house cleaning anyway with Mom in bed. The apartment has "degenerated" since we left 2 years ago. Tom no longer has an interest in the lawn as he is too busy with his sports, school and other things. He spends a great deal of time fixing up his bicycle. It is a source of pride to him because he saved his nickels and dimes until he got \$45 to buy it. He had to save for 2 years in order to accumulate this sum and he only allowed himself 10¢ a week to buy candy. For a while he cleaned latrines in order to be on the payroll. Mom wants him to sell the bicycle when he leaves, but Tom wants to take it to Chicago with him so I thought that it might be a good idea as he will be able to save a little carfare in this way. Tom has been promoted to an "office job" as an errand boy in the Relocation Office now so that he gets an income of about \$14 a month. He has almost \$40 saved up "to go to Chicago to buy all the milk shakes I want and nobody is going to stop me either because it's my money!"

Miyako has a "secret" bank around the apartment also and that is one of the reasons why she doesn't want me to start cleaning up the place and throwing a lot of junk out while she is at school. She still has the silver dollar I gave her last year. "You think I am ever going to spend that?" I never saw a little girl accumulate so many things! She says that she has to have all of these things "so I can go to our club house and play house". I told her that she could do that right here in the apartment by washing the dishes. "Oh, I forgot last night," she brightly answers. I don't scold her because she puts a lot of effort in helping Mom. She



reads all the letters to her because Tom is too lazy. ~~Miyako~~ and Masaye are still the best of friends and they go every place together. She goes after Mom's food at the hospital every meal. She calls the bed chamber the "stew pot".

I talked to a number of evacuees and appointed personnel today about the closing of the camp. The thing which strikes me is that the Personnel here are so damned optimistic that the centers will be closed by the end of the year, while the residents are quite pessimistic. I think that the evacuees have the more logical arguments altho they tend to be unreasonable at times. They no longer have any confidence in the WRA so that they are thinking of appealing to the Spanish Consul next. It's a sort of bewilderment and a total loss of security so that they are grasping at every straw.

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Mr. Hida: "It's a big problem. There are two groups in camp. Those with children feel that they have to get out next fall so that the education will not be broken. But they don't want to go. It is being forced upon them. I'm going out next week to the eastern cities to look over the possibilities. I expect to resettle my family next May. The other larger group in camp are just going to sit tight here and see what happens. They do not have a place to go. They are afraid of California and they do not want to go out to Relief. They would rather let the government take care of them here. I think that is the best."

Miss Taketa in the Leaves Office: "I don't know what the people are going to do. Where can they go? It's a shame that they have to be frightened so much after all they have been through. Not too many are getting leave permits now altho a number with property in California have gone back or they are planning to. If they make good, they will call some of the other Nihonjins out of camp to work for them. There are a number of job offers for Issei, but they



don't want to take the chance right now. A lot of them are getting bitter all over again. They say that the government put them in here so they can't be kicked out like that. A lot of them are going to save up food if the mess halls really are closed down by the WRA on Jan. 2, 1946. I don't think the WRA could be that mean."

Betty, receptionist in Social Welfare Dept.: "I don't know whether we will go back to California or go east. It's hard for my family to decide. We did farm work before, but it wouldn't be so good to go back right now as the Filipinos would want to stab all of us. They were terrible before the evacuation and they sure got me scared. It's quite a risk to go out now, especially for the older people. My family has nothing. I want to go east and go to college but I can't just leave my family like that. I guess I will have to stick with them. If my family decides stay in camp until the end, then I will have to stay too. They would never allow me to go out on my own now with everything so uncertain. I wish the war would end so that the ~~x~~ hakujins would stop hating us so much for something that was not our fault at all. We have suffered enough already."

Kimiko, clerk in relocation office: "Not too many people are excited about the opening of California. The American Friends in Pasadena have written to us and told us not to come back for a while because it would not be safe. They say there's no housing any place. I don't think the Americans want us back very much. The WRA tells us not to be afraid and they are trying to push us out, but they don't really realize how hard it will be. I don't see why they won't allow us to stay for the duration. It will be much safer for us then. Maybe it will be better if the old folks stay here forever. They are happy and they couldn't get used to the outside again."



Mr. Wada, block manager: "I don't think the camp will really close. If the WRA steps out, another government department will take over. It will cause international trouble if riots break out in camp now. Japan has a lot of American war prisoners so that the U.S. has to think of that. If all the people were pushed out with no place to go, many of them will surely get killed by angry Americans. All the block managers and the Council members are in agreement that the camps must stay open. This is the will of the people. We don't believe that the WRA will allow us to starve. It's just a bluff!"

Anna, in Property office: "The closing of the camp is not fair is it? They take everything away from us and put us in camp and then they tell us to go out and start all over again, when the feeling is not so good. It's hard enough for the young Nisei to do that, but almost impossible for the old folks and the large families. They would have a very hard time. Mr. Meyer told us when he was here that we had nothing to worry about. I bet if he were in our shoes, he would worry plenty. I will go out when the time comes, but I don't know about the old people. The WRA should open up a camp for them to retire in. They can't work anymore. If the Nisei have to take care of all these old people, none of us will ever get any place. The WRA says that it will provide for them, but you can't trust anything they say any more."

Wataru Takeshita, newspaper editor: "I really don't know what is the best point of view. Both the WRA and the people have good arguments on their sides. Public opinion will determine whether the program will succeed or not. But I do think the government has to give more assistance to the families."

Miss Swiggam, chief of Welfare Dept.: "Our department is working every effort to get the needy families to come in and make their



plans for relocation. The camps are going to close and that's all there is to it. They will have the benefits of the Federal Security Funds on a temporary basis, and they can get on the State and County welfare rolls if they go back to California. I think that they will start going out in large numbers in a few weeks. They are getting the best possible plans made for them and we are doing our best to help them regain their initiative and courage. There are all sorts of job offers for the evacuees in California. The trouble is that they complain too much about how hard things are for them without realizing the positive benefits of going to a normal life once more."

Miss Swiggam is a nice lady but she really has no answers beyond para-phrasing what Meyer has been saying. She can't conceive of the possibility that they will be a large residue of people who won't go out. All she can say, "But the camps are going to close. There won't be any more money for it. It may not be sound welfare principles to force these people out, but it is for their own good. We have to work within our limitations."

Miss Christianson, social worker, "There is a lot of politics in the State Welfare dept. so that we may have a hard time getting P.A. on a long term basis for the non-residents who move out of here to eastern states. I don't know just how this problem will be solved. The Federal Security Funds are for displaced people, but it won't go beyond June, 1946 so that it is a limited fund at best. It is possible that the public assistance given by the state and local units will be on a sub-standard scale, but we can't help that. I think it is better for the people here to go out to even that than to stay here in camp." When I asked her why? she was surprised and she had no answer to that. She has the blind WRA idea that the camps must be closed at all costs and it doesn't matter if



slums are created in the process. She is a young social worker with some liberal ideas, but she feels that she cannot oppose agency policy. There is a saying among the evacuees that the personnel can't afford to disagree with Mr. Meyer because their salaries are at stake; while the evacuees can't afford to agree fully with Meyer because their lives are at stake! There is a lot of truth in that. The WRA personnel I talked to today tried to sound convincing, but they qualified everything they said as they were not sure themselves. They have been instructed to act optimistic so they just won't admit the possibility that the people will not leave. The inevitable answer is: "The WRA is going to close up and that's all there is to it."

Mr. Freeland, chief of the Leaves Office: "We won't force the people out but they must understand that the camps are going to close on Jan. 2, 1946. It's for their own good. They can't get angry at the WRA for giving them their freedom, can they?"

Miss Fleming, Reports Officer, and an old maid (stern) if there ever was one!: "The people here have the 'poor me's' and they don't know how well off they are. I think that the trend is going to be good. But it will depend on public opinion. The Japanese will go out because of their pride. They are isolated from the world and they don't realize how displaced the whole population in the U.S. have become in the last 3 years. I am full of sympathy for them, but I also feel that firmness is needed now. They will never be good material for <sup>or</sup> relation if they stay for the duration. All migrant groups have a hard time and the Japanese can't ~~accept~~ <sup>expect</sup> that things are going to be handed to them on a silver platter. After all, we are at war with Japan now. I take all the evacuees as individuals and I know that many of 'your people' are as good Americans as I am, but the public doesn't and there would be a howl



of protest if they are given special considerations which other migrants never have received and they were all Americans." I reminded Miss Fleming that these evacuees were her people just as much as mine since we were all Americans so I didn't see why she had to make that point. A typical patronizing attitude! I think she is more unrealistic than many of those evacuees who make "unreasonable demands" for the guarantee of future security. >

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This evening Beverly and I went for a long bike ride. We ended up in Canal camp. There was a movie going on over there so we decided to go to that. It was only 5¢ admission. <We borrowed a couple of chairs from some girls who were going to a basketball game. Beverly suggested that we "act like sweethearts so that the girls wouldn't ask for the chairs back" so we proceeded to make ourselves very comfortable. It got chilly so I went over to Albert Hutchinson's. I borrowed a couple of sweaters from him in lieu of the gambling debt he owed me from last year. He was so sure that the European War would end by August 1944! I got gypped because the sweaters smelled strongly of B.O. so that Beverly didn't want to be "comfortable" any more. >

WFF It was a Jap show. I think I insulted some of those Issei when I laughed at the parts which were supposed to be tragic. I didn't understand what was going on at all, but Beverly interpreted it to me. We laughed at the part where the Jap samurai wore modern shoes and some of the Issei didn't like that at all so we got dirty looks. They yelled "Benzai" when the picture of the Jap fleet flashed on the screen. I said that Japan didn't have a fleet anymore and Beverly cautioned me not to say that because the Issei would get sore if they heard us. It was the first Japanese movie I have ever seen and it stunk! I sat through it because Beverly



said she never had a chance to go out and she didn't feel like going home so early. We ate cheese sandwiches on the way home. It was pitch dark but we managed to stay on the road. It was so nice to be out in the warm weather. Beverly kept saying that she had a wonderful time. It only cost me 10¢ for the date which included a bike ride, movie and cheese sandwiches!! Tomorrow night we are going hiking up to the hills if I am physically fit after that strenuous bike ride. I got her home by midnight so that her neighbors would not gossip about her. The whole camp is dark by 10:00 P.M. anyway. It's sort of nice to be under the Arizona skies at night with pleasant company.



Thru 7178

March 7, 1945

Dear Chas--

"Sorry for the long delay in answer to your dozens of letters. I have almost the whole day to write this letter to you because Nurse Emi is sick in bed with Pharyngitis, upper respiratory infection and a spastic colon. The first two mean just a plain cold and the latter is due to lack of sleep, nervousness and overwork. My peristaltic action is not functioning regularly. However, I feel much better and will probably be back on duty tomorrow morning. The doctor wants me to get my tonsils out, but it won't be for a couple weeks yet since the inflammation has to go down. This is all very indefinite, so I'll let you know more about it later.

"Otto Ikeda was run over by a car while getting off a street car the other morning. Dorothy says that he has an 1½" fracture. He has awful headaches, so only his immediate relatives are allowed to see him. I intend to go see him when he's a little better.

"Last week a bunch of the girls (including myself) went to the USO in our uniforms. It was really nice there and they treated us swell. I met a couple of Hawaiian Niseis there, so Vera Chereskin and I went out with them. They just returned from overseas after 3 years & were very nice fellows. They're in N.Y. now, but they gave our names to some other kids and they've been phoning us for dates, but we refuse. I'm on night duties some days of the weeks, so I don't have time to go out anymore. I saw Bette last week, so we went to the show & spent the night at George and Mar's place. I had to leave early the next day as I was on duty. I haven't been home for weeks now since my shift has been changed. I get days off during the week, but we also have classes, so I can't go any place. I phone Bette every so often, but it's very seldom that she's at home. (Gads, what a choppy letter this is.) I only see Tets about every other week or so-- Such is life.

"Darlink! Poosh me up the bed--

" Poosh me down the bed.

" I want to pass the water.

(which means she wants to urinate.) Oy vay! A goota nacht tairenked! etc. It makes me laugh when they talk. Some of them are so cute and old.

"Enough said for now--think I'll take a nap for a while. My love to Mom, Tom & Miyako. I'll write to them real soon. They do owe me letters though. Be sure to bring those pictures of them back with you.

Love,

Emi



1552 Webster St.  
San Francisco 15, Cal.  
March 7, 1945

Dear Siblings:

San Francisco is having such fine weather, I thought I would let you poor people in the Midwest know about it so you can have good reason to gripe about the weather there. No snow, no wind and no frost, and above all, no odor of the stockyards nor bedbugs, rats, and cockroaches. If you feel sorry for me for missing all these luxuries, you need not be, because we have a fine specimen of *Ctenocephalus canis*, which makes life worth living. Oh, I forgot you ignorant people wouldn't know what I am referring to. Emiko, you might enlighten the others since you had that course in Bi-Sci. Well to save you the trouble of spending hours of research, I'll tell you. It's a flea. And do they give you hours of pleasure. It feels so wonderful to scratch. The best part of it is to have an itch in a spot where you can't scratch in public while you are on a street car or other public place, then save up all that itching and dream of how good it is going to be when you get to scratch to your heart's content. Then when you think you can stand it no longer, you can dash into a telephone booth, or the rest room and scratch and scratch. Oh boy, what delight. What ecstasy. Of course it is no fun to have a flea bite on the arm or leg, because it is too easy to scratch at that moment. They do bite you there, but usually they know where they can get a tender meal. I think the ones here in S.F. are all working for the Red Cross. Someones started the rumor that they need blood for plasma, and so the fleas are really pitching in and doing their part. They must be proud to be real Americans. I should receive the Purple Heart for doing more than my part, and becoming a casualty. I never used to ~~xxxxxx~~ be bothered with them, but now how I suffer. If I was working for Hitler, I would say the colored folks brought them from the south as is the popular belief, but I know this is not true because colored folks have only bedbugs, and cockroaches. Of course I am only kidding, but you'd be surprised how many people really believe that.

Well, let's change the subject. Nothing new in S.F. outside of what I wrote in my last letter.

I'm not working yet, as my clearance from the Army has not come through. However I am not just idling. I'm helping Delores' father out at the store as it is pretty busy.

Delores came down with a fever, and is in the hospital under observation. The doctor suspects pneumonia, as it is quite popular now. I'm going to see her again and I'm hoping she will be better.

Chas is working up to the last minute, and will be leaving the day after tomorrow, Friday.

Our place is almost cleaned up now, and I'm just about finished with the painting. The kitchen is all through and you



wouldn't recognize it as the same place as before.

Bette, send me Emiko's address, will you? I suppose I will have to write to her first before I hear from her.

Well, drop me a line when you have time.

Au Revoir,

Jack

P.S. I confess I didn't know what a *Ctenocephalus Canis* was either until I looked it up, so don't feel too badly.



74-1-A, Gila, Ariz.  
March 12, 1945

Dear Emiko and Bette:

<I am sorry to hear that you are abed with pharyngitis, Emiko. Maybe it would be better if you had a tonsilectomy as soon as possible.> I have been in camp for 2 days now and it is dull as usual altho I have been enjoying myself to a limited degree and it is restful after the hectic month I spent in Berkeley. I spent a day in Los Angeles and looked around as much as possible. <The Liebermans live there, but I did not go out to their house as it was too far out.> I wandered around the slums mostly. The Mexican boys there are real/ zoot suiters. I never saw anything like it. L.A. is still an overgrown cow town and I think that I would prefer to live in Chicago as there is not too much difference between the two cities. The former Japanese town is filled with Negroes and Mexicans. The whole area is one vast defense plant and there are new housing units springing up all over Southern California. The only good thing about it is that the shows are cheap. I saw Humphrey and Bacall in "To Have and Have Not" and "Woman in the Window" for 20 cents or so!

Camp is now in the state of degeneration and there was not much new here when I arrived except a gymnasium. I hardly know anyone here as most of the young Nisei have left for the Army or resettlement. The residue are those who do not have definite plans or who are stuck with a family. They are bored to tears by the dull life here. I met a Marsha Iki and Otani girl (I think she was one of your classmates, Bette, and one of the beauty queens in the Harvest festival in 1943 or 1944.) Things are so sad there that they were overjoyed to talk to me up on the hill! I think they are going to Rochester, New York soon.




Mom has been sick for over a week now with her asthma and she is not looking so well so write to her as often as possible. I tried to get her into the hospital, but they have a shortage of staff so that they would not admit her. There is really nobody to look after her altho Miyako does her best to take care of her during the hours she is not at school. I am a little worried about her health as she seems to get ill quite often. She thinks that she will be able to get up in a day or so, but I don't know about that. She still has to have a special diet, and nothing has been done about her second operation. She says that she is to have an X-ray of her stomach soon but there is nobody here who know how to handle the machine at the hospital.

I haven't discussed resettlement with her thoroughly but Mom is a little unrealistic about things. She says that if the camp does close, she will be able to get a job in Chicago. She does not want to take care of Alice's baby or live with the older members of the family who are married as she "would be bossed around too much and there would be arguments about modern care of babies, etc." I think that she is right in that, but I hardly think that she would be able to hold a full time job. Before I tell you more about the family, I will repeat my conversation with the welfare office in regards to family resettlement. I talked to the director of the department for about 3 hours yesterday.

It seems that the WRA is more full of vague promises than the actual facts would warrant. They said that funds would be set up in the Federal Security Agency to take care of indigent families, but the whole procedure has not been worked out yet, and it is temporary at best. If a family goes out of here on a public assistance basis to another state, they will not be able to gain residence as long as they receive public aid.



I tried to work out some temporary plans for Tom but it is all contingent upon my draft status. I said that I would try to take him out at the end of the school year. However, I would need assistance in housing. I told them that I would like some help in finding housing on the South Side, preferably a flat. There is a chance that I will be able to get the WRA to buy furniture out of its resettlement fund and also some financial assistance to make the initial adjustments. I told them that Tom would be needing a lot of clothes, and school things. I doubt if they would be able to provide aid over a long term period, but it is possible that I might get more than the usual \$25 grant for Tom. I put in the application anyway, and we will just have to wait and see. There is a lot of red tape involved and I had to practically sign my life away. I refused to sign a sort of "paupers oath" as I did not think that was necessary. I also added that I was not interested in lowering our standard of living and if the WRA really wants to help us out, it could help us to the extent of getting settled on a family basis in Chicago. The WRA is full of plans but there is so much red tape to it.

I also told them I could not count on the married members of the family so that if they come around asking any questions, you tell them that you are living your own lives, Mariko and Alice, or else they may try to find out how much you have in the bank and count that in as part of "family resources".  I don't think that the welfare officers here know the WRA regulations too well as they could not answer many of the simple questions I asked. They give out a lot of baloney to the people about what a great assistance they will get if they leave here, but when it comes down to making the actual plans, they are confused. They have given the people the impression that all welfare families will be resettled on an



"adequate standard of living" and that they will be taken care of for long term purposes through the public agencies; but I have discovered that this only applies to the people who go back to California. The matter of residence has not been cleared up, as Tuttle told me, and the arrangements have not been made with the various State and County welfare agencies to carry evacuee families. That is why my application has to go to Chicago for clearance with the Illinois Public Aid Commission. It will take some months I presume. >

Anyway, here is the tentative family resettlement plan as I outlined it to the department here: If I get another deferment, Tom will come out to live with us, if the WRA can help us find a flat and help us furnish it as well as to give us some financial assistance to start out with. Since my salary is limited, it will not be too easy. I have considered bringing Miyako out too, but I think that this would be too hard on Mom. I would like her to get her health back before leaving, but I have to consider Miyako's schooling too. Anyway, I thought that if some sort of Mother's Aid program could be applied to Mom through the social security funds, we might be able to swing it. Legally, the older children are responsible, but that is only a technicality. So Alice and Mariko, don't go around saying how much you are going to help out because I don't want to be left in the hole if it does not come through. I would rather get it settled through the regular channels of the public and private agencies, and it need not be interpreted as "relief" as false pride won't help matters much. Since I am willing to assume the responsibility now, I would like to carry out the plans and be in agreement with all of you rather than have sideline criticism from those without the responsibility, as this will only make things harder. I have considered the possibility of the family going to California, but this would not be feasible at



at the present time. Mom does not want to go even if the climate is better, and I have to consider the job possibilities first of all.

I can understand Mom's desire of wanting to be independent as she would like to have the "say" about what happens to Tom and Miyako and that is only right. She does not want to be shifted around from one member of the family to another as if she were a piece of furniture and she doesn't want to be a servant. I think that she is right in this so I am trying to work things out so that she will have as much independence as possible. She would like to have the family from Emiko down live with her in the family unit, and that seems to be practical enough. I would have to be an unnecessary addition because of certain economic contributions which would be necessary. This is certainly no reflection on the older members of the family as ~~can~~ both (Mariko and Alice) can see the practicability of what Mom says. <Mrs. Sato is the same way and she does not want to live with Toshie unless necessary as she feels that too much conflict will result.>

I know that we have had some vague discussions on this before, but now is the time when we have to make definite plans for action and I wanted to outline to you the plans as I see them. It is still indefinite, but it is a beginning step. I am counting on you, Emiko and Bette for a great deal of moral support in this matter. I wanted to get these beginning steps straight since it does mean certain obligation on my part. In return, I hope that there will be an avoidance of conflicts about the direction of the plans. You all know by now the way I feel about the development of a Japanese community, and this is one factor which you will have to follow along with me, even if you do not see it the same way. I asked Mom about that and she said that she would prefer not to live among a lot of Japanese and that she would not get lonesome in



Chicago as long as she had her family to look after. The main reason why I have picked the south side is that I thought it would be more convenient for school and my work purposes.

All of this seems unnecessary, but it makes things hard as hell when one is heckled from the sidelines. If you do not think this is a feasible plan, I wish that you would raise your objections now and maybe we will be able to work something better out. I think the most important consideration is Tom's and Miyako's school; and then Mom's health. The other matters are routine and they should not present any difficulties if we approach them in a logical way. I had thought for a while that Alice would want to move down to Chicago and work while Mom took care of the baby, but Mom does not want this and I hardly think that Alice does since she has her own life now and she may have other plans for herself. I don't relish the idea of bringing the family to Chicago, but what else could be done. Jack is willing enough to assume the support for Tom, but that would mean splitting the kids from Mom and I think that we should consider her feelings in the matter since they are all that she has left to hang on to in a real way. Emiko and Bette, you are both young enough to fit into this picture and your educations would not be interrupted. I told the welfare office here that under no circumstances would your school plans be interrupted and the family resettlement program would have to be made with this in mind. They had some silly suggestion that if both of you quit school for a year, the family problems of support would be solved, but I would not listen to this. I think that you will both be in a position to do more after your training is completed. Mariko and Alice have done their part and they are not in a position to do anything now as they have their own lives to lead. This places me in a difficult spot, but what else can I do? I may



finish my job by the end of this year, but I am not worrying about that yet. One thing at a time is all that we can handle and there is no use in going into future problems too deeply or else we will never get the family out of camp. I feel that Tom will be able to work part time so that his care won't be such a difficulty. There is a chance that Mom may be able to work part time, but I am not counting on that yet. If we are able to supplement my income with about \$40 or \$50 from a public agency, then we should make out without too great a difficulty. What do you kids think? I think that Emiko and Bette would be in agreement, but I am not so sure about Mariko and Alice. Jack has not said much on the matter since he does not feel in a position to take more responsibility, other than for Tom. He has to get into medical school anyway.....

Charlie



I was lazy this morning so I slept late. I stayed around the house because Mom seemed to be sicker. She was vomiting and coughing considerably and the color of her complexion was very ~~pink~~ pale. The doctor had told her that ~~he~~ she should just rest as much as possible. I got worried so I went over to the hospital to ask if she could not be placed under observation for a few days as there was nobody here to take care of her. { The receptionist immediately got on the defensive and she started to tell me how short of staff the hospital was. "We only have 96 workers here to go on the 3 shifts so that each nurse's aide has to look after 60 or 70 patients. We just can't admit anymore patients unless they are emergencies. A lot of the old people have asthma here and they are being taken care of at home."

I didn't argue with the receptionist at all as I could see that she was working under considerable pressure. I said I would come back if my mother got worse. The girl calmed down then and she started to tell me how difficult her job was. "I just don't know what to do sometimes. All of those people are demanding to get into the hospital and we just can't take them. So many of the older people are getting sick. Sometimes I feel like quitting this job and go resettle, but I know that it will just make it harder for the few who remain behind. The WRA tells us that this camp must close by the end of the year, but I'd like to know what they plan to do with all these sick patients? The California hospitals don't want them because they say that they are short staffed too."

I agreed that it was a difficult problem and when I left the girl remarked, "Oh, if your mother seems to get worse, we'll try to send over an ambulance and find a bed for her."

Mom did not stop her convulsive coughing all afternoon, so I went over to see Dr. Kiyasu just before dinner. I had hardly ex-



plained the situation when he crossly said that no new patients would be admitted. He said that asthma was in the season to be a little more severe right now, but the hospital just couldn't take any of those suffering from it.

We got to talking about the closing of camp and Dr. Kiyasu relaxed and became very friendly. He said that he had arrived in this camp with the family when they came from Tanforan. Dr. Kiyasu did not feel that the WRA would go through with the camp closing. "They just can't do it. I have a lot of patients that the medical social worker wants to send to California, but I just won't recommend it. I had a new TB case the other day and I told them that this patient would be sick for 3 extra years if moved now."

Dr. Kondo came in just then and he agreed with Kiyasu. "It's not that we want all of these patients under our care as we have too much to do as it is. There are only 4 Japanese doctors and one Caucasian doctor left here now and we have to look after the community of 10,000 people. It makes it hard on us as we can't go ahead with our own resettlement plans. We feel responsible to the people. Mr. Meyer should just come here once and see all of these sick people and then he wouldn't be so confident. It's all a bluff and the people here know it. If they remain calm and sit tight, the government certainly will not leave them to starve."

Dr. Kiyasu then went on to add that he could not make any resettlement plans for himself because of the present situation. "The WRA isn't so anxious for me to go out right now but it would like to turn all of my patients back to California. Nobody really wants them. Only the healthy Japanese who can do a lot of work will be welcomed back. I look on the whole thing from a humanitarian viewpoint and I know that the camps just can't be closed. The WRA will have to keep one or two camps open for the aged and the ill."



Kiyasu then asked me about Mom again. I described the situation to him all over again and this time he said, "Well, if she is worse, she must be taken in. We will try to find space." <sup>The Doctor</sup> He called the nurse and she said that one bed had just been emptied so Kiyasu ordered an ambulance to come and pick Mom up. He prescribed a soft diet and he said that he would look at Mom more carefully in the morning. He certainly does look like a tired old man and the tension of working under such great pressure must be terrific.   
It seems that most of the hospital staff is short tempered but the human side comes out if a little sympathy is shown to them and unreasonable demands avoided.

I came home and helped prepare Mom for the hospital. She wanted to go because it would mean less dishes for Miyako to wash. I think that it is going to take quite a while for her to fully regain her health.   
Mom seems to have a lot of friends around here and they come inquiring about her, but I don't understand them at all. Miyako is greatly concerned, but Tom is less affected. After dinner Miyako and I went to the laundry room to wash a big stack of dishes and we made Tom dry them under great protest.

Beverly and I decided to cancel the hike since it looked as if it would rain. We dropped in on the basketball game at the gym. It's amazing how Japanesey those Nisei girls are getting. Beverly said that they spoke nothing but Japanese outside of school. The English they use is atrocious and a lot of Japanese words are mixed in. Beverly remarked that pretty soon the Nisei would be divided into two classes. "The 'camp dwellers' and the 'outsider Nisei'-- and "They will dislike each other like the Nisei and Kibei do."

Beverly went to school in Japan for 8 years, but she seems to have passed over entirely into the "Nisei" group. Her English is very good altho she mixes Japanese words in. She doesn't do it so much



when she is with me, as I don't understand. Beverly said that she definitely intended to stay in the U.S. and that is why she came back by herself after graduation from high school. Her brother is in the Japanese Army, ~~xxxxxxx~~ while Joe is about ready to go overseas with the 442nd. "I guess if it comes to a showdown and the 2 of them met in battle, I would have to root for Joe."

After we left the gym we came up to our apartment. Miyako cooked us some fried rice and we spent the rest of the evening playing "Funny Faces". Tom won. >



We get laundry service for our bed linen here. Roy Ogasawara, Mimi's brother, works in the laundry and he does them for us. He's a nice kid even though he appears to be dull and mentally retarded. He has a good disposition and his spirit is good. He was inducted into the Army for 10 days last summer but given a ~~med~~ honorable discharge because of his stomach condition. Roy takes good care of his mother. He is thinking of going to Chicago to get a defense job as "I don't want to do laundry work anymore. Too hard."

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This morning I went down to visit Mrs. Ken Tashiro. She is looking about the same but the kids have grown tremendously. Mrs. Tashiro is greatly worried about her son's education. She is arranging to have him go out to Minneapolis to join a married sister so that he will get better schooling. "I'm having an awful time with my son as he is not interested in school anymore. It's such a change. He even failed a couple of courses this time. I think that an outside environment will help him to regain his interest once more. It is really not his fault because I can't separate him from the bad influences in a place like this. There are some Jerome boys who have been getting into a lot of trouble here and I think that it will be better if my son leave immediately. The parents have lost all control over the youngsters and it doesn't help much to have a curfew or anything like that since the youngsters do not pay any attention to it. They run around until all hours of the night getting into mischief. I know that there is not much here for them to do as it would be very difficult for them to sit in one of these barracks every evening.

"I had a chance to send my son out to Connecticut to a private school, but I felt that the adjustment would be too difficult for him to make as he has been in a Japanese community for the past 3



years and he would get pretty lonesome. If I send him to Minneapolis he will have my sister's sons to play with. He is only 15. I am sending him out at the end of this month as I don't even want him to finish out the school year here.

"As for myself, I don't know what I am going to do. I am fed up with camp life, but there isn't anything for me on the outside. What kind of work could I do? I have a young daughter and I would have to look after her so that the only I could do would be domestic work. I might as well stay here until my daughter is old enough to start school. I've been very worried ever since it was announced that the camp would close by the end of this year. I guess that is on everyone's minds. My father can't go back to the coast because he is on some kind of exclusion list. He is going out to Minneapolis soon to look around, but I doubt if he will ever be self-sufficient again. He is well past 60 and it would be difficult for him to go into any kind of work. I wouldn't want to leave and have my parents remain behind. I don't know when Ken will be coming back. He is in southern France right now. I think that I will just stay and see what happens as there is no use in my rushing out because I would have a most difficult time getting by with 2 children and dependent parents.

"Everyone in our block is so worried these days. They don't want to believe that the WRA is really going to close the camps up. The Issei are too old to go out now and it would be cruel to push them out. They are so afraid of the outside and I can hardly blame them. We hear all sorts of stories about the outside and some of it must be true. I remember just before evacuation we were living in Del Rey and a bunch of Kibei acted up. A mob collected and they were going to kill all the Japanese in town right in their beds. We didn't know about it until the next day, but that fear remained



with us. This will be the way back in California and it is too much for the old folks. There won't be too many cases of violences, but every time an incident happens these old folks will be full of fear that it will happen to them next. They really don't understand the nature of public sentiment and they don't have the protection that the Nisei have. I know that the people in this block are saying that they will be murdered in their beds if they go back to California. On top of that, they don't have anything to return to. A lot of them had stored goods in California but it has been lost or stolen during the past 3 years. That is why all of the old folks are going around saying, 'What are we going to do?' I feel so sorry for them because some of them are such pathetic cases. They feel that they are unwanted. You know how they worry. That is why they say there are so many heart failures in camp now. The rate seems to have increased so much, but that may be a normal development. But it does seem to be more than a coincidence that heart failures have increased greatly since the announcement was made. If the WRA had intentions of scaring the people to death, it certainly is succeeding better than they realize.

"Many of the old people are so discouraged about it. That is why there has been a couple of suicides. You know what they think about Yamato Demashi. I have heard a rumor that a lot of older folks have banded together to take a sort of vow that they will end their lives before leaving here. I half believe that this is true. It is all a result of the fear which fills their minds. They say that since they can't have much of a chance any place, they might as well end their days in camp even if they have to take their own lives."

"The families with children try to be a little more optimistic but looks hopeless to them. The WRA can't answer the kind of



questions which they ask. They tell them that they can go out and be put on relief and that is an insult. Their prides have been hurt enough and I don't see why they have to keep on doing things like that. The WRA should know by now that the Japanese have a lot of pride and it would be very difficult for them to accept relief on the outside.

"Many of the people think that their best chance is just to wait and see what happens and that is what I am going to do. They are worried that they might be left to starve so that some of the people are starting to hoard food. There is a rumor going around that the mess halls are going to start putting some food aside each week in preparation for the day when the WRA cuts off the food supply entirely. The farmers are not allowed to plant any large crops this year, but some of the people are putting in small vegetable gardens so that they can can it. It's not their fault that they think up all these things. The WRA is not approaching the matter in a humane way when it tries to scare these harmless old people to death. They have worked hard all of their lives and they don't have many more years on earth so why couldn't they spend it in camp instead of being forced out to shift for themselves. It was no fault of their own that they lost their life earnings.

"There is a small group here which says that if the government gives them \$500 a head, they would be more than willing to go out and start over once more. They can't do it on the \$25 grant. The people don't believe all the promises the WRA is giving about other assistance because promises have been broken before and there is always so much red tape. The Issei don't understand much English so that they would not be able to stand up for their rights. There is another rumor going around that one of the Council members recommended that the best way to get the people out was to cut down on



the food supplies. There is a group gathering now to bash that man's head in and I think he deserves it even though I usually don't advocate violence. But I am just not in agreement that the best way is to force the people out by cutting off the bare essentials for living. That certainly is not the democratic way at all. If the WRA wants to get the people out so badly why doesn't it make it attractive enough on the outside so that we will want to go out? We know that this is not the best life for us, but it is better than anything on the outside right now for the vast majority of us. I don't include myself in that group as I think I could make out on my own, but I am sure that there are ~~hundreds~~ and ~~hundreds~~ who could not. Those who are the best able have gone out already. As long as that opportunity is left open, there is some hope. I think that the Nisei should get out for their own good, but I think the Issei will be better off to remain in camp and I can't blame them for not wanting to leave. I'll just bet that if they make a big protest about it, they are going to be called disloyal and all that stuff once more. We know that the sentiments of the Issei are for Japan, but it has nothing to do with this question. It seems that they have suffered so much that they are bound to get a hopeless feeling.

"The families with school children can't just stick it out because they feel that they must discharge an obligation to their children since that is about the only thing they can offer now. For this reason, many families who don't want to leave are going to go out for the sake of their children's education. They know that it is going to be hard for them, but they are willing to take the chance if the odds are not piled up too high against them. They don't know what to do yet, but they have to do something. Some of the Issei are in favor of starting their own schools here in camp if the WRA will not provide any but there are not enough teachers



to do a good job of it.

"Actually camp is not such a haven of refuge as many people think as there are so many disadvantages to it. One of the things which worries the people is the hospital situation. I have heard a number of rumors that the doctors will not perform an operation unless they are paid privately. They just let the other cases die and they excuse themselves by saying that they are too short staffed. There was a healthy robust man in our block who had to have a hernia operation. All of a sudden he died. The rumor is now going around that the doctors refused to operate on him because the family was not willing to pay the doctors anything. It makes the people quite angry to think that the doctors would betray them, but they can't do anything about it. There are so many deaths now that it is hard to arrange for a funeral. The people are saying, 'Don't go to the hospital if you don't want to die.' I heard that the doctors demand a \$20 fee for an operation and the people feel that they have to pay it because they are obligated. The doctors are making plenty of money so I have to laugh when I heard them complain about how much they are sacrificing. I don't know if all of these rumors are true or not, but it is true that they get paid privately and that must amount into the hundreds of dollars every month. Some of the people are saying that the doctors wouldn't even make that much on the outside. The whole thing has got them so worried that they can't make a public protest because the doctors might all leave camp and then there would be absolutely no care for them at all.

"In spite of this great discouragement facing the people now, there are many who try to act lightly and give courage to others. It makes me sick when the WRA tries to give the propaganda to the old people that they would be happier in the normal American life. That is certainly a joke. What do they mean by it anyway? If it



means having a decent standard of living, then they have it right here. What has the outside to offer them which is any better? If the WRA can offer them equal advantages on the outside, then I am sure that most of the people would be glad to leave. But just promising them freedom does not mean anything. It is a lot of empty words. Freedom won't mean much to them if they are shoved into a lot of slums and put on relief. They wouldn't be able to keep their self respect any more if that were done. The WRA tells the old people that there are many things that they can do on the outside to make their lives happier, but the old folks answer back that there are many more things right here in camp which they can do now, and which they never had an opportunity to do before in their lives. It may sound strange, but a large number of the Issei are living a fuller life than they ever did before. It wouldn't work out that way for the Nisei so it is better for the younger people to get out as soon as possible. That is why I am sending my son out and staying here with my parents. I hate to split the family up, but that is the difficult choice I have had to make. If you stayed around for a while and heard the pitiful stories of the Issei, you would sympathize with them too. I still don't agree with their Japanese way and I think it is better for the Nisei to escape it, but that does not mean I want the Issei to suffer some more. Nobody knows the answers but all the people think that the WRA will have to back down. But a lot of the families can't wait until the first of the year to find out because they feel that they have to do something about getting their children out to school. A lot of them are bitter too."

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Mrs. Masako Yamanouchi is still as neurotic as ever. She sees the darkest side of the picture all the time. She lives in this



block, but she doesn't have many friends. She refuses to help in the optometry office, but she gets a private income by fitting glasses on the side. Her daughter is still spoiled if a word of English is used. Masako said that she was going to camp right here until the center was closed" and then the WRA will have to move me to another camp. They just can't close the place down. Why should I go out? In my profession I have to have a community of at least 10,000 of my own people as I can't count on the hakujins. I've had a couple of job offers but I haven't even bothered to investigate them. It would take at least \$6000 to get started all over again. Even if the government gave me twice that amount I wouldn't go out. The cost of living has gone up too much. They say it's nice on the outside, but there's still plenty of discrimination. Look what happened to those two Issei who went out to farm near Pasadena? They went to a store to buy a 100 pound sack of rice and the store owner told them that he would only sell them one pound at a time. They will start at that rate because a Nihonjin has to have rice. And Grace is another one who got fooled so that she can't come back anymore. She went out to take an office job. She wrote back and said that it was so nice and that everyone treated her swell. But she changed her tune after a while. The other hakujin in the office began to resent her so much that she was forced to quit. Now she is doing a domestic job. I'm not taking a chance on anything like that. I don't get bored here in camp as I have my knitting to do and I have to look after my child. It takes hours to go after milk, my food and a lot of little things like that. I find that I am more in agreement with the Issei ideas than the Nisei's. They can talk all they want about the belief in democracy but I have to be shown. I'm waiting until the end of the war to see which way I jump. Beverly is talking about taking her 2 child-



ren out to Santa Barbara and I think that she is being very foolish. She does not know how well off she is since she has never worked before. Even with all her allotment, she will never make a go of it and I know she is going to regret it. That is why I try to discourage her every time I see her. She has to stop and consider the darker side of the picture too as it is these things which will happen to her most likely. What if she gets sick or one of the babies get sick? Then who will look after her? What if she can't get a decent place to live? It will cost her way over \$200 a month to live with all these inflated prices. I'm telling her very strongly not to leave.

"The WRA is making the most foolish move it has ever made. It will take us years to get back on our feet. We are not used to the ration system, inflated prices and things like that. They can't expect us to go out in one big flow. It will have to be a slow seeping out process. I intend to be at the end of the process. The WRA will have to come and pack my belongings and set me out of camp before I judge. And I'll tell everybody else to stay in too. Our only hope is to stick together and this nonsense of scattering us out is a lot of foolishness. We have only ourselves to turn to as we can't trust the Caucasians."

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Tom had a crisis today. He stomps in and says, "I quit my job. I had an argument with old lady McCarthy. I went to work at 10:15 and then I went out until 10:45. When I came back in the afternoon she had it marked 10:45 in ink. She makes me sick. She is not the one who is paying me. I notice she goes home at 4:00 in the afternoon and she gets paid 50 times more than I do. I'm going to work for another department. She wants me to use my bike in delivering messages. Why should I wear my bike out for a messy



\$8 a month salary? She gets a car to ride around in and the government pays for it. What a nerve she has! She acts like I am the one gyping the government. I only get paid 10¢ an hour so if I'm late 15 minutes, the government only loses 22¢. McCarthy don't have to mark it down as 45 minutes late and gyp me 5¢. Heck, every time she takes an hour off, I bet it costs the government at least \$4 and she takes plenty of time off. She thinks she is so good. I ~~am~~ bet she is just an old maid. I don't know if I can get another job or not, but it's not worth \$8 a month to take all that from her. When I left I signed out 5:01 2/3 on the time sheet to show her I worked overtime. She'll think I am cocky and fine me, but I quit first. Why do I have to have a brother like you? You tell me to stand up for my rights, so I am picking up that habit! She called me 'Japanese' errand boy once and I said 'to hell with that noise' but she didn't hear me. I just pretended I didn't hear her. I used a bader word though." >

Tom was so angry that his nostrils flowed. He threatens to get the girls in the office to go on a strike. "It's the principle of the thing," he says. < On top of it all his check was only for \$6.75 instead of \$8.00. He is figuring up all sorts of things to do to McCarthy in order to get even. Gad, it was so funny, but I had to keep a straight face and tell him how to organize a strike. "If I get all my hair cut off for being a trouble maker, I'll sue them because I learned in school that it's unconstitutional for punishing anybody with a jail sentence just for going on a strike. It's against American principles, so that McCarthy better watch out. I bet those girls won't go on a strike through. I'll give her one more chance and she had better not call me 'Japaneseerrand boy' again or I'll call her a real bad name."

"Tom was so upset that he was mean with his girl friend, Ruthie



at dinner. He bawled her out for giving him the eye at school right in front of all his gang. The girl has a crush on Tom so she just hung her head in shame and blush<sup>ed</sup>. That Tom is getting to be quite a lady killer.

Miyako went to scrub the clubroom floor and she forgot to mop our floor as she promised. She eats so much toast at the clubhouse that she hasn't any appetite by dinner time. She and Tom usually eat an egg sandwich at night.

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Met Faye Iwata at dinner. She is a cute high school girl. Her sisters are going to college in Michigan, but Faye thinks that she will go back to California with her parents. They have some property near Stockton. Faye plans to go to a hairdressing school after she leaves camp. She feels that is is getting quite dead in camp and she will "be glad to leave this old place forever." Her parents would not consider her going out alone after graduation from high school as she is only 17 years old. Faye is a little bashful, but she seems to have a nice personality.

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Sachie, a beautiful Kibei girl in this block, plans to stay in camp "till the end". She has no interest in resettlement "as it's no use. Too much discrimination."

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Miyako came home this afternoon and told me that there had been a great commotion at the elementary school in the eighth grade history class between 2:00 and 3:00. She said that the teacher was talking about world history and he got down to a discussion of this war. He began to tell about the treacherous Japs, etc. Some of the boys began to act up at this point so that the teacher got angry and remarked, "I'm here to get paid and not teach Japs". One of



the boys objected to this and an argument started. The teacher lost his temper and slapped the boy. The boy slapped him back. Then the teacher continued with his teaching and said that every race had its different characteristics. He pointed out to one of the boys and told him to tell about the good points of the Japanese "since you are one". The boy stood up and looked around and said, "What Japanese, I don't see any Japanese around here. We are Americans."

I went over to see Mr. Miller, the head of the elementary school system here and told him that this matter should be investigated for the real facts since it was not helping the morale of the students any to have this sort of thing going on. Mr. Miller agreed and he said that he would try to send me a report of the matter in a day or so. He said that a case like this happened last year and the teacher involved was fired. I also talked to Mr. Hikida about the matter since he is connected with the PTA and the Community Council. He said that he would wait until the school made its investigation and if nothing were done, the PTA would consult with the school. He went on to tell me that the boys in the eighth grade were quite a problem since they had no respect for the teachers at all and they were always getting into mischief. "We have so much juvenile delinquency here, but we don't seem able to control it yet. The teachers have to have respect from the students before we can do anything."

Miyako, Beverly and I went over to the hospital to visit Mom this evening. The nurse refused to let us go in since it was not a visiting day; but when I told her that I was just visiting camp for a week, she allowed us to go right in. Mom looked much better, but she still is pretty sick. It is a matter of getting a lot of rest and proper care. She does not know when she will be discharged. I did not have time to ask the nurse about her condition. Mom is



anxious to get about once more as she has a position in the nursery school here. I noticed that one of the offices has her name on it. I will try to get a report from the doctor about Mom's condition before I leave. Her illness is going to complicate the family resettlement picture quite a bit. Asthma is one of those things which takes a long time to get over.

Afterwards the 3 of us went to see a movie in the amphitheatre, "The Great Commandment". It was a religious picture but not bad. An Issai did the interpreting for the old folks. This was a special movie and it was the first time this has been done in this camp. The young Nisei were impatient and they kept yelling for the announcer to shut up because it interfered with the sound track of English dialogue. Finally the announcer said in English, "Shut up. I talk to old men, the Issei. Keep quiet, please!" The Nisei began to hiss him. It was the first time I felt sympathetic towards the Issei, because this modern life is just not planned for them. In this camp they have been having their own way pretty much since most of the older Nisei have left, but the Nisei still rule when it comes to the movies and they don't want a Japanese interpreter breaking into the sound track.

We went over to Beverly's apartment after the show for a bite to eat and she brought out a feast. She is such a nice girl. I didn't think much of her before when I was here because I thought she was an attractive, dumb girl who read only funny books. Later, I found out that she read funny books to learn English slang better. She is very Americanized now and determined to resettle, but a lot of people are trying to discourage her. Beverly gave Miyako a new pair of slacks and a Hawaiian skirt which were a little tight for her. She does a lot of sewing and she makes all of her own clothes. I brought Miyako over because some of the old people in



the block will start gossiping when they see me out with Beverly every night. She is bored with camp life and I have nothing much to do here so we get together to have an enjoyable time and it is all very innocent, even if we stay out late according to camp standards. It is just a mild flirtation, camp style! We amuse ourselves by having a date for every night this week since it is senseless for the two of us to be bored. I was going to take Taya out, but her mother watches her too closely and she is suspicious of anyone who doesn't talk good Japanese--a great hazard in this camp life! My "Evacuation" here is turning out to be very enjoyable, but I would feel better about it if Mom were in good health. If she is still at the hospital when I leave, I shall have to find someone to look after the kids. Tomorrow, I have a "date" with Beverly to do the laundry since she has a washing machine. Tom and Miyako won't cooperate in putting their junk away so I haven't been able to get around to a house cleaning. The old ladies in the block think I am a "nice boy" because I do the housework for the kids while Mom is sick. It is excusable for a male to do this in emergencies and not a reflection on his manhood--Japanese style! >



Tom got his feud all settled with Miss McCarthy. I was down in the relocation office talking to her this morning. She said that Tom was a good boy and he worked hard, but he had a habit of coming to work late and she wanted to cure him of it for his own good.

She started to tell me a little about resettlement from this camp. The rate has dropped down tremendously so that she figured that those with property had gone out in the first rush.

"But they will be calling a lot of workers out soon. The old men in this camp could make a living that way. It will be hard to get all the people out. The policy makers in Washington don't see the difficulties of it as clearly as we do on the operation level. Most of the people are not doing anything about getting out, but they will have to after the schools close. In the long run, it really will be for their own good if they get out now. I wish I knew what the people were thinking. They are insecure, I know, but they could at least come in and talk things over with us. They should try to have a little more confidence in our program. The public assistance end of it is still a bit uncertain and some of the California counties refuse to cooperate with us. But, the biggest problem will be in housing and unless the WRA can do something about that, the camps will not be emptied. There was a rumor going around that the WRA would provide the people with Federal Housing but I don't see how that will be possible when even the defense workers can't be taken care of." Miss McCarthy asked me if I wouldn't come in tomorrow afternoon to a staff meeting to "exchange ideas" so I agreed in order to consolidate Tom's position in that office.

After I got a haircut I came home to start the house cleaning. Beverly dropped in after lunch and she insisted upon helping me. We got the place all cleaned up. Mom is a terrible housekeeper and



the kids have some pretty sloppy habits. After we finished I took all the laundry over to Beverly's block to use her washing machine. It was no job at all to finish that up. I still have to go over and iron my shirts, if Beverly hasn't already done it herself. She is so helpful.

Afterwards we took the twins in the wagon and walked up to the top of the hills. Beverly is still a little worried about leaving as a lot of people have been trying to scare her out. She still has her mind made up to go back to California but not many people will ~~ex~~ agree with her on that. Beverly said that there was another girl coming from Minneapolis who is planning to go to California with her. "My mother-in-law doesn't want me to go for a while yet, but my sister-in-law is taking her family back after I go. All I am waiting for is a house. The lady I used to cook for just wants me to come and be her companion. I won't be able to work because of the children, but I get the allotment and a private income from Joe's citrus ranch. I'm sure that I'll be able to make a go of it and I don't think I will get lonesome for the old place after I leave."

We didn't get back "into camp" until dinner time. After dinner Beverly dropped in again to go with me to the hospital to visit Mom and Mrs. Sato. I wanted her to translate a letter I had written to Mr. Pleasant. Mom still wants to ask him for a monthly amount, but I told her that he was not legally liable so that anything he gave would be a "gift". Then Mom said that ~~Mr.~~ Pleasant promised to move out if we ever returned and he has all the equipment that Pop left so he wouldn't mind. I told her that if we got \$100, we should be satisfied. That would make \$300 in all from Pop's lifework, a pretty small sum!

4th 7210  
Mom is having a series of tests by the doctors now. She looks



about the same. She doesn't know how long she will be there, but she gets fairly good care so she might as well remain as long as she is ill. She has been diagnosed as having asthmatic bronchitis. She has to eat a soft diet all the time and she was complaining about that so Miyako gave her a piece of candy. I don't think I can stay longer than Sunday because of my train reservations but Mom said that Miyako and Tom would be able to take care of themselves. I still have to see the doctor to find out if she is in any danger.

After we left the hospital we decided not to go to the basketball game as it was too windy and a rain storm was threatening. We have been having very cool weather here during the past week. We sat around our apartment and talked and played cards with Miyako. I took Beverly home about 10:20 after we arranged to have dinner home tomorrow night. It's been a lot of fun this week with her and I haven't been bored yet. I suspect that Beverly is enjoying it also since she never goes out. She said that all she did in the evenings was knit. We have 2 more "dates" before I leave.

I have a heck of a time chasing Tom and Miyako to bed as they putter around until midnight. They usually get up for breakfast though. I think I am catching a cold from this change in climate, but it might go away. I hope so. It's been a lazy sort of life here this week, but I still have that tired feeling.



74-1-A, Rivers, Arz.  
March 15, 1945

Mr. Pleasant,  
216 Branciforte St.,  
Vallejo, California.

Dear Mr. Pleasant,

I am here in camp for a few days visiting my mother. She is in the hospital right now, but it is not serious. She was very glad when I told her how much you thought of the family and I told her you sent your greetings as you wished. Tom, my younger brother, is fine and so is Miyako.

Because of my mother's illness I will not be able to take her out of camp for a few more months. I think that I will take her to Chicago since it would be a little difficult to get settled in California for some time yet. I just wanted to assure you that we are not planning to come back to Vallejo for some time yet. We want to thank you very much for looking after our belongings.

I plan to take Tom out first so that he will be able to finish his schooling in a regular public school. He is a junior in high school now. You mentioned that you would be glad to give us some sort of assistance when I talked to you a few weeks ago and we certainly do appreciate having such a nice friend like you. If there were more people in this country with the same kind of good thoughts for their fellow men, we would have a wonderful country to live in. I am hoping that this time may come soon.

I hate to impose upon your kindness and ask if you might not be willing to help my mother out a little at this time, but we do not have any money saved up and it will be quite an expensive undertaking to resettle the family by myself. I will leave it up to you since I feel rather embarrassed about imposing upon your generosity. If we were in a situation where we could work things out by ourselves without outside help, we would do it! But during the past three years since living in the camps, my mother has used up what little money she had saved up. She would indeed be thankful to you if you could help a little at this time, but please do not feel obligated to do so if you are not in a position to do it at this time. My mother asked me to relay her best regards to you and to tell you that she was indeed fortunate in having such a kind person as a friend. Her address in camp is at the top of the page. Thank you again for all of your past kindness to our family.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Charles Kikuchi

P.S. I shall tell Alice, Mariko and the others in Chicago about your kindness when I get back next week.



Well, I guess I am coming down with the flu or something. I felt terrible this morning. My back and head ached, I had a light feeling and my body felt tired out. I had no appetite today either. Hmm! It's not even light yet, but I shall be glad to crawl into bed. I sat in the sun all morning but the feverish feeling didn't go away. After lunch I went over to iron my shirts, but Beverly had already done them! She says that she wishes she had a nice person like me for a brother because she never knew her brother in Japan very well. Beverly is such a charming girl.

I went to the relocation office staff meeting at 3:30 and discussed resettlement problems with the 15 persons there for about 1½ hours. I didn't attack the WRA at all but merely pointed out some of the complex problems which it faced. It was evident that the closing of the center had them bothered quite a bit. They said that it had to be done and they wanted to help as much as possible. The director of the Social Welfare Dept. wanted me to discuss some of the same points with her staff but I begged off as I wasn't feeling well at all. The group clearly indicated that it did not believe the camp closure was possible but they still are not admitting it to any of the evacuees. Wilson Hart said that if the camps did not close up, it would be the target for the propagandists who would eventually demand deportation.

I pointed out that in any migrant group the appeal to go to the other end has to be stronger than the desire to stay and that this condition certainly was not being met. I felt that the big problem was to get the psychological balance of the people back on an even keel and that the camps would never close by the end of this year unless this could be done. I didn't think it was possible until Japan definitely lost the war. This feeling of insecurity was quite general among the people, I said, and offering material



things wouldn't quite eliminate it as it was partly a mental problem. But I went on to say that the real problem was the eventual integration of the evacuees into American life and I thought that the present WRA program was diametrically opposed to it. It was a dilemma and I didn't know the exact answers. The questions which were asked indicated that they were more concerned with their immediate jobs as the pressure was being put on them from Washington. They said that the public assistance program was not worked out by any means so that the dependent cases would have to suffer the most.<sup>2</sup> They are trying to get all the welfare cases to go to California since the residence problem would be taken care of there. I still think these old people will be better off here as they can at least maintain self-respect. The only answer to this was that the WRA was going out of existence and nothing could be done about that. The relocation office staff are well meaning, but they are already learning that the Washington WRA just passes the buck right back to them. None of the other states want to take care of California's permanently dependent evacuees. One lady (Miss Andre) thought one solution was for all the evacuees to go to Russia! Miss Swiggam was very concerned about the single old men as she thought they ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ would be left flat if they did not commence an application for public assistance right now. She admitted that the family plans took a long time for clearance because the county departments did not cooperate well enough. The staff was beginning to get a little resentful that Washington was pushing the solution to the problem on them since they have been sending letters to Washington asking about policy whenever they couldn't answer a question the evacuees asked. One woman said that the camp was following a policy of "watchful waiting" but she hoped that the applications for resettlement would increase greatly at



the end of the school term.

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Beverly came around 5:30 and she brought a lot of food. She prepared a very fine dinner and Tom ate 4 helpings. I ate as much as I could too. Afterwards she and Miyako cleaned up the place. I decided not to go to the show out under the stars tonight as I didn't feel so hot. I'm getting in bed right now as Beverly and Miyako decided to go to the show. They might drop back here afterwards if it is not too late.



My last day in camp was spent in bed. Beverly, Miyako and I played cards last night and I wasn't feeling too bad until about 11:00. But all last night I was sicker than I deserved to be. I had all sorts of aches and pains and I had that miserable feeling which usually goes along with flu. All day I've been feeling the same way. I remained in bed so that I could sort of sweat it out, but it hasn't done much good. I had the chills all day. It really is a case of flu, I guess. But I have to leave in the morning since I can't very well cancel my reservation.

Tom went to the internal security office for me to ask if a car would be sent. Miyako fussed around all day taking care of me. I got up for a while during the afternoon to do my packing but I felt very nauseated and dizzy. Every time I cough it seems as if my head is going to come off. I must be pretty sick because I didn't eat a thing all day (until now) but drank water and orange juice.

About 5:30 P.M. I got up to go over to the hospital to say goodbye to Mom. She is looking a lot better now. She has been moved to another ward where the more improved patients are located. Mom wanted me to take some "dai-kon" (pickles) back with me so I had to come home and pack another box. Beverly also gave me some stuff she had canned. I walked over to the amphitheatre with Beverly but I did not stay for the movie as my chills returned. I shouldn't have gotten out of bed anyway. They were giving a send-off to 7 Nisei fellows who are being inducted into the Army. I thought it was rather ironical when Sawyer got up and said that they were fighting for just rights for their families and that they were a sort of the melting pot in this nation. There were several thousand people there.

I got into bed as soon as I came back home. Beverly came over



a while ago to bring me a present and to make me a lunch. She certainly has been swell to me during the week I have been here. Miyako is now puttering around making some candy for Bette and Emiko. She got the inspiration at the last minute and it is now after 12:00. I still feel lousy and I am not looking forward to the train ride at all. Maybe my fever will go away tonight if I bundle up. What a way to leave camp! It seems that I get sick every time I visit camp.



Tucson, Arizona12:20 p.m.

We got off in time this morning. <Tom had to go after the Internal Security car at the last minute. Miyako came down with a cold so that she did not get up.> It was very chilly when I got up, and I have been feeling sort of giddy ever since. It's been nice on the train so far and my head does not ache quite as much as it did when I got on the train at Chandler. I feel pretty weak though. <I thought I would stretch my legs at Tucson as that cleared my head a little. It's been good scenery along the way and it's hot now. We are scheduled to get into El Paso tonight. I think I shall go to bed for a day or so after I get back to Chicago if I am not feeling much better by Tuesday. I have to register at the University first. Then I have to buckle down to work once more. It's been a good trip so far even if I did get sick at the last minute. My travels during the past seven weeks will cover over 5,000 miles before I get home!

10:00 p.m. El Paso, Texas

It's been a lousy day for me. All I've had since morning is headaches and chills. <I've been coughing all day and my throat is raw. My neck and head ache and I've had various assortment of fevers. Traveling in such a condition is not so pleasant. I tried to sleep as much as possible but it was rather difficult. Now that the berth is made up I don't feel sleepy and my headache is not so intense. I had an appetite this evening since I haven't eaten much in the past 2 days.>

On top of all my discomforts, I had to listen to 3 old ladies and a man discussing their prejudices for half of the day. They made loud comments about the "niggers" and how they had to be put back in their places. One old lady said that the "coons" in Chicago though they were as good as the white people and "they wouldn't hesitate to sit among white people". It certainly was disgusting.



I felt like telling them to shut up. They made an exception for the "nigger porter" because he was nice to them and he acted servile. People like that should be dumped into the desert. <sup>67217</sup> The old man kept saying that the southwest was a "white man's" country and no niggers were going to ever get power here. He thought it was a shame that the Mexicans in New Mexico held "political positions". Pooley on them!

Met a couple of sailors who were on Saipan. They were pretty drunk and they kept insisting that I look at their snapshots of the "washwomen" they had on Saipan.

Otherwise, the day was most quiet. There wasn't much to see in New Mexico and Arizona and now Texas, except wasteland. I hope that I will be able to sleep well and shake this "flu" or whatever it is off.



10:45 p.m. Dalhart, Texas It was strange to wake up and find the ground outside covered with snow. I guess there has been a snowstorm in this area as it is piled up quite high. It's quite a difference from California and Arizona.

I'm still feeling a little woozy. This morning my back ached and my chest hurt but I feel better now except for the headache which won't go away even when I take aspirins. It's quite cool today, while yesterday it was so warm. We passed through part of New Mexico this morning and now we are back in Texas. There isn't much to see. We go through part of Oklahoma and Kansas and we will be in Missouri by tonight. The train is behind schedule because of the snow, but we should be in Chicago by noon tomorrow. It seems that everyone is train weary because they are all dozing now. Mostly servicemen in this car, but one talkative brat behind me. The fruity old dames must have gotten off last night so it shall be a relief not to hear them anymore.

8:30 p.m. Topeka, Kansas It's been snowing outside all day. I hope it's not like that in Chicago. I feel a little better but not much. Still have a headache. I ate a good meal tonight though.

11:30 p.m. Kansas City, Missouri We have been here for about an hour. In a few minutes we will start on the last ~~x~~ leg of our trip. I got off for about 45 minutes to wander around the immense station and to stand in line for 2 packages of cigarettes! Might as well start getting back into practice now as the cigarette shortage is greater than ever. It was so warm in the station but rather nippy outside. This is the third time that I have been in the station in the past 2 years, so I knew my way around like a veteran and I didn't get lost.

Tomorrow is officially the start of spring but I've had a good head start as I've been enjoying spring weather in California and



Arizona since the end of January. It's a nice way to avoid the hard midwest winter if one can afford it, or if one is on a job in California at the time like I was. My heart certainly isn't palpitating rapidly at the prospect of getting back to Chicago although it will be nice to get back into a routine once more for a while anyway. I have a guilty conscience about not writing to Eileen for the past 2 or 3 weeks but I have been so busy meeting such nice people like Jonnie, Peggy, etc. in Berkeley and Beverly in camp that I have been sort of distracted. I hope Bette passed her finals okay. She mentioned in her last letter to camp that she was enjoying her work and association at the University so much.

I think I still have a slight fever but it's mostly the cough which bothers me now. I shall now read the Chicago Sun to catch up on the local news and then try to get a good night's sleep so that I will be able to arrive in Chicago all refreshed and in just the right mood to go register at the University right away and then go home and eat a meal (cooked by Bette) and then jump into bed for a day to reminisce over my adventures since January!



8:00 AM Davenport, Iowa.

We are about an hour behind schedule so that we won't get into Chicago until after lunch. I had a lousy night as I only slept for four hours, and I felt sick the rest of the night. The coke I drank in Kansas City might have been the cause of my sleeplessness. My coughing is much more severe and the persistent headache is still with me. It will be a relief to get off of this train. My knees are weak too. I guess it is permissible to dignify my cold by calling it flu. It feels like it is going to be one of those deep chest colds.

It's raining outside and very gloomy looking. I hope that it isn't that way when I arrive in Chicago, but I can't expect too much even though spring is now supposed to be starting in the midwest. The scenery isn't too bad and there is something picturesque about the countryside. We just crossed over the Miss. river and it looks all swollen. I think it flooded some of the states the other week. Much of the land here seems to under water yet. Well, I might as well get up so that the porter can make up the berth even tho I do it unwillingly. All the people in the car are trainweary. >

Chicago

Whew! What a day! It was so windy and rainy when we pulled into the station. I felt very miserable so I had a cozy picture of going home and jumping into bed immediately for a day or so of rest in order to shake off the cold, but here it is midnight and I haven't been in bed yet. I had to go right out to the University to register for my course. Miss Wright was very nice to me and she said that another scholarship tuition would be available so I signed up for a case work course in Child Welfare. I don't know if it is going to do me much good, but it may prove interesting. I have to go see



Miss Wright again one of these days to discuss my thesis and the possibility of finishing up by the end of the year with the MA work. It surely is taking me a longtime!

I was at a low ebb when I finished registering so I went over to Blake Hall to leave a note for Bette to come home tonight and cook for me. Bette was upstairs and she brought a lot of the girls over and we started to talk. Bette seems to be getting along so well with them as she knows all of the girls. She said that the housemother was wondering if she lived there or not so that she stayed over with some of the other girls at Gates Hall next door once in a while. She was just getting over a cold. Bette quit her job yesterday. She did not make as much money from it as she thought because the second hour of work did not materialize very often. However, she enjoyed the associations at work immensely and she was able to meet many more of the students. She was so full of gossip. It is final examination week so that the girls have been studying hard. Bette was not sure how she was going to make out this term, but she hopes to pass. About four of the girls stuck around so we talked for about an hour. I was waiting for the rain to slow up outside so I didn't mind at all. The girls were all very friendly and they all said that they thought Bette was such a nice person and "one of them." When Bette was sick they took turns taking care of her.

One of the girls was Mary Janesse Meyer, Dillon Meyer's daughter. Mary is a rather quiet girl with an interesting personality. I told her that I did not agree with her father on his policy of closing the camps so hurriedly so we had some discussion on that. Mary has never been to any of the centers and all she knows of the Nisei is through her associations with Bette. She seems to be a very intelligent girl. I also met BJ's new roommate who is interested in "social problems" so we are going to have a bull session sometime. All of these girls have



been over to our apartment for parties during the time I was away. Some of them stayed over with Bette on alternate nights. Bette said that about four of the ASTP students were coming over next Sunday with BJ and some of the other girls for a party and they were going to pay for the food. BJ is supposed to be an expert in making Southern fried chicken. Bette said that her romance with Phil was now over because he got "too sentimental." She still sees him a lot on the campus but she is more interested in another boy now. She goes around with Rod yet, but he is "devoting most of his time to editing the college magazine." Bette said that Rod has written a book of poetry which he hopes to get published soon. He plans to go to the U. of California next fall. Bette worked with him at the Commons during the time I was gone. She certainly did make a lot of friends on the campus. She said that the girls would not let her go home alone after some girl was attacked on the campus one night. >

After I left Blake Hall, I decided to go to the office to see how Frank was making out without me being around for so many weeks! We talked for about two hours. < Frank is just about through with his Tule report as he plans to wind it up in a hurry. We had some discussion on the Chicago Report and I told him a little of what I had done in Berkeley. The main part of the Chicago report will have to be written by Frank. He said that he did not expect to finish it by the time he leaves the Study in September. He has a couple of teaching jobs lined up so that he thinks he will definitely take one of them by fall, and then work on the Chicago report on the side. This was the first time I heard that Frank was definitely going ahead with other work plans. He won't have a difficult time in making good connections since he is well qualified to teach. It looks like the Study personnel is going on to other things one by one. Frank mentioned that Tom was on a furlough and that he would be around in a short time. >



When I got home, Bette had prepared a nice meal, but I still haven't regained my full appetit~~at~~ so I was not able to do full justice to it. Bette burned the rice as she has forgotten how to cook! We sat around the table for a couple of hours and exchanged experiences. <Bette said that Mariko is going to finish her suit for Easter, but I won't believe that until I see the finished product! She also said that Toshie went to NY to see Albert as he is going overseas. Albert must be in the same company as Beverly's husband. Toshie is now living downstairs and she wants Alice to come down from Minneapolis and live with her. Bette said that she had not seen Mariko and George much, but she supposed that they were going along in a normal way. She said that she had been so busy with school and her own friends on the campus that she has not seen any Nisei during the past seven weeks. Emiko has a lot of floor duty now and her hours are all shifted so that she does not get home very often. She is coming over for dinner on Thurs. I bet she eats all of those pickles I brought back with me from camp unless I hide them! Bette also said that Eileen was still trying to burn the candles at both ends, etc. etc. Bette does not care for Eileen much. Emiko is supposed to be a little griped too because Eileen is supposed to be fooling around with her boyfriend. I guess Eileen hasn't grown up yet. I'm supposed to rush over there to see her, but I shall be independent and wait for a couple of days or more. Besides, I have to take care of my cold! >

Jack wrote a letter making some proposals for Mom's resettlement. The plan sounds good, but I don't think Mom will want to go to California now because of (1) fear of isolation (2) fear of public opinion (3) desire to keep family together (4) possibly, some attitudes against Filipinos, which is minor and could be easily eliminated. Bette and Emiko are against Mom going to California right now as they want the family out here. <I think that Jack's plan is sounder than



the one I have tentatively worked out, except that I don't think that Mom is well enough to work eight hours a day in Mr. Ingojo's grocery store. Climatically, it would be better for Mom to go to California on this offer, but it will be up to her to make the decision. When I left camp, she had her mind set on coming to Chicago if the camps closed. I can't make more definite plans because of the uncertainty of my draft status, my job after the end of this year, difficulties in housing in this area and other factors of this sort. It would be much less responsibility for me and I should jump at the opportunity to get Mom to California so that it would be easier on me. It doesn't matter to me at all, but I think that it has to be up to Mom to decide. If she is going to be unhappy in California, then it is no use for her to go back there. She feels that she will be able to see her family more if she came here and I am afraid that this will be the main criteria from which she will make her decision. I think the important thing is that she will be able to get some happiness if there is a sort of "normal" family group which she can come to. Mr. Ingojo has made a most generous offer, but mom's health is not good enough for her to leave camp for a while yet so that she will have time to think it over. I suppose I could "force" her to take the California opportunity by not proposing an alternate plan, but that wouldn't be exactly fair to her. We will just have to let things ride for a while, until after my draft status is clearer for one thing. I could bring them out there and then send them to California at WRA expense if I got drafted, but Mr. Ingojo's offer may not be still open by then. At least we have a couple of possibilities and that is better than none at all even if we can't decide which is the best for all concerned.

Bette said that tuition has been raised to \$390 a year and that is another headache which will have to be considered soon.



Charles Kikuchi  
insert: Jack's letter to Mom.

Di ry

March 20, 1945 7222

March 15, 1945

Dear Mom:

Charlie said he was going to stay in camp for one week, so I guess by the time you get this letter, he will be on his way to Chicago. Did he tell you what to do when the Government closes up the camps? What do you think you want to do? Do you still want to go to Chicago?

The reason I am asking you is that Dolores' father asked me to write to you, and ask you if you would like to work in the grocery store. It is pretty busy now, so he is looking for somebody to work in the grocery department. The work is not hard because it is a small store, and it is not heavy work. The working hours are from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. You don't have to worry about shopping for groceries or meat because you can buy them right from the grocery store.

You don't have to worry about finding a house because you can stay with me and Dolores. We have a three room apartment with bath and pantry, so we will have plenty of room for you, Miyako and Tom. Later on if you like, you can find a place of your own. Mr. Yngojo is going to buy another house so he will rent you the upstairs.

Tom and Miyako can go to school here, and later Bette can come out if she is tired of Chicago; Maybe Alice would like to move to San Francisco so that she can see Mark easier when he comes on furlough.

I hope you will think this over, and let me know what you think of it. If you do come out here, I am sure that you will



~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

like it better than Chicago. Chicago is cold and windy for 6 months, and the places to live are pretty dirty. In the summer it is so hot it is very uncomfortable.

If you still want to go to Chicago, tell Tom that he can come and live with me as soon as school is out. Then he won't be loafing around all summer. He can get a job easily and save a little money before going back to school. He can go to school in San Francisco in the fall if he wants or else go to Chicago if you and Miyako have relocated by that time.

Love,

Jack.



7232  
Dear Bette,

24 February 1945 \_\_\_\_\_ P.I.

In the States, this creature was booted out of fashionability along with British tea and taxation without representation. But he still exists out here and is known to the Filipinos as Mephistopheles Japonicus. Our job has been to reduce the ranks of these obnoxious creatures who have made life miserable in what the Japanese term "The emerald paradise of the Pacific" and the "law of everlasting summer."

Latest reports indicate that they are rapidly and increasing numbers, populating an underground region not unlike the one which they have been forced to leave so precipitously.

A Divine Mission, they said they had, but it turned out that they had been satanic all along and their mission could not rise above them. I think I ought to re-read "Paradise Lost" and enthrone Milton as an English Nostradamus.

This damned letter is beginning to reek culture and that is bad... bad because it gives the wrong impression. "We GIs are not supposed to reek culture but blood, sweat and homesickness. That, however, is going to the opposite extreme. Perhaps there is a middle road.... let me explain.

Except for those front line GIs actually in contact with violent fight and violent death, and they are few, life for "boys overseas" is not half bad.

The Philippines is not the most hellish spot on earth. My brother who spent time (as a soldier, I add hastily) in New Guinea writes and says the Philippines is heaven by comparison. Climatically speaking, that is.

Food continues to improve. Our mess compares favorably with that in stateside camps save for the absence of fresh fruits and



vegetables. Bananas and other tropical fruits are rare, and only to be had in more remote places. Our present bivouac area, which we hatched out of a coeo-palm grove overgrown with jungle underbrush, is no longer a remote place far from civilization. We've brought civilization with us and our bivouac looks like a fair to middling city, complete with electricity, running water, theatres and people.

The people, of course, are mostly male. Sometimes we may catch a glimpse of a WAC, a Red Cross worker or a nurse. But even they are male-like though curvesome, because they dress in unflattering GI shirts and pants. Though a woman may look sexy in slacks, no woman, not even Marlene Dietrich, can look glamorous in GI pants.

Our greatest single lack is women. The need is great, but they are one item that cannot be requisitioned through the quartermaster corps. Despite all the newspictures, local girls are not very attractive. (It is axiomatic that if, in the hungle, there is one western style building to be found, or if there is one pretty girl to be found, the photographers will find them, photograph them, and send them home for some unknown reason as "typical girls" or "typical scenes".)

Letters ~~help~~ fill the need, but words cannot make real the softness of a cheek, a jealous look, a tender kiss in a darkened doorway, a conversation over a glass of beer, a walk hand in hand... and to realistic, long married GIs, the old lady with her hair in curlers.

Movies also help--at least for an hour or so. We escape from reality: the reality of being on foreign soil, the reality of the enemy. And from smaller realities: the coconut logs serving as seats in our open air theatre, the moonlight gleaming on the palm fronds, and when it is stormy, the rain pattering down about us.



All of these we escape, entering into the world of fantasy created by Hollywood artists. We are lucky to be able thus to escape, for if we should try to escape, ~~wikk~~ into a world of fantasy created by ourselves.....

All in all, life here is neither unpleasant or pleasant. The worst that can be said of it is that it is monotonous. But about that I think I've written before.

Your life on the other hand must be full of excitement. Do gangsters still roam the streets while Mayor Kelly looks the other way? Have you ever been caught in a crossfire of bullets while one gang is attempting to "rub out" another? Don't laugh. That's an earnest young guerilla asked me once when I told him I'd spent a few days in Chicago. Poor fellow, I had to disillusion him by telling him Chicago was ~~quiet~~ as civilized as his home "barrio". Most Filipino men carry curved "bolos"--for a very practical purpose. They use them to notch coconut trees and to harvest coconuts. The blade is about a foot in length, made of tempered steel and kept razor sharp. Scabbards are usually hand carved of hard wood. The bolos serve an eminently utilitarian purpose and the carving of human flesh is not included in that purpose. Another romantic prejudice of mine gone to pot.

This same guerilla incidentally says the first thing he's like to see should be go to the states, is now. Lots of snow. Tons and tons of snow. That should be of comfort to you.

I'll leave you on that note until next time.

Aloha,

Warren



7 March 1945 \_\_\_\_\_ P.I.

Dear Chas,

Received your letter from Berkeley and was happy to rediscover that all Californians aren't half the bastards that the inflammatory center presses and the Pacific Citizen paint them to be. Never one to underrate the power of the press, it seems to me that a lot of undue fear is created not so much by the incidents themselves but by the way they have been handled by the press. There are too many suffering heroes around in the centers ~~xxxxxxxx~~ as it is. I'm afraid the news articles encourages them to suffer more and more heroically. On the other hand, I can't blame them too much since they probably print only that news that comes to them and is of interest to the Nisei reading public.

Out here we look forward to the PC with morbid interest; it's our Number 1 demoralizer. I wish, for one thing, that the PC wouldn't try to hard to capitalize on the deaths and wounds of overseas Nisei. I think it's poor taste to flaunt in weekly headlines the names of the dead and wounded to vindicate the loyalty of other Nisei Americans. Rightly or wrongly, I get the feeling that the larger the casualties the more the PC would be pleased; for each casualty writes in blood his proof of loyalty, and since that's the best and most sensational kind of proof, they seem to be bent upon capitalizing on it.

Your comments on the pending closure of the camps were most interesting. I have always thought that the camps would have to continue to exist indefinitely, like Indian reservations. The "residents" have had 3 long years to think and brood. Their policy seems to be to "sit tight" and I don't believe any threats of closure will move them into making hasty decisions. However, if the policy makers in WRA intend to inflict their humanitarianism



upon the evacuees, there's no telling what will happen. Certainly a number of unhappy incidents. My sympathies are with the evacuees but reason tells me that they can't "sit tight" forever. I can't reach a compromise. At least I can plead ignorance of certain facts, but what of those who cannot? For example, to what extent would evacuees be self-sustaining if they were thrown on their own resources again? How many could earn decent living? How many have sons in the service who are unable to help except by monthly pit-tances? etc. etc.

We are trying our damndest to do nothing nowadays, it's a boring job. The other day Herb and I hitch hiked up to \_\_\_\_\_, one of the larger towns about 20 kilometers away. The road was very dusty and half way to our destination we were caught in a shower, with the result that we arrived at \_\_\_\_\_ caked with mud. "Where," we asked the first MP we found, "is the water point?" The MP smiled knowingly and gave us the directions. To one side of the water point was a wall of burlap sackings behind which a stream of GIs seemed to flow in great numbers. After washing up, we joined the ~~line~~ ~~stream~~ ~~and~~ ~~came~~ ~~upon~~ ~~a~~ ~~cock~~ ~~fighting~~ ~~pit~~ ~~and~~ ~~3~~ ~~whorehouses~~ ~~with~~ ~~long~~ ~~lines~~ ~~winding~~ ~~around~~ ~~them~~. It all reminded me of Honolulu before the Japitans lowered the boom. It was all incredible because there were family houses scattered around with little kids running up to the guys in line asking them for candy. Normally, the price, so they told me, was 6 pesos, but, being Sunday and a holiday, it had risen to 10 pesos. And then it dawned upon me that the MP didn't really think we were going to the water point just to clean up. Well, we watched a cock fight and then left. The whole thing was a little too raw for us.

The roads of the town were dirt and deeply rutted. Every other house was a combination residence-store where you could get



anything from bolo knives to greasy doughnuts and C-ration hash. The shopkeepers were indifferent to ceiling prices set down by the Osmena government and I think they regarded us not so much as suckers but as wealthy Americans who didn't give a damn about money. Anyway, I bought a bunch of about 10 bananas the size of fountain pens for 2 pesos (one American dollar). Other prices were equally fantastic. The girl (very attractive and well built around the bosom) who sold us the bananas stared at us with undisguised curiosity and finally asked us point blank if we were "Japon". We explained and she still didn't seem to understand. I pulled out my Ronson (\$2.50 at the PX) to light a cigarette and she said, "Oh, my, let me see that." She took it, clicked to see if it would light and then asked coyly: "You have these in Tokyo?"

I said wearily, "Look, miss, I've never been to Tokyo."

"But you are Japon."

"I know, but I was born in America."

"The Japon are very bad people," she said. She wanted to sell us some pigeon small eggs for 50 centavos apiece ("I will boil them for you, sir.") but we declined her generosity and left.

On the way back we hitched a ride on a 2-ton truck loaded with GIs. As soon as we climbed aboard one of the GIs did a "take" on us, like in the movies. He merely glanced at us at first, turned away, and then looked at us hard. We felt the suspicions that had been aroused in him but because we were dressed in our suntans and carried .45s, we didn't expect any trouble. We were wrong. He asked Herb, "Where you from, Jack?"

"Oh, from Hawaii," Herb answered.

"What part of Hawaii?"

"Honolulu."

"What part of Honolulu?"

"Aleuwa Heights."



Herb couldn't stand it any longer. He said, "Why do you want to know? He didn't answer. He turned to me and asked, "Where you from?"

"California."

"What part of California?"

I said facetiously, "From all over. South, central north."

He didn't like that. He said, "You got permits to carry your pistold?"

As a matter of fact, we hadn't since we'd borrowed them to carry in place of our cumbersome carbines. But I said, "Sure we've got permits."

"Got them with you?"

I didn't like the tone of his voice and I was having a hard time keeping my temper down. "Why the hell should we be carrying permits?" I asked.

He didn't have an answer for that and so he asked, "Got your dog tags?"

I blew up. "What the hell do you think you're doing questioning us like some \_\_\_\_\_ prisoners?" I asked. "I'll see your dog tags before I show you mine."

There were others in the truck and now they were staring at us half amusedly, half curiously.

At my outburst the GI fell quiet and presently he said, "Well, you know how it is. I like to be sure. You have black heads, and you know how it is."

I said, "Sure, sure. This happens to us all the time."

"We're fighting the same war you are," Herb added.

The truck stopped and let us off. We went to the side of the road to resume hitch hiking. But the GI wasn't through with us. He went up to an MP directing traffic and talked to him in undertones. The MP motioned to us to come over. He was telling the GI, "These guys are interpreters." And then to us, "Let me see your passes."

The GI tried to placate us. "You know how it is," he said, "Japs are infiltrating."

I didn't want to argue. "Sure, I know. It's better to be safe than dead. Only don't mistake us for Japs again."



"You aren't mad, are you?" he asked.

"Hell, no. Forget it."

"Well, I hope you aren't mad. I don't want you to be mad, only I like to be sure.

Herb said, "How would you like to be accused....."

"You aren't mad at me, are you?" he asked.

We returned to our bivouac area without further incident.

\* \* \* \* \*

Kenny wrote me a long letter about his work. The moralistic overtones in his letter surprised me. He speaks of "shiftless drunkards" and "mean scoundrels" like a grand lady of the WCTU. Undoubtedly there are shiftless drunkards and mean scoundrels, but a case worker ought, I believe to help them out and not condemn them so wholeheartedly. Or is the function of a case worker to put the family on relief and let the shiftless drunkards go to hell?

"Hello" to Bette and thanks for her Christmas card which arrived the other day.

You can be damned sure you'll be useless to the Army if you're 20 pounds over normal.

Yours,

/s/ Wang



Last night Bette stayed up until about three studying and I was typing until late and then I caught up a bit on my reading. My cold was very heavy, but I was not sleepy at all. It is a deep chest cold. I was planning to remain in bed all day today, but the sun came out so I decided to go down to the station and pick up the box I had checked. It took me all day before I got home again! I had to go to four different stations before I could locate the box! At the last one, I was told that it had not come in yet, but the late afternoon train might bring it in. I decided to wait for it since I had spent that much time downtown.

I went over to the Legal Aid Department to close the probate court case on Bette's guardianship and that took about an hour of waiting around. After that, I decided to shop around for a pair of shoes and purchase them before all of my financial worries caught up with me. I got a nice pair for \$10, but shoes these days are not as good in quality as the pre war kind and there is not too much choice. However, I am well satisfied.

I picked up the box at last at 4:00 and started for home, reaching here without any more difficulty. I still feel weak from my cold and I know that I should stay in bed until the worst of it passes, but there are so many things I have to take care of right away. I shall try to get to bed early tonight! Bette phoned Emiko and told her to come to dinner next week since she has a final tomorrow and has to study all day so I won't be seeing her until then.

Mariko phoned this evening. She said that she was willing to give me \$20 a month after I brought the family out of camp, but I don't know if I can count on her or not. She also said that Molly Oyama Mittwer was moving back to L.A. and she wanted to sell the furniture in her flat. Mariko said that if Molly had not promised the flat already, I



might be able to get it. The only difficulty is that it is located way out on the West side of town, and it would take me extra time to come to work. I wish I could find a flat near the University. Once that problem were solved, the other things could take care of themselves. Mariko said that George goes to night school so that they only go out on weekends now. Mariko is so willing to help, but I just can't count on her. She said that George would not say anything since she keeps an independent account. But, in the long run I think that Mariko should go her own way right now before she gets "stuck" with something she won't be able to get out of. She won't be able to have any children as long as she keeps on working. And, I don't want her to manage my affairs just because she has a "\$20.00 hold" over me, which could easily happen since Mariko is inclined to be so bossy. If she would give me the \$20 and leave me alone, and if I could find a flat, then I think I could manage the family resettlement in a fairly suitable way. The first thing is to find a flat and that is no easy thing to do in this town! I know what I am getting into, but there is no other way unless Mom decides to go to SF. Even if the WRA remains open, I think it is about time for Tom and Miyako to get out of camp now. I'll just have to let the end of the year and my job take care of itself as there are too many other things to worry about first. Things always turn up at the last minute anyway when one finally decides upon taking the plunge. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the California climate could be brought out here and if the economic future of the family were more secure!! Oh well...

Mariko said that Bob T. and Helen really were married for two months, but Helen's folks forced an annulment. Setsuko also had a hand in it as she felt that Bob was not up to par with her "brilliant" sister! They are still going around together tho. Bob defends his manhood by going around and telling of his two months of marriage. He must be burnt up plenty.



March 21, 1945

Dear Tom and Miyako,

Well, I got back to Chicago safely even tho my cold is worse. I have been coughing like a steam engine, but Bette is taking good care of me. How is Mom? Has she come home from the hospital yet? If you have any important messages to send, go to Beverley right away and ask her to help you. Don't forget now.

Miyako, how is your cold? I hope that you did not have to stay out of school. Bette likes your candy very much and she is eating most of it herself. Emiko doesn't come home very often because she is so busy at the hospital. Right now, Bette is studying for her finals so that she cannot cook me delicious meals until next week. Don't forget to go ask Beverly when she is going to take you into Phoenix as she said that she wanted to take you some Saturday. You tell me how much money you spend there and I will send it to you as a treat for taking care of me during the time I was sick before I left. Tom, ask Beverly if she will take you too. It's up to you kids to go ask her because she might forget. Just take this letter over and let her read this part. Tell her that I think she is such a "nice Beverly" and I am sure that she won't refuse you then! >

Hey, Miyako! Did you empty the "stew pot" yet? Don't forget! I guess Mom got the letter which Jack wrote about her going to SF to work in Mr. Inggo's store. Tell her that it is up to her to make the decision by herself, but I am making plans to have all of you come out here this summer as soon as I can find a large enough place to live in. (We need the room to put all of your "junk") Tom, you can come out just as soon as school is over as I'm pretty sure that I can get you a summer job, and it will pay more than your present "messenger boy" job too! You should be able to make at least \$5 a day out here during the summer. So study hard and pass all of your courses. In the fall, Mom and Miyako can come out too, and I think that Mom will be able to get a part time job if her health is good enough by then. Tom, bring as much ~~xxxxxx~~ of your stuff as you can so that Mom will not have to pack it after you leave. I shall write you more plans as things get more definite. Throw away all of your "stink socks" tho because I can't stand the odor! It might make Bette faint. Anyway, tell Mom to think very carefully about what she wants to do. When I was there, she said that she wanted to come to Chicago so ask her if she still feels that way or if she has changed her mind. Tell Mom that Mariko said she was going to give me a little money each month so that we should be able to manage well enough. I'll look around to see if there are any nursery jobs out here which Mom could get as I think there might be some changes like that open as there is such a shortage of workers out here yet.

Well, I have to jump into bed to take care of my cold.

Love,  
Chas.



Charles Kikuchi  
Insert:

Diary

March 21, 1945 7237

Bette's letter re: possible scholarship.

March 21, 1945  
4743 Drexel Blvd.  
Chicago, 15, Illinois.

Mrs. EK Eckwall  
Kobe College Corporation

Dear Mrs. Eckwall,

I am now taking my examinations for the end of the winter quarter at the university and next week I will start the spring term. I hope to make a good showing. I think that I have been learning a lot and I certainly am enjoying my school experiences. I have made so many new friends at school and I see them quite frequently on a social basis. I think that they are a grand group of schoolmates to have.

Recently, the university announced that its tuition fees would be raised to \$390 a year from this fall. That is so much money to pay for an education, but I feel that it is worth it. I hope to work during the summer months to raise part of this fund since I am anxious to complete my two years of schooling at the university of Chicago. My brother may be able to loan me a little although he will have additional responsibilities with the rest of the family who are coming out of camp soon. The problem of getting the rest of the money for the next school year has me greatly worried. In addition to the tuition fee, I will have to have about \$100 for books and other school expenses for the next year.

I realize that your group has assisted me a great deal in the past and I am truly appreciative of all which has been done. Is there any possibility for further assistance for my next school year? If so, I would like to put in an application. There does not seem to be any other way in which I can save enough money for my next college year. I feel that my college experience is one of the greatest events in my life and I would not like to drop out after only attending one year. If I can manage through the next year, I am sure that I will be able to carry on beyond that as it is my plan to go into nursing school after receiving my AB degree at the U. of Chicago. It is the only college in the United States where this can be done in two years.

Respectfully yours,

Bette Kikuchi



Very slow day today. I went to the office, but my notes from Berkeley had not arrived yet and I can't do much until the index cards arrive. I could start some of the follow up interviews and make the contacts, but I don't have enough energy to do that yet. I don't want to contaminate people with my cold so that is why I have not been seeing anyone since returning.

Dorothy wrote and said that the University would not give me a certification for a 2a deferment since it only did this for those over 30. She said that the WAR Manpower commission has listed the study as "essential" so that she will still try to get another deferment. It comes up early next month. This sort of stops my other plans as I had intended to go down to the WRA office today and find out about the family welfare assistance plans it had to get them working on mom's case. Now I don't feel that I can do that until the selective service business is cleared up. Dorothy said I would probably get 1-a so that she wanted me to give priority to the follow up cases to get as much of that finished as possible. I hope that the draft board takes definite steps if I am going to get a 1-A because I don't want any more of this waiting around business. I think I would have half a mind to volunteer and get it over with as I don't object too much about going into the Army anymore. The only thing which stopped me before was the family resettlement and I certainly cannot do anything about that as long as my draft status is dangling. There would be a possibility that I would just stay in 1-a for a long time, but I don't particularly care to be in such a dangling situation. Maybe Mom will have to go to SF after all. I don't know what to do about Bette yet. I think the best thing to do is just to wait until after my draft status is cleared and then decide. I'll know in a couple of weeks at the most, I think.

I went home early today as my new shoes were tight and they bothered me. I wasn't feeling well yet so I went to bed early and just got up. Bette has been studying for hours on her finals. She will be finished tomorrow afternoon, and next week the new quarter starts. I will start classes too as there is no use in letting that drop because of the draft uncertainty. Next week, I'll really get to work.



February 25, 1945

Dearest Bette:

Guess you thought you had a letter from Jack no? But the reason for this is because he gave me the envelope in one of the letters to be forwarded to you and I enclosed it with one of mine, so this was left over. And not wanting to waste the stamps-I use it for my answer to your letter.

Ricky is beside me on the couch alternately guzzling his milk and falling asleep. I give him a spanking, he wakes up, etc., etc.

You should see your nephew! He must weigh over 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  pounds now and is 23 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long (started at 7# 14 oz. and 21 ") His cheeks have filled out and his legs are so chubby--and what a tummy --he puffs it up when I change him so I can hardly get the diaper around. He's a little rascal all right. He can't see objects as yet and his eyes are still blue black (did you know that all babies are born with blue ~~kkx~~ eyes? They change color later.) Mom sent a little striped, stuffed elephant with a bell around it's neck and when I jingle the bell he loves it, smiles and coos, really! I prop it up on the side of his crib and it looks so cute! It's his first and only toy. I think Mom made it, she didn't say.

How's everything going? Nice that you have a job where you get your meals--it's not too hard work is it? Don't lift any heavy trays or anything, you don't want to injure anything.

When will Chas be back? He hasn't gone to Arizona yet, has he? He wrote voluminous letters for awhile and then stopped so I wondered.

By the way, tell Emi to be very careful about going out at night. I worry about you two. Chicago is such a bad place in which to live. You be care too even if you're with someone else. It's a good idea to carry a long hat pin under your coat lapel--small, but



good protection! Tell Emi to do that too.

Did you know that 18 year old girl who stole \$600 from her employer and then was placed on probation for a year because she claimed that "she was persecuted because of her race?" Does that make it all right to steal? Let me know, I could use some extra dough and I could wait for someone to say "Jap" or discriminate against me. Some people--honestly!!!

How is Rod. I'm sorry to hear he was banged up so much--see what I mean about being careful, even a man isn't safe! Give Betty Jean my love and tell her to drop me a line if she has time aside from prettying up and having dates.

Johnny is now in the Army and will be leaving some time soon. He's in the reserve now so he's still working at his old job. What a wolf he is. You should see all the popular girls pics he collected at graduation and the inscriptions "I'm really glad to have known such a grand person!" "Such a personality--keep it up!" "It was so much fun knowing you", "Wish I could have met you sooner--it was a lot of fun", etc., etc. But he's a problem child to May as he's no "nonki" and keeps borrowing from his brother, May, Yuri, etc. He's a little spoiled but only shows that side to his family. He and May get along good though!

Well, must close. Write again.

Love, Alice

P.S. In case I forget to write this to Emi, tell her that if she visits me to wear her uniform and she can get special furlough rates. Her ticket shouldn't be much more than 10 or 12 dollars that way, otherwise it's almost double.



My stuff still did not come in from Berkeley so that I did not do much at the office today. I have been trying to get my mind down to work, without too much success. It always takes a few days to get back into the right frame of mind to start the routine all over again. I haven't really tried to do this yet since I have to wait for a while, and my cold is still not over. It's a good excuse to continue the listless stage for a few more days; but I am getting a little impatient. Frank works along all day in a diligent way, but all I have been doing is to read snatches of a detective story and browse around in the files. >

Since coming back, I just haven't done a thing. I should get busy on some of my follow ups, but I don't seem to have the energy. It couldn't be that I am stale to the work since I have just returned from a seven weeks change. I suppose it is a matter of getting readjusted back to this life. Another point is that my indefinite draft status has made me a little nervous and thrown me off in spite of my attempts to drive it from my mind. It isn't that I fear getting inducted; I think I might even welcome it. < I don't know why. Maybe it is a sort of an escape. It certainly would postpone the answering of a lot of questions. I don't see much future in going along as I have been for the past two years altho I have a heavy obligation to finish up my report. Going to Berkeley seemed to have made it rather clear in my mind that the fact collecting phase of my work is done, and that is a little definite. My work on the study goes on for another six months or more, but it is like sitting on edge. > The most disturbing thing, I suppose, is that I feel sort of tied down and I can't make a move on the family resettlement with the realization that my status is so indefinite. Getting drafted at this time would sort of answer a lot of questions,



and it is a way out. I have been doing a lot of thinking lately, and I can't see how I am going to work out anything definite the way things are now. Suppose I do bring the family out here? Then what? I won't be able to support them without some means of financial assistance. On top of that, my job may run out at the end of the year and this would put <sup>me</sup> in a most difficult spot. My frame of mind right now is that I don't want to face it. Once the step is taken, I won't have the freedom of choice I had before since I won't be able to slip out of the responsibility. I suppose my mind is running along in a sort of selfish channel now, but people have been telling me for a long time that I should think of myself for a change. But the only answer along these lines is selfish and I can't escape that.

I am not desperately anxious to go into the army, but I don't think that it is entirely motivated by escapism. There is that sense of obligation there and I have been busy rationalizing my avoidance of it for the past two years. I suppose the wisest thing to do is to wait until my draft status is definite and then make some decisions. This is a sort of preliminary to it. Whatever happens, my life is going to be disrupted in the next few months. If my future were more clearly charted, then I would not mind stepping into the family picture and acting definitely. But I don't know how I am going to get my MA now. Making Bette go to work to earn her own way is not going to solve things at all. I shall do nothing about my deferment. If it comes through, then I will know clearly what I will be doing until the end of the year. But if I get a 1-A, I think I might be tempted strongly to volunteer for immediate induction because I don't want any more of that dangling around waiting for what comes next. It's too much of a strain.



67252  
I'll have to snap out of it and get back to work before I get too baffled. I didn't do anything which could be called an accomplishment today. I didn't even do any work to speak of. I have been in the process of thinking about vague things for the past week and that's about all. My morale might be low right now because of the lingering cold, complicated by the indefinite draft status, and also by my work inactivity which I will have to do something about next week. I just haven't had the ambition to see anyone because I won't be alone and think things out. I don't know why I had to pick a time like this to go into a thinking spree, but that is something which I cannot control. I suppose I feel frustrated with the realization that my plans for family resettlement is very shaky and not definite at all.

The papers are all talking about the end of the war being in sight, but I think it is just another spell of optimism and it will be some months yet. It is true that Germany is close to the brink, but it is no pushover. And there still is the Orient. The crossing of the Rhine makes things much more definite though. I guess it won't be much use for me to get drafted at this time. I just have to make my mind up to do a good job as possible on my final report. I was counting a lot on Frank's help, but his announcement that he had other plans for the period following September sort of took me by surprise. That will just leave me to hold the fort down here and I don't have that much confidence in myself. If I thought I could produce better than a stinking report, I would feel much better about things. I certainly was feeling depressed yesterday, but I feel much more pessimistic today.

Bette finished her finals today and she is now cleaning the house. She is going to stay over with BJ this evening. I shall just lay around in order not to agitate my cold anymore as I have to get cured.



Read until about 3 AM last night so + slept late. Bette stayed over with BJ and did not return home until mid afternoon. She was having some people over for dinner so I had to stick around. Les and Milt came over with BJ around 5. They are both students in the ASTP language school here. Milt comes from a wealthy family in New Jersey, while Les is from N.Y. Les was attending NYU when he was drafted and Milt was going to Harvard. They had no idea that they would be assigned to the Japanese language school as they received their orders just before their infantry unit started overseas. Milt cooked the spaghetti dinner and it was very good. They cheered up when I told them that I didn't know any Japanese. They felt that they were making such slow progress. There are only about 250 Army students left on the campus. At one time there were well over 5000 of them ~~staring~~ running around, but the Army has closed up most of the programs. Les and Milt seemed to be nice kids.

Some of my index cards arrived so that I will be able to start organizing the material on Monday and getting underway once more. Dorothy said that I should spend most of my time on the follow ups until my draft status was cleared up so I shall have to write and ask for more definite instructions. My enthusiasm is now returning and I suppose I shall be able to get down to business now.

It rained today so that it was almost impossible to go anyplace. I dropped in to see Endo but he was out with the boys. He still lives at the same place. Mrs. Endo said that Blackie was back in town but living at another place. George Urabe is still with Endo. Endo quit his job and is working on the North Side now, according to his mother.



Charles Kikuchi  
Insert: letter from Student Relocation.

Diary

March 25, 1945

7245

March 13, 1945

Dear Charles:

We were most interested to hear that you are back at the University of California. I wonder how you are finding things there. I know there are a good many Nisei students who have already registered. Would you agree with their reports that the attitude in general is good and that you would recommend it to boys and girls who would be returning to the West Coast in any case?

We were glad to hear that Bette is getting along satisfactorily at the University of Chicago. I can well understand why she is concerned about her financial arrangements for the coming year especially in view of your increased responsibilities towards your family. I am afraid, however, that we cannot give her any definite word at this time regarding the possibility of aid through the Council. As you know, Bette's grant came from the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church. The Board of Education is fully aware of the needs of those who will be continuing in college next year. They hope very much to be able to give some help to the students who have been in college but they feel as do the other denominations that those just leaving the projects and entering college for the first time should have priority. Therefore, the amount of aid which they can give the Nisei who have been in college will depend on the size of the appropriations which they receive this year. I doubt if they will be able to give Bette as much as \$ 300 again. Therefore, I am glad that she is planning to work again this summer and to work next year while attending the university. I suggest that she also investigate the possibility of aid from the University and that she consider dropping one course in order to carry a heavier load of part time work if her church is unable to help her again. I assure you, however, that we will be glad to do what we can to present her case to the Church.

I suggest that Bette send us the enclosed outline of her expenses and resources for the 1945-46 academic year in July or August when she will know what her situation will be for the coming year. ...

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Elizabeth B Emlen (Mrs.)  
Director.

Re: file no. 2661



I worked on a job case analysis today but I seem to be a little rusty after my lay-off since leaving Berkeley. However, it came along fairly good and I expect to get into the full swing of things this week. Louise is busy finishing up the Diary indexing but I may have to ask her to work on the typing of my report if I get rolling real well. Frank is still working on his Tule Lake reports but he expects to be finished with it in the not too distant future.

Tom S. dropped into the office today. He is on his last furlough before going overseas. He has to report at Ft. Meade in Maryland in the next few days. Tom was looking very well physically but he said that he would hate to do it all over again because he took quite a beating. He recommended that I stay out of the Army at all costs when I told him that I might go in after next month. Tom said that he enjoyed the mixed training at Camp Wheeler and he found that the Nisei were well accepted so that there was little friction. How he feels that he will probably be placed in an all-Nisei battalion and he doesn't care for that too much. He felt that the Nisei soldier was too competitive in everything and they were always trying to show up the Caucasian soldiers. On the whole, he felt that the experiment at Camp Wheeler was very successful but he didn't know if the Army was going to continue with this mixed type of training with the new Nisei being inducted.

Tom was very philosophical about his future and he tended to be a little pessimistic. He hopes that the war in Europe will be almost over by the time he gets over there. He said that all he could do was to live from day to day and not think beyond that because it just wasn't any use. Tomi is going out to Washington with him to be near him until he is sent overseas. Quite a few of the Nisei wives have gone to Washington to be with their husbands so



that there must be a large number of soldiers getting ready to be sent as replacements. Tom thought that the Nisei combat team was now in action in Germany. He said that Barry Saiki got into OCS. "Quite a few of the Nisei made OSC this time so that they are getting a nice break. They try to be good soldiers so that they have a good recommendation and a lot of them scored very high in their Army intelligence test."

After dinner, I took a short nap because I felt tired out. Bette had to do the dishes all by herself. I've been neglecting to help her with any of the housework and she hasn't protested at all yet. I think I shall have to reform and contribute a little more effort. Bette is getting started in the new quarter now. She does not know how she made out in the last examination, but she is keeping her fingers crossed and not making any predictions. She has made such good adjustments socially at the University that she does not particularly care to go out to the U. of California and start out all over again. We have to raise a terrific sum of money for her next school year but there is some hope. The Student Relocation Council and the Kobe College Corp. may come through with enough money to take care of her tuition. The U. of Chicago is a helluva expensive place and it runs around \$500 just for tuition and other school expenses alone each year. I don't think I spent that much money all the way through college out in California. I would like to see Bette finish up another year at the university since their education has been broken up so much in the past few years.

I went over to visit Toshie in order to follow up on some of her latest activities but I discovered that she was still in Washington. I talked to Otto, Teddy and Mrs. Ikeda for about an hour and a half before going over to Mariko's. Otto is still recuperating from his automobile accident. He has headaches yet and his



eyes bother him quite a bit. Otto still doesn't know how the accident occurred. He said that he was coming <sup>home</sup> from school one day and he was the last one to get off of the street car. The next thing he knew was when he woke up in the hospital and wondered where he was. As near as he could figure out, a car hit him as he got off of the street car and then it didn't stop. It was a hit-run case. Otto was thrown up against the curb and the head hit it quite sharply so that he was unconscious for quite a while. Otto is now worried that he is going to lose out on his schooling at the Junior College but he plans to make up some of the work at home. He was quite surprised because his strict Math teacher sent him 3 books to read while he was recuperating and some of the other teachers gave him presents. He is not covered by any sort of insurance so that the doctor bills have been a little strain on the family resources. Otto had to use some of the money that he has been saving up for further college education. For a number of months he has been working part-time.

Mrs. Ikeda is not working but she gets an allowance from the Army thru her son, Billy. The uncle (Mrs. Ikeda's brother) also stays at this apartment occasionally but he didn't have much to say during the time I was there. Donald and Teddy are also living there while Dorothy is now at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Yuri is at Ft. Ritchie in Maryland and she was in last week on a furlough but I didn't get to see her. Albert is getting ready to go overseas while Carol is still 2-A at the U. of Nebraska. Teddy has one more year in high school. He works in a bakery in the neighborhood after school and all day Saturday. He makes about 70¢ an hour for this work so that he is able to help with the family expenses. Apparently Mrs. Ikeda's husband in Washington also sends the family some money as he still has a well paying job with the government.



The Ikeda family appears to be rather stable and the high degree of restlessness evident among large groups of Nisei is not present in that family circle. Mrs. Ikeda does not worry too much about finances as she appears to be getting enough of an income to manage the household. She said that she certainly was glad to be out of camp even though she was not excited about living in Chicago on a permanent basis. Billy is now overseas with a paratroop division and Albert will be going over within the next few weeks. Yuri will probably be stationed somewhere in the U.S. with the WACs while Dorothy has 3 years to go in cadet nursing. Otto said that Toshie expected to be in Washington for another week or so. She took Lucy and the other baby along with her as Mr. Ikeda was able to put them up in his apartment there. Toshie had a grand reunion with one of her Nisei friends from New York who was in Washington at that time with a Chinese theatrical troupe which appeared before Mrs. FDR. Toshie expects to go down to New York with this friend for about a week. She no longer lives upstairs as she now has the second story flat all by herself. She also has a phone installed because Albert is in the serve. Mrs. Ikeda thought that Alice might come down to live with Toshie and she could go to work while Toshie looked after the babies. Mrs. Ikeda said that it was too hard for an Issei parent to look after their daughter's babies because they were treated almost like servants and the ideas were too different. This is an essence the same thing that Mrs. Sato says.

Mrs. Ikeda wanted to know about the closing of the centers. She felt that it was much better for the old people to stay there but she thought that the children should have an opportunity to come out and attend the regular schools. She said that most of her Issei friends were fearful of leaving camp because of all the rumors which have circled. She said that some of her Issei friends have the idea



that they cannot appear on the streets without being attacked. She said that the latest rumor was about Mr. Fujii who was stabbed to death. She said this was true but didn't know any of the details of the incident. Mrs. Ikeda also had some remarks to make about the Kawakubo girl who died in the hospital yesterday of childbirth. The girl, 18, had twins. The father of the children is unknown but it is reported that he was a Caucasian sailor. The girl recently appeared in the news when her employer accused her of stealing \$600. The girl claimed that she was using this money for hospital expenses because everyone was so unfair to her "because my parents are Japanese". The court suspended sentence after most of the money was returned, and a collection was taken up so that the girl could be hospitalized. She died after her children were born yesterday.

Mrs. Ikeda thought that this was a great tragedy. However, she thought there was a lesson in it for other young Nisei girls. "Maybe a lot of these young Nisei girls will not think that their Issei parents are so foolish after this. There are many rumors going around about the wildness of the young Nisei girls and a lot of it must be true. The girls do not respect their parents enough and this case shows what might happen to them. There is a great danger for young girls living alone out here and the parents in camp worry about it all the time. They make the rumors very big but some of the things are true and I cannot hope but sympathize when they worry about their children being alone out here. But yet, many of the parents will not come out and start family life out here because they are so afraid for themselves."

Otto said that there wasn't much going on within Nisei circles that he knew of but one Nisei group sponsored semi-monthly dances in that neighborhood. Otto said that the Buddhist group are also beginning to sponsor a number of social activities. He has not heard



of any other large Nisei meetings except the group which went to hear Carey McWilliams recently. He said that this was a mixed group and some of the Nisei that went mentioned that they were disappointed because the discussion was mostly about Negro problems. Otto said that large numbers of Nisei were going to public dance halls, Merry Gardens now because the management welcomes them. He didn't know if the Aragon still restricted the Nisei but he heard rumors that the Chinese had cards to identify them when they attended. This is true because Bette has one of these cards which had been issued by the Chinese Students Association here on the campus. I think that these Chinese American students are making a great mistake by doing this and eventually they will be cutting their own throats. Bette believes that the Chinese students on the campus are much more Chinese than those she knew on the coast. Otto said that he hadn't heard much about discrimination against Nisei recently altho he had one incident happen to him before his accident. He went down to the USES to apply for a job as a lab technician. The employer was willing to hire him until he found out Otto's ancestry and then he cancelled the job because "I don't want any Japs working for me." Otto said that he was quite angry about this incident and he couldn't do anything about it so he left in disgust. I told him that he should stand up for his rights and not be pushed around in such instances because that was the way stereotyped ideas about the "Japs" would develop and it would be harmful for the younger kids later on when they entered the labor market. Otto felt that he couldn't do much by himself anyway.

Mrs. Ikeda mentioned that large numbers of Japanese were moving into Clark St. and that it really was quite a Japanese town now. She said that many of her Issei friends lived down there and she gets quite a few rumors from them. Mrs. Ikeda is still nostalgic



about returning to California but she is fearful of public opinion there. They own a house in Pasadena but there has not been any plans for immediate return. In fact, they have shipped most of their household equipment to furnish their apartment.

Other rumors and facts: "Ken Morioka is now 1-A in the draft and he is scared to death about getting inducted. He is now working as a houseman at Edgewater Beach Hotel and he has given up his plumbing business because he was not able to make a go of it. He had a share in the Delaware Gardens restaurant but he lost out on that. The Issei owner of Delaware Gardens had originally opened the place catering to Caucasian customers but mostly Nisei go to that place now. Sho Kaneko (CH-11) is now in the Army and he is officially engaged to Kojo. Cherie Yusa got married last month and she is now in Washington seeing her husband, Joe Nakayama, who will be going overseas shortly. Texas Mary went back to Los Angeles with Wayne and she lived with a Mexican family because of housing shortage. She wasn't able to find a place at all so that she went to Salt Lake and she is there now. Her second baby died as a result of all this traveling around. Mary is not officially married to Wayne yet."

Around 10:00 I went over to visit George and Mariko and return Eileen's bag which I had borrowed. The household there seems to be much better regulated but there is still an atmosphere of unsettledness around it. George now takes an accounting course at Northwestern University 2 evenings a week. He has been getting A's in all of his papers. "It will take me 3 years to finish up the course but I figure that I have to start preparing for the post-war period right now. I'm not deluding myself because I know that the chances for Nisei to get good jobs after the war will be much more limited and I want something more to offer. I'd like to get into civil service work or become a CPA." George studies diligently



every evening. He says that he doesn't even have time to read the newspapers anymore. Mariko doesn't complain about being neglected as she says that it gives her an opportunity to do her housework. I asked why she didn't take a night course in art or something else but she said that she didn't have the time. She said that it takes all of her time after working hours to keep up the house and she would neglect it if she took any night courses. I thought that it would just be a matter of reapportioning her time to fit in things on a definite schedule instead of dilly dallying around. I think she could do it but Mariko no longer has the drive. She did mention that she may take a Spanish course later on. Her main argument was that it would be too expensive to take night course and she wanted to save every cent she can. George seems to be getting the upper hand in that household. Mariko reflects a bit of her resentment on that by saying that he has too many J apanesy ideas, like women should cook and just keep quiet and not take part in any conversation. She seems much more subdued. I suppose that there is a certain amount of truth to what Mariko says as George does have many more conservative attitudes than Mariko. In his social philosophy he claims to be quite liberal but he doesn't particularly care to stand up for any issues because he is more of the opportunist. If he can gain by it, then he will support a movement. Otherwise, he will look after himself first of all. George said that he had a great respect for guys like Dyke Miyagawa who was sincere in what he believed in to the point where he would act upon it. George said he would never go this far and that's why he now feels that his future is not in the trade union movement. He said he believe implicitly in the trade union philosophy but not to the point of doing something about it himself. It seems to me this is a great change in his attitude altho it probably reflects what he has been thinking all



along but never mentioned until now. >

Around midnight Mariko and I started to discuss the problems of family resettlement out in the kitchen. Mariko said that she was willing to help to the extent of \$20 a month. "I'm trying to save \$1000 for my own security and after that I'll be willing to help as much as possible. I have my own budget now and during the last 3 months I saved \$200 by denying myself everything. I have a phobia of getting \$1000 in the bank. < I've worked over 10 years now so that this is a mighty small savings > George still won't have a joint account and I can't get him to agree with me that this would be the best foundation for our marriage. That's why I have to think about myself. I'm not saying that George will beat me or walk out on me but I have to think of every eventuality and have something to fall back on. Mom didn't have any money at all and that's why she couldn't leave Pop when she separated for a time. I'm not going to let such a thing happen to me. < I'm not saying that George and I are going to get separated but I'm preparing for something that might happen. It probably won't happen but just the same I'd feel much better with \$1000 in the bank. I'll be able to help the family with \$20 a month because I have a strict budget of my own. George takes care of all the main household expenses but I share some of them with him. I make about \$120 a month clear now and I'm able to save over half of that each month under my own arrangement. We don't plan to have any children for the duration because we want to have the first 2 years of our married life to ourselves. I'm not sentimental like Alice. She goes ahead and have a baby and it really isn't going to be practical because she expects her relatives to do something for her. That is not right at all. I may be selfish but I don't think a couple should have any children unless they can stand on their own 2 feet.

"George and I plan to go to New York eventually but we also



think that we will end up on the coast. I would go tomorrow if I had a good job offer and if George were willing to go. That's why I don't think it's so good for Mom to come out to Chicago. I think it would be much better for her to go to San Francisco. Bette could go to school out there. Even Alice could go out to the coast as far as that is concerned even though I realize Mom doesn't want to be burdened with the baby. If everyone who goes to California then Emiko would be the only one out here because it would be difficult for her to transfer. She is going pretty steady with Tets not and I think eventually they are going to get married but that will be hard on Emiko because she still has 2 years to go yet. She still has a certain family obligations since she is getting certain opportunities now. Her boy friend won't be able to be independent for a long time because he is planning to go into dental school and that will take a few years yet. He also has family problems to consider. There really isn't anyone else to handle the family resettlement problems except you and Jack and I don't think that Jack would want to be burdened down now that he is married. That's why I am offering the \$20 a month and that's the best that I can do."

I tried to talk Mariko out of the \$20 a month proposal in favor of a lump sum of money which she could decide upon herself. My reason for that was that I was afraid that eventually George would have certain resentments and it would interfere with her married life since finances seem to be one of the sore points between those two. Mariko could not see this point since she said that her finances were independent of George's. However, I added that if she started to give \$20 a month we would become dependent on it and then it would interfere with her own plans of having a child, and etc. Mariko said she would be able to do it for a year or so and she wasn't planning on having children for ~~xxxxx~~ the duration anyway. I tried to convince that a lump sum was better. My unspoken reason



for this was that Mariko would get too involved once she started giving a monthly sum and that wouldn't be good for the family or for herself due to her personality makeup which would automatically try to dominate the situation. < I asked her if she really meant what she said about buying furniture and Mariko backed out of that. She said that she had to save her \$1000 first and she couldn't afford to give a lump sum. I suggested that she save \$20 a month for a period and then give it in a lump sum rather than the small installments. > I'm not going to take any money from her as long as she has a say about how it is spent and perhaps wanting an accounting of it. I just don't care for that and I'd rather get one lump sum from her and then forget about it but that will be up to her. < I gave her every opportunity to withdraw her offer. I said I didn't want her to make any rash promises which she couldn't carry out because we would become dependent upon her monthly sum if she insists upon giving it. Mariko said that she thought it could be worked out so I didn't object anymore since it is her money and if she wants to give it, that is her business.

However, I went on to add that these family resettlement plans were most indefinite. Mariko does a lot of talking about wanting to help but she thinks that the \$20 a month is going to solve everything I wanted her to help me look for a flat on the southside but she then said she didn't have the time. I then went on to remind her that I couldn't be sure of my own plans because of my own uncertainties. I said that if I got my 1-A next month I would probably go into the Army shortly afterwards. I added that my job would end eventually and I still haven't my M.A. degree. Mariko thinks that I should go to California with the family but she has a helluva nerve to suggest anything to me when she doesn't know all of the factors concerned. I was quite frank with her in talking about the financial



problem to our family resettlement. I don't want her to ever go around saying that she is sacrificing her art career or anything else just to help the family as that sort of thing gripes me no end. I hate to accept anything from her, even for the family but what else can I do? Mariko believes that I should ask Jack for at least 5 or 10 dollars a month but I told her that it was up to him and I couldn't ask anyone for help. I said it depended on Jack's medical plans and he couldn't do much until that was completed. I felt that perhaps he might be sidetracked since he found it so difficult to get into a medical school.

I figured that I would need at least \$180 a month minimum to support the 4 dependents and I don't see how I can get by even on that. With Mariko's proposed \$20 a month assistance and possibly \$5 from Jack, I think that I could raise that much each month. However, this will mean that I can't do much for Bette's schooling but we are banking on outside help for that. I am also going to find out about public assistance after my draft status is more certain. Tom and Bette can work part-time after this so that will lighten the load. I can't count on Mom working since she <sup>over</sup>underestimates her strength. I'm a little worried about her medical care since she needs a special diet and I can't provide for any hospital expenses at all. Mariko mentioned something about group insurance which she and George would take out and it would ~~xxxx~~ only cost her a dollar a month extra to include Mom. I hope she does something definite about that but I can't force her. Mariko said she would take a chance and claim Miyako as her dependent even though I claim her as that would mean 3 or 4 dollars more as she could put <sup>that</sup> up as part of her \$20 allotment to Mom.

I just couldn't admit that everything was now worked about because there are too many other problems connected with resettlement and I must approach them one by one. I would rather have a



lump sum since the initial expenses will be the heaviest. I still have some idea that I may be able to work things out on my own. It's not that I feel noble about it but I would rest easier if I were not dependent upon Mariko or any other member of the family for the support of the dependents. There are too many complications that way, but I might as well be practical and realize that it would be almost impossible to swing everything myself altho I would be in a position to work out most of the details since it is too much bother to ask Mariko to do any of it. She is too busy anyway. I might ask her to go to the Salvation Army and ask for reduced prices in furniture since she worked in that office as a secretary for a while. I think that if we just go ahead and proceed with family resettlement, a lot of the problems which loom large now will become minimized and solve themselves when the time comes. I can't plan any further than the end of the year in the event I get a draft deferment but there's no use worrying about what happens ~~the~~ after that now. >

At 2:00 a.m. George came out of the bedroom very grouchy and said that he had to sleep so we should have talked over these things earlier, etc., etc. I was amazed when Mariko just hung her eyes and said very subdued-like, "I'm sorry" and then went off to bed quietly. < I suppose we could have talked the thing over earlier in the evening but we had to work up to it. We had a preliminary argument earlier on whether Nisei should associate with Negroes and not recognize class and racial difference and to hell with public opinion. I said that this was the only way racial barriers could be broken down and the Nisei had a helluva nerve to think they were superior. We also had some discussion on whether the maintenance of the Japanese language in the home contributed to the strong cultural control over the children, and also contributed to racial consciousness and an identity as a non-American. I couldn't agree with Mariko that it was



entirely a cultural matter. Mariko said that she thought Dolores was stupid for saying that she wasn't going to teach her children Japanese because they weren't going to live in Tokyo. I didn't see anything stupid in that so I defended Jack and Dolores. Mariko said that Dolores would make little Catholics out of the children and I said, "So what!" Mariko then answered that she didn't object because she planned to send her children to Sunday School. She felt she wanted to broaden her children in a cultural way and that was why she and George were going to teach them Japanese culture. I think she is full of baloney because she doesn't know anything about Japanese culture anyway. She probably gets those ideas from George. I told her that she should have children first before getting concerned about what she's going to teach them as she wasn't getting any younger. Mariko and I have all sorts of wild discussions but they are not bitter arguments even though Mariko tends to become emotional. She said that George never discusses anything with her, etc., etc. but I can see his reasons for that. I told Mariko that she was influenced by certain Japanese ideas which she did not recognize such as her conforming to the belief regarding etas. Mariko said that she didn't believe herself but other people did and that couldn't be dismissed. She claimed that George would never have married her if she really had been an eta. Furthermore, she added that she was very open minded about etas and never considered it as a social obstacle. I reminded her about some comments she made on the etas during the time we had a discussion on it in her apartment on W. Superior St. and she called me a goddam liar and said I was making it up. But her memory is short and she really did make some remarks about it but I didn't tell her I had these notes in my Diary! >

W After George issued his ultimatum I just didn't say anything.

What an old crab, even though we did keep him awake! I left immediately without saying anything altho I felt like telling George to go take a jump. But it was late so I had to keep quiet!



thru 7267  
Worked at the office most of the day, but didn't make such satisfactory progress. It is such slow painstaking work and it doesn't seem to come any easier. I just have to forget about the whole report or else it will become an impossible obstacle in my mind. Setsuko Matsunaga (Nishii) dropped into the office this afternoon to find out if she could get anyone to type her thesis. I told her that I thought Betty Jean would be willing to do it so I went over to see her on my way home. BJ was glad ~~afixix~~ to have the opportunity to make a little extra money so she phoned Setsuko right away. Setsuko wants us to read her thesis with "criticism" but I told her that I would be in no position to do that. I had a quick glance at it and the main weakness in my opinion was that she tried to say too much with not enough data. She based her generalizations on 24 case documents and she has a lot of high toned diagrams in it. I don't think I could do any better, but I still recognize that her thesis certainly would not pass the acid test which Dorothy would give it. However, I wish I had the knack of saying a lot of things like she has even if the material is insufficient. She appended the Study outline and I don't think that Dorothy is going to like that too much as no permission was given. She did give credit to the study for helping to formulate her methodology though.

Setsuko is working on a documentary history for the Chicago Defender. She also makes out the programs for the forums at the Parkway Community House. She still goes around making a lot of speeches and she said that she gets paid rather well for that. It seems to me that this is a sort of exploitation as her topic is always about the evacuees. Setsuko is the type of person who likes to be in the public limelight and she undoubtedly makes a fine impression as she is the sophisticated type. Her activities remind



me of the rich lady who goes down into the slums to pass out baskets of food to the poor without ~~res~~ ever feeling for them. Setsuko comes from a good family and she tends to put herself above the other Nisei because "she is different." I don't think that her present actions are consistent with the ideals which she professes. But she certainly is an intelligent girl and I think she should go far as she is ambitious and she knows what she wants. It's just a matter of greater maturity for her as she only got out of school recently. She seems to have a rather nice personality, altho it is distasteful to a lot of Nisei. Probably because they are envious of her.

I ran into Togo on the way home. He is getting along well in his new job as an editorial writer for some encyclopedia company near the campus. He recently moved into the building he bought. I dropped in for a few minutes and met his wife for the first time. Togo has a nice place to live in. He rents the upstairs to his oldest brother. He said that he got a good buy on the building. Apparently he is planning to settle down in Chicago permanently. He asked me if I would be interested in a job with the Rosenwald Foundation. It is doing press release work as the Director of Information, and it deals primarily in Negro-white relationships. I didn't think that I would be qualified and I said that I was more interested in my present job. I suggested that he contact Louise or Setsuko and he thought that they might be suitable for the position. He did not know how much salary it paid, but he said that it was a permanent job.

On the way home, I had a funny experience. A woman about 30 came up to me and asked for a cigarette. I almost fell over as I was so surprised. Then she said, "Do you want to come up to my room?" I declined the invitation, but I was amused at this new technique of street walking. What people won't do for a



a cigarette in these days of scarcity!

I dropped in to see Endo after dinner in order to line him up for a follow up interview. There were four other fellows there so that I didn't make much progress. Endo said that he is now working on the North side in welding work. He doesn't make any more of a salary, but he said that he saved a lot of time in commuting back and forth from work. Endo seems to have settled down considerably and he is a steady worker. His greatest concern is women, and he still is trying to get "one lined up as a steady piece." He is not worried about the draft as he has a 4<sup>th</sup> f. He said that in a way, he would like to go into the Army, "because most of my friends are going and I think that they are having a helluva lot of fun that I am missing out on. Just think, man, if I went into the Army I won't have to worry about my dollars anymore because the Army would do that for me."

Carl, a young zoot suiter, was one of the boys there. He was rather quiet at first, but he began to talk more after he got over his suspicions of me when Endo told him that I was "one of the boys from Frisco." He seemed to be in awe of me when Endo told him that I was "a college educated guy and he talks like a professor when he wants to." Carl is going into the Army next week. He has been doing some factory job for the past year. He made frequent moves around the country, but ended up in Chicago as the gang gradually drifted here. He doesn't particularly object to going into the army altho he was concerned about what he was going to do with all of the clothes he has bought out here. He has the reputation of being a "lady killer" so that Endo and the others were probing him about Nisei girls "who could be made." Carl gave a long account of those "with reps" and the right technique of approach so that they would not think he was a "squarehead."



"Man, there's a girl named C lee on the North Side. She is 25 and she hasn't got a face, but does she give out! She got engaged to a soldier after knowing him for only a week, but that doesn't stop her. All the guys know her address. You better go over there, Endo, instead of wasting your time at the Michigan Hotel."

Endo then began to relate about all of the houses of prostitution he knew about, but Carl maintained that he was not a "man" yet because he didn't have a steady girl on the "line." Carl is living with Blackie now. Also Sugar Mizono who is leaving for SF in a month. Blackie received his 4-F yesterday on account of his bad eyes. He has not worked since returning from Minneapolis last January. Endo said that Blackie was living "on his looks. He got a chick who supports him, just like that one in Ogden did. This is the second one<sup>he</sup> has had to support him out here. He makes his change by poker. I don't play anymore because I always lose. Blackie is just lucky at it. I guess the girls like the way he grows his hair."

They fellows then went into a long discussion of what girls to ask to the Nisei dance next Saturday. They did not want to "waste time" with any girls who "just want to dance." Endo said that most of the girls his friends took out "drank like fishes and they were hot stuff."

Tokunaga was another fellow there. He is an older Nisei. He and his brother used to have a gardening business in Berkeley. Tokunaga said that he was "reformed" and he didn't play around anymore. He is 4-F so he thought that he would try to buy a three wheel motorcycle and go back to Berkeley into gardening work as "I could make plenty of money then and I wouldn't have so much of a gas problem." He tried to persuade Endo to go with him, but Endo



said that he preferred to do welding work out here. Tokunaga is now a section boss in a precision company and making "over \$50" a week. He said that he could make more than that if he went back to the Bay Area and did gardening work, and he would be his own boss." I'll get back there first and get all the good places to work first and I'll be able to keep them after the war. Tokunaga volunteered into the Army, but he was rejected. He has four brothers in the service, two of them now overseas. He regretted that he could not make it, "not that I am so patriotic, but I'd like to see the world. I'd go into the Marines if they let me." Another fellow, Okuno, was also waiting around for the Army as he was 11-A. Endo's roommate, Hashimoto, is a tall quiet boy who had a reputation in the group as a "lady killer."

I went up to the corner drugstore with them to have a milkshake. They continued on to the pool hall to shoot a few games. Endo said that he doesn't run around much nights now, except on the weekends. Babbi is 4'f also and he is living in another place. His brother, Koji is now in the Army. Several of the fellows expressed that they had a hard time with their budgets and "that's why it's better to be in the Army." Endo seemed to be about the only one with more definite plans of "sticking around Chicago for a while"

Terry was visiting Betty when I got home. He quit his defense job and enrolled full time in Loyola "until I get drafted." He is still living in a Japanese boarding house, but expects to move to the North Side soon in order to save time.



Charles Kikuchi

Diary

Mar. 27, 1945

7265

March 22, 1945

Dear Charlie,

After you left Tom and I went back to bed and we woke up at 10:00 in the morning. I am writing this letter in Home Making and we are going to make a skirt on Friday.

Mom is okay now. She is still at the hospital but yesterday she felt good so she asked the doctor if she could go home but he said she would have to stay for 5 days more.

We are going to have a block picnic on the 25th of March. Oh yes, the shoe string that I want are red, blue, green and yellow. I am invited to 5 birthday parties next month so could you send me some 5/ bar candy because that's what most of the kids like. The other day my Sunday school teacher gave all the church kids 2 bars of candy and when I started to eat it outside they all asked for a bit, so that how much the children want chocolate candy. You can send chocolate covered peanuts Hersy Kisses or anything that is chocolate. After you send the candy you can tell me how much it costs and I'll send you the money.

Well nothing more to say so I'll say so long for now.

Love,

Miya

P.S. Mom will be coming home tomorrow or Saturday. I also delivered the letter to Bev.



Jimmy Yamada dropped in today at the office. He is on a three day pass. Jimmy said that he was expecting to get his orders to go overseas anytime. He was supposed to leave on the 15th, but his unit did not get assigned. Jimmy thinks that the plan is to send them to China when the invasion of the China Coast starts. He believes that this will be soon as the Army has been working in that direction quite steadily. There is a Chinese fellow in each of the units. All of the fellows in his group are anxious to go as they were volunteers. He mentioned that Major Rush of the personnel department is still interested in the possibilities of my getting into the language school even if I don't know any of the language. He said that some special provisions might be made even if the quota is already filled. There are going to be 300 new students taken in for the next class out of the 1500 applicants. He said that if I got another letter from Major Rush soon that would mean that there would be some chance. However, I am very doubtful about the whole thing as the school has many well qualified applicants to choose from. Even Tom couldn't get into Snelling so I don't see where I would have any chance.

I asked him what his post war plans were. Jimmy said that he was not sure, but he had about 2½ years coming from the GI school law and he might finish up his college work. He has some plans to be a writer eventually. He said that he would like to stay out in the Pacific doing some kind of work in a civilian capacity, but he did not know what the chances were. "The way things look now, we may be in the Army for three or four more years.

Jimmy went to Poston on his last furlough and he said that it was very dead there. His father may think of resettling now that the centers are going to close, altho he preferred to stay there and go



fishing. He said that he saw Dick there and listened to a couple of talks he gave. Jimmy Y. does not quite trust Dick's motives as he believes that he is an opportunist. He said that Dick let some hints drop that he was going to Japan after the war. It was Jimmy's opinion that the people in camp were not as excited and politically conscious as Dick tried to let on. He said that he talked to quite a number of people and they are just planning to stay there, but it is not a great issue in their minds yet. Jimmy said that Tamie is up at Snelling now teaching one of the classes and greatly dissatisfied. Some rumors are going around Boston that she was fired from the Study, and Tamie blames this on Dick. She told Jimmy that she was double crossed by Dick and that was the main reason why she was not able to complete her report. Dick told Jimmy that the Study now had a great importance and Jimmy thought that the reason for this comment was because his position was consolidated. Dick now has the impression that I am "okay" because I sympathize with the "Japanese people". If he refers to the issue of the closing of the centers, my objections are based primarily upon the inadequate provisions of the WRA plan and I object greatly to the poor public assistance plans. My greater tolerance of them stems from the fact that I don't have any contacts with them, but I certainly do not agree with their distorted picture of things. I told Jimmy that Dick was doing a good piece of work and getting the point of view of the Issei in camp better than any of us could so that he was the greatest contribution to the study that Tamie made. Jimmy still questioned whether a conceited and self centered individual could get a true objective picture, but he granted that Dick was quite bright even though his position in the community was not as great as he pictured it.



I went to my first class for this quarter this afternoon. It is from 4:30 to 6:00, and I don't know how I am going to stay awake through it. I'm not interested in the course at all, but I have to complete the units. I hope that it turns out to be interesting, but I have my doubts. There are about 40 women in the class and only two or three males! Miss Wildy gave us a terrific reading list, but I don't think she expects many of the students to actually read all of this material.

This evening I finished reading "Black Boy" by Richard Wright. I have tried to make some contacts for follow up interviews, but I don't seem to be doing so well yet. A large number of the single fellows are in the Army now. Davy moved out of town and it is reported that he went back to Granada. He ran out on all of his debts, including the one he owed me. I'm getting used to loaning out money and never getting repaid, but I seem to be a sucker every time.

John 7275  
According to the news reports, the war in Europe should be ending quite soon. The Army is marching right through Germany with only light opposition and the press reports say that the German Army is completely disorganized. It should be a matter of only weeks now, but the resistance may stiffen the closer the Army gets to Berlin. Dave was telling me this morning that some Nisei workers have told him that a number of defense plants are cutting down on personnel already so that many Nisei workers have had to change to other jobs. The plant which he is studying have cut down from 25 Nisei workers to only 3, but Dave thought this was only a temporary layoff.



Another routine day at the office. I almost finished two case reviews today so that my speed might be picking up. This noon I ran into Estelle Lau. She was glad to see somebody she knew as she just came out here from U. of Calif. a couple of weeks ago. She is a history major. She said that she was here on a scholarship. After she gets her MA, she plans to go back to Hawaii to take an extended vacation. She has a sister at the U. of Oregon.

I paid my registration fees today so that I am now officially registered in the university. The office had a voucher for the scholarship tuition made out for me. Dorothy sent a mysterious telegram telling me not to write to my draft board so I suppose I shall be getting a letter from her soon telling me what the new developments are. I have prepared myself to accept a 1-A status without any surprise as I am pretty sure that this will be my new classification. Frank received word today that he was offered a job in Washington with Leighton. He is faintly interested in it, but he said that he could not take any job offers before next September. He hopes that the teaching offer at the U. of Washington comes through. Michie believes that her language teaching contract will not be renewed when the present contract expires shortly.

Jimmy came over for dinner this evening. He said something which disturbed me very much. Jimmy met a girl in Boston who told him that she had read some of my case histories, and recited details. She was trying to find out the identity of one of the cases. These cases are only disguised thinly and I have never intended that they be passed around. The only way I can figure it is that Dick has some of the cases which he shows around. I don't like this at all and it certainly is not respecting the confidential nature of the data. I was not aware that Dick had any of the cases, but I can't figure out from what other sources she could have gotten them. Jimmy did not tell me the name of the girl and I didn't press him



We just sat around and talked most of the evening. Jimmy felt pretty sure that he was going to be sent to China and he had an idea that the invasion of the China Coast would start soon. He said that he was rather anxious to go overseas. In discussing the return to California, Jimmy said that he was not interested in it at all since he had no roots there. "I don't particularly miss the climate and I think that the people back in Santa Ana are a bunch of phonies anyway. I don't know where I am interested in settling down. I'll probably have the wanderlust after coming out of the Army. Some day I hope to do some writing."

Emiko got an oversight pass so that she could come home and see Jimmy since this would be the last time he would be around for a while. She wore her uniform and it fitted her quite nicely. She does not wear the raincoat as she thinks it is too big. She seems to have lost quite a bit of weight so she was looking sharp. Emiko likes nursing very much and she feels like a veteran now. She said that it doesn't bother her at all anymore when she attends to patients who are near death. The thing which gets her down is these old ladies who say, "Darlink, vill you get the bedpan, please." This is passover week among the orthodox Jews so that Emiko said she has had to eat matzos all week. At certain meals, no meat or milk is allowed and she said that she had some difficulty in fixing up the trays. A lot of the patients think she is Jewish as she has learned to greet them in Yiddish.

Emiko apparently is getting along nicely with the other students. She said that they all go down to the USO whenever they can as free meals and other facilities are provided them. Emiko still goes around with Tets, but he is busier these days with his classes at Central Y. He hopes to study for the dentistry if he can save enough money. He recently changed his job to a photography shop. Emiko



said that she met Sugio downtown last week and he told her that he was being inducted into the Army early next month~~s~~. That is another one of my cases gone.

Emiko said that she was not getting enough to eat since it was a religious week among the Jewish people so she proceeded to eat practically a whole jar of pickles which I brought back from camp. Then she ate some rice, some sandwiches, and fruit. After that Emiko and Bette got into bed and they giggled for hours about how wonderful that old man, Humphrey Bogart, was! After that they started to gossip about their friends, but I could not hear what they were saying, except that Yoshie is still working at the same place and when she went to a play last week she thought she was the prettiest "Nisei girl" in the place. Emiko thought this was conceit of the highest nature until she found out that Yoshie was the only Nisei at the play.

I had planned to make a good start in my course, but that 20 page bibliography sort of discourages me so I shall let it go until tomorrow! I just read magazines and the paper after Jimmy left. The way the newspapers and radio sounds, the war is expected to be over at any moment in Europe~~s~~, and many of the defense plants here are preparing to cut down in personnel as much as one-third if the Army suddenly cancels contracts. I hope that this time it is not false optimism. It looks like the real thing though, the way the Army is going through Germany, only 180 miles from Berlin.



Charles Kikuchi

Diary

Mar. 29, 1945

7272

1552 Webster St.,  
San Francisco, Cal.  
March 16, 1945

Dear Bette, Alice, Chas, and Emiko:

Chas hasn't written to us from camp, but we assume that you visited the family in Arizona. Perhaps you could not find a typewriter handy. Thanks for the blanket and the silverware, it was what we really needed. Alice, the things I just mentioned, were part of a wedding present that Chas sent us from Berkeley before he left.

Things are pretty much the same around. Delores is still in the hospital and will be there for another week, but she is making a rapid recovery. She seems well enough except for her cough. I went by the hospital and visited her for a few minutes while on my way back from the meat wholesalers. The grocery has been pretty busy, so I do what I can to help out as long as I am waiting for a job. Delores says she tried to stand up in bed today while her certians were drawn, but her legs were so weak that she did not succeed. She just had returned from X-Ray, and the doctor says she can go home by next week.

Remember how I you how bad the fleas were hre in SF? Well I just found out that my itch was not fleas at all, but scabies. Scabies is some sort of a microscopic organism that bores into you skin and does it itch. It is something of a fungus like athletes feet. The itching got so bad that I decided to go to the Stanford clinic. After wating for about 3 hours, the student doctor finishes his report of the symptoms, and then consults the instructor. The student was going into detailed analysis by using the form printed by the school. Evidently he was diagnosing me, while suspecting syphylis because he kept asking embarrassing questions. Well finally the instructor came and took one look, and said I had scabies. I had a hunch it wasn't fleas, because I could never find any on me. I thought I just didn't have the technique. Anyway he made me out a prescription which I was to have filled out at the pharmacy. Boy I almost fell over backward when they gave me the bottle. They gave me a quart size bottle of olive oil, charging me three-fifty. And that wasn't for the scabies. It was only to smooth over the skin when I had scratched rough. I'm supposed to go back Monday to get the medicine for the scabies, but I've learned my lesson. I'm afraid he'll bring out a gallon bottle after making me wait another whole day. Delores is going to get me something herself now that I know what it is. The skin specialist wanted to know if Delores had the itch too, so I replied, "Well, she does ask me to scratch her back." His only comment was, "All women like to have their backs scratched." Is that true, Alice?

I've been waiting to hear from Bethlehem Steel, so I just helped around the store. When w too many days went by, and I heard nothing, I began looking around for another job. I learned from the WRA that the reason why the clearance has not come through is that the Navy will not consent to a JA's working along the water front. Incidentally, Chas, Mr. Turner is the interviewer at the WRA office. He said he worked for NYA when you were there. Maybe you remember him. Once place I applied is a shop owned by a



Chinese Nisei. He has a pretty nice shop. Another place I went to, the owner was willing to hire me, but he thought his workers might object, so he went around inquiring. All of them had no objections, but one stupid deaf mute, wrote down on paper. "If he comes in, I go out." Since he was one of the best machinists in the shop, the boss refused to hire me. There were other places that paid 1.28 an hour, but they were either too far out or worked too long hours, ~~but I~~ so I didn't take them. I did find a place down in the Howard St. district which is quite close, that pays 1:11 an hour. I took this offer, and start Monday morning. They work nine hours a day and four hours on Sat. He said he would give me a raise if I could do the work. That is what they all say, but he sounded sincere. He claims that in 40 years that he has had his shop, never was it necessary for anyone to ask for a raise. He always gave it to them first if they turned out the work.

Alice, the first chance you get, send us a good picture of the baby. We couldn't see very much of him in those last snapshots. Is he as cute a baby as I was when I was his age? Well, I'm going up to visit D. again, so will say g.b.

Brotherly,

Jack

P.S. I'm completely recovered from my cold and am starting work tomorrow. Delores is well too and came home from the hospital yesterday. She's making my lunch so that I can get this letter out to you.



Pittsburgh, Pa.  
March 25, 1945.

Dear Charles,

I presume you are back in Chicago by this time and I hope that your trip to California and Gila was successful. I am glad that you got the chance to visit with your family and I hope your mother's health has improved.

I can't describe the feeling I get after reading a letter of yours. I don't know--it's just that I feel so useless when such important things must be done. Your letters have all the humanness it takes, I guess, to do what you're doing. Last week I gave vent to some of my feelings in a speech at school concerning the Pacific Coast problem. Of course it might strike you as being slightly ironic to think that I would talk about people whom I've never met, never seen, never spoken to (except in writing). But it seemed to be the only thing I wanted to speak about; and if I didn't impress them deeply, I hope that at least I made a dent in their indifferent minds. I read all the pamphlets which the WRA and the other committee sent out. Can I send for more, about the immediate plans for letting out the evacuees? I know that there are many Nisei in the western schools, but I don't suppose the evacuees are turning to California. As I see it, it would avail them little to go back to that state ~~which~~ in droves, whereas a gradual reentry might be better. Have those states which, until now, prohibited the Nisei, finally let down the bars and allowed them in? Some of the stuff I read, concerning the general treatment of the Nisei by professed Americans was shocking, to say the least. I couldn't believe some of it, yet I know it must have happened.

I have a friend in the Army who was recently shipped from Texas to Stanford University. I had told him about you back in high school and he expressed a desire to meet you. However, during the exchange of letters, you were in Gila, perhaps, and he, just newly arrived, I didn't think it wise to rush such a meeting. I would have liked nothing better though. My friend was a junior at Westminster when drafted; he's a pre-med, but at Stanford, he's in civil engineering. Born in Austria and sent over here when 14, George is wonderfully ambitious, more American than most of us, and I don't doubt that he would have found you to be equally fine. When you return to California, and if it doesn't seem to inconvenient for either of you, I'll certainly have him meet you (since it's the next best thing to having the pleasure myself).

Lately, I've been seriously considering joining the medical unit of the WAC. Having always been somewhat interested in hospital work, I think I should find it very interesting and perhaps even exciting. But I'm determined, first, to find out whether I'm really needed. I want to know whether the WAC's are really serving a purpose for I wouldn't care to interrupt school, (even though it be temporary) for a job in the Army which wasn't getting anybody anywhere. Above all, I don't want to be a stenographer or bookkeeper in the Army for I've had enough of that drudgery!



Since I wouldn't go in until fall, I have plenty of time to think it over. But, I would like your opinion. Most men are averse to servicewomen, but they seldom can back up their resentment with reasoning.

It's quite late, now, and I must go to bed; like you, I must leave letter-writing to the small hours. Write when you have the time and inclination. Tell me all about your trip and the school. Until I hear,

Sincerely,

Marge

P.S. A long time ago, I was expecting a snapshot from you but it never came. What happened to it??



Worked all day in the office, and completed the condensation of two more cases. Frank looked over a couple I had done earlier in the week and he thought that the quality of work was inferior to the Berkeley ones so that my morale went down. I guess I am not getting enough supervision. I guess Frank thought that I was getting too discouraged because he tried to build up my morale by saying what a tough job I had. He takes time out to help me with the stuff so that I should be able to get someplace eventually since I am also getting help from the Berkeley office. It is a time consuming job and not as much fun as gathering the material. It just about breaks my heart to cut out the "quotes" and I try to hard to let the cases speak for themselves. But they have to be cut down and that is all there is too it. The way things are going along now, it will take months and months to get well started on the report and I hate to think of it. >

not I went to class this afternoon, but not enthusiastically. It was a rather dry lecture and my hopes for the class are rapidly diminishing. After dinner, Mariko phoned up to tell me that she saw a vacant flat about three blocks from her place and it rented cheaply. I told her that I was not interested in living on the North side and besides it was too close to her. This was not taken in the right way and she came back with, "Well it's just as much my family as yours." I calmed her down by saying that it was not practical for us to live so close together. Then Mariko said that Cracker was leaving for California next week and he would be out there a month. Then he is going to go to New York to look over the job possibilities out there. He has already quit his present job. Cracker owns a lot of household stuff and he wants to keep his apartment for the next few months. He is willing to pay half of the rent and let somebody move in. Mariko wanted to know if I were interested, but I was negative as I said that if we moved I didn't want to go jumping from place to place, but



just make one move. I certainly wish that I could find a decent flat on the South Side which does not charge too much rent, but that is a difficult task. There is nothing listed in the University housing bureau.

Mariko went on to say that she hoped I was not sore at George for his gruffness. I said that I had already forgotten about it and I did have a guilty conscience as it was a late hour. Mariko then went on, "George doesn't blame you at all. He blames me. ~~He~~ said that he was trying to study, but my voice was so high pitched that it bothered him. He said it was not necessary for us to have all that silly preliminary discussion and he blamed me for getting mad and arguing about it. He said that was the reason why he was so cranky. We have an agreement that when one of us goes to bed, the other can't stay up much longer. You were the one who kept me up. Anyway, we had an argument after you quietly left. I didn't get to sleep until 5:00 Am. That's why I didn't go to work in the morning. George didn't go to work at all so he lost a days pay. He went out in a rage and when he came home he was drunk. He didn't come in until evening. We have those kind of arguments every once in a while, and it sure is expensive for us as George has to get drunk! ~~I~~ <sup>to 7300</sup> know I shouldn't lose my temper in ordinary discussions, but I forget myself everytime and it really does up George.

"Eileen admitted afterwards that she was trying to study that night too. I don't know what she has been telling you about me, but I can truthfully say that she is the one who is reluctant to move. I can't kick her out. Eileen only has to pay about \$13.00 expenses a month so that it is cheap for her. I mentioned just before she enrolled in school that she wouldn't be having much time to look for a place in the spring so I wanted to know what she planned to do. She didn't say anything, but the next day she had done all the ironing a



a lot of the other housework. I don't want to put her out, but she has to stop hinting that she is being imposed upon so much to other people because I certainly am not holding her here. She is having a hard time financially so that she benefits by staying here. It costs her quite a bit to go to school. I asked her how she expected to manage all of those expenses if she had to start her own house-keeping and she said that she supposed her father would lend her some money. All along she has been saying that her folks are having a hard time and she didn't want to make it any harder on them by asking for money. She can't complain about not having enough time to study because she goes out on a lot of dates. And it is no coincidence that she loses the respect of all the fellows after they get to know her because she tries to string all of them along. But that's being catty. It's the truth though. I notice that she goes out on dates with Bob T now and she used to say that she just couldn't stand him. But I won't rub it in on you if still like her a lot, but I think that she doesn't have enough initiative."

Bette has a lot of reading to do for her comprehensive finals in June so she started to do some of it this evening. She is worried about getting through this year and so she is concentrating more on her studies. BJ had an unfortunate accident yesterday and bruised her ankle very severely. I just don't know whether to tell her to get into Cadet Nursing in the fall now as it would be too bad if she could not finish out another year at the University and get her AB. She has a good chance of doing it now if she is able to get the right courses. It would be better for her, but I might get drafted and then it would become a very complicated matter.

This evening I went over to interview Endo. Only Hash was around so that Endo let down his hair and told me a lot of his job experiences since I interviewed him last. He is making fairly



good job adjustments now. He is a conscientious and steady worker and he has made much better adjustments than some of his more restless friends. Endo's roommate, Hash, has been loafing around for a few weeks now, but he plans to look for a job tomorrow. He has been spending his time entertaining the girls and "going down to the Lake to look at the water during the day." Hash said that he has held seven or eight jobs in the years he has been out here. He claims that there is a Nisei dance every week and he goes to all of them. Endo says that he rarely goes to the dances as he has quit playing around. I plan to start an interview with Hash next week if I can catch him at home. He is thinking of going to Des Moines very shortly.

In discussing the war, Endo made the comment that Germany would fall in a matter of weeks and he might lose his job if the Army and Navy contracts were cancelled at his factory. He is working in a small shipbuilding plant on the Chicago River now and they launch one boat a month. Endo has been given a lot of the more responsible jobs because he is one of the best welders in the plant. There is only one other Nisei working there. Endo is satisfied with this job, but he still says that welders will be a "dime a dozen" after the war so that he is most uncertain about his future. In a way, he "longs to be in the Army as I won't have to worry about making a living anymore and it will help to be a veteran. Both Endo and Hash think that Japan will not be defeated for a couple of years yet. They have a suspicion that the war in the Pacific may end in a stalemate as "Japan has not started to really fight yet but they are waiting for ~~xxxxxx~~ Germany to fall first." I said that by the time Japan really started to fight, we would be in Tokyo but they doubted that. Neither are pro-Japan, but they believe that the Japanese soldier is a tough nut to crack because of their indoctrination. A sort of "racial consciousness" is related to this attitude I think, but nothing political.



Henry Endo's (CH-31) comments on his job activities since the last formal interview with him follows:

"I don't remember exactly the dates for the changes for jobs that I have had. I think that it was last April, 1944 that I quit working for Duffin Iron Works and I started at New City Co. I got this job through a friend of mine who told me it was a better place to work. I was getting only about a dollar an hour at Duffin Co. and they wouldn't give me a raise because I was a boochie. At New City was I given the prevailing wage of \$1.20 right from the beginning. The only trouble was that I never got a raise after that because it was the ceiling for my job then. The job was okay and I didn't have any complaints about it.

"There were quite a few boochies working out there with me but I never paid much attention to them except my friends because we were too busy. We had about 200 workers in the plant and I thought it was pretty interesting even though welding is pretty hard on the eyes. We made pre-fabricated parts of the Navy ships. I worked there for a while as a welder but my foreman transferred me to do set-up work after that. I didn't mind this too much because it was a good rest for my eyes. I didn't want to stay out of welding work though because there was more money in it. It wasn't bad working out there at all because everyone treated me swell. There was no discrimination at all in the plant and nobody called us Japs or anything like that. Hell, we were all building parts for Navy ships, weren't we?

"All of us guys were working on a contract so that we made pretty good wages. On October 15 (1944) the contract for the company was terminated. They didn't need so many workers so I was released from the job. I was planning to quit anyway because I already had some other places in mind where I thought I would



get better pay. While I was still working at New City, I thought that it would be easy for me to get paid \$1.20 an hour in some other plant and be able to get a raise after that if I made good. I sort of lost fight when I found out afterwards that the raises didn't come so soon. Then it wasn't important where I worked because the wages were the same anyway.

"After I got laid off from New City I loafed around for a couple of weeks. All this time I was inquiring around for other jobs as a welder though. I knew I had to go to work and I didn't like to be spending up all my money and not have any coming in. Hell, I have to think about eating, don't I? Since I was a boochie, I didn't have much of a chance in a lot of places where I went to apply for a welder's job. I figured I might as well stay in my line since I had training in it. A lot of company that I went to said they were willing to hire me, but they were not so willing to give me white man's pay for the job. That disgusted the hell out of me and I got pretty sore a couple of times. I knew that I was just as good a welder as a lot of those guys who got paid more than I did just because they had a white man's face. I thought that I should get paid for the work I did and the hell to what I looked like. I got pretty damn disgusted and a couple of times I almost thought that I would have to work for cheaper wages even if I didn't want to.

"Finally I asked around to find out where the other guys who were released from the New City company with me went. I found out that most of them had quit welding to go into some other kind of work because they didn't like to get all burned to hell from that kind of work. I wanted to stay in it because there was more money. There was one colored fellow who was good friends with me out there and he got fired at the same time I did. He knew all the



ropes about getting another job so he gave me some good leads. Nothing much came from them so I looked him up. He told me to come out to 122nd St. where he was working because he thought I might have a chance to land a job there. I went right away and I was given the job. It was a small fabricating shop making mine-sweepers for the Army. The company was pretty small because it had only started up since the war began. It used to be a garage before then. My job was to weld the minesweeper parts together. I started working out there in November (1944). We were working by piece work so that I made damn good wages, the best I ever did. I was averaging almost \$2.00 an hour and I thought I would be rolling in dough after a few months. It took me the first month to catch up on all the money I had spent during that I spent during the between job.

"I was the only boochie working in that plant and that was okay by me. There were about 8 of us working on the night shift, and 15 guys were on the day shift. There were all white guys except the colored fellow and me. All of us were making pretty good money with the contract we had so we had no kicks coming. Just when I was starting to make real good dough after one month, the boss decided to put us on a kind of incentive plan. They wanted to time us to see how much we could produce in an average 48 hours per week and they said that the bonuses would be based upon how much extra we did after the schedule was set. I found that I want' making nearly as much money as before with this kind of a set-up. I didn't like the six nights a week work. Before that we were only working 5 nights, but longer hours. I decided to stick around for a while to see what would happen. They tried us on the bonus system for a week and I began to think that I could make pretty good at it if I worked hard. But then some of the



other guys didn't like the set-up at all so they quit. I decided to quit too. When I went to resign, the boss wouldn't give me a release at all. He said I couldn't get another job unless I got a release. He tried to hold me on that job with this threat but that got me sore so I just walked out.

"I went with the colored guy to apply for a job with the American Car Co. on a piece work basis. The colored guy couldn't get a job because he didn't have a release. I was put on as a welder because I used my old release from New City Co. and I didn't tell them about the job I had just walked out on. I got hoased on this new job though. We were making freight cars and I figured that I could earn \$12 a day easy as hell. It was my job to weld on the bottoms of the freight cars. Pretty soon I found that I was only making \$9.50 a day. I could do the 12 alignments in 5 or 6 hours and after that I would have made a lot of money, but the colored guys didn't feel like doing any more work. They were satisfied with the \$9.50 a day and I got pretty disgusted. I could not go ahead and try to work on my own because the other guys wouldn't want me to scab like that and they would have gotten sore. There was another Nisei working there and he tried to put out more but his gang got pretty sore at him and he had to slow down to their pace or they would have beaten him up.

"I was netting \$50 a week but I didn't like the contract. I could have made a lot more if those damn lazy colored guys were more ambitious. The contract expired in January (1945) so that I had to go on an hour basis at 80¢ an hour for a while until a new contract was made. I didn't care to stick around there after making good money from before on the contract so I decided to get another job. I thought I was worth more than 80¢ an hour after my experience as a welder. They were just trying to pay us scab wages



and they were taking their time about drawing up the new contract. I just quit after that and they had to give me a job release.

"I went around to look for another job after that and it took me 2 weeks before I got my present job. I went to work 6 weeks ago on this job. (February 15, 1945). Most of the time I had gotten my jobs through my friends who worked at other places, but this job I got through the WRA office. A lot of the boochie guys I knew were getting drafted or quitting this kind of work so I couldn't get leads from them. I didn't want to go to any of the lousy places that I already knew about. I thought the WRA might be able to help me out for once and they came through. The interviewer down there told me to go down to the USES to ask about a job with the Greve Co. When I got down to the USES they told me that they weren't so sure this company would hire a boochie. Right away I got disgusted as hell and I thought to myself 'goddamit they're giving me another run around again'. The USES man told me to stick around while he phoned the company to ask so I waited there by his desk while he made the phone call. I was surprised as hell when the company told me to come down right away. The interviewer told me to talk on the phone there to give my qualification. I didn't want to make a trip down there for nothing so I told them I was Japanese. They said right away that it didn't matter what ancestry I had just so I didn't try to blow up any of the ships they were building. I said that I was loyal to this country like any of those damn welders so they gave me the okay. The USES man then gave me my release to go out there and take this job right away.

"The Greve Co. is located on the north side right on the Chicago river. When I got out there they told me I had to take a welder's test and I thought sure I was going to be screwed up



again. They said that the A-1 welders started at a wage of \$1.20 an hour and I would have to prove that I was fit to work with them by taking this test. I thought it was going to be a hard test but I passed it right away so they started me out at the same wage as the rest of the guys got. That's the highest I can get out there as there is a ceiling on welders out here. It's not like in Detroit where the ceiling wage for welders is way higher. I get just as much pay as the white welders so that makes me feel pretty good.

"When I first went out there I asked if I could work on the day shift. The personnel man seemed to be a pretty good guy and he advised me to take the night shift. He said that it would be a lot better as there was only one boss and I wouldn't have somebody standing over me looking at my work all the time. I decided that the night shift sounded like a better deal so I signed up. I found that it was pretty good to work at night. I never saw a job like that before in my life. It was easier than a lot of other jobs that I had. We worked 11 hours a night for 5 nights a week so we could get in our 55 hours. We had a damn good foreman and he never yelled at us at all. We worked from 6:00 in the eveing until 6:00 next morning but at 8:00 p.m. we got a half hour off for coffee time. All us guys put two bits in the kitty and we bought coffee with it. We would make it down in the locker room and we would rotate so that each guy could take a little time off to make this coffee every night. At 11:00 o'clock we took a half hour off to eat our lunch and we usually took 15 minutes extra so we could have a little poker sessions. I was getting along pretty well on this night shift and I didn't mind it at all. It wasn't nearly as cold as before so that I didn't freeze myself like I did all winter on the other job.

"After I was there for a couple of weeks, the company decided



to abolish the night shift as there wasn't enough work going on so I was put on the day shift with the rest of the guys. I didn't like it so much but I find that it isn't so bad now. In fact I like working during the day like most people do. The only thing is that I have to work a lot harder now. I net about 50 bucks a week now but I get \$5.22 for war bonds now so that gives me a free war bond every month.

"Our company is located right on the Chicago river a little towards the northwest side of town and our big job is to assemble Navy ships. We do the landing crafts and some other small Navy ships which are for the fleet. We put the engine and everything in it so that it is a complete job. Right now I am working on the fo'castle of the ship. I'm learning a helluva lot more about welding. I thought I knew everything about it before but every day I'm learning new things. There's only one other boochie working there now and he came after I did. The rest of the workers are all Caucasians except 6 colored guys who work there until just the other day. They really had discrimination against Newgro guys. One of the Caucasian guys told me that the company had a policy saying that none of the colored men could get a job as a welder. That's why they couldn't make as much money as we did. The top pay for the colored guys was \$1.08 an hour. Last week they decided to ask for a raise to \$1.15 an hour because they thought they worked just as hard as the welder. They had been griped about their lower pay for a long time. The personnel office wouldn't allow this raise. All of us welders are in the Boiler Makers' Union but the colored guys can't get into it and that's why they can't be welders. After they got turned down on the raise, these colored guys threatened to quit but it didn't do any good. That's why all of them quit last week. The company had to hire some old



timer white flunkies at a \$1.20 an hour. That is the same pay as we welders get but these flunkies have been working for many years so they have experience and that's fair enough.

"I don't have a grudge against anyone in the place but there is one bastard there that I don't get along with too well. But none of the guys there like him. He used to be a carpenter's foreman in the plant and he thinks he knows everything about welding. He's an annoying bastard and he's always coming around to criticize our work so all of us tell him off. He can't fire us but he is in a little higher position than us. The other workers in the place are all okay. When I first went out there, they asked me about it, but they didn't mean nothing by it. Red is the guy that I get along best with because he tries to be friendly. I told Red that I was here in Chicago for a year and I liked the California weather better, but I thought that the Chicago jobs were best for me. I told him that I didn't care to work with Negroes too much as they were lazy. Red said that I shouldn't criticize them too much or look down on them. He's a sort of educated and one of them broad-minded guys. Red told me that he wouldn't like it if a lot of boochies came into the plant and did scab labor either. He said that he looked on me as an individual and he thought all us guys should do that to one another and there would be less of this racial stuff getting us in trouble. He doesn't believe in discrimination at all. Red would like to get the Negro guys into the Union but the rest of the guys won't allow them either. He's a pretty good guy and I don't mind working with him at all.

"There's one Chinese guy at the plant and I get along with him good. The other guys are always joking because they say they can't tell us apart. Nobody there calls us a Jap though. Most of



the guys never saw a boochie before anyway but they trust me good. They never try to get funny with me because I'm just a welder like any of them. I wouldn't want a lot of other Nisei guys to come out there right now to work because the rest of the guys already there might start to look at us like those 6 Negroes who quit. They don't call Henry Jones by his name, they just refer to him as one of the nigger workers. I never called any of those colored guys a nigger though. But I don't like to work with them because they put on a slow pace and I can't make as much money. Hell, I think they're just as good as I am but we work differently. They have some pretty bad habits though and some of the guys at the plant told me that Negro workers never took baths. Hell, I can't see how they stand it after sweating all day.

"I'm working pretty steady out at the plant now and I got a good reputation for myself. The boss gives me a lot of the important jobs to do on welding, even over the more experienced guys. They don't get sore at me though because they know I'm trying to learn the job good. I never try to scab on them. The Navy inspector comes to look at my work once in a while because my welding has to be an airtight job and it is pretty important. The inspector never bothers me about anything else though and he never looks suspicious at me. As long as they let me alone, I don't give a damn. Hell, it feels pretty good when I talk to the other welders just like I'm one of them and they take me the same way. They don't believe in discrimination against me and I bet a lot of those guys would be in favor of giving the colored workers an equal chance if they wouldn't be so lazy.

"My job won't give me any more pay raises as I have reached the top of the scale for this area. I joined the labor union the first week I was out there. I had to join it or else they would



have said I was a scab. I got soaked \$ 58 bucks for membership fees right away. I have to pay 5 bucks a month dues. I don't know if it is worth it to me because it won't help me after the war. I just don't want to make no argument, that's all. I don't think that the union will look for a job for me after the war even if I keep up my dues all the time. But it keeps my pay up now so I can't kick too much even though I don't think it's worth it. I'm a full member of the union (AF of L) and none of these dam associate membership for me. Some of the boochie guys I know pay union dues but they have full membership like I do. That's the craps because it shows that there is that discrimination feeling against them.

"I like my job okay now but I still think that the New City job was the best one I had out here. It wasn't so hard and I made just as much pay as I do now. But I'm planning to stick with this job until the end of the war. Hell, I've got to keep doing this kind of work all the time because I don't have training for nothing else. Whatta hell are you going to do after the war? I bet all of us boochies will be out of a job just as soon as the armistice is signed. I'd like to stay in welding because I like it as much as anything else. I think welders will be a dime a dozen after the war so I might have a pretty tough time. I know that I'll lose this job after the war sure as hell. Maybe I'll lose it just as soon as the present contract run out. All the guys are saying that it might be pretty soon because the end of the war in Europe is coming and the government will cancel a lot of its contracts. Then I'll be out of a job sure as hell.

"All of the shipyards will be releasing thousands of workers pretty soon. Some of the guys say we're better off than the welders in the shipyards on the coast because our contracts might run a little longer but we'll all be up a creek sooner or later. Whatta



Hell! The way things are now, I just can't consider after the war at all. At the present moment, I ain't got one real ambition. I guess that's cause I don't know what the situation will be after the war. I hate to work for somebody else all of my life though. It's too risky that way. But I ain't got an education or a business head so I guess I'll just have to do some kind of work like this all the time. I don't care just as long as I can make enough to live on and have some fun once in a while.

"I've saved some money in the year I've been out here but I don't save too much as I have to spend all of my money between jobs. It cost me \$120 between the last job I had as it's pretty expensive to have a lay-off like that. That's where all of my savings seem to go. It takes a couple of months to get back to normal after I change jobs. I've been making damn good wages out here compared to the 40¢ an hour I used to work for before the war. I bet all the boochies worry about saving some money but it's hard to do. All the guys I know don't save a damn cent. That's cause they are getting drafted right and left and they figure whatta the hell. I know I ain't going to get drafted so I have to build a little cushion for myself. I could have saved a lot more money I guess, but I got to have a little fun now and then.

"Hell, I don't think that I squander my money. Out of my 50 bucks a week I've been losing around 40 bucks a month just on poker alone. I only play about 3 times a month but I think I'm going to give up pretty soon. I know there ain't much percentage in it but one of these days I'll get lucky and then I'll really take the boys for a ride. I don't give a damn if I spend that much money a month for poker because the game fascinates me. I have fun at it too. And I figure that I would be spending the money on something else, so what's the difference?



"It only cost me about 50 bucks a month for room and board but I eat out a lot of times too. It runs me about 10 bucks a month for my laundry bill and cleaning. I have a dentist bill of 25 bucks to pay up but I'm just about over all of my debts now. I don't have to pay the doctor anything as long as I am protected by the company. I have this osteomyelitis on the bone and that's why I had to have an operation on my finger last year. The company paid for that though. It cost me around 60 bucks a month just for entertainment and I don't go out any more hardly at all. I just go to shows, pool halls and dances once in a while. I bet that drug store up the corner makes a helluva lot of money from us guys making milk shakes. I don't even drink any more like the other guys. Hell, they think I'm getting serious and they rib me and call me a square. But I don't like to throw all my money away after working for it so many hours. Even then my money just goes out all of a sudden and I always reach down into my pocket and find the last \$5 Bill before I know it. It's hell. The only thing I've been saving during the last few months is the \$18.75 war bond that the company holds out for me. I don't think I'd be able to do that by myself. Hell, I worry about saving money sometimes and I think I should have some for post-war but it just goes out. Haven't you heard that living expenses are high? I think I will get started next month because I'm in the clear now. I don't think I've done too badly because I've saved about 500 bucks in the year I came to Chicago and that didn't take any effort. I saved it during the time I was working on the night shift those long hours and I never had any chance to spend my money. I was getting good pay then too. If I can save up that much this year I'll be satisfied. Hell, before the war, it would have taken more 5 or 10 years to save 500 bucks at the wages I was getting paid.



"I don't worry about the Army no more as I got 4-F last June. At times I wish I was in cause the cost of living is getting high and there's not much percentage in it. Whatta hell. I think sometimes it's better to be a veteran. In the Army you don't have to worry about paying room and board bill and stuff like that. Oh yes, I forgot to tell you that I spend \$5 a week at the plant in a lottery but I never win. We put that dough in and pool it and the guys that has the right number on the check wins it all. I don't have to put that dough in but those other guys wouldn't think much of you if you didn't do what they did. I figure that one of these days I might get lucky and win that pool so that all of this is part of my living expense. I hope I win it before I lose my job out there.

"The war's not going to last much more than one or 2 years yet so I have to start thinking of getting a steady post-war job. Christ, the war in Germany will be over this summer they say over the radio. The contract at our company already has been cut down so that we might get laid off sooner than we think. Our present contract is over on August 15 and there might not be anything after that. I'll have to go look for another welding job if I get released. I don't know what my chances will be and I bet I'll get pretty damn disgusted. I'll just keep looking for a welding job until I get so damn disgusted that I'll have to take something else. Hell, I might even have to take a laboring job if there's nothing else. Man, I wouldn't have all that worry if I were in the Army. Those guys will come xott and they will be bonuses and everything else. Naturally they will get the best jobs because they fought for the country. They won't give a damn about us guys who work at those plants and make all the bullets and other stuff for them. The guys in our plant say that we are getting our now



so that we should try to save some of it for afterwards.

"I have no intention of going back to California right now as the Negroes have taken over all of the boogie towns and we would not have any place to live. I wouldn't be able to get a very good job out there. I'm still looking for another place to live out here and it's tough as hell.

"This place is lousy as the landlord is always trying to gyp us by raising the rent. He doesn't like me as he says I make trouble for him. My friends and I caught him opening some of my mail once and I got sore as hell at him. That's why he can't kick me out because he knows that he could get in jail for a federal offense of opening personal mail. The damn guy was so curious about mail coming from the camps that he opened my letter. Whatta helluva nerve. I felt like punching him right in his teeth. He's always trying to save money out here for charging us for extra things. He never gives us any hot water here and I have to have a bath after a hard day's work. The damn guys tries to get out of giving us even one sheet a week. He tried to bully my old lady on that and I got sore as hell because she can't talk back to him. We are the longest residents in this damn house. It's too hard to find another place to live. The next place will probably be just as bad as this.

"The landlord can't raise the rent on us anymore because we got wise and said we'd ask the OPA about it. He gets nasty as hell and tries to gyp us in other ways. The guy won't let us use the refrigerator in our room as he says it uses too much electricity. He charges us 50¢ a month to use the large refrigerator in the hall and about 6 families have to use that. I feel sorry for the boogie girls who have to run down 3 stories just to use the damn refrigerator. Most of the people upstairs are disgusted as



hell.

"Another thing is that the landlord doesn't like other boochies to come and visit us. He always gets sore when some of the boys come and stay overnight or a few days with me. Sometimes when the phone rings he answers it and he tells our friends that we don't even live there. I don't see why he tries to get extra rent money out of us when we put up guys who are passing through town. Rabbi doesn't live with us anymore and Blackie is with some other guys a couple of blocks over. My old lady, Hash and I are the only ones living here now. There used to be quite a few Caucasians in this house but it's all boochies now except for one Caucasian family. That's why the landlord thinks he can get away with anything. He knows that it's damn hard for us to find housing so he tries to take advantage. That's why so many move out as fast as they find other places. I figure we might as well stay xx as the next place may be just the same. The landlord can't kick us out and he can't push us around too much either because we'll only stand for so much.

"Hell, it hardly seems that a year went by so fast. My mother still works at the same job in the sewing factory. She got a couple of raises since she started but I don't know if she likes the work or not. I never talk to her about it. I never talk to my old lady about nothing. She just as soon stick around Chicago as any other place. I don't think she wants to go back to camp or California because she's making more money now than she ever did before. My old lady don't care where she is just as long as I sort of stick around and don't get into any trouble.

"I haven't been playing around as much as I used to before Blackie went to Minneapolis. He got his girl friend to support him now so I don't see him every night like I used to. Some of the



guys have gone into the Army or they have moved on to camp or some other place. I don't go nowhere anymore. Life is too tough to be running all over the country without any dough. I'm not unhappy though. Life out here is not like it was out on the coast but it used to get pretty damn dull out there too. I know quite a few boobies out here but I don't see them all the time except for a few. I've heard that there are some boogie clubs but none of my friends belong to any of them. The only thing I've done is to go to some of the boogie dances. They're not too much fun and I don't feel like getting drunk and going anymore. I hardly ever go to any more whore houses either but I know where everone of them are. Sometimes on Saturday nights us guys get bored and we make the rounds just for the hell of it. The guys I know now aren't as wild as Blackie and some of the other guys were.

"I see about 10 or 15 guys pretty often but I don't know many dames. Some of the guys go see them pretty often but they are mostly the dames with the bad reps. I don't care nothing about that and I go see them once in a while too. Most of the guys I met out here I didn't even know before. Quite a few of them went to the Army already. Those that are left get together once in a while and have bull sessions, got play pool or fool around. I don't go out on too many dates because I'm not the lady killer of the gang. Some of the other guys go visit dames all the time but I only go about once a week, if that much. I have no intention of getting married for quite a while. How in the hell can I support a wife? It takes most of <sup>my</sup> money just to have a little social life.

"Most evenings I just stay home and take it easy. I can't fool around too much because I'll be too tired out the next day at work. About all I read is detective stories. I don't read the newspapers too much. On week-ends is when I relax. I either go



to a show, play poker or see my friends. Hell, it takes \$10 just to go out for an easy evening and fool around just a little. Hell, there's no percentage in it.

"One thing that surprises me is that I haven't met any discrimination out here yet. In some of my job hunting they might have discriminated but nobody got nasty yet. I heard a lot about discrimination but I don't go around as many guys do so I haven't seen it. I don't go around looking for it. I bet there would be a lot of discrimination if I went around looking for it all the time. After the war there might be a lot of discrimination against the boobies but it doesn't bother me as long as they leave me alone.

"I'd like to be sociable to more Caucasians as they have a lot pull and we have to depend on them for many things. After all, if we live here for a long time we have to be friendly to one another. There's no sense hating the Caucasians. I don't avoid them but I don't get too much chance to meet them socially. I just see some of them at work and I found that a lot of them are pretty good guys. I hope they don't all turn against us when there isn't a labor shortage. I think it's good for Nisei guys and girls to mix more with Caucasians if they get a chance. I don't get jealous of them when they do that. I'm not the type of guy to mix with them too much but there are plenty of boobies who have good education and they can talk on a lot of things on equal basis with them. I don't know nothing.

"But I don't care to mix with the Negroes socially as I'm sort of afraid of them. You can't tell what they'll do to you if they catch you in a dark alley. Their living condition is pretty dirty. Jesus Christ they're so sloppy. No wonder they get the black plague all the time. They're not clean enough to sit me



but I don't hate them. I don't have a racial prejudice against the Jews either. I just let them alone. I try to take them as individuals as Red says. He's a white man but he doesn't hold a grudge against any race. At the last place I worked, the damn German foreman said in a joking way all the time that we Axis countrymen had to stick together. He was okay though and he treated me decent. I just take all the guys as workers and I don't ask them their nationality so they don't try to act superior to me. I never try to ask them what they are because I can't tell the difference between a Polak and a German and all the different groups out at the plant.

"I guess I feel a lot better if I had more of a social life. I waste a lot of time just fooling around with the guys and that doesn't make me too happy. There's nothing else to do. There's a boogie hangout on N. Clark St. and they have a lot of clubs down there but they are mostly drinking and gambling places. I never have too much time to go gassing around anyway so it doesn't make much difference. There's no place to go up around this way. The Nisei social out here aren't so hot so I don't exactly crave them. Whenever I got with the guys the other Nisei try to look down on us. You can see it all over their faces. Why in the hell should I cry about not getting into that kind of a bunch. I just want to live and be let alone. Hell, I have no intention of ever going to Japan to live. I couldn't even go to Cleveland right now as I don't have the finances.

"I don't know if I'm better off now than I was before evacuation. I think that maybe I am. A lot of the guys I know are much better off. Like me, I guess I would still be doing nothing if I was back in Frisco. I'd probably be an errand boy for Schumack's yet. Now I can at least say that I am a welder. I have nothing



like a plan for the future, but I'm still better off. How in a hell can I make any plans? It never comes out anyway.

"At least I'm not a bum now and that's some progress I guess. I wouldn't want to live the kind of life I led when I was bumming around out in Utah on the farms and coal mines. That's all right for the experience but not for all the time. I got a trade now so I got some chance for after the war. It will be toughx for all the boochies but I don't think I'll ever starve. The damn prices will be high for about 2 years after the war so it's best to work now and save a little if you can. After a couple of years things will cool down and get back to normal. I bet there will be a lot of vagrants running around after the war. At least I'll have the same chance they will. Say, what are they going to do to Hitler for causing all this? \*

"I think that the war with Japan will last for a couple of years yet. I still think there will be a stalemate in the Pacific. Japan hasn't really started fighting for her homeland yet. They are saving their strength until after Germany falls. That's why they are saving their Navy. They are fanatics and that's why it will be tough to beat them. They are just like those damn kibeis who don't know when to give up when you get into a fight with them. You have to practically kill them off before they give up. I know because I had some fights with those damn kibeis. I hope that this country don't try to take it out on us just because Japan is hard to beat. Hell, we have enough problems of our own as it is so it would be better if they just leave us alone.



Another routine day at the office. I read until about 3:00 AM last night so that I was very sleepy this morning and I did not arise until about 10:30. I was reading "Freedom Road" by Howard Fast. I have to get all of my light reading done in the next week or so as I won't have time after my class assignments start to pile up. Bette went to class.

Dorothy sent a note saying that the University War Council had agreed to allow her to appear before my draft board and discuss my status with them. If the draft board takes a favorable attitude, the University will then submit an application for deferment. She thought that it was best for me to make no personal move until after I heard from here. Apparently the draft board is breathing down my neck. Morton will start driving out here on Sunday so that we should see him around here shortly. I also got ~~some~~ word from my secret operator that Jonnie is having a lot of men worries as they have all arrived in Berkeley on leave at the same time. Tsk, tsk!

I'm really out of touch with resettler developments in Chicago since I have been spending most of my time in the office <sup>oo</sup> ruining my delicate mind by trying to condense the work sections on the case documents. I think I am working harder now and <sup>oo</sup> producing less than I have ever done on the Study and that disturbs me no end. In the past few days I have speeded up a little, but the quality of work has not improved. Franks thinks that he was the one to disturb my morale so he is telling me that he did not mean what he said the other day. It's true enough, and that's why I get all tied up when I try to approach this thing with a clear mind and objectively. Oh well, I ran through seven cases on work histories this week so that's a little sign of progress of sorts.



Bette went over to Mariko's this afternoon to get the hat which was being made for her suit. The suit will not be finished for Easter! Bette hopes to get it by her birthday now. She said that Mariko and George have finally decided to have a joint bank account, but for only one-third of their wages. This will be used as a reserve fund for things they will need in the future. Mariko and George still want to go to New York or South America, but their plans are most indefinite. They will probably remain in Chicago for some time yet. >

Bette and I went to a show this evening. We saw five cartoons with a double bill! Bette was going to do something with BJ, but BJ sprained her ankle and she has to remain indoors. > I have decided that I am just wasting my time with Eileen so I just don't feel like going over to see her anymore. I guess that feeling wore off. It must have been the break of the Berkeley trip which caused a change in my attitudes. And, we don't have too many common interests. I don't dislike her now, but it just doesn't seem to be the way it was before. I've only seen Eileen once since I returned and I don't have that urge to see her anymore like I used to. She's a nice girl, but a little too immature. < (Some people call it sophistication.) I guess if I didn't go to California, I would still be under her spell. Maybe it's my loss, but I don't know. It takes too much energy to go chasing around. > I don't think I have been British, but I lose respect for a girl who insists upon telling vulgar jokes, which aren't even clever--especially in letters! And I've never cared for any of Eileen's zoot suit friends. Well, it's all over now so I guess I need not do any post mortems. Eileen will get along as she has a whole string of men friends on the line. Maybe it was because I was left dangling that I lost interest. We will still be good friends, I suppose.



to 9303  
Bette said that Mariko told her that the girl, Sandra K, who died after her illegitimate twins were born, was the one who tried to be her roommate as the time Mariko was looking for someone. The girl was sent to her by WRA. Mariko decided not to take her in when the girl "bragged about her soldier boy friends" and George was also against it because he was thinking about proposing then. The girl then went into domestic work.

The Chicago Sun carried a story about James Kondo, 37, a discharged Hawaiian Nisei veteran who was finding the home front fight the hardest. He has been hunting for a place to live for the past three weeks to bring his wife and baby, and invalid mother who are all in Heart Mountain. He claimed that he had made over 50 applications for apartments, but told each time that it was not available. The WRA, Veteran's organizations and real estate agencies have not been able to do anything for him. Kondo told the newspaper reporter that the consistent refusals was due to his Japanese appearances. He is a carpenter by trade and now working for the receiving department of a cosmetics firm. Housing is getting to be an almost impossible situation. I have been looking around tentatively for a flat, but there are few ads in the paper.

(attached: Carleton Lenttscolumn in Daily Times (April 1, 1945))



article from Daily Times, April 1, 1945 (Carlton Kent column.)

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### NOWHERE TO GO.

WASHINGTON---After more than three years of being penned up in inland rest cures, the Japanese and Americans of Japanese descent have been told by the WRA that the fetters that bound them have been broken and that they should rise up and go kingly forth.

The centers in which they have lived since shortly after Pearl Harbor must be vacated by Jan. 2, 1946. Yet only 36,000 of some 120,000 inmates (80% of them Americans) have departed for greener pastures. Some of the rest, a small group, want to stay on, perhaps forever, at the centers, because of age, destitution, sickness and fear.

The largest group, and the most embarrassing to the government, is one of people who would like to make a fresh start, but who because of the losses they took when they were uprooted from their west coast small businesses, and because of age and dependency are afraid they might lose what little they have left.

The WRA's decision to lift the west coast exclusion order came after two Supreme Court decisions of last Dec. which held that while it was legal for security reasons to move American citizens from defense areas, it was illegal to hold them in duration.

The decisions sort of trailed off at that point; they did not say what else to do with them. So the WRA is trying to coax them out. It is telling the hesitant ones to go east where there are no sons of the golden west or Hood River type of American Legion posts. It is saying that most of the night-rider activity on the west coast is mostly bluster anyhow; that they are trying to get a bill passed deporting all persons of Japanese descent, and that the stay-put Nisei are playing into these rather dirty hands if they insist on remaining in the centers.

Perhaps a more deep-seated reason than fear of violence is holding many of them back. It is that they have no money with which to get going again. Most of them had small shops. When they were moved inland they had to close them, or sell them for a very few cents on the dollar; they were forced to cut their losses.

Relocation Authorities feel that the government has a moral responsibility to make some sort of restitution; they feel, that the government which insisted that Mexico pay reparation for the confiscation of property of American citizens below the Rio Grande cannot honestly take the other side of the question now because it is above the border.

They think that the moral responsibility may take enough substance



Charles Kikuchi  
Insert

Diary

March 31, 1945

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to care for the destitute Japanese-Americans who are so thoroughly institutionalized at the relocation centers ( through ~~no~~ fault of their own\* that they refuse to, or are unable to leave.

And they would like to believe that there's a legal obligation-- perhaps under the War Damage act which makes the government liable for damages sustained from enemy attacks or action resisting such attacks from Dec 7, 1941 to July 1, 1942.

They don't think the law could be stretched that far, however. They are almost sure that the RFC wouldn't pay off except for bomb craters.

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