

# SASAKI'S DAILY REPORTS ( CONTINUED)

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Los Angeles (1)  
2 October 46  
T. Sasaki

#160

Economic Adjustment.

George Ono, whom I had met on my trip to Denver, was in Los Angeles for about a week looking over the situation to decide whether to return, or whether he should stay in Denver. George is an agent for the New York Life Insurance Company, about 32, and was stationed in Los Angeles before the war as a salesman.

In Denver, he has been selling insurance mostly to the farmers of Colorado. The past year, he says, the farmers did not do so well, and so the business he would ordinarily be getting this winter would not be there. He also felt that the migration out of Denver was such, that many of his friends were back in Los Angeles. When asked how things looked to him out here, he said,

"Things look pretty good. Everyone seems to be making money, and the only thing they seem to gripe about is the fact that housing is pretty tight. I have looked into that problem because I am thinking of coming out in another month, or so. I managed to find a place for \$60.00 a month rent. But this is an exceptional case because the house happens to belong to a relative.

"I may have gone only to those places where people seemed to be making good. There are quite a few niseis who are making good money, and most of my business comes from them. The issei business is almost non-existent, and so even if the company does not underwrite them, there is only a small fraction lost.

"You take the Kodani Agency, they have about 18 salesmen. That is too many. Pretty soon, they will be cutting each other's throats because there are not that many clients. They will milk themselves dry of business possibility. What he should do is to put on a few, in that way he protects the



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salesman. The salesman can make a living, and will have business in the future. The way he goes about it, all he thinks about is himself. He gets paid as usual.

TS "Do you think more people will come back to Los Angeles from Denver?

GO "I'm afraid so. You can't get away from the fact that Los Angeles has good weather. And to many of the Japanese, that is very important. As the people hear stories of successes in Los Angeles, they think that they should also get some of that. The people from the country will come back because once they start losing money, they would rather do it in a warm place. But I think there will always be a residue of Denver people remaining. They are the ones who lived there before the war. But even before the war, if you remember, there were a number of people moving out here from Denver, and Colorado.

"There is another thing that I have to look at. In Denver, wages are cheap. Living also is cheap, but I can't sell insurance, unless the people have money. The people in Los Angeles are making the money. And since I have to make a living by selling to the Japanese, I might as well come to a place that has the growing Japanese population.

TS. What do you see lacking in Los Angeles, if anything?

GO. "There are quite a few of the older niseis still in the east. The leadership is lacking, and probably will continue this way for a long time. Lots of fellows back east who are making good money, or who have jobs with a future, will not be coming back here. I wouldn't either if I had a job, that took me outside of the Japanese population.

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Los Angeles (1) #101  
12 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Sound  
Economic Adjustment.

George Hamada, formerly of Oceanside, in the vicinity of San Diego was in town with his mother, whom he brought to the Buddhist Church for services. I knew him before the war and knew also that he lived at the Truman Boyd Manor Federal Housing Project. I caught him in front of the Modern Grocery Store and since both of us were in no hurry to get anyplace, we caught up on the past, and discussed the present.

He wanted to know what I was doing, so I gave him the usual story, then he proceeded.

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GH "Things aren't so bad. Housing of course is bad, but outside of that I think most people are making pretty good money. I don't know how it is here, but in Long Beach, the sentiment is pretty good. We live in the FPMA, in a 3 bedroom apartment that we pay only \$42.00 a month furnished. Others in town, I hear pay \$60.00 a month for a room.

"Out there we live with the rest of the hakujins and I don't think they know just how many are out there. The hakujins only see those who live in their vicinity, and since most of them are from the east, they don't have the prejudice that the local Californians have. Lots of fellows have dates with the hakujin blondes, and visa-versa. They don't think anything of going out with anihonjin fellow. The neighbors are all pretty nice, and the town as a whole treat us better than anyplace else.

"There is only one thing that I object to, and that is the way the isseis talk when they go on the bus. The lack of cars is about the worst thing that can happen to the 'apanese. They all go to work about the same time since they all work in the canneries, and they speak 'apanese in a loud voice. You can hear them all over the buses. The Hakujins, when they are on the bus don't speak unnecessarily. Some of them do when they are with friends, but the 'apanese



Social Adjustment.

speak so damned loud that it gets embarrassing to us niseis.

TS. "Do the isseis belong to the unions?

GH. "I think they belong to it, but they are special members, or something. They have to belong to the union to work there, but they are full-fledged members.

TS. "How about yourself?

GH. "I've got a job with an advertising company, putting up billboards.

Last year, about this time I went to the USES and asked for a job, and they gave me this one. It is a small outfit, and I didn't have any trouble getting in, or with the workers. Just last week I finally became a full-flagged member of the union. It is the same one that the Hollywood Motion Picture advertisers belong to.

TS. "Are there others belonging to the same Union?

GH. "No, I don't think so, I haven't seen any of them at the meetings. They claim that there are all kinds of jobs, and that might be true, but when a guy lives out in Long Beach, it is pretty hard to commute all the way to Los Angeles every day. (Fare, round trip, .80¢) This is especially true is a guy doesn't have a car. That is why those who live out in Long Beach, or in any other trailer camps have a hard time finding a decent job. The veterans are having a pretty hard time too.

"I was just lucky to get this job. I make the average pay that a union member gets. And I guess I'll stick to this job because I like it, and it is about as good a job as I can get.

TS. "Are you ever going back on the farm?

GH. "No, I don't think so. As soon as my brother gets out of the army, he will start helping out, and I think we'll get along all right.



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13 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

The Yamadas lived in the Imperial Valley for about 20 years until around 1938, when they moved to Oceanside. They did not fare so well in the I.V., and they made out fairly well at the beach city. Their situation at present is probably better than they have ever had. In exchange for their country shacks, they have a three room apartment, and they do not have to work as hard. The boys, about 4 of them, are all grown up, and can contribute to the family coffer. The oldest girl is married and living in Parlier, in Central California. With their parents working in the cannery, and the boys in other jobs, they feel that they can make out all right. I suppose, along with the rest of the Japanese, this situation is temporary. Their adjustment in the FEHA is good, and I think they feel that they will drift as the general population will.



Los Angeles (1)  
14 October 46  
T. Sasaki

#102

CRDU

I visited Mr. Fukui today and had a short chat. I was concerned about the escheat case which was won by the ~~State~~ State, and since Mr. Fukui was a member of the Board of the CRDU, I felt that he should know what the people were thinking.

Mr. Fukui felt that the people should wake up, and become aware of the problems facing the people. But they were still concerned about personalities, and Mr. Ishikawa, happened to be the personality in this case. The other leaders were quite antagonistic towards his leadership, and a meeting is to be held tomorrow night to decide just who is going to take it over, the Jael, or the present leaders.

So far, the people are unconcerned. They still feel that those being escheated, has it coming to them. They are the selfish interests who own all of the land, and the money, therefore they should be the one who should put up most of the finance and the fight. In other words, they are concerned only about their own little worlds.

To illustrate this, Mr. Fukui brought out the case on the Olympic Hotel, which is currently being called Downtown House. The Olympic Corporation, before the war was losing money. The professional people owned the corporation thousands of dollars in back rent. None of it was paid. The 600 dollars necessary to pay the interest on the loan could not be met, much less the 200 ~~me~~ a month in taxes. The mortgage which amounted to about \$50,000 was left in the hands of Mr. Fukui at the time of evacuation. He was holding the bag. Therefore, after calling a meeting, a Mr. Sasaki, told him that he would not be holding the bag because they would put up the money, but at that time, their money was locked up by the Treasury Department. The only recourse left was to put it in the hands of



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Economic Adjustment.

the Western ~~xxxxxxTitle Company~~ Building and Loan Company. The Title Company then pulled a fast one and had Mr. Fukui sign numerous papers and the hotel was sold to the present owner for the mortgage. In the meantime, Mr. Sasaki, and the other stockholders decided that the hotel was making money, and they wanted it back. The building is worth \$150,000 now, and they feel that they were swindled. So, it is going to come to court next month.

This might be getting away from the selfish viewpoint of the isseis, but not quite. Mr. Sasaki, and Mr. Nagasaki, both went to Tule Lake with the intention of going back to Japan. They were talked into changing their minds, and returned. But while they were in camp, in internement, they all decided to have nothing to do with anything in this country. All of which was natural in view of their imprisonment on no grounds whatever. This attested to in view of their release subsequently. But at that time, they left Mr. Fukui holding the bag.....now, when the hotel business is booming again, they want it back. So, next month, they are going to court, and Mr. Fukui says that their lawyer feel that they have a good chance since he was pretty much swindled into the deal.

This Tule Lake Business then got me curious about others who might have gone there. I asked about Mr. Ambo, one of the shrewd business-men in town. He also was interned, and felt very bitterly about the whole evacuation, and his internement. He expressed himself in no uncertain terms, but did not go to Tule. I sat next to him at a dinner given in honor of Mike Masabka, and he spoke very proudly of the fact that his son was going to the Army next month. One was already in Japan, and he felt that his younger son should also get a chance to go over.

This change in sentiment puzzles me, because all of the bitterness I feel about the Californians still remain, and unless I absolutely can help it, I don't think I shall return. But that is besides the point.



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T. Sasaki

# 103

Economic Adjustment.

At Mr. Iijima's office, young Terasawa was filing his evacuation claim. Mr. Iijima pointed over to me and said that I was a government man, and would like to hear his story. I laughed, and invited him to sit over in a chair near me, and Mr. Iijima said, "Go ahead, tell him all about yourself."

Terasawa is 23 years old, lived in Boyle Heights before in a rented house, was evacuated to Manzanar, and then to Rowher. Probably it would be best to let the rest of this report be expressed in his own words.

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T. "We were kind of lucky. There are ~~three~~ <sup>one</sup> four girls in our family, ~~two~~ living in Chicago, and three living here. My older sister had a sewing school before evacuation and she was doing pretty good. My father owned the Tenri restaurant on First Street. We got evacuated to Manzanar, then we went to Rowher. From there, a good friend of my father, Mr. Oishi, who runs the MANSEI\*AN restaurant in Denver bought a big house in Denver and asked <sup>us</sup> to join him. So we moved out there, and then last March my sister and I came back to Los Angeles and stayed with friends until we bought a house on 8th Avenue on the Westside.

"We paid \$8,000 for the house, and they tell me that now the house is worth \$11,000. But we are paying for it with our pre-war money. My father's insurance comes in every month, and so part of that goes into the payment. The money from the sewing school also goes into the payments.

"I just got my draft call, and was ready to go when they said that no-one would be drafted until next year. I'm loafing right now, but next week I'll go to work for \$10.00 a day.

"Three of my sisters work, and my father works also as a carpenter. I'm the only one who is not working, and who has not been working for the last month. I was going to college, but the draft came along.



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"My father couldn't join the carpenter's union because he is an issei, but one of my sisters working in the clothing manufacturing place belongs to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. The other two sisters work as designers for a small shop in Beverly Hills. Each one of them earn at least \$40.00 a week. So when they are combined, they make it about \$160.00 a week. That is not bad. Many of the people are not doing as good.

TS. Who runs your family? Is your dad still the head of the family?

T. "I have nothing to say in the family because I am the only one who is not working. The only thing that I did was to put my name as the purchaser of the home. But I gave power of attorney to my sister since I was going to the army. My oldest sister, and my father talk things over and make all of the decisions.

TS. "Are there very many nihonjins living out by your place?

T. "The Japanese out there are calling that the new little Tokyo. There are quite a few out there, and they all seem to think that that is the place that will take over where this place leaves off. People have stopped coming in recently because they boosted the prices on the homes.

TS. "Do your two older sisters belong to the union?

T. "No, they work for a small shop, so they don't belong to the union.

TS. "What are your father's plans? Will he get back into business?

T. "I've heard him talk to his friend, Mr. Oishi while they were in Denver, and they said that they would like to start another restaurant specializing in fried shrimps. They want to get away from Nihonmachi and start out in the Crenshaw area. Of course, it is pretty hard to get a place, and things are pretty high, but they feel that there are quite a number of GIs back from Japan who would like that kind of food. Mr. Oishi is planning to come back here, because when the Japanese started moving out of Denver, his business dropped quite a bit.



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Economic Adjustment.

Once before his business dropped, and that was when the people quit relocating east. Denver was a place where many stopped off before going to Chicago, and other places, and his business boomed, but now he doesn't have enough to keep going. So he wants to come back out here, and probably will start with my father when he comes.

TS. "What do you think of the Escheat cases?

T. "I don't know anything about them. I belong to a club composed of fellows about college age, and just a little while ago we decided that we wanted to know something about the political situation. We began to realize that athletics and socials were not enough. There are a number of GIs belonging to our club, and they are concerned with their future, as well as some of the other of us. Most of the kids my age just haven't given it a thought. All we cared about was socials, athletics, and clothes. But we are realizing that we will have to begin looking after our interests or no-one else will help us.

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Before we parted, he wanted my name. I told him and got his name and address. I asked if it would be all right to visit him sometimes, and he said that I would be welcomed anytime. When asked if he thought he would get compensated for what he had lost during evacuation, he said that that would help, but that they were not counting on it.



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T. Sasaki

104

Eseheat.--Social Organization.

In view of the decision laid down by the State yesterday that a land held by an alien under the name of a citizen in the case of Sakioka and Mitsumori whereby Mrs. Mitsumori has to pay the \$75,000 for property in West Los Angeles, I thought it a good time to visit Mr. Iijima, executive secretary of the CRDU. I asked him of the significance of the State's win, and he said that the party involved did not lose money because the 71 acres is now worth about \$350,000. However, generally, it will set a precedent for the 360 other properties to be brought up. Many will be decided in favor of the State because of this case.

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Mr. I. "The people should begin worrying about their property, especially if there is some legal aspects of it that are not clear. They should begin to realize the nature of this organization, and something should be done to have the people of Los Angeles contribute to the fund. Unless they come out now and help fight the eseheat, the people living in the farms outside of the city of Los Angeles will break away and will not help in any cause that the city Japanese bring up. They will always point out, 'Look, when we needed help, you did not help us, so why should we help you'. Next year about this time, you will see a social disorganization as you have never seen before. The proposition 15 has a good chance of passing, and when it does, the landowners will be more concerned about, and unless aid is given them by the people of Los Angeles, I am afraid for the future.

"The trouble with the Japanese is that they have become just like the Jews. They are all out to watch out for themselves. Since their mother country cannot give them backing, they want that almighty dollar. And just to give you an example of what I mean, take the case of all of these clothing workers on Los Angeles Street. The other day I had to interpret for an issei lady, who had some mistake with the management. I went with her and straightened it out.



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T. Sasaki

Escheat--Economic Adjustment.

At the office, I met a girl, a hakujin girl that I knew before the war. She was the head of the payroll section in the office. I found out from her that the Japanese women are being underpaid. Even if they receive \$1.00 an hour, they are getting paid less than the white girls doing the same work. The Japanese don't know this. \$1.00 an hour to them is good wages compared to what they were making before the war, and so they don't say anything. That is why Suzie, the hakujin girl, told me that they can use all of the Japanese help they can get. The Japanese women here are not looking out for the group, they are thinking only of themselves. They all belong to the union, but that is about all. They don't do anything about it. The Japanese work harder, produce better work, and squawk less, therefore the management likes them. But if they were getting paid more than the hakujins, the hakujins would protest, and then the Japanese would lose their jobs. When they are on piece work, they work so fast that the hakujins don't like it. When the Japanese made such good money doing piece work, the management put down the price per piece, then the hakujins squawked because they would receive less pay than they had before the Japanese came in, in spite of producing as much as they had ever had.

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I went over to Mr. Doi's office at the Shokin, or the Vinear building, and talked to him for a little while. Mr. Doi is a shyster, and a perpetual imbibor, but just to see what he would say, I went to see him.

Mr. Doi stated that the state winning the case would set a precedent, but each case would be weighed on its own merits. Those who signed affidavits stating that they had purchased land illegally, would be duly punished; but those who bought it for their children had nothing to fear.

When asked how things were going with the Japanese in general, his comment was that everyone is doing well, but that the future looked dark unless they could break into their old line, the soil.



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Economic Adjustment.

Doi. "Unless the Japanese can get back to farming, they will never reach their pre-war economic position. You see, if there are farmers, they have the wholesale markets; then from there you have the fruit stands. But because of high leases, and unavailable land, and the high investment necessary in the purchase of machinery, the Japanese will not get back to the land for several years. I don't know how the niseis feel about farming, but the isseis can't get back in. They are too old. They can't purchase land. Their hands are tied. What the future hold, I don't know. But for the present, the housing situation is the worst thing. And that is generally true for everybody."



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14 October 46  
T. Sasaki

#105

Economic Adjustment.

When I was ready to catch a street car home, I was hailed by Roy Kobayashi, and Johnny Masatani, the chief holder-uppers of the Taul building on 1st and San Pedro. They asked me to join them in a coke, and on the way we met Tote Takao. Both Johnny and Roy are making records at the Decca Plant. Currently they are able to make about \$50.00 a week. But before Christmas, they think they can be making about \$80.00 a week. So when I asked them if they intended to find another job, they said that they are just getting to a point where they are getting some money.

But this is not a story about Johnny and Roy. It is about Tote Takao.

Tote was in U.C. the year before I went up there, but I had heard that he was quite a singer. Recently, my brother told me that he was singing with Lionel Hampton and his Negro orchestra. This, I had to see and followed the papers quite closely. I found that he was singing at the Million Dollar Theatre, and one evening found me putting down my \$98 cents and taking it easy.

Hampton's band was like most other colored orchestras I suppose. Jam sessions and more sessions. Then finally he brought out his Vibraphone and began playing "I don't know why I love you like I do", a song as sweet as you please. Then, unannounced came Tote, slightly lighter complexioned than the other members, and midst snickers from here and there he began. He was good! The audience gave him a swell hand, and from various sections came calls for an encore. The audience, I must say, was bewildered to find an oriental figure singing something quite out of Hampton's character. So, with this little background, I thought I would get behind the scene a little more. Luckily, today I met him as we were going for a coke, <sup>he</sup> they being friendly with Johnny and Roy.

Tote was in Boston, then moved back east where he worked in a defense plant. After the war he decided that he had better sell his business and home so he took a trip back after a real estate office offered him \$3,500 for his home.



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Economic Adjustment.

Tote felt that something was fishy because he had heard of the inflated prices on real estate in California so he took a trip back. He sold his place for \$8,500. Then he sold his business on Grant Avenue, the heart of China-town for \$25,000.

It was during his stay in San Francisco that he met Lionel Hampton. Hampton took an interest in Tote, and asked him to tag along with him at \$100 a week.

This, not because Tote was a good investment, because Tote himself says that it takes about 6 or 7 years working for little outfits before one can join a band like Hamptons.

They talked him into it, and he came down to Los Angeles. They have asked him to go back to Frisco, then east. In the meantime, Tote is faced with a dilemma. He realized that his best years are spent (he is about 33), and it would take a little more study to get anyplace. He says that he can study on his GI Bill, but that he wants to start a clothing business in Japanese town, since he has the capital.

Then I said, at \$400 a month, and traveling around the country, it is not bad. To that, Tote said that it cost just about that much to live, while traveling. Another trombone player in another Negro band was making \$425.00 a month, working 5 days a week, and he couldn't save a dime.

Tote feels that if he were about 5 years younger, he might consider seriously going into singing, but since he is 5 years older than that, he is only going to take off about 6 months to study, then determine what is good for himself.



Los Angeles (1)  
15 October 46  
T. Sasaki

#106

Restrictive Covenant.

Johnny Fukushima, whom I had not seen since Poston days, was employed by the San Lorenzo Company before the war. He went to Denver and worked for several months in a mushroom farm, then moved into the city to work in a Florist shop. From there he joined the army, and was back in Denver in February of this year, and then moved out herein March. While in Denver, he bought a 10 room house for \$2500 which housed not only his little family of a wife and a little four year old girl, but all of his in-laws. He sold the house for \$4500 and came back. His main problem now is housing. The report is as follows:

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JF "You ought to look into the housing problem for the veterans. I am not an oversea veteran, but I have found the restrictive covenants something that the nisei vets should fight. I tried to get a place in Montebello, my home town, and ~~thax~~ altho the owner was willing to sell, ~~they~~ ~~city~~ prevented it because it was restricted. Japanese live all around the place. There are pretty close to 10 families there. But 10 years ago, they made it a restricted area, so those who lived there before the war are back, but those who want to get in now, can't get in.

"The second place is on Huntington Road. I started about two months ago, and the Title Company just gave me notice yesterday that they couldn't give me Title insurance. I can't get a GI loan because it is a restricted area, altho the restriction has been broken by a ~~N~~egro family who lives out there. So if I had the money, I can get in. But the \$3,000 that I had from the house I sold in Denver, isn't even enough to start.

"I don't see why we veterans can't get together and form a separate Legion Post to fight this. Of course most of the nisei vets are around 23, or 24, and haven't had to face housing restrictions. They don't have families. But I think the niseis should do something to get away from Little Tokyo Ghettos. They ought



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Restrictive Covenants--Nisei Vets.

to try to get a place they can call their own, and have some security.

I don't see why these officers, niseis who were commissioned Captains, and majors don't come out and lead the group. Of course, the American Legionnaires, who were in before the war, those who are around 50 or so, and financially able with time, should organize the group because they know something about organizations. But I guess they are in the same boat as young fellows like myself who are trying to make enough to get settled again. We will probably have to wait until Major Tsukamoto, and Aido, who are both lawyers, before we can get started?

TS. What about the AVC?

JF "The trouble there is that altho they know you are a Japanese and have your problems, they can't do much about it. In the first place, I don't think too many niseis belong to the organization.

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At this time a caucasian came in to sell some insurance. He is an ex-naval officer on a patrol bomber. He was shot down in the S. Pacific and was also having a difficult time with his house, which he recently moved into. His gas line was not connected, and he had no toilet bowl.

Before the war he was in charge of the Japanese section of the Prudential Life, and had a quota of ~~\$1,200,000~~ \$150,000 to meet before October 24 to hold on to this. He said that before the war he had sold 1 million 7 hundred thousand dollars worth of insurance to the Japanese, and none of them had let their policies go throughout the war. Already he had sold \$112,000 and had another \$8,000 to go before the deadline.

He seemed to be interested in the resettlement, and wanted to know why in the hell the Japanese were kicked out when they could be spotted a mile off because of their different face. He said that the Germans and the Italians could roam around at will, anyplace, blow up the joint, and then go by un-noticed. He was puzzled.



Los Angeles (1)  
October 46  
T. Sasaki

#107

Economic Adjustment--Flower Market.

After lunch I went to the San Lorenzo Flower Market to get the story from Howard Otamura, the first Japanese to get back into the 7th and Wall Street area. As I went into the store, Peter Shinoda, one of the brothers owning the store told me that Earl Griggs wanted to talk to me for a few minutes so I went back to Griggs place. He was ready to go out to lunch, but stopped by and told me that Frank Higashi, who was having his hands full in the nursery business would like to see me. He gave me his phone number and told me to get in touch with him. Higashi was the first one in the nursery business, and is having his headaches now selling, and trying to buy "bedding". Other things that are restricting the activities of the nurserymen are boycotts from the Sears Roebuck Los Angeles Branch. They will not permit a Japanese nurseryman in their nursery division. The San Francisco Sears will buy, but not the Los Angeles branch. Another problem they face is the clay pots. These the Japanese buy in San Francisco, and bring them down. The Clay pots are under the control of the big money, the Nursery Exchange.

When I told Earl that I was going over to see Howard, he mentioned that he could not understand why the Japanese would not help each other out. Then almost immediately he said that before the war, Joe Shinoda was suspected of having named some of the ringleaders among the Japanese who were suspicious. Then too, they have a personal grudge, that of Joe's place being open all through the war, and making money while theirs was tied up. Peter Shinoda, also was not well-liked. When he was in the Shipping Department, Earl was working for him, but told Pete that he would not be walked over. This, caused an understanding to occur, and ever since then, they have gotten along well. Pete, as I remember, was not too well liked by the fellows at U.C. back in 1937. These sentiments, of course resulted from his "better than thou" attitude. Joe was in the same situation.



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15 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Flower Market.

I went back to the San Lorenzo, and found the boys playing cards so I sat around talking to several of the employees. Then Howard Otamura quit the game and came over. He is a man of about 35, about 5'5" tall and not a bad looking fellow. When he spoke, he did so with enthusiasm, in spite of Earl telling me that he might not talk too much. I asked Howard to tell me how the situation was when he came back, and except for several interruptions with stock coming in, and an occasional customer, he talked all the way through without my probing, or prompting him.

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I came back in January. January 11th to be exact, just about 11 days after the West Coast was opened up. Joe Shinoda wanted me to come back to look the situation over. The manager here said that it was too early.

I went to work on the morning of February 17, and there were signs all over posted, "No Japs allowed between 7th and 8th street on Wall". I stayed inside the building, not daring to stick my head out. I went home that day, I was staying over at Dr. Wexler's house in Pasadena. He is the Chairman of the Methodist Board of Southern California. I was ready to give up, and I told my wife that we were going back east. I also thought at that time that the boys were dying on the battlefields, fighting for a right to come back. And that if

I lost my life, and my life wasn't worth two cents in that atmosphere, it would be worth it if the Japanese could come back to get started in the Flower market again.

Dr. Wexler saw my long face and asked me what the matter was. I told him and he immediately called up Bill Carr (of the Los Angeles Times), and they got an appointment with the Mayor. They said that they would send over protection, and the next day, Tuesday, there were policemen inside and outside of our store. A radio car stood outside. The police told me that I had nothing to fear, that I would be given every protection possible.



Economic Adjustment--The Flower Market.

A couple of months later, Peter came back. At that time, they broke our windows. "We don't know who did it even to this day.

You see, I figured that four out of ten people were for us, and six were against us. Out of a hundred, there are forty. In a thousand there are four hundred. And there are about 1000 people or more out here on the busy days, Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"The thing that is funny is that those boys that I use to go fishing and hunting with, those boys that I use to invite over to my house for dinner, and they would also invite me over to their house, were some of the worst. The funny part is this, we didn't lose any business. Only one person took away his account because I came back, and his business wasn't worth much anyway. To counteract that, there were many of our old customers who did not buy from us during the war because we were away, came back and brought their business to us. So we have more business than we had during the war.

"One of the funniest thing was a man who came in one day and shouted in front of everyone, 'I wouldn't spend a dime in a store run by Japs!' He runs a flower shop that is connected with a Funeral Home. He has to have flowers. One day he called up and asked for some flowers, and I said all right, we would provide him with anything we had. The other boys in the store didn't want his business, and told me to tell him to go to hell. But I said that I would handle it, and now his account runs over \$14.00 a month. Just a couple of months ago he called up and said that he wanted to see me. I said all right and we went over to the restaurant for a cup of coffee. He says to me, 'I made a fool of myself, saying those things that I said before the people. I'm sorry I did it.' I said, forget it, it doesn't matter. But he said it over and over again and wanted to know if we were on good terms. I said 'sure'. Well just a little while ago, he wanted to know if I would go fishing with him, so his wife, and my wife and I went out, and afterwards he took us out to dinner. You see, that is the way it goes.



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T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Flower Market.

Over at the restaurant a little while ago, I went in with another fellow for a cup of coffee. There were four or five other nisei fellows sitting down waiting, and it was pretty busy. But when I came in, the girl served a cup and placed it before me. The boys asked why I was served when they had come in before I did. She told them off. She said, "This is the man that made it possible for you to come back here, and I want to give him the service because he deserves it. Don't worry, I'm coming up with your coffee too, but I want to make sure that he doesn't have to wait". When I first came, I sat waiting for about 15 or 20 minutes. The girl who was waiting on us had just come up from San Diego. The next day the boss heard about it, and fired her. He is a Jew, and he knows the situation.

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I was still curious about the fellow mentioned in the previous paragraph. I wanted to know what their relationship was before the war so I asked Howard.

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H. "He used to run a florist shop, and I tried to sell him those things (pointing to ribbons etc). He used to tell me at that time that he wouldn't buy a thing from a 'damned Jap'. He was probably the most aggressive guy, that turned completely around and is giving us just about the most business. It's funny, isn't it?

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I wanted to dig in a little more of Howard's personality so I began asking him about his camp life.

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TS. What camp were you in? Howard.

H. "I was in Heart Mountain. I ran into some interesting things there too.



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15 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Flower Market. (Camp life)

"Remember when they had a strike at Tule Lake? They wanted laborers to go harvest their crop for them. The project director brought it up to the Block Managers, and George Nakaki and myself said, let's go! The other people in camp said that we would never get back into Hart Mountain if we went. But George and I put our name on the top of the sheet of paper, and then we went around and got the other managers to sign. We got 17 out of the 20. Then by the next morning, we had 200 volunteers. We went out and worked for a month, and earned between ~~\$200~~<sup>300</sup> and ~~\$400~~<sup>400</sup>. It was Christmas Money.

"We worked about 5 miles from Tule Lake. And the MPs use to tell us that the people in camp, if they could get out, would have killed all of us. But there were about 1000 MPs so we didn't worry. What about the people back in Hart Mountain. When we got back, they welcomed us back with open arms. They found that the vegetables they were eating were from Tule Lake. Those that we picked. They found that in the other camps too. Well, \$300 or \$400 is all right. If we didn't go, they would have gotten other Negroes, or Mexicans to do the work.

"When I was ready to come back out here, I had to go to Butte, then transfer to Salt Lake, and then here. I had to layover in Butte for about 9 hours. On the same train were a bunch of draftees, about 200 of them. They were going for their physical. Among the group were four nisei boys. One was about six feet tall, and wore a red sweater. I somehow felt that something was going to happen.

"About 7 o'clock, the boys came back, and a ex-gi in crutches stood up, he was feeling high. He had been wounded on Saipan. He got up and said, "Are there any Japs in the room?" Well, sitting just in front of him were these four boys. The biggest one got up, and grabbed him by the neck, and said, 'Sure, I'm a Jap, and if you weren't a cripple, I'd kill you in a minute'.



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T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Flower Market.

'I've just passed my physical, and in another month I'll be wearing the same uniform that you've got on.'

There were MPs all around, and they came in when this happened. They took the guy by the collars and told him that in a month these boys would be in uniform, and perhaps also come back cripples.

"All this time I was sitting in the back of the room. The boys sitting next to me were looking over at me when the guy shouted, 'Is there a Jap in the Room?' It was lucky that those boys were there.

TS. Did you relocate east?

H. "No, but my wife is a registered nurse, and she wanted to go to Rochester to look at the hospital, and maybe get work there. I took my kid there when I was coming back to the coast, and told her that I would come after her when the time came. I went back to Hart Mountain and got our stuff, and then went after them.

TS. How did you get to know Dr. Wesler?

H. "When we came back, we stayed at the Evergreen Hostel. He wanted someone to work 20 hours a month, in exchange for a room. So we moved out. I'm telling you, for most people they get into quarrels, no matter how good friends they are, but in this case, as the days go by, our relationship gets better. Not once has there been a quarrel. Of course my wife works at the Japanese hospital. She is the head nurse & she is not home all the time. My boy goes to school. But you would think that two families living together would not get along.

"Only once did he say anything, and that was, 'don't you think you are working too hard?'. During the summer months I use to work about 4 hours a day after work hours. In a month it was mostly about 45 hours. But I feel that if a man is going to go half way, I am going to go all the way.

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I had spent about two hours here, so I told him that I would probably be back again.....



Los Angeles (1)  
15 October 46  
T. Sasaki

# 108

Economic Adjustment.--The Flower Market.

I made arrangements with Willie Funakoshi, insurance salesman, to visit the Flower Market to meet some of the people, and make contacts for future interviews. I met him at 7th and Wall Street at 7:30 AM, and went into the San Lorenzo Flower Company where I met John Fukushima, former member of the Sociological Research Bureau of Boston, and ~~Harry~~ <sup>Howard</sup> Otamura, The first Japanese to return to the Flower Market. With these I made arrangements for the pm, and then we went to the Southern California Japanese Flower Grower's Association a few doors away where I met Mr. Yagi, the Manager. With him, I have an appointment tomorrow morning. He suggested we look around inside the large room, about 75 yards by 50 yards where counters were placed in various positions. As we went into this room, Willie Funakoshi told me that one counter, which is about 12 feet long was leased to individual growers by sealed bids. The counters by the entrance were the favored position, and before the war they went up to about \$1000.00 a year. The minimum for any counter in the room was \$21.00.

We went around the room and I ran into some of the fellows I knew before like Peter Shinoda of the San Lorenzo, Frank Amada, Fred Muto, the Chrysanthemum King of San Fernando Valley. I also met other growers, who were more than willing to sit down to talk over their situation. I made arrangements whereby I would visit them when they were not too busy to get their story.

Before we left the building, Willie wanted me to meet Earl Griggs, who is working in one of the stores off of the main room. Willie told me that Mr. Griggs was the man who was instrumental in bringing back the Japanese into the Flower Market, and could tell me quite a story of the background. Mr. Griggs is about 33 years old, slightly thin on top, and slight in build. He speaks very clearly, but his "gs" are pronounced like "K"s. He said that he would be free about 9 o'clock so that if I came back about that time, he would be glad to talk to me.



Los Angeles (2)  
October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Flower Market.

After spending a half an hour making contacts at the 9th Street Wholesale Market, I came back to the Flower Market to see Mr. Griggs. He had just come back from breakfast so I had to postpone my own until after the interview.

He wanted to know what I was interested in, so I told him to start from the beginning, with a little bit of his own background. Without further prompting, he began, and without any interruption, he went in from one thing to another for the next hour and a half. The following is a report as he told it.

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G. "I worked for Joe Shinoda at the San Lorenzo Company for about 4 years ~~after~~ before evacuation. But for about 7 years before evacuation, I went around quite a bit with the boys, I knew what they were like, and I liked them. I went to school with a lot of them, and to me, color, creed or anything else never mattered. I am a socialist.

"Last October, Howard Otamura came back to look the situation over and we had one rough time. We had fights, insults, my home was shot at three times, and 14 windows were broken. He stayed over with me and there was quite a spread in the papers about my having a Japanese as a guest.

"We came to the market, and there was quite a bit of action against us. Howard would go into a restaurant and sit for a half an hour, but he wouldn't get waited on. I told him to ignore it, and if they didn't serve him after that long, we could walk out without feeling anything against us. I wanted to break this thing, and by God I was going to. But it was funny because he wouldn't be insulted directly, the people would all come to me and insult me. One of the worst was the Italian woman and her ex-husband who has a store next door. They went out of their way to come over to my table to insult me. I got up and told them to cut it out. That they were foreigners, and that these Japanese boys were much more American than they were, they were for the most part in the Army, and they proved themselves. So for foreigners, they should be quiet. There was another



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T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Flower Market. (Discrimination)

fellow who use to work around here, and also worked as a laborer for a Japanese fellow. He didn't have a dime to his name, and at evacuation, he was almost given a 5 acre by the Japanese he worked for. Now he has 10 acres of his own, and bought himself a home. He is a Mormon. He came up and kept on insulting me, and so I told him, you Mormons are about the most hated people in this country, so why don't you quit being so damned radical. I told him that he had just as much opportunity in the flower market as anybody else, as long as he grew quality flowers. During the war they made a killing throwing all kinds of junk into the market. And they are afraid that the Japanese will flood the market, and blame them for the prices coming down. Just to give you an example, "snaps" that had 64 stalks cost about 75 cents before evacuation. The minute the Japanese moved out, they went up to about \$3.50, then they cut down the number of stalks to 32, and the price went up to \$5.00. They could make all kinds of money that way.

I'll tell you another thing. The flower growers are the biggest racketeers in the country. All merchandise sold over the counter is put in the pocket. There is no cash register so they can say what they want when the income tax comes around. During the war, even the smallest grower netted at least \$35,000 a year. And they don't want to lose that kind of money now. When sweet peas cost around \$1.50 per dozen bunches before the war, and went up to around \$6.00 per dozen, they could make all kinds of money no matter what kind of junk they threw on the market. The people had all kinds of money to throw around, and they did it. Now, the people begin to lose out on the easy money, and they begin to get particular about the stuff they buy, and so the ones that can produce the best merchandise is the one who is going to get the best price.



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15 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Flower Market-- (Discrimination)

Just about two weeks after <sup>Howard</sup> came back, and we had met with all kinds of abuses, he was just about ready to give up and go back. I wrote to Joe Shinoda in Denver, and that the conditions couldn't be much worse, and that sometimes or another, they would have to come back. And I told Howard that he was on the spot, I was a marked man and hated by just about everyone here. I was fired, not outright, but my boss told me that he couldn't use me anymore. I told Howard that I would just as soon kill him if he left now. Then he wouldn't have to worry about getting a knife in his back anymore. His family was well-adjusted, his kid was in school and was getting along all right, but he was the marked man. Then when Peter Shinoda came into the market, they threw bricks into his window. They were Filipinos. But we couldn't put our fingers on anybody. I came about 15 minutes after it had happened, and although I was not working for San Lorenzo, I cleaned up the mess, and the next morning the window men put up another glass pane. We didn't want any publicity because they would then come around just to see how much damage they were doing.

Also, when I began to see how much damage these radicals might do, I called a Plain-clothes outfit in Pasadena to keep a watch over the situation. They sent about 5 men into this place. I also told them to go see each one of these radicals and talk to them about it. Most of the time it didn't do any good.

When the Evergreen Hostel first opened up, there were some girls staying there who slept on the floor. Mrs Famy in Pasadena was helping out quite a bit, and asked me to see what I could do about getting collections from the Flower Market. I went around, and was practically thrown out of everyone of the places. And the ones who should have contributed the most, were the ones who cussed me out the most. I only got one contribution. And that was from the Norman Seed



Economic Adjustment The Flower Market (Discrimination)

Company. Norman got his start in the San Lorenzo Flower Company. They let him have a small place to begin. He doesn't know too much about the Japanese, and has taken my word for their honesty etc. Murphy Seed Company, who bought 60 acres of flowers from a Japanese in The Dominguez hill before and netted \$25,000 on it, besides getting all but \$60.00 of the \$8,000 of their money for the seeds the Japanese had purchased kicked me out of their store, and his wife gave me the worse cussing out I had ever gotten. You see, so many of these people here, and growers, who made all kinds of money by getting their start with the Japanese are afraid of them coming back. They don't want the competition, and instead of blaming the general business condition, they blame the Japanese.

The Germain Seed Company, the biggest outfit in the business, when they saw that the Japanese had come back, reversed their decision that they would boycott the Japanese. It was money to them because the Japanese would be their biggest customers. But they, in spite of their stand came too late. And they also will give the Japanese credit only for 30 days. The other seed companies do the same thing. The Japanese don't have the capital to begin all over again, and they need some help, but these seed companies won't give them the help they need. Only the Norman seed Company will give them credit, and he has over \$12,000 tied up. And he hasn't got that much money. He has taken my word for it that the Japanese will pay up, no matter how. And I've told him that I would stand for them if they didn't pay up. I would get the money some way. I don't know how, I am only working for wages, but I believe in the honesty of the Japanese, and unless they absolutely have no money, they will pay up.

The biggest problem is the insecticides. Germain has it tied up, and they won't sell it to the Japanese. Sure, when a man comes in to buy \$500.00 worth of seeds, they sell the insecticides along with it. The whites have all they need, but the Japanese can't get any of it. And if they don't, their winter is going to be a tough one. They will lose all that they have gained.



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T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--The Flower Market (Discrimination)

Norman is trying to work is some way, and he has orders to nurseries all over the country for insecticides. He buys them at retail price, and then sells it without profit to the Japanese. He is down in San Diego now trying to buy some. I try to help out as much as I can, and get what I can indirectly from Germans.

I am trying to do as much as I can to get the Japanese back on their feet. Lots of nurseries need certain kinds of things, and they can't get them. So I have to go out and get it for them some way. I go to some of my personal friends who have debts, and ask them for it. They give it to me, and then I turn right around and sell it to the Japanese without profit.

The Nursery Exchange is about the most radical of all of them. They are boycotting the Japanese and trying to hurt them. The L & L Nursery wanted to buy quite a number of plants, and when the Gold Medal Nursery who was handling it found out that they had a Japanese working there, canceled the order. It is that way with every member who belongs to the Nursery Exchange. They won't sell them insecticides, they won't sell them plants, and they are doing everything they can to try to hurt them. Many a times the Japanese boys have come to me and have asked me to get certain items. I got out and get it for them. The Unique Florists, out on Beverly Blvd in Montebello was one of the first Florists to get established. They had quite a bit of difficulty, and I've gotten a lot of things for Miss Goto. She is a fine girl, and has four or five brothers in the Army.

The Consolidated Growers kicked one of the Japanese off the place. Before the war, this person was a good friend of the Growers, but when he went back, they kicked him off. He was sore as hell, and started on his own. Just a little while back he had Dephizians, the only ones around here and the Consolidated wanted it. He came to this boy, and the boy told him that it would cost him \$4.00 a dozen. To anybody else, \$1.50. He told the grower that he didn't want his business, and anytime he came over for flowers from him, it would cost him



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15 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--The Flower Market (Discrimination)

\$4.00 no matter how much it cost the other growers.

TS. How is the situation now?

G. "In the market, about 10% still feel badly, but they don't say anything. They know that if they do, this place will blow up. Among the buyers, there are about 5%.

"After I got kicked out of my job, I loafed around here for about two weeks, doing nothing. I could have gotten a job from Joe (Shinoda) anytime, but I thought it would look as though I were only working for him, and getting paid for raising a rumpus. The man who owned this place was a drunkard, and he told me that everyone called him a drunk anyway, and that if I cared to work for him, I was welcome. He said that he was earning enough to keep him in drinks and food. About 6 months ago, Al bought him out. Al is a Jew, and he is a veteran. I think he lost more business because he is Jewish, than he would have if he were a Japanese. But he understood the situation, and even though we have lost the white trade, it has been more than made up by the Japanese business, and this discrimination against the Japanese can't last forever. Anytime any of the boys want a loan, Al will lend them \$500, anytime!

"And what if they hate my guts here, it is no skin off of my nose. I don't want to have anything to do with those guys anyway. You take Murphy, he just walked by, I told him not to talk to me, that I wouldn't be seen talking to a dirty guy like him. In spite of the way he has treated the Japanese, a few of the late-comers will go up to him, and buy seeds, but they won't go back the second time.

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This was about as much as I could absorb at one visit, and told Earl that I would be back some other time to get more dope. He said that anytime he could help me out, he would be more than willing to do so.



Los Angeles (1)  
15 October 46  
T. Sasaki

#109

Family Study.

I visited a family I knew back in Brawley, and decided to just visit. It turned out however that a family history was revealed to me during the course of the evening. Rather than lose it, I am making a report of the conversation that took place that evening. It is especially interesting since much of the background of current thinking is revealed.

There were only the widowed mother, and her 16 year old High school boy present. The older boy was out.

When I asked her what her plans were, she started.

However, before I began the interview, it may be well to give a little background of the interview situation. The home is a frame building, not too old, and when it is compared to many of the other homes, it is not too different in that there are odd bits of furniture here and there, beds in the living room, several radio sets here and there, dressers and boxes lines up against the wall etc. In other words, there is an air of a state of unsettledness. There are probably several reasons for this. One is the fact that it is a storage place for other relatives; two, is the fact that there is a chance of them having to move at any time. Altho it may be six months from now, or even two years, the furnishings in the room and the stored boxes have not been moved. The mother is out from 8 in the morning to 7 in the evenings.

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"Many years ago, we moved from Los Angeles to Imperial. At that time there were only two children. Two boys. We bought out a place in the street near the train station and set up a barber shop. We had a one year lease on the place, but after having been there for about two months, the owner, who ran the drug store on the corner asked us to move because he wanted to put in a Telegraph office.



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15 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Family Study

"My husband got angry and said, 'all right, we'll move'.

"But I told him that we paid \$500 for the year lease, and we had a right to stay for the remainder of the year. But he was against it and felt that if they didn't want us there, he didn't want to stay. So we moved again to another place, and fixed up the place for another \$300.00. When I look back, it was probably not so much that they wanted to put in a telegraph office so much, but that they didn't like the idea of my two little boys playing in front of their drug store.

"After we stayed there for a couple of months, prohibition came along and the bars had to close up. Business dropped off, and we had to move again.

"My husband went to Brawley to look around and found a open store on the corner across the tracks. He asked who the owner was and they told him it was Mr. Applegate. So he went to see him, and was able to get the place on a monthly basis. They would not give him a lease.

"We moved down, and opened up a barber shop, then we opened up a grocery store next door. But all that time my husband was thinking back about the time when he was evicted in Imperial so he was looking around for a place to buy.

"In 1924, a lady wanted to sell a piece of property in the middle of the block. So my husband went over to see about buying the property, but the lady didn't want to sell it to a Japanese because in that year, there was the discrimination against the Japanese in the immigration quota. The Japanese could not come in to this country, and the general public did not want to have anything to do with the Japanese. Anyone who did have anything to do with the Japanese were called 'Jap-lovers'.

"Another Japanese heard about our attempt to purchase the property and to see the owner. He told the owner that he would pay her \$500 more than we offered. This angered the owner so much that she told him that she already committed herself to the first party.



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15 October 1966  
T. Sasaki

Family Study.

"10 years afterwards, a neighbor told me that a man was going around telling everyone that he was just going to buy that property when we outbid him. She asked me if it were true, and I told her so that was the man who tried to cheat me. I remembered that at the time we tried to buy the property the owner had come and had told us that a short man had made another offer.

"When we opened up the business, a manager for another large Japanese store came around to give us advice. He told us that he had been managing large stores for Japanese in Los Angeles, and other places, and when he found out what headaches there were in owning one's own business, he couldn't think of starting one out for himself. Head-aches such as collecting bills, extending credits etc. He told us, whatever we do, don't give credit to other Japanese. We found out later why he told us this.

"Business was good because there were no other stores in the neighborhood. When we opened up the meat market, business there was also good because there was no other meat-market in that part of town. Otherwise we would never have made a go of it because my husband couldn't even add, or multiply. He learned how to add, but he never learned to multiply.

"I don't know how we kept going, but I had to spend much of my time in the store because he could not do his arithmetic, and I impressed on my sons that knowing arithmetic was pretty important. I neglected my housework, and my children, altho they were in good hands in schools, and we did our best to strengthen their character. Our home life was almost none because we were never together. We ate our meals when we could, and in the evenings we would go to sleep without getting together.

"When the depression came, we had a difficult time, and somehow, my husband didn't tell me about the delinquent taxes that were piling up. I found out about it accidentally, and from then on I decided that I would have to spend more time at the store to try to pay up the taxes so that we would not lose the building.



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15 October 1946  
Sasaki

Family Study.

"We made arrangement so that we would put the taxes on a ten year plan and scrimped here and there. Then evacuation came!

"During evacuation we were getting about \$100.00 a month income from the properties, and were able to pay up the current taxes, and the delinquent ones. By the time we moved back to the coast, we had payed up everything and we were in the clear.

"My husband went back to the valley, in spite of my not wanting to go back. He had spent so many years building up his store, that someday he hoped that one of the boys would take it over. He was disappointed when the first boy did not want it, and the second boy decided on something else, and the third boy was too footloose, and the fourth boy didn't want to come back. There were still two other boys, and they did not seem interested.

"My husband died down there all alone. So we decided to sell the place. We made arrangements with the buyer whereby he would buy the building and the fixtures. But when he went to occupy the place, he found that the fixtures only amounted to one third of the value we asked. So we had to put the price down. Ice boxes, cash registers, and other fixtures were either sold by the previous tenants, or damaged beyond repair. Besides the loss on the fixture, we had quite a loss in our home in the back. They had broken in during our absence, and took much of the stuff along with them. All this time we thought that the Real Estate man was taking care of the place. He gave him power of attorney, but he was only interested in his 5%.

"Now, after we have come back, we are just like the rest of the people, I guess. We are working hard to get re-established, and have little time to visit. I think every family is like this. I knew from long ago with my business with the Japanese that they were selfish, and they would bleed their fellow men.



Los Angeles (5)  
15 October 46  
I. Sasaki

Family Study.

"At our store in Brawley, we gave credit to many Japanese, and some of those who owe us money are the ones who say that it is a good thing that the old man died. They seemed to think that they were being insulted when my husband went to collect the money to pay the taxes.

"Evacuation brought out to everyone just how "YOKU" (selfish) the Japanese really are. It is terrible that the people have to be that way, but the respect that people had for the Japanese must be way down. That is why one Japanese don't like to trust the other one. I suppose that is one of the reasons why there are very few activities outside of their own home.



Los Angeles (1)  
17 October 46  
F. Sasaki #140

Economic Adjustment--Nursery

Shig Higashi is a young man of 32. In 1937 he migrated to Los Angeles from Seattle and worked as a laborer in a nursery for two years, and then through contact with many key men in the nursery business, became a broker, or a middleman. For two years he spent most of his time making further contacts, and learning the business. When evacuation came, his foundation remained, but the building did not go up. He evacuated voluntarily to Denver, and then moved on to Chicago. In March, he made a phone call to a friend of his, John Naito, to look over the nursery condition and a week later he was back in Los Angeles.

For a month he lived with the Naito, and then found a house on 37th Street near Normandie. He immediately went to work, and faced a few hardships, but at the present time his business is flourishing, and he feels that there is a bright future.

I phoned Shig up to make an appointment, and he suggested that he come down to my room since he had a car, rather than my making a trip out to his place.

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After explaining the nature of our work, he started.

S. "The nurserymen are on the upswing now. When they first got started there was pressure from the Caucasian nurserymen and one of the biggest weapon they had was boycotting. They would not sell, or buy from the Japanese. Anyone who bought from the Japanese were also boycotted by the Nursery Exchange members. It was tough at first because we could not get some things we needed. But we got around that, and now the boycott is in our favor. When a caucasian buys from us, and is boycotted by the caucasians, that means that we have less competition.



Los Angeles (2)  
17 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Nursery (Discrimination)

"And the thing that burns us up, is the fact that except for Wilcox, who has an oil well, all of the caucasian nurseries got their start and made their money when the Japanese left. They took over the Japanese nurseries, and made a killing on what was left, and then when they went to growing on their own, no matter what kind of junk they placed on the market, they sold them. And they are the worst ones. What I would like to do, and I know the other Japanese, no matter what kind of business they are in, ~~would like~~ is to make them eat out of our hand some way. I'd like to get back at these selfish caucasians who are trying to prevent the Japanese from coming back into business. When we can do that, it really makes us feel good. For instance, in West Los Angeles there is a nursery who wanted a certain kind of plants, I had them, and I made him pay \$3.00 more for it per plant than I had charged anyone else. I had him eating out of my hand because I knew that he couldn't get them anyplace else.

"Sears Roebuck Boycotts the Japanese. They will not sell, nor buy from the Japanese. And it is Bunny because we sell San Francisco Sears, and we sell to Capwells, and other large department stores up there.

"The other day, a friend of mine, I won't name him, had a talk with the fellow who is in the position that Donald Nelson had when he was with Sears. He told this fellow about the situation, and he seemed concerned about the discrimination. There is something about the Sherman Anti-trust act, which prohibits restriction of free trade. Monday, I am going to Sears to find out what is going to happen.

"Last week I needed 500 gardenia plants, and had to get them for the Japanese nurseries. I got Griggs to get them, they delivered it to his store, and I picked them up. Ordinarily, I would have to go all the way to Pasadena for them. They know that they go into the hands of the Japanese because what is a cactus specialty store doing with 500 gardenia plants.



Los Angeles (3)  
17 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Nursery

"The reason I say that the outlook is bright is because of this. The boycotting by the caucasian nurseries is working in our favor. For every caucasian retail nursery they boycott for buying from us, means that all of these retail nurseries will buy exclusively from us. Most of the caucasians know the quality of merchandise grown by the Japanese, and because of this, our business will continue to grow while those of the caucasians will continue to decline. Right now, there is not enough stuff that the Japanese have to supply the demand.

"Even in my field, and there are only two of us in the game, and the other person is my distributor in northern California, there can be a dozen more, and it still wouldn't be enough to handle all of the merchandise that the nurseries can produce.

"The most important thing is, that no matter what one says, the Japanese know how to grow. And over the past year, the Japanese have grown their stuff with such speed that it is amazing.

TS. Did most of them have their own nurseries before the war?

SH "Yes, there are about 10 wholesale nurseries, and 10 retail outlets.

Most of them are in business where they were before the war. They leased them out with the agreement that they would take over six months after the war. There are some who have bought nurseries also.

"Before the war there was a nursery in almost every block in certain sections. And the thing that is preventing them from starting again is that housing isn't available, and good locations are not available. This problem is not peculiar to the Japanese. Everyone is having a difficult time finding good locations for their business, and housing for their family.



Los Angeles (4)  
17 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

TS. What of the picture for the entire Japanese group here?

SH "I think it looks bright. The Japanese are primarily agriculturists in some form. The gardening, for instance, is practically being monopolized again by the Japanese. It is something they know about, and their quality of work is far superior to anything that any other group of people can do. Take a look at the Beverly Hills section, when you compare it to what it looked like during the war, the place is a paradise. You can't compare the Japanese work with those of other groups.

"When you take the case of nursery-men boycotting, it is not the questions of race. The consumer demands quality, and they will buy from whomever sells the best merchandise. They were afraid that the Japanese would take their business away, therefore they wanted to keep them out. It is not race, it is business. The same way with the gardeners. The number of gardeners being employed by the ~~min~~ people in Beverly Hills prove that they don't care what nationality does the work, as long as they produce results.

"This is true no matter in what field one goes in to. There are a number of girls working in private firms, in various factories, and once the employer knows the quality of work they produce, these Japanese are in. They will be dismissed according the way the others are being dismissed. In Chicago, the International Harvester hired a number of Japanese after they found out how well they worked. They have made a name for themselves as being hard workers.

"The economic picture looks bright if the people will branch out in business into the wider community. There, for the first two weeks they may wonder about you being a Japanese, but after that you are an individual, judged according to your merits.

TS. But what about the type of jobs the men are getting into? Don't you think they are at a standstill?



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17 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

SH. "I don't think so. After all, a man, no matter what race, is going to get into something that gives him the best return for his labor. Take a friend of mine who worked in the fruit market before the war. He studied engineering in college and wanted to get a job as a draftsman, but none was available to the Japanese before the war. He went to Chicago and worked there as a draftsman. He returned to Los Angeles and got a similar type of a job. But he quit and went to work as a gardener. Why? Because gardening payed him twice as much as he was getting payed as a draftsman.

"And most of those who have returned came directly from camp with no skills. What else can they do besides the kind of work they are doing? Those with skills remain east, or are in jobs they want.

"You take myself, I came back because I knew more about the nursery jobbing than anything else. I felt that the future looked bright, and the amount of money I am earning now can't be paid by anyone here, or in the east. They just can't pay me that kind of money.

"The Japanese in Los Angeles haven't been asleep either. In one years time they have come back at a miraculous rate. Where else have they progressed so fast in one year's time. In San Francisco they are still dead. People are wandering here and there, still wondering what they will do. Most of them work as domestics. Out here, the people I know have all settled down, and know just what they are after. (His circle of friends are probably the energetic go-getters. ts) Of course there are also many who are still living in hostels, and in crowded gakuens (school buildings) and hotels, but there is bound to be a certain number who will always remain at the bottom. And the Japanese for the most part have returned to Los Angeles from camp without having gone to any other section of the country. Those who relocated east, and who came back, came back with a purpose, and went to work to get there.



Los Angeles (6)  
17 October 46  
A. Sasaki

Economic and Social Adjustment.

"My own experience in the east has helped me in my business, and social life. Just because I happen to know a fellow in Denver, helped me in getting a refrigerator. This fellow asked me if I was ever in Denver, and I happened to tell him about some people I knew, and we had mutual friends. He sold me a refrigerator. And just because I am acquainted with Chicago, it broadens my business contacts. I think others who went east, also feel the same way, their horizon is not limited to Los Angeles, or California, or camp. They can see beyond, and know just how things are conducted elsewhere. Therefore, those who relocated east, and who have come back to the coast, are much better prepared to meet the problems they face in getting re-established.

"In your work, I am afraid that it is too soon to make a study. Altho people are getting along all right, they are not as settled as they should be. That is not a situation peculiar to the Japanese. Everyone in Los Angeles is unsettled. You have no doubt found it hard to find people at home during the day, or in the evening because the old folks are in bed. They are working as hard as they can to recoup some of the money they should have been making during the war years. That is probably the thing that hits all of us; especially when we see that they made money on the start that the Japanese gave them. Four, or five years from now, a study would be a good idea. The people will be settled, and they will have more leisure to spend their time talking about their problems, and their situations.

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Shig invited me to make the rounds of nurseries with him one of these days. So I took him up on it, and will contact him again.



#111  
Los Angeles (a)  
17 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Southern California Flower Market Incorporated.

I had an appointment with Mr. Yagi this morning, and when I arrived he took me into an inner room where we could have privacy. There was a table in the center of the room with chairs around it. Papers, apparently checking sheets of various members were strewn about the table.

The Flower Market Building is a huge one, covering 5 lots. There are 9 income rentals on the front part which include various types of supply houses, the Germain Seed Company etc. The center or back room is a huge room with wooden counters placed so that every available space was used. As was mentioned in one of the previous interviews, each of these tables were bid in sealed envelopes at the January meeting. The highest bid brought the table that faced the entrance.

One of the things not brought out in the interview with Mr. Yagi was the relationship between the Germain Seed Company and the Flower Market Incorporated. Mr. Yagi felt that because of pressure, the Germain seed Company had to say they were anti-Japanese, but actually they were not. Supplies such as insecticides, cheese-cloth etc, were all given to the various stores according to their previous purchases. Since the Germain Seed Company also belong to the Nursery Exchange, they have to show, and act according to the Exchange policy.



Los Angeles (1)  
17 October 46  
T. Sasaki

*Mr. M. H. Inc*  
Southern California Floral Association

The So-Cal Floral Association is the stronghold of the Japanese growers in the Flower Market. It is a cooperative organization which is composed of 159 members, of whom about 10 repatriated to Japan, 10 out of state and between 125 and 130 back in California. Of the number back in California, 50 are now growing for themselves while ~~the~~ another 30 are working for others either as laborers, or on a share crop basis until such a time that they can again strike out for themselves.

Through Willie Funakoshi, Insurance Broker, I met Mr. Yagi, Secretary of the organization yesterday and made an appointment for this morning. After recapitulating the introduction made yesterday, I expanded on our program so as to give him a better picture of the type of work we were doing. This helped in establishing rapport, and then I gave him the floor. During the first part of the interview he talked on the subjects that came to his mind. After about an hour and a half of this, I began asking him questions. But for purposes of organization, I have re-arranged this report so that subject matter will fall together.

Mr. Yagi is a man, very immaculately dressed, carefully groomed, with steel gray hair, and hands that appeared to have done some hard work in his younger days. He spoke English very well, and his vocabulary permitted him to speak without hesitation.

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Y. "I think I shall give you a short history of our organization first.

"In 1914 about 100 Japanese flower growers got together and discussed the flower selling situation. At that time, the growers were carrying their flowers in "koris" (baskets), on waggons, and in their arms going from each florists to the next one selling their merchandise. It took almost all day just to sell the flowers. So at the meeting, it was decided to form an Association,



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17 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Southern California Floral Association.

and it was incorporated in 1914. We had the store located on Wall Street, between 4th and 5th Street.

"In 1923, we came to our present place, 7th and Wall, leased the property for 50 years, and on the three lots we put up the building. There is still about 26-27 years that we have the lease.

"Then in 1928, we expanded again and bought two property adjoining this one and put up the building, and then we bought three lots in back for a parking lot, and then another three lots.

"The Association is a cooperative, and it is made up entirely of members. They purchase a certificate of membership, and this at first only cost \$25.00, then they pushed it up to \$50.00, then \$100.00 until now it is \$2,000. The total number of members is 159, and the memberships can be transferred, but it has to go through channels. If a man wants to sell his certificate, it doesn't matter to us what he gets for it, but the board of directors, four directors must decide whether the new party will be accepted, or not. On this board of directors are 15, 4 of whom are officers.

"Each January, we have a general meeting at which time the Board is elected. At this time we also permit the members to put in bids for the counters, that you saw in the market.

"Before the war, there were only three markets on Wall Street (outside of independant shippers & growers) that carried most of the flower business. Now, there are several more. This place has expanded. But at that time, we carried our membership, 159 growers, and had a gentlemen's agreement with the American ~~Flower~~ Grower's Company across the street whereby we would not include Americans in our Association, and they would not permit Japanese to sell in theirs. There was another Company, the Union Flower Company, where about 10 Japanese growers and others sold their merchandise.



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T. Sasaki

wer Market Inc.  
Southern California Floral Association.

"All companies engaged in the flower business, and retailers had to belong to an organization ~~xxxx~~ called the Souterhn California Floral Industry (?). In this organization, we had as many on the board of directors as did the American Flower Company. In other words, we were always neck and neck with them.

"Since our return, we have not pushed this, we have preferred to sit back and look into the situation more before we send any representatives. They have done many things during our absence that does not please us. For instance, they set a time in the morning when the retailers can come in to buy their goods. During the past, it was 6 am, now it is 6:30 am, but it is not followed. During the rush season like Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day etc, the retailers like to come early, and then go back to their shop to put out the display. In the same way the growers like to get their selling over with.

History of the So-Cal Flower Mket Inc.'s Return.

"I was evacuated to <sup>M</sup>anzamar, but I made three trips to Los Angeles to look the situation over. I made an extra trip, altho we were limited to three because on the last one it was a funeral. I then went to Gila, Poston, Chicago, and Hart <sup>M</sup>ountain to tell the people about the condition in Los Angeles. Then when I came back to Los Angeles, we set up an office in Japanese town, where most of the <sup>J</sup>apanese came and went.

"When we left for camp, we leased our place and they changed the name to the Los Angeles Flower <sup>M</sup>arket. Their lease expired on February 1946, but we extended it to September 1st, 1946, just a month and half ago because we did not think it was ripe in February. In the summer, the flowers do not move too fast because people go on vacations etc.

"It was difficult for the growers to get land. The isseis would not lease lands, and most of this was done through their sons who had been in the army.



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T. Sasaki

Southern California Flower Market Inc.

"The main reason that we postponed, or extended the lease was because we wanted to study further the conditions in the Flower Market. There had been many changes during the war. Many of the growers went in for large scale farming up to around 50 acres. For a family, a 15 or 20 acres is just about all they can handle. When it goes up to 30 acres, the cost of labor is too high. This was especially true during the war years so the large growers did much of their work with machineries. Labor went up as high as \$1.50 an hour, but it has come down to around .80 or .70.

"We had given the power of attorney to Wright, and gave the rights to collect rent to a real estate company. Every month they sent in statements. The Manager of the Los Angeles Flower Market also kept me informed on certain things, but it was not detailed, and we could not find out what the real situation was unless we came here to see for ourselves.

"Then, the second reason why we had to postpone, or extend the lease was because not many of our members were back. We had difficulty in finding them land because of many conditions which are not peculiar only to the Japanese. Land prices have gone way up, and if they wanted to sell, they could have sold them for high prices. Many of the properties that the Japanese had were now subdivided, or became too close to the town when the towns began to grow. There was vandalism in certain parts when they heard that the Japanese would come back. The cost of machinery and equipment was high, and in most cases they could not be had. Galvanized pipes, for instance, so necessary cost about twice as much in the black market, if they could be gotten. Flats, were not on the market. And many other things that were necessary could not be had. And if they were available, they cost too much.



Southern California Flower Market Inc.

"They had to have cheese cloth, and that was almost impossible to get. There are two types that are used, the 24x28, and 28x32 (per square inch). The cotton manufacturers were sending all of their stuff overseas as gauze. The cheese-cloths that we used to use were of that fine quality.

Areas finally resettled.

"One of the first boys to come back was a boy who used to grow flowers in San Fernando. He had leased his land each year from the same owner and used only about 15 acres or so out of the 125 that the owner had. It was away from the highway, and town, on the foothills. He was one of the wealthier ones. Others in San Fernando found that the town had grown so much that where they had grown flowers before were too near the city. There was a lack of water because the residences used most of it. One thing and another prevented some from going back there.

"Dominguez Hill, on the way to San Pedro is another place where the Japanese use to grow many flowers. Here, the Mexicans and Filipinos had moved in after the Japanese evacuated, and there were no houses available. There was less land because all of it was being used. Those people had to wait at the Compton Gakuen until a house, or land opened up. There was pressure at first to keep the Japanese out, but that has passed.

"In Redondo, the people wanted to keep the Japanese out, and for a long time they did so. But it has recently been opened.

"Gardena was a funny place. The Japanese came back to look at their green-houses and property and found them in good shape. When they came back to resettle permanently, they found that between their first trip, and their second, all of the windows were broken, equipment and hose missing, and the place damaged considerably.

"Montebello has always been a town filled with discrimination. When some of the growers went back there, they told them that they did not want their business.



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T. Sasaki

Southern California Flower Market Inc.

The mayor, the police, and other public people knew these people well, and because of pressure from Wilcox and Gronn, who have their places across the street, the Japanese had a difficult time. But they are back there now.

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"Out of the 159 members, about 10 have gone back to Japan, 10 are back east. Between 125 and 130 are back in Southern California. Only 50 of these members are growing now while about 30 are either share-cropping with others, or are working as laborers. Some of them have made good arrangements whereby they will take over the land when the others want to quit. In this way, they will not be moving away, or looking for land. They will know the land they work in.

"The important thing is that the grower get at least a 3 year lease. This is necessary because it takes one year to put in one crop. For instance in San Fernando, it is primarily a winter crop. They put in the seed in June, and around Christmas to Memorial Day the flowers go to the market. Then they start all over again. The investment is high, and unless they can put in one crop as soon as it is harvested, to have a continual flow of flowers into the market, they cannot make ends meet.

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From this point, I thought I would ask questions to fill in a few gaps that I had in my mind.

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TS. What are the services given by the Association to its members?

Y. "There are many advantages in being a member, and the fee of \$2,000 is soon repaid. Our income is derived from the rentals from the 9 stores in the building. We also collect rent from the flower market parking lot from the growers, and the retailers who buy the flowers. After this rush period is over, we open up the lot to the general public.



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T. Sasaki

Southern California Flower Market Inc.

"We have also for rent these trucks that you see in the market. They are rented for use in hauling flowers in and out of the market. The money collected from this special thing is placed in a special fund. Anytime some member dies, we give them \$500. This is usually enough to take care of their burial expenses.

"Other things we do is to buy merchandise for resale. We charge a small handling fee, but otherwise our supply department does not make money. For instance, Black Leaf 40, an insecticide so necessary for growing flowers cost around \$12.50 in the stores for 10 pounds (one gallon), but we sell it for about \$11.00. We have some seeds outside that would sell for \$15.00 a pound at the seed stores, but we sell it for \$10.00. Sweet Pea seeds costing \$4.50 a pound, we sell for around \$2.50. Besides these things we handle cheese-cloth, flats, and many other things essential to flower growing. Altho it does not look as though the growers are saving much money when only one item is counted, when these are multiplied, they amount to quite a bit of savings.

The counters for instance, to members we have reduced the price 10%. After we moved in, we found that our members could not fill in all of the counters, so we opened it up to other non-members, both Japanese and whites. But still, at the last board meeting, we decided to cut 10% off of the counter rent for members.

We have also done away temporarily the membership fee of \$3.00 a month. They have to pay \$1.00 a year, however, but not the \$3.00 a month. This means a saving of \$36.00 a year.

"We have also waived another by-law, that none of the members can sell flowers belonging to other non-members. We did this because many of the non-members cannot market their flowers otherwise. We are mainly interested in getting again a firmer foothold in the Flower industry.



Southern California Flower Market Inc.

The Future.

TS. What of the future, will the Japanese come back?

Y. "I think there is a great future. It is better in outlook than before. The reason for this is the air express. The market is not limited only to the West Coast Area. Before the war the members might travel to San Francisco to look at the market, but no-one ever went east. From the Relocation Centers many of the boys, and the isseis have gone to the various large cities in Texas, Chicago, Minneapolis, Denver etc, and know of the markets existing there. And with the best ability to grade flowers, they can compete with the best growers in the country. You take the Mexicans, Filipinos, or Whites, they cannot grade the flowers very well. In those that are shipped, they all must be first grade. If you have one second grade in a dozen, then your merchandise loses its value. They will buy from other sources. This particular advantage, I think the Japanese have over the other growers. During the war the White ~~farm~~ growers got away with large scale flower growing, but I don't think the public will stand for second grade goods. Already many of the people who used to buy from the Japanese have come back because they know that they can get the best flowers from the Japanese.

"One of the biggest disadvantages was in the loss of good seeds. Before the war the growers would put aside two, or three rows every year and take the best seeds. For the past four or five years they were not able to do it, and their seeds were no good. The seeds cannot last that long. The seeds they buy from the Seed Companies are not always what they claim them to be, so the Japanese will have to spend the first few years experimenting, and then getting the seeds back to their pre-war quality.



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T. Sasaki

Southern California Flower Market Inc.

TS. What about the parts played by the isseis and niseis, in your association, and also in the growing end?

Y. "We are forming a corporation, with the stocks going to the niseis of the members of the Association. In this way, when we are gone, they can continue to work as they have without having to organize all over again. At present, there are about 8 isseis to 1 nisei members. Before the war it was about 15 to 1. And altho many times it is the niseis who do all of the work, the issei still control the membership. But there is a gradual transfer to the niseis because it is much easier for them to do business. This is particularly true if they are ex-GI's. They can talk, and get goods that would be impossible for the isseis.

"In our board now, there is one nisei member. You see, the oldest nisei is around 40 years old. Many of them are much younger. And although they can handle the sales, and the growing, they still need the advice of the isseis. However, there is a change that took place over evacuation. Before the war the isseis wanted to make their money and then go back to Japan. Now, they want to stay here. They see that the future entrusted into the hands of the niseis will mean that they will adopt newer methods of growing, and better quality of flowers. When they expand to eastern markets, it is the niseis who will do all of the work. The isseis will stay back on the growing end. Yes, I think the niseis will make their future in the flower market.

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At 11:30, I told Mr. Yagi that I appreciated his time, and if I could, I would like to come back sometime to gather up some loose ends. He said that he would be glad to answer any question, and also give me any information that might help out.



# 112  
Los Angeles (1)  
17 October 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

On my way to the Pilgrim House to attend the Nisei Council Meeting for the coming Testimonial Banquet for the GIs, I accidentally bumped into Tosh Takeda, of San Jose, who is the sales representative for the Meadow Gold Creamery. He spends about half of his time in Los Angeles, and the other half of his time in northern California. His job seemed a good one, one unusual for a nisei, and I was curious as to how he managed to get the job, and what his sentiments were on the average run of the nisei job possibilities. I happened to mention that some of the boys were having a pretty tough time, and he began talking about his own experience. This, I welcomed, and after talking for about a half an hour in a hall-way of the Miyako Hotel, we went to the Nisei Sugar Bowl for a cup of coffee which paid our rent in the place for the next two hours.

He revealed much about San Jose, but much more on his own experience as the only nisei salesman on the firm.

I knew Tosh Takeda back in 1937-40, when I used to go up to San Jose to pick Apricots. His store was located on Jackson Street, a soft drink stand and candy shop. I would go in for a coke, candy, or what ever it was that my palate seemed to need at the moment, and with the rent paid, I would sit and talk to him for hours. He was a quiet fellow, without much to say, but whatever he did say, he surely must have thought out for some time. I did not know at the time that he owned the building, or what sort of ambition he had. He was happily married, and seemingly settled. He looks somewhat like Will Rogers, with a slightly jutted out lower jaw, but without the sharp nose. His hair was combed in the same manner, except that it was probably better controlled. He was dressed in a top coat over his suit.



Los Angeles (2)  
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T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

I asked Tosh to tell me about his experience in relocation and he began.

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TT "I came back from the east in February 1945. When I got home, I went into my house and somebody threw a brick through my window. I called the police and they said that the next thing they would probably do was to shoot bullets into the house so that the best thing to do was to barricade the door with mattresses etc. They said that they couldn't watch the place all the time. We slept in the back without lights for a couple of weeks, and when we occupied the front place, we had to spend a couple of weeks cleaning up the place. The furniture we had were replaced with shabby stuff, and there were bottles of "piss" all over in mayonnaise jars, and children's (feces) dropped here and there. There was such a foul odor that we couldn't stand it. The Chinese that was taking care of the place renting it out to different people didn't watch it too carefully, and everytime somebody moved out, they took something with them. We found our basement ransacked, and except for a few fixtures, there wasn't much left.

"When we left, the Chinese wanted to buy the place, and asked me how much I wanted for it. I told him that \$12,500 would be good. But he said that it was too much. Then he wrote later, and I reduced the price to \$10,000. Then again to \$7,500. But he said it was still too high. But when I think of it now, it was a good thing that I hung on to the property.

"Even when I came back, I went to the Loan Company to pay off the \$1,200 mortgage out of the \$1400 that we had, and tried to get a loan to improve the place. I wanted to remodel it so that I could get an income from it. But he wouldn't give it to me. The lawyer who was taking care of it also told me to sell it. They wanted to pay me \$2,500 for it. I told him to go to hell. The Insurance that I had on the building was still in force, and I wanted to take out another policy, but the company wouldn't give it to me. Later, after I got the place remodeled, he came around to sell me insurance, but I said nothing doing.



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T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

"In the meantime, my boy got appendicitis. I had to take him to the hospital, and that was more expense. We had to cash in our bonds to pay up for it. We were really down and out.

"The lawyer wanted to know what I was going to do. He said that I couldn't get a job anyplace, and called up a packing shed to see if they would give me a job. They said no, but I told the man that I would get a job somehow even if I had to wash dishes. I went to the USES and they referred me to the Hotel De-Ansa as a dishwasher. But when I got there, the Filipinos gave me a dirty look and I knew that I wasn't wanted.

"Then I met a friend fellow from the Council for Civic Unity, who told me that he knew a fellow who wanted a machinist, and asked if I knew anything about it. I told him I didn't, but was willing to learn. So for about five months I worked at a place making artificial limbs. After December, after the war was over, the work fell down, and I knew that I had to get into something else. So in the meantime I contacted my former boss, and tried to sell him the idea of putting me back on the payroll. He was leary because he didn't know what the reception would be. In the meantime of course, the company was bought out by the Meadow Gold Creamery.

"About two years before evacuation I began getting tired of the cold drink stand, and so I jokingly told the Company Manager that I would like work for him. Somehow he took me up on it, and sent me out on the road. I was doing pretty well, but at that time, things were getting darker and darker for the Japanese. The China War, boycotts, and finally the war against the U.S. So in February I quit, and then moved out in March.



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"In January, 1946, the boss told the President of the Company that I wanted a job, and that I had worked for the company before. The President told him to give me the job. Of course, at that time I wanted to look around a little more, so I went on the road on the Company's car and made a survey. I came back and told them that there was a future in the Japanese business, and talked him into it. I told him that I wanted to be fair, so that I would start at \$200.00 a month plus expenses. Then if I made good, I would ask for a raise.

"They were afraid at first, but I told them that I would prove to them that I was right. The other employees wondered why I was being hired again when there wouldn't be any use for it. They all of course talked behind my back. But that attitude has changed, and they are saying that the President was smart in hiring me. That he knew what he was doing. Of course, what they don't know is that I had to sell the president the idea of hiring me.

"At first, of course, I had to confine my work with the Japanese. In Sacramento, one person wanted to start again a soft drink place that he had never operated before. ~~had the same name as the one he had before~~ He heard that Borden's ice cream was the best, so he was going to use Borden's Products. I had to sell him differently. Since he had no experience in the Soft Drinks outfit, all he thought he had to do was to put a scoop of ice cream in a dish and put it out. I taught him all about the fountain work, and everytime I go to his place, he treats me like a man sent from heaven. He opened up last March and put in \$5,000, and he has already paid up for it. From now on it will be gravy.

I worked the same thing in San Francisco. A man owned a fountain before the war, and he wanted to buy a place owned by a colored lady. At that time, the President told me to keep an eye on the situation because the colored lady was a good customer. So it was keeping an old account, and making a new one, without antagonizing anyone.



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Economic Adjustment.

"I went up to Frisco to size up the situation and told the President that I would keep an eye on it. In the meantime, the Japanese wanted to know how much he should pay for the fixtures. I took him around to some second hand stores to get a line on the prices. Then we went back, and the colored lady came around to finish the deal. She wanted to go to the lawyer, so I drove them in my car. They asked me what kind of business I was in, and I told them that I owned property in San Jose. After the deal was closed, we walked downstairs, and after we got in the car, I asked the lady if she was satisfied. She said she was, beaming all over, but she was wondering about the Japanese. He was satisfied too. So, I told them that I worked for Meadow-Gold. She was glad to hear that and praised the company.

"Then, I ~~said~~ told them that I would take them out to dinner on the company. So I asked the lady where she would like to go, because if she were refused, then it would be her own doing. If I took her, then the company would be to blame. So we went to the Manning's Coffee Shop. We sat at one table, with three empty chairs. No-one sat there in spite of the restaurant being crowded. Finally two foreign looking ladies came and sat down.

"Then I reported to the company, and told them what had happened, they were surprised, and tickled at the way I handled the situation. They told me that I should be a diplomat, and a coordinator.

"In that way, by helping out new customers, I have been able to maintain the highest sales. And I have had new customers, that I took away from other companies. When I went out to see if I could get some of the hakujin and Chinese business, they were surprised that nothing happened except that I got their business.

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There are a number of other incidents which Takeda brought; but are similar to the stories above. He has put himself in a position where the president and the vice president have much respect for his judgement, and they rely on his



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Economic Adjustment.

decisions. He is the only man ~~xxx~~ outside of the vice president who covers both the north end and the southern end. He is sometimes referred to as the coordinator since he knows the front line activities on both ends. When he returns north, they ask about the south's activities, and vice versa.

He has already be given two raises. The first, \$50.00, and the second, \$25.00 and he hopes before he is through to be up in the \$500.00-\$600.00 bracket. This, the president said he would get if he could produce, and Takeda is out to show that he can.

In a contenst whereby there is a prize of \$1000.00 for each division, he is at the top of the sales division. This, he states is because all of his sales are new. The others have to sell over and above their average of last year.

In speaking of possibilities for other niseis in Caucasian Companies, he said that there is a growing opportunity, but that they must go after it. The GIs especially, he feels should push themselves because they can show that they are veterans. But the trouble with most niseis is that they do not half try.

One rebuff, and they don't try again. Up to the time of war, things for the niseis were getting darker and darker. Now, they will get brighter and brighter because they are known all over the nation, and have proven themselves.



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Sasaki

(1)

#  
113

Social Adjustment

Mr. Tanaka is a long time member of Little Tokyo businessmen circle. He is a photographer, and owns the new Photomart store where he will sell cameras etc. But more important is the fact that he is strong member of the Union Church, and a man filled with the ~~manix~~ drive to see that the young people have their say, and his vision is beyond the mere near future. His family consists of his wife, a boy 27, and a girl about 25. The girl is married and has just made Mr. Tanaka a grandfather. The boy intends to get married in January.

He wanted to know what kind of work I was doing, and when I explained to him the nature of the work, he immediately said, "It is too early. Everyone is unsettled, and I think it is best to get a few of those who are the leaders, and who know the general conditions. I say this because most of the Japanese will not talk about their condition. In the first place, they have been questioned too many times already, and they will say, 'I don't know, I don't know'. It is a difficult thing, and it will require a lot of 'psychology' to get information. It is like this. You ask a woman her age, and she will not tell you. So you have to put various things together and then deduce her age. In the same way, the conditions that the Japanese are in now will have to be worked out that way."

Since Mr. Tanaka seemed inclined to do a little talking, I posed a few questions just to keep the conversation moving. (Int in Japanese)

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TS. Do you know anything about the trailer camps?

Mr. T. "Only that they are a bad place for children. There is a condition similar to that that we had in the camp. In my block 27 at Fort Ord, there was a bachelor barrack, and a number of married people without children.



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Social Adjustment.

"These people use to talk, and behave in front of the children in such a way that all of the training that the parents gave was no good. Of course my children were already grown, and had evacuated early, but there were quite a number of other children who were in the growing stages.

"One day, after I had enough of it, I called a meeting at the mess hall and told the people that they should be careful of their speech and behavior in front of children. Their life was only good for another 4 or 6 years, while the children still had a lifetime ahead of them.

"The trailer camp in Burbank is the same way. There, only Japanese are living together with a few veterans in the outskirts. But most of their living is together. The children are picking up all kinds of bad habits that they see. The older folks are neglecting them in their education and training. The damage done now will stay with them for years and years. I don't see why the people don't try to move out as fast as they can into something better. TS. But where can these people go?

Mr. Ta. "I don't know, but if they looked around, they would be able to find someplace. They can't go in as domestics because they have too many small children. And when people go as domestics, it breaks up the family, which is still a worse thing. The parents then have no control, or relationship with the children. I know of some families whose mother works here, the father works there, and the children live in hostels or hotels. They are drifting further and further apart. But it is the only way they can live, and earn money.

TS. "What do you think will be the future in a situation like that?

Mr. T. "I don't know, but I think that the quality of the people will go way down, and the people are becoming more and more like the American people. They are losing their pride, and their identification with Japan. No matter what one says, Japan has much to contribute to this country, but the Japanese in this country are leaving them, and are taking over the bad things that this country offers.



Social Adjustment.

TS Will your son come back from New York later?

Mr. T. "He is working in the Securities Exchange and I wonder if it is a good thing for him. When they handle money in terms of thousands, and ten thousands, they don't like to handle small money. If he does come back, it would be good for me. I could take it easy. But he has his own future, and He has his own way of thinking. Niseis should be given a chance to get into anything they like because their life is ahead of them. The niseis should not try to limit the possibilities of the niseis.

"I remember once before the war there was a discussion among the niseis about the feasibility of going to college. There were arguments back and forth, and one young man got up and said that it was useless to go to college because after all, all of those graduates were still polishing apples. The boy was obviously coached by some preacher, or priest, and he tried his best to argue against going to college. I didn't say anything, but no matter what they said, college will not get a man a better job, but he will be better prepared for it, if and when he gets it. A college man polishing apples usually can see far beyond just polishing the apple. The grammar school graduate can only think of the apple he is polishing.

"For instance, a boy I know in New York quit his job as a draftsman at a rather good salary to take a job in Detroit to work in the City Planning Division where he can do architectural work on some proposed buildings. He is making much less, but he is having much greater responsibilities. He can point out later that he designed certain buildings. These are the intangible things that he looks forward to. A man not so well educated will think only in terms of the money that the job brings in. That is what is happening to many niseis in Los Angeles. They are taking the jobs that pay the best, not the jobs that have the brighter future.



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10 October 1966  
FBI

Random Jottings.

# 114

Little Tokyo Gangsterism.

From my informants among the younger set, the biggest thing that has happened in Los Angeles amongst them is a ride that an ex-GI was taken on. A quiet fellow had won the heart of a fair lass, and her former fellow, also an ex-GI, torn with jealousy got his gang together and took the first fellow out for a ride. They followed him into the country, squeezed his car to the side of the road, and at the point of a gun forced him to take a merciless beating. They kicked his face to a pulp, threw away his car keys, and left him in a semi-conscious state until the Long Beach Police picked him up.

A similar type beating occurred in Salt Lake City, according to the informant. There again, the same gang led by "Boner", of Boston fame beat up one of the boys taken down by Don Cupid. Talk amongst the boys is that the jilted lover has lost all of the respect of the fair damsel, while the victim's stock has risen.

Jacl takes over the CRDU

The long standing feud between the Jacl and the CRDU has finally culminated in the Jacl taking over the CRDU. It is probably a mistake to say that the feud existed between the Jacl and the CRDU, and more accurate to say that the former leaders of Little Tokyo did not have faith in the leader of the now defunct CRDU. However, one cannot get away from the fact that personnel in both Jacl and CRDU did not think too highly of each other.

In analyzing the situation, the two organizations do not seem to be understood in their purpose by the general public. Most people think that it is unnecessary to have two organizations doing the same work. Twice as much expense is involved in having the two office, and personnel. What is not generally known is actually, the functions of the two organization is different, and that the best working organization would be in having separate offices, but close coordination between the two offices.



Random Jotting.

The Bambino fountain which opened today has already been rumored for sale at \$10,000. The fountain has been tied up for the past two months over the fact that the plumbing was unavailable. Since it was first in the blue-print stage, other fountains have come up, namely the Nisei Sugar Bowl on San Pedro. This Bowl is owned and operated by George Endo, rich flower grower of San Fernando and promises to be the hangout continuously for many Nisei. The Don and Key's Mel Shop is still headquarters for the veterans, but they have not been able to attract too many of the young Nisei families who also like to sit and chat in booths. The advantage of the Sugar Bowl to the Mel Shop is the fact that the Bowl offers booths.

Miyake Hotel.

One does not have to fight anymore to get by the line-up of Pro-girls. The office was moved downstairs to the main floor and the rooms previously used as offices are not also for rent. The Negro crowd that used to hang out in the lobby on the first floor now hang out someplace else.



Los Angeles (1)  
21 October 1966  
F. Sakai

Economic Adjustment - Wholesale Market.

#115

The "hole-sale" market before the war on 9th and San Pedro Street was studded with bill-board names such as Sun Produce, Venice Celery Distributors, Bay City Produce, Mikamaru Brothers Saws Bros, etc. My trip to the market this morning found most of the names changed to other more euphonic sounding names plus names such as Gomez, Sung, Lee, etc. In other words, when the Japanese were evacuated, these markets were taken over by the Caucasians, Mexicans, Negroes, and Chinese. The physical aspects of the market looked the same except for the change in names, and the small number of Japanese roaming about in the yard.

As I walked thru the yard I came across Mr. Makino, who is working on one of the yard space with others. He had come to Los Angeles a little more than a year ago, and since that time has been trying to get back in. It has been about six months now since they opened up. He is a man about 50, has been in the retail market business since 1924, and has had close connection with the wholesale market thru his business.

I explained to him my mission in Los Angeles, and being a talkative man, he did not need prompting to get started.

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The Wholesale Market is no good. The system has changed since we were here before the war. Then, the retailers pushed the produce and we could be sure to have the yard cleaned up about closing time. Now, there is only about half the produce, and twice as many consumers, but still there is a lot left over after a days work. Look around, and you can see the stacks of vegetables in every stall. (I did, and found every stall stacked with many crates of vegetables.)

When the hakujins began to get these big super-markets, they owned every thing in them. The vegetables was the best of their money-making thing. If they lost money in vegetables, they made money in their other departments.



Los Angeles (2)  
21 October 1946  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment--Wholesale Market.

Instead of buying three crates of vegetables, they buy only one. You take the price of the Romaine (lettuce), ~~it was~~ we sell it for .50 cents a crate.

But you buy it in the market, you pay 15 cents for a head. The same way with the cabbage, at one time we couldn't get .25 cents a crate for it, and yet you had to pay 6 cents a pound for it. The same way with cauliflower, we were getting 50 cents a crate for it, and yet at the store, my wife had to pay 30 cents for one head.

"Another tough angle is the fact that we can't buy the goods. We are not well established, like the other houses, and when they offer 5 cents more for the farmers goods, they are the ones who get the shipments.

"In camp, the people were saying, 'No more business with the lousy discriminating Caucasians', and they resolved to do a lot of things; but look at them now. The Japanese farmers will sell to anybody who will pay most for their stuff. And the niseis are the ones who are doing it. They are smart, you can't blame them. They are after the dollar just as much as anybody else, and if a Caucasian will give them most for their stuff, they'll sell it to them.

"Look at the stuff we have now, the spinach comes from a Filipino, the cabbage from a Mexican, the Romaine from a white man. There are a lot of Japanese farmers, but we get very little of their stuff.

TS. What do you think is the solution to getting back into the market?

N. "It will take time to get back in, but eventually we might get back in. The retail stores will have a tough time competing against these big markets that have learned how to display, and sell vegetables and fruits. It is no longer a monopoly of the Japanese.

"It took twenty years to build a chain of Japanese retail fruit stands,



Los Angeles (3)  
21 October 46  
S. Araki

Economic Adjustment-- Wholesale Markets.

They started out in Glendale, then around Pasadena on Colorado Blvd when it was still a "road", then they branched out to Westside Los Angeles. Westside was a "haiseki" (restricted) for a long time, and then finally one or two were established there in 1930. It was really from that year that the retail stands came into its own. Then with the evacuation it all fell off.

"It was easy to start the retail distribution centers then because they had control in the wholesale market for about 40 years. It took the Japanese 40 years to build up to where they were. Then there were the farmers to back up the wholesale markets.

"But what is the situation now? The isseis can't lease land. Farm equipment is high, and even if they can get land, there is no house available. The young ones are just screwed. The isseis who control the money want to hang on to it. There are quite a few market big shots, those who smoked cigars and wore white collars not doing gardening work. They went to make that fast money, and in a couple of years they'll take it easy. The isseis, they don't want to go back on the farm.

"You see, it all boils down to the housing situation. I know a family who was paying out \$4 dollars a month for rent. Then they have to eat out at every meal. Father, and the mother and one girl is working. Another girl is working as a domestic. They can't save any money. It is more the question of whether they are making ends meet or not.

"And there is the problem of training the kids. The boys and girls are now as wild as any kid you see anyplace, whether it is in Salt Lake City, Denver, Chicago or when they were in the camps. It is not so bad for the boys, but the girls, they go out with anybody that can show them a good time, and throw money away on them. It doesn't make any difference whether they are Negroes, Mexicans, hakujins. You can't blame them exactly, they have no home, and no-one at home tells them anything. And another thing, they are located in such a way that



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I. S. - ki

### Social Adjustment.

no-one knows them. They don't have to worry about what the other people thinks. They don't have the pride anymore. They started out in camps when they had no control over the kids at the dinner table. Then when the kids move back east, they found that they could do anything they want, and not have anybody call them down.

"It is between the ages of 16 and 21, that the kids need guidance, but they are not getting it. What will become of them, I don't know, but it is a problem.

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### Housing.

"When I came back, I bought a big house. First thing I knew, a friend said that he did not have a place to stay, and asked if I could spare a room. The next one had a friend who had to have a room, and so on. I charged \$25.00 a month rent for the rooms, and now there are three families, and two couples plus one single man staying at our place. They have no place to go, and I figure for the next two years at least the housing will be tight. And about that time they probably will have paid up for about half of my investment. And the way others are buying houses, it is an indication that the people want to stay in this country. It is not like before the war, when everyone wanted to make their money and go back to Japan.

"If the tenants were smart, they would buy an apartment in partnership, and then move out of my place. But I guess they are not that smart.

"The worse ones are those with large families, and who had no money when they were evacuated. They are living in trailer camps, and in the hotel rooms. In Venice, there are many people living in tents yet.

"The Canadians make a lot of publicity about their housing situation, but the Japanese keep quiet, and keep their problems to themselves. They can't squeak too much because if they do, they get sent back to Japan. It is, 'why don't you go back to the old country?' They're aliens, so I guess they can't say anything.



Los Angeles (5)  
21 October 1946  
T. S. Ki

Social Adjustment.--Orientation.

"I don't care what anyone says, it is because we are Japanese that within a year's time we have been able to get back as much as we have. The evacuation set us back at least one generation, and within six months actually, because most of the people started their businesses six months or so ago, we have taken back most of Little Tokyo, and the people are spreading out. Many have bought homes, and quietly, they have tried to get re-established. No other race could have done that. You take the hakujin (caucasian). I'll bet they would still be in the relocation camps demanding compensation from the government. But the Japanese, they lost all of their millions, and I'll bet within the six months that have just past, the Japanese have spent millions of dollars already to get back some of things that they lost.

"If it weren't for the evacuation, the Japanese would be sitting pretty. They would still control the market. They would have made the money that all of the Chinese, Mexicans and caucasians made. And they didn't know too much about produce, while the Japanese knew just about what there was to know. But try and get the markets back from the Chinese and the Mexicans. They want prices that are so high that it isn't worth it at half the price. And the big shots who were in the market know it, and they are sitting out. They are out making money in the gardening racket.

"I don't know how the nice fellows are going to make out. Most of them are looking at things temporarily. They say, 'I'll work here for a couple of months, and then I'll go back to Chicago, or New York.' They don't try to get a good permanent position. I don't know what is going to become of them.



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21 October 46  
Asaki

#116

Economic Adjustment.

After my talk with Akano in the wholesale market, I went over to the Cal-vita produce house to confer with Steve Iakushi and Fred Ota.

Steve lost his shirt farming in central California the past season, and is back in the market working as a salesman. Fred Ota worked for the Marusha Shoyu Company and food processors of Denver, and has been the distributor for the Southern California area. He is working part time in that job, and part time in the market in hopes of getting back into his own post. Before the war he was a salesman for the Bay City Produce Company, and during his evacuation years in Boston, he was the Manager of the Community Enterprise.

The talk was not so much about the market condition, as it was about the employment possibilities for the niseis. The only thing mentioned about the market condition was the Union. There is no discrimination against anyone working in the market, and they can join the union as long as they have a promise of a job. But for the wholesale market, they have to employ a certain number of non-Japanese in proportion of the Japanese hired.

Fred Ota was the spokesman.

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FO "The women in Los Angeles have gotten good jobs, but the boys aren't doing so well. I suppose it is because there are calls for stenos, and the girls are qualified for it. But for the boys, the ones out here at least, there are very few guys who can qualify for jobs offered. Even if there is a call for a certain type of an electrical engineer, none of the niseis have the qualification for the jobs.

"The boys have been turned down once or twice, and they give up. They just as soon get into something that will give them easy money, without their having to go out of their way to look for it. And gardening offers them that opportunity. All they have to do is to know someone who is a gardener, and he can get a job anytime.



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S. S. Ki

Economic Adjustment.

"The whole thing boils down to this. Those who are qualified for jobs, and who have the drive to look for them, are back east. There is nothing to bring them back to the West Coast. I was offered a job as a draftsman, but I don't have any training in it. Others I know are the same way. In Chicago, the International Harvester will hire Japanese, but out here, none of the factories will employ the niseis. But here, maybe the Japanese haven't tried hard enough to get the job.

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I went back into Nihon-machi to have lunch, and met Frank Yoshida, who was a longtime gardener before the war. He came back about a year ago to Los Angeles and told me that during the summer months he was making from \$800 to \$900 a month. He figured that the average man who made his money during the war is now spending it in fixing up their lawns etc.

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FY. "Before the war a guy had to go around to each place three times a week for one half we get now. Now we go only twice a week, and we get twice as much money for it. There is all kind of gardening work to be done, and we can just about get what we demand. Of course I know all the ropes, but even those who have just gotten started have no trouble making \$400 a month.

"Right now it is the slack season, and except for the big estates, the people don't want to put in fertilizer to keep their lawns up. In a couple of months it will be renovating time, and then we will have all the work we need again. Right now we are doing what is called clean-up. We charge \$30.00 for the job, and we can finish it in one day. If we get three jobs, it is \$90.00 a week. And even that isn't bad.

TS. Are you gardeners doing anything to protect yourself?

FY. "No, every Japanese is out for himself. That is one thing that is wrong



Economic Adjustment.

The Japanese can never form a successful corporation, or any other organization where they have money involved.

About a year ago the Japanese from Chicago put up about \$5,000 apiece and set up a boarding house, and a gardener's incorporated. The gardeners live at the place, and they undercut all of the other Japanese gardeners. Where a job brings \$15.00, they ask \$12.50. In this way they are lowering the price for the jobs. In the long run, they will be losing money.

Q How long do you think this boom will last?

A I give another year. One more year the average man who made his money during the war will spend freely. After that, I don't know what will happen.

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Frank's mother lives in Chicago where they operate a chop suey house. He has a brother, and a younger sister.

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Almost as soon as Frank was ready to leave, George Akahoshi, former Anchovie Club-member came in. Before I could begin to open my mouth he said that he was disgusted with this place. The people in Los Angeles he claims is going right back to their old way of living. They are concerned about petty jealousies, competition, and ingroup economic back-stabbing. He says that he is going to leave as fast as he can, but he has to wait until ~~sixteen~~ he can look over the situation a little more.

During the war George worked with the War Labor Board, then from January he ~~was~~ enrolled at the University of Chicago, where he majored in Econ. He came back because he was called up to the draft, but now with the draft holiday, he hasn't been doing anything.

George wants to go back to Chicago, and will go back within the month.



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23 October 1946  
Sasaki

#117

Economic & Social Adjustment.

I had coffee with John Yasukochi, and "Kori" (?), partner of Kumamoto of the Low Man Low Chop Sney House, and during the coffee hour several interesting things came out. One of them was the donations that the businessmen have to put up with. This, in particular with the coming testimonial dinner. A group of businessmen went around to different businesses asking for donation, selling each house on the fact that the other business contributed so much, therefore why don't you contribute \$10.00 more than he did. Many, according to John, felt that the niseis should have come around since it is the Nisei Council who is sponsoring the dinner. They feel that they will support the nisei but not the isseis. They feel that this is the beginning of a series of donation that are to come. Before the war, the businesses were obligated to donate to everything that came along to keep up their good-will. This particular thing caused many of the isseis to be interned. The Japanese Relief to which a number of isseis contributed was the reason why many of the isseis were forced to spend months, and in some cases years in an internment camp.

John Yasukochi is an example of an independent nisei. 35, with no capital. He wanted to start a service station and tire service on 9th and Crocker Street, but did not have the necessary capital to begin with. He offered \$5,000, but could not raise the amount. In the meantime, another nisei heard about the business, and immediately offered \$10,000. Naturally the owner wanted the business of the man who offered more, and who had the cash to put down on the line. Now Yasukochi is stuck with 150 tires until he can find a place to operate.

Koi, on the other hand is an example of a nisei whose family had all kinds of money. His brother in Denver made money processing Japanese foodstuffs and financed him in establishing the Low Man Low, in partnership with Kumamoto, former big shot in the wholesale market. After investing all kinds of money



Los Angeles (2)  
27 October 1966  
S.asaki

Economic Adjustment.

in fixing up the place, he has built up a good business. His trade comes not only from the regular banquets put up by the Japanese after weddings, funerals etc, but lately more so from the Caucasians who have been referred to the place by friends. The recent dinner given by the Church Federation familiarized the Caucasians on ~~other~~ dishes other than fried shrimp and chow mein. Mori feels that this is the beginning. He mentioned that the Kawafuku, a Japanese restaurant serving sukiyaki would not meet with too much success because the Caucasians were not too familiar with the food, and also because when it was opened only the city dignitaries were invited.



118

Economic adjustment -- Wholesale Market.

My visit to the market today was not as fruitful as I expected it might be. In the first place I was tied down in Japanese town with two young Nisei business-men, the interview of which is recorded for the 23rd and got to the market too late. The second reason was the fact that those that I did visit were too busy closing up their stalls. However, my interview with Ite Igasaki of the H and I produce revealed some interesting thing.

The number of stalls that the Japanese have now is about 13, most of which are operating under a dealer's license. These people can only go out on a radius of 80 miles for their farm produce, and then sell them. These people who have their stalls out of doors are the ones who are limited in their radius. They cannot sell merchandise on a commission basis because they do not have commission license. Igasaki appeared in court because some of the other houses reported the fact that they were selling on a commission. In order to protect themselves from State prosecution, it is safer for them to have the license, and were told to get them. This, altho in favor of the Japanese, was one of the means of keeping the Japanese out. The other houses were attempting to prevent the Japanese from getting commission licenses.

Other means of pressure is the reporting of unfair practices. One mole that Igasaki gave was that of coming to the market before the regulation time. Other houses were doing it, and so that Japanese began selling to the buyers from San Diego before the opening time. Only in the case of the Japanese were reports made.

Other houses are up for sale, but Igasaki maintains that the prices are too high. Before evacuation they moved out without getting anything for their goodwill, and very little for their equipment. Now, prices are up to \$15,000 for the goodwill. Some are as low as \$5,000, but they are in poor locations.



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Economic Adjustment--Wholesale Market

Most of the produce that the M & I gets is from the farmers in the Venice and Inglewood districts. In those areas, he says that there are from 30 to 40 farmers. The number of farmers in those districts can supply the Japanese owned markets, but not too many more. Four or five of the wholesale outlets buy from the same farm operator. There are also a number of Mexicans and Filipino farmers, but the quality of their "peaks" is not equal to those that are put out by the Japanese. Therefore these do not bring as good a price.

COPIES



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21 October 1966  
Saski

#119

Jael-GRDU

The Jael office on S. N. Edro Street was a hectic affair. The two secretaries and Scotty Tsuchiya were busy typing out invitations for the testimonial dinner and wrapping up the folders for the Proposition 13 argument to be mailed to different sections of California.

Scotty told me that Eiji Tanabe was at the other office, the GRDU office where he could work with a little more peace. I went over and found Eiji talking to a young lady, and Mr. Iijima talking to an elderly man. I left the office and returned about a half an hour later.

Eiji asked if I cared to go out for a coke with him so that we could talk a little more freely. We went to the Sugar Bowl.

I asked about the GRDU, and the claims sheets that the people were filling and he said that he was taking over the headache. He felt that the claims sheet was only a ruse to get the people to donate funds to the GRDU, and that in his opinion, there was no-one/ and no personnel to make a statistical study of the material. He felt sorry for some of those who filled out the questionnaire in good faith. In the course of the conversation he wanted to know if I would be interested in looking over the questionnaire to see what could be made out of them. I said that I would and made arrangements to come back that evening.

After supper I went back to the GRDU office and found Eiji typing out invitations. I took out the folder which contained the claim sheet. And out of the 10,000 mailed out, Iijima claimed that 3,000 were returned. But in examining the file, there were only about 150.

About one half of the 150 were mailed in from out-of-state. Only a half dozen or so were from those living in Los Angeles. The reason for this is the fact that the people have mistrusted the GRDU, and the Jael - suppose to be in charge of it as of a few weeks ago.



Jasl-<sup>C</sup> rdu

Another very noticeable thing was the blown-up estimated income figures. There were claims of estimated annual incomes of \$10,000 or more for period between 1938 and 1941. The thing is not clear whether it is the gross, net, or what type of income it is.

Perhaps the only thing that would be useful to us to see what the people are doing, as compared to what they were doing before the war. For instance, many restaurant-owners before the war indicate that they are working as dishwashers, or waiters. Cleaning-shop owners are now working as cleaners. Nursery-men are working as gardeners. Hotel-people are working as clerks. But with only approximately 150 returns, and they being sent in from all over the country, there is not much use that can be made of them.

I asked Mr. Lijima what his plans were, and he did not know other than being laid off at the end of this month. All of the CRDU officials are going out of existence, and the Jasl is going to take over the work.

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Los Angeles (1)  
October 16  
S. Sasaki

Social Organization.--Fair Play United.

Cabinet Members.

President-----Mrs. J. Sasaki  
Vice President---Koriyuki Onemura  
Exec. Secretary---Kiyoshi Kamoto  
Treasurer-----Toy S. Kamoto.

According to the Rafu Shimpo of 18 October, the Fair Play United's purpose is to promote and foster interest in the social, economic, financial, educational and civic phases for the Japanese residents. Its organizers are Yonemura, Nakamoto and Kiyoshi Kamoto.

The article aroused my curiosity, and I visited their office on 27 So. Broadway. No nameplate was yet visible, and if it had not been for Mr. Okamoto waiting for the elevator just as I was leaving the building, I probably would never have found it. We rode up to the third floor and went into an office, still bare except for a shelf of legal books, a table and chairs, and in the inner office, a desk and two extra chairs. Okamoto invited me to sit down and asked me my business.

Mr. Okamoto was wearing a dark brownish-grey sweater, sport shirt with a matching tie, GI slacks, and black shoes. He is a man about 50 with three front teeth missing, and when he smiles his face wrinkles up.

Mr. Okamoto was the organizer of the Fair Play Organization at Hart Mountain, and had come out of Leavenworth after having been in there for 18 months. He was cleared of charges of conspiracy and is now a free man. I thought I would get a little more background on the man and asked him some pointed questions.

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TS. What is the purpose of your organization?

O. "We feel that the Japanese should be compensated for their losses at the time of evacuation, and also during the war. The four years in camp has caused a good number of Mexicans, Caucasians and Negroes to profit in



Fair Play Unit

businesses left by the Japanese. The Evacuation has set the Japanese back one generation, and it will be another 20 or 30 years before the Japanese can come back to where they once were. We feel that the government should make some sort of compensation, and the only way to get it is through the courts.

The JACL has its own methods, and I have watched them for the past four or five years. They have shown no concrete results. The objective of both of our organizations is the same, but the method is different. We could bring up test cases, and it would cost only \$5,000. But we don't want to do that. We have to have a united front, 100,000 members if we can get them to fight in unity. Therefore we don't object to the JACL and its method. Of course while at Hart Mountain, the Denver JACL came out and used gangster methods on us. They put all kinds of pressure to prevent our organization from working.

TS. How did you get started in camp?

Q. "From Santa Anita I protested evacuation, and demanded a clarification of our status. People all turned against me as a trouble-maker. And it was not until the Selective Service came in that they saw what work I was trying to do. But it was too late. If we were organized before that time, we could have had a good program of protesting. Other camps followed suit, but they did not work out well either.

"They took me to Tule Lake, and there I also protested against the use of the Stockage. I wanted to protect the families of those who were in them. But the WRA, to keep me shut up, moved <sup>me</sup> to Leavenworth.

"Many of my boys were taken there, 40 in Leavenworth, about 60 in McNeil's island. We were not criminals, therefore we were not treated like one. But the atmosphere prevails that is spiritually weakening. I cannot



Los Angeles (2)  
21 October 46  
Saki

Fair Play Unit.

explain it, but unless one has a strong moral and spiritual character, he breaks down. And as soon as one of the boys showed signs of weakening, they take them away to the mental hospital.

"Someone told me that all of the boys are out now."

TS. How was it at Leavenworth?

O. "It is much nicer physically than these slums in Little Tokyo.

The hallway, and cells are spotlessly clean. We get a new change of socks every day, underwear, ever other day, clean sheets once a week, and as far as food is concerned, we don't get two meals that are the same through-out the week. It is a federal institution, therefore their standards have to meet certain standards. But the atmosphere is depressing.

"I worked in the kitchen peeling potatoes, and onions. I couldn't do any other work because I was sick. The other boys were given jobs as librarians. But when we first got there, we were all out to work shoveling coal, and that is hard work. We did not have to work, but the record went into the office so that when it came time for parole, it was all on our parole sheet.

TS. How do you expect to get funds to carry on with your work?

O. "Membership. Our charter is from the State, and we expect to get cooperation from the people through-out the state. I have told my men that we do not want to get donations unless we are in a pinch. I do not like to ask for donations because every Japanese organization asked for donation, and the people do not receive anything concrete for it. (This question was embarrassing because he thought at first that I had asked him how he was getting his personal funds. To this he said that he was mooching off of his friends for the past six months.



Los Angeles  
24 October 1961  
Saski

Fair Play United. Social Organization.

Is. What do you think is happening to the Japanese family

Q. You can't generalize, but when the Japanese were moved into camp, there were a lot of wolves, single issues who preyed on the vanity of some of these flippant women, with no brains. The women fell for it, and there were a number of cases where families were broken up. Right now in Los Angeles there are a number of families living separately, and the parents have no way to guide the children. It is not so bad with the boys, because of all nationalities, the Japanese males are the poorest lovers, the least aggressive. The women, on the other hand are not like that. They go out after what they want. The Japanese boys are so slow that they go out with anybody that can show them a good time. Consequently, they go out with Mexicans, Negroes and Caucasians. Therefore the girls present much more problem than the boys.

"I think it all goes down to the housing situation, but you can't segregate the Japanese and say that it is peculiar to them only. After every war, or catastrophe in world's history, there is a tendency for breakdown in morality. And morality all depends on what society you live in. If you live in Tibet or Mongolia, the women can have four or five husbands. In other places, men take more than one wife. In the United States, it is monogamy, but divorces are frequent.

"I have seen the prostitutes who these men all over town sometimes make the best wives. Other women who are supposed to be good, turn out to be the worst wives and mothers. So one can't generalize.



Los Angeles (5)  
21 October 1966  
Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

TS. What about the Japanese businesses, how do you think the future looks?

O. The Japanese are the worst bunch of cut-throating people in this country. And it all goes on among themselves. All up and down first street cut-throating went on in bidding for the businesses. But that did not begin after relocation. Many years before it started. For instance, in the Imperial Valley I had a friend who made arrangements with the owner to farm his land free of charge, if he cleared the land. He made money that year on cantaloupes, then other Japanese came and told the land-owner that they would pay him up to \$70.00 a year rent per acre. Today, it is the same thing. A friend of mine wanted to lease a parking lot. Another fellow heard about it, and outbid him. The same thing goes when it comes to collecting rent for a room. The Japanese are exploiting their own people.

"The Japanese cannot organize, and never will. Everyone is only interested in making his own money, and it only goes that far.

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Mr. Okamoto worked as a civil service worker in Hawaii as an engineer, then as a sugar technologist, and then came over to the mainland as a promoter. He promoted some acreage just before the crash in '29 and lost his shirt. Then for 7 years before the evacuation he was teaching in the Adult Education Department of the city of Los Angeles.



#121

Economic Adjustment. F lower Market, G rower.

Ed Yonai was behind his counter in one of the far corners of the market when I arrived on the scene at 8 o'clock. His counter was loaded with potted plants. The other counters had bunches of flowers scattered on the counters and still others were sold out. One which caught my eye was the one across the hall. There must have been about 250 bunches of flowers left over. They were grown by the Murphy Seed Store, a large outfit whose payroll alone mounted to \$7,000 a month. At a dollar a bunch, there was about \$250.00 worth of flowers left over at the end of the Market day. And according to Ed, the Murphy stand is that way every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Ed is a fellow about 35 years of age, and has been in the flower game for about 15 years. Since 1937, when his father died, he has been growing flowers with his brother-in-law near the Gardena High School, on Normandie Avenue.

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TS. How are things going?

EY. Not so good. For the past two weeks business has been slow. I guess the high cost of living is preventing people from buying flowers, which are luxuries. The prices on flowers have come way down; and it is pretty hard to make money because we have to work on such a close margin. Labor is way up, material is hard to get, and if a guy can get it, they have to pay all kinds of money for it.

TS. How did you get started?

EY. We own our own land, and property. At the time of evacuation, Mexicans and "Japs" offered to give us 5 cents on the dollar for our potted plants. Rather than doing that, we took a heavy loss by dumping our plants. We didn't take care of them and let them die. Then we saved the pots. At least that alone would be worth saving.



Los Angeles (2)  
28 October 46  
Sasaki

Economic Adjustment - Flower Grower.

We let one Mexican family live in one of the houses, and I rented my home which was across the street. It wasn't in bad shape when we came back.

The reason I took such a loss was because it takes about 1 1/2 months to grow the type of plants we grow. At that time, there was still 6 or 7 months to go, and we had already put in .75 worth on each plant. Then we sell them for \$1.50. Some of the other losses, I don't think we can estimate because there is no basis for estimating them. Our equipment depreciated, and rusted in. We have had to spend quite a bit of money to put them back in shape.

While we were in camp, this guy Schmitt, the Property Custodian tried to get rid of my stuff, and property. He would call me in about once a month, and tell me that the Japanese will never get back into California, so that the best thing would be to sell our property and equipment. Just to give you an example. I had a 1937 truck, which was worth \$700. He called me in one day and told me that some-one had offered \$150.00 for it. I told him I didn't want to sell it. The whole thing sounded fishy to me because he told me that there were no tires on it, and it wouldn't run. I wrote my lawyer to check on it, and he told me that all they had to do was to fill the tire with air, and put gas in the tank, and away she went.

I went back to see Schmitt, and told him off. I told him right to his face that he was getting a cut out of each thing that he sold. He didn't bother me after that, and I think he felt guilty because if he wasn't getting a cut, he would have gotten sore. He scared a hellava lot of guys into selling their property and around Gardena. I know of a lot of families who sue out, and they were sold only a few months before the West Coast opened up too.



Los Angeles (7)  
28 October 1946  
t. Waki

Social Adjustment.  
Economic Adjustment--G power.

"But some of these people should deserve it. I thought the people earned something while they were in camp, but they are worse now than they ever were. They cut-throat each other and instead of banding together into a cooperative group, they are all out for themselves. In a way you can't blame them, but in a long run, if they keep it up, they'll be the loser.

TS. How do you think you will make out this year?

EY "My investment is long term. I planted my first crop in July, and they will be ready for market next October. All of these things you see on the counter we can put out in four months, but there is no money in them.

I put them out so that we can have pocket money.

"Labor, seeds, fertilizer, etc are all paid for in cash. Everything goes out, and nothing comes in. And since I have been out of the market since the evacuation, methods have changed, and I don't know what to expect. I am taking a gamble just like the rest of these growers.

"During the war prices of flower increased 600%, and quite a few new growers came in. The first couple of years, or right after the evacuation, the hakujins cleaned up on the stuff that the Japanese had grown. All they had to do was to harvest the crop and sell them. Then it got tough, and when the U.S. started to win the war, then the prices on flowers went up.

"Now, those who had 5 acres of flowers last year have put in 15 acres. Those who had 15 acres, have put in 45. So the market is flooded with all kinds of flowers, and we have to push the flowers if we have to sell them. Then we also have competition from other regions. If we are going to ship out flowers, other places are going to ship in flowers.

When bad times come, the Filipinos and Mexicans will drop out, and a number of cowboy flower growers will also drop out. During the depression years, there was not a single grower quitting. They didn't make money, but they did make a good living. And I think the next depression will show the same thing. But a lot also depends on how we make out this coming year. Most of



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Saki

Economic adjustment--flower grower.

us have put in just about all we have.

IS. Do you have any particular problems facing you?

EX. It is the same as with most of the others. Plants (wooden boxes) and clay pots are hard to get. They are hard to get for anybody. They have only a certain number, and the business houses like to give them first to their own customers. And there is usually none left for the others.

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From Ed's place I moved over to Fred Auto's stall. Fred is one of the bigger growers out San Fernando way. He was back last year, and until the Southern California Flower Market came back into existence, he was selling his flowers to shippers on consignment, and in the market itself where he had to pay 20% commission.

Fred felt the same way as Ed did, prices were down at pre-war level, but wages, material were way up, and the margin of profit is small. And for it Fred says, "I've been up since 12 o'clock, and after I get home, I'll have to work until sundown. Then I'll work all day tomorrow, and then will get up at 12 midnite again to get ready to come to the market. 18 hours a day is a lot of time to spend to make money."

He also mentioned that the Biltmore company had put in a good deal for the Japanese at Harbor City, 180th and Avalon. They give them land, a house if one is available, seed, fertilizer etc. The Japanese put out the labor and get 75%. 25% goes to the Biltmore Company. About 10 families are out there trying to make a comeback. Ed feels that if such a set-up were a fact, then it is not a bad deal.



Los Angeles (1)  
28 October 46  
F. S. K1

#122

Social Organization... Flower Market.

Frank A. Uehara seemed busy in the office so I waited until he was through and then suggested that we go out for coffee. He said that he couldn't drink coffee because of a weak stomach. He said later that he had too much hel, which was the fore-runner of ulcers.

Frank said that he was busy, and up in the air over the things that were happening. After a year and four months of battle to get the niseis in the helm around the flower market, he finally succeeded in getting the corporation started. Five boys are at the bottom of it. Fred Auto, I shida, Frank A. Uehara, George A. ndo, and some else I didn't get.

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FA. "These isseis are just as bull-headed as they were in camp. For a year and four months I've been trying to get them to give the power to the niseis. These isseis would try like hell to get something, and they fool around for weeks. One of us niseis get to the phone, and in no time we get what we want. I've tried to tell them of the advantage in having niseis at the head because of a peddling business, but it took them a year and four months to catch on.

TS. "What is the corporation about?

FA. "I'm the president of it. And I am also the secretary of the Southern California Flower Market. We want to take over the purchasing, supply, and all the rest of the business of the Social Flower Market, and let the isseis run the market itself. We'll sell stocks, but not just yet because we want to get set ourselves first. We'll take over about the first of the month.

"The isseis up to now have operated in a slipshod manner. They don't keep books, and they are too old to learn. Some of the better business-men are in favor of it, and that again I think ran true in camp. The politicians who



Social Organization

knew what they were doing didn't object to the Community Council composed of niseis. Those ignorant guys who never had any experience in their lives were the ones who made such a stink. Here, the successful business men say that in five or ten years, it will be an all-nisei show, therefore let them take control now. They also know that the niseis can get the stuff where they can't. Maybe that is why they are the successful business-men.

TS. What about nisei backing?

FK. Most of them are backing it up.

One of the things that I learned to do in camp was to sit back patiently and take whatever was coming, waiting for the opportune time to push my own program and objective. To give you an example. Some guys still come to me and say that 30% given to the Community fund out of the Camouflage factory was good. They think now, they would have been willing to give 60% if they continued it throughout. Instead, a helluva lot of them wanted the damned thing shut down before it even got started. They could have made a pretty good pocket-ful of money.

All the crap I take out here, if it were before the war, I would have taken a sock at the guys. But for a year and four months I've taken all that crap, but it is working out just as I planned.

TS. What is your background in this so-called lower market.

FK. I've been secretary for 11 years. I'm the only nisei on the board, and so I know just about what is going on. But what kind of compensation do I get. Nothing. But this year, maybe I'll get \$1,000, if they feel like giving it to me. That is the trouble with the Japanese. They feel that a guy should work without compensation. They feel that the guy owes it to them. You take the president of the Nihonjinkai before the war. He did all of the work, put out most of the money, and then got kicked in the pants.



Los Angeles (7)  
2nd October 1966  
F. Maki

Social Organization--Lower Market.

TS. How are you getting along, personally?

FM. "Well tom, I'll tell you. I did pretty well last year, and if I wanted to I could have worked a small scale and make a good living. But what the hell, I've got to be doing something, which partly accounts for my stomach, so I've put everything I made, and everything else into some land, and the Guyule in Belmont. I figure that if I hit I'll make big money; if I don't, I'll lose my shirt.

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Frank Luwehara worked in the Agriculture Department in Boston, was the production manager for the Camouflage factory, and also the chief collaborator with Emerson of Caltech on the Guyule experiments.



Social Organizations.

Nisei Council Meeting.

Los Angeles (1)  
28 October 1966  
Yamazaki

X123

The last meeting for the testimonial banquet was held tonight at the How Nan Low located on San Pedro St. and 1st. Final reports of all of the committees were given as well as reports on the progress of the Veterans' sign-ups and ticket sales.

Before the meeting I had a short chat with Rev. Yamazaki R. during which time he expressed the difficulty he had in meeting his church-members at home. He wanted to know what progress I was making and I told him also that it was difficult to meet the people at home in the evenings. His problem was in getting them before they went to bed in the early hours. To meet it, he said that he would invite himself to sit at the table during dinner. Although some people did not seem to like it, he managed to get to talk to them. If he did not do this, they would immediately prepare themselves for bed, or get immersed in the newspapers before hitting the sack.

The main emphasis of our chat was his expression of the hard work the people are doing. They are trying to recoup some of the fortune they had failed to make during the war while in camp. This activity tended to keep everyone busy with their own problems and anything outside of this sphere was considered out of place. Organizational work is beginning to come in, but slowly, and for the next two or three years everyone will be busy earning money.

The YWCA problem is still in the air. The Y Board is embarrassed because they did not know that the Japanese had paid for the building and had legal title to the building. The Japanese women are determined to get back the building even if they have to take it to court and an invitation by the Y board recently to discuss the situation was turned down by the women. They still feel that it should first be returned to them, after which they might consider a Y program. Rev. Yamazaki hopes that the women will consider



Los Angeles (2)  
28 October 46  
T. Saki

Social Organization.

the Y program since ownership and the program are entirely two different things. A meeting of the women is supposed to have been held tonight in.  
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A report from A. Agawa, veteran of the South Pacific indicates that more than 500 veterans have signed up for the dinner. Approximately 30 couples invited as guests have signified their intention to attend but this return is still incomplete. Wives of veterans, who will be able to come for half price, \$2.50, is still not entirely in.

The flower decoration will be interesting. Charles A. Florist will design a discharge button and a gold star which will be prominently displayed with spot-lights as the serious part of the program begins. He stated that the flowers could be, and probably would be donated by the Flower Market Association so that the only charge would be for the containers. This could be obtained for about .25¢ apiece. Corsages for the hostesses, and the Gold Star Mothers would also be donated. Orchids are in line for the Gold Star Mothers, while gardenias will probably come from the San Lorenzo Nursery.

The entertainment question was perhaps the most interesting thing discussed. Henry Hye made a report but before he went into it, he brought out the point that Ansume was going out other way to insure good dance. She was putting her girls through their paces, and was giving them tea and cake after rehearsal. She was also footing the bill for materials for the stage scenery. She is to receive \$200.00 for her services, but all of this will actually go into the carpenters and painters' hands since it will cost just about that much. Henry stated that a rumor had been going on that Ansume was receiving \$200.00, which they considered too much, and she felt rather badly about it. Actually, she will receive the amount as an "onaka" a Japanese custom of giving something after a performance, or obligation.



Laurel 17  
October 16  
1941

Social Organization--Testimonial Dinner.

Henry mentioned that good-will was the main order and that such a rumour should be squashed. However, they may want to ask her to perform again. Mr. Satow, Church Board member of the Christian Church, got up and also wanted the matter cleared up. He seemed to expect to be one of the sponsors of the concert, altho she has her own manager. This same point was brought up again by Ty Saito.

Approximately 800 dollars were in John Yasukochi's hands at the close of the meeting. Everyone was required to turn in tickets so that they could tell approximately how many paid customers would be there. When the question of overall finances was brought up, the issue, Aono, and Satow said that everything was under control. A few days ago, Johnny Yasukochi and his manager of the show, an "ow" told me that many of the business houses were indignant over the fact that none of the wives were represented in the donation-collecting group. They felt that the business-men held this as an omen of things to come. There will have to be one contribution after another, and all of their profits will go into these donations. Mr. Onobe, operator of a shoe store especially ran this practice down. He felt that if an organization had to operate by asking for donations, then they should not operate.

John Aono was the spokesman for the evening, and carried the meeting. The co-chairman Aukeda only gave assent to the meeting as it progressed.

The final word of the evening was to have Aukeda ask Goro Nakamura to be on the receiving line when the hall was opened.



Los Angeles  
October 16  
Asahi

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Restrictive Covenant.

".....According to a suit filed in Superior Court this week, Roy Kobayashi and 10 John and Joe Doe were named defendants in an injunction suit.

"The plaintiffs, Mary J. White and Bertha R. Conyon, sought to have the defendants permanently enjoined and restrained from using or occupying premises in the Charles Victor Hall tract in S.W. Los Angeles.

"This particular tract, which reportedly bars anyone not of the white or Caucasian race, is bounded on the north side by West Adams Blvd, east by Western Ave., south by Jefferson Blvd and west by Normandie.

"The suit said Kobayashi bought several tracts in the area from Olive Pearl Hoover last September 10. The complaint further alleged that use and occupancy of premises by defendants, not of white or Caucasian race, has rendered property less desirable for residential purposes and decreased market value 1000 each.

"So the plaintiff asked the court to award them \$1000 damages each and \$100 for attorney's fee. ----- fu himpo October 26, 1946.

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The Kobayashis are from El Centro, California. For a year after coming out of camp they all work on an estate in Pasadena where they earned enough money to put a down payment on the property. In September, they left their estate and moved to their new home on 3060 Harvard.

Roy the boy, age 24, went to work for the Columbia Recording Company, the sister about 22 works in the Beverly district clothing manufacturers, and the father is doing gardening.

I dropped over to see them, and happened to catch Roy in, one of the few nites he was away from the corner of San Pedro and 1st Street.



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Saki

Restrictive Covenants.

When I walked into their living room which was being remodeled, he spoke up and asked if I had read about his name ~~showing~~ appearing in the papers. I said Yes, and asked what it was all about.

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R.K. "I didn't know about it until my sister showed it to me. I didn't see the ~~afu~~ ~~him~~ I probably would still know nothing about it. Hank (Saki) told me about it and said that it might be tough, so I went over to see John ~~seeno~~, the lawyer. He told me that I had nothing to worry about ~~it~~, that it would not appear in court for another 6 months. The first of the case will appear in about six months. During that time, the situation may change so much they might drop the suit.

"I didn't tell my dad about it because I didn't want him to worry. And I wondered who the girl was that put it in the paper. When I see my friends now, they will rib me by saying, 'that's what you get for moving into a place you aren't supposed to.'

"The ~~Real~~ state man who lives on the corner told me that the two women brought up a couple of other suits against ~~Negroes~~, but didn't get anywhere. He also told me not to worry. But I couldn't work all day thinking about it. I can't imagine who the other nine defendants are unless they are the other ~~Japanese~~ and ~~Negroes~~ who live in the neighborhood. The ~~S~~-ites couldn't move into their ~~D~~ilton Street place and I don't know what happened to it.

TS. Did you ever think about Restrictive Covenants before?

R.K. "No. I'm like the rest of the ~~Japanese~~ I guess. Until something like this hits you directly, you don't think, or do anything about it.



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-ki

Restrictive Covenant.

"All of these niseis are like me. They don't think about these things, and I wonder if we ought to do something about it. No-one knows too much about it, and there doesn't seem to be too much noise about what the score is.

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From here, talk centered around various things. The sister said that on Le Bree and Beverly around quitting time, it is almost like Japanese town with so many Japanese women boarding the buses. They are working as seamstresses in the clothing factories. She said that everytime vacancy occurs, they ask one of the Japanese girls if they know of anyone who might like a job. They don't ask the others, the hakujins, the Negroes or the Mexicans. I think it is because they want Japanese women to work there.

Roy, in turn spoke of his experience working in the sugar beets in Utah early in the days of relocation. He had experienced a difficult time and was, according to him the instigator of a "back to camp" strike which did not materialize. The group had challenged the local high school to a football game, and they felt that the officials were being overly-partial to the local school team. The official came over to Bill Obayashi the coach and challenged him to a fight which was readily accepted. A near-riot ensued and the principal the next day came out with, "I told you you Japs couldn't be trusted."

The town was with a cold attitude before the game, but became warmer. Among themselves the boys talked of going back. It was not until Obayashi had a talk with the mayor did sentiment change. Among themselves the boys still wanted to go back, but when the contractor came to talk to them, they decided to stay. This shift in attitude puzzled Obayashi, and he still does not know why the niseis are like that.



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T. Aki

#125

Economic Loss.

Across the street from the Cal-<sup>V</sup>ita produce house is a small restaurant which was opened about 3 months ago. I and he was an elderly issei serving as a waiter, a woman in the rear who did the cooking and a young man who probably did a little bit of everything. I mistook the issei to be the proprietor and started talking to him, and but found out that he was only working there. The man's position is probably typical of thousands of other isseis after the relocation center.

I asked him the usual question of how he was getting along and he began.

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I. "This is not my place. If I were to open up my own place, I would have gotten the restaurant next door because it is much bigger, and you can operate better. The owner paid \$3,000 for the lease, but had to put out another \$1,500 to fix this place up. He had to put in new chairs, paid, dishes, pots and pans, and other equipment necessary to open a restaurant.

Is. "What did you do before the war?"

I. "I owned a restaurant next door. Just about 5 months before evacuation I remodeled the whole restaurant. I had put in about \$8,000 in it. I bought two new ice-boxes, a ice cream freezer, coco-cola ice box, new waffle irons, toasters, tables, and finished the walls over the brick.

"When the time for evacuation came, a Chinese offered me \$700 for it. What could I do? I sold it to him because there was nothing else to do.

"There were other things too. We had stored away enough food for a year's business. The only thing we had to buy was meat. I bought a truck



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Seki

Economic Loss.

a short time before that to buy vegetables with from the farmers. All of these things were also sold at a loss. I was ready to do a good business, but bad luck hit us.

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Customers were coming in and out. Most of them were Japanese but there were a few caucasians coming in for coffee. The menu specialized in Japanese food altho other types were also offered. A picture of the amount of business perhaps can be measured by the loaves of bread ordered from the bakery. For the next day, 10 loaves were ordered. In the pie rack were six pies, all almost a complete pie with only one piece taken out.

The interior of the restaurant was clean, evidences of a new Japanese ownership. Another thing that clearly marked the restaurant as being Japanese was the large landern hung near the doorway.

When the issei was asked when he had time off, he told me that he had to work two shifts because workers were difficult to get. The hours were bad and no-one seemed to want to work at the wages they could afford to pay.



Economic Adjustment.

Muth Kiemer, Dr. Bloom's assistant was going out to the Venice area and suggested I go along with her since I did not have a car. I met her at noon and spent the pm interviewing three Venice hot-house farmers. The following are the three interviews recorded.

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The Utsukis live on 4060 Grandview Ave. There were about 5 large green-houses on one section of the ground and about 8 acres of land under plowing. As we approached the residence, we rang the bell and found no-one home so we went around the walk to the green-house where about a dozen women were working on the flats. (celery) I asked for "Pappy" Utsuki, the oldest boy and was told that he was in the rear of the greenhouse preparing the flats for planting.

"Pappy" was behind a stack of boxes shoveling soil into the flats while his brother and another employee were leveling them and setting them aside for the green-houses.

He is about 26 years old, and since his father died about 2 years before evacuation, he has had charge of the plant. His education was received at Venice High school and Cal-garies at Davis.

Miss Kiemer asked most of the questions and the following was revealed.

During the war the Utsukis leased out their property to a Chinese. The terms of the lease were upkeep of the property and payment of the taxes. All profits went to the Chinese. They returned in August, 1945, and had no difficulty getting back their place, and the only antagonism they had run into was a stone that was thrown by one of the boys in the neighborhood.

Their equipment were spread all over and they had to collect them before operation could begin. The glasses had to be re-puttied and the boiler replaced with a new one.



Economic adjustment.

He had one crop already but did not make any money. This year, he states that if he is able to get \$2.00-\$2.50 a crate, average, then he would be doing fairly well. Most of the stuff he sells to H & I Produce but also has a few other Commission merchants to whom he sells. He trucks his own produce in order to save .10 a crate.

The yield is determined by the distances between each plant. For shipping purposes, smaller stalks are demanded. But there is less money because they must be graded and the best stalks only go into the crates. For the local market, everything goes in.

Cost of production is up about twice. For instance, labor before the war was .30 an hour, now it is .75, and he states that they do less work. Not only is labor high, but it is difficult to get.

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Across the street from the Utsukis live Frank Matsuka, an issei of about 40. He also has greenhouses which before the war produced celery plants and gardenias. He leased out the place to Michel Martinez, who was employed by him for about 10 years. Soon afterwards, Martinez was drafted into the army and served for 9 months. He sub-leased it to his sister. It was during that time that the plants were allowed to die, and the building run down. Matsuka has much faith in Martinez and feels that he did all he could to bring back the plants.

Matsuka gave us an interesting story of his experience before the evacuation. The Flower Market Association pushed a program of voluntary relocation and 25 families decided to buy a 160 acre plot in Utah (Barry) for which they paid \$40.00 an acre. Each family was to farm 5 acres. They purchased \$200 worth of food and everyone was ready to move their equipment with them. Manchester Boddy of the Daily News, Eisenhower of the WCCA, and Palmer, the United States Attorney thought it was a good idea and brought



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it up to De Witt in San Francisco. He turned it down and said, "Into the camps." He does not know what happened to the stored \$200 worth of food, but they still have title to the land. No-one went up there, and no-one has gone up there since. Some of the families restricted to their hands are tied at the moment. Taxes have to be kept up so they would like to dispose of their property.

Matuoka's greenhouses were in a bad shape. He has three large ones, and one small one. Before the war when it was producing about 100 dollars a day in flowers he was offered \$6,000 for it. He placed a value of 20,000. Now, he can get \$35,000, but he does not want to sell. He has already put \$1,000 into the work, and has done it mainly by himself and his wife, but figures to get it back into shape would cost him about \$10,000. He intends to mortgage his property for a loan.

The equipment he had were 2 trucks, and one passenger car. These he disposed of at better than blue book price.

When he returned in February of this year, many of his neighbors congratulated him on his return. This is all well and good, but he still will have a tough sledding for the next couple of years to get his place back into shape. Much money and time will have to be spent.

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Several blocks away on Centinella (4060) is another large Japanese greenhouse. It is the Uchida Corporation, and managed by George Uchida, National VP of the JACL. He has been with the company for 9 years, and is the majority stock-holder. His wife and another person also holds stocks. He has 84,000 square feet, and before the war it was valued at \$1.00 a square foot. This, for the building only. The Corporation was built up gradually since 1917, the year it was started. Now, it costs about \$2.50 to build one square foot.



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t. 3-ki

Economic Adjustment.

I nagaki leased his place to his salesman for \$1,000 a month. The arrangements were that when he came back, he would take it over in July, since the winter crop of gardenias would then be harvested, and the following years crop would begin. The leaser has retired into his own farm in the hills, and his salesman now is the man who worked as a salesman during the war.

All of the growers are isseis except for 2. Each have their own sections to watch, and are pretty much their own bosses. They are paid from \$200 to \$275 a month and all have houses on the property. Women work part time for .75 an hour.

The Chida Corporation has the mystery Gardenia market pretty covered up in Los Angeles as they are the only growers of the mystery variety in the area. He has no difficulty selling them. He has a booth in the Flower Market Association, altho he is not a member.

I nagaki does not know how much he will gross, but feels that the margin of profit has come down since the price is almost the same as before the war now, but labor costs and material costs are way up.

He lives in a nice stuccoed house in the front, and altho his greenhouses are pretty run-down, they are not in too bad a shape. He feels that he will have to re-pine his houses because every night the leak springs out. Buildings have to be repainted, and generally be fixed.

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The above three people are the better situated ones, and before the war were no doubt those who use to do exceptionally well. Mr. Matsuk is perhaps the worst off since he will almost have to start all over.



Los Angeles (1)  
November 16  
T. Sasaki

Inter-racial Church.

At the invitation of Akira Suzuki, member of the All-People's Church on 20th and San Pedro Street, I decided to see the integrated church in action.

Playing outside were children of Chinese, Negro and Japanese descent. The Sunday School had just been over and the kids were talking among themselves.

I was a little early but went in to the chapel. Dan Genung, the pastor greeted me. The other members of the church began filing in. Negroes, Caucasians and Japanese. There were about an equal number of each totalling 30. The choir filed in and it was composed of one caucasian, four Negroes and two Japanese. There may have been some Chinese in the congregation but it was impossible to tell.

The service was very good, the people friendly towards each other. Before the war this was a church for the Japanese. The niseis had their services first, and then the iseis would listen to a short sermon in Japanese at the tail end of the service. Now, the iseis had their services while the Sunday School was going on.

The church is ideally located for an inter-racial church as there are Negroes, Mexicans, Japanese, Chinese and whites all living in the area. The Congregational Board is trying to push the program and has placed in the budget a tremendous sum. Bob Adams is the Youth Director and is thinking in terms of integration. Rev. U. Mours, however, feels that being limited to isei work is too restricted.



#128

Sunday.

The program for today is rather full. Church in the morning, a College of Life Series meeting for the pm, and the Testimonial Banquet for the evening.

Gradually the niseis, a few at least are beginning to think about "what next?" To help the niseis analyze their own situation the Union Church has set up a program of speaker every Sunday. The objective as stated in their weekly paper are:

1. To recruit and encourage nisei in our community to become well-informed and active in the struggle for unity, justice and good-will in local situations and to work with others of similar mind.
2. To define issues, develop policies, and plan program of action for improving nisei status.
3. To develop, promote, and guide individuals who have ability into becoming leaders.
4. To encourage active participation in activities, organizations and agencies which in the community are of contributory help.

The list of speakers are:

1. Dr. Stewart G. Cole, Director of the Pacific Coast Council on Intercultural Education.
2. Mr. William Kent, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Intercultural Relations of the Los Angeles Council of Churches.
3. Miss Mary O'Connell, Writer.
4. Dr. Allen Hunter, Minister of Mount Hollywood Congregation Church.
5. Dr. O.D. Richardson, Prof. of English at LACC. Adviser of Nisei Club.

The group gathered at the hotel today was a disappointing one.

Rev. Makjima stated that it was because of the number of niseis who were going to attend the Testimonial dinner that kept them from coming. Approximately 20 were present.



Social Organization.

D<sup>r.</sup> C<sup>ole</sup> pointed out what he thought was troubling the niseis.

1. <sup>T</sup>he niseis are caught in a world-wide conflict where everyone was troubled.
2. <sup>H</sup>e was involved in a outgroup- (caucasian)- ingroup (nisei) conflict.
3. <sup>H</sup>e was involved in the issei-nisei conflict.
4. <sup>T</sup>he above three brought on further frustration, the result of the above pressures.

<sup>T</sup>o combat these problems and frustrations, he stated the need of control of emotions, getting as much as education as possible to connect with other groups, establishing a wider circle of caucasian friends for backing, and establishing a strong ingroup unit to initiate the study of minority problems.

<sup>D</sup>uring the questions and answer period that followed, only <sup>A</sup>rnest <sup>U</sup>no, director of the series asked a question. <sup>H</sup>e wanted to know how <sup>P</sup>roposition 11 would come out (FEPC).

<sup>S</sup>ince <sup>D</sup>r. <sup>C</sup>ole, as well as others were in a hurry to get prepared for the dinner, the meeting was dismissed early.



RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles (1)  
3 November 46  
T. Sasaki

9  
X 12

Social Organization--Testimonial Dinner.

The biggest event of the returned Japanese was conducted tonight before a capacity crowd of 1200. The event was scheduled at the Roger Young Hall on Washington Street for 6 pm, but it was 7 before the dinner was served. In spite of its lateness, the dinner progressed smoothly and if it were not for the fact that the USO troupe took up one more hour than their allotted time, the program probably could have been over by 10:30 instead of 11:30.

The most impressive part of the ceremony was the reading off the Gold Star mothers names, and other GIs who had given their life to this country. A bright light shown on the floral Gold Star piece, another on the mothers, and the third on Rev. Yamazaki, 1st Lt., US Army Reserves. The hall was so quiet, and the air so filled with reverence, that it was almost possible to hear the snuffles from the various sections of the hall.

In contrast with the seriousness of the dedication ceremony, the USO came forth with an hour and a half of mirth and merriment. In the post-mortem that occurred after the banquet, some felt that this part was wholly unnecessary. This also, for the Japanese dances performed by Kansuma, the foremost exponent of the Japanese dance in America. It was extremely disheartening to see the applause that ~~was~~ was given the "Senator Monroney", a comic of the USO troupe. For approximately 10 minutes after he appeared on the stage, the people believed him to be a real senator. It was not until he came out with a few extremely ludicrous jokes that they realized that he was a comedian. In my looking around, I felt that the people were thinking that "here was a senator who was interested enough in the Japanese to fly out to the coast for the event."





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3 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Social Organization --Testimonial Dinner.

After the people knew, then their mood changed from that of seriousness to one of laughter.

One of the thing that the niseis were very happy to hear were the words that came from Mayor Bowron. I do not remember the exact wording (Rafu Shimpō 4 November 46) but it was to the effect that at the outbreak of the war he mistrusted not only the Japanese in Japan, but also had misgivings about the local Japanese population. Now, he felt that all of his misgivings were without foundation, and he was happy about it. Even if this were purely political, a public statement from the mayor is towards the benefit of the Japanese.

In contrast to the Mayor's address, Joseph Scott's address was extremely jingoistic. Scott has been in Los Angeles for over 60 years and has seen the town grow. He spoke of the niseis casting off all remnants of things Japanese, that they should forget all about the country etc. etc. It was even a little embarrassing since Kansuma had already performed one of her dances and was still to render her famous "Ura-shima-taro". All this, however, was quickly forgotten and the Chairman of the L.A. Board of Education gave the roses to Kansuma in appreciation of her dances.

Post-mortems tomorrow, and the rest of this week will be interesting to follow-up.





Joe Moody  
 Dan Chung-- pastor of the All People's Church  
 Rev. K. Koura-- pastor of the All People's Church  
 Bob Odama-- youth director  
 Wilkenson-- director of the All People's Church  
 Don Byard-- sec. secretary  
 Walter Rice-- All People's College student.  
 Raymond Marks-- grad student, geology at U.C.  
 Masaday-- leader at All People's Church.  
 Henry Ayashi  
 Victor Be  
 Steve Nakagawa-- Japanese director of YMCA  
 Tiro Yamai  
 Oshi Hara  
 Aki Suzuki  
 George Aima  
 Bob To  
 Peter Miyake  
 Hiro Yamahata  
 Fred Ujioaka

The main emphasis was given to the talk by Mr. Moody who gave a history of the company. His father started the business 29 years ago when he received his last check because of overage. A friend of his belonging to the same church also received one, and together they lent one another's shoulder and decided to pool Mr. Moody's \$200.00 and the other friend's experience as a mattress maker into a business. They began behind a grocery store, hiring their children, who were then about 5 years old for pin money, and built it up until now there are about 175 employees working. They hope to have about 300 working in the near future.



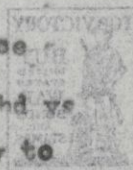
Social Organization.

Mr. Moody used to take along a truck load of mattresses to sell, but usually came back with a truckload because he became involved in a discussion of religion which took up all of the time. At that time he decided that there would be no discrimination in hiring employees, and also instead of employer-employee situation, they decided to call everyone co-workers. There has been no labor trouble, and an equal voice from the employer and employees have made for good relationships all around. Currently, the chairman of the CIO-Pac is ~~him~~ an employee of the firm, but he states that the Moody Company is no place for the unions.

When the West Coast opened up, he asked the workers if they would continue their feelings about non-discrimination in co-workers, and they agreed. One boy, Saki Suzuki came to work and was put in with some women. They became infatuated with him, and soon all of the other department asked to have some boys like him in their department. It was not long afterwards that a secretary was hired, and other firms visiting Moody saw her fine personal appearance, and efficiency, and this opened the way for other private firms in hiring nice girls. The truck drivers paved the way for other furniture shops in hiring niceis.

Not only are 9 cultural groups represented, but about 10 blind persons are also employed. Conscientious objectors, prison parolees, are others who are given an opportunity to earn money, and to make their last references a good one. He mentioned a case of a Tachikawa inmate who was a social worker who came for a job after hearing Moody in one of his talks. She worked out her parole, and was discharged to take a better position in her own field of social service.

The co-worker relationships do not end at the work-shop. Once a month birthday parties are held for all of those who have had birthdays during the month. Picnics, and other parties are held occasionally to





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show that people can get along even socially. He cited one case where he took a Negro boy home along with the other Caucasian employees, and during the trip he heard sniffing in the back. Finally, the Negro, who was from New York, was taken to his home. He asked what was wrong, and he told Moody that this was the first time that he was treated like a white man.

Moody is planning to expand his shop to accommodate 300 workers. The company pays 60% of the life insurance for the workers, and all members of the family. They will sell stocks to workers soon to give them part-ownership in the firm. They are given Christmas bonus amounting to time and a half of all holidays during the year. Other similar things in favor of the employees are given as inducement for better relation ship, and better work.

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Time was getting along so only the signing of the constitution was committed. At the next meeting they will elect officers and plan the program.

From all indications, the group will help pave the way for getting employment for niseis in their field. They hope to do this by participating with other churches, getting to know business executives, and showing what the niseis can do, and what they want.





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7 November 46  
T. Sasaki

#131

Negro-Japanese Relationship.

My visit with Mrs. Genevieve Carter of the Welfare Council, formerly the head of the Education Divisions of the Manzanar Relocation Center, brought out several interesting points. Before going into a discussion of the Negro-Japanese relationship, I shall briefly bring out some of her points and discuss them.

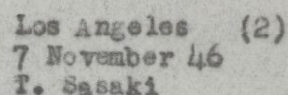
The first point brought<sup>out</sup> was the fact that the girls were able to get jobs as secretaries almost everywhere. They began by working in the various welfare agencies, and then because of their sweetness, their neatness, and efficiency they were recommended, and then sought after by various private as well as county and city organizations. One of the remarkable things about the nisei girls, according to Mrs. Carter, is the fact that they are much more adjustable than the boys. Even in camp the girls recovered quicker from the shock of evacuation. After the strike, again it was noticeable. And then with relocation, they were able to adjust themselves to the newly relocated situation. Another point, which is probably equally important is the in-service training that many of the girls were able to receive. This was not the case with many of the boys.

The boys, in contrast with the girls are not sweet, they still carry a chip on their shoulder, and in every situation it has taken the boys longer to recover. This fact, she maintains is not peculiar to the Japanese boys. In every culture the boys are the ones who maintain the "chip-on their shoulder" attitude longer than the girls.

It seems to me that one thing that Mrs. Carter forgot to mention was the fact that unconsciously the various agencies went about the program of







getting girls into various jobs. The girls were qualified for the positions, and they were usually handled with great care during the early days so as not to subject them too much to frustrations. The boys, on the other hand were not employed by welfare departments, or other social agencies because they did not have the qualifications, and for the most part were forced to shift for themselves. It has been admitted by a number of the better-educated, but not highly trained niseis that the only reasons the niseis cannot get jobs they want is because they are not trained. Many of them have expressed the fact that if they had training, they would apply for jobs, and they feel that there would be no question about their getting the job.

A great number of niseis who have had the benefits of a liberal arts education are getting training now in a specialized technical field. One of the best job-referrals I have heard of is ~~music~~ in progress at the Decca recording factory. Several niseis in the factory are anxious to establish a good reputation and through them other niseis and isseis are getting jobs. The work is hard, and the turnover is rapid. For anyone to last more than six months is considered doing well. These boys are discouraging those who look like fly-by-nighters, and are trying to get boys who are willing to get ahead. By seniority, and good work, there will no doubt be a few of these niseis who will eventually become a foreman of a crew, or plate-changer etc.

Many other nisei have told me that they were pursuing jobs with better pay, namely gardening, because of the insistence of their parents.



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T. Sasaki

RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Nisei-employment.

They are in pursuit of capital with which to start a business, buy a home, and as an insurance against the coming depression.

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Another thing that Mrs. Carter mentioned, which was supported by a statement also also statements made by Dr. Stewar Cole of the ~~Inter-Asian~~ Bureau of Intercultural Relations was that the niseis had finally come to their own in the banquet which was held for the veterans, the Gold Star Mothers, and the hakujins. They felt that the program was almost entirely nisei-ish, and that if they were able to undertake such an elaborate program, they were also ready to assume leadership in the community. On the other hand, Rev. Fredrick Fertig felt that the ignorance of the niseis and isseis is still evident in their response to various aspects of the program. He pointed out in particular the comical speech made by a "Senator Patrick Monroney". It took the audience a full ten minutes to catch on that the character was only a character. The audience was amazed and astonished that such a character would appear at a Japanese banquet. After they found out that he was a fluke, they responded in a manner the "senator" expected. Another thing that disappointed the Reverend was the fact that very few (niseis) of the "liberal" Japanese were present. He mentioned Hisaye Yamamoto of the Los Angeles Tribune (colored paper). He felt that the Japanese community was getting right back into the same groove except for the appearance of a few of the new younger leaders. Those he considered liberals, and of new blood were John Yamazaki, Frank Chuman (Wirin's ~~inquiry~~ staff member) and Kiyoshi Kagawa (ex-gi). He also fully realized the backing given by the isseis. He felt that the same issei leaders were behind the affairs.





Los Angeles (4)  
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T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Nisei-Issei transfer.

Questions that the testimonial banquet brings up boil down to a few.

Is it an indication of better cooperative organization in the community between isseis and niseis? Will the isseis usurp the power again by relying on finances? Have the niseis learned that cooperation with isseis is necessary to have a successful program of their own? In a interview with Ted Akahoshi, an issei graduate of Stanford, and his son George, who worked with the War Labor Board in Chicago during the war gave the following reaction. It is an indication of closer cooperation. The niseis have learned thru their maturity that it is imperative to work closely with the isseis in order to accomplish anything. The isseis, on their part have gotten away from their condescending attitude and is now willing to give full leadership responsibility to the niseis.

Actually, the dinner was the only joint affair to transpire since their return. It was the only community-wide affair to be sponsored. The niseis, outside of the work of the JACL during the war, and the work of one man in the Los Angeles area, the calibre is still unknown. If the JACL flops, then there might be a regression into their pre-war shell. If the JACL succeeds in pushing their program and gaining membership, then the isseis shifting of responsibility will be felt a good one.

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Los Angeles (4)  
7 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Negro-Japanese Relationship.

Mrs. Carter then told me of their last meeting where several of the ~~negro~~ leaders became quite emotional about the condition existing in the Little Tokyo area. This section is reproduced in the minutes which is attached to this report.

I decided to get a few reactions of the Japanese in Little Tokyo about the tensions, and in every case, and they number about 10, all of the tensions are expressed on the ~~negro~~ side. They feel that it is not an open tension, and that the Japanese are not aware of it. They are too immersed in their own troubles. A few, however, who are associated with the Union Church, which also houses the Pilgrim House, feel that the Japanese do not have faith in the Dr. Kingaley. One woman told me that when the Japanese returned, they found many of their stored goods opened, and being used. They accuse Dr. K of opening the various boxes, and then attempting to pass the story along about the place being ransacked. As an example she mentioned Mr. Takahashi's silver. When he asked for them, Mrs. K. brought out several and gave them to him. Articles in one box were shifted with articles in another box. A safe belonging to Mr. Inoshita was being used, and all of the valuables were gone while less important papers were strewn all over under the stairway. The motion picture projector room was in a mess. Most of the valuables were gone and none of the articles were burned. Only a section of the room was considered burned in any way. The Japanese feel that most of the valuables were removed first, then fire set on the remaining things to give an indication of there being a fire where it was necessary to get in.

At today's meeting Dr. Kinglsey felt that nothing constructive could be done because the community was a dying one anyway, and the effort was not worth it. The only flair of tension so far has been between the ~~Mexicans~~ and the ~~Negroes~~.





Los Angeles (1)  
8 November 46  
T. Sasaki

#132

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Jaol

After the decision of the Oyama case was handed down in favor of the State in the State's Supreme Court there was much activity in the Jaol circle. By the circle is meant the office on San Pedro Street with two fulltime secretaries, Mr. Tsuchiya, Tanabe and Masaoka. The rest of the Japanese nisei population are still complacent about the decision. The isseis are pretty much worried about it but perhaps it is much more evident among the farm people than the city folks.

The thought among many isseis in the city is that from now on property will be bought by niseis who have reached their majority and hence there is no question about escheats. This thinking reveals the individualistic thinking about the isseis which has ~~hasxaxaxaxaxaxax~~ overshadowed just about every piece of cooperative effort. Those who have managed to gain a foothold economically are looked upon as people who have not participated whole-heartedly in community affairs, hence, they gained their financial holdings. A few of the biggest land-holders are accused of being the tightest in the community. Now, the reversal, where the landholders are asking for cooperation and receiving little is the pattern.

On Tuesday a mass meeting will be held at the Nishi Hongwanji to inform the people the consequences of the Oyama decision. The secretaries are busy mimeographing and mailing the notices and Masaoka will give the results of his conference with Wixen and other ACLU attorneys in S.F. The attendance to this meeting may be a gauge of the interest of the Japanese in escheats and other legal actions being taken by the state.

But as a whole the Jaol is rather proud of its status with the isseis, and as a means of breaking out more into the community and in gaining strength among the niseis, they are in the midst of a decision to hire George







Los Angeles (2)  
8 November 46  
T. Sasaki

Jacl.

Akahoshi, recently of Chicago. He will be on the staff, at a meager salary, to do public relations work among the hakujing, furnish himself as a speaker for interested groups etc. Eiji Tanabe will concentrate on the isséds. Scotty Tsuchiya will leave within several weeks for San Francisco where he will again become engaged in his own business.

The absence of Tsuchiya will also be meaningful in determining whether it is the Jacl, or himself who is the strength of the organization. As has been discussed in earlier notes his personality won him many friends, and if the Jacl continues to maintain the standards set by Tsuchiya, then the Jacl will be in. Otherwise the indications may point towards the organization bogging down into its pre-war status.

Jacl work in Los Angeles.

Outside of the recent campaigning in the election, the local organization has done nothing. No officers have been elected, and no local program has been started. Their recent acquisition of the CRDU work will be one of the responsibilities they will be in charge of, and their attack will no doubt differ from that of the original group. The original CRDU has made commitments to the people already, and even though the Jacl sees no point in them, they feel that they will have to follow them through. One in point, is the indemnification survey. This survey from the beginning was looked upon with reserve because of the lack of machinery in analyzing the material. The CRDU has spoken of the survey as a money-getter, and have not analyzed the situation thoroughly in terms of who is going to do it, and what groups will be the audience.



Los Angeles (3)  
November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

### Jacl & Opposition

Two of the greatest forces which could build up the Jacl in this community are in opposition to it. The YBA, whose membership exceeds 300 is headed by Shig Aratani, also president of the Jacl at the outbreak of the war, is the organizations biggest opponent. His influence with the YBA members is felt by the Jacl leaders as being a big factor in preventing membership from growing. Shig feels that reputation of some of the leaders before the war is still the ~~major~~ drawback. In the same way, the Nisdi Veterans Organization is felt to be in opposition to the Jacl. Walt Nakashima's attitude, if known to the Jacl could probably be ~~used~~ used to good advantage. On both sides, and more-so on the part of the NVA, is a feeling that the other group is not giving it its fullest cooperation. For instance, NVA feels that the community has let it down. Its members feel that they have already done its part and want others to carry the ball from here. The Jacl feels that the NVA could help it in its program because of the reputation of the gis, but do not give it cooperation. Both are wrong. The Jacl felt that the NVA did not help in the Proposition 13 campaign when the NVA pushed it in the various other veteran's organization.

The attitude of the NVA now seems to be that since the community did not help out their organization, they will not do anything directly in aiding the community. When asked, they will participate, but otherwise they will be passive.





Los Angeles (1)  
9 November 46  
T. Sasaki

#133

Orientation.

This pm I visited my grandmother in the Virgil District and met with a pleasant experience of having an opportunity of talking to an issei 70 years old with six children ranging from 45 to about 16. It was particularly interesting to me since my first day in Los Angeles I have trying to talk to an issei who is still deluded about the outcome of the war. I tried to get the background of his beliefs and managed to pry into his personal life as well as his attitudes towards the present situation.

Without my having to initiate the conversation, he wanted me to think over carefully what he said, and attempted to make his view seem as though it came from other sources, but his enthusiasm, and slips of the tongue convinced me that his thinking was not only of others, but a product of his own deluded mind.

Before the war he had just begun his own nursery and was gradually making his plant pay off at the rate of between \$60 and \$100 a day, and then he was evacuated to Manzanar. From Manzanar he went to Rowher and then without relocating anyplace else, he returned to Los Angeles. One of his sons is in New York, two daughters are working as beauticians in New York, one daughter works at the Japanese Hospital in the city (L.A.), and there is one son who has just returned from the Army after serving with the 442nd in Europe.

His visiting my grandmother was first, to find a place for his newly married son, and secondly, to talk to her about the course of the "peace". I came in just about the time tea was ready. He admitted that he had been drinking, a pastime that he enjoyed with his wife. My grandmother tells me that most of the time he is feeling the effects of liquor.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED





Los Angeles (2)  
9 November 46  
T. Sasaki

### Orientation

The talk is recorded in as nearly translatable terms so that the flavor is not lost. To prevent embarrassment, the respondent will be called Mr. Suzuki.†

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. S. "You are an American Citizen, and no doubt you, like the rest of the citizens still feel that the United States received the unconditional surrender of ~~the~~ Japan. What I will tell you now, you must consider only a dream of an old man, and if you want to, believe only 50% of what I say. I say 50% because even to my own son I tell them that 50% is as much as I expect them to believe. I have been in this country for over 45 years, and have already gone through 4 crashes. I have all of the experience behind me. And ordinarily, I would tell my sons to believe in me up to 90% because of my vast experience. But since I am a Japanese, and my sons are American citizens, I don't ask them to believe that much.

"What I am going to say is not my own thinking, but the thinking of others, not too many, but a few. Most of the people still think that the United States won the war, and if they want to believe that, it is up to them, but on May the 3rd, 1947, they find out that it was really the United States who unconditionally surrendered. I want you to keep in mind that I am not against the United States. After all, I have lived here for over 45 years, and even sent my son to Italy with the 442nd "Butai". If I were willing to send my son to the army to be sacrificed, then you know that I am not intent on sabotaging this country. I was not sent to an internment camp so my record is clear. But with my mature thinking, I want to tell you just what the real story is.

MAVE REFUGATION VOLUNTEERS



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Orientation

Do you know why there is such a scarcity of materials in this country. Sugar is scarce, there is no pineapple in the market, the Ford factory in spite of its having all of the material necessary for production has let go 40 thousand employees; Kaiser has let 400,000 thousand shipyard workers go and has closed up his plant; and there is recently the upheaval in the ~~anna~~ government to the extent that the President has been asked to resign. All of these things point to only one thing. Japan, with its "Nippon Seishin" (Japanese spirit) is not humiliating the people of this country. They are waiting until May 3, 1947 before they reveal to this country just who won the war, and why the country is in the condition it is.

Ford and Kaiser have both shipped their tools, and factories to Japan. This is one of the terms of the surrender. When all of the tools of the other factories are finally shipped over, then that phase of the terms will be completed.

The newspapers say that an Atomic Bomb was dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but that is not so. What happened was a gas bomb was dropped, and then incendiaries were thrown in. That is the way this country is. The people have white skins, and they claim themselves to be the greatest in the world, but unless their heart is also white, then they cannot make the claim. And if you remember, the first time we heard about the surrender was on August 15, but it was not completed until August the 18th. The reason for this is the fact that it took those several days for Nimitz's andalsey's fleets to be docked in the Tokyo Bay where they all raised their hands and surrendered to the emperor. From there they took them to Osaka, and other places where they are now being made to rebuild what they bombed out.

Ques. "What about the niseis who are in Japan now?"

Mr. S. "Oh, they are being made use of as interpreters in handling the





Los Angeles (4)  
9 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

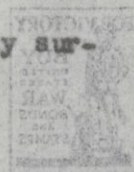
Orientation.

war prisoners. They are supervising the road-making, city-building and other jobs where the Japanese government can use them.

"The nisei boys who have returned have been under oath to say just what they are supposed to say. The U.S. government has every one of these boys watched and they tell you how much Japan has been damaged, how badly they are getting along etc. All of these things are false. Take the pictures in the Life Magazines. All of the pictures are done by actors. The surrender, Tojo's suicide were all done by actors. Do you think that Tojo would commit suicide by using the gun. The Japanese don't let a little thing like a bullet stop them from committing suicide if they want to. They will bite off their tongue and then let themselves bleed to death if necessary.

"Tojo at this minute is conducting a war crimes trial in Japan on Mac Arthur, Nimitz, Halsey and others. Why is it that we don't hear of those people? Where are all of the battleships that this country is supposed to have. Are they in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, New York? No, they are all in Japan where Japan has taken them over. And that is where all of the leaders are now.

"There are a few people in Washington D.C., friends of mine from way back who have been directly opposed to me all these years on the matter of Japan winning the war. One of them use to gather together about 500 people to tell them what the American News told. Some of my other friends would also tell the people what the short wave radio said and the news were in direct opposition to each other. I just want you to tell these people to watch for the date, May 3rd, 1947. At that time all of the terms of the surrender will be complete, and the United States will reveal to its people that they were the ones who unconditionally surrendered.





Los Angeles (5)  
9 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Orientation.

Ques. "What position will that put the nisei in?"

Mr. S. "They will be in an enviable position. I have only a few years to live. All of the other isseis also will be gone in a few years. But for you niseis, you will be able to hold your head up high, and you will have your say. Up to now we have been pushed into the background, and have been made to do all of the dirty work. My son, for example went to Italy. While he was in one foxhole with some friends, other white men came and told them to move out because they wanted to occupy it. As soon as the white men moved into the foxhole, a shell came and exploded in the hole and killed <sup>all</sup> of them. It is just one indication of what is coming to those people with white skins, but black heart.

"The depression that will come in a short time will make all the rest look like child's play. I know because of all of the crashes that I have experienced. If you believe only 50% of what I say, that is enough. You can rely 50% on your background as an American citizen.

"I want to finish by telling you that I am not angry at anybody. What I have told you, consider it my dream. They are the thinking of some of the people around here and if you will think it over, I am sure that you will be convinced of my arguments.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Sasaki told me to visit him sometimes to talk things over again. I am sure that if he knew that I was a "government agent" he would not have been so garrulous.....





Los Angeles (1)  
12 November 46  
T. Sasaki

#134

Living Conditions in the Trailer Camp & Hostels.

There seems to be an indication of people finding homes for themselves in spite of the difficulties. Mrs. Sawa, of the Friends Service Committee indicated this by saying that according to her check last Saturday, there were only about 800 in the hostels now. About 400 of these were really living in hotels which call themselves hostels. The check was not complete

Most of the hostels will close, as such. That is, they will become business hotels. Those that still exist as hostels until March 14, when the temporary health permits elapse are the following:

Toyo Hostel	233½ E. 1st St.	Little Tokyo
Tenrikyo	2727 E. 1st St.	Boyle Heights
Higashi Hongwani		" "
First Str. Hostel		Little Tokyo
Senshin Hostel		Westside
W.L.A. Hostel		West Los Angeles
Nichiren		Boyle Heights.
Evergreen		" "

The zenshuji on the outskirts of the Little Tokyo area is still open and operating with 21 families, or 65 people did not receive an extension.

During our conversation at the International Institute she also spoke of the hostel and trailer camp group as the "residue of the residue". In spite of the high cost of living in hostels, the women were assured of having their children with friends, and went out to work. In many cases, Mrs. Sawa felt that it was the women who found work first, and then the men went out. Their first objective seem to be in saving enough money to put a down payment on a house. Some have moved out after they accumulated the necessary capital, but many others had squeaked out their six months eviction notices that they gave to tenants occupying their homes.





Los Angeles (2)  
12 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WARR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Living Conditions--

Perhaps the hostel that is in the worst condition is the Nichiren, which is located on the corner of Saratoga and 2nd Street which is only one block from the Evergreen playground. Mrs. Sawa felt that unless they had put in the necessary repairs, their permit would not be extended. Outside of the city is the Venice hostel which is about the poorest in the county. There are a number of family living in tents, using kerosene lamps for light. In the rain the past few days they surely must have been flooded out since the Centinella and Jefferson area was pictured by the Los Angeles Times as being under about 2 feet of water.

The Glendale Hostel was considered one of the best physically. It had hard-wood floors, tile baths and all of the conveniences of a home, yet, it was not a paying proposition. The Japanese did not wish to stay there because it was so far from work, from the city, and from the other camps.

Winona. Trailer Camp

Mrs. Hori, social worker of the International Institute, who covers the Burbank Trailer camp was kind enough to give me some of her time. My meeting with both Mrs. Sawa, an American of Irish Descent who is married to a nihonjin, and with Mrs. Hori was about 3 hours long. Since I gave a short summary of the hostel condition, I shall give a picture of Winona before going into the more general discussion of the situation among the people in both the hostels and the Camp.

194 families occupy the total of 300 trailers. Out of this, 11 families are caucasians. Therefore the population of Winona runs to about 1000 people. The camp is still a dismal place although the older issei attempted to put into practice the Relocation Center idea of working cooperatively in improving the trailer camp.





Los Angeles (3)  
12 November 46  
T. Sasaki

Winona Trailer Camp--Social Organization.

The older men, because they lacked things to do decided to organize a council so that each section of the camp was represented by a head-man. Although much work went into the organization, this did not function except for a couple of months because Mr. LeHane, manager of the project would not accept these people as the spokesman. One of the drawbacks ~~causing him to~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ reject the council was the fact that too many of the councilmen went up to him with liquor on their breath, and with a very reckless air.

Some other practices which make the camp similar to those in the relocation camps are the uses of ~~the~~ scapegoating. A number of the families have been joined by members from the east. Whenever new members come into the camp, they are supposed to be reported to the office, but in most cases no mention is made of them. In one case particularly, a girl quit her job as a domestic because of ~~xxxxx~~ a necessary operation and joined her family. There was no room for her, but a friend of theirs was moving out. So she continued living in the trailer, forging the other tenants name etc.. When this was found out by the management, the family accused others of being "INU" (dogs), and claimed that some informant was reporting not only her case, but others.

Even though the living conditions are bad, the people are turning more towards day work, rather than as domestics. They feel that the domestics <sup>out</sup> are going to go/fast. They are getting jobs in clothing factories, ceramic factory, Bullocks where although they have to commute, they prefer it to living separately. In this case, although the Japanese complain about having to commute, they, in their past experience have gotten jobs, and have worked in their own homes where little or no commuting was necessary. They are gradually getting re-educated in this respect.





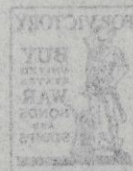
Los Angeles (4)  
12 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Results of Hostel & Trailer Living

The hope of the interested people in dispersing and integrating the Japanese into the general social life of the Caucasian public is waning in the hostel and trailer situation. In Winona the situation is similar to that in a Relocation center. The older isseis still talk in terms of going back to Japan. Many of the people are those from Tule where they thought of repatriating. Many more are waiting to be deported because of their loss in status as the result of the abrogation of the trade treaties. Mrs. Hori says that as soon as they get to know her well, they begin talking about their closeness to Japan; that Japan had won the war etc. It is not the old people that Mrs. Hori worries about so much as it is about the young people.

As the result of the Relocation Center experience and further Trailer camp experiences, the people are getting away from their pre-war attitude of disgrace if Welfare aid is received from the county and state. This point has caused many of the isseis to feel that even though the nisei children do not take care of them, and they do not expect them to as much now, as they used to, it cannot be expected from the niseis. Their own situation is bad. "Therefore as long as the government placed us in this unfortunate situation, let us get as much as we can from them" is the dominant attitude. In many cases welfare aid brings in much more than one person working to support 5 or 6 members of the family. However, I believe there is a dropping off of relief cases. This is caused by two things. One, the aid measures are being reduced generally, and two, the Japanese have gotten jobs to take care of most of the cases.





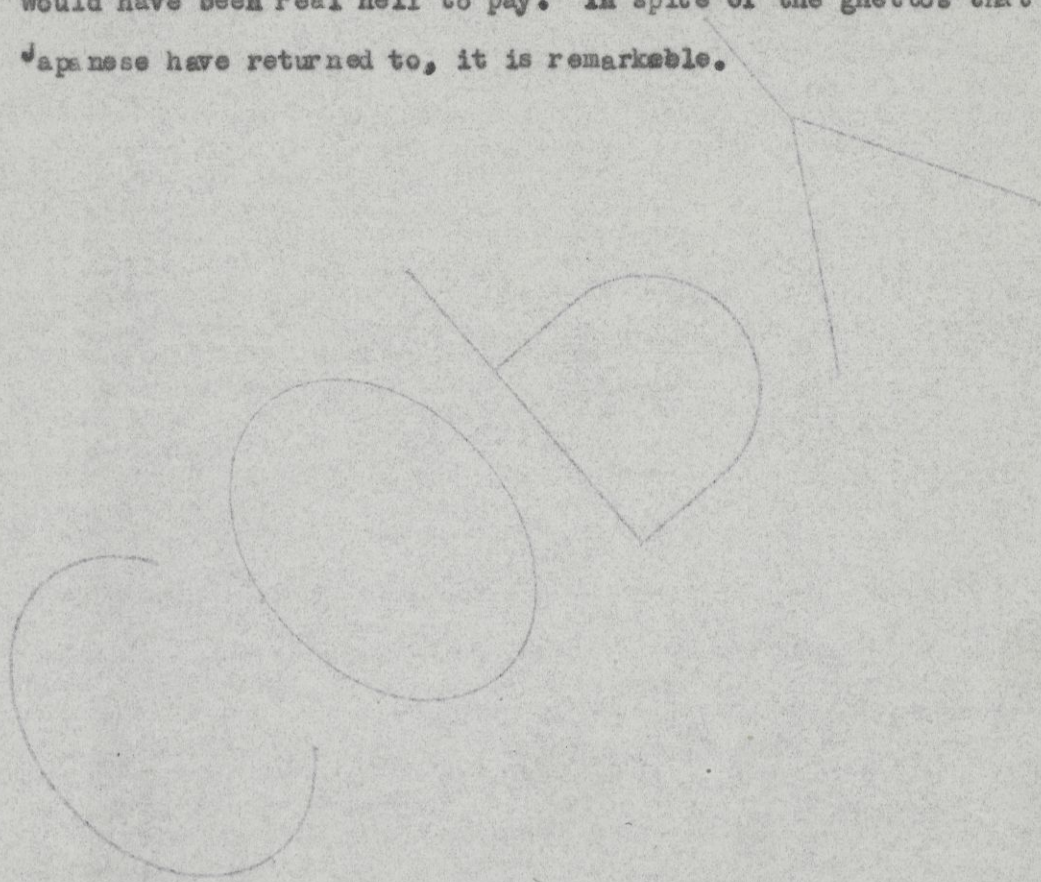


Los Angeles (5)  
12 November 46  
T. Sasaki

Results of Trailer & Hostel Living.

There is a feeling by both Mrs. Sawa and Mrs. Hori that most of the people living in Hostels and Trailer camps are pretty well dug in. The general housing shortage has caused many of them to sit tight. In Winona only 13 families have moved out since June.

Mrs. Sawa feels that in the period of one year the Japanese have dug themselves in rather well in Little Tokyo, and in other areas. She feels that if the same evacuation had involved any other group there would have been real hell to pay. In spite of the ghettos that the Japanese have returned to, it is remarkable.



WAVE RELOCATION AUTHORITY



Los Angeles (1)

12 November 46

T. Sasaki

#135

WARR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

The Jael.---Effect of the Oyama Decision on the People.

The mass meeting scheduled on 7:30 at the Nishi Hongwangi hall resulted in a poor showing. The heavy rain kept most of the people in all day, and since it did not let up the Japanese holed themselves in for the night.

In spite of the inclement weather, it was remarkable in view of the fact that there were three people from Indio, 130 miles away, 2 from Santa Ana, and 2 people from San Diego. The two from San Diego were the Oyamas, who were involved in the recent Supreme Court Decision.

Masaoka gave a forty minute talk on the implications of the results of the Oyama case. He urged the people to back the Jael financially to help push Naturalization, and the Evacuation Claims. But more urgent than both of these things was in getting a rehearing, or taking the Oyama case up to the Supreme Court of the United States. Questions were asked why this was so important when the piece of property involved amounted only to \$4,000. This case sets a precedent for all of the others, and if it remains as is, all of the other escheat cases will be tried according to their own merits. In order to get a rehearing, they must file before the coming Friday. The San Francisco CRDU has promised \$5,000 to take it up, and Masaoka stated that he would like to get a promise of \$5,000 from Southern California. Wirin would handle it for \$10,000, which he considers dirt cheap in view of other cases costing much more.

There was a 10 minute recess given in order that the people could discuss it among themselves. When they returned, Mr. Ambo, proprietor of a wholesale Cleaning plant read a resolution which was prepared the Friday before in a meeting of an issei group. The resolution read that the isseis were appreciative of the work done by the Jael in campaigning against proposition 15, and would back in further in pushing the Evacuation and the Naturalization Bill. It was suggested that the Oyama case be inserted, th was approved and inserted.

CLAIMS  
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Los Angeles (2)  
12 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Jacl

The resolution, the people at the meeting felt, was enough to serve as a guarantee of the \$5,000. Masaoka stated that if Southern California would not put up the necessary \$5,000, the Northern California was willing to put up the total amount. However, he felt that this was unfair, and if such were going to be the case, they would drop the case.

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After the meeting a coffee session was held at the Sugar Bowl and it was felt by the Jacl leaders that the resolution was only lip service. Although some of the isseis were backing the Jacl program to the hilt by contributions of \$1000 or more, the general issei public were not aware of the implications of the Oyama decision. Mr. Shira kawa, owner of 10 hotels which are managed by Makujins, contributed \$2,000 already. He was speaking his piece before the meeting began. He wanted the Jacl to ~~take~~ be the only Japanese organization in the community. He felt that a nihonjinkai, the CRDU, the Kenjinkais all superfluous. During the general meeting he was quiet, ~~unconcerned~~ but had a questioning look on his face. As the discussions took place, he began having a stern/~~stern~~ <sup>determined</sup> expression. During the intermission, Scotty Tsushiya took him aside and explained further how the Oyama decision affects the City properties. According to Scotty, if no finances are available from the general Japanese public, he would probably put it all up by himself. His income is about \$10,000 a month from his 10 hotels.

Mr. Ishikawa, former CRDU Vice President was also present at the meeting. My meeting with him later indicated that he was worried about how the finances would be collected. He felt that if the CRDU were still going, they would immediately put up the necessary money. This way, he feels that many of the isseis would not contribute.







Los Angeles (3)  
12 November 46  
T. Sasaki

Jaol.

About half of the isseis are for the Jaol. Most of the niseis are not. An example of this is the experience of John Yasukochi who tried to solicit membership about <sup>2</sup>months ago. Out of approximately 300 persons contacted, he was able to get only 4 members. Everyone of them voiced antagonism, or disinterest in the organization.

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exists  
The above implications are many. There is a sad state of affairs among the Japanese of Los Angeles. Everyone is so busy looking out for himself that he doesn't want to take time off to analyze the over-all Japanese situation. His dis-interest in politics, improvement of the over-all status of the Japanese, in their future security is alarming. Whenever someone attempts to look out for the general Japanese public's interest, criticisms push him back into his own shell.

The losses incurred during evacuation and the income they did not receive in the Relocation Centers have made the people aware of the necessity in gaining as much as they can while they can. It is perhaps the feeling that they did not pass the Claims bill that they are not banking too much on governmental aid outside of welfare and relief. And in these, the government taught them that it was not a disgrace to to accept aid, and in a great degree aided the Japanese in breaking down their pride.

The organizational activities occurring in camp was carried into the camps when the Japanese were evacuated. They learned many things about organizing groups, but strangely all of this is forgotten and the community hangs together very loosely.

WVB RELOCATION AUTHORITY



#136

Economic Adjustment.

James Yahiro is the manager of the Nisei Employment Bureau. His office is located in the Hongwanji Building on Central and First Street. I saw his office lit and decided that tonight was as good a time as any to dig up material on Japanese employment.

Yahiro in camp was the Steward of the Camp kitchens. He had a number of run-ins with the Chief Steward and did much to improve the kitchen service. When he returned to the coast, he saw an opportunity in the Employment field and set himself up. He says that he makes a comfortable living besides opening up new fields for the Japanese.

\*\*\*\*\*

JY "The Japanese are in a bad situation. The first depression that comes along will find many of them out on their "butts". The jobs they have are of a temporary nature, and they work off and on. I hate to think of what will happen. The isseis are too old. They can't get around anymore. The businesses in First Street are all cutting each other's throats. A few years of this and everyone will go broke. The Real Estate people are cutting their own commission to get the business, and then they go in the red when they deduct their expenses.

"Perhaps the best deal outside of getting into your own business is the domestic jobs. We can place people in various places where they are willing to pay up to \$375--\$400 a month. But the Japanese are not suited for that type of a servile job. The isseis, and kibeis girls might be fitted, but the niseis, brought up in this country where they are independent, they don't last. The Englishman can serve as a butler; the German can serve as a housewoman, and be happy because of their training. But anyone brought up in this country just can't fit in to that type of a job. So even if there are good domestic jobs opened, I don't place the niseis.

One of the first domestics that I placed was with Constance Bennet, the actress. She was my press agent from then on. I've had calls from



Los Angeles (2)  
13 November 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

Zukor, James and Bill Cagney, <sup>C</sup>handler of the L.A. Times, and have placed both niseis and isseis. They pay top salaries. They discharged their ~~Negro~~ help and wanted Japanese.

"It was through domestic jobs that I was able to contact people in various manufacturing work. Greer of the Clothiers had Japanese help, and I asked him if he could use any Japanese girls in his factory and he said that he would try them. Pretty soon there were girls working in every one of the factories on Los Angeles Street between 1st and Pico. I've placed about 1000 girls, and for each one, I figure that they have taken along about 5 other girls. (5,000)\* I've gotten in touch with others who were able to use boys in the assembly work in Toy shops, aluminumware etc. The girls, I have placed in downtown shops and offices. What I am looking forward to is getting the girls in as salesgirls. This will take time, but it will come. TS. What about the boys. What opportunity do they have?

JY. "There must be about 3000 niseis and isseis working in cafeterias and restaurants. They work in Boos Brothers, Cliftons, Vande Camps, all of the restaurants little and big. They are in demand because they are clean, and work hard. Most of the isseis are in these jobs. That is, outside of gardening. And in gardening, they are not landscape gardeners. They are just plain laborers, and when things get settled down, they will be out because they have nothing but labor to offer. I try to tell these boys to go after landscaping, but they don't seem to understand.

"One of the worst groups are those who are between 17 and 21.

They were brought up in camp and they expect jobs that pay them good money without working too hard for it. They come in and want jobs together. They go out for a day, and then they come back for another job. I can't help them out, and tell them what they should do. They can learn the restaurant trade and then open up their own place. This is as good as owning a garage.



Economic Adjustment.

Or they can learn the janitoring work in the big buildings, then get their own contracts. The hakujins get the contracts and they come to me to furnish them labor. What is the use of being under these guys when with a little gumption they can get their own contracts. But a boy has to learn the trade, or be a good manager, one of the two.

"These college graduates come to me and they want jobs with real estate firms, or selling insurance. There are already too many in these fields. They don't want to work with their hands. They may have had the training, but they don't have the gumption to look for new fields. One of the things they should get into is the textile industry. They don't have to know anything about it, but they have to be good managers. There are good position opened for them, but they also want a good starting salary.

"If a boy has the ability and training to offer, I don't think there is a limit to where they can go. There are several working in the aircraft factories, and in the rubber plants. But they are the exceptions because they could furnish the ability.

TS. How would you apportion the working people of the Japanese population in Los Angeles?

JY. I think it runs this way:

3,000 each	First: Gardeners and about an equal number of garment workers.
2,000	Second: Restaurant workers
1,000	Third: Domestic and an equal number of shop assembly workers.
	Fourth: Miscellaneous jobs.

"Since three weeks ago there have been quite a few young niseis, couple and single persons who have dropped in. They all came from Denver or Chicago. I guess the cold weather driving them out.



Los Angeles (1)  
14 November 46  
T. Sasaki

#137

Economic Adjustment.

Walt Anaoka is about 29 years old, and was recently discharged from the service after serving 18 months overseas. He was discharged about a month ago, and after spending a few weeks at home in Riverside with his family, moved up to Los Angeles to work. He lives at the Miyako Hotel where he pays \$1.25 a nite, and has to re-register every five days. With his meals, his expense runs up to about \$3.00 a day.

Walt is working in a poker-chip box assembly plant. He got the job through the Nisei Employment Agency. He feels that it is the Christmas Rush job and will not last much longer after that. His wages is .90 an hour for a 48 hour week.

One of the things he expressed was the fact that things are pretty tough. Said he,

"I wished I was back in Italy. It was pretty soft there. Didn't have to worry about anything." Out here a guy has to look out for himself and try to get a good job. I was out in Milwaukee where I got one year of experience working in the shop of the Yellow Cab Company. I tried to get a job out here in the same line, but they all tell me that I have to have at least three years experience. But I think they would give me the same run-around because a friend of mine who recently opened up a garage on 36th and Normandie told me of his experience. He is a good mechanic, and could get a job anyplace he wanted to back east. He is qualified. When he first came back here, he tried about two dozen places, and was told each time that the job was just filled. He got suspicious and went to the back to see a mechanic and asked whether someone had just been employed. The answer was no. He knew he was being given the run-around."

Walt was discouraged, but not the extent that he was not going to stick around a little while to see for himself whether he can get ahead.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED



#138

Introduction.

The center of the citrus industry and the AAF in March Field was also a locale that gave a favorable welcome to the Japanese who were being discharged from the Relocation Centers. For many years previous Riverside was considered a good Christian town and one that was proud of its physical as well as moral cleanliness. In spite of this pride, the under-the-surface activities tended to lead one to believe that "all that glittered was not gold." As an example, the transportation system for Riverside is perhaps the poorest in Southern California. Only a few main lines are running to various sections of town and in order to get from one place to another, taxis must be used. As another example, the church-members were pushed so hard by WRA officials into accepting the Japanese that shortly they actually became antagonistic. This attitude, however, is probably<sup>a</sup>/natural one since any intelligent person does not want to be told over and over again certain problems that exist.

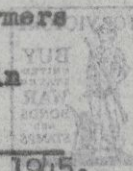
Two days were spent in Riverside during which time about 8 families were contacted, and two public agencies. The agencies were the Welfare Department and the Community Settlement House. Since there was no Japanese community to speak of, there has been a tendency for the Japanese to resettle back into their former districts, namely the 14th and High Street to the Railroads which is on the outskirts of the Mexican town; the Casa Blanca Mexican district, and West Riverside.

Population.

Riverside County before the war had a Japanese population of 558, of which 386 were citizens and 172 were aliens.\* They were distributed as mentioned in the previous paragraph for the most part. Many farmers lived in the outskirts of the city limits where they were engaged in

Poultry or truck farming.

\*Returns to West Coast. WRA Statistic Section No. 10. Jan.1-Dec 31, 1945.





Population Continued

As of December 31, 1945, WRA Statistical Report No. 10 reveals that 68.6% had returned, or a total of 383. Directly from centers came 179 niseis and 162 isseis. According to the Japanese Minister there are now approximately 70 families comprising some 300 individuals, which <sup>is</sup> very close to the figure revealed by the WRA in 1945.

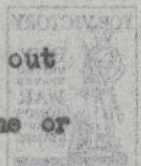
Before the war there was a tendency for the niseis to leave the city for a still larger city for employment. It was very difficult to obtain employment in a caucasian firm. The same conditions still exists. Therefore, except for those who were tied down to the farms, the young people moved away.

It is felt that a number of families from Salinas and the Imperial Valley are now residing in Riverside. As with many families living in the centers, the last to leave after the war was over were the most desperate when they returned to the coast. Therefore from every locality came jobs as domestics, or farm workers. Rather than looking for jobs that paid well, they accepted those that offered them housing.

Employment.

It is estimated that about 35 families are working as domestics, or gardeners in homes and 35 are working as either poultry operators, or truck farmers. The miscellaneous jobs the Japanese have are as independant gardeners and mechanics. As far as shop-owners are concerned, there are none in Riverside proper, but a grocery store and a garage are opened up in Casa Blanca, about 4 miles West of town. One large trucking outfit is also run by a nisei and their headquarter is also in Casa Blanca. He owns a fleet of 10 trucks which he hires out to haul produce with. Several niseis are going to the Junior College.

In line with the pre-war tendency the young people are moving out as they grow out of their school years. Already in some families one or





Riverside (3)  
19 November 46  
T. Sasaki

Employment.

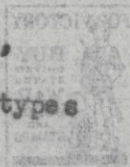
more members of the families are living in Los Angeles looking around for housing so that all members of the families can join them. In many cases also, various family members are still in the east where they are feeling reluctant in returning because of the lack of opportunity in Riverside, or in the West Coast proper.

As was mentioned in the previous section, the families who accepted domestic jobs were those who relocated just before the closing of the centers. Mr. Hanaka, who takes care of a 4 acre orange grove and walnut grove for one of the owners of a large department store told me that many letters, and rumours were brought in to camp about the terrific housing shortages. People were living underneath bridges, in chicken coops, garages and in crowded hostels. Therefore their first consideration was in obtaining a job that gave them housing.

Some of the men who were in business are holding back because of the high prices asked for them. If they are to open up business again, they will get most of their business again from the Mexicans and the whites.

Those who owned land in the outskirts, and there were about 8 or 9, have regained much of their lost foothold. One of the earliest to return to Riverside was a Chicken-farm owner. He came back as soon as the West Coast opened up and started operating. Those who owned property in town numbered about 8 or 9 also. Three of these sold out during the war, among the Japanese

The economic situation in Riverside County is dark. Unless the people can get back in to truck farming, or other small business operations, their future employment will be similar to that they are experiencing now. Opportunities for the young niseis are limited, except again as individual operators. And except for a few of those who have made out all right, there does not appear prospect for others to break in because of the types of people who have returned, ie, the residue of the centers.





Riverside (4)  
19 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Social Organization.--Within the Community.

As in most other communities, the issei parents have stuck together closely with their younger children while the older children have tended to move away. Because of this situation the isseis remain the head of the family in their own household while the niseis who have established their own families are the heads of their own. Rare exceptions as in the case of one family where both father and son repatriated to Japan to leave the property with his wife and daughter indicate that in spite of the absence of the head of the household, the next in line, the mother still takes over. In this case the father went back to Japan to take care of his aged mother, and the son went back to take care of his father. They hope to return to the States but in the meantime the son-in-law is doing most of the work while the mother manages.

In another case the parents are working as a domestic. When two sons returned from the service a few months ago, one daughter who was working in New York, and the eldest son who was working in Milwaukee returned to confer over their future. Since housing was so short in Los Angeles and with prospects not too bright, both the daughter and eldest son returned East. The second son went to Los Angeles while the fourth member decided to remain until he is able to enter school. When the eldest son relocated to in 1943, he asked his father to come out and join him. The father now says that he should have gone east and feels that those who are back there should remain.

The only center for the Japanese is the Christian Church. The minister played a large part in getting the Japanese back into Riverside and permitted his church to be used as a hostel and referral employment center during the relocation. They have a regular membership of approximately 25 families. However the facilities are also used by other members of the community who are passive Buddhists.





Riverside (5)  
19 November 46  
T. Sasaki

Social Organization--within the community

There are no organizations outside of the church which is functioning. Leadership has not crystallized because most of the people cannot break away from their jobs to engage in organizational work. Transportation difficulty is considered one of the main drawback in the intermingling of the Japanese in the wider community. Therefore, except for Church, there is very little social intercourse among the Japanese.

Among the niseis, there are too few to even consider an organization. There is also no indication that there will be a JACL, or other non-political groups.

Interests in the wider Caucasian activities is centered around an "Inter-racial" Breakfast Club which meets once a month. In this group belong the issei minister and a lone nisei. Acceptance among the Caucasian groups is said to be good. Not one incident of embarrassment has occurred. In the recent election, out of the total of 177 precinct in Riverside County, 174 voted to the tune of 9,695 "yes's" and 14,419 voted no. There is no figure available for the city itself and the voting must be weighed accordingly since Coachella Valley is also included in Riverside County.

Although the Japanese say that acceptance has been good, they still feel that they are being discriminated against when it comes to jobs for the young people. For several months one nisei looked for a job as a mechanic, and although there were jobs available, he was given the stall. Finally he broke in and is now the lone <sup>Japanese</sup> mechanic working in town. Several of the girls have also broken the restrictions and are working as secretaries. In other types of jobs, the Japanese are told that they are not qualified. The jobs demand "journey-man" classification and the niseis cannot meet it.





Riverside (6)  
19 November 46  
T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Community Organization--Wider Community

There have been no references to welfare cases, and there is little or no participation in the Community Settlement House. Mrs. Bond, Assistant ~~RE~~ Director feels that the Japanese living in the neighborhood are pretty much tied down with small children and therefore cannot participate. Although she is very much interested in the Japanese, there is no-one that she can contact except the minister who lives about 3 blocks away. Within the immediate neighborhood live three families but outside of visits, no participation is in progress.

Conclusions.

Superficially, there seems to be no housing difficulty as most of the people are either working as domestics, or are working on farms. Inwardly the Japanese are looking forward to the time when they can move into their own house, whether it be rented, or purchased. To this end many of them are swallowing their pride, and in many instances forgetting the long range viewpoint in their quest for security.

The outlook for jobs do not look good either for the young people, or the for the issei whose capabilities are limited. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Until such a time when transportation eases up in the form of cars owned by individuals, there will be little or no social intercourse between the Japanese.

The movement of the nisei out of Riverside will continue therefore it is my prediction that as the years roll by, there will be fewer and fewer Japanese living in Riverside.





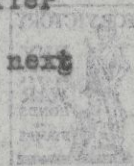
ORANGE COUNTY.Introduction.

Orange County before the war used to be one of the big Truck Garden center of Southern California. Besides Truck Gardening there were also a number of poultry farmers. (men). The pre-war population of Japanese in and around the 14 towns was 1,887, of which 1,230 were niseis and 657 were isseis, or about 2 niseis to one issei.\* In December of 1945 one year after the opening of the West Coast there were approximately 530 of which 278 were niseis and 225 were isseis, or just about one to one. Later estimates by the Orange County Jail reveals that approximately 70% have returned.

when compared  
Orange County, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to Riverside, reveal many similar, and yet different situations. Both are agricultural and poultry areas, both counties (excluding Coachella Valley) have their metropolis in the County Seats, both cities offer very little opportunities for employment to niseis, and in both areas the Japanese are scattered through-out the area. Yet, the future looks brighter for ~~xxx~~ Orange County, and an increase of land-owners as well as the population is expected in the next few years. Some of the reasons for these differences will be pointed out in the subsequent paragraphs.

Population.

Most of the statistics have already been mentioned. The 70% of the former people who have returned are scattered over the county. Except for two farms that are located within a half a mile apart, the people live among the Caucasians. Before the war this was one of the points that created good neighborliness in Orange County. Since the return of the Japanese, they have been forced to gang up in various areas that offer housing facilities. More on this subject will be discussed in the next section.





Economic Adjustment.

Approximately 50 people in Orange County are land-owners. Their acreage consists of approximately 500 acres. Between 500 and 700 more acres are now being rented. How does this compare with their acreage before the war? According to Frank Misuzawa, who made a survey before the war, approximately 12,000 acres were being tilled by the Japanese. Less than one tenth are now in operation by the Japanese.

Last year, inspite of the pressures by various groups in preventing the return of the Japanese, they were able to lease the sub-marginal land. This year, the caucasians are less prone to lease land because of the high prices of lima beans last year. The caucasian farmers who have come up during the war feel that they can make more money growing beans than they can by lessing land.

The 50 pieces of property include Japanese schools and Churches. These are being used as living quarters for the Japanese. In the Stanton Japanese Schools live 7 families. ~~in the building itself and in the trailers~~ A lone barber shop operates in the same building. Before the war there were several roadside fruit and vegetable markets. A few miles away is another school which houses about the same number of families in the buildings and in trailers parked in the lot. In Garden Grove is another school housing more families. Then in one lone private piece of property live and work about 10 families. This "hostel" is perhaps the worst in the area, although none of them are anywhere near being normal. The buildings on the Murata property were the old type dehydrating plants. Each unit was fixed up by occupants and a charge of \$12.00 a month is made to its occupants. The buildings are worse than the apartments in the centers. The atmosphere is depressing.





Economic Adjustment.

The farm operators feel that although more money is passing through their hands, their net returns is lower than it was before the war. High operating costs are the factors causing this. Taxes on one farm runs as high as \$1600; on another \$600. Laborers on farms receive .75¢ to \$1.00 an hour. Crates are sky high.

Strangely enough, some of the products such as celery bring in .50 to \$1.00 less in the market than those grown in San Diego or Venice. This is not because of the quality of the produce, but because it is locally grown. Therefore to get the best price, no label is placed on the crates.

According to the farmers, one of the drawbacks in farming now is the Produce Market Situation. They feel that the retail outlets control the market and because the retail stores sell for top price all produce instead of pushing commodities that are bringing in low prices, much of the vegetables brought into the market is dumped. It was brought out that before the war approximately 50% of the produce of the truck farmers were going into the Japanese owned retail fruit stands while the other approximately 50% was shipped out.

To recapitulate, and also <sup>to</sup> show just how much the Japanese have come back to their pre-war economic level, about 1/10th of the acreage is now being farmed, only one store is opened as compared to 6 in the county before the war, one barber shop has opened out of the four that were operating. The other types of stores which are not operating yet are listed below\*.

Chop Suey-----7	Fish Farm-----2	Servi ce Bu.----1
Nursery-----5	Sewing School-1	Lawyer-----1
Flower shop---2	Art Shop-----1	

\*2600th Anniversary Year Bk & Directory, Rafu Shimpō & L.A. Jpse Daily News. 1940-41





19 November 46

T. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

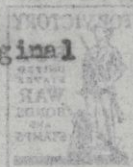
Economic Adjustment

One of the major sources of anxiety are the pending escheat cases. There are three on the docket for the immediate future, but all of the purchased property is involved. It is the primary ~~concern~~ thinking of the leaders of the community that the majority of the people are interested only in making for themselves as much money as they can, and as quickly as they can. Even those who have property are not too concerned about the situation. It is felt by the leaders that they do not understand the implication of the clause in the Oyama Decision, Not only is such an alien prohibited from acquiring real property, or any interest therein; the statute expressly provides that he shall not possess, enjoy, use, cultivate or occupy land."

The future of Orange County, outside of the escheat problem, look good. There are no big farm operators such as there are in the Imperial Valley, Santa <sup>m</sup>Maria, Sacramento etc. to squeeze out the Japanese farmer. Barber Shop gossip in Los Angeles according to Misuzawa, local JACL president <sup>Japanese</sup> is that many of the operators from West Los Angeles, Santa Maria, and other sections will move down. Sakioka, who was involved in an escheat case in West Los Angeles has already purchased 80 acres. Another individual purchased 20 acres last year, and has recently added another 20 acres.

For the majority of the residents of Orange County at the present time, the main source of income is from laboring in the fields. Here, they require only the physical strength to do the labor with no other investment necessary. Although this group is critical of the operators, it is probably due to jealousy. ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ Some in this group began working for the Japanese but soon quit to work for other national groups because of their differences in farming techniques. Those who have tried to lease land were given little opportunity, and in every case where land was available, it was marginal land.

(10 poultry farm)





WARTIME RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Social Organization. --the Family

In contrast to those in Riverside County, the families in Orange County are very closely knit. The successful farms before the war, and <sup>are</sup> those that ~~operating~~ successfully now are those that have all of the male members of the family together and working either on the same farms, or on separate pieces of property individually. From this area perhaps more than in any other single area in California are graduates from the State Agricultural Colleges. However, to combine practical knowledge with theoretical, or because of necessity, one or more members of the family have remained to work the land while the others were in school.

It was jokingly mentioned by one of the members of <sup>one of</sup> the sessions that the reason for the boys remaining home was because of the lack of ambition. This reason is perhaps outweighed by the fact that it was also mentioned that the father still ruled the family and the rest usually abided with the father's decision. The isseis still controlled most of the money. It is also illustrated by meetings held by the Farmer's Association in 1938 or 39 when the Produce Merchants were demanding 15% commissions. Only one nisei was present and ~~they~~ pushed him to one side. It was also brought out that at that time a incorporated group would be organized with a nisei as a figurehead, while the control and work was to be done by the isseis. This, the nisei turned down.

Leadership

Only one organization has emerged since the opening of the West coast. In the informal reactivation of the JACL, Henry Kanegae, poultry and Chile Pepper grower, the Nitta's, father and son, and the Misuzawas played an active role. Frank Misuzawa who was the head of the Agriculture Department in Camp and recently out of the army was elected the President.





Social Organization--Leadership

Frank Misuzawa purchased property in Orange County before the war. Prior to that time he was a celery grower in Venice.

Mr. Nitta, and Mr. Kanno are said to be the issei leaders in the County. They were much respected before the war, during camp, and ~~now~~ the present tendency is to retain them as counsels. Here, as in other communities, the niseis are looked upon as members of the community whose contributions as representatives is ~~much~~ respected. The niseis are coming in to their own. This no doubt would have eventually happened since age creeps up on all concerned but had it not been for the war the Japanese Association might have been the important organization and not the Jacl.

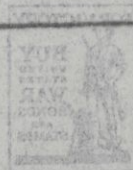
During the recent election individual members of the Jacl distributed leaflets, talked to the publisher of the local paper and otherwise campaigned to have the Proposition 15 defeated. Their success no doubt can be measured by the votes cast, 14,369 "yes" to 22,580 "no" from 259 precincts out of the total 276. The leaders cooperated with the Spanish group in gaining the majority.

The major concern of the leaders, as has been pointed out before, is the escheat. Both the Nittas and the Tanagases property are on the docket. In the recent meeting at Los Angeles during the rain-storm, the Nittas attended. Discussions of the meeting took place a few days later when 50 attended the Jacl meeting. But no majority support is expected by Misuzawa until the D.A.'s meet in January ~~at~~ at which time it is expected they will receive instructions on the matter of Japanese-held property.

Social Organization--Organizations.

Before the war there were 3 Japanese Associations, 2 Japanese Farmers Associations, 1 Berry Grower's Association, an Irvine YMA and a YWA, Fujin'ai, and Aendo Koenkai.\* None of these are in operation.

\*Year-Book, 1940-41





Social Organization--Organizations.

The only organization outside of the 'ael that seem to be of interest to the niseis are the service organization. The VFW post of Santa Ana has already invited Mits Nitta, Lt of the 442. He has not accepted as yet because of the pressure of work. The people feel that everyone is busy earning money, and that they have no time for organizations. It is felt <sup>to be</sup> very unfortunate that the people feel this way since problems of the 'apanese mount as time passes.

Social Organization--Larger Community

Since most of the farms are ~~tax~~ surrounded by Hakujin farmers, much social intercourse prevails. Exchange of farm equipment and general "fat shewing" goes on. Except for those people who live in "hostels", it is felt that the relationship with the Hakujins has increased.

Discriminations.

Santa Ana was the hot-bed of anti-Japanese return to the coast. Mary Masuda, sister of the DSC winner was intimidated when she returned. When Stillwell came to award the mother the medal, the discrimination died down somewhat. ~~The Wintersburg Church was fired upon after the Minister returned.~~ However, it was still difficult for the farmers to get service from the local farm implement shop, much less the machinery up to a year ago. The Japanese were told flatly that they did not want their business. A Malt Shop which before the war had many nisei customers after basketball games refused service to the 'apanese. This has also passed.

One of the pressures that still prevail is the fact that the big landowners will not lease land to the 'apanese. Those that do, lease the marginal land. Certain areas are limited to caucasians only, and these constitute the best pieces. It is much more difficult to lease land this year than it was a year ago because of the high prices on lima beans. This, however, is not discrimination, but purely economic competition.



Relationship with Other Groups.

The laborers in some cases prefer to work for caucasians, or Mexicans because of their friction in farming techniques with other Japanese farmers. In several instances, although the Japanese farmers were willing to pay more for labor, the laborers went to Mexicans. In the recent election the Japanese cooperated with the Mexicans in fighting for common problems. In the future, however, there will probably be more intercourse with the hakujins who are helpful, rather than their attachment to the Mexicans.





Los Angeles (1)  
19 November 46  
T. Sasaki

#140

Economic Adjustment.

James Ogawa is about 20 years old. I met him through Johnny Masatani, the young man who knows just about every young fellow in Los Angeles. James, along with his brother works in a spring factory that makes springs for mattresses. He got his job through Tom Kokubun, Shipping clerk at the Moody Mattress Company, which buys springs from the company. Altogether there are the three boys, the two brothers and a young man of 25 who lives in Long Beach.

Our meeting was accidental. I was on my way to the YWCA when I spied James and his brother at the Miyata's Service Station. They were waiting to get their car serviced and fenders pushed out and when they saw me they hailed me to ask where I was going. James, as I walked up to him said that they quit work early because of the shortage of material.

\*\*\*\*\*

JO. "We quit early today because we ran out of material. The boss tells us that they have enough springs to last for about two years. After that I think they will be able to get as many as they want. But they are already getting a stockpile of completed springs and my brother and I are thinking about getting another job which is located next to the Moody Mattress Company.

TS. "How much do you get paid?"

JO. "We do piece work. .29¢ for a small spring. I average about \$1.35 an hour and my brother makes about \$1.50. Hamada, the other kid makes about \$100 a week. He is about the fastest worker in the factory.

"We went to this other factory and watched them work and they are slow. I don't think they would work any faster at piece work because they all seem to be working at the same rhythm. You can't blame them because they are hourly workers.



Los Angeles (2)  
19 November 46  
T. Sasaki

Economic Adjustment.

"We have to line ourselves up another job in case they start laying off workers in our factories. If the stockpile of springs grows, then we'll have to be laid off. But if we went to work in this other factory, the workers might not like it because we can loaf on the job and still make as many springs as they can.

TS. Did it take much training to be able to do the job?

JO. "No, in about 3 weeks we got the knack of it and from then on we were able to work pretty fast. This guy from Long Beach really knows how to slap the springs together. It takes just about 3 weeks, and anyone can do it.

TS. "What about the other factory, are there any Nihonjins working there?

JO. "No, we didn't see any. The foreman said that <sup>he</sup> ~~they~~ could get us in, but since we didn't see any other Nihonjin working, I don't know whether they would like to have us. But we still have the place in mind because we might get laid off.

MAVE REGISTRATION VALLHOKILA





Los Angeles (1)  
19 November 46  
T. Sasaki

#141

Ex-Tule Laker--Social Adjustment.

Harry Nogawa was in the import-export business before the war. He was affiliated with the Mitsubishi Corporation and much of his salaries came out of commission on his purchases of various types of commodities that the Japan office demanded. In this work he made a very comfortable living and as a pastime owned a string of several horses. When the war broke out his funds were frozen as well as the companies. This, to the tune of a quarter of a million dollars.

He went to Poston where he worked as the funeral director until he left for Tule Lake. From Tule Lake he went to Santa Fe, and then to Crystal City. I tried to get as much of his experiences and his part in the various camps and the results follow.

\*\*\*\*\*

HN. "I'm not doing anything now. I've been back for about 6 months. Just a man of leisure. (He was nattily dressed in a tweed coat, woolen sport shirt and slacks. In appearance he could double for Tojo; speaks with a marked accent and it is difficult to tell whether he is a kibeï or an issei). I live on Sixth and Towne Avenue in a Japanese Rooming House where we pay \$35.00 a month for one room.

"I'm looking around for something, but my funds are still tied up. I went to Washington D.C. to see if I could get it, but they told me that since part of the money is the Companies, they would have to make an accounting before the release any part of it. I traveled all over the country, and saw many of the people I knew in camp and stayed with them for two or three weeks at a time.

TS. Wheredid you go from Poston?

HN. "I went to Tule Lake. At Tule Lake it was tough. I was put in the

WAVE RETOCVLION VOLHOBLLA



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I. Sasaki

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Ex-Tule Lake--Social & Economic Adjustment.

the stockade for about 5 months. After one of the riots they put me on bread and water for about a week. (Why?) They blamed me for the riot. I was one of the leaders; not because I wanted to be, but because the people pushed me into becoming <sup>a</sup> leader. If I objected, then they would beat me up by calling me an "INU". (I question this because Harry in Poston was quite antagonistic towards <sup>various</sup> members of the administration and openly defied many of them.)

"From Tule I went to Santa Fe and spent about 3 months, and then was moved to Crystal City where I stayed for over a year. When I was in Crystal City I used to listen in on the Short Wave, and began interpreting the news for the people in the camp. I told them that Japan's position was hopeless, and told many of the people to change their minds about repatriating. They started calling me an "INU". I told them that if they wanted to go back to Japan, to wait until the war was over and then get a passage back at their own expense if they wanted to. It cost a little bit, but not too much. Some of the niseis agreed with me, but the isseis still fought against it and forced many of the niseis to go along with them.

TS. What are you living on now?

HN. "My wife is working. She makes about 80 dollars a week working in the power machines. She is fast so she can make more than some of the other slower ones. Before the war she used to get contracts for sewing and then supervise the work. I made a trip back east just to see if I could get power machines so that she could go back to contracting but they are not available.

TS. What do you do now?

HN. I hang around at the Takashima Realty Company and talk to him and George Fujii. You can find me there almost every day.







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Social Adjustment.

Takashima and Fujii are both kibeis. Harry is either a kibeis or a younger issei. What distinct kibeis group there is I don't know. Rumours had it that most of them were working as gardeners, but there are also a number of them working as kitchen help or as janitors. From the several groups of kibeis that I have noticed, they are usually grouped among themselves, speaking Japanese to each other. In my personal meeting, and from stories gleaned from others, the kibeis who went to Tule Lake always avoided nisei friends that they knew and even went so far as to cross the street rather than meeting them.

This was not mentioned in my interview with Mr. Yahiro, manager of the Nisei Employment Bureau, and that is, that the kibeis boys and girls suffer from extreme lack of confidence. This, especially so with those who were at Tule Lake. Every little reference to the war, or what camp they ~~was~~ happened to have resided in all are taken as personal remarks.

Of what significance short "boogie haircuts" are, I don't know, <sup>were at Tule Lake who</sup> but I know of three boys who have retained their hairdos.

Another thing that was mentioned in one of the previous interviews regarding the change of attitude was expressed to me ~~yesterday~~ today by a businessman. In Cleveland the leader of the Japan Relief was the biggest diehard in Hart Mountain. He spoke openly against this country and condemned every man who was sympathetic towards the US. Yet, when they came into camp for translators, he was the first to volunteer for the job. The Japanese are opportunists, and whatever they feel does them the most good, they will do.....





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T. Sasaki

#142

Integration.--YWCA

My visit to the YW with the matron (Secretary) was a pleasant one. The Secretary is an elderly lady of 55 or so from Wooster, Massachusetts. I wanted to get her side of the story in the YW program for the girls in the Boyle Heights area, especially with the girls living in the dorm.

The dorm was the center of controversy for over a year. According to the Japanese the building was morally and legally theirs, and during the course of the year they worked to recover the building for their own use, although no definite program was had in mind. Much of this covetous attitude arose from the fact that some of the women felt that enough was taken from them during the war, and they wanted to recover as much as they could. Of possibly equal importance was the fact that the Japanese felt that housing was short enough for their own girls and that since the building was legally theirs (this, the YW Board found when they uncovered the legal document in their files) they should determine who should live there. The Inter-cultural program the City YW Board set up was not favored by some of the women.

There are six nisei girls, one Chinese, Three Mexicans, two Negroes and 3 whites living at the dorm at the present time. According to the Secretary they get along well, without friction, and in a family atmosphere. The girls have a number of male and female visitors, and it is felt that giving these girls a homey atmosphere gives them a chance to live a normal life, even though they are away from their own home.

The program began in May, although the Secretary came in April. Since then many meetings were held to iron out the difficulties. The nisei girls finally felt that it might do well to write the Japanese Board a letter requesting that the program continue; that if they changed the

WAVE RECOGNITION VOLUNTARILY



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T. Sasski

Integration--YW

program into an all-Japanese one, the girls now residing would all move out. As it is, their activities in the All-city YW program is their main source of pleasure. They have membership in the downtown YW, take advantage of their facilities both educational and recreational, and have socials with other male inter-cultural "Friends" dormitories.

The Secretary pointed out that the Japanese women, woman who were not members of the Japanese YW board were the ones who were instigating the trouble. The nisei members were in accord with the program. They had even gone so far as to want to bring the matter up to court. This was frowned upon by the City YW board but the scandal went as far as Arizona and all of Southern California knew about it. It was felt by the secretary that this was unfortunate for both the Y and the Japanese. She felt that the Japanese were turning down one of their best friends.

The program before the war for the dormitory was mainly in the building serving as a transient dormitory, therefore the occupants numbered about 30 individuals. The Secretary felt that this was too overcrowded and the maximum number should be about 17. Her program is not to make the dorm a transient quarter. Although 30 beds can be squeezed in, there is definitely an overcrowded situation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Talk passed from one thing to another. One of the most significant thing that she mentioned was her impression of the people of Los Angeles. She felt that the Angelenos (Caucasians) were the biggest moneygrabbers in the country. Since her migration out to the coast in 1943, she said that she has felt the pressure of everyone looking out for themselves and trying to make as much money as they could. They did not think anything of spending \$5 or \$10 for dinners, but when it came to Community Chest Contributions,

ANY RECOGNITION WOULD BE

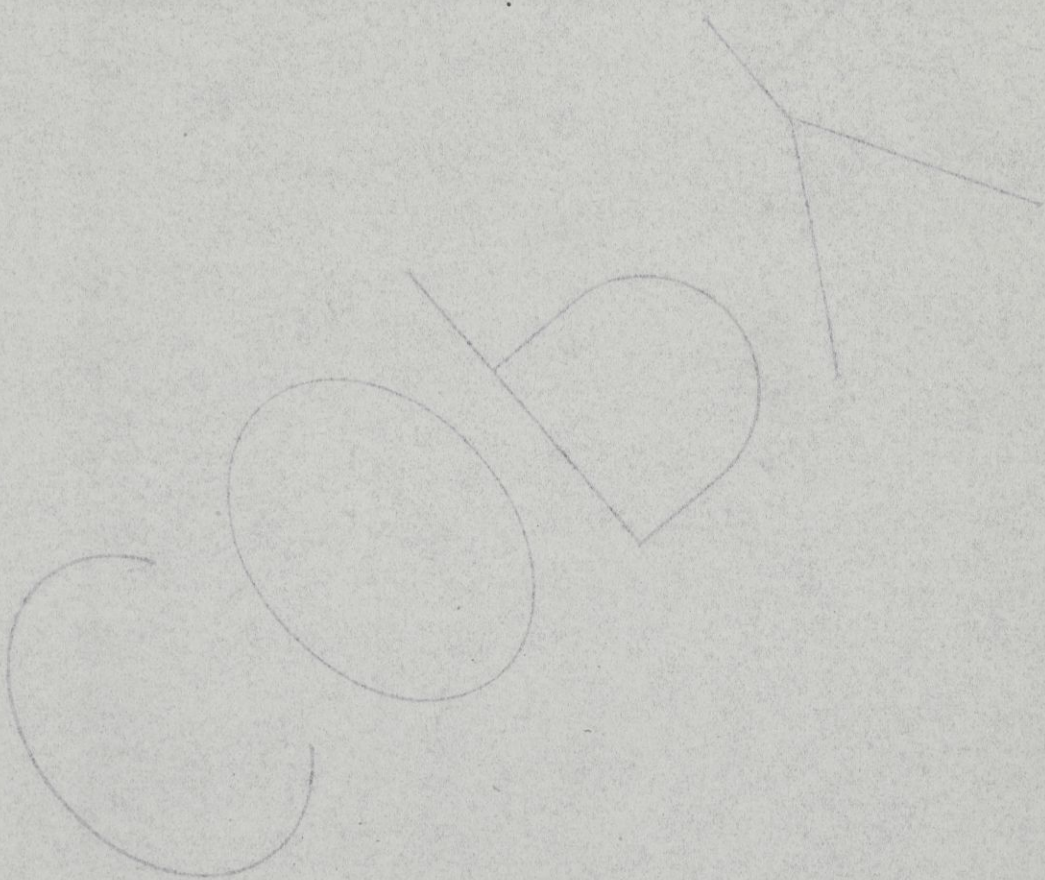




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Integration--EW

they were niggardly and miserly. They had no community pride.  
This attitude is not different from the attitude that the Japanese have.  
Therefore the Japanese here again fall into the general pattern of  
the population's quest for economic security. People in general are  
too busy looking out for themselves; they do not have time for organizations.



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WAB RELOCATION AUTHORITY

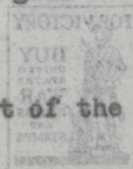
Inter-racial Relations.

I was able to get William Jones of the Urban League at last and talked to him over the phone for about 20 minutes. After explaining the nature of our work I asked him specifically about the tensions in the Bronzville area. He gave me a background of the type of work that his organization was doing, and their coordination with the Council for Civic Unity, the Intergovernmental Relations Committee etc.

When asked again about the tension areas, he stated that he felt that at the present time there was very little. When the time comes when ~~housing becomes really critical~~ unemployment runs rampant, frictions may arise. In a recent report by the American Council on Race Relations the tension areas in Los Angeles were reported to be in the Hollenbeck Heights (Boyle/rea), Watts and the West Jefferson areas. The tensions were mainly between the negroes and whites or Negroes and the Mexicans. No mention was made of the Bronzville area in spite of the recent nature of the report. He said that the record was impressive since it was an ideal situation for inter-racial conflicts.

No long range friction is anticipated since the Bronzville area is to be liquidated as part of the expansion program of the Civic Center. Already they have begun issuing eviction notices to the Chinese property owners near the Union Station and it is felt by the Negroes that it will not be too long before the Bronzville area will be affected. Therefore the Negroes tend to move out of the area as soon as they can locate themselves someplace else. Another factor is that as the Negro moves out, the business of the Negro shops drop.

The real situation he feels is in the West Jefferson area where homes occupied by the Negroes during the war are being taken over again by the Japanese. In these cases, the Japanese owned the property. He said that he has heard of a few cases of friction developing out of the housing situation.





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Inter-racial Relationship.

An excerpt from the Rafu Shimpō of November 19 is printed below.

"With a new rash of petty thefts, robberies and holdups occurring in Lil Tokyo, the police dept. today issued a special warning to all Japanese commercial houses to be on the alert and take proper measures to 'discourage crime waves in this area'. Is this part of the general crime wave that is located in Los Angeles, or is it an indication that some of the Negroes are getting hard up? The people and shops that are being held up belong to the Japanese and a few of them have stated that it is unsafe to walk alone. The Rafu Shimpō continues in its warning.... 'people should refrain from walking alone late at night....'"

William Jones mentioned that of the total unemployed in Los Angeles, more than 25 % were of the minority group. As men are being laid off more and more of the minority will be the first.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Jones invited me on an all day field trip that the Urban League in conjunction with other agencies were taking on Friday. Visits to all of the large centers of manufacturing hiring minorities are to be visited along with housing centers. I accepted the invitation and promised to be at their office at 8:30 am.





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T. Sasaki

#144

Terminal Islanders--General Adjustment.

Dave Nakagawa is currently working for the YMCA as a field supervisor. He is organization and coordinating the club-work of the Japanese and also working towards integration of their activities with these of other racial groups. Before the war he was a student at the Western Bible Institute in Los Angeles. His father was the president of the Fisherman's Association.

Dave is an athletically-looking young fellow of 26, but his thin scalp makes him look around 35 or so. After relocating from Ameche, he went to a college in the mid-west and ended up as a Youth Worker in the YM at Detroit. Feeling the need of helping out the Japanese youth, he accepted a job in Los Angeles. Dave is a very-well integrated nisei and I believe he would fit into any situation. Since the interview was so interesting, and left very little to be desired, I am writing it out as fully as I can.

\*\*\*\*\*

DN "Before I tell you about the adjustment of the Terminal Island Japanese, I would like to tell you something about the background of the Island, and then bring you up to date.

"The Terminal Islanders were probably the most cliquish and clannish of all Japanese groups. There was nothing that went on that everyone in the community of 5000 within a square mile did not know. For example, the boys were backwards and did not take girls out. As a matter of fact I was probably the only one who even made an effort to take out a girl. At the Senior Prom I dated a chick from Boyle Heights and the next day everyone on the island was talking about it. They wondered how I was able to date out a "city girl".





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Terminal Islanders--General Adjustment.

"Another instance is illustrated by the action that took place at San Pedro High School. The Japanese were making themselves very conspicuous with their loud speaking of Japanese to each other. They were not aware of their action until the Principal told us in the leaders group, the Ephebians, the School Council etc that some thing would have to be done about it. A special assembly was called for the Japanese and I had the unhappy task to relay the message on to the Japanese students. For about one week it worked, then everyone went back to the same pattern of speaking Japanese to each other. It used to bother me because in my own attitude and approach I felt that integration with other student would be the best, and to begin, the ordinary things had to be complied with. I was the president of the Japanese club, but I was also a member of the School Council, the Ephebian Honor Society and a member of the Lettermen's organization. Then later when I began to get active in the church, other areal people would be surprized to find that I was from Terminal Island because before that time no one from the Island had ever participated in any of the church events.

"Terminal Island was perhaps the most Japanese section of the United States. It couldn't be helped. People just lived too close together.

FIRST EVACUATION

"One of the most pitiful experiences came just after the war started. My father was one of the first to be taken in. I was away at school so I didn't know too much that was going on. But I went back to help and found women weeping, and when one began crying, the rest of them chorused in. That was the period when all of the men were taken in and the women were left alone with their children. It was trying for the women when their husbands were away on fishing expedition, but with the Japanese stoicism they always managed to hold back their feeling of loneliness and anxiety.



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Terminal Island--General Adjustment.

And I suppose if one were to be logical about it the Terminal Island women should have remained composed and should have been able to cope with the situation. But they broke down, and psychologically no doubt they were on the verge of breakdowns before but managed to keep themselves on an even keel because of community pressure. But at the time when the men were taken away, they broke down and all of their inhibited feelings were released. It was sad! Women and children crying all over the island.

"One thing I couldn't understand was why the FBI came between 11 pm and 2 am and shook the house and demanded entrance. When they came in they terrorized the women and emptied all of the dresser and desk drawers by just dumping them on the floor. Some of them were not real agents but were fakirs who took advantage of the people who couldn't protect themselves.

"In our personal case, my father managed the fleet while my older brother did the actual fishing, with his crew. They owned three nets, one sardine net, one Tuna net and one mackerel net. The value on each of them was \$5,000. He was forced to accept \$4,500 but there was when the trouble began. The Franco-Italian Cannery Company with whom my father had dealt with for several years told my brother that because of a debt, they would have the bank cancel the check. If my brother had cashed it as soon as he got it, he would have been all right.

"It was strange that we owned the company money because monthly the statement would come in and the debts were settled. Actually there was no debt, but since my father was taken away and business between my father and brother was carried on by telegram, there was not the closeness that should have been during this time. My father in the meantime was being transferred from one camp to another.





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Terminal Island--General Adjustment.

"My father had done business with the Cannery for several years and during that time we had heard that it had a very bad reputation. Even now, they have a poor reputation. They made my brother sign a release on those nets, so that is the thing that is holding us back now.

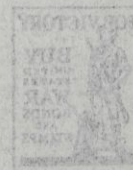
"Because of the fact that my brother lost the money, it began worrying him. He wouldn't tell me anything about it because he felt that it would hamper my school work. And in that way he got a nervous breakdown and finally died. (According to some sources, he committed suicide while in Santa Anita).

"When the men were taken away, that left the families with no breadwinners. Their savings were dwindling. Many of those who had locked up their nets in garages found them gone when they returned from their first visits to the jail. Household equipment were sold at a loss and with one loss after another, with no income, many of them by the time they left for the Assembly Centers were completely broke.

"When most of them went to Manzanar, they were considered one of the worst group in camp. The young people who before were unwilling to date girls publicly went on a rampage. Marriages of young fellows around 20 to 22 were many and almost any way you looked, you would hear of another marriage. Now, back here, they have become independant, and they are floundering around.

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"Many decided to repatriate, and as far as I know, everyone of the young boys signed "NO\*NO". I don't believe I have heard of anyone from Terminal who had been drafted until the war was over.





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Terminal Islanders--General Adjustment.

Relocation

The Terminal Islanders were about the last to return to the coast. They settled mainly in Long Beach Trailer Camps, in Wilmington, Lomita, and San Pedro. Some are scattered here and there, but they are probably the more progressive ones. I suppose the reason why many of them went back to the coastal towns in Los Angeles was the fact that they felt homesick for the ocean.

If Terminal Island were to be opened again, I think all of the former residents would get back there. There has been a rumor already that canneries are planning to build camps again for the Japanese. And because the people do not know of any other type of life, or work, they get jobs in canneries. The younger boys are drifting back into the fishing business, and already there are about 8 boats with nisei crews. One cannery has loaned a couple of nisei money to buy a boat. The others were in operation before the war and were owned by the Japanese, but loaned to the Coast Guard during the war.

Of the 8 crews, only one has been successful. And that one is Fukuzaki, a nisei who was a successful fisherman before the war. The nisei don't have the experience and although they are able to get their nets around the schools of fish, they always lose them because they don't have the technique and experience. This is where they miss the issei the most. It is something that can't be learned in a few years and unless the issei are able to get back into fishing, it will be many years before the nisei will be able to get back to where they issei were.





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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Terminal Islanders.

TS. "Did the Japanese own fleets before the war? Or was it only nets?

DN. "They chartered boats. My father chartered two boats and sold the fish to various canneries. Right now most of the canneries are willing to buy fish from anyone who can bring them in. It means more money to them and therefore when it comes right down to it, it is always economic competition.

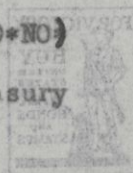
"The Slavs and Italian Fishermen want to keep the Japanese fishermen out. They may be the ones who are pushing the Fish and Game in prohibiting the Japanese from fishing. They have put out a facetious argument about conservation of game and fish as a means of keeping theisais out.

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"Coming back to the young people, Miss Swanson, who was a missionary in Terminal for over 8 years told me recently that some of the mothers of Long Beach were telling her to do something about controlling their youngsters. A couple of delinquent cases have already developed and they are getting worried. They have no control over the kids. She said that during her years at Terminal the people resented her work, and when she could have done so much they shunned away from her. I noticed this myself; but it was the result of their elannishness. Now, when it is too late to do preventative work, they ask her to do something about it.

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Dave gave me several other references, Miss Swanson of the Baptist Church who is still doing work among the relocated Terminal Islanders; Moritaka Nakashima, who was Merritt's right hand man at Manzanar; and Ichi Hashimoto whos's father was taken in the same time as Dave's father. Nakashima was hated because he was against the repatriates and draft-dodgers. (NO\*NO) Ichi Hashimoto's father still has over \$100,000 tied up by the Treasury Department.





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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

#145

Economic Adjustment.

San Pedro is located across the channel from the famed Terminal Island where more than 5000 were crowded into an area about one mile square. Not too many lived over in the San Pedro side of the channel. As of December 31, 1946, only 20 people had returned to San Pedro according to the Bulletin No. 11 issued by the Statistics Department of the WRA. Since that time many families have moved into the city with the majority of them concentrated in the three or four Federal Housing Projects.

Accidentally I met Bob Tanizaki, a kibe who worked for OSS in the CBI, and who was a member of the US Strategic Bomb Survey last year, at Hank Tsurutani's office. Before Bob left Washington he told me that he was going to go back to San Pedro but at that time did not know what he was going to do.

Bob said that there were about 12 gardeners in the area and most of them were finding the going pretty tough now because of the winter season. Bob, himself had lost more than \$200<sup>a month</sup>/worth of contracts because of the slowdown. To take up the slack he has gotten his Life Insurance license and was selling part time. He said that he did not realize how tough it was to sell Life Insurance until he began. It is estimated that there are more than 50 life insurance Salesmen and 50 including all types. The other gardeners have not readjusted themselves to the situation as yet. However, in San Pedro, most of the women work in the cannery across the channel. He estimates that during the season there are about 200 working in Terminal Island. Many come from Long Beach and Wilmington. But since this work is also seasonal, he feels that many of the Japanese are commuting all the way into Los Angeles where they get into restaurant jobs.





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# 24 - 8/4/46  
# 123 - 10/28/46

## RECOLLECTIONS OF EVACUATION

# 59 - 9/9/46

## NEGRO\* JAPANESE RELATIONSHIPS

# 13 - 7/29/46  
# 75 - 9/16/46  
# 77 - 9/17/46  
# 79 - 9/17/46  
# 83 - 9/18/46  
# 131 - 11/7/46  
# 143 - 11/20/46

## RELATIONS WITH LARGER COMMUNITY

### Integration

# 19 - 8/1/46  
# 22 - 8/3/46  
# 32 - 8/13/46  
# 49 - 8/24/46  
# 142 - 11/19/46