

1943

Dec. 21: Taigo Miyahara: "Being a barber in this place is pretty hard. It's tough to get a license if you want to be honest about it. You have to get it through graft. That's the way I got mine. Then I would starve if I didn't have no Nisei trade. I went to a lot of places but they told me no. But this fellow is Italian so he took a chance.

December 24: I went down to the WRA today and ran into a bunch of snots. Frank Tanabe came up to me and said that there was going to be a dance at Hull House on New Year's Eve. He said that it was going to be a quiet one where everyone behaved themselves because it was exclusively for northwesterners.

Then Kumeo Yoshinari came along and said some things which indicated the confusion in his mind of his status in America. He said: "Yah, the soldiers are much nicer than the civilians, especially if they are veterans who come from the Pacific battle area. They have respect for the Japanese fighting ability. First they used to think of us just like the kumbos. But now they realize that we have intelligence. The Nisei should stick up for their rights when they are attacked instead of backing out." Like a lot of other JACL men, Kumeo apparently conceived of himself as Japanese and consequently has to turn a mental somersault from time to time.

Then I ran into Mrs. Izumi who proceeded to tell me all about herself. She said: "The history of the Japanese in America goes way, way back. You can't start with Perry. My grandfather came to this country in 1859. He came in a fishing boat. Why my father would be 100 if he were alive today. There's a professor at Stanford who knows all about us and if you don't believe me, you can write him and find out. My grandfather was the interpreter when the peace treaty was signed. Prof. Ichihashi knows about it. I know him well. I used to see him all the time. We are very old friends. I think that this evacuation did more good for the Nisei than anything else that happened to them. It got them away from the influence of their parents and now they have to learn to make up their own minds. These people are too selfish and they expect the others to do everything for them. They're just a bunch of spoiled brats. There's absolutely nothing wrong with them except in their imagination. It's just in their minds, that's all and they want a little sympathy. When they get away from their parents maybe that may change. I'm a third generation myself and my children are fourth generation. We've been in this country a long time and going to the center was a big shock. Why, I never saw so many Japanese in all my life. We never lived among Japanese you see. In camp, my daughter and I worked voluntarily. We didn't have to but we thought we would do something for these poor people. We went into the medical social welfare department because the welfare dept. was no good. The supervisor didn't know anything and I felt that if I were going to work, I wanted to be on my own. We both wanted to help people who really needed it. We went around and helped people we felt needed help. In all the other places, there were long lines of people with very slight ailments, mostly in their imaginations. We soon learned about that. People are that way. And these old people are so stupid. We have to lead them by the hand. It was very disgusting." Everything that Mrs. Izumi said may have been true, but it is easy to see why a woman with her attitude would have difficulty in understanding sympathetically the problems of the people who go to the WRA. It is also easy to see how it would be almost impossible for her to establish rapport with an Iseii. Not only because she will not speak Japanese but also because of her orientation toward them. She struck me as being a sissy old bitch.

Then I ran into Pete Yamamoto outside. He said he couldn't stand Topaz and left in 2 weeks. When he was in Salt Lake City, he worked in the same place as Texas Mary. He said that she almost burnt her kid to death when she left the kid in the house that was ~~so~~ overheated. He said he used to walk around with her



since they worked together and when he went back to camp, his mother gave him holy hell.

I went over to the postoffice to buy some war stamps to paste into the book that Tomi bought. I thought we might as well start filling them before they stopped selling stamps altogether. As I lined up at the stampwindow the people were very friendly and they apparently concluded that I was a nice patriotic Chinese. One fellow asked me how long I thought it would take before I would be able to go home. Since the line was long I thought he was referring to that, and predicted that I could go in a half-hour. Then he looked very puzzled. Then all of a sudden it struck me that he was talking about China. Then it became very obvious since another guy asked me if all Chinese spoke English. It struck me that it was a pity that we couldn't conveniently be labeled as Nisei in times like these because when I told them that I was of Japanese descent, it was too late for them to freeze off. I poured it on kind of thick and told them about all the Nisei in the Army. One guy had apparently never heard of it before and kept saying, "What do you know?" and "What won't they do next?"

December 25: Today was Xmas and we were sitting around when George and Bessie unexpectedly came over. Bessie had apparently had a similar experience to the one I had yesterday and blew her top for a while. She said, "People always talk to me about China and so I better read a book about it so I could add something to the conversation. Most of the time I don't see any sense in correcting them but it sure burns me up. When they see some well dressed Nisei girl, they say that she is a cute Chinese. But when they see a couple of dirty Chinamen talking to each other in Chinese, they say, 'Why don't those dirty Japs learn our language?'"

Barry came over and so the five of us went to see "Behind the Rising Sun". Bessie didn't want to go because Kimbark was a 30% theatre but George said that he wasn't proud and he wanted to see the picture anyway. Barry thought that somebody was going to beat us up and was very hesitant but we told him that the people there were very nice. The picture wasn't bad, in fact, it was much better than we had expected. After hearing the Nisei talk about it, I thought it was going to be horrible, but it emphasized the dissention among the Japanese and the possibility of an underground movement in Japan. I could see how it could be misleading. While we were in there, somebody heaved a bag of candy and it bounced on the seat in front of me. My first thought was that somebody was sore but then again when you consider all the kids in there, how dark it was and the fact that the bag came from behind, we really couldn't tell. As we got home, Barr was disturbed and thought that the picture did not give a fair account of Japan. He thought Japan was much more united and that we should not underestimate her strength.

Afterwards we sat around talking and George said that Mary Tani was dancing in some of the night clubs. She had been kicked out of International House along with subversive guys like Ben. Then Bessie said that she went to a basketball game and saw so many Nisei that she felt like leaving soon after she got into the stadium. She estimated that there were at least 500 Nisei there.

December 27: I talked to Halpern for a while and he said that Yamaguchi was his biggest problem. He said he couldn't understand Layhton who had sent 5 guys with very high recommendations. Since he knew the guy was an anthropologist, he had to put on at least one of them and he found that Yamaguchi was the least objectionable. He said that this fellow could do absolutely nothing the way he was supposed to and always got things mixed up. Then he went on to say that Rubie Tajima, who seems so promising, just couldn't seem to control her class. He told me to stay clear of the group for a couple of weeks because the Army was conducting an investigation. He said that Shig was one of his worst teachers and that he was always sore because Shig was so easily hurt by innocuous remarks. Then Doi came along and said that Michi had been made the head of a new section and that there were many antagonisms. Everybody is very insecure and Halpern himself was on the spot. I gathered the impression that there was a good deal of antagonism



up there with each person thinking that he had more support than he actually had. I learned from Frank that Michi thought most of the people were on her side in a minor conflict against Wada and some of Wada's friends. Chiyeko, on the other hand, thought that there was more resentment against Michi than there was against Wada.

Doi got into a very reflective mood and said, "I think I want to get away from the yabos for a while. I want to get a bigger apartment and try out the elite society. I want to find out what those guys have and be able to bring it back to the boys. I found that now people talk to you ~~xx~~ on an equal level. It makes you feel grown-up." Apparently Doi wanted to put on the dogs but he had some guilt feelings about becoming snotty and rationalized about spreading culture to the boys.

Then he told us about the fight he almost got into at the Midland dance. He said, "I was just minding my own business when some drunk came up to me and said, 'Hello, Bright Eyes' to the girl I was with. I just stared at him and let it go. I saw him out in the washroom again but I didn't say anything to him. When I was buying a ticket he brushed against me and tried to pick a fight. I think he was from Sacramento. He said he could beat up anybody and started for me, but 2 other drunks dragged him back. First thing I did when I got inside was to look for some of my boys but they weren't there."

There were a couple of things suggested by Doi's remark that stuck me. It seemed that the age hierarchy that existed on the Pacific Coast was actually breaking down. Many of the older people who had held positions of respect before were now not doing any better than some of the young ones who happened to have specialized vocational training. Consequently, people of various ages, are beginning to meet each other on an equal basis. Another thing that struck me as being important was the myth of northwest superiority. The Hull House dance really touched everything off and there was considerable resentment on the part of Californians. It seems that there is a great deal of jealousy when it comes to boy-girl relationship. Since Frank and Michi were among the patrons and patronesses, I wondered what would happen.

December 28: Chiyeko: "Doi, Halpern and Suzuki had a big fight today. Suzuki was mad as anything but Halpern didn't get sore. Most of the people up in the office don't like each other and they don't talk much. I don't know of any definite cliques up there, but the people just seem to side up with each other every now and then and get nasty. Each individual has his pet gripe. Wada says this country is going to the dogs and he doesn't like the fact that Michi is head of the group. I don't think the people snub Doi alone as Doi thinks. They snub everybody. I think the thing that made some people sore was the fact that Michi read that Doi is a baka note to everybody. They thought it was pretty dirty for her to do that and so now they are sore at her. Of course, they still think that Doi is a baka. She said that so far as she knew, no one had been cleared by the Army yet. She felt that Michi and Shig had a grudge against Doi and they were out to get him from the beginning. By making little remarks here and there, they tried to spread the general impression that Doi was altogether incompetent. But Chieko thought that everybody was on to her and resented them more than Doi whom they regarded as a joke. Chieko thought that the others always ~~xxxxxx~~ wondered what Michi and Shig would say behind their back and so they pressure was taken off of Doi. I gathered that most of the talk centered around the question of pay-checks and deductions for taxes.

December 29: Since there seemed to be some trouble up there, I thought I would compare notes with Frank to find out as far as possible what was actually going on. His explanation, which he recognized to be one-sided, and which he labeled as such was as follows: "Michi is one of the more aggressive people up there and is a natural leader. She, Shig, Sugawara, Chieko, and Ichiyasu are all in one group. All the other people are in the Wada group. So you have two groups, the Wada group and the Miyamoto group and the latter group did all the work. Wada is



really dumb. The present struggle as I understand it is that between the people who want to teach the writing of Japanese against those who want to concentrate on speaking." Apparently, Frank is unaware of the fact that Chieko is not entirely in sympathy with Michi and the fact that Halpern considers Shig his next to the worst instructor.

I went over to see Mrs. Kuramitsu and asked her how she came to know Mr. Behrent. She said that Behrent was her sister's boss and became good friends of her family about six months before the war. I went to tell her about Charlie's wanting her typewriter and told her that Charlie's top price was \$35. Her reply was, "Somebody offered me \$45, but I think I will let Charlie have it. Nihonjin dooshi dakara ne. I've always believed that blood was thicker than water. I think that a matter of \$10 is not very important." She said that Gil could now tell his boss off and get a new job. She told me that she was looking for a new apartment and had some trouble. She said somebody told her that Japanese were uncivilized and she felt very badly. Whenever anyone asked her if she was Japanese or Chinese, she said she always told them the truth because her pride would not allow her to do otherwise.

December 30: Doris Hayashi and Roy Mita came in today and said they had just come back from Topaz. They said none of their friends were there anymore. Since the high school teacher were just high school graduates, even the high school students were going out to get an education.

December 31: Doi came over about supper time and parked himself. We asked him if he would stay to eat and he said that he wasn't hungry. Then he put away 5 bowls of rice. I guess he got a little homesick for Japanese food. Then he said that he thought that Lt. Black and the Nisei lieutenant were G-2 spies to check up on the ability of the teachers. He said that Shig had better get off the dime because Halpern was looking for some excuse to fire him. Then he said that Sugawara was money mad but was a good teacher nonetheless. He was very bitter about Michi and insisted that Wada was not so dumb.

I talked to Jake today about the Hull House dance and he said that he had heard that it was sponsored by the Friends Service Committee.

January 3, 1944: I ran into Jack Okumura at the WRA and he said that he was now running a boarding house. He had 17 fellows there from whom he collected \$11 each. His wife was cooking and taking care of the place while he worked in a garage all day. He said that he would prefer to have his job back in California in spite of the low pay because he felt that if people didn't see him around they would get the wrong idea about the Japanese. He said he was thinking of starting a credit union in his house, charging the fellows \$10 a month and giving them 5% interest. His explanation for this move was: "Otherwise, these goddam guys won't save a cent. I figure that if I can help them have something to show when the war is over, it's worth any loss that I might have to take."

January 6: I dropped in over at the Woodlawn House and the boys were having a general bull session. Frank Arata blew his top off about the Army and then got on the subject of California. He said: "I guess I could go back to California after the war if I serve in the Army. I still got my farm back there but I figure it won't be the same without my friends. We used to have a lot of fun when we played baseball and horsed around like that. I'd like to see that again, and I'd like to live like that again but I figure it's no use because most of my friends aren't going back. So I figure I'll travel around for a while and then study auto mechanics. I want to have a good trade after the war so that I'll have a way of making a living." He said that he went to the football game but had not seen any basketball or baseball games in Chicago. There weren't very many fellows around the house because a half of dozen of them had gone to Rohwer for a vacation. Reno was out learning how to skate on the ice. Harry came in and the gang of us got together and played poker. They said that Barry and Doi had been



around New Year's week-end and had played to 5:00 in the morning a couple of nights in a row. Freddie Masai was there as was Doi's brother. Both of the fellows were staying over on their way over to Ann Arbor. I hit a losing streak so I quit for a while and talked to Shig Arao. He said: "I'm working about 30 hours a week now and I'm finishing up school. If I finish this course at Illinois Tech, I'm getting my engineering degree from Cal. It's a tough grind but I only have to stand it for 2 more months. I don't see how you guys can play poker all night. I think they're crazy. I generally don't come home until about 8:00 because I have to work and every time I come, they're playing poker. I eat with Ben and Harry but I always feel like an outsider because I don't play poker." When I went back, Doi had shown up and he was crabbing about how the Nisei girls were all crazy about Frank Skinatra. The other fellows all laughed and told him that he was jealous to which Doi became very indignant.

January 11: I learned today that Junz Agari was very much interested in Masako Tabuchi. It wasn't a very peculiar thing since I'd known them both practically all my life but what struck me was that even though they had lived across the street from each other for the last 15 years, Jun asked Barry to propose to Masako for him. His courtship took a rather peculiar form. He first went around asking all the fellows what they thought about her and their estimation of her was just about unanimous because she really is a nice girl and very attractive. However, some question arose as to whether he could get along with her. He had seen her several times but he had never intimated to her what his feelings might be. They were simply old friends. Jun confessed that he dreamed about her quite a bit. When he asked Barry, Barry objected and said that John Alden had been roped instead of Miles Standish. He joked about how Masako was going to throw her arms around Barry until Jun got kind of sore. Then they sat down and planned their campaign. Barry was to send her some flowers and was going to bring a box of candy and then tell her how well Jun was doing in Chicago. Finally, he was to get around to the point of suggesting marriage. Knowing how long-winded Barry is, the other fellows all sympathized with Masako.

January 22: We went to see "So Proudly We Hail" with Barry. He was very resentful and said that all the stories about the sex crimes of the Japanese were unfair because it was the Chinese who had committed the crime. He pointed out that the Chinese armies sacked everything as they retreated and he concluded that the Chinese must have committed the atrocities since the Japanese Army had strict discipline. He said the missionaries didn't know the difference between Chinese and Japanese anyway so they blamed everything on the Japanese. I thought he had been listening to Issei too much but there was one thing he emphasized which might be of some importance. He pointed out that there wasn't a single instance of any Caucasian woman who came forth and charged that she had been attacked by a Japanese. Furthermore, the missionaries got their stories from girls whom they knew but none of them admitted that they were right there on the spot when the crime occurred. When we think of all the rumors which spread in 1917, some of these stories do seem to be subject to error.

January 25: Aster called up about 6:30 p.m. and said that she was leaving for Denver on the 12 o'clock train. I didn't want to tangle with her mother the whole evening so I told her I had to go to a meeting and Tomi and I went over there about 11:15. Three fellows were there who seem to be Aster's boy friends. Kats Nagai was there and we talked about Stockton for a while. Mrs. Iguchi said that Chicago was the dirtiest town she'd ever been in. She had just come back from Denver and said she was kind of sick. When someone remarked that Pittsburgh was dirtiest she said she doubted if that was possible. She said Denver was dirty too but it was paradise compared to Chicago. She asked how the U. of Chicago was and we talked about the other Japanese working here. She wanted to know about the AMG school and how it was that a guy like Doi got a job. When Nagai first mentioned that Doi was working here, she screamed at the top of her voice because she couldn't believe it. She said, "Doi? That stupid son of a barber? That roly poly one? Are you sure you're thinking of the right person?" Then one of the



fellows said that Savage was a spy school and Mrs. Iguchi immediately asked whether the U. of Chicago was conducting a spy school. She almost intimated that if it were a spy school she could almost understand why Doi worked there. I asked them what they were going to Denver for and she said that they were going to open a store there. She said that there were 10,000 Japanese in Denver and they should be able to make a living quite easily. She admitted that housing was very hard to find but said that they had been fortunate enough to find a place 5 houses away from the store. They had an automobile which they had purchased, but since they could not get any gas, were making other arrangements to take it to Denver.

January 26: Mush came to town today and he went over to see Zenchi and left his kid with us. His brat is the toughest kid I've seen and he practically tore our room apart. Take said she wanted 3 more and I couldn't figure out how a frail woman like her could take it. The bay just picked up chairs and bashed it against anything in the room he could find. They had been in Alton, Ill. and they said that life was pretty hard there because the Caucasians didn't know anything about them. He said that he used to go bowling with another fellow who worked there but he couldn't do that anymore because the people objected. He said that a lot of the resentment was against the boss because he was the only rich man in town. He was identified with the boss and so they didn't like him either. Mush said that the other worker was a German so the fellow understood a little better. He said he liked St. Louis because there were a lot of Germans there and they were sympathetic. The place where they worked was a mile and a half from town and Mush had to walk that far just to go to a show. Take said that he didn't want to go shopping because everybody stared at her and she had a feeling that they were making remarks about her. She said she felt out of place and that she was not wanted and that's why she wanted to move to Chicago where there were more Japanese. Toye and Zenchi came over and we had a general gab session. Mush said that he wanted to come to Chicago but he hesitated because housing was so bad. He was worried about his kid. He said he couldn't quit because they were too busy so he wanted Take to take the baby and go back to camp while he would tell the boss that and go to school to study refrigeration. He said that he couldn't study and support his family at the same time. They were in a quandry because Take didn't want to go back to camp.

January 29: Bill Himmel had been working actively during the past week to put out a program at the high school for the kids in Desplaines and Park Ridge. He had concocted a program whereby young children from the centers could be adopted by wealthy Caucasians in the suburbs so that they could get their education outside of camp. He realized that ~~xxx~~ very few parents would let their children come out but he thought it was worth a chance. His first problem was to convince the wealthy parents in the area that the Japanese were not diabolical but in order to do this, he felt that the easiest way was to convince the children. Since his father had been one of the men responsible for putting up the high school, he managed to make arrangements for a program to which all students would at one time or another be required to attend. A couple of fellows from Camp Savage and Noboru Honda addressed the high school audiences all day. Bill had the following thing to say: "The program went over beyond all expectations. The audience's reaction was favorable and participation was excellent. There was only one hitch. One girl phoned her father who was working in the government. Some other people must have done something because the principal received 2 phone calls asking him what the hell all the foreigners were doing around the school. The principal indignantly replied that the men were in the U.S. Army and anybody who calls them a foreigner must not belong in this country. We did the program 9 times, each hour and some of the kids must have come in about 6 or 7 times because they were excused from several classes. The questions which were asked were questions of curiosity and there were no signs of hostility at all. The kids were swamped with swarms of autograph hunters who wanted an autograph of a Japanese fighting against Japan. I don't know what the parents thought about it but the principal said that some of the kids organized a club to write letters to students in the centers so that they could make friends before they came out."



January 30: The block captain forcivilian defense came around to sell us a war bond. We were thinking of buying one anyway even though we are not too patriotic in a shogunistic way, we thought that the more money they had, the sooner Johnny might come home. Since we were going to buy anyway, we thought we might as well buy it from the block captain so that he could go and tell the people in the neighborhood that we had purchased a bond. He was a little hesitant at first, but after we signed for the bond, he invited us to go to his church.

February 3: We went with Mr. Blaisdell over at the International House and after a long talk, he raised the question of whether or not integration could not be affected through the churches. Henry Takahashi's reply was: "It won't work. The number of people going to churches now is much lower than it used to be. We tried this kind of thing before. The main reason why people are not going to churches here is that they haven't got one of their own." ~~xxxxxx~~ That made Blaisdell kind of sore but for a change I thought Henry was right. We talked on for a while and Henry said that he didn't like Mitch Kunitani because Mitch was a Y.D. He had apparently forgotten that Ann used to be Blaisdell's secretary. Then Henry said that he knew Earl Warren pretty well and said that he was surprised that Warren made the statement that he had. George Takahashi said that he knew Cannon very well and said that they had had business dealings with each other in Sacramento. He said, "He didn't used to be that kind of guy. We used to get votes for him and he would fix things up for us. I wonder why he changed like that?"

February 4: I went over to the Woodlawn House and after a long conversation about the Army, I asked the fellows if they had felt any hostility since the atrocity stories came out. Chick replied: "Well, when we're on the street car, we could sort of feel it. People just stare at us and you can see in their eyes that they are not staring out of curiosity because they got that cold look in their eyes. You could almost tell what they're thinking but in this house, hell, we're all Japs here. We got 21 Japs here. They can't do anything to us because all the ketos are gone."

February 7: I dropped over the Woodlawn House again and sat in on a general bull session. Doi touched it off with some remarks about going to school. Everybody laughed so he left the room. His brother then went on: "I guess I may as well go to school even if Kaz doesn't. I figure I may as well because I don't want to be a barber all my life. If I don't do so good, I could always go back to cutting hair. I'm figuring on going to Indiana Tech. I want to have some kind of skill for when the war is over. Look at Chick, he's almost through with school so he's out wolfing tonight." Then Frank said: "Yah, you can't play poker anymore. Everybody's gone or going away and that goddam Chick practically lives with his woman. I'm figuring maybe I'll study radio along with mechanics and then I could kill the time. This is no life. I don't want to spend the rest of my life living like this." Then Chow Nitta agreed: "Yah, this is no fun. Christ I have to get up at 6 in the morning and have to be at work by 7:30. I have to walk up seven flights of stairs because the elevator doesn't start running until 8:00. I work like hell all day and then come home and eat, take a bath and roll in at 10:00. It's not bad but I'd sure hate to spend the rest of my life living like this." Tamura was chewing on his pipe and worrying about income tax. He had a little pamphlet and was sitting at his desk reading every line very carefully. He had been out here about 4 months and had earned \$800. Out of that he had been hit for \$115 and was counting on a refund of \$60. They were having a long argument about that when a Lodi fellow came in expecting a poker game. He said he was out looking for a job. He had apparently come to Chicago only a few days before. He said he walked at least 10 miles today looking around and added, "Hell, there are jobs all over the place." Chow objected, "Yah, but they don't want Japs." Then the Lodi fellow said, "I went over to that Cooperative Employment Bureau or whatever in the hell they call it and they wanted me to fork up \$20 before they would even look for a job. The hell with that noise. Then I went down by the 'Y' and they offered me a job at the hotel but I didn't take it because there were too many coons hanging around. The guy I came out with decided not to work and he went to school because he found one up on the northside where they give you your money



back if you go into the Army. After I talked to him I figured maybe I'd better not work. I really don't want a job now. I just want to hang around for a couple of months and make enough money so that when I go back to camp I'll be ahead 32 bucks which is the pay that I lost when I came out. Why should be work like hell? Two months, we'll all get drafted. The hell with that noise. I'm going to have some fun." Then everybody went back working on income tax so I went up to see what Shig was doing. Shig was still very bitter and among other things he said: "They sure wasted a lot of money in evacuation. That guy DeWitt is a reall sonnabitch. He must be dumb and I can't see how he became a general. Gee, it's a good thing they don't have him up in the front. He would probably kill his own men. I guess the only thing that was good for us is that we don't have any more Issei control. Some of the crazy customs are followed out here too, but you don't have to do the things like you did on the coast." Shig had swiped some Kleenex from the drug store where he worked and gave me a box because he knew that Tomi was looking for some. About that time Doi's brother came in and he asked where he had gotten the Kleenex. When Shig told him that he had just taken it, Doi's brother remarked: "Goddamit, you get so you don't feel bad about swiping stuff when you've been in camp so long." Then Shig said, "Yah, I feel that the government owes us something and so I just drop a box and then take some. If I should drop a crate, then they can't sell it in wholesale so they have to take the damaged boxes out and sell the others individually. That's how I get my Kleenex." About 10 o'clock most of the fellows started undressing because there was no poker game on. When there was no poker session, there was nothing else to do. I noticed that there was quite a bit of mail for fellows who didn't live in the house. Apparently letters were being sent in care of friends and were left around until the person appeared to claim it.

February 12: I went over to see the gang again with Barry. When we got there, Doi, Harry, Chow, Reno, Frank, and Min were playing poker. And a half a dozen other fellows were watching. When Barry and I got there, Min got up so that the 2 of us could get into the game. About 1:00, Harry quit because he had a headache. He was about \$10 ahead but the other didn't say anything and kept playing. They didn't stop until 4:00. Everytime there was a big pot, Reno took a nickel out for the house, and when they had enough money, Min went out and bought some soda and cookies. Between games I talked about the big sessions that were going on in camp. Then they talked about the centers for a while because 3 of them had just gotten back. Chow said he was going next week. About 11:00 o'clock, a young kid came in who was apparently serving his apprenticeship in the house as a kind of an orderly. He was treated like a scrub in a fraternity house and did odd jobs for the fellows. He came in with the announcement, "Another boochie moved in." There were all kinds of remarks such as, "Another one?" and "We got too many yabos here already." And then somebody asked who it was and where he'd come from. There was some speculation about it but the consensus of opinion seemed to be that there were enough Japanese in the house already. Then they started talking about how the Japanese went around in dirty clothes and therefore created a bad impression. The idea seemed to be that the fewer Japanese there were the fewer people would be in dirty clothes. About that time, Min came in with a pair of socks and said something about washing them. Reno said, "Jesus Christ, you mean to tell me you're going to wear those things again? Hell, I thought you brought them up here to shine your shoes with. They're sure dirty. You're just like all the other guys." In spite of the fact that all of these fellows were living together, they apparently took it for granted that it was better for the Nisei to be scarce. There seem to be other common understandings and practices discernible in the group. For example, everyone always claimed that he didn't have any money even though everybody else knew that each person had several hundred dollars saved up in the bank. Doi is one of the very few Stockton fellows who spend money. When they play poker, unless they are way ahead, they always claim that they are losing. Another part of the code in the house which was reflected in Reno's comment about Min's socks. They wished to appear clean to the Caucasians and they object to anyone who was noisy and who would in any way inconvenience their Caucasian neighbors. In poker a man who quits while winning is looked down upon.



even though he may have had a pretty good reason for quitting. If the fellow is a member of the group, then he can quit at any time because the others fellows would have a chance to get their money back the next time. In general, the fellows do not like people who play poker conservatively. They don't like "cheap" fellows altho they never play very high stakes. When playing among themselves, they play for 25¢ a stake and when visitors come, it is raised to a dollar a stack as table stakes so that no one can be taken for too much money. Altho the fellows try very hard to win, they do not take it so seriously that they would cheat and semi-professional gamblers are very definitely not welcomed in the house. The game is generally played just to kill time. There's a very peculiar poker terminology which has evolved in this group and which does not mean anything in any other Stockton group. Some of the terms are

1. "Masai" means that the person is going to bet everything that he has on the table. It is generally used when a person has only a few chips left and wants to indicate that he does not have anything more to be altho occasionally a man may throw in several dollars.
2. "Chinba" in Japanese means cripple. Since 50¢ is considered a full bet, a 25¢ bet is labeled a cripple bet or "chinba".
3. "Sanbon" and "Shihon" are common terms among Issei who play poker and refers to 3 of a kind and four of a kind, respectively. These terms have been adopted by the boys.
4. "Aji" or "Aji or kiku" which means literally "I'll take a taste." This term is used when a person who is betting big is suspected of bluffing or when no one is betting big and one person wants to find out who has good cards. He will throw in a disproportionately large amount of money with the remark "Aji" indicating that he wants to taste the calibre of his opponents' cards.
5. The Queen card is referred to by several terms. "Whores" is the most common terminology but this is not peculiar to the Nisei. The card is also called "Ba-san" or old woman, and "PinkPanties".
6. The King card is referred to as a "Hindu". The Jacks are called "Jays" or "Hooks" and the Aces are called "Bullets". These terms are, of course, in common uses among poker players. But they do sound a little different when used with a Japanese accent.
7. The Joker is for unexplainable reason called the "Boom-Boom".

The bets are frequently placed in the Japanese language. Two newcomers it is sometimes confusing. For example, a man may on a fifth card lay down his hands and say, "Masai with a full house with whores up". It took me several weeks of questioning to find out whatta hell was going on. I've never run into this particular terms in a Nisei group.

February 22: Tamio came over and we talked about all kinds of things. After a while he said that he wanted to go to school. He said: "I went to COP for 3 years and then that bastard DeWitt threw us out. I want to try for my master's but if I can't do that, I hope at least I can get my B.S. I figure I could do it in a half year, but I might get drafted in the meantime. My brother thinks that I just want my bachelor's degree so he agreed to my going to school. But I'm going to work for my master's if I can and see if he'll support me." We were listening to the radio and someone mentioned the "southern drawl" and Tamio said that it made him think of home. He was referring of course to Rohwer. Then we talked about the Southside in Stockton and all the gang fights we used to have and about how COP really went to town this year in football. Then Doi came in and was pretty sore about something. Then he said that he had heard Ginny Simms' program and that Kuroki had spoken. He said, "He gave us a lot of blah about 3 men and about the 4 boochies who have to fight. It was that old 200% American Legion stuff but I figured the keto would like to hear it." Then Doi said that he had heard that Jerome was closing and asked whether or not it was true.

February 24: Dekkie came over and said that she heard that Dorothy Nakagawa was living with a Negro. She said there were couple of other Nisei girls in the Black Belt. Then she said that she and Masa went over to Coffee's place when Masa lost about \$30 in 2 or 3 hands. She said somebody lost \$300 in one evening and said



that she thought it was too bad because the Nisei were trying to play like big time gamblers when they didn't have the income the big time gamblers had.

February 25: I dropped in by the Woodlawn House again to see what was going on. The fellows had a long discussion about the Army. I picked up several rumors. Among them was the one that the WRA had been closed up and that the Interior Dept. had taken over all the camps. Another was that the Interior Dept. had ordered several centers closed and Jerome was the first affected. When I assured Ben that WRA was still very much alive, he brightened up and said that in that case he wouldn't have to worry about his folks and he was going over to see his woman. Harry went downstairs to get a haircut from Doi's brother and on his way up he got Reno and Doi and started a game. About 12 o'clock Frank came home from some kind of meeting and he played until 1:00. Doi just wouldn't leave in spite of all of Reno's pleas that he had to get up early in the morning so finally Reno started brushing his teeth. Doi was just beginning to win so he lent Reno some money to get him back into the game and keep him quiet. It seemed that Doi owed Reno some money anyway. The fellows were a little apprehensive about the draft because one of them had to go to Little Rock for a physical examination. Chow was gone and they thought he would not return because his parents wanted him to go into farming near Denver.

February 28: I saw in the Herald this morning an article by a New Jersey congressman who attacked the Nisei at Camp Grant. He charged that they received promotions faster than Caucasians, that Caucasians did not like to take orders from a Nisei sergeant, and that the nurses resented the attention paid by the Nisei men. That really disgusted me because now even the soldiers are under fire and Parnell Thomas was using the same old race argument. It made me sick to think that so many people were reading it and I felt like going out to choke Hearst and all his kind. I wondered what he would get out of it. I thought for a long time to think of some satisfaction that a man like Hearst would get out of printing stuff that a man like Thomas would say. I couldn't understand it and came to the conclusion that maybe he was just mean and wanted to cause trouble. If they couldn't even trust the man who was risking their lives to protect their interest, then what kind of bastards are they?

March 2: We dropped in over Chieko's place and they raised the question about Morikawa's services. Marsha said that it was too bad that so many Japanese had to be in one place but "it's a better place for them to be than a dance where they would fight anyway". Her sister who had arrived only a few days before, said, "Yes, there's so many bums around here. I haven't met a decent man since I came here and they have such funny haircuts."

March 3: Tomi was very tired today so we decided to go to a show. They had a serial of "Batman" of which they were showing the first installment giving the background in which the action took place. It was the story about a professional Japanese spy and it was laid in Little Tokyo district in L.A. They showed pictures of all the abandoned stores and the commentator said that all the dangerous people had been moved out because of "wise government policy". There were boos from all part of the audience as the picture of Little Tokyo was shown. For the Chicago people, there was no distinction between a professional spy and an innocent Japanese resident. The action started in one of the abandoned stores where the sky had his headquarters.

I saw Helsen during the day and he said that he was having trouble with some of the teachers who were trying to make a good record by showing the tests to the soldiers before the examination date. He said that he couldn't understand Doi because Doi always did a good job but he broke all the rules of teaching. Abe said that Doi used profanity without any limit in his classes. He just walked in, pulled off his coat and started swearing at them. But for some odd reason he had pulled a lousiest class all the way up to the top. He said that Doi got along with the men better than any other teacher. To illustrate this, he pointed out that one of the Russian men had dumped Doi head first into a big



snow drift while they were joking outside. Halpern said that Chieko was the only instructor that he had whom he felt was competent enough to take over a class without guidance. He was quite bitter about not being able to give definite concepts to any of the people because he felt that the insecurity caused by not having a concept had much to do with the bickering that was going on. He said he could not give concepts until G-2 had cleared all of his instructors. They had promised him that they would get this clearance by the end of the year. He said he rushed to get all the forms in on time but that no news had come yet. Mary got a little catty and said that she was still looking for an excuse to fire Shig. She said that he was dominated by Ichiyasu and that he must be used to it because he had two sisters running his life up to now.

It seems that everywhere I go the Nisei are concerned about income tax. This is not strange in view of the fact that it is the first time that most Nisei had ever filed returns.

March 6: Dekkie and Lt. Seto dropped over and immediately got into an argument about movies. Seto likes to see bloody pictures in which Japs are mowed down by the thousands. He also likes to see pictures in which Japs are shown committing atrocities. Dekkie on the other hand can't stand this and she said that she closes her eyes and plugs her ears. She said that they had gone to see pictures of Tarawa and she couldn't see how people could ~~xxxxxx~~ stand seeing some of the dead people. They said they went to see the amateur boxing show where there were a couple of Nisei soldiers on the program. Set thought they were all cheering because they thought the boys were Chinese. Dekkie said she felt very proud when she overheard people around her saying that these fellows were good fighters even if they did think they were Chinese.

March 9: Barry came in with a rumor. The second segregation movement is about to start. 400 people who signed for repatriation since July are still in Rohwer. There is apparently a lot of trouble in Rohwer because of the draft and the people are demanding security first. Barry said that many of the young fellows who returned to Rohwer for a visit did not return because their parents would not let them come out anymore.

March 12: Doi: "I heard that there are some girls in St. Paul with police records. They go downtown and buy a lot of stuff and charge it to their employers. There are a lot of soldiers up there who want to put on a good show for the haku-jin but these girls are wrecking everything for them. Some guy up in Ft. Sheridan told me about it."

March 15: Tomi and I were heading for Chinatown and were starting to climb the El platform when an old man turned toward us and said, "Goddam Japs". Tomi was very disturbed. I didn't hear it very distinctly but try as I may, the words stuck in my head. I kept telling myself that it was just an isolated instance but the thought of hostility spoiled my appetite.

I was talking to Blumer today and he remarked that there were more and more Nisei on the trains. He said that he noticed that every night on the I.C. He said he made a point of asking various strangers he was sitting with what they thought of them and said that the reactions were of two kinds. (1) People who are ignorant or who had not particular feelings one way or the other. They saw the Nisei every day but had no vivid images. (2) Those who knew about evacuation and who were favorably impressed by the way the Nisei were behaving.

March 16: I saw Bingo Kitagawa today and he said that his father, wife and kid were still in camp. He asked me about my baby and when I told him that I didn't have one, he advised me not to have one because it made things too hard when you resettle. He was worried about the Army. He said he had been offered a job in New York which would start in April. He had learned how to use a bull dozer when he was in camp and was offered a job by a construction company. I went upstairs and they were having a poker game with no limit. Then the fellows started talking



about girls who lived in that apartment. Somebody said that Tricka, the girl Barry was interested in, went around with a guy named Hori who was in N.Y. Then they started talking about Shig Takahashi who occasionally visited her. Reno's comment was: "He goes to the University and he thinks he's great stuff. I don't like him because he thinks he's way up in the air. The other Shig is better. More x 'assari shiteru'. I don't like these bastards from the north. Maybe I talk slimy, but I'm not a slimy guy. Shig is like the northwest guys. They talk nice but they'll stab you in the back without you knowing about it." Then Barry added, "The first time I talked to him, I thought he had some powder on his face. I thought I was talking to a pimp." Frank then added that most college men were that way. I gathered from the conversation that the prejudice was not against college men in general since Ben, Harry, Barry and Doi were all college friends. But it was against people who identified themselves as college friends.

March 17: Rally: "When Shirrell left the WRA, everybody on the staff except 2 quit with him."

March 20: Walt Godfreyx said that the Herald had taken a blast at Togo. He said that some man had phoned to the office and told Togo that he had heard that he was in jail and wanted to know what jail he should go to to bail him out. Walt also said that Lil Shigeno had x received a summons to appear in court for a divorce case. She said that Lil had gone in to see a woman in a social agency but this woman was just a case worker with very little understanding. He said that Lily was very upset and noted that she was a very peculiar girl who was always punishing herself.

March 22: I saw Doi in a very melancholy mood. He had gone over to see some girl and said he was walking by our place when it started raining so he dropped in. He said: "When I get into a low mood like this, I want to go home to camp to see my mom. I was thinking that maybe I'd go join the Army. Some guy called me a sonna-bitch today and if I got a uniform on I could spit in his face but as it is, there is nothing I could do but argue with him." I also gathered that he had gotten into a fight with Halpern and since the Halperns were the only ones on Doi's side, losing their support left him all alone.

March 25: I saw Shinji today and he said: "I guess I'm about as well off as any body out here but I'm always worried about the draft, my work, the post-war, the health of my parents and things like that. I guess everybody feels that way nowadays. Everyone wants peace and security but we can't have it. I was looking at Annie Rooney in the funny papers and she was playing with ~~misses~~ wild flowers. That reminded me of California. A lot of times I sit alone in my room and I hum old tunes. They just come to me and I just suddenly wake up and find myself humming them. You know, tunes like "True Confession", "The Singing Hill". They reminded me of all the cool summer evenings and again when I used to drive out to the brooks in the clean air and unpack our supper and sing. I remember the day that my dog scared my girl friend and she fell in the water. I know it won't be the same now even if we were back there because we're all grown up now. We can't screw around much like we did when we were in high school, but I sort of liked it and I think that's the sort of thing that I really miss out here;

April 22: Mush and Frank arrived in Chicago today on their way to Topaz to see Tomi's mother before she passed away. The doctor gave her a couple of months to live. When they arrived, they piled in over at our place and all of our other relatives showed up for a party. It certainly didn't seem like a group of people who were on their way to see their mother for the last time. And it disgusted me a little because I suspected that they were also more concerned about seeing each other. The one thing that amazed everybody was the way that Fujie-san had picked up English. The last time I saw her was right after her baishakunin marriage to Frank. She was the most kibe girl I had ever seen and while she was very nice, she could not speak English. She said that in Pittsburgh she was afraid to go out because there were so few Japanese that people stared at her. So she stayed



home all day and listened to the radio. She said she talked to herself a great deal and while she didn't make any systematic effort to learn English, she did look up in the dictionary words that people used over the radio that she couldn't understand. Because of that, there was hardly any trace of an accent in her English. She used it almost exclusively and the thing that got all of us was her correct usage of American slang. She spoke English much better than Frank, in fact, Frank's English was as horrible as ever. While we were waiting for the others to come, I talked to Frank for a while. He said that he would probably have gone to Tule Lake if he had been in the center. It was a little odd talking to him even though he was my brother-in-law because I had never known him very long and Tomi didn't know him very well either. Frank went to Japan when Tomi was about 2 or 3 and returned when she was about 14. Soon afterwards he came to Chicago so that most of the members of the family never knew him very well.

April 26: Mary Nomura, who was now Mrs. Okamoto, phoned. I wasn't in so I phoned back and left a message saying that I would be around about 9:30. I had to have dinner with Doi and Barry tonight so I was a little late. After I got there and congratulated them, they asked me one question after another after the transportation system, how to find an apartment, what to do when Caucasians cause trouble, and so on. We went for a walk downtown and Mary was amazed at the height of the buildings. They had come in on the train this morning but couldn't see the buildings because they rode to the hotel on a taxi and then had slept all afternoon so they had not really walked at all in Chicago alone. They said that they were told in Topaz by the Nisei relocation worker not to count on the WRA here because they would not help. George said that he wanted to get a job as an accountant or if he couldn't, he wanted to work in a war plant because he didn't want to be called into the Army again. George was one of the fellows who was honorably discharged from the Army soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Mary said she didn't care what kind of job she got as long as she could make a lot of money. George said with some surprise that someone told him that it was possible for a man to support his wife in Chicago. I told him there was nothing unusual in that but he said that he had always heard that a family couldn't possibly make a go in Chicago and that the wife had to be able to work. We went over by the Black Belt and when they saw how dirty everything was, they said that it was too bad that people had to live like that. We passed several night clubs but George didn't want to go in. He said he had gone to several in S.F. but Mary had never been in one and she wanted to go. She apparently thought it was going to be quite a daring adventure and she kept giggling about it.

April 27: I was sitting around listening to the radio when I heard the orchestra play "When My Dreamboat Comes Home". That melody brought back nostalgic memories about happier days when we were carefree and were bothered only with trivial things. I couldn't help but imagining myself back in Stockton when everybody used to sit on Edna's lawn in the evenings and sing and play games. The only worries we had were mosquitoes. I recalled that I heard of troubles in China and in Spain but they were always unreal and far away. Now, it seems that we have so many worries just in making ends meet. There are so many responsibilities now. Pretty soon the orchestra played "When Time Goes By" which is a very beautiful song but it made me very melancholy because I associated it with the war.

April 30: I went over to the Tambaras to have supper. Toe and Zen kept arguing with each other and so finally the others started talking about the Nisei problems to keep them from fighting. Somebody remarked that the newspapers were not very favorable to the Nisei and Zen made the following electrifying statement: "I heard that the Sun writes good things about the Japanese but I don't ever read it because I hear it's a communist paper." I asked him who had told him that and he said all the Nisei fellows he worked with did not read the Sun. Then I asked him what he would do if the communists were the only group in America that favored the Nisei. And his reply was that Communism was wrong and that he would have no alternative but to make it clear that he did not want the communist support. I didn't want to press the matter further because I couldn't afford to be labeled as a Communist now when I wanted to get information from these people. Then Gloria asked Zen what communism was and that stopped everything. Zenchi got pretty sore



and then asked me to explain to him what it was. I thought for a while that he had already labeled me as a communist, then he said that any sociologist should know. Apparently he confused sociology with socialism. I explained to him the best I could some of the basic principles of Marxism and when I finished, Zenchi said that he didn't think communism was so bad after all and wanted to know why more people were not communists. Then we steered the conversation off because it was leading anywhere in particular and started talking about the subject that might bring out some of their sentiments. Then Gloria said that she had heard today that some man from Oakland with a lot of money went to rent a room and the manager of the apt. house refused to let him have it on the grounds that he was a Jap. Then Gloria said, the Japanese man got sore and bought the house from the real estate company even though he didn't want it just to fire the manager. We went on talking about things like that for a while when Toe said that Roosevelt hated the Japanese and was always helping the Jews. She said that the ~~Japan~~ Chinese were worst than the Japanese because they wore their own native costumes. If Roosevelt were not prejudiced against the Japanese, Toe reasoned, why did he evacuate the Japanese and not the Chinese? Then we got on the subject of going back to California. The problem facing the Tambaras was whether or not to sell their home. They had just finished paying for a brand new house. Zen wanted to stay in Chicago because he thought that he was assured of a better job and better relations with fellow employees. He felt that being able to earn a living and pleasant relationships with fellow workers was worth staying in a dirty city. Toe on the other hand wanted to go to Berkeley because the climate was better. One of the girls who was formerly a Stanford co-ed suggested that if they were going to sell they had better sell before the war is over so that they could get a better price for it. Finally Toe was griped because Zenchi had to buy war bonds out of his salary. I told her it didn't make any difference because he would get the money back anyways. But her reply was: "That's where you're wrong, they will not pay it back. The Jews are going to take all the money. My lady told me that and I know that it's true. It's just like giving money to Roosevelt and the Jews."

May 9: Doi: "I'm not money mad but I can't understand why B took an instructorship here at \$2600 when the gov't is willing to pay him more. He said that he wanted security but I haven't reached the point where security means anything to me. I want a girl whose father will give me 5000 bucks for marrying her. The only thing that I want in the way of security is something to fall back on. I figure that I might have to retreat when I fail then I could fall back on it and then go out again. I want to have an opportunity to grab what comes my way. If somebody offers me a better job, I'll take it. I'll borrow money too from anybody who'll lend it to me. If I die without paying, whattta hell do I care what happens after I die." While Doi is an extremely materialistic guy, this is one of his most extreme statements.

May 29: Rumor: Tess Hayashida is back in the U.S. for a furlough. He married Alice rather than Grace Inamoto.

June 1: Rumor: The Sun says that the Nisei can go back to California.

June 12: I ran into Cal Sakamoto at the WRA office and we decided that we would go down to Chinatown together to have lunch. He said that he was living with 5 fellows and that they had a joint income of \$1200 a month. They spent a dollar a day for all of them and paid \$40 for rent. They never played poker and none of them drink and yet none of the men had saved more than a hundred dollars in the past six months. I told him I didn't believe it and so he sat down to figure out where the money had gone. He said that he himself had purchased about a thousand dollars worth of tools. Then he said that the day before Memorial Day he went downtown and bought \$50 worth of clothes and the day after Memorial Day he received his induction notice from the Army. He said he was going in on Friday so he wanted to bum around the WRA. He was a little peeved and said that when the "old man" (Shirrell) was around they just walked in but now they had to wait in the bull-pen. Cal felt that all the Nisei were going to pot. He thought that Chicago was full of opportunity for any person with imagination but that the Nisei were not making good.



June 16: Bacon Imai: "I hear that there's a lot of bad talk about me. They are spreading rumors about me. I don't know what I'm going to do to them but I think I'll start court action. My mother and father don't feel so good. They go to hospital from time to time. My parents and lady next door take care of baby but they can't do that forever. One Santa Barbara girl I know I think may be, I want to marry. My mother approves of her. I take her out once. She is 31 and I like her. She is the oldest daughter in the family and took care of the rest when her mother died. My mother is starting negotiations now about getting married. I got ~~x~~ to get a divorce first but I don't know where to start. I go to WRA but the girl there was too snotty. She made me wait for a couple of hours to see my friend. I stick around a couple of weeks and I get job by myself because WRA people don't help. I start working at National Tea at the store on 63rd. Gee, those people are dumb. They don't don't anything about fruits or vegetables and they always have lousy stuff and they didn't know how to sell it. I showed them how to do it. I got a lot of cheap stuff for the cheap skates and got some real good stuff for the kanemochi. Then I fixed up the display so people would be tempted to buy. Then I got some things they never saw before. I ordered some artichokes and the boss told me nobody will buy. But I order them anyway and leave them there. Pretty soon somebody come in and asked what it is. I tell them it's good and showed them how to cook it. Next day they come back for more. Then they had a lot of left over vegetables they used to throw away so I put it all in a big basket and sold it as soup vegetables, very cheap. We made something on that too. Pretty soon they made me sales manager of the store because I knew more about it than anybody else there. Then one week they fired a man and the week after that they fired another man. I went up and asked them how come and the boss told me that I could do the work so that they didn't need those guys any more. After that I never showed up for work again. I changed my address too so that when they phoned, they wouldn't be able to find me. I went over to the Union and reported what they did so they won't my wreck my record in the Union. I don't know what they're doing now but they're a bunch of cheapskates and they always try to fool the women. I used to send the stuff back to the buyer if it was no good. Today, when I come, I got off the I.C. on 57th and walked up because I get off around 63rd, somebody I know might see me. I went back to camp too because my father wrote and told me to get a war job so I won't have to go to the Army. I tell him I don't want deferment so he told me to come back to center. Other day I was sitting at bar when man asked me if I am American Japanese. I tell him yes and he told me to come work at Ryerson. They make tanks there. Gee, hakujin people are funny. They afraid to work hard. You give them hard work and they quit. I'm on the machine where they make floor of tank and I got one guy to help me. It's pretty hard work and about every week my helper disappear. When he don't come back for couple of days I know he quit. Then the foreman comes in with some new guy. The ~~guy~~ new guy last for a week and then he quit too. I never have any helper that last longer than 2 weeks. Baby was in contest in Cila and won. I send Teruko the picture but it was returned unopened. I still think about her sometime but then I snap out of it right away. I got friends with a hakujin girl who work at YMCA and she go out with me. I took her to Hotel Sherman. I think right now best thing for me would be to get deferment and then get divorce and then get married again.

June 18: Pete Yamamoto said he got a letter from his brother in Topaz saying that no one could leave Topaz for destinations in Utah because a couple of fellows were beaten up in Ogden. Then Tomi said that when she was returning on the train, the sailor she was sitting with, who thought she was Chinese, told her that they had beaten up a few Nisei in Provo. She said that one of the Nisei on the truck taking them to Delta said that he had a good job in Salt Lake but was fired in 3 days because of objections from the AFofL Union. Roy wants to go to Provo now but the camp officials won't let him out. Pete said that he was working at Michael Reese hosp. getting \$100 a month for working 10 hours a day. He said he was going for his physical on the 25th and that on July 1 he was going to return to camp.

June 22: Barry told me about a rumor he heard in Rohwer: "The Japanese have 385



airplane ~~plants~~ factories which are spread all over the empire. They are producing 7000 planes a month and are now supplying the German air force as well as their own."

June 23: Father Dai ~~summed~~ up the Nisei situation as follows: "The Nisei have no definite philosophy of life. They don't know where they stand. I've been here in this country since 1939. At first I was surprised to find that they were willy nilly. By now I've gotten used to it. They don't know their own position. They never know what to do."

July 3: Roy Higashi: "All I'm interested in now is money because I want to save up enough to go to school. I'm getting a dollar an hour now but they won't let us work on Saturday and Sunday. That's why I went to the WRA to see if I could get a job over the week-end. They sent me over to the Blackstone and the man I talked to took a liking to me. He sent me all around to different departments but there was no week-end work. There were plenty of jobs if I wanted to work all week so I went back to him and told him that there must have been some mistake. He went out to check up on it and another man who was sitting there waited until this guy was gone and then came up to me and asked me if I would work for him. He gave me his card and told me to phone him. When I got home and looked at the card, I discovered that this second man was head of the Drake Hotel. Boy, they must be hard up for labor if they cut each other's throat like that."

July 4: Kenny Iwata, who was going to finish school next quarter, dropped in from St. Louis. He had just passed his physical but was doubtful whether he would be out long enough to finish school. He started talking about the future and he said: "I think I would kind of want to go to South America after the war. I guess I'll stay here for a few years to establish my contacts and to get experience. Then I want to go to Argentina. There is no chance here."

July 5: I was walking on State & Van Buren when a Nisei dressed in a zoot suit which must have cost almost a hundred dollars came up to me and asked ~~me~~ if I were Japanese. He had a forlorn look on his face and a day's beard. I told him that I was and he asked me if I ~~had~~ ever heard of him. Since I'd never seen the guy in my life, I told him that I hadn't and he took me by the arm and dragged me into a corner up the sidewalk. He said that his name was in the paper because he was arrested by the FBI for not reporting his change of address. He said he was trying to get into the Merchant Marine but they wouldn't take him. He said that he had been wandering about and he mumbled something about a cop telling him to get moving. I didn't know what he was talking about at all so I told him to get to the point and he told me that he could use \$5. Fortunately I didn't have to argue with him because I had only 12¢ on me so I honestly emptied my pocket. At that he just turned and left. I wondered later on whether he were a bum or whether he was really in trouble. The thing that made me suspicious was that when I told him to go to the Friends if he needed money, he balked. I gathered from his looks that he had been there and had been tossed out because he knew where it was and insisted that it was a suspicious organization of some kind.

July 16: Doi came over and said that on Friday night, the 14th, Harr James was playing at the Aragon and a booch had a fight with a sailor. Now the Aragon was closed to all boochies as a result of that incident.

July 17: Bacon said he had just come back from Arizona. He said he went to the personnel man and asked him for time off and when the man refused, he quit. He said he consulted his parents about the new plan of getting a divorce and getting married again and they approved of the whole thing. So he went to Salt Lake to talk it over with his new girl and she said it was all right too. Now, he had only to wait until next month to establish his residence and to get a divorce. He said he would raise some money by that time.

July 18: Tally said that the Aragon was closed because of a fight Friday night. He said that a girl called up and they told her so. They told her that it was



all right for a Nisei soldier but no civilians.

July 25: According to the Herald American, the Chicago Real Estate Board is out after the Nisei. It seems that things are popping now with the Aragon mess and the Herald campaign. There are rumors of all hotels closing to the Nisei.

July 26: Homer Jack said that the Herald American was starting a 10-day campaign and had imported a man especially from California to do the work.

July 29: The following are the rumors that have spread in Chicago as the result of the Aragon incident:

1. There was no fight at the Aragon on Friday but there were 50 couples present and that was too many.
2. There was a fight between 2 Nisei.
3. There was a fight between a Nisei and a ~~xxxx~~ sailor.
4. There was a fight between a sailor and a Filipino who was mistaken for a Nisei.
5. There was a fight between a sailor and a Mexican who was mistaken for a Nisei.
6. There was a fight between a sailor and a Chinese who was mistaken for a Nisei.
7. There was no fight and 150 couples were there and the capacity is only 700.
8. There was no fight but 50 stags were present and they caused trouble.
9. There were several drunks present and they were necking right on the ~~smkx~~ stairway.
10. A drunken Nisei urinated on the floor.
11. Hotel Sherman is closed to the Nisei.
12. The managers of all the hotels and night clubs in Chicago held a meeting and decided to exclude Nisei from their establishments.
13. Edgewater Beach Hotel is now closed to the Nisei.
14. The Trianon is now closed to the Nisei.
15. All downtown ~~xxxx~~ hotels are closed to Nisei for room as well as for entertainment.
16. The Casa Blanca is now closed to Nisei.
17. The Araagon was closed because a couple of the Nisei went with white girls.

Some of the other rumors spreading were:

1. Shizu Sakurada had her baby as a result of incestual relations with her father. (This is later confirmed.)

Dekkie gave me the following information on the Fumi Yamamoto case (TL-40 or TL-55): This girl was raped while she was working in a packing shed. By baishakunin they finally got her married but she was having difficulties with her Issei husband. She didn't want any more babies but since her Issei husband refused to use contraceptives she would not stay with him. With reference to the Kinoshita case (TL-108), she said that Nagai had sent the girl \$85 when he heard that she was leaving camp. Then she went off and married an Issei to get a name for her baby and is now thinking of getting a divorce in June.

August 5: Rumor: The Aragon is open again.

August 6: A few were allowed to go to the Aragon but were told not to come back again.

August 3: I got a very nasty letter from the Treasury Dept. telling me to show up at the Office of Collector of Internal Revenue to discuss income tax payments made during the past 10 years. The mimeographed letter said that I had to be there at 9 o'clock and was very curt but what made me mad was the note written in red pencil on the side. It said, "And listen, this means that you are to be here at 9:00." I wondered who in the hell they thought they were. I was pretty sore but I showed up at 9 o'clock and there were several people already there ahead of me. There was one man who was taking care of all the Japanese while there were at least



a half a dozen taking care of Caucasians. Only 2 Caucasians came in all morning and these people just sat around talking about baseball teams and reading newspapers while we had to sit and wait. They didn't pay any attention to us at all. Just one man was questioning two Issei when I got there. One of the Issei was doing the interpreting and the other one obviously didn't know any English at all. The guy used very harsh and difficult English as he asked questions and filled out the forms. Just when he was about to finish, he found out that he had filled in the form for single men and he found out that this man had a wife and 3 children. He started bawling this Issei out and said, "You dumb sonabitch, why don't you answer my questions?" Obviously the Issei didn't know what he was saying and said yes to everything. The difficulty apparently was when the man asked the Issei if his wife were with him and the Issei said no because she was back in the center. The other Issei who was doing the interpreting apparently didn't know the first Issei very well anyway so that he couldn't check up. While we were sitting there, the other men who were loafing frequently interrupted the man who was interviewing and engaged in conversations about the Chicago Cubs. Neither of the Issei said anything but I could tell by the expression on their faces what they were thinking. There were 2 Nisei ahead of me and it wasn't until about 11:30 that they got around to me. By that time I had a pretty bit chip on my shoulders and I was really ready to tell the guy off. He had nothing on me because I haven't ever made enough money to pay an income tax. I was sure of that. As I got there, one of the men came to talk about the Chicago Cubs again so I very impolitely told him that I was in a hurry and had been told to show up at 9 o'clock. Both the men looked very embarrassed so we got to work right away. The man asked me what I was doing before the war and I told him I went to school and that was all he wanted to know and he told me I could go home. Then I asked him why they had contacted so many Japanese and he said they were just checking up on anyone that seemed suspicious of having evading payment. He wouldn't explain anything else so in disgust I left. There were several people in line behind me and I'm sure that some of them must have been there long after lunch. This was one of the most disgusting experiences I've had in a long time. I used to think the WRA was bad as a government agency, but after seeing this office operate I'll take my hat off to the WRA any day.

September 14: Drl Yatabe: "Well, I think it's about time that we got organized. You know, how things are. I can't be in it myself because I can't afford to antagonize the other agencies. I got into the Inter-Agency meetings and I figured that if I started an organization they won't let me come any more. Some of those people are opposed to having an organization. That's what I told Kido and he agreed with me. Naturally I'll help them along. We probably can get started now since Smeltzer is out of town. He was really unreasonable. I liked him and we got along and all that, but he was just on the wrong side of the fence. I think we have about 200 associate members here. Now this is on the O.T. We wrote to all of them asking them what they wanted to do about starting an organization here. We got about 50 replies which I think is pretty good. There were a few who were undecided, in fact, quite a few of them didn't know whether it would be wise to start a chapter or not. There were a couple of them who were definitely against it and said that if we started a chapter, they would quit. One of them practically came out and told me I was a sonabitch. The rest of them didn't seem to care in particular but they said that it would be okay. Right now I'm doing the behind the scenes work. I want the young fellows to take over. Us old guys have done enough and we've all been labeled. I think that young fellows with understanding like Bill Minami should take the lead. We older ones will take the back seat. Naturally those of us with experience in organizing will pull the ropes and help them along but I'm sure that Bill can handle everything. We don't want to get in the front because we're all marked and nobody will join if we're heading it. Some of the young people are irresponsible and it is up to us older ones to educate them. What's this Resettlers Committee anyway? I didn't get an invitation so I thought that we were excluded because of the JACL. I want to go in there but I couldn't go barging in. I saw Harry the other day and he said that we were welcome so I told him to send us an invitation. We will cooperate with anybody. We'll be having our meetings pretty soon and as far as I'm concerned,



non-members can come to the meetings, but of course you realize that the paid members should get some privileges that the others do not get. That's why some of the meetings might be closed. Our records are all secret so if you want to look at them you'll have to get the permission of the national. I figure that if we want to start an all-Japanese group, it's none of anybody's business except our own. I want to keep the chapter separate from this office. My job now is to get to the people and to tell them about us so that they will treat us better. I've been wracking my brains to see what avenues could be used but so far the only one that I can think of is working through the politicians. That way, if you work with them, they'll help you out. (I asked him about unions at this point.) No, there is no use going to the unions because they don't like us. They won't work with us, they won't even let the Nisei join. (I asked him if he had tried.) No, but what's the use? If they don't like us, there's no use of my going around licking their boots. I can't see any Nisei who favor unions. They're fine things but they won't cooperate with us." I didn't want to press the matter any further because I couldn't afford to be labeled as a Communist again and because I wanted to stay in their good graces. I still think he's a damn fool, just as childish as he had ever been and just as chicken.

September 16: Frank said today that Wada quit his job to take a higher paying job at Northwestern. He said that Halpern begged him to stay but he refused. Frank said that Wada came over and told him all about it. I asked Halpern what had happened and Halpern said that he had some pretty good evidence that Wada was the man who squealed to the FBI about Uratani and Suzuki and caused several unnecessary investigations which slowed up the whole program. Abe said he didn't want any stool pigeons hanging around. Furthermore, he said that Wada was a lousy teacher and that was why he didn't give him a raise along with some of the other people. Wada didn't like that. He said he was thinking of some excuse to fire Wada but he couldn't come out and just can him. Just about that time the Northwestern job opened up and so he called up the head of the Northwestern school and asked him if they wanted an experienced man and then he told Doi to go suggest to Wada that since he lives on the north side and since Northwestern paid more, he ought to go teach there. Halpern was quite happy that Wada had left and said that under no circumstances did he or would he beg Wada to come back. I gathered from Halpern that Frank was really only getting one side of the story because Halpern insisted that Shigx had, by far, the poorest teaching record of the entire staff. He said that unless Shig got off the dime pretty soon, he would have to fire him.

September 25: I heard a rumor that the JACL was going to have a meeting this Wednesday. Harry was plenty sore because the Resettlers Committee was meeting on the same day and he had given Yatabe a couple of weeks' notice. The JACL had picked the same day and the same building for their meeting and that really burnt Harry up. It may have been accidental but most of the people who knew the JACL suspected that some dirty work was under way. I went up to see Yatabe and found Kido and Sim Togasaki up there. I hadn't seen them for quite a while and since Togo was there the four of us sat around talking for a while. I asked Kido if I could go to their meeting as an observer for the Study and he hemmed and hawed around for a while and said that he was sorry but the first meeting was for members only. He said that all the other meetings would be open but that he didn't want any outsiders at the first meeting because he may have to say something that was not meant for outsiders. Then Sim tried to talk me into joining the JACL and said that if I joined, I could go. I laughed at him and jokingly said that my reputation would be ruined if I joined the organization. Sim apparently didn't catch on that I was joking and then said that they might write it up in the Pacific Citizen. He apparently thought that publicity was the thing that I wanted. I guess that's what he wants and he assumed that the rest of us were just like him. So I assured that publicity would be the last thing I want if I joined the JACL. Since all of us present had agreed already that the JACL was in disrepute Sim couldn't quite understand it and insisted that everybody liked to have publicity now and then so rather than argue with him I started working on Kido again to see if I could get into the meeting. He kept on beating around the bush and started talking of other things. He said: "You realize don't you Tom, that we have been on the hot seat for a long time. We have been blamed for everything. We have been accused of a



lot of things and I kind of wished that some of the things we were accused of were true. Then we'd be rich. If we could really control the government like the Dies committee says, we would really be sitting on top of the world. Then the Japanese in Poston said that I received a gift of \$250,000 from the government for helping them with the evacuation. They say that we are responsible for the evacuation and we didn't know much more than the other people. Of course, we had conferences with high officials, but we couldn't go around telling people everything that they told us in confidence. We were blamed for selective service but I see in the papers that Dillon Myer takes all the credit for that. There's a rumor that we knew all about evacuation but didn't tell anybody. As a matter of fact, nobody knew what was going through DeWitt's mind." It occurred to me that many of the rumors started from the exaggerated claims of various local JACL officials who claimed that they knew all the big shot officials and had all the latest information on the evacuation. But I didn't say anything. Then Sim Togasaki said that he didn't like Roosevelt's speech about his dog & Fala and said he was looking forward to Dewey's reply tonight. Kido said that he wanted to hear it too and so I thought I'd better leave before I got into another fight. I went over to see Togo and he was pretty sore about Kido's not letting me into the meeting. He thought it was an awfully childish thing to do and said he would take it up with Kido.

September 28: I saw Togo for a few minutes and he said that he had asked Kido why he did such a childish thing to exclude people from meetings and Kido's reply was that he wanted to make the JACL into an organization like the Kiwanis or the Elks. It was to be a fraternal organization characterized by love and good-will and he didn't want any dissenting elements hanging around. Togo said that he was so disgusted that he didn't say anymore.

September 30: The Yusas, the Hoshiyamas and the Okadas came over to our place after the wedding. Helen Miyoshi and Mas Wakai got married over at CTS. There was quite a mob there but the reception room was so hot that we went outside. We went over to 63rd and bought all the newspapers and piled in over our place to read the funnies. Mrs. Hoshiyama remarked: "I heard there are many Nisei going back to California. It's easy to go back. All you have to do is the apply to the Army. It may take a little time but it's just automatic. All we have to do is to wait until the election and then we can go." And then Dave said: "Yes, I understand that the WRA is going to set up 3 field offices there and that one of them will be in Los Angeles."

October 1: Doi said he called up Tobey today and when he recognized his voice, he asked for Mrs. Ikuo Morimoto. Then he asked for Mrs. I. Morimoto and each time Tobey said that she was Mrs. Morimoto. Then she was about to hang up when he said: "Hi, Tobey" and told her who he was. He said that when he went over later she told him that "I'm glad you told me who you were. I thought you were a hakuja man and I was really scared."

October 2: Doi: "I haven't knocked up a babe since I left California. I know that nobody will believe me, but I haven't. I've had lots of chances but I didn't go through with it. I know that some of these gals will give because when you start necking them, they hang on so tight. The Nisei gals are willing to give but I figure that I can't get away with it like the yogores. I've got a steady job and they all know where I work. They could always trace me down. I read a short story once by James T. Farrell, where a man got off the I.C., prayed, and then went to a whore house. When he came back, he went to the can and then came out with a minister's collar on. As he walked down the platform, all the people said hello to him respectfully. Chicago is that way. All you have to do is to go to the other end of town and nobody will know you. But if you're a boochie, you can't do that. I tried to lose myself in the Near North but goddamit, I always run into some guy who knows me. Whenever I meet a gal for the first time she asks about people we know in common and right there I'm nailed before I start. The other night I was necking a gal but there was a big mirror in the room and I looked at myself. What a mess! Then all I could think of was how bad I looked



and then I couldn't go on." These innocuous remarks by Doi illustrate beautifully the character of the sensitivity which are functioning as mechanisms of social control. Doi's behavior is still controlled by Nisei society.

October 7: We went over to Park Ridge tonight for Bill's wedding. Tomi, Doi and I went alone because the others ~~reaper~~ petered out at the last moment. We were surprised to find so few Nisei there. There were about 12 Japanese altogether and about 40 Caucasians, most of them Bill's old friends. The Caucasians came in with snotty looks on their faces and haughtily looked at the Japanese sitting here and there. With the exception of the minister, all persons participating in the wedding were Japanese. We stuck around too long and missed the 8:46 train. Bill wanted to go out with the 3 of us to raise hell somewhere but so many of his other friends stuck around that we decided that we might as well go our way. We went to a china meshi to kill time because the next train didn't leave until almost 11:00. When we were sitting there Doi and Tomi both started saying that they wondered what was going through the minds of the Caucasian girls who sat there watching Bill marry a boochie.

October 8: Today I learned about the formation of two clubs. (1) the Tule Lake Club in the Kenwood area and (2) a Nisei girl's organization planning to open a USO.

October 9: Bill and Sako came over unexpectedly. Bill said that he overheard some comments that the bestman should have been a little younger. He said that he asked Prof. Oyama to be his bestman because he was the one who had helped to break Sakiko's father down. There are four daughters in his family and his wife is dead. One of the girls is married to a Kibei and the other two both married Caucasians so that Mr. Shiga was quite anxious that Sakiko marry a Nisei. That was why they had to hold out. She was his last unmarried daughter. He would not give his consent until Prof. Oyama convinced him that it was the best thing. Sako said that her father had now seen two of his four daughters married. Since they had been packing all day, Sako fell asleep and so they decided to stay at Mayflower for the night.

October 19: I was over at the WRA office looking for our card ~~files~~ files since they have moved everything around. After I finally found the stuff, I went over to try to buy a typewriter from the girls. I was arguing with Midori when Art Takemoto came in with an emaciated guy with a bright light pastel green coat and a big blue and gold bow tie which was so large that it extended beyond the side of his face. Midori took one look at him and turned her head and covered her eyes and said: "Oh, My God!" The other girls all giggled and kept staring at him. Mr. Booth was there and his first reaction was, "What's this?" Then Mr. Booth beckoned to these men so they walked right by us and Art stopped and said, "Tom, I want you to meet Rev. Nishiura." I was so shocked that it took me a couple of seconds to catch my wits. The fellow was very pleasant and then they went on. Midori kept her back turned to them and so I said to her, "Did you hear what he said? The guy's a reverend." And at that Midori almost had fits. She just kept laughing and laughing and finally had to sit down and all the other girls were laughing pretty heartily. Finally when she cooled off, she told the others in the office who the yogore was so that when the reverend left, practically all the activity stopped in the WRA office and everybody just stared at him as he walked out.

Noboru Honda ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ phoned me up in the evening and said that the N.Y. Life Insurance Co. had phoned him up and told him that they didn't want to have a Nisei agent in Chicago because the mortality rate for Japanese was too high and the company did not want to underwrite any policy. Noboru said that the man told him he was sorry because he wanted to work with him but that it was no go.

October 22: I picked up two rumors about last Saturday night's dance. (1) It was closed because of too many Negroes present. (2) The cops closed the dance because



they were worried about the Negroes starting a riot.

October 23: A guy named Lawson from the N.Y. Life Insurance Co. came in to sell us insurance. He said that this was the 100th birthday of the company and he wanted to make 100 sales in order to get to go to a party in N.Y. He said that he started selling to Nisei two weeks and since have been following the Nisei ever since. He said he was quite surprised that so many Nisei were in the market for a policy. He said he had contacted Togo and Harry for names. He wanted names from us and said that names of friends helped to sell policies. Then I mentioned Noboru and he said that he had heard of him and said he wanted to get in touch with him. Maybe I was just being over suspicious but I wondered just what Lawson had to do with the decision of the local office not to let Noboru sell insurance for him. If Noboru couldn't write policies because the Japanese mortality rate was too high, then why should a veteran salesman like Lawson be devoting his time exclusively to Nisei. Knowing how closely the agents work with their supervisor, since Pop was in the business so long, I couldn't help but smelling a rat and my personal opinion is that the rat is Lawson. The N.Y. Life set-up is such that the agent must necessarily work with the district office manager. Therefore, the manager who turned down Noboru had to know about Lawson and the success that Lawson was having.

October 24: Barry phoned up this afternoon and since I had already spent 35¢ trying to get hold of him for the past two days by phone, I demanded an explanation. He said that several people who were attending the services would not join the YBA because they thought that being a Buddhist would be a black mark on their record, therefore Barry had to go around to the FBI and the Sixth Service Command to get a definite statement out of them saying that there was nothing wrong with being a Buddhist.

In the evening Tomi and I were going up to 63rd and we ran into Henry Takahashi. He asked me: "Have you decided on the election yet or are you still sitting on the fence?" Tomi was a little puzzled that Henry should ask that since Henry of all people has known for several years that I would never vote Republican. What Henry was asking was whether I was going to vote Democrat or Socialist. I wasn't sure where he stood since he was a Republican so I beat around the bush and asked him. He said he was going to vote for Roosevelt because Dewey's attitude toward the Japanese was bad. He said that under the present administration we have been assured of certain kind of treatment and he didn't want to take a chance on any major changes that may make things worse for the Nisei. Then he further explained that the Democratic precinct captain was a next door neighbor and he thought that if he played ball they might be able to get some favors later on. He said something went wrong with their pipes and this precinct captain fixed it up for them. I thought that was a helluva reason for voting Democrat but I didn't argue with him because it would accomplish our ends anyway. Then we talked about California for a while and he said that he wasn't sure of his future but he predicted that 50% of the people in Chicago would return to the coast sooner or later. He said that he wanted to practice in a small community where there were no Japanese.

November 2: Abe said that morale in the CATs division was now very high for the first time since they started. This was because they had sent a few observers to Northwestern and these people suddenly realized how good they were in comparison. As a result, all internal strife seems to have been temporarily forgotten.



THE NISEI AND THE U.S. ARMY

December 21, 1943

Jack Miyahara (CH-14): "Damn those Tule Lake bastards! They ought to be killed. They butch everything up for the rest of us out here and I don't think they get anything having a riot like they do. I know how some of those guys are. I used to talk to them when I was back in camp and after we argue for a while I asked them, 'Why don't you go back to the old country if you feel that way?' Then they beat around the bush. Sometimes I get so mad I felt like killing them myself. I think those Kibei bastards came out here just to get out of the Army. Now, they don't want to go into the American Army. I feel sorry for some of them though because it was their parents who put the pressure on them.

"I hear the Army is closed to the Nisei now. I guess there are lots of reasons for it but you can't blame them for closing up after you heard what happened in Tule Lake. Somebody was saying that they closed the Army to the Nisei because the American Legion guys think that they can't do anything against us if we have good Army records. That's the way the American Legion guys are. You can't tell what's going to happen. Bronco was supposed to get drafted you know. He gave away all his clothes and went to the induction station but they sent him home. So he had a helluva time. He had to go around and get all his clothes back. He then went over to the WRA to raise hell. I hear they phoned up Myer but Myer didn't know either. I don't know, he got screwed up both ways. I guess nobody wants us and when we get on a spot like that the silver dollar is all we can trust. Yah, we may as well make our wad now."



January 6, 1944

I went over to the Woodlawn house where several of the Stockton fellows live. The fellows said that Chikaraishi was back in Rohwer for a visit and that he caught the flu while he was there. Frank, Harry, and Reno were sitting around and so we talked while I waited for Shig to come home. The first thing they started talking about was the draft. Harry said: "Hey, I hear that the draft for boobies is coming in April. I don't know what I'm going to do." Reno joined in: "What the hell can you do, you damn fool. They tell you to go and you go." Then Frank said, "I don't know, I think I'd just as soon go. Whatta hell do we get living around here. I just get up every morning and go to work. I work all day and then I come home and screw around for a few hours. Then I go to sleep. Every goddam day we do that. Over the weekend we play poker and maybe go to the show. It's no use living like that and I figure that in the Army we might have some fun."

January 14, 1944

John: Y.: "I've been hearing a lot of stuff about this draft. I've been asking a lot of guys about it and they're all worried. I figure though that what I hear must be rumors because everybody says something different. But even if it might not be true, I get a feeling that it's about to come and I find that when I want to plan for something in the future, I always figure in the possibility of getting drafted in a couple of months. It's a helluva way to be because you can't do nothing. I always tell the other guys what I hear but they laugh at me sometimes. Some of these guys are convinced that the draft isn't coming. I think that they're just wishing that it's not coming but they know damn well



like I do that it will. I tell everybody and spread the word around so that they can be prepared like I am."

January 15, 1944

Ishida: "I don't think the draft is coming and none of the guys at my house thinks so either. We talk about it but most of us figure that the 442nd will be enough. You know what's going to happen if they ask for volunteers. Nobody will go so whatta hell. there area lot of guys spreading rumors about the draft coming but they don't know what they're talking about."

January 16, 1944

Pete Yamamoto: "I figure that most of the fellows won't like the draft. I go around talking to a lot of those guys and they say that since the government evacuated them, they have no right to take us in the Army. That's the way my brother feels too. He's bitter as hell. I don't mind though. I'd rather go into the air corps because I want to be a fighter pilot. Boy, if they open up the air corps, I think I'd volunteer. I think the draft is coming whether we like it or not." (Peter is 18 years old.)

February 3, 1944

Barry: "I heard that one fellow already got his 1-A notice. I guess it won't be long now."

February 4, 1944

Reno: "What do you want to do? Would you go to any unit? I hear that the Army is not open. It's just infantry that we can go to. That's a helluva thing. I figure that if they trust us well



enough to take us into the Army, they ought to let us go into any branch. I guess they want to show the boochies who's boss."

Kome Doi: "Yah, I wanted to ask about that because I was thinking of going to school. How about this Army thing? Do they give educational deferments? I'm 19 now so if I can't get a deferment to go to school I'm just out of luck. Goddam, I sure would like to break an arm of something if there's no chance for me. I heard that they're going to draft the guys in the center first before they take us out here because those guys are not doing any work."

Frank: "Aw, why in the hell don't we all go? There's no percentage in living like this? We don't get anywhere. We just live. Christ, we had more fun in camp. I'd just as soon go into the Army."

Chick: "I heard you have to get a G-2 clearance before you go into the Army. Hell, I'm safe. I'm having trouble where I'm working now because those bastards think I'm a Jap spy or something. If they won't let me work at the 'I' house just because there are a couple of soldiers around, I don't think they'll take me into the Army. I've got no worries, I hope. Besides, I'm practically blind anyway. Well, ~~I'm~~ might as well kiss you healthy guys goodbye. I heard that no Nisei guys are coming back alive. They're going to send you guys to the toughest part of the front. That's one way of getting rid of all the boochies."

Kome Doi: "Goddam, that's the way they treat you. I came down here because I had to quit my job. I was all set to go to the University of Michigan but I couldn't get an Army clearance to get in. Then I tried to get a job but I couldn't get in because I didn't have an Army clearance. Then the dirty guys turn around



and draft you."

Frank: "I'm kind of skeptical about the draft though. Do you really think it's coming in?"

Chick: "Sure, why in the hell do you think they put it in the paper?"

February 7, 1944

Rosie: "I just got a letter from camp and they say that they're all worried about the draft. I wonder if all the boys will have to go? Gee, what's going to happen to us. We'll be all left alone here in Chicago with no boys around to take care of us if something happens. That will be bad. Oh well, I guess they'll all have to go but I'm kinda worried though."

February 22, 1944

Tamio: "My younger brother got his 1-A notice today. Boy, they sure send it out fast. That's the way that goddam Stockton draft board is. They hate us like hell and they want us to go over and get killed. I didn't get my notice and so I'm still planning to leave and start school again on Monday. I'm not sure though. Four of the fellows at the house got their 1-A. They're sure worried. I wouldn't mind so much if all ~~xxx~~ branches of the service were opened. That wouldn't be so bad. But they're going to segregate us. I guess most boobies would fight better in a segregated unit. You know how the boobies are. They moan like hell about segregation but they don't know what to do when hakujin are around. They feel uncomfortable as hell and they don't like it. I heard that one-third of the 100th infantry was wiped out. That's the kind of places they're gonna send us."



February 26, 1944

Doi: "Almost all the fellows at the Woodlawn house got their 1-A notice. Boy, are they upset."

Chick: "I heard the Granada guys are raising holy hell about the draft. They want to go into all branches of the service or not at all. I guess they've got a pretty good beef. I haven't got my call yet."

Shig: "I got my 1-A card here. But the dirty guys sent my physical exam notice to Rohwer. Christ, I want to get it over with. If I'm 1-A I can't get a job and if I have to go in the Army it's okay. But I want to get it over with. I don't want to sit around thinking about it. I want to know right away if I have to go to work or not. I wonder what Frank will do? He wouldn't believe that the draft was coming until the 1-A notice started coming to the house. He hasn't got his yet."

Harry: "I got my 1-A card today but I haven't got anything to worry about because I'm gonna get deferred."

Shig: "I think a guy may as well get a deferment if he could. Heck the Nisei have nothing to fight for anyway. I've really lost faith in the government since evacuation. Why should we fight after they push us around like that? And I hate the British too. They always make us fight their battles and now the boochies have to get in."

Chick: "I don't know though, boochies being in the Army makes it different. Kuroki finally spoke on the radio on Ginny Simms' program. I think that guy has done more good for the boochies than all the goodam JACL. If the boochies get good publicity it might not be so bad to go into the army but they'll probably shove us around like they did to the kurombos in the last war. The



kurombos thought they were fighting for freedom too. But they got screwed after the war was over."

March 3, 1944

Nao: "I just got out of Topaz a couple of days ago and I'm on my way to New York. Since the WRA is going to pay my way I figured I may as well see the country before the Army got me. There's a lot of grumbling going on in Topaz. The Issei are yelling like everything. They're suspicious of anything the government does. They're all talking about the draft and they're having a lot of meetings. But they're a bunch of damn fools because they can't do anything about it anyway."

Hiro; "I was about to finish up at Washington U. but I decided to come up here to Illinois Tech because I got a scholarship. I don't know what to do though because I might have to go into the Army soon. I'm getting tired of horsing around because I've been going to school for five years. Another problem is that my father is being released by the FBI and I have to take care of him. They won't let him go back to the islands where his friends are and so I have to support him. It's going to be hard if I have to go into the Army."

March 4, 1944

Rumors ~~ix~~

1. (21 days after physical exam. everybody is inducted.
2. Within 3 weeks after the exam boochies go in the Army.
3. 40 people in Granada were inducted into the Army.
4. Boochies who have to report at Little Rock have to pay their own way on the train.



5. The Army will pay for trips to the center for boochies after they are drafted.

6. The Army has given out orders to induct the Nisei.

7. The Army is giving physical exams and classifying Nisei 1-A but have not ordered induction.

8. All Nisei soldiers at Camp Grant have been sent to Florida.

March 8, 1944

Barry came in at 10 p.m. looking very pale and announced that he had received his 1-A notice. He said, "God, I should have come out last year and gotten married. Now it is too late. I don't think I could get to know a girl well enough within a few months to get married. I want to go to a non-segregated unit. If boochie infantry is segregated, I want to go to Savage. A lot of guys figure tha the war in Europe is almost over but I say that it won't be over until next year. Hitler is still pretty strong."

March 12, 1944

Sakiko: "One Nisei fellow from Savage was serving in Attu. He got trapped by a group of Japanese soldiers and these Japanese killed everybody in the unit except this Nisei and then they told him to go home and spared him."

March 16, 1944

Pete: "Have you got you 1-A yet? Boy, a lot of fellows are getting it. My brother is sure worried. He told me that if I had to go I should go up to Savage and learn some Japanese. The hell with that noise. I figure I might as well wait around. Boy, I



sure would like to be your sergeant."

Barry: "I heard that the induction of Nisei has been suspended. Some have been taken but no more are going in for a while."

Kitagawa: "I heard that Slop passed his physical. He has to report down at Camp Roberts on the 28th. He said he was going back to camp to see his old man. I guess he might as well."

March 17, 1944

Doi: "I figured that I ought to get married before I go into the Army. Then even if I get killed I'll have some assurance that I've left something in the world. I'll have some assurance of having an heir. I think I'll only give \$5000 bucks of my insurance to my wife. I wouldn't want to leave all that dough for some other bastard to use. I want to leave half of it for the kid's education."

March 26, 1944

Kitagawa; "The induction on the 28th was postponed. Johnson says so. There were a lot of guys from Rohwer who were supposed to go but they didn't have to."

April 22, 1944

Received APO cards indicating that the 442nd went overseas.

April 29, 1944

Barry: "A guy who was in Sheridan Monday was inducted and stuck in the reserves. He asked the major when he had to go and the major told him that he would have to go back some time in 3 to 10 days. The major said that the idea was to get enough



boochies and then call them all at once. I know some guys who were put in the reserves in Detroit. They are being called this Wednesday to be assigned."

Rumor: Those who took their physicals before April 8 will be called in early in Mayx.

May 13, 1944

Joe: "Frank Arata passed his physical yesterday. He's going to Rohwer next week to see his folks. He got the gas from the draft board and a couple of other guys are going with him."

Marry: "I heard the first call for 250 boochies is in already. I heard the second one is coming pretty soon."

May 29, 1944

Key: "I heard that the boys who were being charged down in Alabama won their case. None of their were court-martialed."

June 3, 1944

Riley: "Well, I'm in the blasted reserves now. It was exactly 2½ months since I got my 1-A notice. First thing I did was to go to Colorado to see my old man. Right now I'm doing the rounds of getting good and drunk. Maybe I'll have to go to work pretty soon. Goddam, they better call me before I run out of money."

Rumor: Part of the 442nd is in England.

Rumor: 442nd is in Italy.

Rumor: 442nd is in Africa.



July 4, 1944

Ken Iwata: (from St. Louis): "Why do these things happen to me? I just passed my physical and here I am with only 6 units to go. It's taken me 5 years to get out of school because Washington U. didn't give me full credit for my work at Cal. Now that I'm just about ready to graduate I have to go to the Army."

July 18, 1944

Rumor: A Nisei soldier went to Reedley to take care of some business and when he got there they told him to stay off the street. The next day he was found dead on the street.

Rumor: General DeWitt is commander of the unit to which the 442nd was assigned.

Rumor: The Aragon is closed to all boochies except soldiers.

August 1, 1944

Rumor: A 90 day limit on physicals is no longer effective for boochies.

August 16, 1944

Harno: "If you go into the infantry they will train you for 17 weeks and then send you overseas. That's just like murder because in 17 weeks they can't possibly teach you enough to defend yourself. When you go, make sure that you take a pair of maccasin and a shock-proof watch. You better take a combination lock because the boochies will steal everything from you. The training is not tough physically but it gets you mentally."

Rumor: When you get down to Ft. B landing they send out out on a 20-mile hike the first day with a full pack.



August 23, 1944

Coffee: "Physicals are now good for six months."

Barry: "Those who are taking their second physical exams after 90 days have to stay for two days."

August 30, 1944

This morning I had to get up at 5:30 to take my physical. Barry and I arrived at 7 o'clock sharp and they made us sit in a room until 10 o'clock. That really burnt us up because we were practically threatened to show up on time. They gave us some Babe Ruth candy but we still were pretty sore. There were about 25 Nisei present, some of whom were inducted immediately while the rest of us had to take another physical because ours was more than 90 days old. They fed us a very untasty lunch and then gave us a street car token to go to the Health Center for our blood test. While we were there Taigo said, "I heard from one of the Savage boys that they have to land with the shock troops right off the landing barges. The other guys have repeating rifles but the Nihonjins only have pistols. I don't know if this guy was handing me a lot of bull shit but that's what he said." Barry was continually worried about not being placed in the enlisted reserves. One of the fellows suggested that since half of the group was inducted today we could phone up one of the fellows in today's group to see whether he was still around or not. Then when we showed up for induction tomorrow we would be ready. Barry point out, however, that even if today's group was placed in the enlisted reserves, those going tomorrow may be inducted into the regular army anyway because we had taken our physicals more than 90 days ago and were therefore way ahead of the others.



August 31, 1944

Taigo, Barry and I got to the induction station at 8:15 as we were ordered to do. We sat around until 9 o'clock and then were processed. Most of the Nisei were called together and instead of stamping Negro or Army, or Navy the Nisei were stamped "S.A." standing for special assignment, or were not stamped at all. For a long time we couldn't figure out on what basis some people were stamped "S.A." and others were not stamped anything because all of us were placed in the reserve. Two of the fellows volunteered for Savage and went up to Sheridan. Eleven of us were placed in ER-C. They showed us some lousy movies and gave us another free lunch. After we were sworn in, the M.P. asked all the ER-C men to step forward and gave us street car tokens to go home. As the 11 Nisei walked out all of us noted the looks on the faces of the Caucasian fellows who had to stay. When we got outside some of the fellows were quite concerned and felt that it would be better if the Nisei were sworn in separately.

Rumor: The men in the enlisted reserves corps cannot leave town.

Rumor: Last time the Nisei were inducted those who reported on the second day did not come back in the reserves.

Rumor: Reservists are guaranteed 30 days of civilian lives and then are called to active duty.

September 1, 1944

Rumor: Anybody with college education can get into Savage whether he knows Japanese or not.

Rumor: (during summer of 1944) Men in ER-C get free mailing privileges.



Rumor: Men on the ER-C are on 24-hour call.

September 13, 1944

Rumor: 442nd was included in the air-borne troop when they invaded France.

Rumor: Some Nisei paratroopers are training at Fresno. The people of the nearby towns welcome them but the mayor of San Francisco objected to their presence.

Rumor: The Army is now putting all Nisei in the reserves whether they can use them in active duty or not.

September 14, 1944

Yatabe: "The Army is sure taking them fast. I know that 150 fellows were inducted at the end of August and most of them will be called pretty soon. A lot of them are going in. I guess they're going to use you guys for police duty."

September 28, 1944

Barry: ~~The~~ "Some Nisei are being called next Tuesday from the reserves. Some were first inducted in May."

October 2, 1944

Rumor: The Shelby boys feel that no more Nisei will be called into active service.