

When my father sailed from Japan in 1898 for the United States, he left with the intention of making his future home in California, ~~his newly adopted country~~. He turned his back on Japan and never intended to return to the country of his birth even though he had left a widowed mother behind.

It is unusual for the eldest son of a Japanese family to leave his parents' home, much less to a strange country across the Pacific. But my father is an unusual person, stubborn and obstinate, and once he makes up his mind to do something, nothing can make him do otherwise. He decided he wanted to try his luck in the land of opportunity and so in 1898 he left his [widowed] mother and three younger brothers and two sisters behind.

My father knew English fairly well as he had studied at a mission school in Okayama city where his father was a business man. My father had learned English at an early age. He told me one day, "I remember making a speech in English ~~xx~~ when I was about seven. Of course, the speech was written for me and I memorized it. I remember standing before a large crowd in the church hall, making this speech."

By the time he arrived in San Francisco, he had a good command of English. He got a job as a school boy where he could learn English further. Later he became an apprentice in a photography studio. Eventually he was employed by the ~~Taber~~ X Photographers of San Francisco.

Prior to his departure for California, my father became engaged to ~~Koharu Frances Susukita~~, a member of his church, a French Catholic church, ~~in Okayama city~~. In 1903 he sent for

her and they were married in a Catholic church in San Francisco shortly after her arrival in this country.

My father has always been clever with his fingers. He sewed clothes for my mother. I saw one that was a two-piece woolen dress with leg-of-ham sleeves. He even taught her how to sew. Ever since then she has sewed most of her own clothes. I have seen samples of my father's knitting, crocheting and tatting.

On some Sundays my father took mother bicycling in Golden Gate Park. Sometimes they went to the ball games, the opera and movies. My mother has always been interested in spotsnd and played softball quite proficiently. Even though she did not participate in games after her marriage, she was an interested spectator.

In 1904 their first child, a girl, was born. The following year a second daughter was born. In 1906 their home was wiped out by the San Francisco earthquake and the subsequent fire which broke out. My father was among the men who helped to clear the streets of the debris. He helped to remove furniture from condemned buildings which were being dynamited.

It happened that my father left his coat inside one of the buildings he was working in and when he attempted to retrieve it, he was held back as the dynamite was about to go off at any minute. It wasn't the coat he was worried about, but the gold watch in the coat pocket. After the dynamiting was over, he searched the ruins for his coat and all he found was a badly torn coat and a bit of melted gold.

[The night of the earthquake]

~~That night~~ and the following few nights the family spent in Army tents in the Presidio. My father said that his baby as well as many other babies cried during the night in the makeshift shelter. A few days later the family stayed with friends in Oakland.

The government offered the refugees free transportation to any place in the country. My father chose Los Angeles as his next destination as he had heard so much of this fast growing city in southern California. He has lived there ever since up to the time of evacuation.

In Los Angeles my father had his own photograph studio just outside of the Japanese community, ~~on the northeast corner of Main and First streets, the dividing lines of the city. It was above the first location of the Yokohama Specie Bank which faced the site of the new City Hall building which was erected several years later. His clientele was half Caucasian and half Japanese. He corresponded with his former employer until the time of his death, several years later.~~

As the years went by his family grew in size. My father came to the conclusion that he would have a tough time raising a family on what he was making as a photographer so he made up his mind to take up another profession. He never was a very good business man. He chose medicine as his new field and concentrated on it for several years.

After passing the entrance examinations, my father entered the medical college of the University of Southern California in 1913 as a first year student. He sold his studio and equipment

and got a job on the editorial staff of ^[a vernacular newspaper] the ~~Rafu Shimpo~~, also known as the ~~Los Angeles Japanese Daily News~~. When World War I broke out, it was my father's job to translate war news into Japanese. As ^[it] The ~~Rafu Shimpo~~ was a morning paper, he worked at night into the wee hours of the morning, snatching a few hours fo sleep and going to school from 8:00 until 5:00 o'clock.

"I only slept about four hours a night during those days," I remember my father telling me about his medical college days. He really worked hard, studied, and kept on supporting his family. The children were too young to realize what sacrifices had to be endured in order that the father could continue with ~~his~~ medical studies. My mother must have managed the household pretty well for I don't remember ever going hungry or wearing rags or going without shoes during that time. My mother has always been rather thrifty and knew how to make the dollar go far.

I remember watching my father making drawings of bones, muscles and other parts of the anatomy for his classes. He was very good at drawing. He did not seem to put too much time on this work, but they were fine drawings. Some of his drawings are now being used in the medical school.

After his graduation from medical school and having served his year of internship at the Los Angeles County Hospital, my father was ready to open his own office for practice. His friends gave him a banquet. It seems that every prominent Japanese of the community was present. There were congratulatory speeches from different people. My father received monetary gifts which helped him get started.

After a year's practice in the Japanese community, my father decided that ~~she~~ he should study further if he expected to be a successful doctor. He saved up enough money to put him through school for one year at the University of Berlin and also support his family of seven during that period. I know my mother did not work at all during that time as she didn't think that the wife of a professional man should work.

Prior to his departure for Europe my father studied German and French through recordings which he bought. Every night we would hear these recorded lessons. He had already learned enough Spanish to talk to his Mexican patients and he did not find German or French too difficult to learn.

Upon his return from Germany he continued his practice in the Japanese community of Los Angeles. He never participated in community activities and hardly ever attended any meetings. When he did go to any meetings he was always on time and when the others did not arrive 15 minutes after the designated time, he would leave, saying that he could not afford to waste his time waiting when there was so much he could accomplish in his research work. He deplored the fact that there was such a thing as "Japanese time" and said he would not be like the other Japanese who purposely went to meetings one hour late just because "the others do it too."

My father said that he did not gain anything by attending these meetings as the others just bragged about how much money they made and talked about trivial things. My father is not a talkative man, but once he gets started on a subject he likes,

he can really talk. Salesmen found it difficult to sell him anything as he really had to be convinced before he would buy anything. One could really learn something ~~z~~ through talks with my father as he did not like to waste his time talking about nonsense. He often said to me, "There are so many things I would like to do and I have so little time, I don't want to waste any time."

My father can be termed somewhat a "self-taught" man as outside of the regular school and the years spent at medical college, he ^{learned} many things by himself. He never studied music but he was interested in music and was familiar with many classical selections. He had a keen musical ear and he would always have our piano tuned correctly. He could read music and after much persuasion he would play a selection for us on the piano. He liked to listen to operatic selections and bought a number of recordings as well as books on the operas. Whenever my younger sister was practicing violin or playing a selection and went off-key, he would tell her so.

He seemed to ~~xxx~~ know quite a bit about electricity. Whenever our iron or any electrical appliance was not working, he would take them apart and fix ~~them~~. He was a good carpenter and built most of the book shelves we had at home. He made the chicken coop where we kept pigeons as well as chickens. He even built the shed in the backyard where my brother kept his club's athletic equipment.

My father was a good mathematician. In my high school days I remember having him help me with my algebra, geometry and tri-

gonometry problems. I was thankful that I had somebody who could help me with my school problems. It was easier to ask my father than my older sister.

My father loved children, especially his grandchildren. He bought them many things, expensive toys too. One of his grandsons was interested in electricity so he bought his various electric sets so he could work on them at home. He spared no expense when it came to buying things for his grandchildren. Another grandson seemed to be talented in art at the age of two so my father would draw the body of a car and give his grandson a pencil so he could draw on the wheels. For a child of two, he was very good. ~~My father also took his grandsons on short walks about the center.~~

My father is the type of person who does not like to be idle. He is always reading something, writing, or ~~x~~ thinking of something. He has many interests and tries to keep up with every one of them. Whenever he gets interested in any one thing, he goes into it ~~xxxx~~ thoroughly. More than 10 years ago he became interested in astronomy. He bought several books on astronomy and even bought a small telescope so he could look up into the skies at night. He could tell the names of the different stars and pick them out to ~~xx~~ us so we could look at them through the telescope.)

(One year there was an eclipse of the sun which was to be very prominent in the vicinity of San Diego. The previous day he drove some of us children to San Diego to see the eclipse. My father eventook photographs of the eclipse. He was no longer a

~~photographer professionally but he did take pictures once in a while as a hobby.~~

A few years before World War II started, my father became interested more and more in Chinese, especially in reading and writing of Chinese characters as well as the origin of the characters. He got a group of people interested in Chinese together and they met for regular lessons with a Chinese instructor. He bought several books on Chinese. Oftentimes when I visited his office, I would find my father practicing writing Chinese with a brush. I've heard him say on many occasions, "that the only way to write Chinese is with a brush, not with a pen."

Even after evacuation I noticed that my father kept up his study of the Chinese language. He found some friends at Heart Mountain who were also interested in Chinese and they studied together.

Research work in medicine was another of his interests. More than 10 years ago he bought some guinea pigs and pigeons for experimental purposes. He built cages for them himself. He used to feed the pigeons and guinea pigs different foods and sometimes even injected certain fluids into them and watched for results. I generally helped him with his experiments, holding the pigeons and guinea pigs while he ~~xxxxxxxx~~ gave them injections.

Billiards was one type of recreation for my father. Although he was no expert at the game, he was considered among the better players of the community. He would never enter tournaments held among the Japanese, but he would act as referee, especially for

exhibition matches by world famous cue stars who visited Li'l Tokio. He used to contribute articles to a monthly billiard magazine published in Japan. He studied the game through books. He still owns a set of billiard balls and cues which he stored with friends.

Chess and Goh were games which he enjoyed too. He never did play much but he liked to watch others play. He also read books on these games. He was known to be among the better players of the community but he refused to enter tournaments. He hated any kind of competition and would play games just for the love of it and not for any glory which he may gain through winning.

My father read quite a bit. Aside from the medical journals, he read the daily papers, both Japanese and English, and subscribed to several magazines such as Time, Reader's Digest, Magazine Digest, National Geographic and Consumer Report, a buying guide. I know he liked to read the funny papers. He was very particular about the newspapers and he always wanted them together instead of scattered about. He told us he read the funnies for relaxation.

In a recent letter to me, my father said, "My line of research work cover: clinical work, experimental medicine, Japanese language, origin of Japanese and Chinese characters, archaeology, astronomy, geology, paleontology, fossils, rocks and minerals, bibliography, oriental arts, besides my own ~~xxxx~~ autobiography."

Aside from his regular practice, my father used to give one afternoon a week to a clinic operated by a Catholic settlement house. Most of the patients were Mexicans. This may have accounted for his large Mexican clientele. He spoke Spanish

fluently and this may have induced many of the Mexicans to come to his office for treatment on other days.

My father was never a good business man and he never did have a large bank account like some other doctors of the Japanese community. He said to me, "I don't like to force my patients to pay me when they can't afford it. I also give them all the time they want to pay the bills. If they don't pay me, that's all right too." He said he would never send a collector out to get his fees from his patients.)

Many of his patients paid him with food and other things. Many times my father came home with vegetables, Italian cheese or fowl. If one of his patients did not have the money to pay the fee, my father would tell him to pay it whenever he had the money. His Mexican patients were the best when it came to paying bills. I have seen many of them come and pay as little as 50 cents a week.

The Japanese patients were the worst when it came to payments. They generally paid the doctor's bill at the end of the year as it was the custom among the Japanese to start a new year with a clean slate, which meant the paying of all old debts. Sometimes the doctor's bill ran up pretty high. Then they would come to my father and ask him to reduce the bill as it was difficult to pay it in one lump sum. My father never refused.

At one time I worked for my father as his receptionist and bookkeeper. My father may not have been rich financially but he was wealthy in another way. He probably had the finest library of any Japanese family. He had two sets of Encyclopaedia Britannica, one printed in the 1890's and another printed around

1936 which had a new volume added to it each year. He also had a whole set of Americana, Harvard Classics, Scott's novels, Joseph Conrad's books, Tennyson's Works, books on languages, art, music, science, mathematics and fiction. We had at least 5000 books at the time of evacuation. Many of our friends came over to study as we had needed reference books.

My older sister was studying music and she subscribed to the Etude, a monthly music magazine. My father took out the music section and bound them into one volume each year. He also bound the National Geographic and other magazines.

Our family has always had a close family solidarity. Even though some of the children were married, they came over regularly. One sister, who lived a block away, was over every day. Another sister lived at the other end of the city but came over at least twice a week. We held family reunions on every family member's birthday as well as on holidays. It was generally a dinner, ending with songs and games. Our family was quite musical and we liked to sing group songs as well as songs in parts. Oftentimes our closest friends were invited to these parties. We always gave each other gifts on birthdays and at Christmas.

Our whole family generally attended several picnics during the year, one was the annual outing sponsored by the prefectural society to which my father belonged. Shortly before the date of the picnic he would serve on the committee which collected donations which was used to ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ finance the outing. At the picnic he served on the First Aid staff. Being a school physician of a gakuen which was located two door away from our home, ~~xx~~ my

father was obliged to attend the gakuen picnic as a medical staff worker so he took the whole family along to the outing. Outside of these two annual picnics, we held our own family outings.

As children we played in the backyard. Our friends came over to play as we had the biggest backyard. I remember one day we were playing "grown-ups" wearing long dresses and mother's high heeled shoes. My father saw us playing and he got us to pose for ~~fm~~ a picture. After he took the picture he gave us all a nickel so we could go to the neighborhood show. Every Sunday afternoon, if we didn't go on an outing, my father took the whole family to the movies. We all used to enjoy the serials which left us in suspense and eagerness to see next week's episode.

Before World War II, my father slept late in the morning as he studied or worked late into the night. He rarely came home earlier than 1:00 a.m. and oftentimes it was later. He said he could work best in the wee hours of the night when everything was so peaceful. Whenever he came home before 1:00 a.m. he generally brought home some chow mein and the older children of the family would have a midnight snack with my father. Many times I would be asleep but my father would come and wake me up to partake in the steaming chow mein.

This habit undoubtedly led to the midnight snacks which have become part of the family life. Even while at Santa Anita Assembly Center and Heart Mountain WRA Center our family continued to have midnight snacks. At Santa Anita we were not supposed to have lights on after 10:30 p.m. but we had our midnight snack of spaghetti. The ingredients were purchased for us by a Caucasian

friend who worked as one of the police on the grounds. The wardens who patrolled the grounds never told us to turn out the lights as he turned out to be a family friend. He was also invited to join our midnight snacks too.

After going to the assembly center my father's sleeping habits changed. He retired shortly after midnight and the following morning he was up before 6:00 o'clock. When the census taker came around for the bed count, my father would be standing outside and would tell the man that everyone in our household were accounted for, so the man never peeked in the door as he did at other barracks. My father would be one of the first persons at the mess hall for breakfast. He had his lunch and dinner at the hospital mess hall.

My father was not asked by the government to serve on the medical staff at any assembly center so he evacuated with the family to Santa Anita assembly center. He did not work for several weeks and took things easy. With some 19,000 persons in the center and only eight doctors to care for them, my father was approached and asked to join the medical staff. He did not care to work full time and consented to work in the clinic only. He worked there in the afternoons only. The clinic hours were from 2:00 to 5:00 o'clock and during those three hours my father could not even rest as there were so many patients waiting for attention. The Documentary History of Santa Anita shows that there were one doctor to 2310 persons on May 17, 1942.

By the time my father arrived at Heart Mountain early in September of the same year, he was anxious to continue with his

medical work as he found there a hospital where he could continue his research work in experimental medicine and other interests. He was given a room in the doctor's quarters where he could rest when he was on 24-hour duty. In spite of the fact that he was 69, ~~(he will be 70 on September 21, 1945)~~, he told me that he was on 24-hour duty every four days because of the shortage of doctors on the project.

He worked full time at Heart Mountain. He was in the clinic all day except on the days when he was the doctor of the day or when he assisted in operations. He specialized in gynecology. He said that on his busiest day he delivered as many as five babies in one day besides caring for other patients.

Whenever he found free time, he would go on hikes around the project to collect rocks and fossils as geology and archaeology were among his hobbies. Many of his friends who found rocks and fossils brought them to him.

One afternoon he went out on a hike with the Boy Scouts and returned with a sack of varied rocks. They were quite heavy and he said that some of the scouts helped him to carry the pack. Many people brought various colored stones they found in the hills to ask my father if these were valuable or not. He had quite a collection of rocks by the time I left Heart Mountain in June, 1943.

My father seemed to enjoy his life at Heart Mountain as he was able to do research work besides continuing with his medical work. He showed me notes on his autobiography. He had drawings of some street in his native city, bridges and various landscapes

which he drew from memory. My mother remarked that she remembered these places very well.

I know he was working on another book. He had already published a Dictionary of Japanese Characters, setting the type himself, Phonetics of Japanese Language and Conjugation of Japanese Verbs. He even published a small pamphlet on Japanese Dishes for which he even made the illustrations. Once my father gets an idea, he generally follows through. He made a study of Nisei growth and stature, comparing the Nisei with the young people of the same age in Japan. He measured, weighed and examined several hundred Los Angeles Nisei for a number of years and collaborated with a doctor in Japan.

Early in 1945 I asked my father whether he was going to return to California. He replied:

"In 1898, I left Japan for the United States where I intended to live and die. For nearly a half a century thereafter, I have started to assimilate myself to American ideals, and have done everything possible to reconcile and resign myself to the American mode of living, thinking and dying. I raised my children to become 100% loyal Americans, and have not send any of them to Japanese schools as was customary in any Japanese community. (We lived two doors away from the largest gakuens in Los Angeles.) I strived to give them American standard education.

"During many years we had to endure and tolerate many unpleasant mass attitude of Americans toward us. Race prejudice prevailed everywhere. Every advantage had been taken of us, in

public and private life. Ownership of real estate has been denied us. We have been barred from holding public offices. We have been barred from acquiring citizenship of the United States. Other laws depriving us of various rights and privileges have been proposed, passed and enacted. All these things mean but one thing to us; namely, 'We are not wanted here.'

"But we have been patient and tolerant, partly consoled by the individual attitude of American friends who understood our situation, who would do everything for us, and who would be willing to accept us as one of them. They sincerely wished that we'd be taken as their fellow citizens. They were willing to accept us in marriage with their sons or daughters. They understand what culture we have, and they can show their own culture which they could compare with ours. In short, they treat us as their equal. They can tolerate people of our race occupying a certain high position in the community.

"While the individual attitude was becoming better and better, as the result of the increase in the number of individuals who are acquainted with and thoroughly understand the Japanese, the mass attitude of the American public toward the Japanese as a group was getting increasingly worse. Civil and legal rights of Issei Japanese were becoming more and more restricted. And yet, thanks to the custom among the Issei Japanese to give their children the best possible education, the young Nisei possess higher education than the average American. Only race prejudice prevents the Nisei from acquiring higher positions in the community at large. Yet, their education was in-

strumental in earning the admiration of the American public for the Nisei as well as for their parents. The Issei Japanese thus sojourned in this country from year to year, even though under unspeakable strain and humiliation, somewhat consoled and in a way protected by their citizen children.

"After the war started between Japan and the United States, the mass attitude of the American people changed overnight into the worst we have ever experienced. Propaganda tactics have been used depicting treachery, atrocity and brutality of Japs, in order to incite war spirit. These have direct bearing upon the Japanese living peacefully in this country. Politicians catering to the ignorant mass stirred up race hatred and prejudice for their own use.

"To what extent the American people were led to hate the Japanese, and desired for themselves every piece of land, opportunities, or privileges, could be seen in clippings from Denver and Salt Lake City Japanese newspapers during 1944. Some of them are quoted here: (translated from Japanese)

"March, 1944 - At San Diego steps are being taken to confiscate farm lands owned by Japanese, according to district attorney Warren. Attorney-general James Oakley is a leading figure in collecting signatures for an initiative to prohibit all Japanese to own land.

"Commander McCoy spread false reports of Japanese atrocity, and also advocates deporting Issei and Nisei Japanese after the war.

"L.F. Olsen and Bernard His, leaders of the Native Sons

of the Golden West openly ~~oppose~~^{oppose} the return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast.

"Gov. Bricker of Ohio says, 'All disloyal Japanese should be deported. The return of all loyal Japanese should be left to the disposition of the people of the locality proposed.'

"April, 1944 - Attorney-general Kenny of California advocates confiscation of all property belonging to Japanese.

"Mobs burn a barn owned by a farmer in New Jersey employing Japanese.

"Mayor La Guardia of New York, Gov. Bricker of Ohio and Gov. Edge of New Jersey are of the opinion that all Japanese should be denied privileges given people of other races.

"May, 1944 - Rep. Howard Greene of British Columbia proposes putting all ^{or} Canadians of Japanese descent on some uninhabited islands of the Pacific.

"Rep. Mott of Oregon proposes deporting all Japanese upon the conclusion of the war.

"The American Legion, American Federation of Labor, American Federation of Women and Native Sons of the Golden West are all opposed to the return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast.

"Attorney-general Appel, Dr. Johnson, James Palette and ~~James~~ Ellsworth are all opposed to the return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast.

"John Lechner of the American Education League, Thomas McCormick, a member of California legislature and Hawley heading the American League for the Prevention of the Return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast, are meeting for the purpose of establish-

ing branches of the League elsewhere.

"Donald Kiem, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Colorado said Colorado will not welcome any more Japanese to that state.

"Steps are being taken to confiscate lands owned by Japanese in the state of Washington. There are already 14 cases pending hearing.

"June, 1944 - Three Japanese in Poston are required to answer in court whether they had acquired land in Salinas illegally.

"The University of Pennsylvania refuses to take Japanese students.

"A mob attacked and shot Japanese workers in Provo, Utah.

"Even Nisei Japanese are forbidden to possess cameras, shortwave radios and firearms in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, California, Nevada and Montana while such restrictions have been removed for Italians.

"Rep. John Phillips (Rep.) of California petitioned in the Assembly with 489 signatures of Californians, opposing the return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast.

"Larry Smith, a Hearst newspaper editor and NBC commentator, reiterated his belief and conviction that the Japanese are not to be trusted at the occasion of the Fifth War Loan Drive campaign at Denver.

"When coming out of a movie house in Idaho, four Nisei were attacked and beaten by 20 American x ruffians.

"July, 1944 - At the annual meeting of county officials of California, it has been proposed to deport all disloyal Japanese and to prohibit all Japanese from owning land in California and to engage in any business in California.

"Judge Sheppard ordered an open forum on the question of confiscation of land owned by a certain Shirakawa now in Gila.

"The Los Angeles Times lauds in an editorial the McFarland-Johnson proposal of deporting all Japanese.

"The American League of California, American Education League and other organizations opposed to the return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast. The first of these bodies is formed under the auspices of the Farm Produce Wholesalers of Southern California and Flower Growers of Southern California, whose members had been benefited to the extent of \$26,000,000 through the evacuation of Japanese.

"A Japanese from Heart Mountain center, working in a farm near Cody, was shot through the abdomen.

"In California and Washington, there are 23 land cases pending hearings.

"August, 1944 - A letter opener made from the bones of a fallen Japanese soldier has been presented to President Roosevelt.

"Premier King of Canada announced that immigration of Japanese to Canada would be prohibited after the war.

"At the annual meeting of the American Legion held in Los Angeles, it was proposed:

1. to put all Japanese under control of the U.S. Army.
2. To give no Japanese permission to return to Cali-

fornia, until Japan is entirely crushed.

3. To form committees to investigate people of Japanese ancestry.

4. To deport all Issei and disloyal Nisei Japanese.

"The American Legion at its 26th National meeting held in Chicago, passed all four points proposed at the Los Angeles meeting, and added that all prisoners and Japanese of laboring class are to be deported as soon as the armistice is declared.

"The American Navy does not take Nisei boys into its service and would not take Nisei girls into any office connected with the Navy.

"A Japanese cemetery in Portland, was the scene of malicious destruction. An attempt has been made to expose Japanese cemetery at Colma at an auction sale.

"September, 1944 - Rosehill cemetery refuses to accept the remains of a certain Chinaman who died recently at Chicago. His wife is buried there.

"The National convention of the American Legion held at Chicago passed a resolution that all Japanese persons be put under Army rule and to close all relocation centers.

"A committee has been created in both Houses for the deportation of Issei and Nisei to Japan. The proposal is to be presented to the House through Rep. McFarland of Arizona and Rep. Johnson of California.

"Mayor Wells of Brighton, Colorado, the advocate of the anti-Japanese land law, accuses Nisei Japanese of participating in the Army Council at Tokyo, which culminated in the

treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor.

"Gov. Sidney Osborne of Arizona, speaking at Los Angeles, said that Arizona does not welcome Japanese who would relocate from camps.

"November, 1944 - Mayor Wells of Brighton, Colo., again called John Lechner of California to assist in a campaign against Japanese.

"The proposed Anti-Japanese Land Law of Colorado was defeated. But it became known that the anti-Japanese votes obtained were largest among the Italians and Mexicans, and very few among whites, Negroes and Jews.

"Ray Williamson said at a meeting of Native Sons held at Sacramento, that if it were not for the restriction laws against the Japanese, there would have been two to three million Japs in California at the time of Pearl Harbor.

"A Japanese American soldier, a wounded veteran of the Italian front, has been ejected from a barber shop in Arizona near Poston.

"The American Legion of Yuba, Sutter, opposes the return of Japanese to California. The Farm Bureau of Santa Clara County opposes the return of Japanese to California.

"A large farm owned by a Vista Japanese in Southern California has been confiscated in the district court.

"December, 1944 - Japanese grave stones were demolished at Price, Utah.

"District Attorney Fred Howser spoke at the Shriners Luncheon Club that the second invasion of Japs into California

began, meaning ~~xxxx~~ the return of Japanese to the Pacific Coast.

"The San Francisco Examiner does not want Japanese back in California, giving the following reasons:

1. It is hard to tell loyal from disloyal.
2. There exist some disloyals.
3. Espionage and sabotage are likely.
4. Danger to Japanese themselves, who may be attacked.
5. Better for them to stay where they are now.

"Some banks in Southern California and also in Sacramento do not want Japanese business. Auto insurance is denied to Japanese. Mexicans, Filipinos and Chinese who have acquired wealth after the Japanese evacuated and left opportunities to them, naturally would oppose the return of Japanese to the coast. Laborers, vegetable producers, flower growers and merchants who took over after the Japanese left would naturally not welcome the return of Japanese. Mayor Sears of Brawley advocated the formation of an organization to oppose the return of Japanese to Imperial Valley. Oregon farmers and merchants form movement to prevent Japanese from returning to the Pacific Coast permanently.

"Hood River post of American Legion in Oregon removed names of 16 Japanese American soldiers from the Honor List."

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"The above is the general trend of feelings of the mass of American people, and the tide seems to be still rising, and will show no signs of abating for many years to come. Activities on the part of some individuals or organizations sympathetic to Japanese tend to incite the ire of anti-Japanese public, rather

than to ameliorate the situation.

It will be an extremely hard task for a Japanese to re-establish himself in the west after being compelled to evacuate hastily, abandoning everything used in business such as office equipments, farm implements, etc., any of which are not now easily procurable, even if they have plenty of cash on hand. On top of that, there are housing problems, office room problems, trade opportunity problems. Many Japanese who were engaged in trades depending on Japanese customers only, will be at a loss to find a field where enough Japanese are concentrated to support their trade. Salt Lake City, Ogden and Denver are cities in which Japanese businessmen and professional men are gathered to the saturation point. All other regions in the middlewest and eastern states may be able to absorb Nisei who might work mostly as domestics and rarely as clerks or mechanics.

"What, then, are the old Issei people to do? Those whose business or trade depends on Japanese customers have nowhere to go. What am I to do, a doctor depending on Japanese patients? I had, of course, many non-Japanese patients, but I cannot depend on those who are constantly taught through radios, newspapers, and magazines that Japanese are treacherous and dangerous enemies; and that one Japanese killed is one less task for the U.S. Army to perform. It would be madness to attempt in such an atmosphere to open an office in the west.

"There are a few true friends among Caucasians who would do everything possible for us. But they would not be able to do anything to save the situation. The laws which represent the

opinion of the American people to deny us our rights and show the gesture clearly telling us to 'get out of the country.'

"For 47 years I have been waiting and hoping that some day the laws of this country would be amended to grant rights to us minority people. But instead, our legal rights have been curtailed from time to time. Laws are made to prohibit land ownership, to prohibit immigration, and to deny professional license, and finally restrictions and denial of rights in various ways through the categorical name of 'alien ineligible to citizenship.' (My father took out his first citizenship papers but the law barring orientals from citizenship was passed before he could gain his full U.S. citizenship.)

"In spite of all these, I had hopes that the adverse conditions against us would be amended some time, and America would become the best spot on earth for us to live in. But since the opening of hostilities, conditions changed overnight and is becoming worse from time to time, until I am convinced that it will take at least 10 to 15 years before things will be like it was before the war. If so, I would not stay here, I would go out of this country the first thing after the armistice is signed, to seek the land where 'equal rights' and 'liberty and justice for all' are to be had.

"As for you, children, you are American citizens, with best possible qualifications I could assist to give. Fare you well! Fight for your rights when necessary."

Regarding his attitude on the war situation he wrote the following:

"Early in 1944 President Roosevelt asked the press to report the truth about war news. It sounds very strange as a request from the President, but it reflects the fact that absolute truth has not always been reported in war dispatches.

"Hansen Baldwin says: 'Leyte and Samar islands have been reported occupied by American troops, but the truth came out that Americans in Leyte are hard pressed and there is no indication that Americans landed on Samar.'

"In the European front the Allies are always reported to be advancing. Gen. Arnold, Gen. MacArthur and Adm. Halsey give out very optimistic reports. After reports of complete victory and advances, the truth have come out to be quite otherwise. Stimson and Gen. Eisenhower report that the arms and supplies are plentiful and adequate. Yet, one authentic report says that with the present supply of arms, it is not adequate for a positive advance attack unless plentiful subsequent supply is assured.

"Arms used by the enemy are constantly improving, making American arms and supplies often fall behind in actual strength. Among certain young American officers, there were many who knew and raised their voice about the inferiority of some American arms. But their warnings were never heeded. Higher officers were too optimistic as to the outcome of war with Japan. As a result, newspapers reported nothing but victorious news.

"David Lawrence reports that the views of American generals were inclined to be too optimistic. He called attention to the fact that the Japanese suicide bombers could not very well be prevented with the present American defense arms. The marksman-

ship is dead sure. Their objective is to destroy one ship with one bomb. And they often do it.

John Goethe, in his book "Japan Fights for Asia," says: 'America is at war with an unknown enemy. America does not know anything about the enemy, while Japan knows America thoroughly and completely. America was blind to see what Japan had been accomplishing in China for the past ten years.

'Japan conquered Manchuria by occupying the whole area and clearing the land of opposing elements one by one, -----an old time-honored method of conquering. Next, in subduing China, a new and improved tactic has been used, by first taking all railways of coastal regions, then occupying important cities, commercial and industrial centers and clearing the surrounding areas of enemy troops and bandits. Activities of civil officers immediately follow military operations, and establish the local governing body. Then the army withdraws to suitable centers. Chinese remnant army or bandits march into areas from which the Japanese army withdrew, and claim to have repulsed the invaders and took the city as it comes out in Chungking reports.

'For eleven years before Pearl Harbor, Japan had been training her army, navy and air forces in actual combat in China, before the very eyes of American and European diplomats, army and naval men. But none of these observers gave any serious thought to it.

'During April, 1941, Col. Otaka told me that if America and Britain will challenge or interfere with Japan's program of establishing the Co-Prosperity Circle of Eastern Asia, it will end in oceanic guerrilla warfare. This prediction came true in 1944.

'Officers in the Japanese army are all veterans of long experience, taking many years of actual service before an officer could be promoted to the rank of a colonel. Compare this with the American practice of promoting a captain to general with a few months.

'It took just 93 days for Japan to subdue territories of Britain, United States, Netherlands, etc., including Malay, Burma, Philippines and Dutch Indies. As soon as the army operations finished the job of cleaning up the area of all opposing forces, civil officers start a new administration, establish hospitals, social service, schools to teach the new order. Thus the Co-Prosperity Circle begins.

'Americans in general seem to believe this Co-Prosperity Circle to be a simple bluff for propaganda. But that is entirely wrong. Look at what has been accomplished in building up Manchukuo, Mongolia, Korea, North and Central China, Indo-China, Burma, Malay, Dutch Indies and Philippines, building up industrial plants, farm projects, mining, in fact in all lines of commerce and industry. School children are taught the Japanese language, Japanese culture, scientific advancements, brotherhood of all men, and above all, the spirit of Co-Prosperity Circle of East Asia. It will be within a few years, that the nations of East Asia will be educated under Japanese guidance, that the millions of Asiatics will wake up to race-consciousness.

'Look at what has been attained in building transportation routes while fighting Chinese on land, and America on the seas. Japan completed railroad connecting Japan with Singapore within

less than three years after Pearl Harbor, a feat which has been supposed to be impossible. Just imagine the immense natural resources of the countries along the line, which fell into the hands of the Japanese; food stuff, drugs, rubber, oil, coal, iron, electricity, and an enormous manpower, etc. had been placed under Japan's disposal. Utilizing all these, Japan could augment her fighting strength manifold. Within three short months, Japan had expanded 15 times in area. She became a great have-country from a have-not-country.

"Ever since Townsend Harris went to Japan as an American Consul in 1885, Japan developed her social life patterned after America and started to use American goods in daily life. Japanese learned to like America and the American mode of living. It is thought very strange that Japan is fighting a war with America."

"I have spent the last 70% of my life in America, but I know something of the Japanese characteristics. Towards the end of the last century, the Japanese learned to like America, as the result of coming in contact with Americans of high calibre, such as teachers, doctors or Christian ministers. America was boasting, in those days, of a small army and navy, with no territorial ambition. Lofty American spirit of Lincoln's racial emancipation is still fresh in the minds of the people of the world.

"It is the American teachers who taught the Japanese children to wake up to the state of affairs in other countries including America, but the Americans themselves utterly neglected to study Japan and the Japanese. Today, millions of Japanese understand the English language, and with it what's happening in America;

on the other hand only a few hundred Americans really know the Japanese language and what's going on in Japan.

"Not a few Americans are of the opinion that the Japanese people in general do not want war with the United States; and that it is the militarists in power who are forcing the people to fight against America. Nothing is farther from the truth. The Japanese seem to think and believe, all as one, that the Asiatic milliards were preyed upon by British, French, Dutch and Americans and that Japan is out on a Holy War Mission to save these people of kindred race from the ferocious jaws of the western devils.

"As David Lawrence reports, Japan is now producing thousands of men with the spirit and determination to die for their country, men who do not hesitate a minute to make themselves human bombs for the right cause.

"Nearly everybody who discusses the outcome of the present war, talks of ultimate victory over Japan. They all seem to think it is impossible for the United States to lose. Senator Pepper thought it would not take more than a few weeks to beat Japan. Others set the date of victory over Japan at the end of 1942, or 1943 or 1944, and again the date had to be postponed. Nobody ever mentioned the possibility of defeat because it is sickening to think of possible defeat. Some argue that America has never lost a war and that is impossible to think Japan can beat us (Col. Claire). But, on the other hand, Japan also can say she never lost a war. Nay, not only won all wars, but came out victorious over enemies manifold stronger than she was.

"I have a son in the U.S. Army. I have a mother in Japan. I do not want the U.S. to lose, and I do not want Japan to be beaten. I am in a dilemma. Win or lose on either side would be a vital question for me. I have therefore collected points of merit and demerit on either side as a basis for discussion as follows:

ALLIES

"Do not know the enemy.

"Do not know the Japanese language, the determination and the will of the Japanese people. Also do not know what is behind the adamant will of youths willing to die for their country.

"Depend too much on each other among the allies. U.S. and Britain vainly expected Soviet Russia to declare war against Japan.

"The average American has a notion that there is no question about an American victory over Japan. It is entirely unbelievable that Japan will beat U.S. because U.S. never lost a war.

(Col. Claire)

JAPAN

"Has full knowledge of the enemies, their languages, their philosophy and their psychology. Japan is aware of being in war against the richest and the most resourceful country of the world, and made preparations accordingly.

"Depended on self alone, because it is the question of life or death for Japan as well as of the life or death for Asiatic millions.

"Japan also never lost a war against superior forces. A fire of fervent patriotism burns in the mind of every man, woman and child of Japan. It would be impossible to beat Japan unless killed to the last man. (Wm. Chamberlain)

"Americans clamor for luxury.

They are looking forward to a radio, refrigerator and an automobile for every home.

They want war stopped and sons and husbands sent home.

"America is fighting this war without a definite objective.

(Gen. Wm. Rind) 'Don't know what we are fighting this war for,' was heard often.

"U.S. is not quite well prepared for this war. Commandos and Staff are amateurs, not experts. Army forces raised 30-folds in 4 years, making officers inadequate, training of men insufficient. (U.P.)

"America has enough of everything, army and navy, men and equipment, warships, planes, transports. Men are brave and courageous, but the average men don't know what U.S. is fighting for. The government has to educate them by propaganda through radio, newspapers and books.

"Japanese can stand poverty, meagrer life and deny themselves all luxuries. They willingly send sons and husbands to the front never expecting to see them again.

"Japan has 90,000,000 people united in one objective, namely, their lives are at stake. Must vanquish or be vanquished.

"Commandos, the Staff, officers and men are all veterans of many years' experience. The training of new units is intensive. Japan is very well prepared for any emergencies.

"Japan has perhaps less weapons, officers and men. But officers and men receive much longer and more extensive training in war methods, and mental training to develop a fervent patriotic spirit to defend their country with their lives.

"The Allies expressed more than once that Japan must be beaten to submission, forced to unconditional surrender. Then the people of Japan will be (like slaves) at the disposal of the people of the victorious countries.

"Upon hearing statements such as that, the blood of every Japanese will boil and the determination to die defending their country to the very last man, will be made harder

"Two to three million American troops alone will not be able to subdue 90,000,000 Japanese people by any means. It will take an entire 130,000,000 American people with a will to sacrifice the last drop of blood for their country. And then, it will be necessary to kill Japanese to the last man. (Col. Claire)"

It is evident that my father does not desire to return to California for the time being. In a letter written on January 20, 1945, he said:

"I do not intend to return to California, at least for 10 to 15 years. I may be dead, most likely, before California is ready to accept us.....As to my future plans, I have written what I think and what I intend to do. I am going to stay here in camp until I'm kicked out. Not that I like it, but that is the gesture. They took me out of California forcibly. They destroyed my practice. An alien is prevented from practicing in any other state legally, even if there is a chance of making good. There is not much chance of making it pay either....

"Why can't you folks move to Milwaukee? Clara and the baby at least? Or to some western suburb of Chicago, if you must

stay in Chicago? Induce Julia to move to Chicago, nay better to Milwaukee. Bob doesn't like Chicago. Julia likes New York, which Bob condemns. They are now considering Colorado Springs which may be about the best in the middle states. I am in favor of their going to Milwaukee. It is just about as in the middle of the country as Colorado Springs but more near civilization. Flora may eventually settle around Chicago. Then mother could stay around there visiting Julia's, Flora's, Clara's, Elmer's and you. She would not be tired of any place if she'd have five places to go to."

(Julia, Flora and Clara are the names of my father's daughters while Elmer is his youngest son. The older of the two sons, Joe, is in the U.S. Army. Bob is Julia's husband. At this writing Julia and her family resettled in Larchmont, New York, a suburb of New York City. Elmer and his family has resettled in Milwaukee. Flora and her son are still at Heart Mountain and Clara's family and I have resettled in Chicago.)

Clara invited my father to come to Chicago, even if for a visit. In answer to her letter of April 24, 1945, my father replied that he wanted to continue with his research work. On May 17, 1945, he wrote as follows:

"This is my answer to Clara's letter inviting us to the homes of you children, in turns and spending the rest of our lives, dependent on you, my children. I certainly appreciate your kind thoughts. But it would be an impossible idea for me to live a life dependent on any of my children. Clara seems to think that my research work could be done anywhere at any time, but that is

not true. Any research work could be done except in a proper environment. For my work in the medical line, we have access to all patients here in the Heart Mountain hospital. For my work in Chinese and Japanese lines, there are some persons in Heart Mountain who are versed in literary classics of China and Japan. There are also others who possess books and other materials needed in my line of study.

"I would not be able to perform any of my research work outside, at least for the duration of the war, as it would require a large expense. When I wrote books or performed work to be published in England, Japan or this country, I did intricate figuring, checking and rechecking in isolation at my office. Likewise, in writing the Kanji Dictionary, Phonetics of the Japanese Language, Year Names of China and Japan, Conjugation of Japanese Verbs, etc., besides the works now on hand in the course of preparation, several books at one time because I realize there is a limitation in my life. To induce me to go out of here would make me miserable, as it would deprive me of all facilities and opportunities to continue my present work.

"Mother would never understand the nature of the work I am engaged in. I had attempted to explain it in the past but in vain. She would have me behave like an ordinary person and live a life of an ordinary citizen, acting exactly like my next door neighbor, enjoying what everybody else enjoys. But I am different, unique and eccentric. You would not find a person like me in a thousand. It is her bad luck that I am this way.

"I know it would make mother happy to be with the children

and grandchildren. She would not think of going out of here if I stay. She will be more than willing to help, and would really work herself to death unless some of you will put a check on her from time to time. Therefore the happiest solution, I think, would be to induce mother to come out of camp and stay with you and leave me alone with my research work.

"I would be glad to visit you children in Chicago, Milwaukee or New York. Sooner or later I am scheduled to visit Koh Murai in Lincoln, Nebraska concerning one of my research work.

"My line of research work covers: clinical work, experimental medicine, Japanese language, origin of Japanese and Chinese characters, archaeology, astronomy, geology, paleontology, fossils, rocks and minerals, bibliography, oriental arts, besides my own autobiography. Mother wants me to stay at home as much as possible, but how can I do that with this much of a schedule to be covered."

My mother has a sentimental attachment to California and wants to return here, however, my father refuses to go back. He urged my mother to go to the middlewest where she could visit her daughters and son. On July 25, 1945, he wrote the following:

"It was a kind of shock to mother when I said I intended not to return to the Pacific Coast but rather have her relocate to Chicago or somewhere alone, as I intend to remain here to the end. There will be a sort of fight or scrap when the center is scheduled to be closed and still many who are determined to remain will not move. I ~~xxxxxx~~ do not want mother to share this unpleasant situation.

"Will you please write and tell her, ask or induce her to come out to Chicago and live with you. Julia is leaving soon and I wished mother to go to Chicago with her. But she does not make up her mind. By the way, mother doesn't approve of Julia's going to New York. I believe it's a very good thing if she could make a place near New York City as her home. Mother doesn't know or realize the great possibilities and opportunities for Julia's family and children, no matter how much one explains to her.

"I had hoped she would make up her mind to go before Julia leaves; then she would feel safe on the way and also she may be able to help the children en route to New York.

"If Elmer stays in Milwaukee and buys a house or something, that will help toward making up her mind to go in that direction."

Just before Japan sued for peace, my father said the following about the feeling of the people on the Pacific Coast compared to that of the people in the midwest:

"The middle and eastern states are the cream of America. Many Japanese crave for the Pacific Coast naturally as a place of their birth and because of its climate. The older generation would like to be there simply because of its proximity to Japan where they wish to visit as often as they can.

"I think the people of the Pacific Coast are most crude and uncultured, making the coast states the hotbed of anti-Japanese agitation. We should settle somewhere else and let the new people benefit by our efforts. The climate is, to be sure, a bit hotter or colder in the middlewest and eastern states. But that did not prevent the growth of America's industry and culture. In fact,

the mild climate of Southern California makes the people idle and less ambitious, as it does in Mexico, Austria, Italy, Spain or Florida.

"So long as many Japanese are in the middlewestern and eastern states, don't let this great opportunity slip by. Try to stay where you are now and establish yourselves. California has nothing more to offer than perhaps lands for the farmers. So don't think of going back to California. Julia and her family are staying in New York with its advantages. You stay in Chicago or some other middlewestern state. There are, of course, a few good friends in California, but think of the people who do not hesitate to pass laws to deprive us of our rights. Our few good and true friends are powerless when it comes to mass legislation.

"I have been talking with mother and convinced her that the best course would be to settle in Chicago for the time being. Flora will, in all probability, go to Chicago soon because she will have to work, thus leaving Chico (her son) in care of mother. So please keep a look out for a house at your earliest convenience. This camp is said to be closed on or before November 15.

"There is a lot of peace talk in the air. It may be the first step to real peace. I earnestly hope it will come true so that Joe (his eldest son) doesn't have to be in combat. Let's hope for the best."

As the announcements were made that the centers are to be closed by the end of this year and the residents must leave, my father decided to continue with his research work for about a year or so and then join the family. He wrote the following

letter on August 26, 1945 when he said that my mother would re-settle to Chicago this fall while he would remain at Heart Mountain until the end and then go to Nebraska, Iowa or Indiana for his research work:

"The reason why mother and Flora will go out of Heart Mountain first is that:

- "1. I have decided not to go back to practice in California because it is extremely hard to re-establish practice there. Besides it takes quite a lot of money to start again, and it is not easy to repay the debt.
- "2. I have a chance of engaging myself in research work of food products, Japanese or otherwise. If my service begins to pay I may get something as royalty. I have a few offers to translate certain papers. But I will have to be there where required, which will be in Nebraska, Iowa or Indiana. These jobs begin in November, so I have decided to stay in the center until then.
- "3. I will join the family in a year or two, and sooner if things work out smoothly. Mother and Flora have consented to live in Chicago or Milwaukee until I join them.

"We are all happy, especially mother, that Joe will not have to be called into combat work. When the busiest time is over, Joe might even get a furlough from the Philippines. If my work does not bind me too long, I may get a chance to visit the family for a reunion. I am looking forward to the reunion like the ones

we used to have at the Bonnie Brae house (in Los Angeles)."

Now that my father has made up his mind what he is going to do, nothing can change his mind. On many occasions in the past my father has made important decisions without consulting the family at all and have thrust them upon us. We had to accept his decision at all times. He is not a very talkative man and consequently does not discuss various matters with the rest of the family. Probably if the rest of the family insisted, he would not^t separate from the family for a year. However, knowing my father's nature, none of the sons nor daughters have tried to force him to resettle with the rest of the family. As long as he does what he wants to do, he is happy. He would rather spend time on his research work than sleep, however, this lack of sleep has not affected his health. My father is looking well for his age and he has even put on some weight while at Heart Mountain.

It is a good thing to work at what one loves, however, I hope my father does not overwork. He probably does not realize that he is reaching the age of 70 and should slow down. But, what can one do with a man who is as stubborn as my father?