

Interviewer's code

Midori Morioka
Masako Matsuoka

Cross Ref: CH-43

Evacuation and Resettlement Study,
February, 1944 (Revised)

SCHEDULE FOR INDIVIDUAL RESETTLERS

Date of interview July 17, 1944 Interviewer C. Kikuchi

1. Case number #42 2. Sex, M F 3. Marital stat. M S D W O

4. Present address 1930 N. Bissell Entered July '44 Left 7-31-44

5. Later addresses 3707 N. Halstead Date 7-31-44

6. Birthplace Los Angeles, Calif. 7. Birthdate 7-31-19

8. Alien or Citizen Citizen 9. Nisei Kibei or Issei Nisei

10. Addresses between Dec. 1, 1941 and evacuation

	Date	Entered	Left
(a) <u>Berkeley</u>	"	<u>Aug. '40</u>	<u>Mar. '42</u>
(b) <u>Los Angeles</u>	"	<u>Mar. '42</u>	<u>5-5-42</u>
(c)	"		
(d)	"		
(e)	"		

11. Assembly Center Tulare Date 5-5-42 Left 9-'42

12. Relocation Center Gila Date 9-'42 Left 7-'43

13. Addresses since leaving Relocation Center
(prior to "present address")

	Entered	Left
(a) <u>3300 Lake Shore</u>	<u>7-'43</u>	<u>6-30-44</u>
(b)		
(c)		
(d)		
(e)		
(f)		
(g)		

14. Family members living together on December 1, 1941.

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	Religion
(a) <u>Ken</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Berkeley</u>	<u>Engineer (?)</u>	<u>Budd.</u>
(b) <u>Midori</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>L.A.</u>	<u>Housewife</u>	<u>Christ.</u>
(c)					
(d)					
(e)					
(f)					
(g)					
(h)					
(i)					
(j)					

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15. What members of family listed in 14 evacuated together to Assembly Center?

Give symbols #14 plus

What other related persons?

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (as of Dec. 1, 1941)
(a) Father	60	M	Japan	Nursery operator
(b) Mother	48	F	"	Helped in nursery
(c) Sister	17	F	L.A.	Student
(d) "	12	F	"	"
(e) Brother	16	M	"	"
(f)				

16. What members listed in 14 or 15 above went together to Relocation Project?

Give symbols #15

What other related persons?

Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (as of Dec. 1, 1941)
(a) Jane	8 mo.	F	Berkeley	infant born Jan. '42
(b)				
(c)				
(d)				
(e)				
(f)				

17. Family members living together in Chicago

Address symbol (see 13)	Entered	Left	Relationship to Resettler	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation (at date of interview)
(a) Ken	7-3-43		Husband				Plumber
(b) Self	"						Housewife
(c) Jane	"		Daughter	2 1/2	F	Berkeley	
(d) Tommy	"		Son	1 1/2	M	Gila	
(e)							
(f)							
(g)							
(h)							

18. Educational history of resettler

Grammar schools (name and location)

Dates	Grade completed
Manchester Ave. School	'24-'30 6th
Prete Harte Jr. High	'30-'33 9th

High schools (name and location)

Dates	Grade completed
Fremont High, L.A.	'33-'36 12th

Colleges, universities and vocational
schools, (name and location)

Dates	Grade completed	Degree
U.C.L.A.	'36-'37 13th	
L.A.C.C.	'38-'39 14th	
U.C.L.A.	'39-'40 15th	
Attendance at Japanese language U.C. school, location	'40-'41 16th inc.	
Dates		
Rafu Gakuen	'24-'30 5th	

19. Occupational history (begin with first job). Note periods of unemployment by entering dates continuously and writing "unemp" in Job column to cover such periods. Include employment in Assembly Center and Relocation Project and continue with employment since resettling.

[illegible]

20. Political activities

Dates	Voted in what elections	For what party
	Never voted	

2. Gila 9/2/42
3. Tulare 5/6/42
4. 1642 Delaware St., Berkeley, Calif. (temp.)
8410 So. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, Calif. (perm.)
5. Kono, Keitsu, Yamanashi, Japan
Hiramatsu, Sato, Yamanashi, Japan
- 5a. U.S. Nursery Abroad Student
7. Grammar school, Manchester Ave., L.A. 1924 to 1930
Junior high, Bret Harte, L.A. 1930 to 1933
High school, Fremont, L.A. 1933 to 1936
Jr. College, L.A.J.C., L.A. 1937 to 1938
College, U.C.L.A., 1936 to 1937; 1938 to 1939
U.C., Berkeley, 1940 to 1941
- 7a. U.C.: Zoology, J.C. & UCLA Pre-Nursing
High: Lang.-science
8. None
12. 62 115 lbs.
13. No major defects
18. Married
19. Wife
20. 7-31-19
23. No
24. College 4
25. Speaks Japanese
27. Maid, general
- 27a. Nurses Aide
28. 5/42 to 6/42 WCCA Tulare Waitress (E) Mess \$8 mo.
1941 Housewife
9/40 to 2/41 Mr. & Mrs. Pearson, Private home, Berkeley, Calif.
Schoolgirl - cook housework \$30-\$35
Part-time job
Attending school
29. Skills: Typing; Nurse's aide wk.
Hobbies: Sewing, machine; reading
O.P. No time. Busy with child
30. Buddhist

Midori's daughter, Jane Hatsumi Morioka

2. Same
3. Same
4. Same
5. Morioka, Seiji Ken, Calif.
Kono, Midori, Calif.
- 5a. U.S. Bricklayer
7. ---
- 7a. ---
8. None
12. 25½ 16 lbs.
13. No major defect
18. Single
19. Daughter
20. 1/11/42
23. No
24. ---
25. ---
-
-

Charles Kikuchi
Evacuation and Resettlement Study
Chicago, Illinois.

CH-42 Masako Matsuoka (pseud.)

July 31, 1944

Mrs. Matsuoka, 25, and her husband, Ben, 24, and daughter, June, 2 1/2, and Terry 1 1/2, are temporarily living with Mrs. Tamie Ihara (CH-4) at 1930 Bissell St. This case illustrates the difficulties of a family unit in finding adequate economic adjustment plus housing problems. They were doing domestic work for one year. Masako's husband was the sponsor of the Nisei orchestra out here and she had some interesting comments to make on this situation. At the present time her husband is doing independent plumbing work.

Masako is one of these more reticent individuals who does not speak too freely. She only has vague ideas of problems which do not affect her personally. She seems to be a very gentle person altho she does have individuality. She quit college in her last year. Her general conservatism is due to her background and personality make-up. She has a family who is now resettled in Cleveland so that she has no direct contact with any of the centers anymore. Throughout the interview she cooperated fully but the process was made difficult because her young children were in constant need of attention and this disrupted the interview on several occasions.

This is the case of Masako Matsuoka. At the present time she is living in Mrs. Ihara's (CH-4) household but she expects to move to 3707 N. Halstead in the near future. Masako was born on July 31, 1919 in Los Angeles, California. At the outbreak of the war she was living in Berkeley where she had been attending the University of California. She quit school in her last year in order to get married after many parental objections on both sides. As she was unable to get along with her in-laws, she moved to Los Angeles to join her own family in March, 1942, taking her husband and newly born baby along with her. She was evacuated to Tulare Assembly Center on May 5, 1942 and to the Gila relocation center in August of the same year. She remained at Gila until August of 1943. Her husband had come out a couple of months earlier in order to prepare the way but he was unable to find satisfactory economic adjustments so that they began to work as a couple in a home on 3300 Lake Shore Drive. They remained in this position until the end of June, 1944.

Masako's parents consist of the following members: Father, 60, born in Japan, nursery operator. Mother, 48, born in Japan, assisted in husband's business. Masako, 25, A sister, 17, another sister, 12, and a brother, 16. All of the children were born in Los Angeles. The family is decidedly Christian.

Masako's educational history started with the Manchester Ave. elementary school in Los Angeles where she attended from 1924 to 1930. She then went to the Brett Harte junior high school where she completed the ninth grade in 1933. She was graduated from Fremont high school in 1936. Her freshman year at college was completed at UCLA while her sophomore year was

done at LACC. She then returned to UCLA where she finished her junior year in 1940. She then transferred to University of California but she quit college upon her marriage in May, 1941. Masako attended a Japanese language school in Los Angeles from 1924 to 1930. She never held a full time job before evacuation although she did odd domestic jobs during her college days. She worked for several months as a waitress in the mess hall at Tulare getting a salary of \$12 a month. She did not work at all in Gila as she was pregnant at the time. Since relocating, Masako cooked in a home while her husband worked as the houseman. They earned \$160 a month together plus care for the two children. They recently quit this job because of their inability to adjust themselves to this type of living.

Masako has never voted since she does not have any interests in politics. She tends to be a rather quiet individual and she was reticent about talking about her past experiences. She indicated that her introvert nature was a result of the strict Christian atmosphere in her home during her childhood days. Apparently she never developed an aggressive personality to the point where she rebelled against parental influences until her senior year in college. The big struggle came at the time she was married. Because of the opposition she and Ben started to elope to Reno. They got as far as Sacramento where Ben's older brother persuaded them to come back and go through the formality of a Japanese marriage ceremony. This ceremony was conducted in a Buddhist church and Masako stated that she did not know what was going on.

Masako is the eldest of 4 children by a full 8 years. Her father had been engaged in nursery work for a number of years in

the Los Angeles area and since the mother assisted in this work the care of the children was left to Masako. As in many Japanese family the mother apparently seems to be the most dominating personality within the family group. In Masako's case, the parents were both extremely religious so that she grew up in ^{a home} ~~an~~ environment where smoking, drinking, dancing and other activities of this nature were strictly taboo.

Masako had not definite aim in going to college altho she did start out as a pre-nursing student. She merely went because her family had enough money to send her and "it was the thing to do among nisei kids". She never went steady with any fellow until she met Ben and he swept her off her feet because he was a more aggressive individual. The marriage has turned out fairly well altho Masako is quite concerned about the future of her children now because the draft may take her husband at some unexpected time.

Masako and her husband had just quit a domestic job about the time these interviews started. She has been extremely worried because of the difficulty in getting an apartment but this tension has been lifted during the past few days as she has lined up a new place. She admitted that she had been a little too fussy about choosing an apartment because they had been used to living in a rich home for so long. They could not stand the domestic work even though Masako admitted that the employer treated her very well and they had bought some things for the children, started a bank account for them, loaned her husband the car and so forth. In spite of this Masako felt that the employer put on a patronizing air and this was resented greatly. She felt that her employer was trying to treat them as colored servants and she did

not like this. On top of that, her husband wanted to do "man's work anyway",² and he was always thinking up some big plans to advance himself. The sponsorship of the nisei orchestra was one of the results. Ben put all of the earnings from the domestic work into this orchestra, but the band fizzled out due to personal jealousies and striving for top prestige plus other factors.

At the present time Masako is very uncertain about the future, a little fearful of it. She doesn't like to think or talk about it too much. Her excuses as she is so busy with the children that she hasn't had time to think of it much. She feels that she cannot plan beyond the immediate future because everything is so undecided. She hopes that her husband will not be drafted at all but she fears that he will have to go eventually unless the war ends. Masako longs to have things back to the status quo of the pre-war days.

*Strictures -
but no conflict*

CH 42

Masako's life story:

"I suppose I am the product of two worlds, altho I actually know only America. However, there has been some degree of oriental culture in my life through my parents' influence but it has never been very heavy. I would say that the preponderant influence in my life has been the American culture. The reason for that is that my folks have been in this country for many years and they have never intended to take us back to Japan to live. That's why they let us grow up in the American way. It wasn't anything deliberate at all; we just grew up.

"My mother first came to America just before the end of the first world war. At that time Japan was fighting with the Allies so that there wasn't any feeling against them so my folks had a fairly good start. My dad has been in the United States for a good 40 years. He never went back after coming to this country so that he doesn't know what Japan is like except from what he has read and heard. He never was interested in political developments so that his interest in Japan is only sentimental. My mother went back to Japan once for a summer visit but she does not ever intend to go back there now.

"I don't know the original reason for my father coming to America. He probably heard about the wonderful opportunities here so he decided to take a chance. There were thousands of Japanese coming to the U.S. around that time and my father was one of them. Altho he was going to an agricultural college near Tokyo he didn't see much of a future for himself in Japan because his family was not so well off. He thought he could do better elsewhere and the natural place to come was America. He once told me of some of the stories he heard about America which filled his

imagination. The Japanese at that time had the impression that all Americans were millionaires and that everyone lived in luxury. I guess the Christian missions helped to stress some of these stories. I don't know exactly if the Christian mission was one of the influences on dad's decision to come to this country. Anyway he arrived here when he was around 25 or 26 years old. I don't know what he did in detail during all the time he was married because he never talked too much about it. He found out right from the beginning that life was not so easy here and that opportunities were limited for the Japanese immigrants. Most of the newcomers were working on the farms in large gangs or else in the cities. My father went through all different kinds of jobs and I wouldn't know what he did in detail. At one time he went to some kind of Bible college in this country but I don't know where it was. He was very religious as long as I remember. My mother was also very religious and that is the type of upbringing that we had.

A short time before I was born in 1919, my father started his own nursery business. It was always his ambition to become his own boss because he didn't like to work for other people. He didn't care to become too wealthy as all he was interested in was to make enough to raise a family fairly comfortably. Dad was moderately successful in the nursery business but he never got rich on it. He just got along and we lived fairly well. My mother picked up the business so that she used to help dad and in the passing years she learned as much about it as dad. They grew plants from seeds and slips and they would sell it to wholesale and retail places. My parents did all of the work by themselves. Usually the nursery was located right near the house where we

lived. For this reason, we moved quite often as my father was always looking for a better plot of land to have his nursery. We always leased the place.

"At first we were on Vermont St. in Los Angeles and my parents operated a flower shop along with the nursery. When we moved up to 81st St. my folks gave up the flower shop and confined themselves to growing plants and flowers. Later on we moved up to 84th St. and that is where my family was located until the evacuation. We usually lived in homes in back of the nursery and there wasn't anything exciting about my life. I guess I just grew up and I never had any problems. We were a fairly happy family and we had most of the things that we desired.

"My father had a very quiet disposition all of the time. He was very religious and he continually stressed religion to his children all the time. Maybe it was because he didn't realize all of his ambitions that he turned to religion but I wouldn't know about that. I thought this was the case once when he mentioned that he probably would have gotten further in Japan if he had remained there. However, he never regretted coming to this country because life wasn't a matter of hardships for him like it was to so many other Japanese immigrants. My parents got along with each other fairly well. I think that it was an arranged marriage like all the rest but they never told me. My mother was quite religious too but she was more broad-minded in many of her opinions. I think she got Americanized quite a bit because she worked in the florist shop and she got to meet a number of Caucasians. We never lived in a real Japanese community.

"Dad was inclined to be rather strict with me. I remember when I got to be 15 and 16, he would never let me go out on dates

as he didn't think that it was the proper thing. I never questioned it at all because it didn't cause me suffering. I had a quiet nature and I didn't feel the urge to run around like so many nisei girls. There were other things like that that my father was strict about but I didn't realize it at the time and I don't think that it ever harmed me. Strictness is a relative term anyway. According to the American standards it was strict but I would say that my folks were quite liberal in comparison to the Japanese families.

"The reason for this, I suppose, was that we always lived so far away from the Japanese community. That is why I never went to Japanese school too much as it was hard for my parents to send me way down to a Japanese school every day. I really didn't start Japanese school until I got to junior high school and then I went a few years. I never did learn the language too well altho I could converse with my parents.

"I was the oldest of the 4 children in the family. There were no Japanese living around us, just Americans. Most of them were of the working class and they didn't have any particular prejudice against us. My folks spoke English fairly well as it was necessary for the business. Dad belonged to quite a few church organizations but they were mostly in the Japanese community. Later on when my brother and sisters started to go to the Japanese school, my parents joined the Parents' Association and took an active part in the language school activities. However, most of their activities were connected with the church.

"Dad never talked to us very much about Japan and he didn't stress Japanese customs in our home very much. It was much more convenient to live in the American customs. My mother was like

that too. There was a certain amount of Japanese cultural influences in our home but I was never aware of that. I just took things for granted and I think that it added to our life. There was much in the Japanese culture that was good and we used some of it. The only reason we didn't ~~xxxxxxx~~ have more of the Japanese custom was it wasn't convenient. I have heard my Nisei friends say that they rebelled against all these things but I really don't think this was true. Most of the Nisei took them for granted like I did. Of course, there was such things as rebellion against strictness of parents and things like that, but I was never in a position where such things were important to me. My mother never insisted that I learn flower arrangements and things like that. She was too busy helping dad with the business to have any time to do these things.

"My parents never planned to go retire in Japan and they still don't have that idea. They had a lot of Japanese friends but the reason they didn't live among them was because of the business. That is why we ended way up in the sticks. My folks never did like to live in the crowded city. My father felt that life could be better enjoyed if he were in closer contact with nature and God. He was deeply interested in raising flowers and he never got bored with it. It was good for him because he had a chance to work on his hobby and also make a living for the family at the same time. My parents didn't miss the Japanese community contacts too much. They always saw their friends when they went to attend the Japanese church or some of the language school programs and festivals. About once or twice a week they would go visit the homes of some friend and they were perfectly satisfied

with this arrangement. It wasn't too hard for them to get around because they had a car.

"My father was interested in intellectual and cultural things but he never had much of an opportunity to keep up because of raising the familyxx and working. They kept up on most of the news of the Japanese community by reading the Rafu Shimpo. Dad also read the Los Angeles Times and he subscribed to it for years. He was very proud of the fact that he was one of the minority of Issei who could read the English papers. I think this was one of the reasons why he was able to get a broader outlook on a lot of things. I have heard that the Japanese language papers had a lot of propaganda for Japan in it because of Domei dispatches. The English section never had anything political in it because it told of Nisei activities. I bet it was this newspaper that caused many Nisei to rebel against their family domination because they felt that they were missing out on a lot of social activities that the other Nisei were having.

"My mother was not able to read very much English but she always followed the funny papers and she was able to pick up a lot of English in this way. Most of the heavy reading that my parents did was on Japanese religious books. They were especially fond of reading Dr. Kagawa's work. He was one of the most important Christian leaders in Japan and my parents admired him tremendously. That's about all the Japanese culture that my parents went in for, I think. There might have been some incidental things but it doesn't stand out in my mind. My impression was that my parents were too busy raising the family and keeping the business going to have much time for the more leisurely activity. What leisure time they had was spent in church work or making

social visits.

"We lived in a fairly comfortable rented house but it was crowded after the 4 children were all born. However, we got along well enough and it wasn't nearly as crowded as some of those other Japanese homes that I have seen. The last place that we had was very small. Dad always had to consider the land first of all because he needed a good plot of land where he could have a nursery. The choice of house was secondary as we had to live on the house located on the nursery grounds. Our home wasn't too well furnished but it was comfortable enough. Dad tried to maintain a decent standard of living and we had quite a few things which would be considered luxury items. We owned a piano, radio, refrigerator and other things like that which most American homes had. We didn't have any Japanese furnishings at all in the house except my mother's collection of Japanese dishes and smaller items like that which were scattered here and there about the living room.

"We had a mixed Japanese American food diet and our meals were always adequate. Before every meal we all prayed to God and thanked him for the food which he had given us. These prayers were given in Japanese. My parents would discuss some of the day's events over the dinner table but we began to use more and more of a mixed language with our parents as we grew older. We only used English when speaking among ourselves. I didn't know how to speak Japanese too well so that it was always easier for me to use English.

"When I was a child, I only had American school mates. There weren't any Nisei children going to the school I attended at the time I was there. The only time I ever saw any Japanese children

was in the language school and at church. Every Sunday our whole family would pile into the family car and dad would drive us to church. Both my father and mother taught Sunday school in the Japanese M.E. Church. We usually stayed down in the Japanese section all day long. It was at this time that I made some Japanese playmates altho I wasn't aware of any difference. They were just like the Caucasian children I played with at school altho they were a little more quiet.

"There was nothing especially outstanding about my school days. I just went through my classes in a very routine manner and I graduated in due order. I was a fair student and I never had any language difficulty like many Nisei had when they first started school. You know, a lot of the Japanese families had parents who didn't know English at all so that their first child was under a handicap as he had to go to a public school without knowing any English to begin with. It wasn't so bad for the other children who came along because they could pick up English from the older child. The reason why I didn't have this difficulty was that my parents had picked up English in their work and I didn't have any Japanese contacts during my early childhood as I couldn't go down to the Japanese community by myself.

"In school I was more or less on the backward side all along as far as my personality was concerned. I was quite shy and I never liked to expose myself to the other students. It was just my nature and I have never overcome this defect. I guess I am just inclined to be a more introverted type. In spite of that, I was able to make a few Caucasian friends among my classmates at school and we got along quite well. I used to visit back and forth with them and they often came over to my house and my mother

helped me to have little parties for them. We would invite each other to birthday parties and go to shows together on Saturday afternoon. We lived a very ordinary life and I never had any serious problems at all. The depression didn't bother my parents' business too much. At least my father never said much about it at the dinner table. I suppose the depression did affect him but I was too young to know about it. I got along well with others in the family. The other children sort of looked up to me as I was 7 or 8 years older than the second child. I guess that was why I always got my way and my parents tended to favor me a little. I helped my mother to tend the other kids when she worked in the nursery so that I got some experience in child raising. I would also help my mother cook, wash dishes, iron, clean house and do the laundry. In spite of all these duties at home I still had enough time to play with my friends from school.

"After a rather routine elementary school education, I started high school in 1933. I was in a rush to get through school for some unknown reason so that I spent most of my time studying after I went to high school. I even went to summer session so that I could get through quicker. I don't know why I was in such a rush to get through except that I had some kind of a notion in the back of my head that I would like to go to college where I could have a lot more fun. I never went out very much for any of the high school activities because I had no interest in it.

"There were only about 10 Nisei in my high school and they all went around with their own friends so that they did not have any Japanese clubs like some of the other high school in Los Angeles had. I only go to know about 2 or 3 of the Nisei going

to high school with me altho I was slightly acquainted with all of them. I went around mostly with the same friends that I had known in junior high school and they were all Caucasian kids. I didn't do things too much with them after school hours but we did everything at school. We ate lunch together, studied together and we attended the football games together.

"I always liked the biological science courses and languages in high school so I decided to continue on with that. I had an ambition to be a nurse because I had always looked after my younger brother and sisters and I thought that it would be a good career. I liked most of the science courses that I had in high school and I got my best grades in them. At the time of my graduation I was some place in the upper half of my graduating class but I wasn't a brainstorm like so many Nisei even though I studied like a bookworm. I guess I might have flunked some courses if I hadn't studied so hard.

"After I began high school my social life developed a little more but it was limited almost entirely to the Japanese community. I went to Sunday School every week without fail. I wasn't religious any longer as it was more or less a habit with me by this time and it also gave men an opportunity to meet other nisei. The difficulty was that I belonged to a very strict church. They emphasized over and over again that it was a sin to drink or smoke and that dancing was not good. That is why all of the Nisei would drop out of our church after they got to be 14 or 15 years old because they didn't like this strictness. I had to continue going because it was a habit for us to all get into the family car on Sundays to drive to church. I wouldn't have had anything else to do if I stayed home anyway.

"I didn't agree with all of the church teachings as I grew older but I kept on going as my parents were among the oldest members of the church and leaders within it. I did have a few arguments about this matter but it wasn't serious and I gave in. I didn't have too strong a desire to drink, smoke or dance anyway so that it wasn't important to me. My dad felt that I could wait until I got out of high school before I started going to dances but my mother let me go. After I graduated high school it was more or less left up to me and my parents never had anything to say about the selection of my friends. My mother was more sympathetic to me and she ran the house and had the more say. I went out on dates occasionally with Nisei fellows but I didn't go steady with any one particular person. After I got into college I went around mostly with Nisei students and I didn't have hardly any contacts with Caucasian contacts. My old friends at high school either went to ~~xxxxxx~~work or other colleges.

"I graduated from high school in 1936. I enrolled as a pre-nursing student for the first two years. But when it came time for me to go into actual nursing training I changed my mind and I decided to take a Zoo major. My parents could afford to send me to college so it didn't matter too much that I decided immediately on what I wanted to do as a career. I went to UCLA as it seemed to be the best school in the city and a lot of Nisei were going there.

"It was at UCLA that the Nisei were really cliquish and very few of them mixed with the Caucasians or even with other groups of Nisei. They all had their own clubs to which they were loyal. I soon joined in some of their activities out of necessity. It was too difficult to make friends among the Caucasian students

because they just expected Nisei to mix with other Nisei. I didn't have an aggressive nature so it was natural for me to drift more into the Nisei groups even if they did have ~~their~~ own cliques. I did have some casual friends among the girls who were in the pre-nursing curriculum and I went around with them the most. They were the Nisei girls and we didn't cross paths with the bulk of the other Nisei students too much. I guess I became more conscious of my race after I started to go to college and I was a little timid about being accepted by Caucasians. Part of this started in high school. I know that in elementary school I was taken as an American by the other kids and they never thought of race. It was after I got well into high school that I began to notice that there was a distinct difference in feeling. I suppose I felt it a little stronger because I was inclined to be a little sensitive. I never wanted to do anything that I thought might cause discrimination against me. The thing that impressed this racial difference upon me the strongest was during the period of social activities for the senior year. I noticed that the Nisei had hard times getting dates and they never went to dances with hakujin. I became much more aware that it was in these activities that the distance between Nisei and hakujin seem to grow. Of course I don't think that the Caucasian~~x~~ students deliberately tried to avoid us. It might have been in my own mind as I was quite retiring by that time, and the same thing might have been true with the other nisei. I never let myself completely go when I was among hakujin and I became more and more reserved. I guess that is why they couldn't understand me very much as I didn't make too much of an effort making myself understood.

"After I got to college, the difference was even more emphasized so I withdrew myself into the Nisei student society completely. A few of my hakuin high school friends were going to UCLA but it seemed that we didn't get close to each other anymore and I didn't do things with them as I had in high school. They drifted more toward Caucasian groups and they didn't have any contacts with other Nisei students. Of course, we were friendly with the hakuin students in our classes and sometimes when doing our homework but it never seemed to go much further than that. A few nisei got along well with hakuin students but they preferred to have their social activities among the Nisei. I guess they felt it was more natural.

"After going to UCLA for a year, my mom went to Japan on her summer visit so I decided to stay out of school for a semester in order to look after the kids. My mother spent quite a bit of money buying gifts for relatives and friends and in traveling so that it became a little too expensive for dad to continue sending me to UCLA. He was willing to do it but I decided to transfer to Los Angeles City College so that it would be less of an expense on him. I didn't particularly care because I didn't have the fun I had expected to have at UCLA. I thought that the change might do me some good.

"I did get to know many more Nisei at Los Angeles City College. The reason for that was that many Nisei from our church were going there so I didn't have too difficult a time breaking into their circle. I entered quite a bit of the Nisei activities on the campus and I went to most of the Nisei student dances but I never became a member of the Japanese Student Club. My second

semester at LACC was spent more seriously. I found that the Nisei social activities at school didn't give me too much satisfaction so I began to concentrate more on my studies and I kept this end up well. After a year there, I decided to go back to UCLA since LACC was only a junior college. Dad was able to send me there again by this time and I definitely took up a Zoo major. I had two Nisei girl friends but they had transferred up to UC in Berkeley. They kept writing to me in order to tell me how much better the Berkeley campus was. I became enthusiastic about it and I wanted to go up there so badly. At first my folks objected to the idea because they didn't think it was necessary for me to go so far away from home when I could go to UCLA and graduate. However, I kept insisting on this point so that they finally gave in. I had been doing part time domestic work throughout my college days so that it was often necessary for me to be away from home. This got my parents used to having me away from home so they didn't feel so badly about letting me go to Berkeley. It was not difficult for me to find a part time domestic job in Berkeley and my folks continued to send me a little money occasionally. The fees were all the same so that it wasn't more expensive for me to go there.

"I liked the Berkeley campus very much because it had much more of the college atmosphere and the buildings were so beautiful. At first I got a little homesick as it was the first time I had ever been away from home for more than a week. Gradually I became used to that and the atmosphere of the campus kept me in good spirits. I worked part time in a home to take care of my living expenses but that didn't restrict my activities to any degrees. I cooked and washed the dishes and helped with the

house cleaning on Saturdays. My girl friend was working a few doors down from me so that we did everything together. This was in the fall of 1940 and it was supposed to be my last year in college. I had a few courses to make up because I had transferred a couple of times but that would not have taken more than one extra semester.

"I started to go to the Nisei Fellowship Church on the campus at first but I dropped out of this activity~~ya~~ at the near of my first semester as there were too many other things to do. I went along in a very calm way and I didn't have any problems. Nothing disturbed me very much and I wasn't aware of what was going on~~x~~ in this country as I was completely buried in a campus life. I wasn't much interested in things beyond myself and my personal life and I never have been. I had nothing planned for myself after college and the only reason I got this far was because my parents were sending me and it was the thing to do. I never thought of having a career because I didn't know what I was going to do after college education. None of the Nisei girls ever thought much of this anyway. I guess they all thought they would all eventually get married and settle down and I had the same idea. The Nisei fellows worried more about getting jobs because they had to make a living. I gradually found out that it was pretty tough for them and that few job openings were available. Quite a few of the Nisei fellows were discouraged but I felt that eventually they would find something to their liking.

"I first met my husband at a Buddhist social that I went to. It happened that my girl friend and I were living on the top floor of the church which had been made into a girl's dormitory.

It didn't matter if we were Buddhist or not. Since my girl friend was staying there I decided to move in with her after my first semester on the campus. At these Buddhist socials held downstairs there was always a shortage of girls so that we were all invited to come. It was in November, 1940 that I met Ben but I didn't see him again until after New Year's. We became better acquainted so that we started to go around steady after that. I had never been that serious over a fellow before in my life and I was greatly attracted to him. Ben was doing brick-laying in Oakland at that time and he didn't think much of a college education. He said that in the gardening work in the Bay area, the Nisei college graduates were hired a dime a dozen to help out. Ben felt that it was better to get a trade because it was easier to make a living that way. I guess some of this attitude affected me because I never did finish up for my degree. Ben suddenly had to have an appendectomy and I went to see him at the hospital twice a day and love blossomed. The actual fact of it was that Ben proposed to me right after the operation and I felt so sorry for him that I said yes as I didn't want him to get sicker. He still doesn't believe I said yes just because I was sorry for him. I really liked him a lot though and we were serious about getting married as soon as possible.

"It was then that I got my first taste of the clash between the nisei and the older folks. There was immediate objections from the parents of both sides. At the end of March, 1941, I went south to see my folks for the first time in six months. Ben followed me down in order to break the news of our plans to my parents. However, we decided not to tell them then because Ben's

older brother was objecting so much, that we wanted to get this straightened out first of all. Ben had come down in his car so I decided to ride back with him to Berkeley. On the way back we stopped to visit his cousin in San Jose so that we were delayed overnight. In the meantime my girl friend had cooked up a nice big scandal about us and as soon as we got into Berkeley we heard rumors of this scandal saying that we were having an affair. We knew that Ben's family would be definitely against me if they ever found this out so we decided that we should elope immediately~~x~~/.

"We started for Reno right away. We got as far as Sacramento where we stopped at Ben's friend's rooming house. Ben told his friend of the set-up and she suggested that we call up his mother by phone so that she wouldn't worry too much. Ben did this and his older brother asked him to wait in Sacramento until he could come up with the baishakunin and straighten the whole matter up. Ben agreed to this when his older brother said that he wouldn't say anything against us getting married. He said he would let the baishakunin do all the talking. After they came to Sacramento we were talked into going back to Berkeley to have a church wedding.

"I phoned my mother by long distance and told her that I was getting married and she got all excited. She was angry at first and also surprised. She didn't know what it was all about so she came up to Berkeley immediately to investigate. After several talks with the baishakunin she finally gave her consent and we proceeded with the marriage. My mother's main objection had been that she wanted me to finish college first. She wasn't opposed to my getting married because she liked Ben fairly well. However,

she knew that I couldn't wait because of all the rumors so she went ahead and helped me plan.

"Ben's family followed more of the Japanese customs and they were Buddhist. They objected to me because they thought he should marry some girl who knew more of the Japanese customs than I did. Ben had spent 3 years in Japan but he didn't have any kibe attitude. His folks just didn't care for me because I wasn't Japanese for them but when they saw that we were determined to get married anyway they had no other choice but to give in.

"We had a regular Buddhist marriage ceremony. We wore American clothes, but the whole ceremony~~x~~ was in Japanese so that I didn't know hardly anything that was being said except that I was married. It was a lot of bother because the baishakunin insisted upon going through the regular Japanese customs for marriage even though the arrangements had been made by us. We had to go to a reception afterwards and there was a lot of speech making and gift giving.

"I was all excited by the whole affair and it happened so fast that I had hardly time to think. We were married in May, 1941 and it was a pretty hurried affair. The term at the University was just ending but I still planned to finish up my degree. But after I got married I just dropped out entirely and I gave up all plans to ever finish up as I didn't feel any use for it now.

"At first we had to live with Ben's family but things did not go along too well there. They were too critical of me but I never fought back because I still tended to be a little shy. I used to boil furiously at them when I got alone but for Ben's

sake I kept the peace. His family thought that I was too Americanized but the fault was that they were too Japanese. I kept urging Ben to find an apartment of our own but it took 3 months before this was done. Ben's older brother used to pick on him all the time and he always had a sneering attitude towards me. He was a real Jap. Ben and I used to go out of the house every night just to escape listening to lectures from his mother and brother. It happened that his older brother was Ben's guardian. He was 15 years older. They had the same ~~father~~ mother but different fathers. Ben's father had married his brother's wife after his brother had died. This older brother had a lot of family pride and he didn't like the idea of us going ahead to make our own plans. He thought that this should be decided through the family. Ben and his brother were always fighting over every little thing. This made it uncomfortable for me and I had to get out of the house before it made a nervous wreck out of me.

"Finally Ben heard of a place where a friend was moving out so we moved in immediately. It was only across the street from Ben's family but it was a little better. But it was still too close for comfort and Ben's brother was always bothering us in his irritating way. After a month the Chinese owner sold the house to a German lady so that we had to look for another place. We finally located a house about a mile away and it was much better after that. The family friction went down after that considerably and I became much more calmer.

"One of the things that caused a lot of trouble was that just before we got married, Ben's brother had bought a complete gardening business from an issei who had returned to Japan. He had

made a lot of money in this business so that he went back to Japan to retire. Ben's brother thought it was a very profitable gardening business so he purchased it with Ben's money. Then he expected Ben to take it over and make it his lifework. This brother was like that. He was always trying to make up Ben's decisions without even consulting him.

Since there was so much money invested in it Ben decided to do the work. However, he disliked it so much that he began to neglect his customers and he lost them. Ben's brother was in the same business so that he picked up these customers that Ben lost. This didn't lead to a good feeling. Finally Ben got pretty disgusted when he had almost no business left so that he sold the truck and all of the equipment. He and his brother began to have violent quarrels about it and Ben was blamed for not having the sense to keep up a ready made business. By the end of the summer Ben had lost everything and he was in a pretty bad mood.

Ben went back to brick laying and he did pretty well during the summer. We got along much better without his brother's supervision over us. We were getting fairly well started in our married life, but it began to rain in the fall so that Ben had to look for something else to do during the wet season. By chance he found a job at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in November, 1941. He had to commute to San Francisco every day. A friend of his had told him that Nisei were being hired there for the first time because the hotels were losing a lot of Caucasian workers who were going into more of the defense type of work. A lot of them had been drafted too. Ben was employed as a houseman for a while there. Then he got into the ice room where they made all

of the ice for the hotel. He also helped the engineer with the boilers and he did a little plumbing work.

"In the meantime I was trying to get settled down to my married life. We had a hectic beginning which made it hard. We never stayed put in one place too long because of all the conflicts with Ben's older brother. We would just about get settled in a place when we had to move again. At that time we thought that things would be smooth from then on. Ben was planning to stay on at the Mark Hopkins as it was a good paying job. I thought that we could start a family and not have too hard a time so I wasn't worried about that. We were saving money as much as we could as we were expecting Joyce to come along in January. I was glad to be having a child as I always liked kids. However, to tell the truth we really didn't plan to have a child so soon but that was unavoidable. I was pretty busy near the end of 1941 because of my condition and naturally I was quite worried because it was my first child. I didn't have any close relatives in Berkeley to depend on and I didn't get along well with Ken's family. I did a lot of thinking during this time and I finally decided that it would be worthwhile to go through all this in order to have a baby. We decided that we would stay in Berkeley more or less permanently as it wasn't any use to move into San Francisco. Ben had some idea that he would start in with his brick laying business again in the spring as he liked that work as it gave him a chance to be more on his own. At first I wanted to move near my family down south but I gave up that idea. We only planned to visit Los Angeles occasionally but we didn't care to go there to live as it would have been too hard for Ben to get

started. I thought that if times got hard for us after the baby came along, I could go to work a little and help out if necessary. Domestic work was the only thing I could do and I wasn't crazy about doing that. That was the only kind of job that Nisei girls could get in the Bay area and it actually paid more than ~~during~~ doing secretarial work or sales work with Japanese firms.

"After I got married I lost contact with my friends. I didn't bother with my close girl friends any more as they had other interests. It seems that we just broke off our connections. I didn't like one of my close friends because she was such a gossip and had spread stories around about me even though she did not mean to be malicious. I didn't go out of my way to look up any of my college friends anymore. Ben didn't care for them anyway because he thought that college Nisei were spoiled. Most of the new friends I made were Ben's friends. He had lived in Berkeley all his life practically so that he knew quite a few Nisei and Japanese families there. Some of these friends were college Nisei, but most of them were just workers. At first I had a hard time getting to know them well because I found that we had different interests but I gradually became used to that. I had very few contacts with the Issei altho I did meet a number of Ben's family friends. I got along with them well enough because I never said anything. I was still inclined to be reserved. The only organization I belonged to was the JACL but that wasn't because I was interested in politics.

"Ben was interested in the JACL up to the time of the war. It was the first time I had ever joined the organization and I only did it to make new friends among the Nihonjin in Berkeley.

I still remained on the indifferent side in regard to politics and I didn't know much of what was going on. I went to a couple of meetings before the war and I don't remember them mentioning about the trouble between America and Japan.

"Besides this limited contact with the JACL, I didn't see too many other Nisei so that I was not too aware that they had any peculiar problems which were different from other people. I knew that the Nisei could not be jobs easily but it never bothered me too much. Ben said that it was their own fault because they were too timid so I thought that was the reason why so many of them didn't get jobs after getting out of college. I did know one Nisei fellow who had graduated from U.C. with a major in accounting but he couldn't get anything in his line after trying all over for weeks and weeks. He was quite discouraged about it and he used to tell me that the Nisei didn't have a chance. This fellow ended up by doing some kind of labor work for the Southern Pacific Railroads. I suppose that I was conscious of a lot of this type of case from my college friends but I never was much interested in it. I just felt that things would work out eventually and there was no use getting too discouraged. It seems more like an individual matter to me. I thought the other Japanese were getting along well enough.

"I never expected a war to come along as I did not keep up with the news. It was quite a surprise to me when the sudden announcement was made that Sunday. I was home all day ~~long~~ alone as Ben was working in the hotel in San Francisco. I wasn't able to get out because of my pregnancy. I remember I was absentmindedly listening to the radio when I heard the program suddenly

interrupted by a special announcement on Pearl Harbor. At first I couldn't believe that it was true so I kept turning and turning the dial and I got the same thing from every station. It was the funniest feeling and I didn't know what to think. I got afraid right away and I kept thinking about it all day long. I didn't have anyone to talk it over with so I was frightened to be myself that day. I couldn't contact Ben at his place of work. I don't think it was a personal fear on my part; it was just like a blanket descending on you and putting you into a dark mood. I suppose it was the shock of realizing that this country was going to war which made it horrible for me. I know I did think at that time that every male person would be drafted into the Army and I had all kinds of silly ideas that Ben would be taken soon. I got a little panicky as I didn't know how I would get along with the baby coming at any moment. I didn't even go out of the house that day but I nervously awaited for Ben to come home. It certainly was a shock to me. Of course I had a vague idea that something was brewing but I didn't expect anything to happen. I thought it was just another of those affairs which would be patched up.

"I didn't think that the war would ever affect us as much as it did. I didn't know what to think that day. I knew that we looked like Japanese and our parents were born in the old country. I suspected that we would be under suspicion but I thought that the nisei were established well enough so there wouldn't be too much trouble. I did begin to worry about my family down south. I wondered how they were getting along. The next oldest child was still in junior high school and I felt that I was needed down

there to help my parents out. After the war started, I wrote ~~in~~ letters to my parents frequently to see how they were getting along.

"I couldn't understand why Japan had made the attack. I didn't know Japan at all but I still felt that I was involved in some way altho there was no reason why I should feel this way. I had been brought up in the American way. I didn't know a thing about Japan except what I had heard from the old folks. None of this stuff had registered in my mind so that Japan was a vague and foreign country to me. On top of that, I was just about to have my first child and that was on my mind the most. Some of the nisei fellows had been already drafted but Ben was under age at that time as he was still 20. I didn't think that he would be taken if our baby came along. But when I began to worry about it I felt sure that he would have to go immediately. I guess I didn't know what to think.

"It certainly was a relief when Ben came home that night. He was pretty excited about the whole thing. Ben had worked in the ice room which was located in the basement of the hotel all day long so he didn't know the news about Pearl Harbor until late afternoon. On the way home he bought every issue of the newspapers and we sat down and read every word of it. The rest of the evening we just glued our ears to the radio.

"We were both pretty bewildered by it all. Ben was hit harder than I was as he knew more about the political developments. It was such a hard thing to understand that it just left us sort of numb. Ben calmed me down as much as possible as he did not think I should get excited in my condition. I think that

we had a similar reaction to what everyone had. But I never thought the war would hit as close to us as the evacuation which came later. Such a thought never even entered my mind.

"We began to worry a few days later when we heard some rumors about Japanese losing their jobs. Ben couldn't afford to lose his job because we needed the money to pay the hospital expenses for the baby. We worried quite a bit about that. We heard of a friend who had been dismissed from his job and Ben thought that maybe he would lose his also. It was quite a load on his mind because he didn't know what to do if he lost his job just at the time the baby was being born. Ben worked in the hotel basement with Filipinos and Italians and he was a little worried about going back to work with them on Monday. However, nothing happened and they treated him pretty much the same as before. There was one Chinese fellow that didn't get along with Ben and he began to object to Ben holding a higher position than he. He didn't like the idea of having Ben tell him what to do. A few days after the war they had a fight and the Chinese man lost so that he took 2 weeks off from work at the suggestion of the foreman. After the Chinese man came back to the job they never spoke to each other.

"In the ice room one of Ben's job was to deliver ice to the various hotel rooms to fill the ice trays. After the war started, the boss thought he should not do this anymore as it might cause trouble if he showed his face among the Caucasians. He said that nothing would happen if he just worked down in the basement. The Filipinos down there didn't cause any trouble at all and they continued to get along well with Ben and they were good friends. It was quite a relief to Ben because he didn't want to have any

mix-ups with them as they were dangerous fighters, and they carried knives.

"After the excitement died down a little bit, I went about my business as usual. Berkeley is a small city and I didn't feel the war at all after the first shock. The people all settled down again and things were pretty much the same as before. There was no tension at all in the air altho Ben mentioned that in San Francisco there was more the atmosphere of war. I think that was because a lot of the troop ships were going out of the harbor and there were more soldiers there. I went about my shopping as usual and only a few people stopped to stare at me. I think that the people of Berkeley are quite tolerant on the whole and they were not as prejudiced against the Japanese as in some cities. I was afraid to go to San Francisco as I had heard that some of the Filipinos had rioted in Japanese town.

"In the early part of January I went to the hospital and Joyce was born. I was treated very well at the hospital. It was like nothing had happened to make any difference and all of the doctors, nurses and other hospital help were extremely nice to me. After I went home, I was so busy with the baby that I didn't even have time to read the newspapers or keep up on the war developments. The whole thing went to the back of my mind and I just continued along with my life. I wasn't living in a Japanese community so I didn't see how the Japanese people were getting excited because of the FBI raids and other restrictions on the Issei.

"One thing that did happen was that I got along a little better with Ben's family, but not too much. When Ben's ~~other~~ *older*

brother began to express his ideas, it was almost more than I could stand. He didn't begin talking until after the first wave of excitement passed over and then he got braver. Ben's brother was so sure that Japan was going to win the war just because Japan was winning a lot of battles in the South Pacific and the Phillipines at that time. He started to brag about Japan's mighty army and navy. He was very pro-Japan and a definite "Jap" in his attitude. Ben's brother was a Kibei, but he thought just like some of those rabid Issei who wanted Japan to crush this country. He didn't change his tune at all during the time I knew him. Before the war he had made some comment of this type but I never paid any attention to them because they were mild statements and I wasn't interested in politics. Ben's brother is in Topaz now and he has no intention of resettling. But I notice that he did not repatriate or sign up to go to Tule Lake so I guess he has changed his tune. At that time I got to the point where I never listened to anything he said.

"Life went along smoothly for me in my own little world until rumors of evacuation began to seep through. We still didn't pay much attention to this until it became pretty definite that a general evacuation was going to take place. Ben and I then started to talk about what we should do. We decided that we had better stick with my family rather than his because we could never get along with Ken's family if we had to go to the same camp. Ben quit his job in March, 1942 and we started to pack our things quietly together. We didn't tell his family at all but his brother objected to our going when he found out. At first he had thought we were just going to take a trip to Los Angeles to show

my mother the baby and then come right back. This was just before the travel restrictions were put on the Nisei.

"When we first heard that evacuation was definitely coming for the Nisei, we didn't think it was possible. We had expected that they might take the Issei, but not us with our citizenship. When I found that the Nisei had to go, I still didn't think that it could be done as it was going too far, since this was supposed to be a democracy. I thought sure that President Roosevelt would issue an order at the last minute cancelling evacuation for the Nisei. But as each group started to go to camp, one by one, there was nothing to do but accept the idea. It made me pretty bitter for a while when I realized that we were not accepted as Americans. I had suspected that right along but this was a definite proof.

"After fighting it out with Ben's brother, we took the Santa Fe streamliner to Los Angeles in late March. We had to transfer to a bus after we got to Bakersfield. I was a little uneasy because there were a lot of soldiers on that bus but nothing special happened. After we got into Los Angeles, things looked the same as ever. Near our home the Caucasians of the neighborhood were quite sympathetic to us and my family had been living around there for years. It didn't seem that it was possible that we had to go because the hakujin did not seem to be against us at all. It was only the radio and newspapers that made it look that way. Our neighbors didn't act any differently towards us and they certainly weren't suspicious that we were agents of Japan or anything like that. Dad's business had dropped off a little after the war but it had picked up to normal by the time we got there. He had his same customers and he kept on working along as he had always done.

In spite of this we got our orders to get out. When the time for evacuation came, my folks took it fairly calmly as they expected it. They felt sorry for the Nisei because they thought it was a dirty shame. My dad said he had brought us up to be Americans but it looked like we weren't wanted. However, he didn't get extremely bitter because he had his religion to fall back on and he said that it was fated to be this way and the only thing to do was to make the best of it. Dad put on a sale to get as much money back as possible from his investment in the business. He felt that he should have some money put aside for the family because ~~times~~ times were going to be hard for us if we were going to be cast into a concentration camp. What he couldn't sell he donated to the city as a parting gift. It was a lot of big shrubberies and one of my Caucasian neighbors wrote to me recently that this shrubbery was still growing in one of the large public parks.

"Most of the Japanese people were putting their furniture in the church as they didn't expect to be gone too long. Dad decided to store all of his things in a government warehouse because it would be safer there. When he relocated last July he went to the suburb of ~~Oak~~ Cleveland and he sent for the rest of the family in time for the school opening. The WRA has sent all of his furniture to him now so he has no interest left in Los Angeles. Dad is working in a wholesale nursery in Cleveland and my mother works there too. They got out of camp as they figured that it was best for the kids. They felt that it was up to them to help the kids get a better education from what they could get in camp. Ben and I was set on leaving and that is what interested them to resettle.

"But at the time of evacuation we had no idea of what was going to happen to us. It was so confusing that we didn't have any time to think ahead. We hadn't the least idea that we would ever get so far away from the Pacific Coast. It was just these general air of excitement that made us so bewildered. Our actual preparation for evacuation was pretty calm as we had to prepare for it for quite a while. Ben and I had stored all of our stuff in Berkeley before coming down so that we had plenty of time to help ~~out~~ my folks. Dad didn't have too hard a time because we all pitched in and helped out. It's hard to estimate what loss he had because he lost his whole business which he had built up over a number of years and he couldn't put a cash value on it. Dad hopes to start ^{out} ~~start~~/again some day in this business as it was a good living for him. I don't think he really plans to go back to Los Angeles if he can start a nursery out here some place. My folks took the whole thing much more philosophically than we did. They just trusted in God to pull them through and I guess they think their prayers were answered. They figured it was no use to fight evacuation as they knew it couldn't be prevented anyway.

"My folks were sorry for the Nisei mostly. They never talked about the war altho they read up on all of the news. They were sorry that it had to be war between Japan and America. They kept their opinions to themselves and I think that they were caught between two fires as Japan was their native country but they had more or less adopted America as their home to make their living and to bring the children up. They realized that America had given them so much and they couldn't actually go against it. I suppose they were about neutral. They just wished that the war

had never happened.

"My folks never had any intentions of returning to Japan altho they did want to go back for a visit before they died. Dad was curious to see what the country was like after being gone for 40 years. However, he liked to live in this country better because he was used to it and had spent most of his life here. There wasn't too many Japanese in our general neighborhood so we didn't get all that confusion and excitement like they had in Li'l Tokio. There were so many rumors going around in Japanese town and excited everyone but we only got a general wind of it.

"I think that my folks took the evacuation much better than I did. I was beginning to feel a little bitter when I saw how hard it was going to be for us. I wasn't angry but I had a sense that some injustice was being done to us. I knew that things weren't right but we had to go because the Army said it was a military necessity. However, as a citizen, I thought that we were entitled to a little more rights, but we had the same restrictions put upon us as the Army had put on the Issei. That didn't look quite fair as it was definitely race discrimination and it showed that we weren't being trusted at all without being given a chance. There wasn't anything else for me to conclude but that it was pretty much a racial thing and we were being picked out and hated for what Japan had done. That wasn't quite fair to the Nisei because I think most of them were loyal to America only they weren't given a chance to say so.

"It was even more obvious that it was race discrimination when the Army didn't enforce all those restrictions on the Germans and Italians. For a while I was glad that Japan was winning a few

battles. But then, I began to think and I realized that there was no place for us except America and that I had to stick with it regardless of what they did to us. After that I began to see a little more of the American side and I wasn't quite so bitter altho I ~~don't~~ think I'm completely over it yet. We weren't treated fairly and everyone recognizes that. But I suppose I shouldn't think about the past now because I have too many problems about the future which are more important. It was quite a blow to my prestige though.

"I had been going along thinking that I was a little different from the Nisei and more emancipated from the Japanese community life, but the evacuation made me suddenly feel more race conscious and closer to the other Nihonjin. I think that the evacuation was caused entirely by politics and race prejudice. Some of those groups in California had been wanting to get us out for a long time and there had been a lot of prejudice and discrimination for years. General DeWitt was ~~that~~ prejudiced as any of them but he said it was a military necessity. I think he was fooled into taking this position.

"In a way I could see that there was some justification as quite a few of the Kibei and Issei were ~~x~~pro-Japan. They contributed to the Japanese Army and they were quite open about being for Japan. I also heard that a lot of them were spies on the fishing boats. I really don't know about these things because I learned a lot of these things ~~x~~ from what other people have told me. I guess it would have been hard for the Army to pick out the disloyal ones when things were so rushed at the evacuation time. I knew that all of my Nisei friends were loyal enough to the

United States because they had been educated here. There were a few we knew who were extremely bitter and they became pro-Japan as they didn't like to be pushed around. But that was the fault of their parents.

"There really isn't much choice for me since I am just a housewife. I want to stay in the United States. But Ben wants to go to Singapore after the war as he thinks that the construction work will be good there and there won't be discrimination from the Union and things like that. However, I don't think too much of the idea altho I will go if he wants to. It doesn't make too much difference to me. ^{hand} We have to go where we will have the best chances and I don't ~~whether~~ the opportunities for the Nisei will be so good for them after the war.

"Because of all of the things that were done during the evacuation time, I began to question democracy as it didn't seem to work for us. I guess we have to have a little dictatorship once in a while because complete democracy is only a dream. I still don't know who is to blame for the war altho the United States is not completely blameless. I think that both countries were coming to such a tension that they would have started war in time anyway. America was already helping England out and it was definitely against Japan. It just ~~happened~~ that Japan struck the first blow. I never was entirely for Japan but I have thought at times that she was not entirely to blame for everything. I suppose that the fact of evacuation made me feel more race conscious and for a while I did support Japan's point of view more. I couldn't help that in camp because everybody seemed to be bitter and all of the Issei had a feeling for Japan. Most of the Nisei didn't bother

too much about the thing just like me but I suppose they were influenced because they were bitter. But that is all past and I'm sure they will be loyal if given an equal chance out here and not continued to be kicked around. But sometimes I wonder though because things don't look easy for the Nisei and people are still prejudiced yet altho I haven't felt it at all except in a few things. I thought Germany was mostly to blame for the war and I don't care if she's crushed to pieces. Hitler started the whole thing and he is the real enemy of this country.

"My morale at the evacuation time was quite low. The main reason was that I didn't think it would be so good to take a baby to camp. I had vague hopes that we would not have to stay in camp for a ~~w~~ long time but I really didn't have time to think seriously of the future. I had to spend all of my energy getting things ready so that I would not have too difficult a time taking care of the baby in camp. We got letters from Manzanar from some of our friends so that I knew we were going to be sent to a dusty hot place. I also heard stories about all the stealing that was going on down there so we bought some locks to put on our belongings. I dreaded the thought of living under such poor conditions.

"We saw newspaper pictures of the barracks at Manzanar and it was really depressing. I wondered how human beings could live in such places and I didn't know how we would ever keep the flies and mosquitoes out. I knew it was going to be very crowded there and I didn't think I could stand it too long.

"Since we were living in one of the outlying districts, we were sent to Tulare instead of Manzanar as we thought. We left Los Angeles in early May. We had to get up quite early in the

morning so that we could get to the control station in time. As I walked down the street with my baby in my arms, I was feeling quite sad and depressed. I looked at all of the familiar things and I thought it would be for the last time. At the station my spirits picked up a little bit as we started to look for friends. There was some comfort in that. Most of my friends had gone to Santa Anita so I didn't too many of the people who were leaving with us. Everyone looked a little sad, especially the old folks, but the Nisei tried to act like they were in good spirits.

"The children had the best time of all because it was just a great adventure for them and most of them had never been on a train in their lives so they were excited. By that time most of Los Angeles had already been evacuated so that we were sort of used to the idea of leaving. It was quite a long trip up to Tumare. When we got there, we had to walk quite a distance. It was a very hot day and we were exhausted. The soldiers walked along with us in order to guard us and there were some hakujin people around who stared at us quite curiously. Nobody made any nasty remarks though. Inside of the camp gates there were a lot of Nihonjin waiting to look us over and welcome us.

"When I first saw the camp I was quite disappointed. I didn't like to go into a place bounded by barbed wire fences with armed soldiers standing at the gates. I really felt like a prisoner for the first time and I resented the thought. I felt like a prisoner who was being thrown in jail even though innocent of any charges. We were assigned apartments near the entrance and we could always see the guard gates which reminded us we were captives. I suppose that I would not have been any happier if I

were left behind because it wouldn't have been safe for me. It was just the thought of being thrown into a place like camp for no reason at all. There was a watch tower right near our barracks and I used to see an armed soldier by it day and night. Pretty soon the stern feeling broke down and a lot of girls used to go talk to the soldier but I never did. They seemed to be fairly decent fellows and they had nothing against us. They were only doing their duty.

"We were really disappointed when we were assigned to one of the old stables. It was so dark, dirty and smelly. We just dropped our luggage and sat there. I was almost in tears and I didn't know how I would be able to properly care for my baby in such a filthy place. But the next morning we got up early and started to clean up the place and it wasn't so bad after Ben built furniture and we put curtains on the window. Later on we were glad we had this apartment as it was cooler than the tarpapered barracks.

"There were 8 of us living in that one barrack and this made it very crowded. I didn't do much all the time I was in Tulare altho I did work for a little while in the mess hall to help out. I spent most of the time with the baby or visiting my friends. Little by little I got to know quite a few of them and I lost some of that feeling of being a prisoner as the time went on. I can't say much for Tulare because it didn't create too much of an impression on me. It was a rather dull life and we went through the same routine almost every day. I never came in contact with any of the hakujin people at the administration though as I stayed pretty much at home.

"Ben got a job as a plumber in camp right away and he was very enthusiastic for a while as he liked his work very much and he thought he was learning a lot of new things. He was a foreman of a crew of 8 fellows. He did learn quite a bit about plumbing because a hakujin plumber came in from town every day to work with him. We didn't have too many activities in camp because it was mostly for the younger people. My folks went to the Christian Church while Ben and I went to the Buddhist church. My folks were against my going to the Buddhist church at first but they didn't say too much about it. My mother mentioned that she would rather have me go to Buddhist church ~~than~~ no church at all. It happened that Ben knew more Buddhist people and Ben knew the Buddhist priest from Berkeley.

"About the only other thing I did was to go to talent shows and movies. We stopped going to camp dances as they were getting too rowdy. We learned to play bridge with some other couples in order to pass the time away during the warm evenings. In spite of this boring life, I felt less confined there than at the beginning. However, we couldn't escape being conscious of the outside as our barracks ~~were~~ were right near the edge of camp. We had to close our mind to it and get used to the camplife so that we didn't think too much about the coming days ahead of us. It was a life that we lived from day to day but there was nothing exciting about it. We missed the comforts of life a great deal as we had ~~only~~ been provided with iron cots and mattress. We only had a few piece of ~~furn~~ wooden furniture in the apartment and we certainly couldn't call that a real home.

"The Japanese in camp took the whole thing in different ways.

Some were quite bitter about it and they were always complaining. We also met quite a lot of farmers who thought that it was quite the life in camp. They had worked hard all of their lives and it was always a struggle for them to bring up their large families. They never ate too well before they came to camp and I think that most of them put on weight and they were healthier. These farmers rather enjoyed camp life because it was more of a vacation for them and ^{they} didn't have to work so hard anymore.

"There were other Japanese who had been doing well on the outside and they were bitter because they had to lose everything. The Nisei didn't seem to think of these things too much altho they missed their freedom as I did. In material wealth, they did not lose much because most of them were either students or working at poorly paid jobs before the evacuation. I just wasn't interested in politics as I didn't know what was going on and I didn't particularly care.

We didn't decide to have another child; it was an accident. I didn't want to have another child until after the war because I didn't know how we could take care of it. I didn't think that camp was the proper place to have a baby. But there was nothing I could do about it as the baby just happened so I had to make the most of it. I know that there were a lot of Nisei couples who found themselves in the same position that I did. The trouble was that the Army did not provide the proper contraceptives for us and nobody seemed very concerned about it. The Issei never talked of such things because it was taboo. When I found out that I was pregnant again I was quite worried.

"Ben and I decided that maybe it was best to have our children

while we were young. We knew that the government would provide all of the medical care so it was not a financial burden to us. Ben ~~ik~~ felt that he was learning something useful in plumbing so we didn't talk about the future at all. We didn't know what was going to happen to us next and at that time we had no choice. We just went along with the other people.

"When news of the relocation centers came out, we all got excited. There was one man in our district who was so sure that we were going to be sent to Tule Lake. Another man said that we were going to Idaho. This argument got pretty strong at times and nobody was quite sure. Ben and I decided that we were going to be sent to ~~Ida~~ Idaho and we were quite disappointed that Gila was our destination. There were all kinds of rumors going around how hot and dusty it was in Poston. Somebody passed a letter around telling how Issei were dying off like flies because of the heat and that really worried the people in camp. I was worried about my child and also that I was pregnant again. I didn't know how I could stand a hot desert heat. We didn't want to be sent to the middle of nowhere. We didn't know how long we would have to be there. A few students had gone out to school from Tulare and we had hopes that we would eventually be allowed to go out and start life over again, but it was all a vague hope at the time. No definite announcements about resettlement had been passed out to the people so most of the people believed we would be in relocation centers for the duration.

"The trip to Gila wasn't bad for me as I had a baby and I was pregnant so that I was allowed to go by Pullman. The other people had a very unpleasant trip as they had to stay on those hot, dirty

coaches for days. Gila looked worse than I had imagined. It was buried out in the desert and the camp was still uncompleted. It was so hot for September and there were open ditches all over camp. We were glad the barracks were a little cleaner.

"In Gila we fixed up our barracks a little more permanently. we were in with my folks but we wanted to get a separate place of our own for the sake of the baby. After 2 months we did get managed to get assigned to a place of our own and we have more privacy after that. I didn't mind Gila too much after I got over some of my fears and the camp became more completed and settled down. I made new friends there but I stayed home a lot as I was pregnant and it wasn't good for me to get out in that hot weather too much.

"Once in a while I would bump into an old friend that I hadn't seen since the war started. We continued our regular activities but most of my time was spent fussing around the house to prepare for the baby and to take care of the one I already had. Ben worked as a plumber for a while, then he transferred to the canteen for a couple of months. After that he went to work in the camouflage factory to make some money as we began to think of resettlement early in 1943.

"My second baby was born in January, 1943, and it was a boy. After that I really was extremely busy with my children so I didn't notice much of anything that was going on in camp. The only real excitement we had was during the registration. There was quite a bit of talk about it and a lot of meetings were held, but I wasn't too much interested in the whole thing. Ben went to most of the meeting as he didn't know how he was going to answer

Reverse? (the questinnaire. He finally answered 'yes' to question 27 and 'no' to 28. He said that he wouldn't volunteer for the Army but would go if he were drafted. Later on after the air had cleared up a bit he changed his answer to 'yes-yes' because we wanted to get out of camp and resettle instead of being stuck there for the duration.

"It was no problem for me to answer 'yes-yes' to the questionnaire as it was the only practical thing to do and I felt it was my duty. In our block, quite a few of the parents made their sons answer 'no-no' as they were very pro-Japan. I know that there was one boy in our block who was threatned with disinheritance because he answered 'yes'. I heard rumors that there were quite a few family fights in camp but it didn't affect us at all. My parents figured that 'yes-yes' was the only answer as they had hopes of getting out of camp eventually and had no idea of going back to Japan. The whole registration issue was quite involved and I really don't know why it raised so much excitement. I think the parents were worried because they thought all their sons would be taken into the Army right away.

"Ben and I first started to think of resettlement seriously around the end of January. Our plans were still vague, but we were pretty much set on coming to Chicago as we knew more about it than any other city. Mr. Toguri was working for the co-op and he had come out to Chicago several times on buying trips and he used to tell us all about the city. He would talk to us until late at night and we would get all worked up about ~~us~~ coming out here. Ben went to work in the net factory in order to save up some money to pay for our transportation. We decided definitely

to resettle about the time the registration was ended.

"We wanted to get out of camp as our friends were all deciding to leave and they were beginning to go out one by one. We couldn't go out as early as we planned to because we had two children to consider. We didn't have enough money to carry us through for a long time and it was necessary for us to get everything settled before coming out. We were willing to take the chance because we didn't want to stay in camp for the duration. Ben was especially dissatisfied with camp life and he was set on leaving as soon as possible. He figured that camp life was making him lazy so that if he stayed too long he would not be of much use to our family. He said he wanted to get out and work for us so that we could prepare for the future. One of the main reasons why I wanted to get out of camp was that I didn't like the heat there and the lack of conveniences. It wasn't so good for my baby and they were always getting rash.

"On top of all this Ben got valley fever so that he had to quit camouflage work to spend a couple of weeks in the hospital. This delayed our plans for departure. I became a little hesitant about leaving because I thought that if Ben ever got sick on the outside nobody would be around to take care of us. However, we renewed our plans for resettlement after he came out of the hospital. Ben suggested that he come out first and get a job and find a place ~~with~~ for us and I could follow with the children. His plan was to make as much money as possible so he could eventually go into business of his own. We figured we had to save a large sum of money so that we could have some measure of security after the war. We had to plan carefully because there were two

children to think of. We also knew that we had to plan on the education of the children eventually and I didn't want them to be in the camp for the duration.

"Ben finally came out of camp around the end of May because the WRA paid his transportation. From the beginning he had a hard time getting something that he wanted. He finally decided to take a job at Edgewater Beach Hotel. He went out to see the personnel manager and was given a job as an engineer in the boiler room because he told them he had done the same work at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. He was quite pleased with the job as it was a definite promotion and he could use his plumbing and brick laying skill. But when he went to work the first day two Caucasian men in the boiler room objected so much that it caused an unpleasant scene. They threatened to quit unless Ben was let out. There was no choice for Ben but to quit as the management preferred to lose one worker instead of two.

"After that Ben had one disappointment after another and he couldn't get anything in his own line. He wanted to get into plumbing work but the unions kept him out. He tried all sorts of angles but none of them seemed to work out for him. Finally he got very discouraged and his money was running out so he took a houseman job at Edgewater Beach Hotel for a while so he could eat. After a couple of weeks he got a job at Atlas Box Company for a while but this did not work out so well so he quit. He tried again to get a job more to his liking but he was not successful. He went back to the Edgewater Beach Hotel and worked for a couple of weeks again.

"Two months passed in this way and it was getting to be near

the end of July. I was sitting in camp gnawing my fingernails and waiting for ~~me~~ him to tell me to come out. Ben had been writing me letters all the times and he tried to hide his discouragement but I could see that it was very difficult for him. He had come out here with such high hopes and he wasn't making the progress that he wanted to. He asked me if I wanted him to come back to camp instead of going out to Chicago and taking a chance. I still wanted to come out anyway so I told him I would come with the children as soon as I could.

"Ben didn't want me to worry too much so he didn't tell me the details of all the hard times he had until after I came out here. It wasn't so easy leaving camp because many of the block people tried to discourage me. They said that the trip was too hard and it wasn't safe to bring two children out alone like that. They told ~~me~~ of letters written back by other resettlers which described the hard train ride to Chicago. My folks didn't try to discourage me at all as they knew I was anxious to join my husband. My dad and the rest of the family decided to resettle because we were so set on it and they got resettlement fever from us.

"My folks thought it over very carefully and they decided that it was the best thing to do. They didn't want to come to Chicago as they had heard that it was a very dirty city. Rev. Tajima had gone to Clegeland and he wrote back letters urging my father to come out there. My dad finally decided to do that so he came out with me. He went on to Cleveland and he found a job in one of the suburbs. After finding a place to stay, he sent for the rest of the family and he is out there now. It was a

good thing that dad helped me when I came out with my two children to join Ben as I never could have been able to manage it myself.

"I wasn't scared at all when I left Gila and I didn't regret it. It felt so good to get out of camp and the first thing I noticed was the green trees and grass as I approached Phoenix. I wasn't in the least worried and I had no sad feelings of leaving camp as my whole family was going out and there was nothing left for me back there. I got on the coach train at Phoenix and we came out to Chicago that way. It was rather difficult with two babies but my dad and another boy who left the same day helped with the luggage. We managed to get 4 seats together so I was able to let the babies sleep on them.

"I was so excited that I could hardly wait to get to Chicago. All I knew of it was that it was a big city with a lot of skyscrapers. I didn't know what to expect and I was so surprised at the miles and miles of buildings we passed coming into the city. The houses seemed to be endless. Ben was still working at the Edgewater Beach Hotel so he came down to the train to meet me. He had located a small apartment near the hotel, but the first night in Chicago we stayed in a hotel because the apartment was not ready. The next day we moved bag and baggage to our tiny 3-room apartment. I was never so disappointed in my life. It wasn't much of a place and it was so small. I wondered how on earth I could ever fix it up to make it livable. I didn't show Ben my ~~xxx~~ disappointment as he was having such a hard time to even find this place and he was worried sick how to take care of us. That night we discovered that we had bed bugs in the apartment so we just picked up our stuff and left immediately as it

was impossible for us to have babies in a place like that. We went to a hotel and we lived in a one-room place for about a week while desperately hunting for another place.

"We didn't know exactly what to do. Ben was very disappointed with his job and he wasn't making enough to support the four of us. It really worried us quite a bit and we talked late into the night trying to decide what to do. I had all sorts of visions of starvation and all that. In spite of it I didn't wish that I was back in camp. I guess we were almost nervous wrecks during that first week I was in Chicago and I began to appreciate what Ben had been going through. We heard that the WRA would help us out in getting jobs but Ben was disgusted with it as he said that the WRA did not make very good placements. We heard also that some nisei couples were doing domestic work and that was the best way to save money. We knew that we had to do something pretty quick because of the children. When we found that we couldn't get a decent apartment any place, we decided to place an Ad for domestic work in the Chicago Tribune, mentioning that we had two children. We thought that we would do this type of work temporarily until we got on our feet. Our money was running low and there was nothing else we could do. Ben could have gotten some other kind of job, but at that time the wages weren't as high as now and he didn't think he could make enough to support us.

"We got a few responses to our newspaper Ad but we followed the first call that came in. Ben was very impressed with the people when he went out for the interview so that he took the job. Mr. Walker even offered him some money to tide us over until we moved in. The colored couple were supposed to move out of the

place at the end of the week. Mr. Walker wanted to make sure that we did go there instead of looking for another job as it was pretty hard to find domestic help. We only planned to take the domestic job for temporary purposes and the employer knew that. After we got there we saw that the setting was pretty good so we even discussed the point whether we should do it until the end of the war and save as much money as possible. We were to start out working at \$135 a month and we thought we could save up quite a bit of this since our living costs were taken care of by the job.

"I did the cooking and we both did the housework. Ben had to walk the dog three times aday and he hated that the most. He felt that it was a little degrading especially when he couldn't even take time to take his own children out for an airing. There really wasn't too much work to do as the Walkers didn't eat in too much at the time. We only had to prepare and serve the evening meal. Mr. Walker was the president of some kind of a milling company which made poultry feed and he was rather wealthy. His mother is part owner of the Drake Hotel and his uncle owned a large string of fashionable apartment buildings. Mr. Walker was gradually coming up in his own business but he wasn't as wealthy as some of his other relatives. The Walkers were in their early 40's. Mrs. Walker used to be a professional singer in Art Castle's orchestra and she was very nice at first.

"For the first couple of months we got along very well with our employers. The only thing that disturbed us was that Mr. Walker was a little eccentric and he used to go around looking for spots on the furniture that wasn't dusted. This was very annoying to us and it took quite an effort for Ben to control his temper.

However, we didn't get real irritated until much later.

"Mrs. Walker was very fond of my children and she used to buy them toys and other gifts. They even ~~had~~ bought baby beds and high chairs for the kids. During the winter time they gave us money to buy winter clothes for the children. When they were away on their frequent trips they would always send something back to the children. Mrs. Walker started a bank account for my children and she put in some money each month for them. She even began to go to the Japanese store to buy some Japanese food. She tried to be very friendly and understanding and she was sympathetic toward the evacuees.

"Mrs. Walker began to come to the kitchen and just sit there and talk to us. Sometimes we would even play cards together. Later on they began to loan us the car as often as we wanted it so we would go on drives with the children when we had days off. It was quite convenient for us as it made it easier to go look up our friends. Towards the end Mr. Walker got some kind of heart trouble and didn't go out so often so became more irritable. Whenever we brought friends up there Mrs. Walker was very nice to them. She would even join our friends and have a good time. She always offered them drinks and acted as one of us.

"When she heard that Ben was interested in starting a Nisei orchestra she was even willing to put up money to back them and told him of all the angles as she was in that work before. We told them about ourselves and Ben told them he would like to go in plumbing and brick laying work as he had to see the future. The Walkers said they understand and they would never try to hold us to that domestic job but they went back in this respect and

as it was hard to get other domestic help. That is where the big trouble came in later on.

"The Walkers were very sympathetic to the evacuees and they often got criticized by their friends for that. We were the first Nihonjin to be employed in that neighborhood and the other people around were a little suspicious of us at first. After I got to know all of the store keepers on my shopping trip, they became very friendly and the other rich families started to hire Nisei girls. Since then quite a few Nihonjin have gone into domestic jobs around that area. Mrs. Walker was always praising us to her friends and that influenced some of them to try out Nisei. The only trouble was that not too many Nisei were willing to go into domestic work as there were plenty of other jobs. It wasn't so hard for them as they didn't have children like I have.

"In spite of all this goodness, there still was the feeling that we were servants. It was definitely noticeable whenever they had company. They always tried to patronize us like colored servants and we would get sore and stubborn at those time. We never had strong conflicts but these little things began to irritate us more and more as we stayed there for almost a year. After after 4 or 5 months, we had lost interest in the job and we were already starting to look around for a place of our own from the middle of January, 1944.

"Ben just couldn't stand that work much longer. At one time he almost had a nervous breakdown and he had to take a week off from work to rest up. Ben began to follow the newspapers every day to see what kind of job opening there were. He was definitely set on getting out of domestic work as soon as possible. After

that we just did our work automatically and we weren't as close to our employers anymore. Ben hated the work more and more as he wanted to do man's job. I was tired cleaning another person's house as I found I did not have enough time to take care of my own children and they were getting neglected. I felt that my children were more important than the job. On some days I didn't even have time to take them out to sit in the sun because I was so busy cleaning house and preparing dinner for company,

"We gradually got our wage up to \$165 a month but Ben spent most of our money backing the Nisei orchestra. He had to rent the hall and instruments and buy music and that was quite expensive. He felt that it was worth all this because he thought it was a good business proposition and he would clean up. That's why he helped the boys out whenever they were out of jobs. Most of our savings went into this project until the end of February or March when Ben gave it up in disgust. We lost everything on this gamble.

"Ben was always talking about getting a Nisei orchestra together and he started getting the fellows together around October 1943. He did a lot of thinking and dreaming of it and he had an idea that it would be a big success. He was always full of plans to make money fast and the orchestra sounded like a good bet to him. He heard that Tad Yamamoto from Gila was in Chicago so he decided to start the Nisei orchestra and get a few fellows together. Tad was enthusiastic about the idea but he said he couldn't devote his entire time to it as he was going to a music school. Tad wanted to be the leader of the group as he had a band of his own in Gila.

"Anyway, they started to get the names of other Nisei who played instruments. We got Bob (CH-13) and he knew quite a bit of fellows and they eventually got some boys together. The first date was set for rehearsals but only 3 people showed up at the Social Turner hall which had been rented for that purpose. They decided to meet again the next Sunday and the orchestra got under way at that time.

"Things never went smoothly as there was always conflicts between Hide, the drummer, Tad and Bob (CH-13). Finally Ben thought that another fellow should be put in so a Seattle boy, Hal Noguchi was put in. This fellow was also a vocalist and another rivalry started with Bob (CH-13) who was also a vocalist. Bob was supposed to be the business manager of the group, but he sort of fizzled out. He wanted to push his own prestige too much and the fellows didn't like him so he eventually dropped out.

"The band practiced for a month and a half but as Xmas approached, the boys decided to go to camp for a vacation so that the band was discontinued temporarily. After New Years they got together again. In the meantime Ben had met Nagai who was sponsoring all of the Nisei dances at the Midland Hotel and Ashland Auditorium. They decided to go in together to promote a couple of Nisei dances with the Nisei orchestra. At the first appearance the Nisei orchestra was very well received as they were good, but they never cooperated and they were all out for themselves too much.

"By this time Ben was getting pretty discouraged but he decided to put on a Nisei dance on February 26 as he thought that it would be fairly profitable. The boys were very enthusiastic

about it and they practiced every night for a week before the dance. We went around and sold all of our friends tickets. The band just played during the intermission and they were better than the Caucasian orchestra which had been hired. After that, they decided to put on another dance in April with just the Nisei orchestra. Ben was very interested in getting a Nisei USO started but somehow or other the plans did not materialize altho he worked quite a bit on that too.

"By this time the orchestra members were getting pretty independent and they made plans to make some money on their own without letting Ben know about it. Ben thought something was fishy so he investigated. He found out that the band members wanted to cut him out entirely as the drummer was jealous of him. They thought that they didn't need Ben anymore as they thought they could make money by having Nisei dances instead of branching out like Ben wanted. There was a lot of arguments and there was a lot of mix-ups. Ben finally decided to wash his hands of the whole thing. The band lost its backers and they couldn't rent instruments anymore.

"After that the band got Eddie So, a big gambler and Mr. Mukoyama, and old time Issei resident to back them. (Eddie So is a well-known Nisei gambler from California. He has a gambling house on Michigan Ave. He is a son of a minister.) They sponsored a dance at the Midland Hotel at the end of April, 1944. But it didn't go over at all. The orchestra didn't get paid a cent so they went into the hole. The backers took most of the money and after that the orchestra gradually broke up so that it doesn't exist any more. One of the fellows is at Savage. One

of them is playing at the Casa Blanca, while the rest are scattered all around. These fellows blame the failure of the orchestra on Ben and some of them are passing rumors around that Ben gypped them out of some money but that isn't true at all. Actually Ben lost quite a bit of money as he invested all of our domestic savings and he didn't get a cent back.

"This was really the reason that we hadn't saved much money after a year of working at the Walkers so that it was hard for us to leave. Mrs. Walker got awfully naggy at the end and so fussy that we stayed out every night just to get away from her. It got on our nerves and we were desperate to get a place of our own as we were getting almost nervous breakdowns. We hunted high and low for an apartment for months. After living at the Walkers, our ideals were high and we couldn't get satisfied with the poor places that we did see. I sure wish we had taken one of those places now. We were too picky so that we lost out. Things began to get worse and worse the last two months we were there and it was really an awful situation all around. The best thing for us was to get out as soon as possible and get a fresh start.

"All of our friends knew that we wanted to get out and they tried to help us apartment hunting. Ben was looking for a job all along. George Taki (CH-17) phoned up one night to tell Ben that his boss had told him about a job possibility in a heating plant as a plumber. It was with a company on the south side. The pay was not too good, but Ben figured that he could get a side job at night to make a little extra so that he would be able to support us. He went down to interview for this job and the man wanted him to come to work right away, but Ben said that he had to give 2 weeks notice at Walkers first. Then another man who lived

down the street told Ben of another job possibility. This man owns several apartment houses on the south side and he told Ben that he knew of a real estate company that was looking for a plumber to work on their property full time so that Ken had this job lined up too. A third job offer was to drive a car back to the coast but Ben could not consider this.

"After the job situation was definitely taken care of, we started to look day and night for an apartment. We would even sneak out during the day to buy a newspaper to look through it for apartment listing. We had to find a place to move before Ben could take a job. Finally, we were supposed to get a week's vacation with pay. I thought of taking the kids to my folks in Cleveland and then Ben could pick a fight with the Walkers and walk out. They just wouldn't let us go otherwise. We talked it over very seriously and finally decided against it as we thought we might need the Walkers for reference some day.

"We didn't know what to do and we were desperate. Tamie (CH-4) was just going to New York on a vacation and she suggested that we move into her place temporarily and we could talk over the arrangements when we got back. This was the chance I was looking for so I told Mrs. Walker right away that we were leaving at the end of June. After that we came over to live here (Tamie's apartment). We paid for half of the food and laundry here. We haven't discussed about paying rent yet. It is understood that we will move into our new place as soon as possible.

"As soon as I moved here, I started to walk the streets every day looking for an apartment vacancy. I would take a certain district after looking through all the newspapers and then walk

up and down the sections to investigate the best leads.

"Most of the places I inquired about were already taken by the time I got there. Other places didn't look very good so I didn't bother to inquire further. I walked about 4 hours a day and I really got discouraged. I wanted to live in the same neighborhood where we lived before as I knew the stores and I liked the general district. Each day I would go up and down different streets but there were few signs out. I didn't want to take a basement apartment because of the children and I wanted to find a place with a private bath. I was so disappointed at so many places I looked at. Some places I was turned down and I am sure it was discrimination. On Sheffield Place I found a place and I got all excited. But when I knocked on the door to ask about the flat, a short, stout woman stuck her head out of the door and just said no and slammed the door. I was mortified but I had several experiences like that so I just took it in stride.

"About a week ago I found a 3-room^{unfurnished}/apartment notice in the newspapers. I was getting to the point where I would have taken anything so I just went to see. The lady in charge of the house was very nice but she said there was no private bath there. Then she thought for a moment and said that there was a possibility for a 5-room apartment up on the third floor. She said to call her back about it the next day. I called back several times but she still was not quite sure. The occupants of the 5-room apartment had not kept up on their rent and caused a lot of trouble. The landlord was upset about this and she was going to make these people move out. The last time I called she said the people were out of the place but would have to be redecorated. This

would take about a week so I still don't know whether we can move in there. I'm anxiously waiting for the last word and I'm pretty sure that we will get it. I certainly don't think I can stand much more of apartment hunting. It's the most discouraging thing in the world. Every time I go to a place I get a funny feeling and I just know that I will be refused. Ben still has to go sign the lease for the place and it will be rented to us for \$37.50 a month. The apartment has hot water, steam heat and stove in it so it's pretty good. We have to buy the rest of the furniture and it may run in a couple of hundred dollars. We thought we would furnish the bedroom first and then the kitchen. We could wait a while before furnishing the living room. If Ben continues to do pretty good then we can go ahead and furnish the rest of the house up. I am relieved now because we did look for an apartment this long. I hope I won't be disappointed this time.

"When we move to our new apartment we plan to stay there more or less permanently. However, we would like to be on the first floor as it is a little hard for my children to be walking up and down those stairs. After we quit the domestic job, Ben heard that after July 1 everyone would be frozen to the job. Ben didn't want to be stuck with the heating contractor so he thought he could do plumbing business more on his own as he knew quite a few Japanese restaurants and boarding houses here.

"He went to talk it over with Mr. Fukuda who owned a restaurant and boarding house. Ben thought he could make some kind of an arrangement where he could do plumbing work for the 17 restaurant and boarding houses on a contract business and go visit them twice a month. Mr. Fukuda thought the best idea would be for Ben

his
to take ~~my~~ tools and go show them what he could do. Ben started to do odd plumbing jobs and word got around that he was doing this type of work and he started to get more calls due to the shortage of plumbers. He heard that Mr. Asato was looking for a plumber as he was going to start a tofu factory in back of Windsor Hotel.

"Ben felt that he could not depend only on Japanese trade as it wouldn't be enough income after he got established. He thought he had better take a part time job so he went over to ~~Albion~~ Albert's younger brother's factory--the Chicago Nipple Co. and he tried to make a deal where he could get plumbing equipment at cut rate prices in return for work. He found that wages were cheap ~~for~~ and the work hard so he decided against it. On the way home he passed Republic Plumbing Co. He went in and asked about the price of tools and he found that the man at the head of Standard Engineering Co. was looking for a plumber. It was a non-union company.

"Ben phoned this man up and he was asked to come for an interview immediately. When Ben went down there ^{was} he/asked to come out and start work immediately. Ben is doing that work now and he works on Japanese places on the side. He's making pretty good money now. He only makes 95c an hour to start at Standard Engineers but he doesn't put the full 48 hours a week in because of his present side job. Ben takes time out to work on the side because he gets \$1.50 an hour. He hired Otto , Albert's brother at 80c an hour and he charges the boss \$1.00 an hour for him. Some nights he works 5 or 6 hours so he is home very little these days.

"Ben expects to keep on with this type of work. He gets to

do a little cement and brick work on some of the jobs he has on the side and he may branch out later when he gets more experience. Ben wants to be on the ground floor for all these works for the Japanese but doesn't know if it's safe to concentrate on that. He will probably be doing plumbing work or something like that after the war. I don't know if he wants to go back to Berkeley or not but he has mentioned that he would like to several times. He also would like to go to Singapore but his mind is not made up yet as things are so uncertain. Ben thinks that construction work will be good in the South Pacific and he wants to go there if there is too much discrimination here for the Nisei. He feels that most Nisei will lose their jobs and it will be pretty hard going, especially if you have children. Ben can't get into the Union here and that burns him up as it makes things harder for him.

"But he has gotten started on his own in spite of all the things we have gone through. Ben is 4-C in the draft and I don't know when he will be taken if ever. He was quite worried about it for a while but he heard that those with Valley Fever would be deferred so he is sure he will not be taken. I think he will be taken eventually though. In the event he is drafted, I will go to Cleveland to join my family as I wouldn't be able to work with my 2 children here. I thought my mother could watch the kids while I went to work. I'm not planning on anything definite because I don't want to worry about this until it looks like the draft is close for him. I think we will get some warning in advance.

"I'm hoping that after the war things will be like it was before the war. Everything is in a haze yet altho at times it

does look promising. The main thing I am concerned about is the future for my children. I'd like to see them get a good education and all the opportunities that we didn't get. We grew up at a time when the general situation was against us and people are too prejudiced.

"I don't want to be in too much of a Japanese community but I would like to have some of them around. I'm the type of a person who is inclined to be a little introverted and it is hard for me to get to know Caucasian people well. I don't think I have an inferiority complex but there is a certain comfort in living among other Japanese at times like this. I feel that it would be good for the children as it wouldn't do to have them lose contact with all Japanese things. Maybe it is my fault for being a little too sensitive but I know from experience how Caucasian people feel about us. The hakuji will only accept us to a certain degree and after that they want you to feel inferior to them. I've had quite a few contacts among hakuji in the past and I like them well enough but I don't think I can isolate myself completely from the Nihonjin because it would be too hard. Maybe I'm too timid about these things because I've heard of other Nisei who are getting along fairly well. But if I live away from all Nisei contacts entirely I would feel sure of myself and I think I would be even more restless than I am now. Maybe I'm still too self-conscious. I've never had too much to say even among Nisei.

"I'm teaching my children a little Japanese but we didn't have much of a chance when working in an American home. It's good for my children to know a little of their ancestral culture. They won't have anywhere the amount of teaching of this kind that the Nisei had and I don't think that it will be so hard for them. It

will be a long time before all of the prejudices break down. There might be more intermarriages in the next generation, but I don't think that the Nihonjin will be completely accepted for several generations yet.

"At present I'd like to meet more Nisei as we don't have too many friends yet. We will probably have a larger circle after we get our own apartment. I'd like to look up some of my old school chums, but up to now I haven't had a chance to do that. I would not have any time for Nisei organizations so I'm not interested in that at all. I think there could be a few more social events for Nisei once in a while, but they shouldn't have them all the time. There haven't been too many Nisei groups organized out here as far as I know. Most of the Nisei are busy working and there aren't any leaders to take the initiative. Nobody is that interested anyway.

"Another thing that will prevent the Nisei from getting together in large bunches is that they never cooperate anyway. I think that there eventually will be a Japanese section as that is bound to happen with so many of them around. It might help the nisei to settle down but at a time like this maybe it wouldn't be so good as it would be too conspicuous. ~~and~~ Then there would be more discrimination in housing and jobs if all Japanese started to live together. That wouldn't be so good because the Nisei are just getting started out here. Sometimes I think it helps to get scattered because they would have more chance to be accepted by the hakujin. If there were a whole bunch of Nihonjin living around one place then the hakujin wouldn't want to know them too much. It is desirable to a certain extent that the Nisei scatter

out but sooner or later they will start to get together again. They will want to stick to their families and old friends. Most of the Nisei have only Japanese friends anyway just like me, and there isn't much chance to know a ~~h~~ lot of hakujin out here even though they act friendly.

"I know that it would help the Nisei if they made more Caucasian friends during the time of the war. Hakujin friends have helped the Nisei a lot during the resettlement and a lot of them wouldn't have been able to get along without this help. But many other Nisei like Ben have gotten along without their help and they are getting along good enough. I used to hear a lot of complaints about the WRA when Shirrell was there, but it seems to be more helpful now. A lot of Nisei are working together at various plants and it doesn't seem to have hurt them much as they are getting well paid. I heard a lot of Nisei are getting \$60 a week and more. But it may be another story ~~when~~ after the war as they will be the first ones fired afterwards.

"I haven't heard of many Nisei making a lot of Caucasian contacts out here so it doesn't seem to be such a good program to push them into this. I think the reason for this is that the Nisei just don't take the time to make hakujin friends. Maybe they should make a little more effort right now as it may be beneficial for them in the long run. I know that I wouldn't particularly like it if places started to discriminate against the Nisei. I was quite disappointed when I heard that the Aragon was closed to the Nisei now. I heard that there was a fight there too. Those zoot suiters give us all a bad reputation.

"On the whole, I think that most of the Nisei are supporting

the war effort enough to have proved their loyalty. I don't have any direct connections with the war effort now but I would if Ben were drafted. I certainly wish that the war would hurry up and end. It doesn't look like it will end too quick even though the Allies are making a lot of progress. It will take quite a while before Japan is defeated. We just don't know how strong Japan is but I'm sure they have a strong Army and Navy just waiting for the final showdown. Maybe there will be a peaceful settlement before too many years. I know I'm not going to have any more children until after the war ends because it's too risky.

"I won't really be settled down until after the war is over because everything is so unsettled now. I don't think I will have a peaceful frame of mind until I know for sure that we can get settled down. There is still the chance that Ben will get drafted and I'm not eliminating that. It would be pretty hard for me if he were taken and I hate to think of it.

"I wouldn't have too many people in my circle if Ben were taken now since my friends are mostly his friends. Our circle includes about 10 close friends. They are mostly married couples. I met some of them through Tamie (CH-4) altho Ben has been making a lot of connections on his own lately. But we have never developed any of these because we didn't have time or the place to entertain them. It keeps me pretty busy just raising my children in the proper and I really don't have too much leisure time as I have to be with them constantly. There is always washing, laundry, ironing and mending to do. There are a lot of friends I knew from before but we seem to have gone our own way. Life changes after you are married and your interests are more settled.

"The majority of the Nisei out here are still looking for a good time. I think they have settled down quite a bit in the past year but a lot of single people are running around more than ever. Young girls are getting sort of out of hand too and there aren't anybody to guide them. I think the majority of the Nisei will be in a very uncertain condition for many years yet so they might as well enjoy life while they are making money and have the time. It even looks dark for us at times but we just have to plug along as best as we can. That's about all anyone can do these days. There are so many things to do just to keep going and to make ends meet that we don't have time to feel sorry for ourselves."

July 31, 1944

Masako is moving into her new apartment on Halstead St. today as it has finally been redecorated and the landlord was willing to let Ben sign the lease for the year.

June 27, 1945

My social visit with Midori this afternoon was quite successful although she was rather tired from her night job. I don't see how she keeps up the pace. Midori is very loyal to Ken, but I think that he left her in one hell of a hole by not providing her any sort of financial backing. Her allotment didn't come in until last week so that Midori had to go out and take a night job in order to support her 2 kids. Her younger sister is here from Cleveland to spend the summer at a high school session and she looks after the kids at night so that it isn't too bad. However, Midori has to get up early in order to take care of the children so that she only sleeps about 3 hours after work, and then she takes a 2 or 3 hour nap in the evening. The pace is beginning to tell on her because she looked very tired and she had deep lines around her eyes. It's too bad that her husband didn't spend his time more usefully out here, but I guess I'm not in a position to be judgmental.

It's been just about a year now since I saw Midori last and the most amazing change was the development of her two children, Janie, 3½ and Tommy, 2½. They are very extrovert in personality and they made me play blocks with them for about an hour after our interview. I was there the whole afternoon, but the time went by very rapidly. The children talked very freely now, and it was the first time that I had heard them speak. They wanted me to stay for dinner and Midori invited me but I felt that I had to rush home and pack. I took the children out for some ice cream before I came home and Tommy kept asking his mother if they couldn't come over to my home to visit. I'm always aware of the sharp contrast between the Nisei and the Sansei children. There just isn't any comparison because the Sansei children have so many advantages over the Nisei. And it certainly does reflect in their personality development. I certainly hope that the Nisei do not hand them a segregated pattern of living to look

forward to because the third generation are very Americanized and their future looks much more hopeful.

Midori has been able to make fairly satisfactory adjustments since Ken was drafted last March. She works on a night shift in a candy factory which produces Vitamin bars so that she doesn't have any time for social activities. Her chief concern during recent months has been financial and I agree with her that she has had more than her share of difficult times since resettlement. Ken was very lax in providing housing and economic support because he was so immature and he never took the initiative. At the present time Midori pays about half of her allotment for rent alone but she doesn't want to move because housing is so difficult to obtain. She feels fairly satisfied with her life and I suppose that the reason why she is not restless is because she has her children to rear. Following are comments made by Midori during the afternoon on her adjustment to resettlement since last year when I interviewed her:

"It hardly seems that a year has passed since I last saw you. Housing and economic support have been our main problems since then, but I have things working out fairly smoothly by now. Housing was really the worst because we never were able to get a satisfactory place until we moved here. We were living with Toshie (CH-4) for about 3 weeks last June and I just couldn't find an apartment. I walked and walked but there just wasn't any place for us. We had one place almost ready to sign a lease on when it was cancelled at the last minute. It was one disappointment after another. Finally we decided that we couldn't impose upon Toshie any longer so I took the 2 children to Cleveland with me to stay with my parents while Ken moved into a hotel so that he would be able to keep on looking for another apartment. After several weeks he finally did get a temporary apartment. He rented it from Mr. Toguri who owns the fish shop

on the Near North Side. Mr. Toguri was our neighbor at both the assembly and relocation centers, so that we knew him real well. He had just opened up a boarding house and there was a 2-room apartment on top of the garage in back of the house which was rented to us. Ken sent me a telegram to return to Chicago immediately because he had found housing and I expected it to be something good. My morale went way down when I saw the dingy 2-room apartment. It was a horrible place and it was dirty and it faced an even dirtier alley. The place was very badly furnished and we were most cramped for space. I hated to live there and I insisted that we were going to move out at the first opportunity. Every day I tried hard to find another apartment but I just couldn't find a thing.

"We had to pay \$9 a week for that dirty old apartment and I felt that this was much too high a rent for a place like that. Mr. Toguri's rooming house was just as dirty and there were bedbugs all over the place. The building was full of Nihonjin who had come out from Gila and they couldn't find a permanent place so that they had to move in there. Most of them only stayed about a month because they couldn't stand the unsanitary condition. They would move on to another place as soon as possible. Mr. Toguri's daughter-in-law cooked so that everybody loaded there. They charged about \$40 a month per person for room and board and that was much too high for the family group. I think that they did give some special rate for family groups but most families couldn't afford that either.

"I didn't blame Mr. Toguri so much for these conditions because he is a business man. He is doing very well in his fish store now and it is always busy because of the meat shortage. Recently he opened up another boarding house for Nihonjin on top of his store and his oldest daughter manages that. Mr. Toguri must be doing very well but I just couldn't stand that Clark St. area because it was so depressing and I didn't want my children to grow up in that kind of a slum.

"After we had lived in that place for about 5 weeks, Ken finally found this apartment. He knew the nihonjin manager who used to operate the building before. The apartment rents for \$12.50 a week furnished and it is a little high for a 3-room place. The good thing about it is that we have a large back porch and it is cooler on the third floor because the breeze comes through. It was about the end of August, 1944 that we first came back from Cleveland and it was around October when we moved into this apartment.

"This building is pretty quiet and I like it because I don't feel like I am forced to be nice to other people for fear of being kicked out of my apartment. The building is practically full of Nihonjin now. There are 10 Nihonjin living here and only 5 hakujin families. Most of the people here are young couples altho there are some single Nisei on the first floor. A Nihonjin woman manages this building for a real estate company and her son and daughter help her. The former Nihonjin manager moved down to 18th and Clark to manage another building. The present manager gets a free apartment here and they pay the real estate company a fixed amount each month so that they must be getting a fairly good profit since all the rent in the building are fairly high. Some of the rooms were newly decorated so that is why they were able to raise the rent above the OPA ceiling. We redecorated our own building but we had to pay the higher rent too.

"When we first moved into this apartment, it was pretty filthy. The place was full of bedbugs so that we had to throw out a lot of the furniture and send for our own from California. We cleaned all the walls off and scraped the floors. It took us about 2 months for us to fix the place up. We did all of the wall papering ourselves. All I did was scrub and scrub. It's a livable place now and I hate to move out after putting all that work into it. It feels more like home than any other place that we have lived in since resettlement.

"I've thought of finding a smaller apartment since Ken got drafted last April, but it's too difficult to get any kind of housing because of the acute shortage here. I know how it is because I have looked around so much. I ran into a number of cases of discrimination in my house hunting before. The better places would give all sorts of excuses like it has just been taken, but I knew that they were lying. The signs would still be out there the next day when I went by. Very few of the landlords came right out and said that they did not take orientals, but I knew that was what they meant. It certainly was a most discouraging feeling and I wouldn't want to go through it again.

"In this building I get along with the landlords very well and I have no complaints against them at all except for the high rent. The Nihonjin manager who was here before was also very nice to us as my husband did a lot of plumbing here for him. That's why we got the place originally. When we first moved into this building over three-fourths of the 16 apartments were occupied by Caucasians. Now there are only 5 Caucasians left here. As soon as they move out, other Nihonjin moved in so that pretty soon it will be all Nihonjin. I only know the Caucasian tenants left here very slightly, but they all seem nice. I guess they do resent it because the Nihonjin seemed to be pushing them out.

"I don't know the Nihonjin living in this building too well, just the ones on this floor as we all mind our own business. The neighbors around here don't seem to object to us at all. I have done some housework for the people in the next building and they seem to be very nice. They don't have any superiority attitude against us and they didn't have any patronizing attitude towards me. There's not very many other Japanese living in this area but the number is increasing month by month. I don't think that too many more will be able to move in because there just isn't the housing available around here. Every once in a while I see a new Nihonjin face in the district but I don't think that there are over 100 in the whole area. There just isn't any danger of them flocking in too heavily because most of the families here have been living in the neighborhood for many years and they are not moving out too rapidly. I don't condemn the Nihonjin for taking advantage of every housing vacancy that is open to them because things are so hard ~~x~~ for them as it is. However, I don't think we will ever have a Japanese district around here. I certainly hope not because I think that our area is reaching the saturation point right now. If too many people move in, then the hakujin are going to resent it very much. Right now they seem to accept the Nisei fairly well because the group has a pretty good education and they are not ignorant.

"The way I feel now, I think that I'll stay right here in this apartment for the duration even though the rent takes half of my allotment. We've had some pretty difficult financial struggles ever since we left that domestic job. We never did get ahead very much because there was always one emergency after another coming up and we had to dig into our reserve funds until it was practically gone.

"Ken never did get settled in his job adjustments out here. He was doing plumbing ~~sk~~ work all last summer and last fall. At first

he was very optimistic about being able to make quite a business for himself; but it didn't work out so well. He was young and new at the work so that all of his contacts tried to chisle him down in the prices even when he was already charging a lot lower than the hakujin plumbers. Ken did most of his work for Nihonjin as he had a lot of contacts and they would make all sorts of appeals to him to lower his charges. They would say that they were just starting in business so could he wait a while for his payment. Some of them still have not paid up, and I don't think that they ever intend to now that they know Ken is in the Army. The Japanese are not good to do business with because they try to cheat you. I told Ken that a lot of times, but I suppose he had to have his own way and he felt more comfortable doing business with Nihonjin.

"During the time Ken worked as a plumber, he also did some carpentry work on the side. He helped to plan a lot of those Japanese restaurants which have opened up. He has also done a lot of work in the Japanese rooming housing. The trouble was that the Nihonjin owners always wanted him to do a lot of extra work for nothing. Ken got pretty disgusted about everything after we moved in here so he decided that he should change his jobs.

"In the meantime, his draft status got changed to 1-A and that added more excitement to our lives. When Ken started to go around looking for a regular job, he found that he could not get into most places because they were not willing to risk a chance on a 1-A and then have him inducted after a lot of expense was put in to break him into the job. The plumbing work had fallen off during the winter, but we still had to eat so Ken finally went to work at the Stevens Hotel as a busboy. He didn't like the job at all, but it was better than nothing. He worked there for about two

weeks and he continued to look for something better at every opportunity. We went through a pretty difficult financial struggle during this period as we had to count every penny. Then Ken's valley fever fever came back and that meant more expense and doctor bills. He was not feeling very good so that he was even more discouraged. In order to supplement our income, Ken worked part time in a furniture store in the evenings doing some repair work.

"Around the end of February of this year, Ken finally got a decent job at the Lincoln Ice Company as a puller. I don't exactly know what sort of work he did, but it had something to do with the making of ice. He was paid .95 cents an hour to start. It sounded like a good job as the company got very busy in the summer as the demand for ice went up, and that was when the workers got plenty of overtime as they would work 12 hours a day right through.

"Ken liked this job as he knew what the work was about since he used to work in the ice plant at the Mark Hopkins hotel in San Francisco before the evacuation. The funny part of the whole thing was that his boss had offered him this same job two years ago when Ken first resettled out here. It was during the time that he was working at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, and he happened to meet the boss one day and he was offered the job in the ice plant. Ken turned it down at that time because he had ambitions to do other things. So it was after two years that he finally got there. Ken only worked for two weeks or so in the ice plant, and then he was drafted into the Army! And that was that!

"During all the time we were out here, Ken had a lot of business plans, but none of them seemed to turn out very well for one reason or another. After several unsuccessful ventures, I

wouldn't allow him to lose any more money in wild schemes. All that money we had lost on the Nisei band would have been enough to have taken care of our emergency needs for a long time. But Ken used to say that business was a gamble and when we did hit, it would be big so I didn't argue with him. I just asked him to remember that we had a family to feed. Ken was really trying hard to make good for us so that I was willing to go all through these things and I backed him in just about everything he went in for. Ken was also so keen on starting a Japanese business and I didn't think that was wise at times, but I don't know anything about business and it did seem that there was a lot of money to be made in it. I guess Ken just hit on the wrong things.

"At one time, Ken was doing some plumbing work in a restaurant and he was going to go into partnerships with the owner. He did all the plumbing free as his share and he helped to buy the furniture. But the place is barely making a go of it so that we had to forget that deal as another bad investment. It was on Clark St. At another time Ken arranged to buy another restaurant down there, but at the last minute the owner decided that he did not want to sell out so that the deal was off. Ken was going to make the place into a bar so that he could be the bartender as he felt that there was good money in that business.

"Anyway, none of these business deals proved a success so that when Ken went into the Army he was not able to leave me very much of a fund. On top of that, Mommy had his face severely scalded about three days before Ken went into the Army and that was ~~xxxxxxx~~ hospital and doctor bill to pay. I had so many worries during those days. I had to worry about the children and how I was going to manage with Ken gone. I was just run ragged and on top of all this, my Army allotment did not come in for three months. I just

got the allotment for one month so some mistake has been made. I was so desperate during this time that I had to go out and work in order to feed the family. It certainly was a lot of worry and I still haven't gotten over it yet because my night job takes a lot of energy out of me.

"Ken was pretty worried too and he tried hard before he got drafted to save up a reserve for me but he didn't get very far. He was so worried that he had leaned a lot on me and after he got into the Army he was so concerned about my allotment that he would play crap games on the side in order to get extra money. He sent me about \$25 in all in this way. After he was at Ft. Sheridan for about a week he was transferred to the field artillery division at Ft. Bragg. They gave him a Japanese language test for snelling right away because he had been in Japan, but Ken deliberately left out all of the answers as he definitely did not want to go to the Pacific to fight. He feels that he will not volunteer for the language school, but if he is sent there he will go without any further complaint. Ken has had schooling in Japan and he also lived there so that has something to do with his attitude. He has some half-brothers and sisters over there too. Ken has never felt very strongly against Japan because he believed that this war was caused by economic selfishness and no one nation was absolutely perfect. When he got drafted, he felt that there was no other choice so he put his heart into the job. I guess he is getting pretty used to the Army life right now.

"Ken believes that as long as he is in it, he might as well do his best. He is trying to get into OCS at the present time. Ken has always felt a little inferior because he hasn't had the education that other Wise have had so that he wants to show them that he is just as good as they are. That is why he talked a little bit too much at times, but it really was a cover-up for his inferior feel-

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ings and I understood that. I never argued with him about the merits of a college education even though he belittled it at times as he was a great believer in practical experience. I think that he did understand that a college education was good for a person or else he wouldn't have rationalized about it so much. I sort of regret that he didn't have an opportunity to get more schooling altho he has done fairly well without it. The Army should give him a lot more self-confidence as advancements in it is based upon ability and not on camp records. If Ken puts his heart into it, I'm sure that he will be able to be quite successful as he does have it in him. The experience should do him a lot of good because he really was discouraged with job prospects before he went in.

"Of course, my husband's draft did not make things easier for me. I knew all along that I had to make my own way as I couldn't even think of returning to camp since I don't have anyone back there. For a while I thought of going back to Cleveland but I knew that my folks were too crowded in their apartment so that it wouldn't work out very well. My younger sister, Kazuko, is here with me for the summer and that enables me to work at night. She is taking a summer session course here in one of the high schools and then she will return to Cleveland to finish one more school term. After that, she will come back here to live with me again.

"Ken is the only one who has relatives in the center yet and they are working upon family resettlement right now because the camps are going to close and the WRA is taking every step to force the people out. Ken's folks have originally planned to remain there for the duration, but they can't do that now. His mother has been writing to me and she said that she was planning to return to California with the family. She asked me if I would go out there with her, but I have decided not to make another move until I know definitely where

Ken is going to be sent by the Army. I might not ever go out to the coast again though.

"There are 4 of Ken's relatives in Topaz and they are all going back to Berkeley together. They plan to go back into gardening work so they won't have much trouble getting started. There seems to be plenty of this type of work available and they have written to their former clients and all of them want to get gardening work done again by nihonjin gardeners. Ken's relatives own their homes there so that housing will not be any problem. I'm just not enthusiastic about going back to California yet because I'd like to stay out here for a while longer instead of getting all unsettled once more. It won't be so easy to get started back there again. I know one friend who went back to Berkeley and he had a very difficult time. He left a basement full of belongings in his house and the tenant broke the lock and helped himself to practically everything. Some of Ken's things were also in that basement and they were lost too. This friend didn't have a complete list of things which he had stored in the basement so that there isn't any proof that the tenants stole these articles. On top of that, the tenant refuses to leave because he can't find other housing and that means that my friend can't call his family out from camp until they leave. I just don't want to go through all that sort of headache again as I've had more than my share since coming out here.

"Family resettlement has been much easier for my own parents. They will be in Cleveland for 2 years next August and they seem to like it pretty well. My dad works in a landscape nursery and he has a small house nearby for our family. My mother works in a hospital down the block and that gives my folks enough of an income to take care of their family. They are really living in a suburb of Cleveland and it's out in the country. Not too many other Nihonjin live

out that way. My family has always lived away from a Japanese community out on the coast so that they don't get too lonesome in their new environment. They meet a lot of Nihonjin whenever they go to church in town. The hakujin people out there have been very friendly to my family and they seem to be quite helpful. My 2 sisters and brother are with my folks. My sisters and brother are the only ~~one~~ Nisei in the high school which they attend. In fact, they are the first Nisei to have ever gone to that high school. When I was out in Cleveland visiting my folks last fall, my sister told me that they got along surprisingly well with the other kids at school and they liked it quite well. They have joined some of the school clubs and they have also made some hakujin friends among their class mates. I think that this sort of thing is good for them because it isn't too good just to know Nisei only. If they don't make Caucasian contacts, they might get too suspicious of them and mistrust all Caucasians like so many of the Nisei are doing.

"My parents are fairly contented with life out there altho they have complaints like everyone else. However, they feel that they do not care to move again because they feel fairly settled now. They have nothing to return to in California so that their future plans are indefinite. Right now they are satisfied enough with life in Cleveland and they might stay there permanently. I think my parents are much more settled than I am because I have been moving from one place to another and I've never been completely satisfied.

"When Ken went into the Army early last April, I had to struggle with finances because the allotment didn't come right away and the bills began to pile up. I decided that I had better go to work since there was no other alternative. The Cook Chocolate Co. on Ogden Ave. had been advertising for workers a great deal in the newspapers so I decided to go down there and apply for a job. After the interview, I

got a job in the candy factory right away. The company doesn't pay too well but it was an income so I took it. I didn't have any other choice. I'm the only Nisei in the plant and that hasn't made any difference at all. They never ask me about my nationality when I went to apply for the job. I was just another housewife who was interested in making an extra income. I work on the night shift from 10:30 in the evening until 7:00 in the morning. My sister looks after the children after I got to work but there really isn't nothing to do except be here as the children are asleep. I would worry too much about them if nobody was around while I was at work.

"The only difficulty is that I never seem to get enough rest. I sleep 3 or 4 hours after I come home from work and then I take a short nap before I leave in the evening. But getting my sleep in a shift like that is not too good and I am always drowsy at work. I put in 48 hours a week and I get paid 50¢ an hour plus over-time. My job is operating a candy molding machine. It's pretty monotonous work as all I do is sit by the machine and watch it to see that it operates smoothly. I just as soon do something which keeps my hands busy as this way I sit there for hours and I have a habit of dozing off.

"The company employs about 30 people on the night shift but a lot of them don't turn up regularly. Most of the workers are older women or service men's wives with children. It really isn't a very promising job because the only way to get an advancement is to get the platform job which adds the vitamins to the chocolate bars, and that work pays about 65¢ an hour. However, I keep working in that place because it isn't very far from here and I save time commuting.

"Everybody at the plant has been nice to me from the moment I stepped into the place. They all went out of their way to explain the work to me and it seems like we are one big family there. None of us are interested in that job as a career so all we do is gossip about

their husband and sons in the service. Then we also talk a lot about household problems and care of children. "We are all so anxious for this war to end so that our husbands can come home and earn a living for us while we devote our full time to raising the children. It's too hard to try and do both of them at one time and it just doesn't mix very well when there are young children to look after. A lot of the ladies there are doing this night job in order to save the money for post-war.

"I don't know what nationality the workers are as they seem to be all mixed up and we don't talk about it much. There are a few Polish women in my section of the shop who are always talking to each other in their own language. The rest of the workers seem to be just average Americans and there is nothing outstanding about them. They have never asked much about my race as they feel that I am one of them since my husband is in the Army. Most of the workers there are not so educated but I don't feel superior to them just because I went to college. I never tell them about that as they might resent it. In their way, they are kind and I appreciate their friendship.

"I plan to continue working at the candy factory for the rest of the summer. After my sister returns to Cleveland, I won't have anyone around to look after the children so I'll have to quit. I have another job prospect already lined up and I could take it any time. The only catch is that I have to rent a typewriter. It's letter service work and I could do it at home. We get paid by piece work and I feel that I could make a little money in that way. The lady who operates the business told me that an average typist could make 40 or 50 cents an hour and it goes up with increased speed.

"I discovered this job possibility by accident one day when I saw the advertisement in the corner store. I went right over to see the lady and she told me I could start any time after I told her my

qualifications. This lady who started this business has only been doing it for about 2 years. She told me that she wanted to keep occupied after her husband went into the service. The business developed unexpectedly so now she has quite a few helpers in the neighborhood and they all do the work at home. If I could rent a decent ~~typewriter~~ typewriter I would like to start on that work as soon as possible because I can type fairly rapidly and I should be able to make more per hour than I am getting at the candy factory. I've been trying to rent one but they are so hard to get.

"I'd rather stay home and work if I can because I would be able to look after my children better. The only reason I am working is to get enough of an income to take care of our needs. I don't plan to make a career of it as I won't be working anymore in a job after Ken comes back from the Army. It is his department to support us and I am more than willing to let him take over once more. When that Army allotment starts to come in regularly, I'll be able to depend upon it for the duration so that things will not be so bad after this. I might even be able to start saving a little money.

"I haven't been able to keep a regular budget at all because our income was so uncertain. One of these days I hope to get a settled budget. I have a rough idea of what I spend each month now. I pay \$52 a month rent and food is around \$50 a month. We have a laundry machine in the building which runs for 20 minutes on a dime so that I can do all of my laundry myself. My cleaning bill is only about \$3 or \$4 a month as most of our things are washable. I haven't been able to spend money on recreation at all since Ken went into the Army but I'll have more means for that after the allotment comes. I take the children out to the park when I can and that only costs carfare. I can't afford any expensive entertainment at the present time. Gradually I'm catching up with all of my doctor bills. I also borrowed

some money from the Red Cross to get along on but I can pay that all back now that my allotment is starting. I'm even hoping that things will become so regular that I can put aside a small savings each month. It certainly was a hectic time that I had ever since last year and I've had to go through so much worry. I bet I lost about 10 pounds altogether this year.

"My chief satisfaction is that my 2 children are developing normally so that I feel that it was really was not a sacrifice at all. My children have grown tremendously in the past year and they are so talkative now. They imitate me in everything I say so that they are rapidly picking up good speech habits. I took quite a few English courses in college so that I try to teach my children correct English. They only know a few words in Japanese now because I rarely use them. When I took the children to Cleveland with me last fall, they picked up a few Japanese words from my parents. I'm not making any special effort to teach them Japanese because I just don't have the time. I don't know very much of the language myself and it's better that they learn good English first. Ken speaks Japanese fluently and he started to teach them a little bit while he was still here, but I have neglected it entirely as I have been too busy trying to make a living for us.

"I don't have the time for a social life but I don't feel unhappy about it. I don't belong to any clubs at all and I'm not anxious to join any. There isn't any that I'm particularly interested in. I don't know too much about resettlers out here because I only have my own circle. I don't go to any church but I plan to send the children to Sunday School after they get a bit older. I won't force them to go like my parents did to me because they might grow up resenting it. Janie is already anxious to go to Sunday School because she has heard other children talk about it. It's a good opportunity

for them to meet new playmates and get used to the Caucasian children.

"I am entirely unaware of the social adjustment of the Nisei out here now. When Ken was here, we used to go the Nisei dances fairly often as that was about the only social affair that we ever attended. It was an opportunity for us to meet a few of our old friends. At that time Ken was interested in the Nisei orchestras so that he wanted these dances to be big successes. The dances out here are remarkably different from the ones I used to attend in California. I guess maybe it's because I'm older now and I think that some of the younger Nisei are too fresh. They certainly aren't reserved like the group I grew up with. I know that those things are not for me anymore so I just don't worry about social affairs at all since I have plenty of other things to do.

"I'm satisfied enough with my home life and I'd rather spend most of my time with my children anyway. I like to take them with me wherever I go so that most of my friends are married couples with children. (Midori belongs to the Toshie-Yuri-Masako circle) I only have about 6 or 8 real good friends out here and that is enough. They come to visit me more than I go to see them because it is harder for me to get around with the children. Once in a while all of us Nisei mothers get together and have a party for the children. I'm not much interested in the activities of the single people anymore.

"One thing that I have neglected to do is make more Caucasian friends. I haven't any special ones that I see regularly altho I know the people I work with fairly well, and I have a good acquaintanceship with the lady next door and with some of the store workers around the district. I'd like to get to know some of them better on a social basis, especially those with my own educational level and common interests but I just don't have the time. Most of Ken's

friends were Nihonjin so I got to know them better. He was more sensitive about Caucasians and he believed that they were more against us than I did. I guess that was because he had to have more business contacts with them and he heard about discrimination in jobs. I never made an issue about it but I did feel that it was a mistake in a way for my husband to develop his plumbing business just among Nihonjin because there were so many other opportunities available. However, he knew best and I didn't want to interfere with his work. The only point that I insisted upon was that we move away from the lower Clark St. area. I'm so glad that we got away from that dirty district where so many of the Nihonjins live. I think it's too unsanitary to live in a district like that. The only time I ever go down there now is to buy some Japanese food. I really can't afford it because the prices are too high but I get a craving for it every once in a while.

"One thing that I have noticed is that it never seems to work out so well when there is too great a concentration of Nihonjin in any one district. I'd rather live apart from them and that's not because I feel any different or that I feel I'm better than they are. I just feel that the housing chances are better if we spread out and there is better opportunity for us to get better understood. It's much better for the children not to live in a concentrated district where the living conditions are so poor. It's too bad that this building is getting filled completely with Nihonjin but I have no objections because I know the hard struggle that most of them go through in order to find a place. I think I would object if the building next door started to get filled with them because that would form a nucleus for a community and it would grow and grow.

"Life for me right now is just living. I haven't given too much thought about the future because it is rather indefinite. My husband will have to get started all over again after he gets out of the Army

because he never did get established out here. But I know that life will never again be like what it was before the war. I don't know how much longer the war with Japan will go on. I wouldn't be surprised if they fought to the last man like they say they are going to do. If Japan does that, it really will be a long war. I've heard that the Army is sending almost all of the Nisei inductees to Snelling now in order to train them for occupation. That's why so many of the Nisei don't feel like going into the Intelligence School now as it will mean that they will have to serve for 3 or 4 years extra after the fighting is finished and many of them feel that it will not be so safe for them to be among the Japanese while they are representing the American army because many of the people in Japan will feel that the Nisei have betrayed their blood. Most nisei feel that the fighting is a duty which they have to do but they don't want to add any extra difficulty on to it. Some of those Nisei are going to engage in foreign trade after the war and they will have business dealings with Japan. There might be some hotheads who will always be looking for Nisei who fought against them and they might try to stab them or something. I've heard that quite a few Nisei are fighting in the Pacific now and there will be more and more sent there.

"Looking back on my life since the outbreak of the war, I think that most of us young people have gained by the evacuation despite any hardships that we might have gone through in the centers. We have been given the opportunity to see a lot of this country and we never would have gotten that chance before. And yet we did give up a lot as we were living more comfortably before the war and we didn't have to worry about housing. Life was much more settled before and the chief problems were more of the family nature. I realize that there were many Nisei who had difficult job problems before the war

~~taxjshx~~ and they are the ones who have gained the most because many of them are making very good salaries now.

"But when it is all said and done, I feel that it's not use looking back with regrets because it's water under the bridge and we have the rest of our lives to look forward to. My chief ambition now is to get my family life settled. I'm just getting used to doing everything by myself and I'd like to save up some sort of reserve fund so that I won't have so many worries in case that an emergency did develop. Other than that, I am still maintaining my general ambition to bring up my children in the best way possible so that they can be a credit to my husband and I. Now if the war would only end, we could really start to get settled and we would end this uncertain way of living month after month."