

Visitors

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During the month of June, 5,782 visitors entered the center. Among them were many well known professors from U.C, Stanford, Mills, S. F. State. ~~Among them were~~

With the exception of about 35 per day, all of the visitors came to see center residents. The others ~~were~~

were WCCA, WRA, APublic Health, and Student Relocation officials who came for official business with the administration.

Since ~~the~~ House managers ~~will~~ have takeⁿ the responsibility for safe delivery of packages left at the gate

June 14 was the banner day with 471 visitors.

To date, these talks have dealt with: officiating athletic games, //

File

TESTIMONIAL BY KATAYANAGI

July 20, 1942
3:00 p.m.

The whole thing started when an emergency call came in. I didn't know what kind of emergency it was. I was told to go after a doctor. This was about 5 p.m. There was no attending physician because they were out to dinner. I pulled out of there in a sedan and there was some people in front of me. I honked the horn and the patrolman flagged me, so I stopped. He asked me where I was going. I told him there was an emergency and I was going after a doctor. He said that you don't have to kill two people to save the life of one. I asked him, "Do you want to drive?" He said to come into the office. I told him that I didn't have time to argue and went off after the doctor. When I came back later he said that they wanted me at the front office and to go up there when I had time. I talked to Sergeant Tremmel and he says, "Well, the patrolman phoned in and said that you were speeding and you didn't come back with a doctor and wanted to know if you were going on a joy ride or not? The patrolman was under the influence that I came back without a doctor. I came back later with Dr. Mas Hara. He said, "Just take it easy because we're clamping down. Next time we'll take you off the job." What burned me up was this Jones fellow phoned in and said that I didn't come back with the doctor. I went back to the hospital and asked him why he said I didn't come back with a doctor. Jones said that he didn't say any such thing. Anyway, I said that he was supposed to be patrolling the area. He was sitting down there on the bench outside the corporation yard with another patrolman and couldn't see around the corner. I asked him what he was doing sitting on his tail. He was supposed to be watching the area. If there was anything happening he was going to be too late to prevent an accident. He said that he could see from where he was sitting and it was none of my business. We (Charlie Weda and I) started to walk away and he made a crack about some taxi cab service. We asked him if he could name the time and place, they couldn't answer.

Tak K: Thursday night one of the internal police came up and said that they wanted us to come down and talk to them. I stayed at the hospital. Tak and Charlie went Thursday night. Mr. Davies was down there. He wanted to know why and what Kenn said to the patrolman because Jones quit. We told him what he said. Mr. Davies said that the reason why Jones quit was that he said he had no authority or anything. Jones said that he said something we didn't say. We asked Sergeant Tremmel again if he told him that Kenn came back without the doctor. We asked him that again and he said yes. We asked Jones and he said that he didn't say anything like that. We were burned up because they tried to give us the run around. Sergeant Tremmel said "Jones quit so he isn't around. Come back in the morning when Davies is here because I will call in Jones too."

Kenn: That morning my brother was in San Mateo but Charlie and I was there. Jones was supposed to be there but he didn't show up at all. Just Davies, secretary, Mr. Want, and Mr. Cunningham were there. Friday morning he sent for the three of us, Charlie, my brother and myself. We went to see him and Davies wanted to see me first. He started to question me about the whole thing. "Speeding is no matter. I want to know why the patrolman quit his job. I'm a

square shooter and want to hear both side of the question, because that is what I always do," said Mr. Davies. He asked me a lot of questions, age, how many in the family and things like that. He kept coming back with the issue of why the patrolman quit his job. We got to talking it over and he said, "Do you think you think you have any right to question his authority?" I said that I'm going to quit this job because there is a bunch of graft and corruption going on here. Just right then and there he told the secretary to take a letter to Mr. Davis. He said that this boy says that there was a bunch of graft and corruption and recommended him to send the boy to another assembly center. He got sarcastic.

Charlie Wada: He didn't even give the kid a break. He is going to send him out. That isn't fair because he's only 18 years old and his mother is sick in the hospital. He doesn't care. He's going to send him right out. That's how the petition started. The same day after he finished with me, he asked me a lot of questions.

Ken: My brother came in and he talked about it. After that he told me that we were going to see Mr. Davis. We went to see Mr. Davis and Davis sits down and told me to have a seat. Davies reads off this report which was a bunch of lies and misquotes. I kept quiet because there was no use in arguing. If I say anything he jumps on me. Just Mr. Davis, Mr. Davies and myself were there. Just the three of us. He read that report. Mr. Davis looks at me and I looked at Mr. Davis. He said that he wanted to get this thing straight. "I am the manager here. I want to know if I am responsible for all this graft?" Mr. Davies said, "Is it in my department or is it me?" I said that I am not saying. He asked me if I wanted to say anything. I told him that I wanted to talk to an army official. He said that he'll try to get Colonel Durbin and said that I was going 20 miles an hour. I admitted that. He said that the speed limit around here is 15 miles an hour and as far as you are concerned turn in your badge. The next morning I got this work order and it says, insolence, insubordinating and derogatory remarks toward the administration. This was on Saturday morning.

Mr. Ogawa: Since then you haven't had any conversation with the staff or the internal police?

Kenn: No. I started in this morning in the hospital as an orderly. I was going to school there two weeks previously before this thing started. I was going to get a transfer regardless of the incident.

Mr. Ogawa: The point is that on Saturday you said that you received all your past work orders and it says that you can't have a job?

Minamoto: The reason why I said that was I was advised that this individual that we requested for work was on the black list on all occupational jobs in this camp. I do not know if this is the decision or not, but this is what I have been told. We won't know until the 22nd if the requisition is recognized. He was on the same requisition as the four nurses.

Kenn: I got my check for May 21 to June 21.

- Minamoto: When he gets a transfer to relocation center, that will go on his file as reference. Instead of sending the work order in, they placed the occupational card in its place. It says on it why the individual was suspended from such jobs. A staff of about 150 some odd signed this petition. There will be a repetition of this petition if something isn't done about this individual. I don't think it's justified for one man's opinion to jeopardize one man's career in the relocation centers. If he is suspended for unjustified reasons, in the future, he will still be down in the government records for suspension. This petition states specifically that the undersigned individuals want a hearing and understanding on this case. They don't want the boy railroaded out without knowing the reason why. If necessary, they will have someone who is authorized and have jurisdiction to take the hearing. Just that the individuals want justice done in this particular incident.
- M
- Ogawa: They have gone on record saying that the boy has made a remark detrimental to the institution. According to the petition the people that have signed the petition feel that you have been taken out of your job without any trial or any fair hearing. They don't know of your remark to the administration.
- Tak K: When we were talking to the Sergeant, he said that in the emergency, this speed was all right; but this was to be only in an emergency. Someone phoned up the hospital the other night. He said, "Bring the ambulance quick and just gave us the apartment and barrack number. We didn't know how what happened. It turned out that the girl had been hit in the nose and had a bloody nose. They say that 15 or 20 miles an hour wouldn't make much difference, but the doctors say that in an emergency, it would make a difference.
- Minamoto: Has a fire engine have authority to use a siren? If so, I don't see the distinction made between an emergency of fire and our emergency. In both case it involves life whether it be fire or an individual.
- Kenn: The fire chief said that we were not to use sirens. When I used the horn, I was called down on it as I mentioned before.
- Mr. Ogawa: We could only appeal to Mr. White to get an extension if orders come for him to move. The best thing to do is to see Mr. White.
- Kenn: I haven't any witnesses or anything but they had a secretary, Mr. Cunningham, and the assistant chief of police as witnesses.
- Tak K: I asked them if everybody doesn't have a right to their own opinion, and he stalled me off.
- Mr. Ogawa: Do the medical staff know the whole story?
- Minamoto: They got a general idea of the whole thing. Dr. Togasaki knows the whole story. Dr. Wild knows about it. It will be up to Dr. Wild's decision as to when his mother can be moved. That will be about two weeks at the least. I am positive that you can get an extension.

Complaints to the Red Cross

July 22, 1942

1. The horse stables are no good in the following points:
 - A. Ventilation is very bad.
 - B. In windy day lots of dust comes out to fill the room which ~~may~~ may cause disease.
2. They had no desk no shelf to put things on and nothing to sit on so that they had to make things ~~to stay~~ with the pieces of lumber which were thrown away after the carpenter made something. They were not allowed to carry in pig tools when they moved in this Ass. Center but still they are losing small tools just like curving saw under the name contrabands.
3. Japanese letters are prohibited ~~to use~~ on the signs even those ^{that} are for ^{the} churches signs, even though there are many people who do not understand English very good. Although the Japanese letters are used for ^{a better} understanding to those people. It is not ~~only~~ harmless but good for themselves and also good for this country.

M. Kakimoto

Council man

7/17/42

TO THE HEADS OF ALL DEPARTMENTS:

Please announce to all of your workers that a presentation of "The Horse's Stall and That Ain't All", a Tanforan Extravaganza Revue, will be made to all workers in Tanforan at the main social hall or the visitors' reception hall in the main building on Friday July 17th on two shifts starting at 7 P.M.

The following workers will be admitted at 7 P.M.

A. Service

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Recreation | 6. Totalizer |
| 2. Hospital | 7. Messengers |
| 3. Education | 8. Guides |
| 4. Canteen | 9. Miscellaneous |
| 5. Post Office | |

B. Work and Maintenance

C. WCCA Index Workers

D. Finance

E. Supply

F. Firemen

The following at 8:30 P.M.

G. Housing and Mess

1. House Managers, House Captains, and Janitors.
2. Mess Hall Workers
3. Diet Kitchen
4. Commissary
5. Administration
6. Councilmen

Please bring your own newspapers or cushions to sit on the floor; no chairs will be allowed.

All workers must present their work orders at the gate to be given admittance.

H. L. Thompson

LETTER

Henry Tani
Tanforan

July 15, 1942

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Young:

This is a fine time for me to acknowledge the visit of Mrs. Young fully one month ago. And I know I should have written you before.

Please be assured that we are doing very nicely under the circumstances, and though life on the "outside" should be desired, I doubt whether any of us here would prefer it now that we have tasted the luxury of living "off the government" for two months or more.

It is true, now that we think of it, that our first week of adjustment was the hardest. On every hand was cause for complaint. Crowded into cramped quarters, lining up for meals, the perennial dust and dirt, the lack of privacy, and the inconvenience of going some distance to the wash-rooms, laundry rooms, etc., -- there are terrific shocks to which we have now become quite accustomed, and with much physical improvements in the grounds, we really have little grounds for criticisms.

After all, it must have been a distasteful job for the one in charge to make plans for us in this evacuation center. Only because it was of "military necessity" would we accede so willingly to leave the comforts and security of our homes and businesses. And so we laugh "up our sleeve" when Governor Olson, after lambasting us around and calling us names so that all Japanese in the whole state of California are evacuated, now praises us for being loyal so that we could be released for farm work. Given the chance, I doubt whether any of us would "volunteer" for the farm work that he wants us to do. This may be "unpatriotic" but much rather would we hurry to our relocation areas and there develop agricultural areas, and produce so much surplus foods that we would embarrass the California farm cliques in a few years.

However, I would like to give you a few thoughts of mine that have been in the process of formulation these past weeks. Suffice it to say for the moment that life in an Assembly Center is very pleasant. So pleasant, in fact, that this past week, we not only got paid for work done prior to May 21st (my rate is \$16.00 per month -- the highest rating -- as manager of a mess hall at that time), but received \$10.00 worth of scrip to be honored at the camp center store (canteen) for the months of June and July. On top of this, I have \$28.48 credit for clothing for which we could file applications. And of course the quality and quantity of food has been improved to a point such that many of us are eating far superior and more food than we did at home.

Much of our legitimate complaints are aimed at the red tape necessary to obtain even the basic supplies. In the educational system in which I am now directing the high school, we find that even after five weeks of classes, we are barely receiving a trickle of our requisitioned supplies. But our classes proceed regularly, and we find excellent cooperation and willingness on the part of the students to apply themselves diligently to class work under the handicaps in which they operate.

LETTER

Henry Tani
Tanforan

July 15, 1942

At this stage of the game, I am uncertain as to what attitude to take. We know definitely that we at Tanforan will soon be sent to a relocation center. Where that center is, we do not know. We have little idea as to when we will be sent. It will probably be in August. It may be in September. Surely, it must be in the fall, since we must get set for the winter and be prepared for crops next spring. This being the problem, as far as our education goes, I hate to spend much money and put other people to any effort if we will be able to use the supplies and books for a month at most. This, therefore, makes me go easy in requests, and we limp along in our makeshift way. After all, 700 students, and 19 teachers, and 50 classes on a five-day week every morning is nothing to sniffle at.

Now this matter of when and where we get relocated is the subject uppermost in all of our minds. It makes much difference when we go for we know that the longer we are held here, the more difficult it will be to get supplies and equipment with which to get relocated -- what with priorities and shortages. And the matter of where -- well, at first we held out for Tulalake in Modoc County, on the California-Oregon state line, but that place is practically filled. The thought of Arizona just about melts me. Confidentially, though, they tell me that Arizona will be the future "spot" for the Nisei. Arkansas (southeast corner) (right above Louisiana) is too far for our imagination. And so, personally, for myself anyway, I am listing my preference (though I don't think preferences will mean much) in this order: Colorado, Utah, Arizona.

Of the objective problems which I always like to discuss is the question of Americanization. Being concentrated in a Japanese area has its disadvantages in that this makes for dis-Americanization for lack of contact. When the time comes for "release," we will be very self-conscious. This "assimilation" after the war will be quite some problem. We glory in the fact that this relocation will disperse the Japanese from the Pacific Coast, but the dispersion is only of groups, and not of individuals. True assimilation makes for the dispersion of individuals.

And the next cause for concern is our economic welfare. By the process of co-operative endeavor, each relocation area will be self-sufficient in a few years. I give from five to ten years "residence" in the relocation area -- the time including a few years after the termination of the war so that we could still stay there while the "outside" communities could get readjusted to post-war conditions.

This economic status is going to make or break the future of the Japanese in America. Five or ten years from now, the Nisei's will have matured; they will not have saved much, for their income is restricted; they will be healthy; they will be educated; they should be Americanized, but I doubt it; they should have preparations for returning to civilian life in more ways than merely being released. Our assumption is always based on a democratic victory. The "democratic victory" assumes further that our civil rights will be fully protected, and any attempts as has been and is being made by the Native Sons in San Francisco will be promptly squelched by the proper authorities.

LETTER

Henry Tani
Tanforan

July 15, 1942

Further assuming that these relocation centers will be based largely on agricultural lines, the development of the virgin lands, and the subsequent cultivation of these lands, together with the accompanying increase in produce should give to the Japanese therein some more positive returns than merely "their contribution to the national wealth." I say this now, because we have the funny feeling that the present plan of the War Relocation Authority is to remove us from the relocated areas at the termination of the war. This may seem contrary to our supposed normal wishes, but some of us may have no place to return to, and on second thought, they might conclude that life at the relocation center or in that vicinity is OK after all.

My suggestion, if I am ever asked, is that these Japanese people who improve such land, be given an option, either as individuals or in groups, to buy that land, or a portion thereof. I suppose this is what "homesteading" means. If this is possible, then the morale and the spirit of the people who develop these so-called wild uncultivated lands will be willing to undergo the hardship which they must of necessity face.

This again is contrary to the "dissemination" of the people, or the "Americanization" of the Japanese, but further reasoning develops these thoughts: that after the war, there will be people among the Caucasians who will be unemployed, either as a result of the shutdown of the defense industries, or returning from the armed forces. Is it not within reason to imagine that the War Relocation Authority might invite these people to come to these areas, and help develop the lands which the Japanese people will first cultivate. This, then, will be Americanization and dissemination of the first order.

Here at Tanforan I realized more fully what all my "contacts" in my earlier days had meant. My two main jobs here was in the opening of one of the mess halls, and managing it; the other was the organization and directing of this high school. In both instances my former knowledge of individuals in related lines helped me get organized faster and efficiently. This leads me to conclude that my asset was in knowing the right individuals -- this is what we refer to as "politics" around here, but it pays.

This is getting to be quite a complicated "report." You'll have recognized, of course, that our thoughts will change with the circumstances. Though many of us are frankly criticized for being "on-the-fence" people, or "opportunists," sticking to that side which wins, I personally feel that only an allied victory can give to mankind the peace and prosperity of which the world is capable. But I only hope that we will be treated in such a way that our faith in democracy and in our government will never falter.

I could excuse a little race-baiting on the part of the general American public at this time. The prejudice against will increase cumulatively and progressively as the war stretches on, month by month. The propaganda will help in this. This will be only natural and though it is regretted, we can only hope that at the end of the war, the American public will be willing to be broad-minded to the point that they will accept us Nisei's on an equal footing.

LETTER

4.

Henry Tani
Tanforan

July 15, 1942

Any and every inference to us as "enemies" or "hostages," or "internees," only boils us up and tends to break down the faith that we have in the American government. So does any inference that we are "prisoners of war." This trend of thought as expressed in the press sometimes encourages that little minority group in here to disprove the efforts of the federal government to be as humane in their treatment of us. But I again concede to the fact that this trend will increase. I suppose we'll have to credit this to the "war effort," in getting the public incensed to the Japanese people at large.

This is plenty for a delayed visit. Please excuse the careless mistakes in this typed letter. Our high school student body had just been voting -- they elected their officers in a highly contested competition between two "machines" -- the presidency was won by nine votes. This is democracy in action -- an all-Nisei high school student body.

My best regards to both of you, and also from my wife. My kid, Dickie, is doing very nicely, hitting the beam at 14 pounds plus, now aged at 3 months plus.

Tanforan (Recorded by Ben Iijime)

Text of address given by Mr. Suzuki, formerly of the Kumori Gakuen in San Francisco, at the Young People's Fellowship--combined high school and college groups--Sunday evening August 9, 1942.

I went to Sacramento on Dec. 6th and spoke before a group in which I said there would not be a war between the United States and Japan; the next day the shock of my life came as I drove in my car, and learned at 12 o'clock noon that war had come, that all that I had said the evening before was entirely reversed. Before long the F.B.I. agents appeared and told me to come along, I went and as I crossed the Bay Bridge for the departure on train from Oakland, I felt a lump gather in my throat when I thought this would be the last time perhaps I would see the bay. And my children, I had left them without seeing them as they had gone to school. Out of the crowd that gathered to see me leave, one man volunteered to be guardian over them. How I felt gratified in the kindness of the person.

The trip, I don't recall very well, for up through Oregon, Washington, Idaho we travelled with the blinds down. Finally, we emerged one day upon a bowl 6 miles in diameter and surrounded by the rockies, still capped with snow. The region was 4500 feet above sea level and in the distance, a majestic mountain rose to 85,000 feet. The camps, there was a brick building housing the administration; and several barracks like these (gesturing towards the windows) where we were billeted. Some 1,000 Italians, who attempted to sabotage their vessel, were interned in one of the three camps. Most of the camps were mangy, excepting ours, which because of its orderliness and immaculate maintenance was the visiting place of such dignitaries as Senator Burton K. Wheeler, and Ass. Attorney General Scotfield. The other barracks were characterized by motley of blankets; of unevenly nailed shelves. The food there was sparse. Where you folks complain of beans here at the early days; there at Missoula, our grievances were registered ~~in~~ in behalf of the bone which adorned our plate. And the salad; there was no fancy dish it was lettuce--without dressing, flavoring--just lettuce alone. At the camp there

Ben Iijime

I lost 25 lbs. during my 7 months stay. And it was hot--sometimes 110°, which would cool quickly in the evenings as the wind from the rocky mountains swept in. The immediate constructive measures were the establishment of self-government, education department--stressing Americanization courses, and a welfare division. I realize the fair play of those liberal persons when I asked the principal of a school in the town for books upon American history. During the first few days I lectured upon this without any books, and for a 1 hour lecture the preparation involved 4 hours of research. I received 200 books, and readers from Dr. Fee who later assisted me in finding the person who delivered the speech before Lincoln on the day he gave his famous Gettysberg address--Nov. 19, 1863. We had to write English because one letter sent in Japanese took 45 days before it had passed the rigorous censorship.

How I got out of the intern camp, what went on at the hearing boards, I am sure would interest those of you whose fathers probably went through the same process. Well, they called me up, and when I appeared the attorney, the G.-men, all introduced themselves. Then they asked what I would do if S.F. were bombed, who I wanted have win the war, I asked for an interpreter because, what I was going to say would be very important. I told them, after the oath to tell the truth that I taught the kindergarden class at Kumori ~~Gauken~~ Gauken, that there the children who would be jeopardizing their lives on the streets played on the school grounds--there was a basketball court too (laughter)--and also I taught language school. Anderson, who 7 years ago wrote a very enlightening series of articles on Japan, was a pupil of mine who mastered a 12 year course, in two years. So accomplished was he, he could translate either language into the other. The attorney inquired if he (Suzuki) could instruct the attorney to acquire such proficiency in a like period, to which he answered, "It all depends upon your I.Q. and if you will permit it, as a psychologist, I can tell you to the dime. Then everyone began to laugh, they asked if I had any request--no--so I returned. Then after I went back, I was

Ben Iijime

returning for dinner when I saw a guard beside a car who told me the hearing board wanted to see me again. This time they asked me if I knew a person by name and if I had accompanied him on a car. I said no I hadn't. They asked me if I had phoned. The answer was no also. By my eyes, my countenance they could tell if I were lying or not. That was all, but recalling their inquiry as to any request, I told them if they would write my children explaining them why I had been arrested. I felt shamed, it tormented my heart to think that my children had written to me asking "why". How could they feel to have their dad in prison. Every had his head bowed down; no one answered; and suddenly with anguish I broke down and a burst of tears came forth. "Thank you very much I said and meekly left.

Why were we taken, that is a question raised by all men there, but to that there is no reply; only that the government cannot say.

And in this way, I was freed to go. After 7 months there when we saw men wearing the clothes in which they had been caught--a gentleman with a silk hat, and evening clothes; after 7 months of hobby shows--contesting which person could get the darkest tan--myself and a Seattle man were finalist--7 months of polishing rocks--the bowl had formerly been a lake and rocks came forth as we dug, some polished in churches, at lectures while snoring beneath a tree shade--

Since young folks like things that are short, I shall conclude there this evening. On the next occasion of my speech, I shall address you upon the Japanese-American mind from the psychologist's viewpoint--regarding its

The benediction was delivered by a high school instructor in Public Speaking.