

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION
CONFIDENTIAL

In order to understand fully the reaction of the Japanese to signing the enlistment form for the War Relocation Work Corps, it should be borne in mind that uppermost in their thoughts--as with all of us--is the desire for security for themselves and their families.

They have been taken from their homes and farms, placed in assembly centers, told that some day they soon will move on to relocation centers--so far with nothing to say themselves as to where they are to go and just what they are to do.

A few have accepted their fate, docilely and unimaginatively; a few recognize the factor of military necessity and are willing to do what the government desires them to do and make the most of it; some proceed with mental reservations as to the wisdom or need of the evacuation program but are aware of the futility of resisting it; others have not yet come to the realization they are under restraint for the duration of the war and believe there exists the probability they will be released to go where they choose in unrestricted areas, a hope born out of their own desires; all are wondering what is going to happen to them today, tomorrow and after the war. There are some who are inwardly belligerent. But in the minds of all are confusion, suspicion, skepticism, bewilderment and fear.

So, when they were confronted with the enlistment in the War Relocation Work Corps, all of these emotions, hitherto held in suspension, were precipitated into a solid substance. These emotions ran the gamut from forthright defiance to several instances

in which the Japanese seemed suddenly to come to the realization for the first time they are "in" for the duration. On the latter there actually were shed some tears, incredible as it may seem that such hopes should have existed at this comparatively late stage in the evacuation process.

Up to the time the enlistment form was presented to them, all phases of the evacuation program had been compulsory. They had nothing to say about it. But here was something that was voluntary. They need not sign unless they wanted to after understanding all of its clauses, and no discriminatory treatment would be imposed against them if they did not sign. Thus, I think, it unlocked the thoughts of the Japanese for the first time. Certainly it seemed to cast some doubt upon their unqualified, unquestioning willingness to accept any condition just so long as it was imposed by the United States Government.

The Portland Assembly Center, in this respect, may not provide a typical cross section of all Japanese. The Portland center is peopled principally by Japanese from urban districts. They are shopkeepers, professional persons, produce dealers and the like, with a small proportion of agricultural workers. A large number of them are graduates of the University of Oregon and Oregon State College, which have produced several outstanding Japanese scholars and diplomats.

Therefore, in general, the questions raised in regard to the enlistment form were, for the most part, pertinent and realistic, and pointed at personal and family security. Listed in the order of the conditions in the enlistment form, some of them are as follows:

One--I shall be entitled to receive as compensation such wages, allowances and other benefits as may be due, under the regulations of the War Relocation Authority, to the classification which may from time to time be assigned me, and I shall not be entitled to any payments or allowances upon discharge from the War Relocation Work Corps other than those which stand to my personal account on such date.

How much am I going to receive and what other benefits might I be able to obtain? How do I know what classification is going to be given to me? Will I have any choice? Will I have any assurance once a position is assigned to me that I will be able to keep it, or would I be a pharmacist one week and a farm hand the next? Joining the work corps may be voluntary, but if I signed would I have the privilege of refusing a particular job assigned me?

In other words, the complaints added up to the contention the clause is vague in regard to wages, and offers no choice or assurance of stability of type of employment in the relocation centers.

Two--I may be transferred from one relocation center to another as determined by the Authority from time to time.

Need this be based upon necessity or could it be promiscuous at the whim of the camp director? I recognize the possible need of a redistribution of crafts, skills and professions among the relocation centers, but what guarantee have I of any stability of residence in one relocation center and among my friends? What is the guarantee my family always will be moved with me? Assuming several members of the family were registered in the work corps, could one be moved arbitrarily without the others also being moved?

Three--Medical and hospital services will be provided me, but any injury received or disease contracted by me while a member

of the War Relocation Work Corps cannot be made the basis of any claim against the United States.

What provisions are going to be made for compensation insurance if I am permanently disabled or killed in an occupational accident? If I should be killed or disabled, what provision will be made for members of my family who are not self-supporting while they are in the relocation centers and after the war? What provision will there be for any kind of insurance, because if I am paid only from \$8 to \$16 a month, I can't afford to keep up my policies on the outside?

Four--I shall be subject to such special assessments for educational, medical, recreational, protective and other public or community services and facilities as may be provided for in the regulations of the War Relocation Authority or the rules governing operation of the relocation center in which I shall reside.

How much are these assessments going to be? What are the regulations? Might not the assessments be so great as to absorb all my earnings? Why should there be assessments for medical facilities if medical care is guaranteed to me without cost?

Five--I may be granted furloughs for work in agricultural, industrial or other private employment, and while I am on such furloughs I shall pay for the support of any of my dependents who may reside at a relocation authority of the center?

How much will the cost of this support be? If I take private employment and find that conditions of work are not satisfactory, can I quit at any time? What about workmen's compensation in outside employment? Can arrangements be made for one person to obtain a furlough for such occupations as housework or nursemaid? You say

families are not to be separated. What if several members of one family are members of the work corps and one, not necessarily the head of the family, obtains outside employment--could the entire family be taken out on the job?

Six--No questions.

Seven--Any infractions of a rule or regulation of the War Relocation Authority and any act or utterance disloyal to the United States will render me liable to trial and suitable punishment.

What punishment? Trial by whom? The Japanese governing body or the War Relocation Authority? Who determines the punishment?

The overall objection raised was that a person signing with the work corps assumes certain obligations and responsibilities which he would not have did he not sign the enlistment form. You say a person who does not sign up will not be discriminated against. Why, then, sign up? What have I to gain? What happens to the person who does not sign?

Should, by any chance, a similar attempt be made to enlist the evacuees in a work corps, I believe it would be essential to offer some inducements. These might be that persons joining the corps would have some choice of the relocation center to which he is sent, all other factors being equal; that members of the corps have some choice, so far as possible, of the type of work to which they would be assigned.

The Japanese have signified their willingness to work

but they also showed a keen desire to do the type of work they want to do, especially the professional and scientific personnel. Very likely this is how it would work out in practical operation, but they just want some definite assurance it would be that way within the bounds of reason.

OCCUPATIONAL TITLES BY WAGE CLASSIFICATION APPROVED FOR
USE IN ASSIGNING EVACUEES TO PERFORM WORK IN WCCA
RECEPTION AND ASSEMBLY CENTERS

ESTABLISHED OCCUPATIONS FOR UNSKILLED CLASS (U) - \$ 8.00 PER MONTH

Attendant (Health Service)	Junior Typist
Book Cleaner	Laboratory Helper
Canner	Laborer
Charwoman	Laundry Worker
Cloth Cutter (Hand)	Maid
Driver	Messenger
Fireman	Nursery Helper
Form Setter	Nursery School Attendant
Gardener	Recreation Attendant
Garment Presser (Hand Iron)	School Attendant
Helper, Construction (Various)	Seamstress
Housekeeping Aide	Watchman
Janitor	Woodcutter
Junior Clerk	

ESTABLISHED OCCUPATIONS FOR SKILLED CLASS (S) - \$12.00 PER MONTH

Accounting clerk	Electrician
Acetylene Cutter	Engineering Recorder
Assembler	Equipment Inspector
Assistant Teacher (Adult Education)	Foreman, Grade B
Assistant Teacher (Nursery Education)	Garment Inspector
Automotive Mechanic	Garment Presser (Machine)
Baker	Glazier
Barber	Graduate nurse
Beautician	Instrument Man
Blacksmith	Junior Accountant
Bricklayer	Laboratory Assistant
Bulldozer operator	Machinist
Butcher	Library Assistant
Cabinet Maker	Mechanic
Carpenter	Motion Picture Operator
Cement Finisher	Music Copyist
Cement Gun Operator	Music Teacher
Clerk (Supervising)	Musician
Cloth Cutter	Painter
Cloth Marker	Paper Hanger
Community Leader	Pattern Maker (Garment)
Concrete Finishing Machine Operator	Plasterer
Cook	Recreation Leader
Cost and Material Clerk	Reporter
Designer (Garment)	Research Assistant
Draftsman	Rodman-Chairman
	Material Inspector
Roofer	Stock Clerk
Saw Filer	Store keeper
Senior Clerk	Telephone operator
Senior Typist	Teletype operator
Sewing-machine Repairman	Timekeeper
Shoe Repairer	Tool Repairman
Sign writer	Tree surgeon

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SKILLED WORKERS
Sign Writ (continued)

Stenographer
Steward

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION
Truck Driver
Welder

ESTABLISHED OCCUPATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL CLASS (P) -

\$16.00 PER MONTH

Accountant
Architect
Artist
Chief of Party
Councilman
Dentist
Draftsman (Supervising)
Editor

Engineer
Foreman, Grade A
House Manager
Librarian
Music Arranger

Music Director
Nutritionist
Pharmacist
Physician
Registered Nurse
Secretary
Senior Music Teacher
Senior Recreation Leader or
Recreation Director
Senior Timekeeper
Teacher (Adult Education)
Teacher (Nursery School Education)
Translator
Writer

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LETTERS FROM RECEPTION CENTER to Service groups

May 13, 1942

From a post card from Manzanar, California dated April 3, 1942:
"We arrived safely and in good condition. The weather is fine although quite warm. The scenery is nice because we are in the valley. We travelled in pullman and had a nice trip. The soldiers were very nice to us and we are sorry that they were not able to stay here to guard us. In fact everybody was nice to us, both in Bainbridge and on the trip".

A letter from Manzanar, April 17, 1942, signed by four of the Bainbridge Islanders:

"On behalf of the evacuees from Bainbridge Island, we wish to express our appreciation for your friendship. Your support and encouragement and efforts to help us meant much to us. The trip to the Reception Center was thoroughly enjoyable - the Army being most considerate. The Center itself was quite a shock, everything being in a make-shift stage. We lack many conveniences and there are no recreational or educational facilities. The climate, of course, is quite different here, hot during the day and cold at night, with terrible wind storms that drive the dust and sand into everything and especially in through the cracks in the floors. We are all cooperating to the best of our ability here and will endeavor as in the past to make the best of our situation. Many of us are employed now, this in spite of the fact that a few hundred Islanders represent a very small minority in a group of thousands of Californians who virtually run the camp. Again we thank you for your continued efforts to help us despite odds. We shall endeavor to maintain a wholesome attitude toward our situation and shall not fail your friendship or confidence."

From a 20 yr. old girl, of a family of four, April 9, 1942:

"Thanks a lot for the letter you wrote to me. It was the first one I received after I reached Owens Valley and it certainly was grand to hear from someone from my home state. I'm awfully homesick for Bainbridge Island and the fir trees and the beautiful sound. I hope we get some kind of work to do soon. I'm getting to be a spoiled girl now. Will you please thank Fumiko Takano for coming over. I'd like to thank you also. It's grand to know that I have friends like both of you."

NOTE: Ten days later found this girl working in a camp library, seemingly interested and relatively happy.

From a post card of April 3 and a co-writer of April 7:

"Thanks very much for your very kind visit. I was very glad to see you and you can be sure that I will never forget the trouble you must have gone thru to come here. It's friends like you who make living in camp bearable. After all, if we thought that we had no friends left you can be sure that many of us would find it hard to keep going. You have said many times that you were sorry that you could not have collected more materials for us but let me assure you that even

a man with a million dollars could not have done more for us. What you did for us can never be measured by any other standards than by something that I can not seem to put in words. Life for us is gradually becoming more stable and now that we are used to things here we are finding life here not too unbearable, although it could be a lot better. Of course, we all realize the momentous task facing the government and we think they are doing a very good job considering the conditions. As you must have realized, the Caucasians in charge are very capable and nice to us. We had another group come in not long ago. There were 3,600 in that group so now our population will about 10,000 counting the 1,000 expected tomorrow and Saturday. As I am one of the foremen in the Lodging Department we were quite busy during and after induction. In fact, we were busy with the last group until now. Our department handles everything in the lodging end of this camp from locating the people in rooms to issuing of brooms, mops, etc. and even soap.

From a young family at the International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Oregon:

"We had trouble taking care of Hira (age 3 months) in the confusion after getting here. It's a little better adjusted now. The rest of us are holding together after a fashion".

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May 11, 1942

From Puyallup Assembly Center, Washington

DearRRB

You can't imagine how appreciative those thirty or forty evacuees were who so far have benefitted from your generous contributions, and especially, from your good will. Already my parents show encouraging signs of a new faith in what I'd like to call a Brotherhood of Mankind, a change from a feeling of resentment against what they believed to be a persecution on the yellow man by the whites to the rather childish joy at discovering that some, at least, of these "arrogant whites" are not limited inside a particular color line in their compassion towards the needs and sufferings of human beings.

Last night we had a very enthusiastic group of almost twenty niseis (about 2/3 of them were girls) and one issei lady to listen to the symphonic records. We had someone announce at the young people's worship in the afternoon that there would be a program of recorded symphonic music in Mess Hall No. 2 at 7:00 p.m. By 6:30 Mess Hall No. 2 had a jam session going on at one end and most of the tables occupied by card players. And all the other mess halls were locked up. Apparently the cooks have begun the practice of keeping people out of their mess halls in the evenings unless a particular group like ours or the chorus (which is to have its first session tonight) or the folk dance group puts in a reservation. We finally found a fellow who willingly invited us to use his room since both he and his mother (the two lived together alone in one room) had to be elsewhere for other meetings that night. The room was warm and comfortable, but after an hour most of the listeners had still backs from sitting on the edge of the cots. The real problem, however, was the competition from outside noise. The family next door had a radio program on, and a group of kids were playing cops-and-roggers or cowboys-and-indians right around the corner. At anyrate our group decided that they wanted to get together at least every Sunday evening probably in the last mess hall up the Burma Road. We should be able to get at least fifty out of the 3000 residents in Area A together next Sunday. Smaller groups will listen to the music during the week. The listeners last night were amazed and highly gratified when I explained that there was an outsider who was considerate enough to loan us records from his own collection and to ship them all the out to us.

My mother was very glad that you contributed the Japanese records to the camp. She believes that a great many issei would go for this dramatic narrative, particularly because so many of them haven't much to do here in camp. We'll put a notice in the camp paper about it - if the editors can get enough mimeograph to put together another issue. I think that the difficulty is that the administrative staff is too busy right now taking care of the hundreds of new arrivals every day to take care of the immediate needs of the news staff.

As you doubtless realize all too well, you've spent a large sum for our sakes. It would ease my mind as well as your always thin pocketbooks if you could reduce the cash outlay to the mini-

mum. The box of oranges is going fast and the people to whom we are able to pass them out appreciate them all the more when we tell them where they came from. However, it might be a good idea not send any more food out unless there is an actual shortage. Not only does the food cost you a lot of money but there is also the problem of a fair distribution of them in camp. There has been a scarcity of milk, butter and eggs. I don't know nor do nay of the chefs know just what is holding up the mess supplies. Many of the fellows who are doing heavy work, like hauling the baggage of the new arrivals, eat the same meal in two separate mess halls in order to get enough. Many of the cooks are getting disgusted. Complaints against unbalanced (sometimes insufficient) meals come to them, and it isn't their fault at all.

Despite all the difficulties due to sheer physical limitations there are no problems which a group of people of average intelligence cannot meet, if they want to face them (one at a time, of course. A bigger problem may arise out of trying to solve too many little ones all at once) I'll be glad when this is all over and people can return to a more normal living; yet I can fully understand why all of you would almost give an eye to get permission to do volunteer work here. The opportunities for friendly self-less service are unlimited here. But isn't the same also true anywhere, even within your small circle of personal friends.

Please give my regards to F,J,C,FM and everyone around the Friends Center.

One of your group, as always

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Similar letters were received from many of the Assembly Centers.

Here's one : FROM PINEDALE ASSEMBLY CENTER May 8, 1942

Dear Sir:

Left Fresno at 8:55 this morning and reached the Assembly Center at about 9:10 a.m. We first stopped at the registrar's office to be checked and registered. Our bags and pockets were searched, to my surprise. For what? I don't know. Luckily we all passed. I mean nothing was taken from us. Then our baggage was inspected from corner to corner. What a feeling I had when they went through our personal belongings.

We were finally assigned to our barracks. It is quite convenient because it is right near the hospital, it is the best part of the assembly center. We walked through it, and I believe it accomodates about thirty-five to forty patients in one unit of the hospital (there are three units in all.)

When I first entered our room, I became sick to my stomach. There were seven beds in the room and no furniture nor any partitions to separate the males and the females of the family. I just sat on the bed, staring at the bare wall. For a while I couldn't speak nor smile. Well, after getting over with my shock, I started to get the baggage in.

While we were discussion how bad the place was, one o'clock crept up, and it was time for us to go get our lunch. Our special menu was pork and beans, stewed tomatoes, applesauce, iced tea, bread with no butter but jam, and milk to those who wanted it. Since there was nothing good on the menu, I drank a glass of milk and let it go. I feel sorry for -- and --. Since the food didn't suit me, I could imagine how they felt. When we came back to our rooms, -- told me to be sure to write that the food is terrible.

Then we wanted to know where our rest rooms were. This was too much for me. There is no privacy. I just can't explain how it is, but it's worse than a country privy. After it's been used a couple of times, there is a whole stack of flies. Once you open the door the flies can be seen buzzing around; it is like a nest of bees. We just couldn't go in there, so we excavated. The hospital being facillitated with flush toilets, we sneaked in. Then we tried the showers, which are not so bad except that there is no privacy. Well that's that for the day's happening.

As to what I think of camp life; I think it's hell. That's the only word I could think of to describe it.

Sincerely,

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Letter from Fred Hoshiyama from Tanforan

Camp life is very enjoyable yet and I'm sure it will get better as people get used to their new abode and their new habitat. It seems that the camp life is much better than what most people had expected. Bits of conversation overheard here and there seems to verify it for many are expressing their feelings and inner thinking on the new experience by saying that it's like a vacation glorified.

Much of the kick to date is about the Army Ration "B" food, the lack of new mattresses for the last comers and the cold nights. Otherwise for the majority of us, the situation has been ideal. Most barracks are very roomy, since two beds are in one room, and for the new barracks, the set up is little different. New barracks have five apartments with five beds in each apartments. Old barracks for formerly stables and they are divided into two rooms with two beds apiece. All the beds are new spring single beds, but some ticks with straw had to be used.... These ticks are warmer than regular new mattresses it is claimed by many.

We eat at 7 a.m., 12 noon, and 4:30 p.m. Workers with badges eat first. Otherwise, many have to wait in line for one hour since three thousands have to be fed at one mess hall. In one or two days, the other mess halls will be opened. It's tough to get crew to man the mess halls. Soon the entire camp will be manned by Japanese. Now, the white workers head the various crews. I was handling recruiting of personnel, one of the toughest assignments on the camp. Since I know so many people, both officials and evacuees I'm asked to handle the information bureau and the lost and found Headquarters. Bill Sasegawa will handle recreation with Fred Koba and all of us helping.

Tomorrow we are having church services. It'll be Sam for Mass, 9:30 a.m. for Joint Church services.

Hospital situation is quite pitiful yet. Was helping them get set up, but they do not have the personnel or the necessary equipment. It is hoped that they will get organized soon. Two barracks are quarantined now with measles. Otherwise, not much casualty except one old navy veteran got klonked on the head by the sentry. Two people were given permission to leave the gates----one to go to County Hospital, and the other to go to S. F. with Federal Reserve Bank men.

Last night, we had to work until 8:30 p.m. to get mattresses and beds to people who arrived yesterday. The rain Thursday soaked many people's baggage and blankets. We had to work until 10 p.m. before they were taken care of. It's a shame that some of the plumbing is not ready and living quarters are not ready when new arrivals come. They ought to get it ready first so that when they come, they have at least sleeping quarters.

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Dear Uncle:

Just wrote to you this afternoon, but since I received both of your recent letters after I got home, I thought I'd keep you posted on a few new developments.

You're doing well with your efforts toward getting the educational set-up organized and for college students. Nothing is being arranged here yet, except what we can do informally. It's a shame that many of the students will have to duffer. We are planning to start classes, educational groups, debates, discussions, lectures, etc. for older youth. For the youngsters, we have a good policy set-up. Perhaps when LeRoy sees you at dinner Thursday he can tell you more about the things being developed and I'm sure you will agree that he is a good man. He seems very alert to the needs, and he isn't afraid to go ahead and push his ideas into action. He is very open to suggestions and he seems to know the psychology of getting the best results from the best people. I'm helping him all I can. We've had many informal conferences together to see what type of program and policy would best fit the camp. He thinks in term of "over-all" community programs taking into consideration persons of all age groups. I'll try to help him as much as I can to select the proper personnel and maybe I'll even work under him instead of under Mr. Greene. It seems to me that in the Information and Lost and Found Dept. I'm wasting my time, and that ANYONE could handle what I'm doing to date, although if the Information Bureau is to be the main source of all information and the center or the heart of the camp, then I feel that my job is vital to camp morale and camp life. Otherwise, it's just a soft job with ordinary responsibility. I'll have to clear all this with Mr. Greene. I still don't know what my authorities, what my jurisdiction is, Mr. Greene has been so busy to date that I've hardly seen him lately.

It seems that the medical center is definitely under-staffed when they have to get untrained personnel to handle vaccination, typhoid shots and etc. They are using Dr. Fujita, Dr. Hirota, Dr. Yamasaki, Dr. Medani, etc. all not physicians, but dentists, optometrists and amateur girl nurses to administer medical aid. Don't let this get out, but lots of complaints have reached my ears about the deplorable conditions at the medical centers. It's not the fault of the personnel because they are difinitely understaffed and under-equipped. Only one registered nurse to handle 3,000 people

and with more people coming by Saturday, its' going to take all of us 15 hours to help.

Two nes mess halls have opened today which relieved the congestion in the mess hall. # 1 which fed 3,000 three times daily up to now. Now I can understand the word MESS.

Today for the first time we had a few pieces of fresh vegetables for supper salad. Tomorrow, we are to get fresh meat. We do not get any butter whatsoever, and we got fresh milk only once, last Sunday. Babies are the only ones to get fresh milk.

Temporary area council of four meets with Lawson daily at 2:30 to discuss camp problems. Tad Fujita, Yoshiaki Moriwaki, Michio Nakajima, Henry Takahashi are on it to date. Soon elections will take place to elect the permanent ones when the whole camp is organized.

Lawson refused the Army for the next exodus cause the place here is not ready to receive them, BUT THE ARMY TOLD HIM THAT THEY WILL COME ANYWAY. So, we've got lots of trouble ahead as I see it. Plumbing, food, and bedding facilities are not ready yet. 2,500 mattresses are ordered but not sure if they will arrive tomorrow. They will have to be distributed and be ready for occupancy when people come in starting tomorrow. It's got to be done but WHY IS IT THAT THE ARMY INSISTS ON SHOVING PEOPLE INTO PLACES WHERE FACILITIES AREN'T READY?

Few suggestions: More medical supplies, more staff for the medical center, educational program, disinfectant for Athletes' foot by having a foot bath in each public shower. Better information set-up since nothing is being done to give information to the people in general. Many are being ordered to move on from places they fixed up because

LETTER OF FRASER VALLEY
near Fortersville, California

WCCA

May 2, 1942

Dear F:

Spent the night with the Frazier Valley folks and rode down to Strathmore, on the Highway with Seiji Onishi. It was a beautiful morning - in as perfect spot as you wish. About two sections of perfectly flat "hay land" now turning to truck stuff- part of it, that is - surrounded by hills some of them barren like Wyoming and others with button like trees - like the Russian River Country - and rocks covered with bright orange and yellow and mouse-grey fungi - white spotted cattle spotting the sides of the hills. It was a perfect morning and all camp was happily getting ready for a days work after several days rain-out and / or mud-out.

The Frazier Valley group is about 27 families, 140 people, living cooperatively about 8½ miles east of Strathmore, California. Their company is the San Pedro Vegetable Growers Cooperative Association. They have grown and marketed vegetables cooperatively for 30 years. Before coming here, they had been so close to some defense work as they say (within signaling distance of an actual submarine attack) that they anticipated evacuation and went out scouting for a resettlement spot in January. Their advance guard moved to the Valley in February. At that time, no areas or zones had been designated and of course they were relieved to find later that they were out of "B" zone even if only by 8 miles.

When they first moved, five of the kids went to the school in Strathmore. The papers and other reports made it soon "A whole glough of them at school". Now, however, I believe there are 46 in school. The psychological situation at school is said to be OK.

The dinner was being cooked in the open behind the cook-house - dinging hall last night, but as the stove smoked badly, it had to be rebuilt. The women (mostly first-generation women doing the cooking) had the huge bowl shaped iron pans (you've seen them in Chinese restaurants) setting on tops of sawed off oil drums with fires burning in the drums, and draft holes have been cut in same. Brick stove was built in kitchen with several holes on top shaped to seat the big pans - the pans themselves having been used to shapen it: Meal of fried fish and some fried vegetables and some pickled green vegetables and plenty of rice and tea. Chop sticks. Some of the Issei mammas kneel Japanese style on the bench while they eat at the table. Many of them wear trousers tucked into shoes or tied to the bottoms, as you see on any Japanese truck garden. Breakfast was a rather well

done soft-boiled egg with some fried spuds. An unlimited helping of fried rice with a little chopped up ham in it. Plenty of healthy coffee. Bread. Jelly. Egg because it was Saturday. The fish because it was Friday. They bill each 25¢ per day for meals, which probably doesn't cover it. Will prorate the balance whatever it will be.

Three cases of measles in camp. No doctor. We can take care of them OK, they say.

They pay \$25 per acre for what land they use. Landlord furnished the water and they furnish the fuel for the pumps. The water must be pumped from the wells. Strike water at 50 feet, but drill to 200 to get good supply. Landlord furnished the wells and the pumps. Also built an impressive reservoir with an ordinary Fresno scraper and a tractor. Says it cost him \$800 to build. Don't know the capacity but it looks like quite a help. It catches water from the mountains and the same is directed across the fields via a sheet metal pipe about 10 inches diameter. The property is 640 acres - a square mile.

They will garden 100 acres for the first crop and another 100 for the second crop. Just 2 crops per year. They will rent just what they can garden. The balance will be sowed to grain or hay by the owner. Now planting about 3 acres to use for kitchen vegetables for their own use.

The operation will not entirely support the community. Some will have to work out in any event. About five are working out now and turning their entire wages into the common fund.

Community divided into two geographic groups. What I mean to say the physical living plant is in two groups about a mile apart, separated by the fields they cultivate. One center includes a large house with about 12 apartments in it or is it 10. Each consisting of an inside room and a porch or rather a section of the long porch. It was so designed to conserve lumber or rather to get along with little. An outside toilet building with a department for each gender. Early American style. Immaculate screens over each ventilating vents, lath lattice work screen around the doors, seat covers (of wood, silly), no catalogues. A Japanese style bath-house. Most of you know about this. Build a fire under the two to six passenger tub. Take buckets of hot water from the tub and wash yourself outside the tub. Scrub with good suds and then rinse all the suds off. Climb into the tub CLEAN and soak good and hot. Then out and a cold rinse or towel yourself and off for a visit. Too bad they said, that is wasn't

a working day so I couldn't see this inspired system in operation. Too bad, I said, that it wasn't a working day so I could have operated with it. Several smaller houses and tent houses. The one I was guest in was made of new lumber, built up the sides and then just rafters with clean white canvas stretched for roof and same for shutters. The canvas was from wrestling mats or was intended for that. The tent house was a little less than the length of two single car garages end to end and about half again as wide. Partitioned across the short dimension and a door at each end. Three young men quartered in each end, each with an adequate 3/4 size bed. Other village plant about the same.

Ryoko Miki (pronounced Diyoko) chatted with me at dinner and later asked me if I'd care to walk to the other village or will I want to visit it. I had but would care to anyhow so we had a walk and Ryoko likes especially the mountain flowers there and being out in the sun and working in the fields. She missed the ocean but love the valley. Never cared much for classrooms. Helps some with the kids. is 23. Has 2 sisters and a brother and a mother but no father. She helps in the kitchen and dining hall. She and all the others helped clear the land of millions of rocks and stones. Or rather started to clear it of same. Probably will be going on for years. I wish I had a book of flowers of that area to send to Ryoko. I wonder if she'd use it.

Brushed my teeth in the wash house this morning along side of a boy eight or ten and two girls in their teens.

Forgot to mention a second reservoir for pump-water and a elevated tank in the field.

George Ishibashi and George Takenaga are the two we were referred to in Pasedena. Both nice and both in spots of responsibility in the set-up. Van Leer is an auto-mechanic and minister at Strathmore. Friend of George Burcham, who has the ranch and Youth Hostel at Three Rivers and has been active in some work or another among the migrants for some time. Few minutes talk at Strathmore. Kiyoshi Kawashiri is ten and bright as a chromium spotlight. He and Kiyoko, a little girl of eight, were playing the cradle game with string - with many variations. Wish we had a copy of "Fun with Strings" for these two.

Suzy, whom I did not meet and whose other name I do not know, is engaged to a boy in Santa Anita Assembly Center. She wants a permit to travel from her free home to be interned at Santa Anita where she will get married. Who will take care

of this? Pasadena or San Francisco? Should not be difficult. Write to George Ishibashi P.O. Box K, Strathmore, California for details, names, etc. Please let me know what you do as soon as you start work on it.

Bernard Shuler is the owner. Has two boys in the service I believe. Likes his tenants, finds them industrious, decent, thoroughly likable and desirable as tenants, partners and neighbors. Likes the kids. Has had to face his hostile community. The first George I talked to said the community had received them well. It comes out later, however, that there are two kinds of reports on this. There are some political and economic considerations - private ones, I mean. The Gills, I get it, have some 55,000 acres in California and more in Arizona and Texas. That isn't enough it seems. They own the beautiful cow-spotted hills on three sides of the Frazier Valley and had their eyes on the Valley floor when it looked like Schuler was going to lose it.

The County Health (of health, if you prefer) Commissioner is greatly concerned for the health of these Japanese and is determined to do something about it -- something at least drastic enough to be an incentive to migrate. Assures the owner that he's wasting money on the pumping system, etc. case - - "We'll get 'em out of here even if we have to clear to the President". Schuler has letters from the Army and the WCCA approving the project and encouraging it. Localities have likelihood to use the Japanese for a political football or a pretext for this or for that.

"What can be done to better the communities here? An approving write-up in L. A. paper or a national magazine? An expression of interest and approval or praise for the hospitable community - from a big name in Washington? Have an idea if someone high up went "over the heads" of local tin horn politicians and directly to the people and the community, sentiment could be swung and stabilized at least to an open minded attitude. (Figure that out)

A deputy sheriff called recently to "find out if there were any "Americans" (meaning Caucasians" living with the Japanese.

Detachments of soldiers surrounded the place recently when a nearby lookout reported that the valleyites were "signalling to airplanes with their tractor lights". Night plowing.

A ping pong game in the open air. Mouthharps going in the mess hall last night after supper, out of my pocket. One

boy working on a model airplane. The string games I mentioned, Fun with hotfoots. Horseplay. No library, no recreational equipment, no organized games or arts and crafts, etc. Stuff needed and initiative needed in these lines, I think.

Directors are about 12 of the oldest of the Nisei. Before times tightened up, the Co-op was directed by Issel. Formerly co-oped only on farming and marketing, not on consuming, etc. Problems of course. But feel they have a vast start on groups who have not cooperated on any phase of living before.

Small block of chickens. Gnagy is a minister at Lindsay - sympathetic. One team of horses. Corral full of mules belonging to Schuler's hay crew. Last year Schuler rented to some Japanese, they planted potatoes; didn't make the grade. This group has about \$7000 invested so far. Have enough fuel for awhile, burning of orange trees. Perhaps fuel problem? The boys wear fancy sparklet studded motocyclist belts for tractoring to stabilize tummies. There is ever present the thought "Will they have to evacuate again".

My opinions regarding work camp at Frazier Valley: many things can be done. Pre-school nursery, games, arts and crafts for kids, building or collecting recreational equipment, working in the fields, building buildings, chicken houses, etc. Interpreting to community? Careful consideration needed by choice personnel as a large group may make a flare-up in the community. Must interpret so that Community wants to have them. A job benefitting the landlord might not be out of policy, since in this case, he is the underprivileged.

I feel very keenly that we all should make every expression of appreciation to those who are doing their best in bringing good judgement and humaneness amidst a hotbed of hate and impending violence.

Sincerely,

RS

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REPORT FROM TANFORAN ASSEMBLY CENTER

Living Quarters

7 in each unit - crowded, families mixed if small -
2 in a room (10X12), no shades or curtains unless
family has some cotton goods with them.
No water in living room units at all
Running water in toilets and wash house - Some of the
families live 1-2 blocks away from wash house
Hot water only occasionally
Shower rooms have no window shades or curtains and
windows look out on road.

Road is rough dirt road with deep ruts - WPA trucks
constantly driving up and down.

Food

No milk for anyone over 5 years of age
Had eggs only once (one egg each) in first ten days
No meat at all until 12th day when very small portions
were served
No butter at all
There is both white and brown bread served with meals.
Coffee, for breakfast cocoa made with water completely
is served for lunch, tea for dinner.

Lunch menu: Saturday May 9, 1942
Very small slice canned pressed meat
Small serving of boiled hominy
Small serving of canned string beans
Very small order of chopped lettuce, no dressing
Cocoa made with water.

Anyone doing heavy or outdoor work states they are
not getting not nearly enough to eat and are hungry all
time.

This includes the doctors, ambulance drivers, boys
carrying luggage, etc.

Medical Care

For 3000 people the first 10 days there was only 1
doctor and 1 graduate nurse. There are now 5-6000
people there, 3 doctors and 3 graduate nurses and
3 practical nurses. The hospital contains 20 beds.

Chronic Cases: Old people, diabetics, paralytics,
etc. are all having to be cared for in their own
barracks and by their families as the doctors and

Tuberculosis

Dr. Fujita is slowly trying to find out and send out of camp the active T.B. cases - she plans to have a chest clinic next week in cooperation with the San Mateo Health Department.

Very ill and surgical cases are sent to San Mateo County Hospital, and cooperation is good as long as they have beds but if population gets too heavy, this will stop.

Diabetic diets: only canned food is available for these cases.

Women and girls have to send to Mail Order Houses for supplies such as Kotex, toilet articles, etc.

Pregnancy cases - Lack of personnel (medical) makes it impossible for Doctors to contact for lack of time makes it difficult for calls and registration of care.

Infants and small children

A baby clinic of two days per week has been started but the doctors only can handle babies up to 18 months old.

No cod liver oil, it has been ordered and the supply does not know when supply will arrive.

Have canned milk and Karo to make baby formulas

One baby in camp is only 7 days old, mother was sent down by ambulance

Baby scale desperately needed even if this can be loaned until the army supply comes.

More graduate nurses needed but supply can not be found among the Nisei as many of them have left California before the evacuation. The doctors need some one to help with public nursing work, getting mothers and babies lined up, helping doctors give diptheria inoculations, etc. The three nurses cannot be released from hospital work to do this.

Many cases of German measles are coming into camp as new evacuees arrive. It is almost uncontrollable. Doctors asked for an isolation ward or building but none was given. Dr. Harrison of the U. S. Public Health Service told the doctor "Well, they all have to get measles some time so let them get it".

Morale:

is high so far among the young people but not among the older ones. Old people who have poor memories, etc.

(habit) get up at night and try to get out - Heads must be bandaged and sewed up in the mornings as they have been struck on the head by guards.

There is the air of extreme worry about the whole situation, nothing drastic in the way of illness or epidemics has happened yet but is quite possible. Would like the camp to have more public health nurses to come in from the outside in order to help doctors organize the work.

Recreation

Recreation worker Leroy Thompson commutes from Berkeley to the camp each day and does recreational work. They need materials, nets, basketballs, etc. very badly.

COPY

COMMITTEE ON RESETTLEMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

297 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

March 11, 1943

"This center is running along rather smoothly but a lot of us feel that it could be a lot better if the administration could be a little more understanding. The paternalistic attitude that the administration has towards us is very disturbing to say the least, and there would be less trouble and much more harmony and efficiency in all phases of this center life if we were given more responsibility and authority than we have at present. If the administration would follow the pattern that was used at the assembly center at Tulare, they wouldn't require half the Caucasian administrative workers that are here now and there would be much more efficiency. There seems to be rivalry and jealousy between the various departments here which results in disharmony for which the evacuees suffer in the end. Perhaps some day things will get straightened out and this center will be run as it was at Tulare, which was ideal."

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Santa Anita Assembly
Center
April 13, 1943

Dear Link:

Hello from the world's famous race track where Seabiscuit and Man-O-War have caused great excitement for the people who play the horses desiring to achieve wealth overnight. Yes, the paradise for horse lovers has now been transformed into a "Little Tokyo" where there are no fools to call you "Jap" or eye you with "you-are-guilty" looks. The evacuees here have been once again reminded that they have been the most law-abiding race in America for a number of years in the past. They have no regrets of being cooped up, but are willing to live peacefully and trust their faiths and destiny in the hands of God for the duration.

Really, you can't appreciate fully the advantages or rather the necessity of being compelled to live a new kind of life in a brand new but sacrificial environment until you actually get assimilated to it. When you are forced to a new philosophy "make the best of it," you will begin to appreciate the thought that we have constantly sought for a durable satisfaction of life.

The places to bunk and the food are not like back home, but what can you expect under such a mass evacuation? The climate is quite agreeable out here in Southern California. I understand that this place is better than Manzanar. Mr. Wilson where the largest 100 inch telescope is located is just beyond, highlighting the scenery which we love to gaze upon. A story is now circulating that this place may be availed for a resettlement center. Although it has been officially designated as an assembly center, accommodation is so suitable that evacuees are beginning to speculate as to their war-time residence here. A school building is now under construction and a huge recreation hall is being given a finishing touch. People are housed in apartments converted from former horse stables. Electricity and water are fairly well provided.

By this coming Wednesday, the population here will total 7500. Evacuees from San Diego County, Long Beach, Gardena, Artisan, Terminal Island, San Francisco, Portland, Laundale, and Dacey are now here. This center could accommodate about 10,000, so I believe there'll be some more from Los Angeles within a week or so.

We people of San Francisco had a peculiar but unharsh trip that Monday night. We left San Francisco about 8:30 that night and reached here about 10:30 the next day. On Tuesday morning about 8 o'clock box lunches composed of mild, an orange, a couple of sandwiches, two cupcakes, and a candy bar were provided for all of us. Babies and sick persons were humanly attended to by nurse nurses who were supervised, of course, by Hakujin doctors on the train. As soon as we arrived here we were assigned to living quarters with evacuee numbers and were given rules and regulations that govern the camp life. Our baggages were carefully inspected

for any contrabands including kitchen knives. Out of this inspection two short-wave radios, an ancient oriental dagger about eight inches long, some liquor, and, of course, a considerable number of Kitchen knives have been confiscated by the authorities. But, of course, the offenders will not be punished because the violations were unintentional. Standard radios, phonographs, and other musical instruments are allowed in the camp. Curfew law has not been applied in this camp because the evacuees are really obedient and anxious to cooperate with the authorities. Things here will be really grand when evacuation has been completed and this new kind of society gets organized. Optimism seems to prevail among the people.]

How are you fellows up there? When is the evacuation? I read in the newspaper that the West Coast evacuation will be completed before May 20, so I am sure you folks won't wait long. Let's hope that you fellows will be sent to well-suited locations without any further inconvenience. Don't forget to write to me because I am willing to exchange correspondence with you discussing any subject. Is Joe Goodman serving in the committee which, I understand, hopes to alleviate the problems faced by the evacuees in the new life? Will you show him this letter and give him my regards. He could do a lot for the Japanese people in this situation because we need Hakujin friends to make contacts and regulate the proceedings. Even right here in Santa Anita there are some Hakujins working for the benefits of the evacuees. I would like to help in any way possible, possibly exchanging data and ideas so that for the duration we may enjoy this sacrificial environment. No matter what happens, keep your chin up.

My sincere wishes to you and the "Y" gang. If you have any mail for me please send it here. Inasmuch as I have rejoined my relatives, I feel more at ease. My best wishes again.

Sincerely,

Stanley Shimabukuro

W-1

Puyallup Assembly Center, Washington, D.C.

April 30, 1943

Dear Sir:

The sloppy streets and alleys from today's heavy rains certainly added to the confusion of the arrival of the second group of evacuees from Seattle. There must be about 1500 people here now, all in Area A, in the parking lot adjoining the Fair grounds proper. We are extremely busy getting our quarters in order and helping the late arrivals get settled down. Each family must put in its own shelves, and make its own table, chairs, etc., although contrary to statements in the newspapers that each room had these things already built in.

The beds are very comfortable - now army spring cots with new cotton-filled mattresses. The tin stove manager to keep the individual rooms well heated. After the first couple of meals, Japanese cooks replaced the WPA (?) mess crews, and now we are getting tasty, well-balanced meals. Most of the girls in the group evacuated on Tuesday are working as waitresses in the three mess halls now open. A few have put to work as stenogs in the administration office, located in the Fair grounds. The men are working as cooks, dishwashers, and in various utility roles.

Practically everyone is in quite a run-down condition when he gets to camp, yet everyone bustles around putting up shelves, coat hooks, etc. in his anxiety to get the family quarters in a livable condition. Then, the long waiting in line for a second medical exam plus the exposure in the cold wind and rain have brought on a small epidemic of colds here.

Keeping up individual morale won't be a serious problem for at least a week yet. Everyone is too busy. Furthermore, the good food and the sympathetic help from the administration staff help immensely. The 9 o'clock curfew and the 10 o'clock "light out" help overcome in part the lack of privacy.

This camp life will be a very interesting experiment, if nothing else. Although one cannot very well exonerate the public feeling that brought on the hardships of this forced removal of Japanese from their homes, no one can say that this is either good or bad for the Japanese. That will depend entirely on what the evacuees themselves make of the situation. Of course outside help, even if it's only moral support, will make things much easier.

Dick

ALIENS There's been intermittent and continuous trouble among the 20,000 Japanese interned at the Santa Anita, Calif., assembly center. Apparently civil authorities running that aggregation have been unable to maintain perfect order without the Federal authorities, and an investigation from Washington may be initiated. On June 17, 800 Japs there staged a sitdown strike. On June 23 the authorities learned that the Japs were holding secret meetings in the Japanese language, a direct violation of Army orders, and six Japs were removed and put into a more strenuous internment camp. Four were held for Federal juries, indicted and face severe sentences. On Aug. 8 there was a riot at the Santa Anita assembly center when a man described as a Japanese Korean, surrounded by 2,000 Japanese, was badly beaten. It took 200 military police to quell the riot, and the MP's were there three days. Two days later six more Japanese were arrested for holding secret meetings in their own language, and next day reports of gambling at the center broke into the open when G-Men raided a group of Japs, arresting seven. The G-Men tell me that two rival gangs of gamblers, mostly recruited from the Little Tokyo section of Los Angeles, have been staging an underworld battle to control gambling within the Santa Anita assembly, and several million dollars is said to be at stake. There is also the suspicion that some of these Japs are ready to fix, bribe or "oil" some of the guards. A \$50-a-week fee to the guards would do the trick, if the G-Men are correct. EARL GODWIN-BLUE

RADIO DIGEST

War Department Bureau of Public Relations
August 24, 1942

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

*File
Santa Anita Assembly
Center*

From: Japanese Evacuation from
the West Coast - 1942
Chapter XVII, p.218

Only one disturbance of serious proportions occurred in any of the Assembly Centers. At Santa Anita on August 4, 1942, a routine search for various articles of contraband was started immediately after the morning meal. A few of the interior security police became over-zealous in their search and somewhat overbearing in their manner of approach to evacuees in two of the Center's seven districts. Added to this was an order from the Center Manager to pick up, without advance notice, electric hot plates which had previously been allowed on written individual authorization of the Center Management staff to families who needed them for the preparation of infant formulas and food for the sick. Electric devices, such as hot plates, were strictly controlled to prevent fire.

Poor liaison, or rather the complete lack of liaison in this incident, between the Center Management and the heads of the interior security police resulted in the failure of reports of complaints to reach the chief of interior security police until mid-afternoon. Those complaints, based to a certain extent on solid ground grew in the intervening four or five hours to rumors of all kinds of violations on the part of the police. When finally the complaints reached the chief of interior police, the search was promptly postponed just as the crowds were beginning to gather.

Two mobs and one crowd of women evacuees formed. One evacuee who had long been suspected by the disorderly elements among the population of giving information to the police was set upon and severely beaten though not seriously injured. The interior security police were harassed but none were injured.

This is the single instance, mentioned earlier, in which the military police were called into the Center and took complete charge upon entry. No further disturbance occurred after the military police entered. The crowds dispersed, and no further threats of violence were circulated and no actual attempts at violence occurred. This disturbance was spontaneous and not the result of subversive planning. ✓

Corrective action was immediately taken to insure against provocation of similar disturbances in the future. Center Management and Interior Security staff officials responsible for the lack of liaison which had allowed the all too evident signs of brewing trouble to reach the boiling point without action were removed from the Center. A survey by military police officers established the two districts in which some of the police were so over-zealous as to cause the rumors and actually identified the responsible individual police employees who were promptly replaced.

WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
MARYSVILLE ASSEMBLY CENTER
ARBOGA BRANCH, MARYSVILLE P. O.
MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA

June 24, 1942

TO: R. L. NICHOLSON, CHIEF
Reception Center Division

Attention: Wallace W. Kelso
Assistant Director Service Division

From: Edw Randall, Service Director
Marysville Assembly Center

Subject: Recreation Leader Evaluation

We have your letter of June 20, 1942 on the above subject and submit the following:

- (a) Name: Sam Takagishi USES No. 24519
- (b) Age: 24
- (c) Sex: Male
- (d) Education: Graduate College of Pacific-Religious Education; one year of graduate work College of Pacific; one year Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California.
- (e) Classification: Director P and T.
- (f) Duties: Organized recreational athletics, conducted folk dancing and community singing, assisted in planning the over-all recreational program.
- (g) Evaluation: Outstanding performance; knows recreation field thoroughly having received formal training by Lawton Harris, George Burcham, etc. Leader is thoroughly dependable, has exceptional personality; very ambitious and anxious to continue in this field; organizes well; is ingenious and not undeterred by lack of equipment; displays administrative ability, accomplishes tasks well.

Conclusion: Performance was considered outstanding.

- (a) Name: Mary Yasaki USES No. 24519
- (b) Age: 26
- (c) Sex: Female
- (d) Education: College of Pacific - three years attendance
- (e) Classification: Recreation Leader "S"
- (f) Duties: Assisted in Pre-school; also conducted activities for boys and girls, 6-9, including games, crafts,

June 24, 1942

reading, storytelling, childrens dramatics, homemade toys construction, etc.

- (g) Evaluation: Demonstrated experience and judgment in leadership especially with the younger groups of children, has definite recreational objectives; knows child psychology and learning techniques; is adaptable to new situations; leader is considered enthusiastic and pleasant.

Conclusion: Work was excellent.

- (a) Name: Henry Shiohama USES No. 7753
(b) Age: 23
(c) Sex: Male
(d) Education: High school graduate
(e) Classification: Recreation Leader "S"
(f) Duties: Organized boys, girls and men's softball leagues, conducted round robin tournaments, all-star games, special activities, umpiring, etc.
(g) Evaluation: Despite lack of educational qualifications other than those noted, this man was a very good recreation leader. Organized leagues were well conducted and popular. Man displayed interest and enthusiasm in recreation leaders' training program and was very cool in umpiring and other trying situations. Leader was very dependable, anxious to learn, interested in assigned tasks, and used volunteer leadership well.

Conclusion: Work was very good.

- (a) Name: Helen Mitta USES No. 24469
(b) Age: 23
(c) Sex: Female
(d) Education: Completed three and one-half years at San Francisco State College (toward teaching credential).
(e) Classification: Recreation Leader "S"
(f) Duties: Music--girls glee club, beginners orchestra, pianist, folk dancing, pre-school music, girls activities 9-12, etc.
(g) Evaluation: Plans work well, has an excellent knowledge of major subject, and is a good organizer. Leader demonstrates poise, patience, and perseverance. Lack of experience has been overcome by a sincere desire to perform assigned tasks efficiently and within the scope of recreational objectives.

Conclusion: Work was considered excellent.

- (a) Name: Chiyeko Kuroiwa
(b) Age: 23

June 24, 1942

- (c) Sex: Female
- (d) Education: Graduate Oakland Arts and Crafts School
--Fine Arts including costume, landscape, portrait, etc.
- (e) Classification: Recreation Leader "S"
- (f) Duties: Assisted in pre-school; conducted sketching, painting and other arts and crafts for all age groups.
- (g) Evaluation: Demonstrated knowledge of major subject, is ingenuous, talented and not easily discouraged by lack of equipment. Adapted herself readily to various age-groups, was dependable, cool and efficient, and showed initiative.

Conclusion: Performance was very good.

- (a) Name: Fuji Shigaki
- (b) Age: 22
- (c) Sex: Female
- (d) Education: Completed two and one-half years at the University of California
- (e) Classification: Recreation Leader "S"
- (f) Duties: Pre-school play, Center activities including mid-morning feeding, naps, and program-planning for this group.
- (g) Displayed aptitude in promotion of assigned tasks, exemplified imagination, ingenuity, new ideas. Administrative assignments fair, but good recreational leadership qualities. Needs further development and training.

Conclusion: Performance was considered good.

- (a) Name: Kumiko Nakamura USES No. 24453
- (b) Age: 24
- (c) Sex: Female
- (d) Education: California Teaching Credentials (Elementary) from San Francisco State College
- (e) Classification: Recreation Leader "S"
- (f) Duties: Recreational music--mixed chorus, boys glee club, swing band, concert orchestra, folk dancing.
- (g) Evaluation: Knows music and learning techniques; interested in her work, tries very hard. Performance up to this time has been good though failed to come up to expectations; hampered by lack of experience and somewhat by shy demeanor. Has definite possibilities, is attentive in recreational discussions, and should develop into a good leader.

Yours very truly,

Nicholas L. Bican, Manager
Marysville Assembly Center

by (signed) Leo Randall
Leo Randall, Service Director

File
Assembly center

TANFORAN POLITICS

December 1942
Mitch Kunitani
MITS

Struggle for prestige jobs - First come, first served.

House Managers become prominent.

Four precincts - Representatives to be advisors to the Camp Manager.

Council - To be elected by the House Managers from their own number.

To be a liaison body between the House Managers and the Administration.

House Managers Meetings - the focus of gripes.

Results taken through the Council to the Camp Manager.

People were sore because the Councilmen were not elected by the residents.

House Managers became dissatisfied because they were getting no action

Two Councilmen resigned.

The Issei were dissatisfied.

Young Democrats Group -

Plan for Self-Government

Issei could hold office.

Oath of Allegiance so as to forestall any "Pro-Fascist" action.

The Administration - Plans

Candidate had to be a citizen.

English and Japanese permitted.

← Fellow-Travelers wanted ~~offered~~ voluntary evacuees. *action for "solidarity"*

Young Democrats ~~offered~~ evacuation.

Solidarity of bachelors in one barracks.

No meetings to be held in which Japanese language was used.

Personal contact between voters and candidates necessary in Japanese community.

Issei thought the election a lot of fun.

Issei - Nisei split.

Administration suppressing Japanese things.

Supporting the Nisei. Nisei become 200%.

Issei thought the Nisei were instrumental in the discriminatory orders.

The Issei were Progressives, Anarchists, etc.

Understood democratic procedure.

Issei Council was underground.

Ernest Iiyama -

President of the Young Democrats Club of Oakland
Fellow-Traveler

Famous Takahashi Clan of Berkeley

Parade - the first time Japanese had ever participated in a political demonstration.

Issei bachelors the most pro-Nationalist element in Camp.

The Nye Bill gave citizenship to Japanese aliens for participation in World War I.

Guy Uyama

Dobo - Organ of Japanese Communist Party of America.

Ichiro Akiya -

Kibei, Ardent Anti-Fascist, Marxist.

May 27th Tanforan Assembly Center

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I've done a great deal of thinking since we came here and after nearly a month in this "new life", I find it terribly discouraging. Conditions in some ways have improved, for example the pre-school nursery schools have been started and from this past Monday 6-8 yr. olds are having classroom activity from 8:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. daily. It consists of community singing - Americanization and group play activities - mostly -- some books (texts from Alameda Co. school system), crayons, pencils and paper were expected so as the supplies come in the children will have more to work with. Next Wednesday 8-12 yr. olds will be taken care of also. Mr. Kilpatrick is in charge of the Educational program and has been working very hard and has been most helpful - altho interested folks here at camp have done their part in putting this thing over. I am praying that this one thing will really function and work out, since it is about the only program that seems to be making headway. Recreation has many beautiful plans and they've been starting many things- but without any funds (the administration apparently has given us no satisfaction in answering this particular need) it is likely that we cannot do much more than carry on with what we actually have bro't into camp ourselves in the way of equipment. We had a "Town Hall" meeting tonite and representative people who have been responsible for camp functioning - eg- Kunitani - Employment, Henry Takahashi - advisory bd., Toby Ogawa - Hse, Mgr.,

Rev. Tsukamoto-Religious, Fred Kobo - Recreation spoke on a panel. It seems that the big reason why we cannot get any results or to make any changes is due to a bottleneck caused by the Tanforan Administration. The milk problem - the canteen problem - the diet and menu problem - the lack of sufficient laundry - bathing and toilet facilities, etc. etc. The chief and biggest worry is that we have really no self-government. - The administration controls all of our liberties to the extent where everything is actually limited to their dictates. Of course we realize that some of it is necessary, but when house managers, advisory board, and individuals, making requests as to simple necessities and improvements concerning for example, picking up garbage, supplies (brooms mops and such) and so many small but everyday needs. We can only requisition or put in a complaint - but it takes weeks before they are ever taken care of. We cannot meet or speak to any size group or do anything without consent of the administration. The okeh for the "Town Hall" meeting came at 6 p.m. tonite, and the meeting was held at 7:30 p.m., but all the details and preparations were made ahead, so we were able to get together on short notice. We are constantly aware of this sort of regimentation and regulation and our feeling is that of confinement and held as a sort of prisoner for no other crime than that we were unfortunately of Japanese descent. We can have educationa, recreational, church and all such programs but they will be of no avail if we cannot practise and live as free people.

Americanization and the American way of life will have no meaning unless our administrators make those ways possible to us. Unfortunately they are not consulting us and try to understand our problems by mutual discussion, they make rules by the administrative heads which are all people on the outside - not one representative from our own group.

One in-humane incident occurred yesterday, a mother of five children - dying- and members of the family could not see her as they had too much red tape to wade thru. While the administrative heads were considering whether the family should be allowed to visit their mother - she passed away - none of them knew whether they could notify relatives on the outside after the tragic incident occurred. As it happens the hospital is only a 20 minute ride away from Tanforan. - The family was notified about 3 hours prior to her death - you can see what bitterness this sort of thing creates. I simply cannot sleep nights - thinking of the injustice of everything.

As an American - I revolt- because it was my understanding that we were sacrificing our homes, our life that we had worked and planned for our children and ourselves - as a patriotic duty. Evacuating for military reason and all such reasons which I question now. I challenge any American to stack up their record against any of us and see if we hadn't been as good or better Americans in deed and to think today - we and our children (3rd and 4th generation Americans - who have to live in this country after this mess is over) have to be confined in concentration

camps - If we are to really be victorious fighting for the preservation of democracy and the American way of life, we had better review the constitutionality of all this right here in U. S.A. If we feel this way now - I wonder how we shall feel two years or 3 years hence. Really when I see small children and growing youngsters - I can't stand this life.

C
O
P
Y

May 21, 1942

Dear S.

For the first time last night, we had some cases of vomiting and diarrhea on a wholesale scale. In our area alone, there were 30 cases and about 400 in another area. Most probable cause was the drinking of too much cold water on extremely hot days and the other reason may be a mild form of poisoning. Cold ham was served and since mess halls ran out of ice, food might have spoiled. At any rate, the doctors in charge wouldn't come out to see the patient, but they sent interneers. Patients wanted doctors and they "beefed" saying doctors should come out. Dr. U. is head of the staff and he told house managers who went after him that if the patient really wanted to see him, the patient ought to come see him at the hospital. So, Doc K was pulled out of bed to attend to number of cases. I went around with him, but he couldn't do anything to relieve the patients since he has no medical supplies.

There's absolutely nothing at the hospitals. He had more at his home than what we have all together here for 8,000. Your help in getting what we have here proves how important and humane it was. We haven't got one grain of narcotics, and shamefully lack the other necessities. In case of ptomaine poisoning, we would need stomach pumps, etc. It's really a disgrace and we have patients from 1 week old to 88 years old. We must have more doctors and medical facilities and supplies. To get any medicine, we must bring our own vials or cups. Doctors here are willing to work for nothing, but we need the supplies and manpower. Only four doctors on staff with any experience. It's a disgrace "Biggest Kick".

Red Cross first aid classes are running 6 days weekly and have hundreds enrolled with classes starting right along. It helps, but need materials and more first aid stations. To date, none at all. Army red tape and indifference or whatever it is sure is bungling health protection. Kitchen crew needs medical exams. Not enforced here and should be. Anyone handling food should be free of diseases.

More rumors of rape here and parents are deeply concerned. They stop me and ask, almost plead that something be done. Probably curfew or restriction of going out at nights only solution. It means curtailing of social events and recreation program.

We need P. A. system here. Talked to A and K...All feel that it would be a good service and contribution to have it used here. Parts need fixing, but T can do it probably. Need to have it sent here. If left there, it would deteriorate anyhow, so why not use it and keep it up to date. Would you try to get it sent up here right away? We have a responsible technician here with full time job to care for it only.

Mr. P and B came here Tuesday, but I was out in the field so missed them. Regret not seeing them. It was nice of them to drop in. Will J.C. be coming in again? KN was here yesterday, but went out again. YA is now here. Hear that MM is in D.C. More power to him. Keep pushing essentials and standards. You're doing fine.....keep me posted. Thanks. We're all fine here.

Y.H.

C
O
P
Y

6-1

Tanforan
May 21, 1942

Dear L:

I feel awfully guilty about everything - I meant to write to you much sooner but I kept letting it go on and on until now - Ever since arriving here, I thought of writing to you giving you the assurance that we are all happy and well and doing the best under the circumstances. Yoshie, David and I are in the best of health and spirit and frankly haven't one thing to kick about. And yet probably you have heard where conditions are terrible and people are complaining and demanding for conditions that they have been accustomed to in SF, Oakland, Berkeley. But you must know human nature, Uncle - you just can't satisfy everyone and wherever there's a group of people - this society, you'll come across the same strata of human groups demanding more and more and more. They make me sick but that is where endurance, patience and our training that we have undergone comes to the foreground. Thanks to your leadership and advices, Uncle, I've learned to take things not merely as they come, not in stride, but to weight things and appreciate and be thankful for what is being provided for us under the circumstances. After all, this setup is purely a temporary one and we can't demand too much. No doubt you have received letters from this camp right along. What are your reactions and conclusions from the various letters that you have received. Of course, I grant you that things change and improve from day to day - one day makes a big difference and one must take that into consideration. For instance, today, meal tickets for all the 11 Mess Halls in the camp for 8,000 people were issued which facilitates matters to the 4th degree. Because of this controlling and airtight introduction, people are able to eat in peace, on time and calls for second helpings. People are happier as far as their stomachs are concerned and that's how things are moving along. No doubt, you know the setup of the camp so I'll not delve into that again. You can be assured that most of the Y kids are doing a nice piece of work and when it comes to leadership and service, all your boys are in there pitching in - compensation is not worth mentioning as this doesn't amount to a thing. What I value more in the service being rendered toward the people and campers; and at the same time, it's wonderful training and good experience and contact with human problems. Although at first when I volunteered as a House Manager of my respective barrack, I did not know how long it would last and what standing it would come under. Today, I'm still at it and now it's classified as one of the machinery of the camp, first because of its direct contact with the entire camp. In other words, through the 44 House Managers, they can contact and

disseminate message to 8,000 people. And you'll find several of the Y members in the listing: K, T. RK, T.C., V.A., T.B., Recreation Department is well represented, is well represented by the Y and the office staff, MM Accountant; Min and Bill and others in Timekeeping staff so we're all occupied and doing our small part in this great program. There's so much to relate, so ask me any part of the setup that you would like to know and I'll be happy to answer back. On the election for the permanent Council, what election procedure would you recommend, Uncle? Everybody vote Issei and Nisei alike or still keep the voting privilege to citizens only? Do you know how this election was conducted in the other camps? It seems to be a serious thing as lots of people are concerned who should conduct the machinery. I'm interested because of the protem Council, of which I'm interested because I'm one of the temporary Councilman and we've got the dirty job to set up the machinery so that the new bunch can take things easy and represent the people they way they should. Anyway, Uncle, I'm having a great time and here's hoping that I don't weaken. Lots of luck to you, Uncle, wherever you are and God bless you in your work and in your new location. I'll keep in touch with you if and when move out to our new relocation area.

Until again, T

Just got word that the U equip came in yesterday. Thanks for the hangers that T sent. Y came in yesterday. He signed up as Home Manager in his new area. RT became Kitchen Manager in his area. Press finished their first paper last week. Heard from E last week.

T

May 18, 1942

Report on Tanforan

u-1

There are 43 heads of dormitories -- they meet at 8:30 every morning with the Caucasian head of Housing Department and register complaints.

Mr. Cooper: Head of Housing; Capt. Spears, Supt. of Housing

Housing difficulties: Now 8 in each building (small barrack)
Each barrack has been partitioned down the middle with 4 beds on each side - conditions are overcrowded.

The housing situation is not good, if any more Japanese are sent in, there will be an acute housing problem.

Bedding: There are adequate beds, mattresses, blankets and quilts
Need cotton mattresses for asthmatic and hay fever patients

THEY NEED CRIBS BADLY - Dormitory heads request cribs every morning at meeting, but supply has not arrived.

Mr. Y thinks pressure should be brought on Quartermaster's Division of Army in San Francisco to send them in immediately:

Linoleum, to cover cracks in floors - wind blowing thru is causing many people to catch colds.

Cribs No cribs at all, babies are sleeping in cardboard cartons 43 babies are expected to be born in June.

Window Shades needed for wash rooms and dormitories for privacy

Paint Wanted very badly. Internees want to paint toilets and wash houses. Desire paint before all these other requests.

Heaters 10,000 BTU heaters have been ordered, but only a few sent in Need many more to heat dormitories.

Brooms, Pails, mops. Absolutely none have arrived, although Army promised them, Badly needed for housekeeping purposes.
(I saw white people carrying in dozens of brooms and pails to the Japanese they were visiting. Apparently they write out for them)

Religion: Send the bishop to Lawson to see about communion service. Tell Bishop to notify Rev. Tsukamoto when he is coming.

Recreation: Not very good. Not enough coordination to meet all age level. 1 night a week, there is a community talent show. (Thursday nights) in the Recreation Hall. There are no chairs, or benches; everyone has to stand.

Education: No organization yet, but they expect Mr. Kilpatrick in tomorrow as Recreational Director.

6-1

READING MATERIALS: Needee badly; the demand for books - books - books. 3 different Japanese spoke about this to me; especially wanted texts and books for study material for the college students.

Morale: Attending doctor says that morale is fair. Regarding 1st generation, some of them keep quite active and busy but others sit and brood all day. Doc says that many of the elderly people will not live very long under these conditions.

MEDICAL So far there is only one death, of heart trouble.

More head injuries, due to soldiers butting Japanese who try to get out at night. There was one case and patient was thought to have been sent to San Mateo County Hospital, as patient never came down to assembly center hospital.

There are now 4 nurses, 4 doctors. All doctors work hard, day and night. One doctor had a first day off in three weeks.

The CLO and medical supplies arrived safely.

Help needed to run baby clinic. Clinic for baby is on Monday and Wednesday. No seats or benches for mothers. They have to stand up waiting for their turn.

Doc. F has not been able to start the vaccinations and diphtheria shots yet - no assistance. Everyone is assigned to work on duty in the hospital. Some of the older doctors do not converge on ideas of public health. No isolation facilities at all. Many German measles still, and spreading; also mumps in camp.

Morale: Some of the Japanese are working very hard, and others are doing nothing. Those who have worked hard, especially the younger ones are very disgusted over the newspaper story that salaries will be \$8 to \$16 a month.

COLLEGE STUDENTS want to continue school; urgency of some information as to their schooling; urge J.C. to get in touch with these:

C.W.

Building 8, Apt. 34

Junior student, Berkeley High School

Hiroshi Kasamoto

Senior, University of California at Berkeley,

Want to continue at any state university - major in architecture

S.Y.

Barrack 4, Apt. 27

Has Bachelor Science degree, May '42 from U.C.

Honor student, Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta, etc.,

Major in Electrical Engineering

Wants to go as teaching assistant in some college and continue his studies

Tanforan W-1
May 13, 1942

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letters and for sending those swell recreation materials. We sure make good use of all the books, ping pongtables, etc.

Things are improving at the camp daily and with the new announcement over the radio about being paid within the range of \$8 to \$16 permonth in the Evacuation Centers ... people will know definitely what to expect. Of course it may have a demoralizing effect on many for the range is much lower than expected. It's the decision and there's nothing else we can do but be thankful that we get anything at all for working.

So many people here are looking forward to seeing you come and help us out, but I have hinted that probably you may try to help us from the outside.

I have been shifted to the Recreational staff and will soon help supervise one phase of the community wide recreation program which believe will be Boys Work. FK is now acting as LT's right hand man.

We got a couple of ping pong tables but no net. Is it possible to get a hold of a few? Since I was connected, I didn't want people to think that I was getting the best and most equipment from the center. So I waited purposely until seven other centers got their equipment. Nothing much was left which means the boys in my area will be without ping pong nets. If you could get some people to give up their old ones, I'd certainly appreciate it. T is in charge of the Center here. It is the center which the SF bunch resides. Oh yes, we sure need couple sets of horseshoes. We got two pits finishedhoping horseshoes would come in, but still waiting. Other centers even took some of my leathercraft and other craft tools but I shall try to arrange to have special skills used on community basis.

The other day one of the WCCA officials got fired because he was found drunk on the grounds. Ruling about no liquor on the grounds apply to officials as well as to us.

Hospital facilities are coming up to par. Still greatly understaffed.

Itwon't be long now that all of the Americans of Japanese blood will be interned and receive their new experience. I'm enjoying life at Tanforan andthink it a worthwhile experience. But I sure wouldn't want to be bottled in such an atmosphere for too long a time.

Well, it's getting mighty late so I'll turn in for tonight. I have to get up before seven so until again lots of power to you and keep up your spirits and good work.

Yours,

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Com. Mgt.

JUN 5 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Elmer L. Shirrell, Acting Project
Director
Tulelake Relocation Center

SUBJECT: Research study - University of
California

The University of California has undertaken a research project to study the economic, political and social effects of relocation on the Japanese. This study is being directed by Dr. Dorothy Thomas, working with Professors Lowie, Aiken, Kidner and Chernin, all of the faculty of the University of California.

They have requested that the record-taking on the sociological side be started at the Tulelake Relocation Center as soon as possible as the process can be followed there from the very beginning of the relocation procedure.

To expedite this plan, it has been requested that four evacuees and their families be moved immediately to your project. Their names and present assembly center locations are given in the attached copy of a letter from Dr. Thomas which is submitted for your information on the whole subject.

Accordingly, the Wartime Civil Control Administration has written to the Managers of the Puyallup, Tanforan and Tulare Centers instructing them to send the respective men and their families to Tulelake and to notify you by wire as to the time of departure from the assembly center, the time of their arrival at Tulelake, and the number of individuals involved.

As soon as these people reach Tulelake, Dr. Thomas would like to visit them and discuss with you some of the practical details of the work. Therefore, it will be appre-

Memorandum to Mr. Shirrell - 2

ciated if you will notify this office by wire when
all of the above referred to evacuees and their families
have arrived at Tulelake so that we may inform Dr. Thomas.

(SIGNED) E. R. FRYER
E. R. Fryer
Regional Director

~~Dr. Dorothy Thomas~~ ✓
~~Mrs. Lucy W. Adams~~