

Shotaro Hikida, Rivers, Arizona.
June 27, 1943.

SECOND WEEKLY REPORT ON GILA RELOCATION CENTER.

RESETTLEMENT COMMISSION AND SUB-COMMITTEE. Monday, June 21, 1943.

At the last meeting of the resettlement commission which was held at Canal, in order that study of problems concerning the relocation of large families may be carried on effectively by the commission, the writer of this report suggested the organization of sub-committee within the commission, each subcommittee making the specific study of resettlement problems of different class of evacuees. Mr. Hugo Walter who acted as chairman of the said commission meeting appointed Mr. John Fukushima and George Kawahara and myself as committee to select such sub-committee. Following the request of Mr. Walter, the said committee of three members met on Monday morning and established following three sub-committees and appointed the following as members of the respective committee;

1. Committee on relocation of farming group.

Mr. Kinoshita, Mr. Otani, Mr. Goto, Myself.

2. Committee on relocation of business group.

Mr. Hamai, Mr. Fukushima, Mr. Yahanda, Mr. Sasaki, Mr. Iida.

3. Committee on relocation of employees group.

Mr. Okuno, Mr. Hayashi, Mr. Sasaki, Mr. Kawahara, Mr. Kouno.

The duty of the committee is to make intensive study of problems in connection with relocation of specified group and make recommendations to the War Relocation Authority.

Tuesday, June 22, 1943. Re-assignment of C. A. S. personnel.

The Executive Committee of C. A. S. Butte Community met Tuesday night and discussed about re-assignment of staff members based upon new W. R. A. policy which becomes effective July first. Mr. John Wells who is the supervisor of C. A. S. expressed the opinion that according to the advice of Mrs. Kearn, the Washington representative of Employment Office, War Relocation Authority, there will be a cut of about 40 members from present payroll in C. A. S. (BUTTE). The chart which was worked out by Mr. Wells and Midori Morooka, the assistant supervisor, was presented for discussion. According to the said chart, the Isseis activities such as Sumo, Judo, Engei Kai, and Goh Shogi, were most hit by the W. R. A. new policy based on new budget. The paid staff members on Sumo, Judo, and Engei Kai ^{were} ~~was~~ cut to one third while paid staff member on Goh Shogi, Mah Jong and Japanese Literary Society was completely eliminated.

Realizing the importance of recreation for Isseis in the relocation life, the writer requested reconsideration of the proposed chart and suggested the following;

1. Increase ^{to NEW CHART} of 20 to 25 % in personnel of Issei activities.
2. Instead of placing paid staff members such as instructors and custodians for Goh Shogi and Mah Jong, separately, open up Men's Club so that any Issei activities can be carried on, and placement of one custodian for each club. Because of larger population in Butte, two clubs of similar nature had been suggested. Mr. Wells promised that such arrangement can be made by negotiating with the employment office.

FUNERAL OF MR. GENKICHI MUKUNO AT CANAL BUDDHIST CHURCH.

The funeral service of late Mr. Genkich Mukuno, former resident of Concord, California, more recently an intern~~ee~~ at Lordsburg, New Mexico, was held at Canal Buddhist Church, Tuesday morning. The writer, being acquainted with the deceased in pre-evacuation days, attended the said funeral. According to the information I received, the family of the deceased who reside at Block 4, Canal, was expecting to leave soon for internees family camp in Crystal City, Texas. Mr. Mukuno died suddenly by heart attack in internment camp in Lordsburg. It is considered as very sad case. The funeral was attended by more than five hundreds relatives and friends. Although the words of condolence are given by several friends and relatives at ~~most of~~ ^{USUAL} Buddhist funerals and the service as well as sermon are rather lengthy, this funeral was conducted with less words of condolence and short sermon. Only thing which was noticeable and conformed to old custom was incense burning ceremony. Representative ^{FROM} ~~of~~ almost every block in Canal participated. Such could have been simplified by one or two representatives of whole community taking part instead of ^{by} ~~of~~ more than twenty people. When the funeral was over, the family members except first son of deceased accompanied the remains of the deceased to ~~the~~ crematory in Phoenix. The eldest son could not accompany because he was not permitted to leave the center for outside as a result of his answering NO ^{IN} ~~to~~ the recent military registration. The effect of one's answering NO in military registration ~~is~~ seem to become serious concern of some evacuees. Already, this problem is becoming the talk of the community.

Wednesday, June 23, 1943.

More than twenty Niseis who volunteered from this center last December and enlisted in Army Intelligence Service returned here for furlough. Most of them came back with

promotion, two stripes and T in between them. It is the insignia of corporal, and they certainly showed it very proudly. The writer related on the departure of these boys when they were inducted ^{last december} describing the general attitude of evacuees, particularly older people toward enlistees. They were not very popular then with Issei evacuees but today they are welcomed heartily by both Isseis and Niseis.

Thursday, June 24, 1943.

This morning, when I visited Mr. Hugo Walter, Acting Chief of Community Service at his office, I have been consulted by him in regards to future disposition of Gila Young People's Association, the Kibei organization. He told me that the said organization is suspected by both F. B. I. and Dies Committee and something had to be done with. Immediately upon his presentation of this question, we checked the result of their military registration hoping that we may come to some conclusion on the basis of answers by the members of this organization. We found following result;

Those answering <u>No</u>	240 ;	Those answering <u>YES</u>	179
Male----- <u>NO</u>	198 ;	Male----- <u>YES</u>	115
Female----- <u>NO</u>	42 ;	Female----- <u>YES</u>	64

The result of our check up was surprisingly favorable because we often heard that most of the members of this organization answered NO. As to the future stand of administration toward this organization, I suggested that it all depend ^{upon} how the organization carry on their activities and what nature of activities they will carry on future. The decision of administration as to disposal of the organization should be based on their attitude toward America and their activities. It also ^{must} depend upon the kind of leaders which they may have for the organization.

The second issue of WAKAUDO or YOUTH, the publication of Gila Young Peoples Association came out. It contains more than twenty pages of articles in Japanese contributed by the members of the association. Reading these articles one can easily dissect the minds of the writers and ideals which they have. It can be generally said that they are philosophical view of their life. They clearly show their cultural background both in home and society which were very peculiar in nature. By peculiar, I mean the circumstances under which they were brought up as American born and Japanese educated.

Friday, June 25, 1943. PROBLEM OF WATER SHORTAGE

One of the serious problems which center residents have faced recent time was the shortage of water and, in order to solve this difficult problem, the irrigation ditch had to be constructed so that needed water may be supplied through irrigation . In spite of repeated appeals by project director to the residents for the conservation of water and for voluntary service of evacuees to construct ditches, unfortunately, there has been no response, and the problem of water shortage became more and more acute. In midst of such discouraging situation, the feeling of keen responsibility by Mr. John Fukushima, and his untiring devotion for the solution of this problem, brought most pleasant achievement. Through Mr. Fukushima's efforts during past a month, enough volunteers had been recruited and all the necessary ditches had been constructed. Today, irrigation waters are running through these ditches to every corner of the blocks and, all the residents are happy with enough supply of waters. Mr. Fukushima's efforts should be commended.

In contrary to the pleasant news of above paragraph, during last few days, I heard that there have been troubles among mess workers in Block 39 and Block 60. These troubles are the result of personal feelings which existed among waitresses. There are indication of having these troubles spread into whole block organization such as block council and others within the block. Reports will be given later on the development.

Saturday, June 26, 1943. Miscellaneous problems of the week.

Organization of Hi Y Club. Mr. J. V. Root, the executive secretary of Phoenix Y. M. C. A. visited the center, other day and called upon some evacuees who have been connected with Y. work in pre-evacuation days and requested for their assistance and cooperation in organization of Hi Y Club in Butte. Mr. Fred Shimizu, former secretary of Japanese Y. M. C. A. in Los Angeles, now the supervisor of recreation halls under C. A. S. is taking leading part along this line of work. The organization meeting is scheduled for next Thursday, June 30th, at which Masao Sato, the special representative of National Y. M. C. A. Council will be present. The new organization, it is expected, to devote mostly on activities in connection with relocation and resettlement.

WATER MELONS AND CANTALOUPE. With steady production of water melons and cantaloupes by the center's farm project, residents now are enjoying them very much. Because of plentifulness of supply of these melons, some tend to waste these precious fruits. In connection

with it I read a bulletin in block manager's office, other day. The bulletin was issued by Mr. Bennett in form of instruction to the evacuee residents warning recent practice of stealing melons from the farm and shipping them to outside. I thought it was serious offense and should be stopped at once. According to the opinion of this writer, such offense must have been committed by those who work on the farms and, their mental attitude toward such offense must have been nothing but bring home their own products rather than to steal the products off the government properties. No matter what ~~was~~ their mental attitudes were and what were, their motives, the result of such offense is very serious and effect of it upon moral of the community is bad, therefore, such must not be tolerated.

BASEBALL GAMES The baseball games in the center seem to be most popular sport at present. At each game, there are more than two to three thousands spectators. Games are played in full rivalry between the teams yet they are played in sportmanship manner. There are more than ten teams now participating in A league and these teams are organized within the evacuees who evacuated from certain localities of the California, except few teams. Naturally, the rivalry between the evacuees of different localities become more noticeable. The effect of such rivalry, at present, have no bearings upon other life of community.

WEEKLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

By Shotaro Hikida, C. A. S. Coordinator

November 29th,
Sunday.

Attended meeting of Gila Young Peoples Assn. with Jiro Oishi, chairman of C. A. S. council, and discussed with the officers of the said organization on the program and dates for the proposed art exhibits. The officers of Gila Y. P. pledged that there will be no other program except only the exhibit of the art crafts. It was mutually understood then that the dates to be fixed later with the approval of Mr. Hofferma. After discussion, each officer of Gila Y. P. was introduced by George Yamashiro and they all pledged their cooperation with C. A. S. in future.

December 1st,
Tuesday.

Reported for duty. Attended council meeting. After the meeting, had a conference with Yamashiro, director of Issei activities and secured information on certain misunderstandings seeming to exist between Santa Anita Drama group and Engeibu.

December 2nd,
Wednesday

Attended council meeting. When discussion of placing 6 men on staff as Sumo officials began, there was misunderstanding between a certain council member and Sumo representatives perhaps due to language difficulties and difference. Realizing the need of interpreting as well as explaining the arguments of both parties, I did so and as a result both understood the issue of the problem.

In the afternoon met Santa Anita drama group numbering some 10 people and listened to their side of arguments. They presented three reasons for their resignation from Engeibu and forming new and separate Drama Club; they are: First -- Incompetency of present staff members of five on Japanese Drama; Second -- lack of sincerity and cooperation; Third -- Postponement of Thanksgiving Issei Talent Show without consultation of Santa Anita group.

December 3rd,
Thursday

Attended council meeting in the morning. In the afternoon, met with Gila Engeibu members and listened to their arguments. They made following plea to the complaints of Santa Anita group; they are, first- they presented several fine entertainments such as Buddhist Dedication entertainment, Gila Y. P. entertainments, Farm project entertainment and several other entertainments at various block sponsored parties; they were cooperative with Santa Anita group, in fact they invited and welcomed their participation as members of Engeibu; third, the postponement of Thanksgiving Talent show was something which could not have been avoided within their power. Since there was not enough time to consult with each member before opening time of the show they had to make this quick decision. However, Santa Anita group had been notified immediately of the said decision. It was the opinion of all members present that since Yanase is one who is causing a trouble of this kind always it is useless to compromise with them as long as he is the leader of the group. *

December 4th,
Friday

Attended council meeting. Discussed with Grace Hagiya, Chairman, in regard to the Christmas program and decided to appear before Block managers meeting and present a plan of Christmas party. Met again with Santa Anita drama group and discussed about compromise also presented arguments of Engeibu members.

December 5th,
Saturday

Attended council meeting. Went to Art Exhibits. Asked by Gila Y.P. officer of permission to extend the dates of the exhibits, discussed with Mr. Hofferma and secured permit. Stopped at recreation hall 49, Engeibu which club is planning to partition the hall into three parts, namely the living room for instructor and custodian of the costume,

* Findings and opinion on drama groups.

property room, and rehearsing room; recreation hall 49, Gila Y.P. which organization uses the hall on full day schedule; recreation hall 65, Mah Jong Club which uses its hall day and night. These three groups are certainly benefiting from the availability of halls.

December 7th,
Monday.

Went to Canal to attend the meeting of C. A. S. staff of that community and offered my suggestions in drafting the contents of the booklet on "What is C.A.S." to be published for community residents. Went to exhibition area in block 41 and watched the progress of it.

December 8th,
Tuesday.

Attended council meeting. A question of Red Cross activities and its proposed benefit entertainment was brought at the meeting and members expressed their desire of Mr. Iwasaki's presence at the meeting and discuss and plan such events with the C.A.S. council. In the afternoon, called on Mr. Hofferma and Mr. Iwasaki and requested the latter to appear before council and present his plan in full. Visited recreation hall 44, where there was one piano and was not in use but later found out that Henry Ouye is now using it at his headquarters, temporarily. Then visited recreation hall 36, half of which is now under construction for model air-plane department and other half to be used by Kendo but the door was locked, expect to find out the progress of Kendo later.

December 9th,
Wednesday

Attended Block managers' meeting with Grace Hagiya and suggested a plan for coming Christmas party. They were very enthusiastic about the plan and decided to hold it on Christmas Eve in every block. Attended the meeting of Constitutional Committee. Discussed with Mr. Hofferma on Christmas trees.

December 10th,
Thursday

Attended council meeting. There was a discussion at the same meeting the matter of Community Enterprise under coop system and community funds from which a certain amount of funds be set aside for C.A.S. I volunteered to see a member of Community Council and ask him to appear before

the meeting to explain the progress of such a plan. In the afternoon met with Ken Kitazako, Secretary of Community Council and discussed this problem. He stated that Masato Kato, chairman on Community Enterprise, is making extensive survey on the matter and he promised me to appear before the C.A.S. council with Mr. Kato and present in full the progress of this problem.

December 11th,
Friday

Attended Council meeting. In the afternoon, met with Goh Club representative and requested to decide on use of recreation hall 61, giving half of it to Shogi Club and so enabling to open another recreation hall on other side of the camp, one half of which to be used by Goh and other half by Shogi. They told me that they will have the general meeting of the Goh members on Saturday night and decide upon that question. From the expression of the representatives whom I met there seemed to be possibility of satisfactory settlement of the matter. It was my surprise to find out that objection to this plan was raised mostly by President of the club, Mitsaji Oishi. In late afternoon met with George Yamashiro and requested him to attend council meeting regularly, asked him about affair at Mess 41, after the exhibit and demanded full explanation of it. He flatly denied such nationalistic celebration or rally was held. He said it was only a spontaneous party with soda water and cookies and there was no nationalistic demonstration at all. He said we will never do such foolish thing and complained the fact that such rumour is widely spread which undermines the moral of the organization. Touching upon the subject of Issei Talent Show I advised him to carry on this kind of program in future more systematic and business like way. He agreed to do so hereafter.

December 12th,
Saturday.

Attended council meeting. Attended meeting of clubs and organizations. This meeting was called by Chairman Oishi for the purpose of forming a council of all the clubs and organizations. I have not been consulted

with in regard to forming of the council but as a meeting opened and discussion progressed, I realized the importance of such council of clubs and organizations within C.A.S. Since there was no definite plan presented at this meeting, it was suggested by some representatives to set up organizing committees and eight members were appointed on the said committee. The representatives were very much enthusiastic in forming such council for the purpose of bringing coordination in activities and unity in purpose of community activity section.

* Findings and Opinion on Drama Group.

It is the opinion of this writer that friction between Santa Anita drama group and Engeibu is caused by the following differences in their attitude: 1. Great disappointment in postponement of Thanksgiving entertainment and making or jumping to hasty conclusion that such postponement was caused by lack of sincerity toward Santa Anita group or with certain antagonistic feeling; 2. Failure of Engeibu officials in approaching Santa Anita group about the postponement of the said entertainment; 3. Lack of system and business like manner in planning entertainment; 4. Too much individualism of Yanase who is a leader of Santa Anita group, with his stubbornness.

For a time being, there is no possibility of adjusting this matter and it is my opinion that this case should be left until such time that attitude of both parties change to be more cooperative or friction of the case becomes so serious for the welfare of the community.

WEEKLY REPORT

Resignation of Athletic Staff.

Upon resignation of Harry Ota, athletic director and his assistants of four men, the council, after lengthy discussion accepted their resignations, and I have been asked to interview prospective successor to Harry Ota. Ken Zenimura's name had been recommended by Harry Ota and few others. Since I have known Zenimura for pst 20 years I was more than happy to approach him. It was Sunday, January 3rd, I interviewed him. After more than two hours of discussion, I was able to conclude myself that he is best fitted as a director of baseball rather than athletic director. He, himself admitted that he will be much satisfied to take up the position as director of baseballs and not to be occupied with other athletic activities. It is my opinion as well as general public that there will be no other person than this man who is capable of organizing fine baseball clubs in this center. He is pioneer in the field of baseball in Japanese community, playing himself once as a star short stop, and organizing and taking baseball teams to Japan two or three times and coaching several teams in the California. He came here from Fresno Assembly Center with fine recommendation of director of recreation there.

It is the opinion of this coordinator that one of the faults of the athletic department at present is that football and basketball leagues were not well organized, moreover, actual participations of athletic staff members have caused so much criticism and troubles directly against them. These matter should be taken into consideration in appointing the staff members.

Santa Anita Engeibu and Recreation Hall.

Upon request by Santa Anita Drama group of a recreation hall for their place of rehearsal, the council considered this matter very seriously. The council itself was divided into two opinions; one upheld the policy of goodwill by letting them use a rec. hall temporarily and then bring the matter of reconciliation while other flatly objected giving a rec. hall to this group on the ground that such policy will set up a precedent for all other clubs and organizations thereby causing more split among them. Finally, I volunteered to take one more chance in arbitration of these two groups. Upon my recommendation, both clubs were requested to send three representatives to the council at which I shall offer them some suggestions for reconciliation. This had been done today. There were very shrp opinions and criticism voiced but through another meeting in the afternoon they came to agreement that both will all forget all about the past and become united in one organization with new officers to be elected on January 7th. It is the opinion of this coordinator that a question of pay paid staff members may come up and in order to solve this problem satisfactory increase of paid staff members for this Engeibu will become necessary.

Gila Young People Ass'n. and Advisorship.

Recently, I have been requested by this organization to become advisor and realizing the need of some kind of leadership and guidance I have accepted that appointment. On New Year's Day ceremony which according to Japanese way of celebrating usually decorate the hall with flags and sing national anthem, the Gila Y. P. had quiet celebration. As far as I know there was no nationalistic demonstration of any kind. In fact when I was told that they are planning to have a ceremony I advised them to have such ceremony in American way and not to have usual Japanese way of ceremony with nationalistic nature.

Kyowa Kai, newly organized Issei organization.

Kyowa Kai had been organized as a result and aftermath of conference held some times ago by Isseis in connection with meeting of Spanish Consul when he visited this center. It is the opinion of this writer that more than 75 % of this group is made up of cronic crabber among which there are number of radicals who always voice the criticism of Niseis and anti American sentiments.

The organization itself is not a real representative of Issei evacuees. The general public consider this organization as semi political organization formed by those who always try to meddle with community problems yet they are not recognized as real leaders of Issei evacuees and they are not ~~in~~ qualified to be elected as Block Chairman. According to my investigation this organization is represented only by 18 blocks out of 32 blocks in Butte Community. It is merely the duplication of body such as Block Chairman Board or Community Council and it is very clearly seen that once this organization is recognized by administration they will no doubt use it as ways and means of publicity and try to enlist a large number of membership thereby gaining a large and strong power as pressure group. It must be compared with Gila Y. P. with definite line between these two organizations; Gila Young People Ass'n. is purely an organization purely aimed to the development of young people, intellectually and spiritually while this Kyowa Kai political organization which without slightest doubt will come to crush with Community Council and Block Chairman Board. For the general welfare of the Gila Community I sincerely hope that organization of this kind will never come to exist and meddle with community affairs of this center.

WEEKLY REPORT OF C. A. S. COORDINATOR

Submitted by Shotaro Hikida.

I Organization Committee for Clubs and Organization Council, composed of following, met on December 14th and made following plans of organization to be presented before the meeting of the representatives of clubs and organizations;

Organization Committee. K. Fukumoto-Sumo, Tokunaga-Goh, Mrs. Fujimoto-Women's activity, M. Inouye-Issei activity and Gila Y. P., Harry Ota-Men's athletics, Earl Yusa-Clubs and organization, Jiro Oishi-C. A. S. Council chairman, S. Hikida-Coordinator.

Plan of Organization.

1. Participating organization; limited only to those clubs and organizations which are recognized by C. A. S. As to the religious organization one from Buddhist and one from Christian church council shall be invited to participate.
2. Representatives of organizations; each club and organization to elect one representative to the council.
3. Purpose of the Council; To promote better understanding between the clubs and organizations and to bring greater coordination in carrying out the program of C. A. S.
4. The meeting of the council shall be held once a month.
5. Officers of the Council, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

It has been decided that first meeting of the representatives will be held within two weeks.

II Engeibu Activities.

Attended a meeting of Gila Japanese Drama Club which was held on Sunday afternoon, December 20th. There were about 20 members present. Main discussion was election of the officers and plan of new year Japanese drama show and matter of setting up property and rehearsal room in Rec. 49. It has been decided that first classical Japanese drama, called Kabuki will be put on middle of January. Officers composed of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were elected.

III Sumo Ass'n. and Santa Anita Sumo enthusiasts. Since there have been so much rumor that Santa Anita residents have elected pit of their own on Block 32 and tend to cause a friction among Sumo enthusiasts, I called on Kameichi Fukumoto, the president of Sumo Ass'n. and requested immediate check up of this matter so that any serious discrepancy between these two groups can be prevented. Through his assistants, the matter had been thoroughly investigated and meeting of representatives of two groups was held and both came to satisfactory understanding that said newly elected pit on Block 32 is to be used only for practice purpose and full cooperation to be extended to Sumo Ass'n. at every match and tournament which will be held by that Ass'n. in future.

Submitted on December 22, 1942.