THE 1942

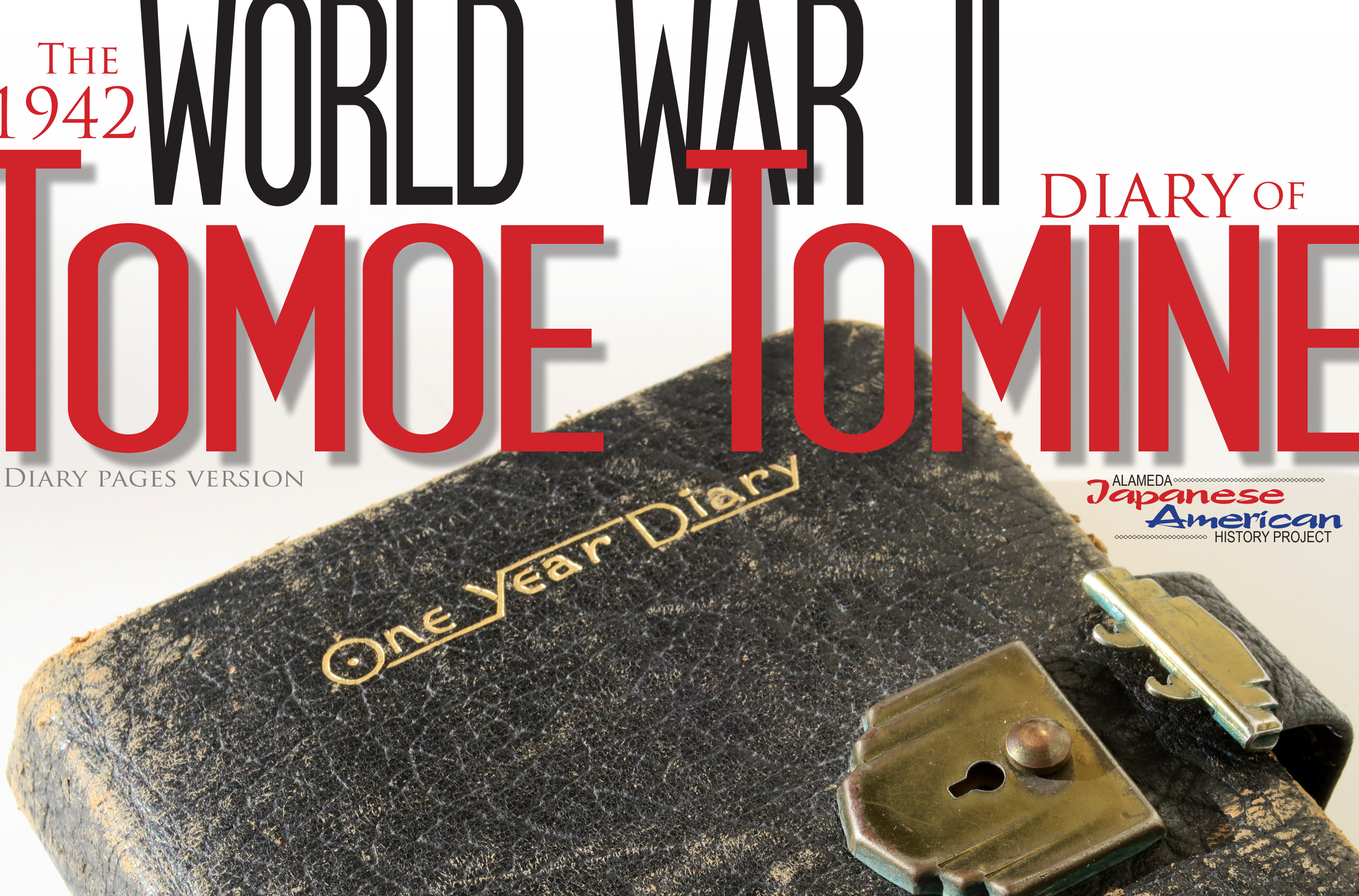
WORLD WAR II

DIARY OF

TOMOE TOMINE

DIARY PAGES VERSION

ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT





It is a privilege to read the innermost thoughts of another human being, decades after her death on October 12, 1997.

Tomoe Otsu Tomine's ("Toh-moh-A Oht-soo Toh-mean-A") diary begins written in Japanese on January 1, 1942, then switches to English in February, the very month all the Japanese on the island city of Alameda, CA., would be torn from their homes and eventually sent to incarceration camps around America. This document only shows you the English language pages.

By the diary's February entries, Tomoe had moved some 24 miles south of Alameda to what is now Fremont, hoping to avoid the evacuation, which proved fruitless. She lived with the Ushijima family, along with her mother, Yoshino Otsu, on the Ushijima farm. Back then the area was called Centerville. The diary's late February to May 9 entrees are written from there.

On April 16, Tomoe switches back to Japanese. By September, her writing becomes sporadic, then non-existent in October. There are a few more English entries in November and then it ends.

Tomoe Tomine was a thoughtful person, a talented singer and an eloquent writer. She was extremely devoted to her husband, Susumu ("Soo-soo-moo"), as he was to her.

The Alameda Japanese American History project is proud to present this material for you to read today.

It was a beautiful day out but stayed in all day arranging the room and helping around the house. my one big task is cooking which keeps me busy all day long.

In between, there was some ironing to do.

At eleven o'clock the mailman brought two letters for me — one from Susumu and the other from Tatsumi Yamamoto.

Susumu's letters are the only thing that keeps me going. If I didn't have him I'd be so lonesome.

Tatsumi is so kind to me. He is always concerned about my welfare.

Sudden change in the weather brought rain which was quite unusual, and unexpected.

We were thankful that we had moved two days before schedule.

Attended Kiko's home wedding at the Naruo's. She looked very sweet in her bridal attire. Chiyo looked very attractive in her red and cream gown.

It was good to see see my friends once again — missed Miyo, Masano and Fusano though.

Bob Naruo's home across the street was a peach. Everything modernistic from front to the back. I can't even dream of a place like that.

The girls brought me home but we got lost and by the time we finally located the house, it was twelve o'clock. We must've spent over an hour on the road.

Washington's birthday — also Susumu's and George's.

Regretted deeply that I wasn't able to make the trip over to Redwood City. Seemed like a good Sunday was wasted.

Mr. & Mrs. Yamachika moved in. Jack, Jake, & Yas came with the truck. Fed thirteen people for lunch.

Wrote to Susumu and Mr. Ishii. Also to thank Yas-san for mother.

Worked on Susumu's sweater for the first time in a long while. I must hurry up and finish it.

Holiday — George was home. Took him to the matinee in Hayward. Saw "The Corsican Brothers" & "Glamour Boy". Both swell.

First ride to town since my arrival. Was a beautiful drive. Almond blossoms blooming along the road, and mustard grass covering the meadows with its yellow blanket.

Went over to Sensei's back yard and Sensei was surprised. He thought I was dead since I never go out.

Told Kiyoshi I'd knit him a pair of socks. It's anyone for me to finish Susumu's sweater so that I can start on his sox.

Another day ended peacefully with amidst merriment & laughter. Mrs. Yamashita is the clown of the house.

FEBRUARY 24

Rain
Went to Hayward with Harry to Employment Office and Bank.
Found two letters from Susumu.
-was glad to hear the Ishii's saw approved of me.
Kyoko has written to Susumu again. Hope she isn't in to make more trouble.
Wrote letters to Susumu, Takeuni, and Sato-san.
Waited up for George, and had another "jam session" up till 11:30. What a riot! George imitated a Filipino and was he good! Mrs. Yamashita was standing right by to keep the ball rolling.

FEBRUARY 25

Beautiful day.
Did a little ironing in the morning.
Received another letter from Susumu, and one from Masano in San Jose.
Harry George and myself drove to J.a.c.L. headquarters to have our pictures taken for the J.a.c.L. identification cards. Just one shot so it may be a failure. Sorta anxious to see it.
Met Chizu Takimoto, Lillian, Sakata sisters, etc. at the Headquarter.
Wrote five letters — to Masako, Susumu, Mary, Toshi & Masano.
Bought some yarn for Kiyoshi's socks. Knitted all evening and got to the heel.
Baked a devil's food cake for the first time. It tasted pretty good but it had quite a number of holes which didn't look very professional.

The day was overcasted and threatened to rain, but the sun was shining by noon.

No mail today which was disappointing.

Washed my hair after two weeks. Feel light-headed now.

Took a walk along the highway with Takaye. The air was crisp but it was nice out.

Tried spading in the field and found out what a hard job it was.

Jack & Sumiko came to see their father & mother. They brought their baby with them. She's a darling.

Finished Kiyoshi's socks — one side. Started on the other.

Missed Susumu's letter today. The 'Sunset' was exquisite!! Tomorrow will be a fine day.

Ideal weather again just as I predicted.

Ironed all morning.

Received a mail from Susumu. He's worried about the evacuation. I wonder what'll happen if I have to separate further away from Susumu? Will we ever meet again? That is my sole worry. Susumu went under another examination. I hope it will show favorable results.

Wrote to Susumu in the afternoon.

Harry varnished our room so that we can move in.

Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita moved into the back house today. Harry also moved out into the back.

Stayed up late again. Seems like we never get to bed before eleven.

Mask was over at Motoyoshi's. Said there were rumors about my marriage. Even congratulated me.

moved into Harry's room. It looks sweet! Nice + cozy.

Received a letter from John. It was full of compliments. Said I resembled Ginger Rogers. If I can remember correctly Stan once told me that too. Even though it isn't true, its a great compliment to me.

Got Mrs. Motoyoshi + Sakaye's hair.

Intended to go to a movie tonight but George worked on late shift so no cars. Might get to go tomorrow.

MEMO

The month of February has gone by. In spite of the current conflict the world goes around. In another week the war will enter its fourth month, and things aren't any better.

Lately we have been hearing unfamiliar words like, enemy aliens, contra-band, curfew zone, evacuation, F.B.I. and others.

We hear of many dangerous enemy aliens being "taken in" by the F.B.I. agents. Some of their sons are serving in the U.S. army. Their family must evacuated from the prohibited area. Such is the lifes of the Japanese in the U.S. today.

Worse things are expected to happen. We are ready to taste any medicine now.

MEMO

Sunday — beautiful day. Had several visitors. Stayed home and wrote letters. Learned to drive for the first time & when the car started to me, I got so nervous I forgot everything. I wonder if I'll ever learn to drive.

At night, George, Harry, Min Ota & I went to San Jose to see a movie. Expected to see "Suspicion" but wasn't playing, so saw "Keep 'em Flying." Got home at 1:00 A.M. for the first time in a long while. Seems like I can't stay up any more.

MARCH 2

Went to Hayward with Harry.
Reported at the Employment Dept'y.
Weighed myself and found
I gained three pounds since
I came to the country. This
life must agree with me. I
better watch my step though.
Received a letter from Summie.
I disappointed him last Thursday.
I hope I can go this week.
Finished Summie's sweater and
Kiyoshi's socks. Turned out pretty
good but I hope its not too small.

MARCH 3

March third — Girls Festival.
The Motoyoshi's celebrated the
day with oosushi and other
Japanese dish. Brought a
dish over for us too.
Received five letters — Masano,
Masako, Tatsumi, Summie and
Mary. Seems like everyone is
talking about the coming
evacuation.
The prohibited area has been
designated. All Nisei's as well
must get out. No specific date
has been set but it won't be
very long. Where to go is our
problem. Yes, where can we go?
Baked an apple pie but the
crust was lousy. The boys en-
joyed it though.
Sugar, Tom, Sam, & Archie
came over to play poker and
stayed till 12:15. Enjoyed watching
them even though I don't know
the game.

MARCH 4

All Japanese including American citizens must evacuate from the prohibited area. No date has been set as yet but plans are being made to evacuate them within sixty days.

The government requests the Japanese not to get panicy for they are going to provide us with comfortable quarters and appropriate work.

Two weeks have passed since we settled down here, and now we have to think of re-settling some place else again. This time it will be pretty far away, and most likely the climate would be very disagreeable.

Received letters from Susumu & Sato san. Sato san said if he leaves Calif. we may never meet again.

MARCH 5

Another warm day like yesterday. Was my first really happy day in a long while.

Harry took me to Redwood City to see Susumu. It only takes half an hour to the hills. Took some lunch, flowers, and sweater. The sweater was just right.

Spent a perfect afternoon up on the hill with noone around to bother us. It was an ideal day for a picnic. Sat on the green grass over-looking the valley and talked of the past and future. Felt like staying there for hours & hours.

Took "Lady" out on the car for the first time, and she really enjoyed it.

MARCH 6

Nothing exciting occured. No mail either.

Spent the day reminescing of the first time we had together — Susumu & I — yesterday.

Wrote to Susumu in the morning.

Six guests from Sekigahara's camp came for a visit.

Finished one side of Harry's socks.

MARCH 7

Got up at 7:40 which was unusually early, after the breakfast dishes, and ironing and a little house-work, it was already ten-thirty.

Got Susumu's letter. Susumu was very glad to see me. He thought I looked younger and prettier since I came out to the country (Ho ho ho!)

Susumu looked handsome as ever, I thought too.

Takaye & I took a walk again. Walked up to the Niles Rock today. Afternoon walk was rather hot. From now on well do it in the morning.

Takaye wanted to hear the Japanese records so we played it for the first time in a long while. I still ~~Japanese~~ think Japanese music is good. We even tried to dance to "Jennen no Hi".

Went to bed with a slight cold. Intended to get up early and make hot cakes but couldn't do it. Got up around 8:30, took a ride to San Leandro.

Felt rather low so went back to bed again. Mary dropped in around three o'clock which was a great surprise & pleasure. Got up and went to Sakata's with Mary, but came back right away and went to bed again.

Toshi, Masako, Haruko, Fake, Yoe Johnny, Tusaye, Yasuko, Yuki Yuri and many others dropped in from town.

Sunday is usually a visiting day around here.

Got up and reported to the Employment agency, but still felt dopey so went back to bed after lunch.

Received a letter from Kiko. She seems very happy. Married life must be wonderful. I hope my turn will come soon.

Another letter was from Tatsumi. He said my last letter encouraged him alot.

Spent the rest of the day in bed.

MARCH 10

Back to the daily routine.
Feel fine now. Started to rain in the afternoon.
Received a letter from Susumu, Mrs. Martin, and a wedding picture from Mr. & Mrs. Kanno. Both look elegant!
Wrote back to Susumu, and also thanked Kiko.
Today the ladies are starting to transplant the tomato plants. It is getting rather busy around the house for that reason.
Mrs. Yoshimura is in her overalls right in with the country ladies.
Went to see "Suspicion" in San Jose — Sakaye, George, Harry & myself. Joan Fontaine won academy award in this picture. She really deserves it. It was a wonderful picture.
Went to the bowling alley for the first time. Seems like an interesting game.
Got home at one o'clock.
Was still raining.

MARCH 11

Started out fine but commenced to rain in the afternoon again. By evening the rain had changed to wind and is still blowing hard.
Received two checks from the unemployment office, a letter from Susumu, and one from Chizu.
Nothing exciting happened.
Still don't know when we are to evacuate and where. The best thing is to forget the war and evacuation and live from day to day.
The willow trees in the front are turning green with the rain. Quite a change has come over in the surrounding in three weeks. The beautiful peach & almond blossoms are just about gone. Apricots are in full bloom now. The river underneath is running more swiftly after the rain.
Wrote to Susumu & Betty.

MARCH 12

Nothing extraordinary occurred. Just a daily routine composed of housekeeping & cooking. Finished Harry's socks. Yoshimi brought the J.a.c.L pictures. Are they frightful! The ladies were out in the tomato beds transplanting.

MARCH 13

Today was Friday the thirteenth, but I got away without any bad luck.

Harry said he had his share of bad luck cuz he had to get up at 4:30 AM. to cover the tomato beds on account of the rain. He got to sleep all morning though.

Rev. Motoyoshi dropped in and talked for a while. On the way home he suggested Suzuno & I get married as soon as possible if the doctor permits. Suzuno should evacuate with me, Sensei thinks.

Received a letter from Suzuno & Toshi. Toshi suggests we get together for a fiddle musical soiree. Sure like to go to S.F. once again.

Wrote to S. in the afternoon. The day was very unsettled. The ladies started to work out in the beds but had to quit when it started to rain.

MARCH 14

The rain storm that came last night continued throughout the day. Freezing temperature came with it, and the wind almost took the trees by the roots. Around five in the afternoon the storm ceased, and snow were seen on the distant mountain peaks. Must have been the coldest day of the year.

MARCH 15

Yesterday's storm became a thing of the past and today — Sunday really became a sun day. The rain increased the water in the river below, and the water is flowing gayly with a merry tune. The slow heaving of the sea somewhere in the distance, and the hearty chirping of the birds in the trees tells one that Spring is in the air.

Being Sunday, we had many visitors from Alameda.

Kiko & George and Chiyo dropped in and surprised me. Kiko seemed very happy.

The ladies had another "Jam Session" at night with Mrs. Mikami joining the colony. The "samisen" added color to the merry-making.

The ladies can forget evacuation when they're singing and laughing away.

Could've gone to the movies but stayed home.

Nice day again.

Mashno dropped in, which was a pleasant surprise. It's her birthday today. She is 24 too.

Housecleaning, scrubbing, cooking and ironing was enough to keep me going all day.

Finally got through with the dishes around 7:30, then wrote three letters — Susumu, Toshi & Takumi.

Received Susumu's letter in the morning.

Nothing special happened today. Did the usual thing around the house.

George, Harry, Sugar, Sugar, Sam, & I went to see "Captain of the Clouds" and "Unexpected Uncle". Both good pictures.

MARCH 18

Received a letter from S.
He expects me Thursday.
Was a long day today waiting for Thursday. Wishing for a nice day so we can go for a walk again.

Tomorrow will start a new month for us in Centervill.
Has a whole month passed already? Time seems to have gone by swiftly since every day brought forth a new event.

MARCH 19

— was a very happy day.
Lying in the grass and searching for a four-leaf-clovers with S was wonderful. Couldn't find any, but happiness was with us anyway so it didn't matter much. Talked about evacuation and our future.
S. plans to ask for a leave to settle his business. Hope we can both go to L.A. together and have our final fling.
Poor Harry slept in the car while we walked in the sun.

Wrote a letter to "S" and a letter of congratulation to John in the evening.

Heard Skig + Tsuno dropped in while I was out. Too bad I couldn't see Fusano and talk with her.

MARCH 20

Excellent day. Spent about three hours outside. Got a slight tan. Hope to continue adding color.

Finished George's socks. Started a pair for myself for a change.

Lady — the cocker spaniel — is cuter as ever. Today at supper time she got so excited she fell backward trying to stand up on her hind legs.

Played some records in the evening. It was good to hear Shina-no-Yoru" again.

MARCH 21

First day of Spring — the day was worthy of the occasion. Just enough chilliness in the air to remind us that winter was making its exit.

The sky was blue, trees green with new leaves, birds singing of spring, and the lazy mooing of the cow all helped to welcome the new season.

Exactly one year ago today Susumu & I met for the first time. I can still remember clearly the beautiful "Shina-no-Yoru", "Aizen Yakyoku" and "Hana Kotoba" sung by Susumu accompanied on the guitar by Ota-San. They were rehearsing for an entertainment for the Kibei Conference. Now I wish I had gone to that confab. I would have enjoyed it.

MARCH 22

First of the week is usually busy.

Today being Sunday, we had plenty of visitors again.

Daddy & Lou dropped in for a while. Min, Setsu, Nami, Jomi & the brother dropped in on the way home from San Jose. Mrs Iwatashi had sent some "Ohagi" for Mrs. Yamashita our mother. I thought it was rather sentimental.

Stayed in my room & wrote to Sukumu while guests were busy with their conversation in the dining room. Kiyoshi kept me company.

MARCH 23

Went to Hayward for the unemployment compensation. Sakaye went with us, and we did a little shopping here & there.

A new curfew has been established restricting the movements of all Japanese, American-citizen alike, alien Italians & alien Germans. Under this law those affected must be at home between 8:00 p.m. & 6 a.m. and can only travel within five miles. A special permit is essential to travel outside of these limits. This is to go into effect Friday morning, March 27th.

Received a letter from Chizu in regards to the furnitures we left behind. They are planning to rent their house.

Received a letter from Susumu.

Nothing unusual; just the idea of being locked up after the 27th is sickening.

Went to San Jose with Harry, George, Sam & Sakaye to see the town for the last time.

Saw "The Man Who Came To Dinner". Good comedy.

Received a letter from Tatsumi. He is returning to S. F. today.

Inamura son has gone back to Stockton.

Found my letter ~~letter~~ addressed to Susumu on the dresser which should have been mailed yesterday morning. It was an important letter concerning our trip to S.F. too. Sent it out this morning.

Received a letter from Miyo & Susumu.

Hiroshi Kanda came over to tell us that it would be safer to take our furnitures and that no one will be given a permit for that purpose after today.

Sam offered to take us on his truck so Harry, Sam & myself made a hurried trip to Alameda and brought back all the furnitures. Called up Toshi Y. while I was in Alameda.

Sam, Harry, Suzu, Tom, Sakai and I started out for S.F. from 9:30 for our final

spree. Harry forgot his birth-certificate so all were worried about getting across the bridge but we succeeded. Went to "Club Lido" for the first and unfortunately the last time. Never had so much fun! Had steak dinner, saw a good floor show and even danced. Tasted "Tom Collins" for the first time. Wasn't bad at all. Even held a cigarette in my hand. Took a few puffs. It was fun to pretend for one night. Sam bought a corsage of two gardenias for me. That would probably be the last corsage for a long time too. Left the Club after 2 A.M. Crossed the Bay Bridge for the last time, bidding farewell to S.F. and her beautiful Bay, reached home after 3:00. Mom was pretty sore but "what's done cannot be undone".

End of a perfect evening!

Curfew started today. A memorable day for us.

Received an unexpected wire from Susumu saying he made a trip to S.F. on the 26th cuz he thought he couldn't get a permit later. Rather disappointing but it's all for the best. Glad he made the trip. I wonder what Mr. Sugaya had to say. Anxiously waiting tomorrow's mail.

Heard from Kobe. Made me feel happy.

Awfully sleepy. Going to bed early.

MARCH 28

Received Susumu's letter explaining his hurried trip to S.F. He met Sato san, Ishii san, Nomura san, Mr. Ota, Joshi, Masato, etc. Mrs. Nomura had just become a mother, and Mrs. Ishii is expecting in the near future.

Susumu, Ota-san, & Joshi got together Wednesday night and had a musical soiree. Susumu seemed to have enjoyed it very much. Sorry I couldn't be there to join them.

Mary Tatsuno came to Centerville today since none can evacuate voluntarily after Sunday.

MARCH 29

Was a quiet Sunday on account of the curfew. Mary & Sam came around so we got together & looked at albums & school annuals. Jok & Harry were trying to jitter-bug — Jour dance teach.

The Mikami family and Masato moved in next door. They have a total of fifteen people there now. What a mob!

Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita left from this house yesterday for Sanger. It's so quiet with Mrs. Yamashita. She was our leading lady, that's why.

MARCH 30

Scrubbed, changed the pantry paper, dusted, cooked, etc. Was an unusually hot day — the hottest day this year.

Sam drove me to Hayward to the Employment Bureau. Sam went to the War Board so. Took a chance and dropped in an ice cream parlor.

Received a letter of apology from Susumu, and another from Joshi. Joshi hopes we go to the same "camp". I hope so too!

Wrote to Susumu and Joshi.

MARCH 31

Nothing exciting happened outside of the daily doings. Stayed home and ironed

Another month passed, and we are still able to live here. Thank Heaven! But it won't be long before our date will be announced too. San Francisco received the first order to evacuate. Certain districts around the water front must leave by Sunday April 7th. Japanese town district is still safe.

It stands to reason that the country people would be in the latter group since their produce is essential to the country. They must carry on till the last day. Neglecting the crops is considered sabotage and is subject to arrest.

April Fool's Day. Didn't get caught tho.

Frank drove Fusayo, Sakaye and myself to Centerville.

Bought a pair of white shoes, a pek blouse, panties, monk's slacks, etc. Noticed the sales girls were all courteous. Drove home via Niles to enjoy the scenery. We sure can enjoy the beauty of Spring if it weren't for the present condition we sight.

Bought everything I need! Now I'm ready to evacuate,

Lakaye & Tusaye came over and made two delicious lemon merangue pies, and were they delicious!

Received Susumu's picture finally. Nice picture but doesn't do him justice. The finish is very poor.

Tried walking to town with Lakae & Tusa, but didn't succeed. Was finally picked up by Miss Egashira.

Collected Lakae's treat at Clovedale Creamery, and got a lift home from Tusaye Tanaka. Got off at De Coto Road and were going to walk back home, but was spied by Sam & Harry who were on their way to pick us up. We must've walked about two miles in all.

Wrote to Masako & Susumu. Received a card from John. He's on his way to Colorado.

Rain — no work outdoor. Practically the whole next door was over in the morning.

Sam drove me to the War Board in Hayward. Bumped into Mr & Mrs, Kondo, Miss Tomimatsu, Jimmie Tudenna, etc. Had to wait an hour and a half for my turn. Went to the Employment Office for the final O.K. The man in charge thought that next Thursday would be too far in advance, so he told me to come back next week. He couldn't be sure whether orders would change again.

Received a letter from Jimmie Kusuda via Air Mail. I wonder where he got my address? He's now at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

APRIL 4

Rain again. No work.

Mrs. Hitomi and Mrs. Kitajima were over in the afternoon.

Mrs. Kitajima entertained with the "Shamisen" while Mrs. Ushijima sewed on a "futon". Mom is working hard on the bed-spread.

Wrote a letter to Susumu in the afternoon.

APRIL 5

Still kept on raining.

Stayed in all day. Mrs. Yoshimura, Mrs. Ushijima & mom went out to transplant from about three o'clock.

Shizu & Tom Mitsuyoshi, Sam, Suzu, Sakae, Tusaye, Johnny, Harry, George, & I went to an Italian dinner in Niles. Our time was limited so we had to keep an eye on the watch. Had a swell steak dinner, and all went home contented. Bought ~~an~~ a pineapple pie for mom's birthday (Incidently mom is fifty today), and some candy for Kiyoshi. The day was just turning to night when we left for home. It's such a shame to have to pass by a theatre and not be able to walk in. "Bed Time Story" was playing at the Niles theatre.

APRIL 6

Johnny, Harry & myself went to the War Board for leveling permits. Asked for one to go to the optometrist and got it. Johnny had to go into Colorado so went with him.

Went to Rokuji Garage & George Kano was still working there. Heard of Yosh Nakagawara's marriage to Cherry Shiozawa. He's home on a furlough from the army.

Went to Dr. Robinson and had a re-check. Got a pair of rim-less. Went to Dr. Watada's Telegraph Office and saw Stan. He looked thinner somehow. I guess he's worried about Jean. She's expecting next month sometimes.

Received letters from Masaru & John. John wants us to go out to Colorado. He seems to like it alot. Masaru is ~~pa~~ cutting spinach. Seems like hard work.

APRIL 7

Tuesday - stayed home and ironed.

Went to play tennis with Johnny, Harry, Sakae but the courts were full so didn't get to play.

Started in the blanket - knitting with old yarn. Hope to finish it before we leave here.

APRIL 8

四月八日 — Today is Buddha's birthday. Obasan made some "おもち" I helped too.

Went next door in the afternoon to a service. About twenty people were there.

Also Chiyo's birthday. Bought a card but don't have her address. Will mail it as soon as I find out.

Went to Centerville with George, Kiyoshi + Sakae. Bought my ticket to Redwood. Sure must, they asked for the traveling permit.

Oba-san made some "okuski" at night for me to take tomorrow.

Going to bed with hopes for a "sunny day".

APRIL 9

Got up early — six-thirty for a change. The day was unsettled but wore my spring outfit. Left home at 7:30 with my lunch and some lilacs. The bike trip wasn't so long, and I reached Redwood in about an hour.

From 9:30 to 4:30 -- had a wonderful time with Susumu. Kiyoshi joined us too. Three of us had lunch with cokes + ice-cream too. The boys enjoyed the Japanese food for a change.

Looked at Kiyoshi's album + one of Susumu's too. It was very interesting. During the rest hour we hid in the laboratory and played cards. Kiyoshi was busy with the "lab work." Later in the day the two of us went back up the hill with Susumu's guitar and we sang and played to our hearts' content. We even ran under the tree to find shelter from the April shower.

Four-thirty came in no time, and regretfully we said 'good-bye' not knowing when we'll meet again. My hopes are high. I have a feeling we can meet again soon. Please, Lord Buddha, let this hope come true.

After several poor connections, finally reached home at ten to eight. Thanks to Sam. Might have been sitting in the "cell" by this time if it weren't for Sam.

When I reached home, everyone was waiting on the front porch. Harry & Kiyoshi had gone to the De Soto Manor after me.

Sakae was over to bid me farewell. She is to start working in a family from tomorrow. I'll miss her too.

Kiyoshi said "we missed you today" which was the best thing anyone could've said.

— 17PRIL 10 —

Nothing unusual

Cleaned up for a change.

Went to Washington Union Hi and hit some tennis balls around. Later played basketball for the Alameda girls against the Scottie's. The score was unbelievable but was a good work-out.

Letters from Susumu and Masato.

Baked a gingerbread. Turned out rather well.

Received a letter from Chiyo unexpectedly. She's in Tulelock with the family.

At night wrote to Susumu, Chiyo, Betty.

APRIL 12

Sunday - played tennis again - Sam, Fusaye, Sakae, George & myself. Sure got nice and stiff. A bottle of Coke was very refreshing after the exercise.

Sakae's first day off.

Sakae tried driving George's car. She's pretty good.

Sam treated us to an ice cream cone.

Kiko & George dropped in around six-thirty. They had come beyond the limit.

Wrote to Masako in the evening.

APRIL 13

George, Sam, Johnny & I went to Hayward again. Went to get a permit to go to the optometrist again. Got it right away. Bought a white blouse for Sakae. Ironed in the afternoon.

Nice day. Ironed in the morning.
Went into Oakland & Alameda with Johnny & Tusaye in the afternoon.
Stan gave me a pair of dark glasses for a souvenir.
Saw Masa Hanamura, Tusako Nakata, Mas Nakata, Sam Rokutani, George Naruo, etc in Alameda.
Got home after six.
Received a letter from Susumu. Susumu wishes to buy me a ring but can't decide what kind to get. If possible, he would like to get married, but we must ask the doctor about his condition.

General clean-up today. The curtains were taken care of too.
Letters from Miyoshi & Toshi.
Miyo is in Petaluma. She's busy packing up like the rest of us.
Toshi is just about ready with her things. Seems like the San Franciscans are going to be sent to Tanforan Race Track near San Mateo.
Went to Mikami's in the afternoon and read the novel "子" by Yusuke Tsurumi. Swell book.

Wedding MEMO Gifts

Mr. & Mrs. Omizuka $5.00
Mrs. Ushijima 5.00
Mr. Mitani 30.00
Mrs. Yamada 3.00
Matsura & Maeyama - bureau
Mrs. Yoshimura & Mr. Yamada - lamp stand
Mrs. Noda - Sheets
Yo Murakoshi - Sheets & pillow slip
Kiko & George Narus - Towels
Toshi Yamamoto - Towels
Nobu Domoto - Towels
Shigeno Maeda - pillow slips & towels
Chiyo & Miyo - towels
Shijo san - bag handle
Kasai san - coat hangers
Sato san - $10.00

NOVEMBER 1

NOVEMBER 14

NOVEMBER 15

To Halsine Masuda, a baby boy at Arizona camp.

Miss Chigoko Tsuno's marriage
to Mr. Isaka Matsushige.

This ends the English portion of the diary.

Tomoe Tomine's diary was made available for the general public by her daughter, Amy Tomine.

The hand drawn art of Tomoe was done in 1937 by S. Maeda.

At right: Tomoe and her husband, Susumu, celebrate Christmas together in Alameda, circa 1950s, several years after their return from Tule Lake camp. They were initially incarcerated at Topaz in Utah.

A second version of this diary is also available. The "transcribed text and illustrated " version includes photos, news stories and notations not included in this, the "diary pages" version.

To learn more about the WWII incarceration of the Japanese, click here.

To read more about Sus and Tomoe, see the PDF, "The Picture Worth A Thousand Lifetimes."



ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT

ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT

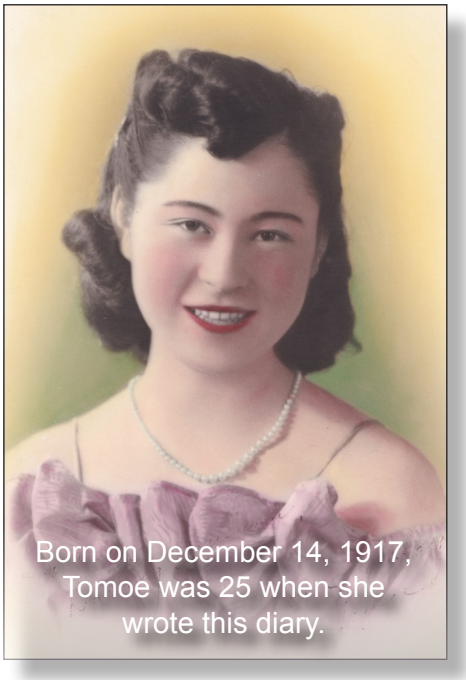
THE 1942 WORLD WAR II DIARY OF



Transcribed text & illustrated version

TOMOE TOMINE

PART ONE: February 1 to May 9, 1942



Born on December 14, 1917, Tomoe was 25 when she wrote this diary.

It is a privilege to read the innermost thoughts of another human being, decades after her death on October 12, 1997.

Tomoe Otsu Tomine's diary ("Toh-moh-eh Oh-tsu Toh-me-neh") begins written in Japanese on January 1, 1942, then switches to English in February. That's the month all the Japanese in Alameda, CA (an island where Tomoe was born, in the San Francisco Bay) were forced to leave their homes behind, to live in temporary facilities. Months later, 110,000+ Japanese and Japanese Americans would be sent to incarceration camps across America.*

This document shows you the English language pages, plus the February, April and part of the May pages translated from the Japanese. It also includes photographs, news articles, etc, that were not part of the original diary.

By the diary's late February entries, Tomoe and her mother, **Yoshino** ("Yoh-she-noh"), had moved some 24 miles southeast of Alameda to the Centerville vicinity (what is now Fremont), of the Washington Township. All Japanese Alamedans were ordered off the island by February 24, by Lt. General John DeWitt. The temporary assembly centers where they would soon live before going to the incarceration camps were not yet ready. Where to go? They moved in with **Sugino Ushijima** ("Soo-ghee-noh Ew-she-g-mah") at the farm that the Ushijimas leased and worked, in the Township.

Before the war, the Otsus and Ushijimas were friends in Alameda, but sometime around 1920 or 1921, the Ushijimas moved to the Township. Tomoe's diary's late February to May 9 entrees are written from there.

On April 16, Tomoe's diary switches back to Japanese. By September, her writing becomes sporadic, then non existent in October. There are a few more English entries in November and then it ends.

Tomoe Tomine was a thoughtful person, a talented singer and an eloquent writer. She was extremely devoted to her husband, **Susumu** ("Soo-soo-moo") as he was to her. At the time of this diary, he was recovering from tuberculosis in Redwood City, which is across the San Francisco Bay from Alameda and the Washington Township.

The Alameda Japanese American History Project is proud to present this material for you to read today.

*To learn more about this event and Executive Order 9066, click here.

Tomoe and her mother, Yoshino, move in with the Ushijimas in February 1942

Washington Township

Location of Sugino Ushijima's farm at Route 1, RFD 371 near the Bell Ranch Bridge in 1942. The bridge spanned the Alameda Creek at Decoto Rd. ***Rural Free Delivery*** Routes were how farmers received their mail, versus having to drive into town to get it at the post office.

The Ushijimas grew tomatoes and peppers on two acres, leased from Manuel Joseph of San Francisco. Niles was her post office, but she lives closer to Centerville.

Bell Ranch Bridge and the Alameda Creek. Tomoe mentions this creek in the diary.

Before 1956, this entire area was known as the Washington Township, and encompassed eight small towns, including Centerville, Decoto, Irvington and Niles.

In 1956, Centerville and other small towns nearby were incorporated into Fremont. Decoto became part of Union City.

Alameda is some 24 miles to the northwest, and from there, San Francisco is just across the Bay Bridge.

"I was born and reared in a town called Centerville, which was one of the districts of what is today known as the city of Fremont," said Tsuyako 'Sox' Kitashima. "Centerville was one of about eight small towns which comprised an area known as Washington township. If you blinked twice while driving through Centerville, you missed the whole town. But I suppose that was true of most of the towns in our area."

Sox's parents were friends with Sugino Ushijima.

Of the 550 total Japanese, nearly 100% of the 150 adult Niseis in the Township were members of the JACL by 1942, an extraordinarily high percentage compared to most Japanese communities. The Japanese represented four percent of the entire Township's population at that time.

Founded in 1934, the Washington Township (Centerville) JACL was at 3955 Walton Avenue near Centerville-Irvington Rd. It was a dirt road.

Centerville-Irvington Rd, also known as Main Street, is now Fremont Blvd

Editor's note:

Another version of this diary is also available, where you can read from the scans made of the actual English diary pages, versus Part 1 of this transcribed version.

Like any diary, Tomoe sometimes uses a sort of shorthand, or abbreviations of words or names that may seem like misspellings.

At the end of some dates are notes added by the editor.

Faded text in parenthesis are by Patsy Obayashi, explaining that as she was transcribing, she could not read the handwriting.

As you begin this diary, Tomoe is living in Alameda, CA. Know that in her world (and now yours), Pearl Harbor was bombed just a few months ago...



Biddle to Reveal Additional Regions In California Monday

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31—(U.P.)—Attorney General Francis Biddle Saturday designated 69 additional areas in California from which Japanese, German and Italian aliens will be barred for the duration of the war.

When the prohibitions become effective, any Axis alien found on forbidden territory will be interned for the duration of the war.

Nichibei Shinbun • February 1, 1942

FEBRUARY 1
Too bad, it rained all day today. I was disappointed as I could not take a picture that I had been looking forward to. I let Susumu-san read "Tomo's Charm." He was happy to know that others praised me. When I put the ring on Susumu-san's finger, I swore in my heart, "I am yours forever."

The two joyful hours that I had waited for two weeks has passed quickly. We left the mountain reluctantly. Susumu-san has become healthy enough to study since the 30th, which means another step closer to the discharge day from the hospital. So happy.



Tomoe and Susumu Tomine. Susumu is Tomoe's fiancee. He suffered from tuberculosis and was living in a TB facility in Redwood City, likely Canyon Sanitarium, on the west side of the San Francisco Bay.

FEBRUARY 2
A light rain is sadly falling. Stayed home all day and cleaned up the drawers. I packed boxes with many dolls and mementos given to me by various people on various occasions. I found the doll given by Fumiyo-san on my birthday 3 years ago. I turned it back and found the note saying "To my Tomo, from Fumiyo."

It brings me renewed fondness and nostalgia. For nearly six years since I parted from Fumiyo, we corresponded across the Pacific Ocean, but now we are not even allowed to exchange letters.

I felt a heavy feeling in my heart as I reminisced about the old days when we used to dance happily together. Fumiyo-san must be thinking about us in distant Japan. Today, the feared eviction order came to Alameda. It seems that all enemy aliens in Alameda must leave. The deadline is February 24. Where should everyone go from here?

FEBRUARY 3
As Masako-san was out to get the marriage license, I went to the salon to help. There were so many customers, Mae and I were running around from 9 to 6.

Received letters from Susumu-san and Hanamura-san at home. Susumu-san said he was happiest when he was with me. He is worried if I caught a cold from not wearing a coat on Sunday.

Hanamura-san's letter is the first one after the enlistment. He asked about the situation at Alameda. Tatsumi-san called from San Mateo, concerned about the eviction in Alameda.

I wrote to Mrs. Ushijima in Niles asking for a favor. We may end up staying there. If possible, I would like to be near where Susumu-san is. The rain continues to fall. It seems to be tears of sympathy for the

Japanese in Alameda.

Tomoe was working at a San Francisco beauty salon. She received her state license to practice as a beautician and hairdresser in 1934.

Hanamura is likely Howe Hanamura, of Alameda. He became a member of the U.S. Army 442nd Regimental Combat Team and was wounded fighting the Nazis in Italy. He survived WWII.

Sugino Ushijima really lived closer to Centerville vs Niles. See pages 2 and 3.

FEBRUARY 4
It's been a tough day since this morning. The walls fell and rain poured in. Troubles till the last minute before our leaving. I hate to live in such a hovel. The Caucasians at my mother's workplace are all kind enough to offer advice. It makes me sad that they are so sympathetic.

In the evening, Tatsumi-san and Imamura-san came to see if we needed help. They said they would find us the workplace in San Mateo. After they left, I wrote to Susumu-san. I asked him to come visit us before we move away as we have a lot of complicated things to discuss.

FEBRUARY 5
The dream was shattered by a rushing noise, and I jumped up to see that the wall on the other side had fallen down and water was coming in. Still half asleep, I took clothes out of my closet. I kept yawning all day. Rumor has it that all Issei people will be sent to a camp, which means I must part with Mom. It is hard, but I am not the only one. There is nothing I can do but calm down and let things be as they would be. No matter how bad the war becomes, I have never dreamed that it will get this bad.

Oh, how I wish this meaningless war will end! And I wish we can again enjoy the beauty of the nature and wonderful music with feeling of happiness.

Over a four day period, nearly one inch of rain fell in the Alameda vicinity. • Issei ("E-say") were the first Japanese to settle in America circa late 1890s. They would be Tomoe's parent's generation. There was much fear that parents and their children would be separated when they were removed from their homes and sent to the incarceration camps across America.

FEBRUARY 6
It's Friday so I went to work. As for the Alameda County eviction, I told the salon people that I didn't know where we would end up with. Issei people would rather be sent to camp. It makes sense that they feel more reassuring to suffer together in the same place than to be separated in old age.

When I visited my teacher at night, I learned it would probably be voluntary eviction. In that case, I will go to Niles with Mom and live in a farmhouse.

The world changes suddenly, and I now have to live a life I never dreamed of. Received an encouraging letter from Susumu-san. He says we will cry and rejoice again even though it is lonely now as we miss each other.

FEBRUARY 7
It has been 2 months since the war began. The changes that have occurred to the Japanese in the U.S. in such a short period of time have been profound.

The worse the war gets, the more the Japanese must suffer. What will become of us? This may create a bond among young people. But can the seniors bear the pain?

I hope we all live to see the day when the light of peace shines through. If one must die before the day comes, nothing could be sadder.

At this time, young people should join hands to care for and encourage the elderly. I said my final goodbyes to the people at the salon and left. It was a goodbye to the people I had worked with for nearly four years. It was a bit painful.

FEBRUARY 8
On a whim, I went to the mountain and surprised Susumu-san. Good weather for the first time in a long while made me feel happy. Took pho-

tos of Susumu-san, Kiyoshi-san and me.

Hope they will come out ok. Susumu-san got permission to come home the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday - three days. The happy day we waited and waited. I'm pondering how I should spend three days to get the best results. Guests stayed till 12 o'clock at night.

Hongo-sensei also visited us to talk about the house. Jan came and asked for my picture as a keepsake, so I gave her one. She said she would visit us in the country.

Sensei ("Sen-say") is an instructor or teacher.

FEBRUARY 9
Moving is a big task. Wherever I open, I only see junk. They are too good to throw away, yet too much trouble to take with us. My hands got dry and rough from touching various things. My hands look like those of farmers even before I become a farmer myself.

FEBRUARY 10
Good weather. Kept cleaning the house all day. Japanese in Alameda all look restless. I hear that Maruyama-san's store and Masano-san's beauty shop will be closed by the 15th. Park Street will get empty.

I heard that Kikuko-san's wedding is scheduled for March 21. I would like to stay in Alameda until then to see Kikuko-san in her wedding dress. We received a kind letter from Mrs. Ushijima, urging us to come over there as soon as possible. We decided to go to Niles at last.

Park is the main street in Alameda and is where many Japanese businesses were located.

FEBRUARY 11
Nice weather. Nothing unusual, same as yesterday.

FEBRUARY 12
Today is Lincoln's birthday, and my father's death anniversary. 18 years ago, my beloved father passed away. I clearly remember saying goodbye to my father when I was six years old.

But when I look at a picture of my father now, he feels like a stranger. I feel as if I never had a father. When I was a child, I depended on my mother alone and didn't mind not having a father, but as I get older, I sometimes feel I am missing something. I can see Susumu-san after I sleep tonight. I hope the dawn breaks soon.

We don't know how Tomoe's father, Kanzo Otsu, ("Kahn-zoh") died, circa 1923.

FEBRUARY 13
As today was Friday the 13th, I was worried something bad might happen, but it turned out to be alright. I left home at 2 o'clock to go to Greyhound Depot.

When I saw Susumu-san's face, I was so happy I jumped up. With a tie on, he looked very smart. I was proud to walk with him.

The first good news was that he had moved to Ward 4 on Thursday. It means he is one step closer to full recovery. In the evening, we went to the movies for the first time in three months.

It was more fun as I got to see it with Susumu-san. The title was"How Green Was My Valley".

In 2022, the drive from Alameda to Redwood City is about 30 minutes by car.

FEBRUARY 14
Strong wind all night last night. I was worried that the wind would blow the house down. I could not sleep well and the night ended. Susumu-san said he slept only for 2 to 3 hours. We went to San Francisco from around 10 o'clock and came home at 7:30.

We bumped into many people. First, Sugatani-san, then Sato-san and Ishii-san. Ishii-san was with his wife and one-year-old, cute Daniel-chan – a happy

family of three. I wish such a happy day would come to me soon. Ishii-san encouraged us in many ways.

Went to downtown, and Susumu-san bought me beautiful camellia flowers as a Valentine's Day present. I brought them to the salon. People praised them and made fun of me. But since they were the gift from Susumu-san, I didn't feel bad or discouraged.

FEBRUARY 15
We parted with the promise that he would come by 10 o'clock. I went to the bus stop several times around that time, but I could not see him.

When I was worried, he phoned and said he had overslept and that he would be on his way. It was 12 o'clock when he arrived at Alameda. There are only 4 hours left.

The hours flew like an arrow and the parting time came. I was filled with a desire to hold him back while I was with him to San Francisco. But there was nothing I could do. At last, the 5 o'clock bus took Susumu-san away. When I was left alone, I wanted to burst into tears.

FEBRUARY 16
Just busy moving.

FEBRUARY 17
Same

FEBRUARY 18
From the 16th to the 18th, lots of work to prepare for a move. I was covered in dust and the body was so tired. When I took a hot bath and went to bed, I was in heaven. We shipped out everything except for our beds. We decided to sleep one more night here in Alameda.

Moving to the Washington Township

FEBRUARY 19
When I said goodbye to many people and left beloved Alameda, tears I had been holding back oozed out. It was past 3 o'clock when we arrived the new home by a truck.

Mrs. Ushijima, working in the field, came out to greet us. Though the house is in the country, it is much nicer than my house. It is built in a country house style and looks very cozy.

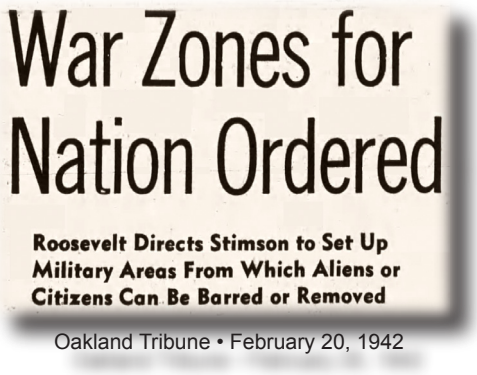
The view from the back window is refreshing with a stream flowing below. The nearby peach tree is decorated with white and pink flowers. Willow trees will soon sprout green buds.

In the evening, the youngest, 11-year-old Kiyoshi-chan came home from school. Very friendly and lovable. Then 18 year-old Harry came home from work. We met him for the first time.

Late at night, the oldest, George came home. All four of them are cheerful and warmhearted. The two-person household suddenly became a lively six-person household.

"Arrived the new home by a truck" means the Otsus did not drive their own car to Niles/ Centerville. The flowing stream is the Alameda Creek. Kiyoshi, Harry and George are Sugino's children. Her husband, Seisuke, died in 1937.

FEBRUARY 20


War Zones for Nation Ordered

Roosevelt Directs Stimson to Set Up Military Areas From Which Aliens or Citizens Can Be Barred or Removed

Oakland Tribune • February 20, 1942

It was a beautiful day out but stayed in all day arranging the room and helping around the house. My one big task is cooking which keeps me busy all day long. In between, there was some ironing to do.

At eleven o'clock the mailman brought two letters for me—one from Susumu and the other from Tatsumi Yamamoto (guessed at this last name, handwriting hard to make out) Susumu's letters are the only thing that keeps me going. If I

didn't have him, I'll be so lonesome. Tatsumi is so kind to me. He is always concerned about my welfare.

On February 19, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. On February 20, Secretary of War Henry Stinson appoints Lt. General John DeWitt as military commander to carry out EO9066.

FEBRUARY 21
Sudden change in the weather brought rain, which was quite unusual, and unexpected. We were thankful that we had moved two days before schedule. Attended Kiku's home wedding at the Naruo's. She looked very sweet in her bridal attire. Chiyo looked very attractive in her red and cream gown.

It was good to see all my friends once again—missed Miyo, Masao, and Fusano though. Bob Naruo's home across the street was a peach.

Everything modernistic from front to the back. I can't even dream of a place like that.

The girls brought me home, but we got lost and by the time we finally located the house, it was twelve o'clock. We must've spent over an hour on the road.

"moved two days before.." - By February 24, all Japanese had to leave Alameda, to comply with Lt. General John DeWitt's orders to leave the island. Hence the move to the Ushijima farm.

FEBRUARY 22
Washington's birthday—also Susumu's and George's. Regretted deeply that I wasn't able to make the trip over to Redwood City. Seemed like a good Sunday was wasted. Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita moved in Sak, Tak, & Yas came with the truck. Fed thirteen people for lunch.

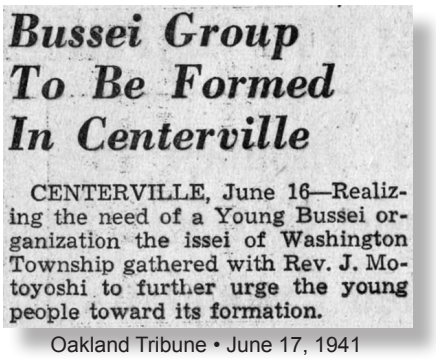
Wrote to Susumu and Mr. Ishii. Also 10 thank you notes for mother. Worked on Susumu's sweater for the first time in a long while. I must hurry up and finish it.

George is George Washington Ushijima, the son of Sugino Ushijima. GWU was born on Feb 22, 1921.

FEBRUARY 23
Holiday—George was home. Took me to the matinee in Hayward. Saw "The Corsican Brothers" & "Glamour Boy". Both swell. First ride to town since my arrival. Was a beautiful drive. Almond blossoms blooming along the road, and mustard greens covering the meadow with its yellow blanket. Went over to Sensei's back yard and Sensei was surprised. He thought I was dead since I never go out.

Told Kiyoshi I'd knit him a pair of socks. He's anxious for me to finish Susumu's sweater so that I can start on his sox. Another day ended peacefully amidst merriment & laughter. Mrs. Yamashita is the clown of the house.

In this case, sensei is likely Rev. Joshin Motoyoshi ("Joh-sheen Moh-toh-yoh-she"), of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda. He was well known in the Township before the war. "Before the war, in our Centerville area, we didn't have a Buddhist church," recalled Sachi Kamiji Fudenna (Sah-chee Kah-me-gee Foo-den-ah") in 2022. "Once in awhile Rev. Motoyoshi use to come and we would have a service and I would go to that." He was living at RFD 372, essentially the farmhouse next to the Ushijima's 371 farmhouse.



Bussei Group To Be Formed In Centerville

CENTERVILLE, June 16—Realizing the need of a Young Bussei organization the issei of Washington Township gathered with Rev. J. Motoyoshi to further urge the young people toward its formation.

Oakland Tribune • June 17, 1941

FEBRUARY 24
Rain. Went to Hayward with Harry to Employment Office and Bank. Found two letters from Susumu. --was glad to hear that Ishii san approved of me. Wrote letters to Susumu, Tatsumi, and Sato-san. Waited up for George and had another "jam session" up till 11:30. What a riot! Mrs. Yamashita was standing right by to keep the ball rolling.

Harry is Sugino Ushijima's son, born in 1923. Tomoe often went to the Hayward employment office, 15 miles to the north, to collect unemployment checks.

On this day, the Nichibei Shinbun reported: "FBI Continues Roundup Potential Dangerous Nationals. ALAMEDA: Torao Miki, Toshio Nakata, Toshio Kumagai, Naoyoshi Kuge and Hyakutaro Towata."

FEBRUARY 25
Beautiful day. Did a little ironing in the morning. Received another letter from Susumu, and one from Masano in San Jose. Harry, George, and my-

self drove to J.A.C.L. headquarters to have our pictures taken for the J.A.C.L. identification cards. Just one shot so it may be a failure. Sorta anxious to see it.

Met Chizu Kakimoto, Lillian, Sakata sisters, etc. at the Headquarter. Wrote five letters—to Masako, Susumu, May, Toshi, & Masano. Bought some yarn for Kiyoshi's socks.

Knitted all evening and got to the heel. Baked a devil's food cake for the first time. It tasted pretty good, but it had quite a number of holes which didn't look very professional.

FEBRUARY 26
The day was over casted and threatened to rain, but the sun was shining by noon. No mail today which was disappointing. Washed my hair after two weeks. Feel light-headed now. Took a walk along the highway with Sakaye. The air was crisp, but it was nice out.

Tried spading in the field and found out what a hard job it was. Tak and Haruko came to see their father & mother. They brought their baby with them. He's a darling. Finished Kiyoshi's socks—one side. Started on the other.

Missed Susumu's letter today. The "sunset" was exquisite! Tomorrow will be a fine day.

FEBRUARY 27
Ideal weather again just as I predicted. Ironed all morning. Received a mail from Susumu. He's worried about the evacuation.

I wonder what'll happen if I have to separate further away from Susumu? Will we even meet again? That is my sole worry. Susumu went under another examination.

I hope it will show favorable results. Wrote to Susumu in the afternoon. Harry varnished our room so that we can move in. Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita moved into the back house today. Harry also moved out into the back. Stayed up late again. Seems like we never get to bed before eleven.

Masato was over at Motoyoshi's. Said there were rumors about my marriage. Even congratulated me.

When Tomoe speaks of Susumu's 'examination,' it is for tuberculosis. "Harry varnished our room..." he must have cleaned it before Tomoe and Yoshino moved into it. The back house is a two room building in the backyard.

FEBRUARY 28
Moved into Harry's room. It looks swell! Nice & cozy. Received a letter from John. It was full of compliments. Said I resembled Ginger Rogers. If I can remember correctly Stan once told me that too. Even though it isn't true, it's a great compliment to me. Set Mrs. Motoyoshi & Sakaye's hair. Intended to go to a movie tonight but George worked on late shift so no car. Might get to go tomorrow.

MEMO

The month of February has gone by. In spite of the current conflict, the world goes around. In another week the war will enter its fourth month, and things aren't any better. Lately we have been hearing unfamiliar words like, enemy aliens, contraband, curfew zone, evacuation, F.B.I. and others.

We hear of many dangerous enemy aliens being "taken in" by the F.B.I. agents. Some of their sons are serving in the U.S. Army. Their family must evacuate from the prohibited area. Such is the life of the Japanese in the U.S. today. Worse things are expected to happen. We are ready to taste any medicine now.

At the end of February, Tomoe wrote this poem in her diary for Susumu, translated from the Japanese.

Leaning Against the Window

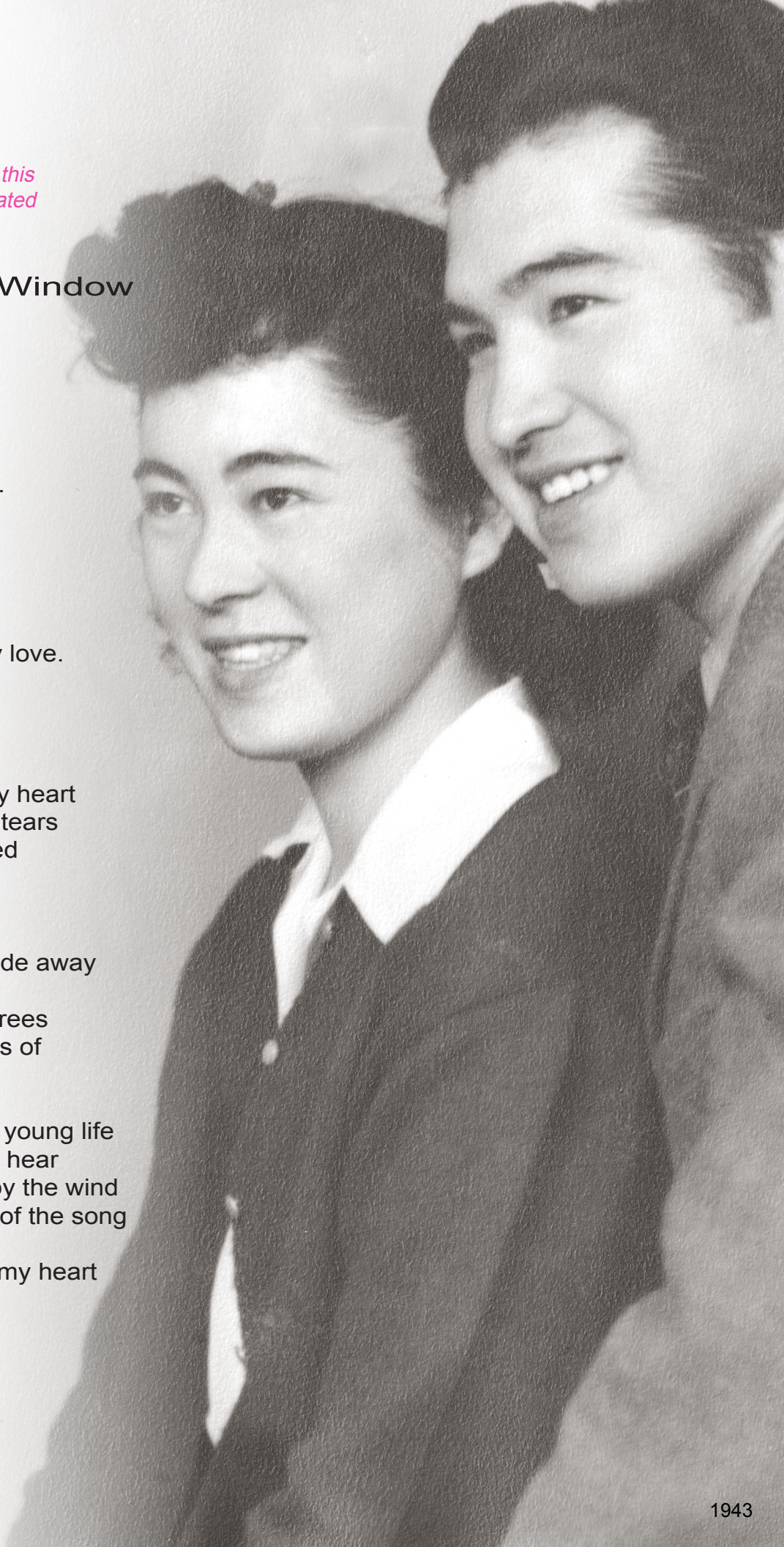
Leaning against the window,
I think of young days that will
never come back.
The days with full of dreams
were pure without a cloud.
Ah, away, afar, they have gone.
Memories of spring

Peaceful days have left me
with the longing in my heart.
This day, this heart
Is filled with the woes of earthly love.
Oh, my heart in tears, in tears

Blue path of red flowers
strolling alone and lonely
The fragrance of flowers fills my heart
Memories are overflowing with tears
This is the path two of us walked
picking violets together

I see his eyes in the blue sky
His lingering smile that won't fade away
I'm sad when I call his name
Farewell to the rows of poplar trees
Drawing an image with my tears of
The man I cannot forget

Flowers and birds are enjoying young life
The music of spring is sweet to hear
Tears on my cheeks, touched by the wind
My heart is wet with the sound of the song
My black hair is fluttering
With the song that whispers in my heart



1943

MARCH 1
Sunday—beautiful day. Had several visitors. Stayed home and wrote letters. Learned to drive for the first time. When the car started to me, I got so nervous I forgot everything. I wonder if I'll ever learn to drive.

At night, George, Harry, Min Ota, & I went to San Jose to see a movie. Expected to see 'Suspicion" but wasn't playing, so saw "Keep 'Em Flying". Got home at 1:00 A.M. for the first time in a long while. Seems like I can't take it anymore.

Tomoe never does learn to drive, Susumu would drive her everywhere after they married.

MARCH 2
Went to Hayward with Harry. Reported at the Employment Dept. Weighed myself and found I gained three pounds since I came to the country. This life must agree with me. I better watch my step though.

Received a letter from Susumu. I disappointed him last Thursday. I hope I can go this week. Finished Susumu's sweater and Kiyoshi's socks. Turned out pretty good but I hope it's not too small.

When Tomoe refers to 'the country' she means the countryside of the Centerville/Niles, a very rural area at this time.

On this day, the Oakland Tribute reported: "The stern law of military necessity, and not public clamor, will determine what is to be done about evacuating the West Coast's 200,000 enemy aliens and their children, and the decision will come shortly," Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, head of the Western Defense Command, declared bluntly today. DeWitt issued the orders to create Military Area 1 and Area 2, banning Japanese or restricting them to certain areas. DeWitt's use of a highly inflated number, 200,000, was common among those who wanted the Japanese out.

MARCH 3
March third—Girls Festival. The Motoyoshi's celebrated the day with o-sushi and other Japanese dishes. Brought a dish over for us too. Received five letters—Masao, Masako, Tatsumi, Susumu, and Mary. Seems like everyone is talking about the coming evacuation.

The prohibited area has been designated. All Niseis as well must get out. No specific date has been set but it won't be very long. Where to go is our problem. Yes, where can we go? Baked an apple pie but the crust was lousy. The boys enjoyed it though. Sugeo, Tom, Sa, & Archie came over to play poker and stayed till 12:15. Enjoyed watching them even though I don't know the game.

Girls' Day is a celebration of girls in Japan. Osushi is sushi, but is generally not the kind of sushi one thinks of from restaurants. Tomoe is probably referring to the makizushi or inarizushi that Japanese in America would make at home.

Nisei ("Nee-say") are Tomoe's generation, the children of the Issei. Issei were labeled enemy aliens by the US Govt,, Nisei were American born citizens, until they weren't.

The San Francisco News reported: Enemy aliens, for greater efficiency, have been classified into five classes and proclamations affecting their future will be forthcoming with these numbers, General DeWitt said.

No. 1—All persons suspected of espionage, sabotage, fifth column or other subversive activities. The FBI and intelligence services are rounding them up daily.
No. 2—Japanese aliens.
No. 3—American-born Japanese.
No. 4—German aliens.
No. 5—Italian aliens.
Archie is Archie Uchiyama, who lived nearby.

MARCH 4
All Japanese including American citizens must evacuate from the prohibited area. No date has been set as yet but plans are being made to evacuate them within sixty days, The government requests the Japanese not to get panicky for they are going to provide us with comfortable quarters and appropriate work.

Two weeks have passed since we settled down here, and now we have to think of resettling someplace else again. This time it will be pretty far away, and most likely the climate would be very disagreeable.

Received letters from Susumu and Sato-san. Sato-san said if he leaves Calif. We may never meet again.

MARCH 5
Another warm day like yesterday. Was my first really happy day in a long while. Harry took me to Redwood City to see Susumu. It only takes half an hour to the hills. Took some lunch, flowers, and sweater.

The sweater was just right. Spent a perfect afternoon up on the hill with no one around to bother us. It was an ideal

day for a picnic. Sat on the green grass over-looking the valley and talked of the past and future. Felt like staying there for hours & hours. Took 'Lady" out on the car for the first time, and she really enjoyed it.

MARCH 6
Nothing exciting occurred. No mail either. Spent the day reminiscing of the first time we had together—Susumu & I—yesterday. Wrote to Susumu in the morning. Six guests from Sekigohama's camp came for a visit. Finished one side of Harry's socks.

MARCH 7
Got up at 7:40 which was unusually early. After the breakfast dishes, and ironing and a little housework, it was already ten-thirty.

Got Susumu's letter. Susumu was very glad to see me. He thought I looked younger and prettier since I came out to the country (ho ho ho!) Susumu looked handsome as ever, I thought too.

Sakaye & I took a walk again. Walked up to the Niles Road today. Afternoon walk was rather hot. From now on we'll do it in the morning. Sakaye wanted to hear the Japanese records, so we played it for the first time in a long while. I still think Japanese music is good. We even tried to dance to "Tennen no bi"!

Composed in 1902, Tennen no Bi ("Ten-nen-noh-b") is a waltz and translates into the "beauty of nature." It is often performed at Japanese festivals in America to this day.

MARCH 8
Went to bed with a slight cold. Intended to get up early and make hot cakes but couldn't do it. Got up around 8:30, took a ride to San Leandro. Felt rather low so went back to bed again.

Mary dropped in around three o'clock which was a great surprise & pleasure. Got up and went to Sakata's with Mary but came back right away and went to bed again.

Toshi, Masako, Haruko, Tak, Yas, Johnny, Fusaye, Yasuko, Yuki, Yuri, and many others dropped in from town. Sunday is usually a visiting day around here.

MARCH 9
Got up and reported to the Employment agency, but still felt dopey so went back to bed after lunch. Received a letter from Kits. She seems very happy. Married life must be wonderful. I hope my turn will come soon.

Another letter was from Tatsu. He said my last letter encouraged him a lot. Spent the rest of the day in bed.

MARCH 10
Back to the daily routine. Feel fine now. Started to rain in the afternoon. Received a letter from Susumu, Mrs. Martin, and a wedding picture from Mr. & Mrs. Naruo. Both look elegant! Wrote back to Susumu, and also thanked Kiko. Today the ladies are starting to transplant the tomato plants. It is getting rather busy around the house for that reason Mrs. Yoshimura is in her overalls right in with the country ladies.

Went to see "Suspicion" in San Jose—Sakaye, George, Harry, and myself. Joan Fontaine won academy award in this picture. She really deserves it. It was a wonderful picture. Went to the bowling alley for the first time. Seems like an interesting game. Got home at one o'clock. Was still raining.

MARCH 11
Started out fine but commenced to rain in the afternoon again. By evening the rain had changed to wind and is still blowing hard. Received two checks from the unemployment office, a letter from Susumu, and one from Chizu. Nothing exciting happened. Still don't know when we are to evacuate and where. The best thing is to forget the war and evacuation and live from day to day.

Form NJACL-OA-1

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

(N. B. Taken by the undersigned individual as a prerequisite to membership in the Japanese American Citizen League for the year 1942. This organization is composed entirely of American citizens, is national in scope, and is pledged "For Better Americans In A Greater America." It has over sixty chapters and a membership of some 20,000 in over 300 communities in the United States.)

I, the undersigned, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I do hereby forswear and repudiate any other allegiance which I knowingly or unknowingly may have held heretofore; and that I take these obligations freely, without any mental reservation whatsoever or purpose of evasion. So help me God.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of April, 1942.

Notary Public in and for the County of Alameda, State of California.

My commission expires Aug 25 1945

Tomoe Otu
(Signature)

Rt. 1 Box 371
(Street Address)

Niles California
(City) (State)

Washington Township
(Chapter Name)

*In her February 25 entree, Tomoe writes that she went to the JACL office to have her picture taken. On **March 12 (see next page)**, she saw the resulting "frightful" photo, below. On April 8, she would sign this JACL Oath of Allegiance. Many young Niseis in the Washington Township did the same. Most Isseis declined, as they were at complete odds with the JACL.*

Right Index Finger



Photograph



Certificate of Identification

JACL Washington Township Chapter
Name Tomoe Otu
Address Rt. 1-Box 371
Niles California
Height 5 feet 1 inches. Weight 118
Distinctive marks
Birthplace 2313 Blanding Ave.
Street or R. F. D.
Alameda California
City State
Birthdate December 14 1917
Month Day Year

The willow trees in the front are turning green with the rain. Quite a change has come over in the surrounding in three weeks. The beautiful peach and almond blossoms are just about gone. Apricots are in full bloom now. The river underneath is running more swiftly after the rains! Wrote to Susumu & Betty.

MARCH 12
Nothing extraordinary occurred. Just a daily routine composed of housekeeping and cooking. Finished Harry's socks. Yoshimi brought the JACL pictures. Are they frightful!* The ladies were out in the tomato beds transplanting.
* See previous page

MARCH 13
Today was Friday the thirteenth, but I got away without any bad luck. Harry said he had his share of bad luck cuz he had to get up at 4:30 AM to cover the tomato beds on account of the rain. He got to sleep all morning though. Rev. Motoyoshi dropped in and talked for a while. On the way home he suggested Susumu & I get married as soon as possible if the doctor permits. Susumu should evacuate with me, Sensei thinks.



Received a letter from Susumu & Toshi. Toshi suggests we get together for a finale musical soirée. Sure like to go to S.F. once again. Wrote to S. in the afternoon. The day was very unsettled. The ladies started to work out in the beds but had to quit when it started to rain.

Tomoe was quite a singer, and Susumu an excellent guitarist, hence her interest in the 'musical soiree.' "S" is Susumu.

MARCH 14
The rainstorm that came last night continued throughout the day. Freezing temperatures came with it, and the wind almost took the trees by the roots. Around five in the afternoon the storm ceased, and snow were seen on the distant mountain peaks. Must have been the coldest day of the year.

MARCH 15
Yesterday's storm became a thing of the past and today—Sunday—really became a Sun day. The rain increased the water in the river below, and the water is flowing gaily with a merry tune.

The slow mooing of the cow somewhere in the meadow, and the hearty chirping of the birds in the trees tells me that Spring is in the air.

Being Sunday, we had many visitors from Alameda. Kiko & George, and Chiyo dropped in and surprised me. Kiko seems very happy. The ladies had another "Jam Session" at night with Mrs. Mikami joining the colony. The "shamisen" added color to the merry making.

The ladies can forget evacuation when they're singing and laughing away. Could've gone to the movies but stayed home.

A shamisen ("shah-me-sen") is a sort of Japanese banjo.

MARCH 16
Nice day again. Masuno dropped in, which was a pleasant surprise. It's her birthday today. She is 24 too. House cleaning, scrubbing, cooking, and ironing was enough to keep me going all day.

Finally got through with the dishes around 7:30, then wrote three letters—Susumu, Toshi, & Tatsumi. Received Susumu's letter in the morning.

MARCH 17
Nothing special happened today. Did the usual thing around

the house. George, Harry, Sugeo, Sam, & I went to see "Captains of the Clouds" and "Unexpected Uncle". Both good pictures.

MARCH 18
Received a letter from S. He expects me Thursday. Was a long day today waiting for Thursday. Wishing for a nice day so we can go for a walk again. Tomorrow will start a new month for us in Centerville. Has a whole month passed already? Time seems to have gone by swiftly since every day brought forth a new event.

MARCH 19
--was a very happy day. Lying in the grass and searching for a four-leaf clover with S. was wonderful. Couldn't find any, but happiness was with me anyway, so it didn't matter much. Talked about evacuation and our future.

S. plans to ask for a leave to settle his business. Hope we can both go to S. F. together and have one final fling.

Poor Harry slept in the car while we walked in the sun. Wrote a letter to "S" and a letter of congratulation to John in the evening. Heard Shig & Fusano dropped in while I was out. Too bad I couldn't see Fusano and talk with her.

"Poor Harry" Ushijima. He must have driven Tomoe to see Susumu in Redwood City.

MARCH 20
Excellent day. Spent about three hours outside. Got a slight tan. Hope to continue adding color. Finished George's socks. Started a pair for myself for a change. Lady—the cocker spaniel—is cute as ever. Today at supper time she got so excited she fell backward trying to stand up on her hind legs. Played some records in the evening. It was good to hear "Shina-no-Yoru" again.

Shina no Yoru translates into *China Nights*, and was a very popular song with the Niseis.

MARCH 21
First day of Spring—the day was worthy of the occasion—just enough crispness in the air to remind us that winter was making its exit. The sky was blue, trees green with new leaves, birds singing of spring, and the lazy mooing of the cow all helped to welcome the new season.

Exactly one year ago today Susumu & I met for the first time. –can still remember clearly the beautiful "Shina-no-Yoru", "Aizen Yakyoku" and "Hana Kotoba" sung by Susumu accompanied on the guitar by Ota-san.

They were rehearsing for an entertainment for the Kibei conference. Now I wish I had gone to that confab. I would have enjoyed it.

Ota-san: It was at Ota-san's (Oh-tah") place in San Francisco where Tomoe first met Susumu, at a musical jam session.
"I knew I was in love," Susumu said, "when I walked through the door and saw Tomoe at Ota-san's apartment. Ota-san was playing the mandolin and his brother was playing the guitar. Tomoe was chatting with her friends and didn't pay a lot of special attention to me."

A Kibei ("Key-bay") is a Japanese born in America, educated in Japan, then returns to America.

MARCH 22
First of the week is usually busy. Today being Sunday, we had plenty of visitors again. Mary & Lou dropped in for a while. Min, Setsu, Nami, Tomi, & the brother dropped in on the way home from San Jose. Mrs. Iwakashi had sent some "Ohagi" for Mrs. Yamashita and mother. I thought it was rather sentimental.

Stayed in my room & wrote to Susumu while guests were busy with their conversation in the dining room. Kiyochi kept me company.

Ohagi ("Oh-ha-ghee") is a sweet Japanese confection of rice and bean paste. Tastes better than it sounds.

MARCH 23
Went to Hayward for the unemployment compensation. Sakaye went with us, and we did a little shopping here & there.

MARCH 24

A new curfew has been established restricting the movements of all Japanese, American citizens alike, alien Italians & alien Germans. Under this law those affected must be at home between 8:00 p.m. & 6 a.m. and can only travel within five miles. A special permit is essential to travel outside of these limits. This is to go into effect Friday morning, March 27th.

Received a letter from Chizu in regard to the furniture we left behind. They are planning to rent their house. Received a letter from Susumu.



New Curfew For Japanese Starts Friday

Both Aliens and American-Born Get Warning by General

All Japanese-Americans as well as alien Japanese, Germans and Italians in coastal military zones and designated areas elsewhere in the eight Western States will have their movements drastically restricted under a new curfew order effective Friday morning.

The curfew was established in a proclamation issued today by Lt.-Gen. John L. DeWitt, head of the Western Defense Command, as the War Relocation Authority revealed plans for colonization of Japanese on the Colorado Indian Reservation at Parker, Ariz., and as the F.B.I. continued activity against enemy aliens in California.

Under the curfew order, American-Japanese and enemy aliens must remain in their homes from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m., and at all other times must be either in their residences or places of employment, or not more than five miles from their homes.

Oakland Tribune • March 24, 1942

MARCH 25
Nothing unusual; just the idea of being locked up after the 27th is sickening. Went to San Jose with Harry, George, Sam & Sakaye to see the town for the last time. Saw "The Man Who Came to Dinner".

Good comedy. Received a letter from Tatsumi. He is returning to S.F. today. Imamura son has gone back to Stockton.

MARCH 26
Found my letter addressed to Susumu on the dresser which should have been mailed yesterday morning. It was an important letter concerning our trip to S.F. too. Sent it out this morning. Received a letter from Miyo & Susumu.

Hiroshi Kanda came over to tell us that it would be safer to take our furniture and that no one will be given a permit for that purpose after today. Sam offered to take us on his truck so Harry, Sam, & myself made a hurried trip to Alameda and brought back all the furniture. Called up Toshi Y. while I was in Alameda.

Sam, Harry, Sugeo, Tome, Sakae, and I started out for S.F. from 9:30 for our final spree. Harry forgot his birth certificate, so all were worried about getting across the bridge, but we succeeded. Went to "Club Lids" for the first and unfortunately the last time.

Never had so much fun! Had steak dinner, saw a good floor show, and even danced. Tasted "Tom Collins" for the first time. Wasn't bad at all. Even held a cigarette in my hand. Took a few puffs.

It was fun to pretend for one night. Sam bought a corsage of two gardenias for me. That would probably be the last corsage for a long time too.

Left the club after 2 A.M., crossed the Bay Bridge for the last time, bidding farewell to S.F. and her beautiful Bay, reached home after 3:00. Mom was pretty sore but "what's done cannot be undone." End of a perfect evening!

MARCH 27
Curfew started today. A memorable day for us. Received an unexpected wire from Susumu saying he made a trip to S.F. on the 26th cuz he thought he couldn't get a permit later.

Rather disappointing but it's all for the best. Glad he made the trip. I wonder what Mr. Sugaya had to say. Anxiously waiting tomorrow mail. Heard from

Nobu. Made me feel happy. Awfully sleepy. Going to bed early.

On March 27, a new curfew was imposed, eliminating previous exemptions, such as night jobs. American born Japanese could not longer own firearms, radios, cameras, etc.

"This is a war measure," said Gen. DeWitt. "And I warn again that swift justice will follow any violation..."

MARCH 28
Received Susumu's letter explaining his hurried trip to S.F. He met Sato san, Ishii san, Nomura san, Mr. Ota, Toshi, Masako, etc. Mrs. Nomura had just become a mother, and Mrs. Ishii is expecting in the near future.

Susumu, Ota-san, & Toshi got together Wednesday night and had a musical soirée. Susumu seemed to have enjoyed it very much. Sorry I couldn't be there to join them. Mary Matsuura came to Centerville today since no one can evacuate voluntarily after Sunday.

Mary is a friend from Alameda.

MARCH 29
Was a quiet Sunday on account of the curfew. Mary & Sam came around, so we got together & looked at albums & schools annuals. Sak & Harry were trying to jitter-bug—our dance team. The Mikami family and Masato moved in next door. They have a total of fifteen people there now. What a mob!

Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita left from this house yesterday for Sanger. It's so quiet with(out?) Mrs. Yamashita. She was our leading lady that's why.

MARCH 30
Scrubbed, changed the pantry paper, dusted, cooked, etc. Was an unusually hot day—the hottest day this year. Sam drove me to Hayward to the Employment Bureau. Sam went to the War Board so. Took a chance and dropped in an ice cream parlor.

Received a letter of apology from Susumu, and another from Toshi. Toshi hoped we go to the same "camp". I hope so too. Wrote to Susumu and Toshi.

Camp refers to the 10 incarceration camps around the United States.

MARCH 31
Nothing exciting happened outside of the daily doings. Stayed home and ironed.

MEMO
Another month passed, and we are still able to live here. Thank Heaven! But it won't be long before our date will be announced too. San Francisco received the first order to evacuate. Certain districts around the waterfront must leave by Tuesday April 7th. Japanese Town District is still safe.

It stands to reason that the country people would be in the latter group since their produce is essential to the country. They must carry on till the last day. Neglecting the crops is considered sabotage and is subject to arrest.

APRIL 1
April Fool's Day. Didn't get caught though. Masat drove Fusaye, Sakaye, and myself to Centerville. Bought a pair of white shoes, a red blouse, panties, mother's slacks, etc. Noticed the salesgirls were all courteous. Drove home via Niles to enjoy the scenery.

We sure can enjoy the beauty of Spring if it weren't for the present condition we sig (?can't make out the rest of the word).

Bought everything I need, now I'm ready to evacuate.

April 1 was the deadline for all Japanese U.S. citizens to turn over guns, shortwave radios and cameras to the government. Gen. DeWitt proclaimed that no Japanese may leave areas in which they reside until evacuated by the Army.

APRIL 2
Sakaye & Fusaye came over and made two delicious lemon meringue pies, and were they delicious! Received Susumu's picture finally. Nice picture but doesn't do him justice. The finish is very poor.

Tried walking to town with Sakae & Fusa but didn't suc-

ceed. Was finally picked up by Miss Egashira. Collected Sakae's treat at Cloverdale Creamery and got a lift home from Fusaye Tanaka.

Got off at Decoto Road and were going to walk back home but was spied by Sam & Harry who were on their way to pick me up. He must've walked about two miles in all. Wrote to Masako & Susumu. Received a card from John. He's on his way to Colorado.

Also on April 2, the U.S.S. Hornet aircraft carrier slipped under San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, carrying Doolittle's Raiders, the aircraft that would drop the first American bombs on Japan. The Hornet is now a floating museum docked in Alameda, Tomoe's home town.

APRIL 3
Rain—no work outdoor. Practically the whole next door was over in the morning. Sam drove me to the War Board in Hayward.

Bumped into Mr. & Mrs. Kondo, Miss Tomimatsu, Jimmie Fudenna, etc. Had to wait an hour and a half for my turn. Went to the Employment Office for the final OK.

The man in charge thought that next Thursday would be too far in advance, so he told me to come back next week. He couldn't be sure whether orders would change again. Received a letter from Jimmie Kusuda via Air Mail. I wonder where he got my address? He's now at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

APRIL 4
Rain again. No work. Mrs. Hitomi and Mrs. Kitajima were over in the afternoon. Mrs. Kitajima entertained with the "shamisen" while Mrs. Ushijima sewed on a "futon". Mom is working hard on the bedspread. Wrote a letter to Susumu in the afternoon.

APRIL 5
Still kept on raining. Stayed in all day. Mrs. Yoshimura, Mrs. Sugino Ushijima, & mom went out to transplant from about three o'clock.

Shizu & Tom Mitsuyoshi, Sam, Susan, Sakae, Fusaye, Johnny, Harry, George, & I went to an Italian dinner in Niles. Our time was limited so we had to keep an eye on the watch. Had a swell steak dinner, and all went home contented.

Bought a pineapple pie for mom's birthday (incidentally mom is fifty today), and some candy for Kiyoshi. The day was just turning to night when we left for home. It's such a shame to have to pass by a theater and not be able to walk in. "Bedtime Story" was playing at the Niles Theater.

APRIL 6
Johnny, Harry, & myself went to the war board for traveling permits. Asked for one to go to the optometrist and got it. Johnny had to go into Alameda so went with him. Went to Roky's Garage & George Naruo was still working there.

Heard of Yosh Nakagawara's marriage to Cherry Shiozawa. He's home on a furlough from the army. Went to Dr. Robinson and had a re-check.

Got a pair of rimless. Went to Dr. We Hara's Telegraph office and saw Stan. He looked thinner somehow. I guess he's worried about Jean. She's expecting next month sometime.

Received letters from Masano & John. John wants us to go out to Colorado. He seems to like it a lot. Masano is cutting spinach. Seems like hard work.

Roky's garage is George Rokutani's auto repair garage in Alameda.

APRIL 7
Tuesday—stayed home and ironed. Went to play tennis with Johnny, Harry, Sakae but the courts were full so didn't get to play. Started on the blanket—knitting with old yarn. Hope to finish it before we leave here.

APRIL 8
Today is Buddha's birthday. Obasan made some "omochi". I helped too. Went next door

in the afternoon to a service. About twenty people were there. Also Chiyo's birthday. Bought a card but don't know her address. Will mail it as soon as I find out. Went to Centerville with George, Kiyoshi, & Sakae. Bought my ticket to Redwood City. (cannot read two words....) they asked for the traveling permit.

Oba-san made some "osushi" at night for me to take tomorrow. Going to bed with hopes for a sunny day!

Obasan ("oh-bah-sahn") = aunt, or a middle aged woman. This is probably Sugino Ushijima. Omochi is mochi ("moh-chee"), a rice cake.

APRIL 9
Get up early—six thirty for a change. The day was unsettled but wore my spring outfit,. Left home at 7:30 with my lunch and some lilacs. The bus trip wasn't so long, and I reached Redwood in about an hour.

From 9:20 to 4:30—had a wonderful time with Susumu. Kiyoshi joined us too. Three of us had lunch with cokes & ice cream too. The boys enjoyed the Japanese food for a change. Looked at Kiyoshi's album & one of Susumu's too. It was very interesting.

During the rest hour we hid in the laboratory and played cards. Kiyoshi was busy with the "lab work". Later in the day the two of us went back up the hill with Susumu's guitar and we sang and played to our hearts' content. We even ran under the tree to find shelter from the April showers.

Four-thirty came in no time, and regretfully we said "goodbye" not knowing when we'll meet again. My hopes are high. I have a feeling we can meet again soon. Please, Lord Buddha, let this hope come true. After several poor connections, finally reached home at ten to eight. Thanks to Sam. Might have been sitting in the "cell" by this time if it weren't for him.

When I reached home, everyone was waiting on the front porch. Harry & Kiyoshi had gone to the Decoto corner after me. Sakae was over to bid me farewell. She is to start working in a family from tomorrow. I'll miss her too! Kiyoshi said, "we missed you today". Which was the best thing anyone could've said.

APRIL 10
Nothing unusual.

APRIL 11
Cleared up for a change. Went to Washington Union Hi and hit some tennis balls around. Later played basketball for the Alameda girls against the Scotties. The score was unmentionable but was a good work-out.

Letters from Susumu and Masako. Baked a gingerbread. Turned out rather well. Received a letter from Chiyo unexpectedly. She's in Turlock with the family. At night wrote to Susumu, Chiyo, Betty.

The Scotties were a Centerville Japanese basketball team, coached by Hiss Kataoka.

APRIL 12
Sunday—played tennis again—Sam, Fusaye, Sakae, George, & myself. Sure got nice and stiff. A bottle of Coke was very refreshing after the exercise. Sakae's first day off. Sakae tried driving George's car. She's pretty good.

Sam treated us to an ice cream cone. Kiko & George dropped in around six-thirty. They had come beyond the limit. Wrote to Masako in the evening.

APRIL 13
George, Sam, Johnny, & I went to Hayward again. Went to get a permit to go to the optometrist again. Got it right away. Bought a white blouse for Sakae. Ironed in the afternoon.

APRIL 14
Nice day. Ironed in the morning. Went into Oakland & Alameda with Johnny & Fusaye in the afternoon. Stan gave me a pair of dark glasses for a souvenir. Saw Masa Hanamura,

Fusako Nakata, Mas Nakata, Sam Rokutani, George Naruo, etc in Alameda.

Got home after six. Received a letter from Susumu. Susumu wishes to buy me a ring but can't decide what kind to get. If possible, he would like to get married, but we must ask the doctor about his condition.

APRIL 15
General clean-up today. The curtains were taken care of too. Letters from Miyoshi & Toshi. Miyo is in Petaluma. She's busy packing up like the rest of us. Toshi is just about ready with her things.

Seems like the San Franciscans are going to be sent to Tanforan Racetrack near San Mateo. Went to Mikami's in the afternoon and read the novel "Kodomo??" by Yusuke Tsurumi. Swell book.

Tanforan is the racetrack turned assembly center, where the evacuated Japanese would live until being sent to one of the 10 incarceration camps. Assembly centers were temporary.

Tomoe's diary now switches back to Japanese and is translated below:

APRIL 16
Rained all day. April weather with many changes. Staying inside, knitting and writing letters.

Received a letter from Chiyoko-san. She wrote that everyone was worried because she was still unmarried at age 24. She also wrote that she wondered how long it would be before the good old days would return, and that she missed the days when we played together. Wrote to Toshi-chan, Betty, Chi-chan and Susumu-san at night.

APRIL 17
Following on from yesterday, it rained all morning. The boys were anxious to go thinning of apple trees but they gave it up due to the rain. After noon, the weather cleared up as if it had forgotten about the rain, and my spirit was lifted.

I visited Mary-san at the Sakata's. Her mother looked well. We listened to the records and talked. She gave me a ride home around 4:30.

A young Kibei man who had already been to Santa Anita sent camp news to the Nichibei Newspaper. He writes about many interesting things. He doesn't seem to like what Nisei people do.

APRIL 18
Sunny day. Mrs. Ushijima and Mom did huge laundry. I finished sewing two aprons and started another apron and a blouse. I borrowed "Child" written by Yusuke Tsurumi today.

I can't wait to read it. But I need to finish knitting a pair of socks for Enoki-san. I have so much to do.

I was told that Dr. Maquarter would come at 8 o'clock to give us typhoid vaccines. 15 minutes before 8, I went to pick up Sakae-san at her work.

She had just started washing dishes. We panicked. Three of us including Fusae-san did dishes but when we finished, it was past 8.

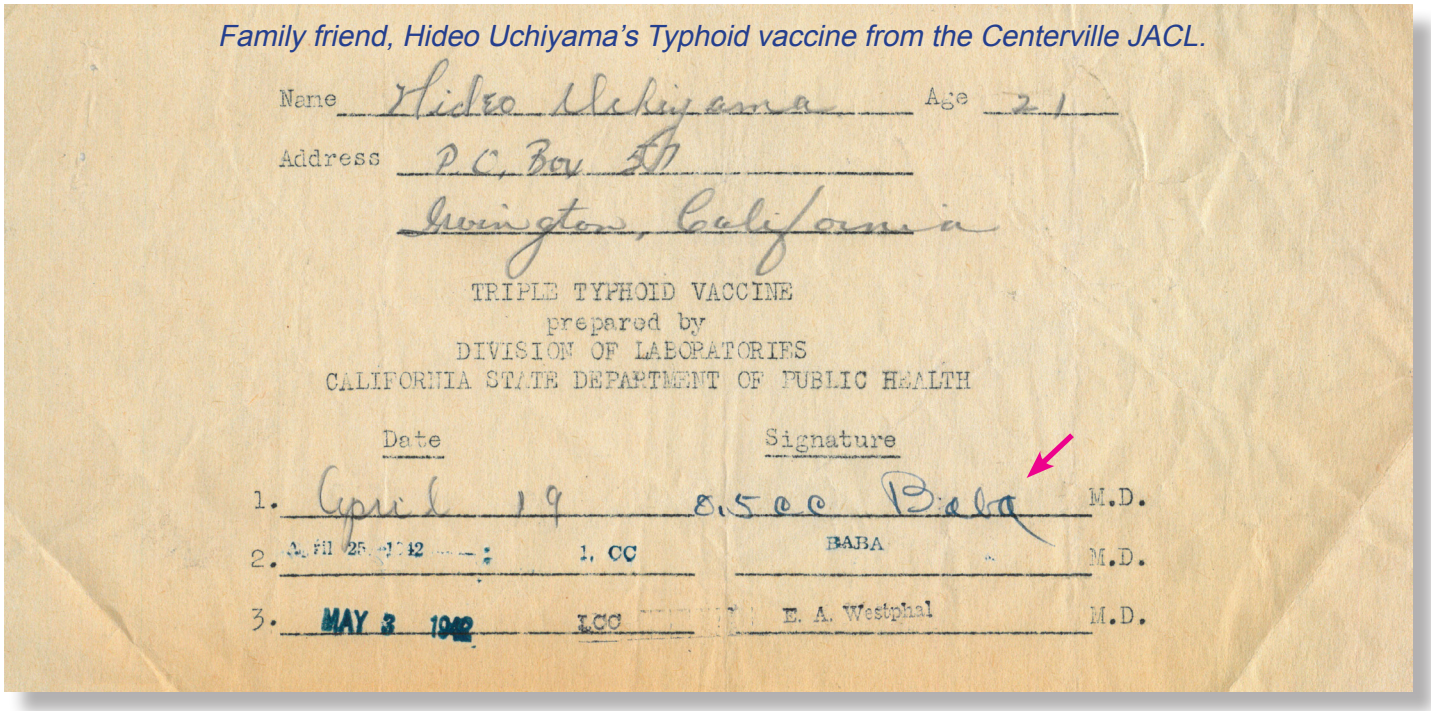
While we were worried, the master came and told us he would make the "judge" drive us home if it got too late. We were relieved. Luckily, the judge of Centerville was among the customers.

After returning home, everyone lined up to get the injection. Kiyoshi, being the youngest, got it first. We were told we might get a headache, so we all went to bed early. Received a letter from Susumu-san.

Typhoid vaccines were being administered by the JACL in Centerville (see next page), and similar to other vaccines, some recipients suffered side-effects. Typhoid causes prolonged fever, nausea, headaches, vomiting, abdominal pain, rashes, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. It is transmitted via contaminated food and water, or contact with carriers. In 1911 a vaccine was produced, antibiotics were available in 1948. It killed 10 percent of its victims prior to the 1940s.

APRIL 19
I will never forget the pain I felt last night. My head was

Family friend, Hideo Uchiyama's Typhoid vaccine from the Centerville JACL.



Name Hideo Uchiyama Age 21

Address P.C. Box 57

Irvington, California

TRIPLE TYPHOID VACCINE
prepared by
DIVISION OF LABORATORIES
CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

	Date		Signature	
1.	April 19	8.5 cc	Baba	M.D.
2.	APR 25 1942	1. CC	BABA	M.D.
3.	MAY 3 1942	1CC	E. A. Westphal	M.D.

pounding and my body was shaking. I even wondered if I was going to die. If I got typhoid, it would be so terrible, judging from the severe after effect of the vaccine.

We must have two more shots. Besides, I hear the second one is worse. I am already worried that I may suffer more than I did last night.

Both Mrs. Ushijima and Mom stayed in bed all day. Children didn't suffer. Kiyoshi was running around with the neighbor's kids.

The others assembled at school today to have it done. Every single person is taking it because it is required to go to camp. I learned that Dr. Baba (see above), Dr. Togasaki and others came from San Francisco.

In the evening, I attended a farewell party for Fudenna-san, who had returned home on leave from the army. It was a lively gathering of nineteen people. It should have been a delicious Italian dinner, but we had little appetite due to the shots. Went to bed early again. Wrote back to Susumu-san in the afternoon.

The farewell party is for Harold Tarno Fudenna, a Washington Township native. Fudenna's family owned (not leased) perhaps the largest Japanese farm in Fremont; 20 acres of tomatoes & strawberries. He was inducted in the US Army on March 24, 1941 and served with the Military Intelligence Service in the South Pacific. Younger brother Takeo served with the 442nd RCT.

APRIL 20

Nice weather. Nothing unusual happened, and the day ended with work inside. At noon, I brought Mrs. Ushijima and others in the field Omusubi (rice ball) mixed with Miso.

They made a big fuss, saying, "I taste Miso!" It was like the joy one found water in a desert. I didn't have good material for dinner. I made a strange dish but they all said it was delicious. I was surprised.

Received a letter from Shizuko-san. She said she was very lonely. Speaking of Shizuko-san, this time last year, thanks to a certain person, I had some antipathy toward her.

But my childhood friend Shizuko-san is still one of my dear friends. I am glad we are friends again, re-living the feeling of good old days.

Miso ("Me-soh") is a soybean paste seasoning found in many Japanese foods.

APRIL 21

It looks like I caught a cold. My throat hurts. It was a nice day, I wanted to go out. But I stayed in the house because there were so many things to be ironed. Received letters from Susumu-san and Nishino-san. More evacuation orders were issued

in various areas. Fortunately, we are still safe here. Toshi-chan and others in San Francisco seem to be sent to Tanforan. What is to come has come at last. I've been waiting for a letter from Dr. Shaffer, but it hasn't come yet. I don't know if it will come tomorrow. I can't wait to settle the situation for the two of us.

APRIL 22
Stayed home as my cold is lingering. Sewed a blouse but it was too big. I will wear it as a jacket. I had a big laugh when Mrs. Ushijima said it would fit perfectly when I was "pregnant." I wonder when the day will ever come.

I got a rare letter from Yamamoto-san today. It says that people in San Francisco are busy evacuating. It also says those who lost their jobs are in trouble because they just hang around and play, and that they want to be sent soon.

We sew clothes and say we will wear them after we get there, but not one of us know where we will be sent to. Is it going to be a hot place or a cold place? Indeed, it is adventurous.

APRIL 23
I slept in this morning. It was soon noon when I was dilly-dallying. Mom, George and I went to town after noon. Bought some essentials. Made an appointment for a permanent. Next Wednesday.

Received a letter from Susumu-san. He writes that he will feel at ease if we can get married sooner than later. We have not received a note from the doctor. In the afternoon, I wrote to Susumu-san and Yamamoto-san. Later, I read "Child". I read to my heart's content again at night.

APRIL 24
Today my cold is much better, and the weather is nice, so I washed my hair. After 6 months, my hair is long enough to arrange it in a page-boy style.

The length is perfect now. I am not sure if I want to get it permed next week. I was surprised to read Nobuko-san's letter. She is getting married this Sunday to a man named Dohmoto-san.

Many weddings since the evacuation order. It is probably because the lovers are worried about being separated from each other. Anyway, it is a happy event. Got a shot again in the evening. Went to bed early.

APRIL 25
Stayed in bed all day due to the shot. Read the letters from Kikuko-san and Susumu-san in bed. I learned the news of Noboru Iwahashi-san's marriage from Kikuko-san's letter.

APRIL 26
My energy is back. Four of us went to play tennis in the afternoon. Made phone calls to Redwood and San Francisco from the town of Centerville. Shige-chan at San Francisco was out so I talked with Margie a little. She said they would be sent to Tanforan on Thursday or Friday.

Kikuko-san and George-san came over. Mary was just passing by, so the three of us talked about the good old days for the first time in a long time.

We parted, saying that we could probably go to the same camp and that we looked forward to it. We all sat together for the roast beef dinner. I took a Japanese bath with plenty of hot water and went to bed around 10:30. I don't think I will be taking a Japanese bath for much longer.

APRIL 27
After a long wait, the notice from the hospital finally came today. Should I say it is good news, or is it bad news? It could be either, depending on how you look at it.
The news that I would not be able to go with him was the most painful thing. But the

good news is that he will be discharged from the hospital in three months.

The director said it would be better for us to put off our wedding until he is discharged from the hospital. The director's concern seems to be about financial matters. Although I am filled with painful and sad feelings now, let's live cheerfully imagining the joy I will feel when I greet Susumu-san three months from now.

Received a letter from Toshi-chan, too. She seems to be busy with the evacuation coming up in five days. She said she would write a long letter once she got there.

Susumu's tuberculosis is the reason why she would "not be able to go with him."

APRIL 28
In the morning, 5 of us - Mary-san, Harry-san at Sakata(s?), George, Johnny and I went to Hayward.

It was to get a pass to go to Redwood but I did some shopping on the way. We found a very nice jacket in a store. Mary-san and I bought the jackets of the same style, hers is red, mine, beige. I am afraid it was a bit expensive. Bought a sport shirt as a souvenir for Susumu-san. I hope he likes it.

Did lots of shopping including stockings, underwear, a wedding gift for Nobuko-san and so on. I thought I hurried back to our car, but everyone was already waiting. "Are you done so soon?" and "You took so long"

They said two opposite things and made fun of me. It is said that women's shopping takes long time. When I returned home, I was surprised to hear that Motoyoshi Sensei was taken away by FBI. I didn't expect it happen now when we are close to evacuation.

Went to see Mrs. Motoyoshi to show my sympathy. She smiled sadly and said, "Yes, he finally went". Her eyes were red from tears, but she didn't fall apart. I thought her demeanor was that of a respectable Japanese woman.

I can only imagine what it must have been like for him to leave behind his pregnant wife and five small children. I think it is the right way for human beings to help each other at a time like this.

Finished reading "Child" tonight. Asako-san is a great mother. This war will produce many great mothers like Asako among Japanese Americans.

Joshin Motoyoshi, was living at RFD 372, when the FBI arrested him.

APRIL 29
Spent all morning ironing. After noon, went to get permed. It is called Centerville Beauty Parlor. I thought the hairdresser's skill was not very impressive for someone with ten years of experience. It's beyond words how bad my hair looked after being forced to sit for four hours.

I rearranged it after I went home. I was also disappointed that she cut my hair short. Received Susumu-san's letter written in English. He is getting better.

APRIL 30
I was excited from this morning as I was going to see Susumu-san. It started raining again at noon, and I wanted to cry. George drove me there.

First, I spoke to the director of the hospital. The director was nicer than I had expected. He kindly taught me many things.

When we said goodbye, I offered him roses that I had brought for Susumu-san, and he gladly accepted them. Had a fun time with Susumu-san from 2:30 to 4:30. Susan-san played the guitar for us.

I was very impressed with her skill. I had a little chat with Kiyoshi-san as well. I brought Susumu-san the sport shirt.

He said it was too good. We parted thinking we would have one more chance to see each other but when I got home, shocking news was waiting for me.

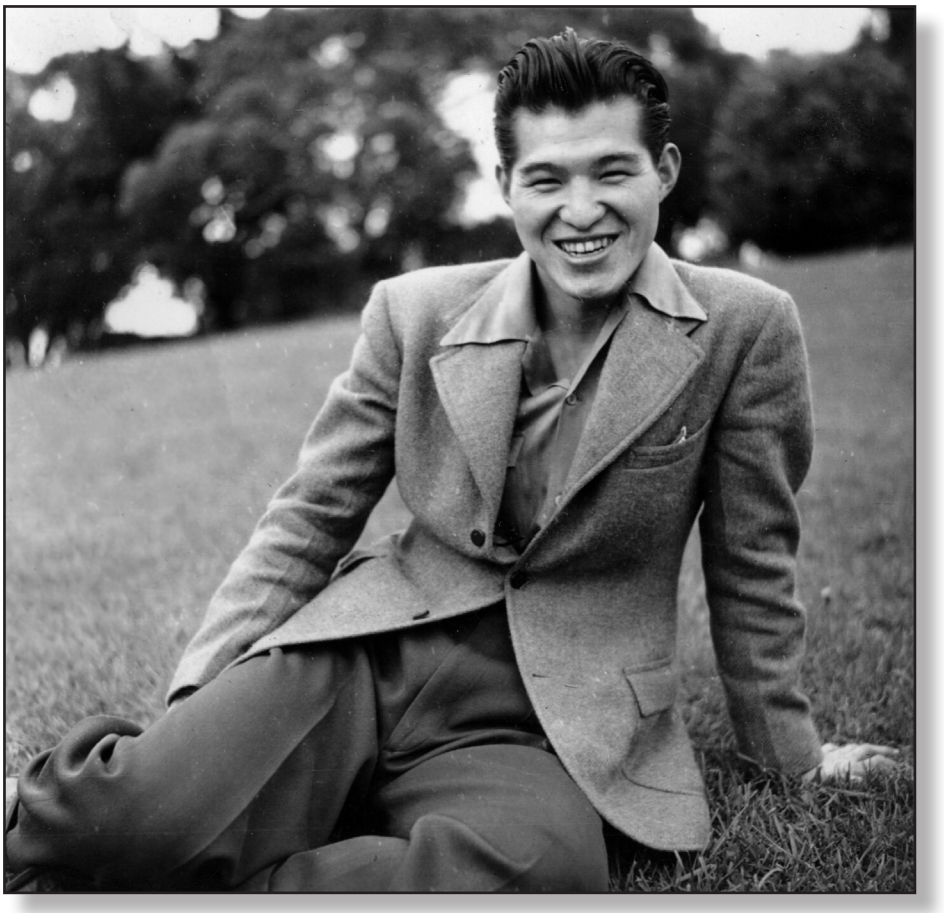
The evacuation order had already been issued for the area. We will be sent to Tanforan between May 7 and 9. I am glad it is Tanforan. I think I can see Toshi-chan, and maybe Masako-san, too.

MEMO
April has passed, while we were saying it would come maybe today or maybe tomorrow. We have lived in this house for over 2 months now. But what is to come has come.

It is finally decided that we must leave here. One cloud in my mind is that Susumu-san can't come with us.

But for Susumu-san, it is better to stay. I cannot be selfish. It is so hard to leave this beautiful little paradise where the bird song wakes me up in the morning and the quiet sound of the brook invites me to a dreamland at night.

It must be much harder for the Ushijima family. The proverb says "There's a green hill wherever you go". If I keep that spirit alive and keep moving forward, I should be alright.



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP JACL BULLETIN APRIL 30, 1942

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The people of Japanese ancestry of our township will be evacuated by Saturday noon May 9, to the Assembly Center at Tanforan.

The Civil Control Center will be established in Hayward on C. St. opposite U. S. Employment Office. All heads of the family will register there on Monday and Tuesday. You will receive further notice from our office in regards to the time you will be assigned to appear.

Every one should clean up the private affairs in the next few days if possible.

There are still few farms to be disposed of. Anyone having any difficulty should contact our office for any assistance.

The Federal Reserve Bank will have storage place for personal property for anyone wishing government accommodation.

TYPHOID INNOCULATIONS SUNDAY MAY 3

The third innoculation for typhoid fever will be taken care of on Sunday morning at 8:30 at J.A.C.L. Headquarters, Centerville.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

On May 15 the election for Board of Trustee for W. U. H. S. will be held. We will not be here for election. However, we want all our registered members to fill out the form for absentee ballots We will have these forms for you by Saturday.

Others who have not registered for voting are requested to do so at the J.A.C.L. headquarters. It is your duty as citizens.

MAY 1
What an irony- beautiful weather from morning. How I wish I could replace today with yesterday's rain. Since we were told we needed to vacate here by the 9th, I started to feel anxious.

Some say we are going to Tanforan, some say not, and I get excited or disappointed every time. I heard that residents of Alameda and Oakland would be sent to Tanforan by the 7th.

I didn't do much packing today. I must seriously start tomorrow. We only have one week left. At night, we got the last typhoid shot. If I don't get it right this time, people will laugh at me.

After the shot, young people next door and 3 of our family members, total 7 of us danced till 11 o'clock. It's been a long time since I've had fun. I think the carpet was scuffed a lot.

The April 30 notice from the JACL on the previous page must have taken a few days to get to the families in the township.

MAY 2
Another beautiful day with the fresh and clear morning sun. It was a shame to stay inside. I was afraid I might not be able to get up again, but I was fine.

Mom and Mrs. Ushijima were also fine this time. I packed one suitcase. I was surprised at how many possessions I had. Received letters from Susumu-san and Toshiko-san. Nobuko-san is now a "bride". The letter says that she is happy as everyone is nice to her. A ring and a photo are supposed to arrive from Susumu-san. I hope I will get them before we leave here.

MAY 3
Very busy with evacuation ahead. So busy I almost felt dizzy from the 3rd through the 9th. I remember Kiyoshi weeping over parting with his dog.

Everyone was irritated with so much to do. We were easily offended by the slightest thing and fought constantly. Even Mrs. Ushijima looked a little frustrated and said we all should go quickly to the camp. Mrs. Ushijima must be happy as the tomato plants at Chidori's were sold out.

There were no entrees on the pages labeled May 4 to 7, but on the page labeled May 8, Tomoe crossed out May 8, as if she wrote it on the 7th instead. "So busy I almost felt dizzy..." Perhaps she was too exhausted to write on those days.

MAY 8
Walking on the street at night, I see lovers and young people here and there, enjoying the pleasures of newly wedded bliss, holding hands, making those who look on envious.

I wish I were with Susumu-san. I pray he would come to me as soon as possible. I feel sad that I haven't received a letter from Susumu-san for about 3 days now.

May 9 would prove to be an extraordinary and fateful day for Tomoe.

Township Register • May 8, 1942

ALL JAPANESE LEAVE TOWNSHIP SATURDAY NOON!

Uniformed military police from the Presidio of San Francisco swarmed over Washington Township communities in their funny little O.D. go-carts Sunday afternoon as they hastily posted half sheets ordering all Township Japanese to register Monday and Tuesday for evacuation, at an address in Hayward.

All Japanese of our communities are to leave for the Tanforan Assembly Center by Saturday noon of this week, according to Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, dated and posted on Sunday, May 3 and issued by Lieut. General John L. De Witt.

All Japanese were required to register as families or single individuals, at 920 C street in Hayward Monday and Tuesday. All Japanese are to be evacuated to the Tanforan Assembly Center by 12 o'clock noon of this Saturday.

Any Japanese persons found in this Township after 12 o'clock Saturday noon will be subject to immediate apprehension and internment, the order states.

Evacuation of Coastal Japanese to inland reception centers has now passed the 35,000 mark, and evacuation from various areas is continuing daily.

Sayonara!



May 9, 1942

May 9 had arrived. The local JACL had issued a bulletin on April 30, and at least one uncertainty, their destination, had finally been made clear. So Tomoe, her mother, Yoshino (at center, above) and family friend Sugino Ushijima, nicely dressed for the occasion, picked up their suitcases, walked out of Sugino's front door* and were greeted by a Caucasian woman.

Dorothea Lange was in Centerville** on May 9, 1942, the day the Japanese were leaving for Tanforan Assembly Center in San Bruno, across the San Francisco Bay.

Lange made a number of photographs on the 9th, **including this one**, of the three former Alamedans on their way to the buses parked at the JACL office at 3955 Walton Avenue.*** That's how Tomoe, Yoshino and Sugino's photograph came to be made by one of America's greatest documentary photographers that day.

**The porch above has the 371 number on it, and in this case, it corresponds with the Ushijima's Rural Free Delivery (RFD) route number.*

The trio could have walked from 371 to the JACL that morning, but it's 2 miles, with luggage. It would take at least 40 minutes to do so. Sugino was 54, Yoshino was 50. Sugino's son, George, owned a 1941 Pontiac car worth $1300, but in March 1942, still owed $700 on the loan. It was likely sold or stored before this day. The Otsus did not bring their car to the Ushijimas.

***Lange was in Centerville on May 5. The next day she was in Oakland. On May 8 she made her way to both Hayward and Centerville and May 9 through 11 she was in Centerville again.*

The photo is clearly set up in advance. Did Lange arrange the photo through the JACL on May 5th or 8th? Did she give the trio a ride to the JACL office so they could board their evacuation bus on time (see next page)?

Lange considered the evacuation an act of facism and the end of democracy. She was literally sick to her stomach during this time period.

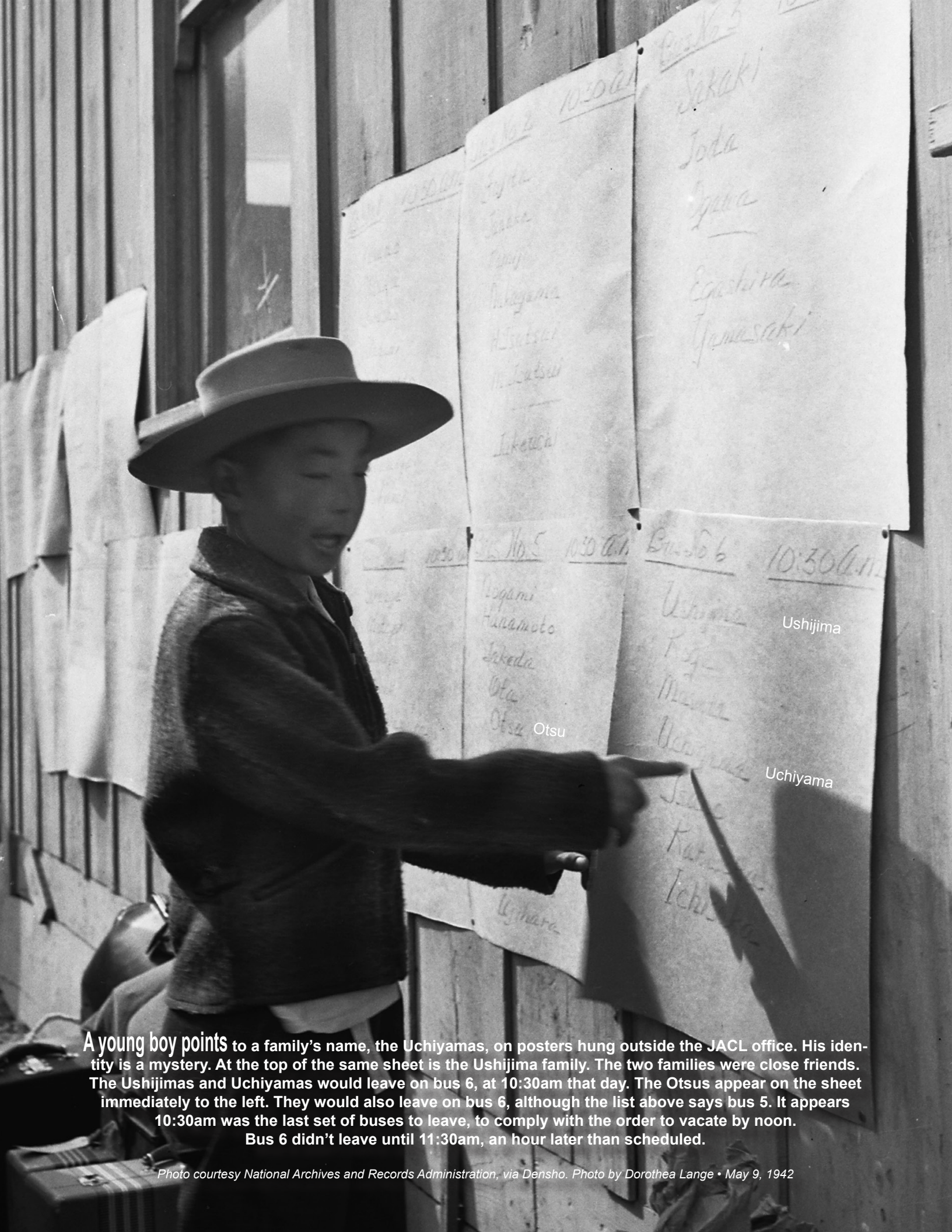
****It is unclear if the JACL building had a physical address of 3955 Walton in 1942. That may have come later. Today, the JACL building is a home but another street, Bonde Way was built between it and the church, and Walton disappeared. The home is now listed at 3810 Bonde Way.*

Photo this page courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photo by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942



Centerville Area Japanese await the bus that on this day, will take them Tanforan. At right is Sugino and son George Ushijima. Middle row, far left in white hat, is Archie Uchiyama, who Tomoe mentions in her diary. George Ushijima and brother Jimmy Kiyoshi are mentioned multiple times in the diary..

Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photo by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942



A young boy points to a family's name, the Uchiyamas, on posters hung outside the JACL office. His identity is a mystery. At the top of the same sheet is the Ushijima family. The two families were close friends. The Ushijimas and Uchiyamas would leave on bus 6, at 10:30am that day. The Otsus appear on the sheet immediately to the left. They would also leave on bus 6, although the list above says bus 5. It appears 10:30am was the last set of buses to leave, to comply with the order to vacate by noon. Bus 6 didn't leave until 11:30am, an hour later than scheduled.

Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photo by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942

Alameda Island Japanese families living in the Washington Township in 1942

Fujimoto, Ryoji
Hitomi, Mitsu
Imazumi
Iwaihara
Kamada, Asa
Kikuchi, Tsuruno
Kinoshita, Tokuji
Kodama, Motokichi
Koga, Matao & Shigeko
Kondo, Umetaro & Takiye
Kozen, Kenjiro & Kishiko
Kumagai, Toshio & Mitsuno
Kuwano, Densaburo & Asono
Matsuura, Kumazo & Saki
Mikami, Naoyamon & Koshie
Mitani, Enji
Madokoro, Heizaburo & Suga
Motoyoshi, Rev. Joshin & Yukiko
Narahara, Toki
Nakamura, Yukino
Nakayama, Kakunojo & Tane
Noda, Yokichi & Nobuye
Ota, Zentaro & Fukuyo
Otsu, Yoshino & Tomoe
Suzawa, Ryoichi & Ayako
Takeda, Risaburo & Ayako
Umene, Torakichi & Hiwa
Ushijima, Sugino
Yamashita, Moriji & Yoshino
Yamashita, Matsuzo & Furu
Yoshimura, Kazuo & Fude

This list may be incomplete

May 9·1942

The left side of the JACL office faces Walton, the Williams Brothers buildings & Centerville train station. (see next page).

The Centerville Presbyterian Church & cemetery is across from the JACL. The dark building at right was torn down at some point.

Isseis and Niseis wait for their bus at the JACL office at 3955 Walton Ave.

3963 Walton



This is a composite of two of Lange's photos of the JACL office at 3955 Walton Avenue, and is the only look at the entire building. Photos courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photos by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942


The Centerville JACL in 1939
see previous page
Lange is about here to make the photo on the previous page
JACL
3955
Walton
Centerville church cemetery
Williams Bros
Centerville Presbyterian Church steeple
3963 Walton
Walton Avenue
Williams Bros
Centerville-Irvington Rd
Centerville Railroad Station before it was relocated

Headquarters
Western Defense Command
and Fourth Army

Presidio of San Francisco, California

May 3, 1942

Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Public Proclamations Nos. 1 and 2, this Headquarters, dated March 2, 1942, and March 16, 1942, respectively, it is hereby ordered that from and after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., of Saturday, May 9, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, be excluded from that portion of Military Area No. 1 described as follows:

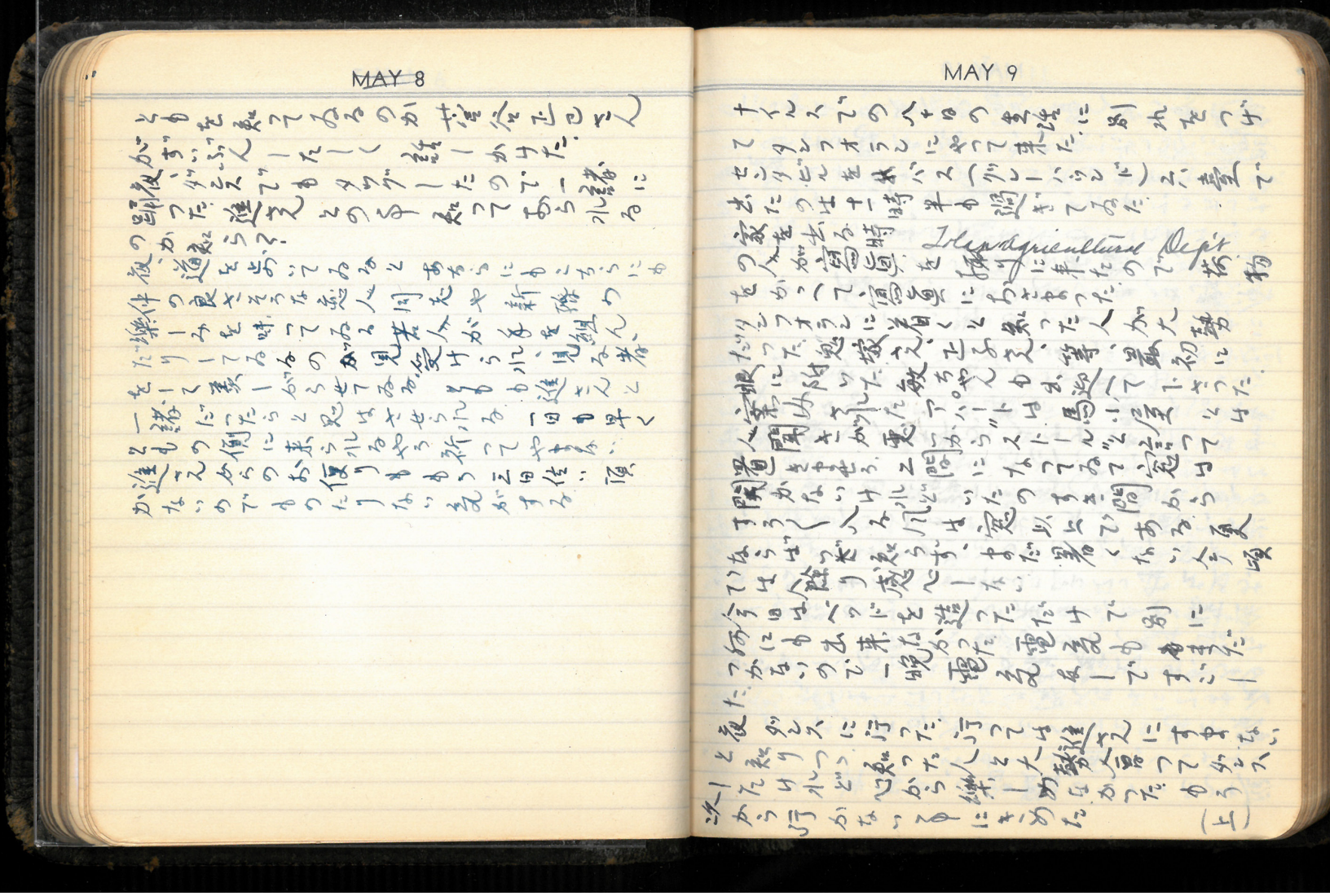
All of that portion of the County of Alameda, State of California, within the boundary beginning at the point where the southerly limits of the City of Oakland meet San Francisco Bay; thence easterly and following the southerly limits of said city to U. S. Highway No. 50; thence southerly and easterly on said Highway No. 50 to its intersection with California State Highway No. 21; thence southerly on said Highway No. 21 to its intersection, at or near Warm Springs, with California State Highway No. 17; thence southerly on said Highway No. 17 to the Alameda-Santa Clara County line; thence westerly and following said county line to San Francisco Bay; thence northerly, and following the shoreline of San Francisco Bay to the point of beginning.



CEO 34 states that on May 9, 1942, the Japanese in portions of the County of Alameda, including the greater Centerville area, be excluded (removed) from those areas, as seen on the map they included in the order. The map is cropped down to just show some of the Washington Township vicinity. Dorothea Lange could have made the photo below in the parking lot of the Centerville Presbyterian Church.



Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photo by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942



On May 9, Tomoe wrote about the day she left for Tanforan:

After stayed at Niles for 80 days, we came to Tanforan. I left Centerville by Greyhound bus 6 at a little after 11:30. Upon arrival at the Tanforan, the personnel of the Tolan Agriculture Dept. took our picture with our belongings.

We saw many our friends, Onizuka-san and Masako-san, etc. Toshi-chan, who arrived before us welcomed us. The place they showed us for our stay used to be a horse stable, but let's call it as "STALL," which has two rooms with two stationed windows, and the boarded drafty walls that are not impressive.

Only thing we could do today is build the bed, the electricity is not installed yet so we slept without the lights.

I went to a dance at night thinking about Susumu-san and feeling very guilty, but I danced with my many friends. However I never enjoyed it without Susumu.

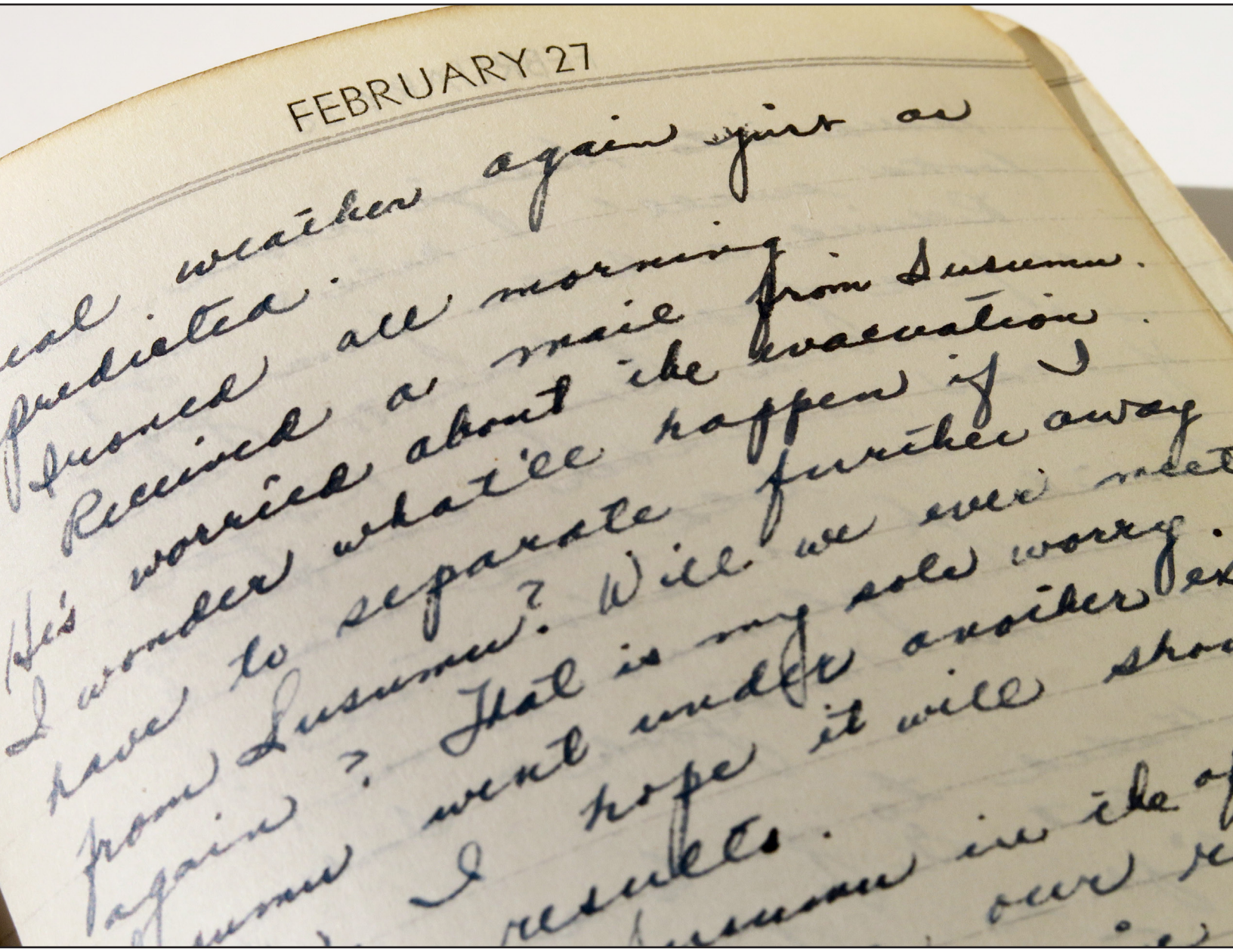
Masami Sugaya talked to me intimately as he knows me well. We danced together, but I couldn't enjoy it without Susumu. I'm wondering if he knows my relation with Susumu. I decided not going to dance anymore. On the way back, I witnessed many intimate couples, that makes me envious. I wish I would be with Susumu. I feel lonely since I haven't heard from Susumu for 3 days.

Tomoe Otsu Tomine's diary, photographs and information were made available for the general public by her family; Amy Tomine, Naomi Tomine Ellis and Eugene Tomine.



Special thanks to:

John Arai: Southern Alameda Buddhist Temple.
Harry Avila, Fremont resident and local historian.
Richard Cahan and Michael Williams: *Un-American* book.
Kelsey Camello, President of the Washington Township Museum of Local History in Fremont, CA. Information about RFD routes, the Washington Township, photos, documents and much more!
Jane Carr, Reference librarian at the Fremont Library.
Caroline Davis, Centerville Librarian. Wash Township information.
Linda Gordon and Gary Y. Okihito: Editors of the book *Impounded*, which documents Dorothea Lange and her photographs.
Stuart Guedon, Archeologist and Historic Geographer, Basin Research Associates and volunteer at the Washington Township Museum. Assistance with the Walton/Bonde neighborhood, maps, photos and much general expertise.
Takako Hayakawa: Japanese translation.
Lynn Heidelbaugh, Curator, History Department, The Smithsonian National Postal Museum Washington, DC. Information about RFD routes.
Bill Helfman: *Author: Sun Rising in the Eastern Sky: Japanese Americans in Washington Township, 1920-1942.* Information about Joshin Motoyoshi, the Township and the JACL.
Sachiko Kamiji Fudenna, her sister Michiko Kamiji Handa, Bob & Elaine Fudenna: Kamiji & Fudenna family information, Rev. Joshin Motoyoshi information. Sachiko & Michiko were teenagers when they boarded their bus at the Centerville JACL on May 9, 1942. As of 2022, they are still living in the Fremont area.
Tsuyako "Sox" Kataoka Kitashima & Joy Morimoto: Book: *Birth of an activist: the Sox Kitashima story.*
Kayanne Lam, City of Fremont: She located the 3955 Walton Ave address of the JACL office in Centerville.
Dorothea Lange: Documentary photographer. Thanks for the great photos, Dorothea!
Jenny Lynch, Historian and Corporate Information Services Manager, The United States Post Office: Assistance with RFD routes.
S. Maeda: Front cover art of Tomoe, 1937.
Alan Mikuni: Access to the 1942 JACL documents used in this document. He is one of the four remaining members of the Fremont JACL.
Brian Niiya: Content Director, Densho.
Patsy Obayashi: Transcribed the diary, thanks Patsy!
Rev. Dr. Greg Roth: Information about Centerville Presbyterian Church and the Walton Avenue neighborhood. He served CPC for 24 years and is also a local historian.
Yukiko Tanaka and family: Japanese translation.
Archie Uchiyama and his daughters, Gale Salazar, Jane Uchiyama and Kathy Takayama: Uchiyama family information. Archie is 102-years-old, and is still with us as of 2022.
David Ushijima, Sugino's grandson.
Sachiyo Yamasaki: Japanese translation.



See Part Two of this diary, which covers May 10 to the end of 1942.
To read even further about the love between Sus and Tomo, see the PDF,
"The Picture Worth a Thousand Lifetimes."

Thank you for reading.

ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT

ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT

THE 1942 WORLD WAR II DIARY OF

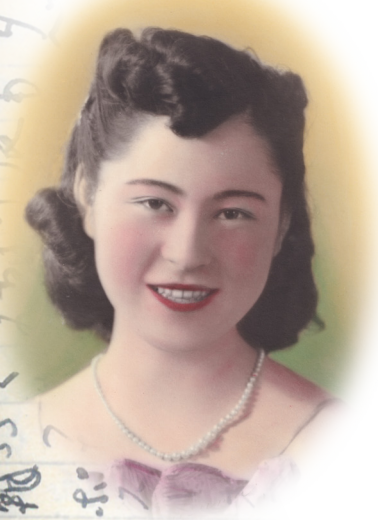


Transcribed text & illustrated version

TOMOE TOMINE

PART TWO: May 9 to December 1942

MAY 10





All Tanforan illustrations by Kenneth Nobuji Iyeki, courtesy of the Kenneth Nobuji Iyeki collection, Densho

KENNETH IYEKI - TANFORAN - 5/18/42

When it opened in 1899, Tanforan wasn't a city. It was a horse racing track where up to 5000 spectators could cheer on their favorite steed, placing their bets just south of the San Francisco city border, where gambling had just been made illegal.

If you have read part one of Tomoe Otsu Tomine's diary, you know that she has just left Centerville, CA and arrived at Tanforan on May 9, 1942. No one cheered.

The Alameda Japanese American History Project is proud to present Part Two of Tomoe's World War II diary for you to read today.



Photo by Dorothea Lange at Tanforan, April 29, 1942 • Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration • https://ddr.densho.org/ddr-densho-151-58/

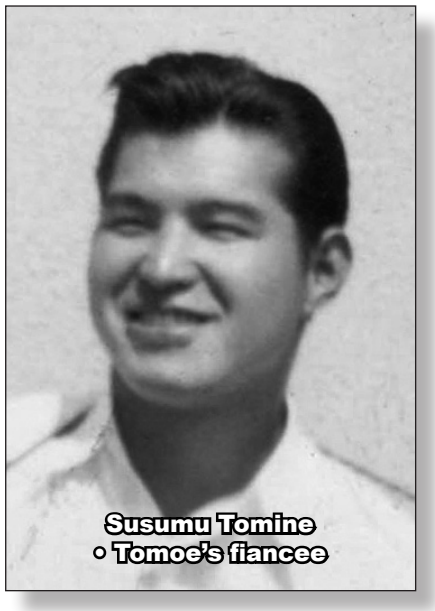
Editor's note:

Like any diary, Tomoe sometimes uses a sort of shorthand, or abbreviations of words or names that may seem like misspellings.

Text in brackets are by translator Takako Hayakawa.

As you begin part two of this diary, Tomoe is leaving Centerville/Niles on a bus to Tanforan.

She is also thinking about her fiancee, Susumu Tomine, who is in a Redwood City facility being treated for tuberculosis.



Susumu Tomine
• Tomoe's fiancee

MAY 9, 1942
We said goodbye to our 80 days in Niles and arrived at Tanforan. It was past 11 o'clock when 6 buses (Greyhound) left Centerville. When we left home, a person from Tolan Agricultural Dept. came to take our picture. We got in the picture holding our luggage. Upon arrival at Tanforan, I recognized many people I knew. Onizuka-san, Masako-san, and others were the first people I saw. Toshi-chan was also there to greet us.

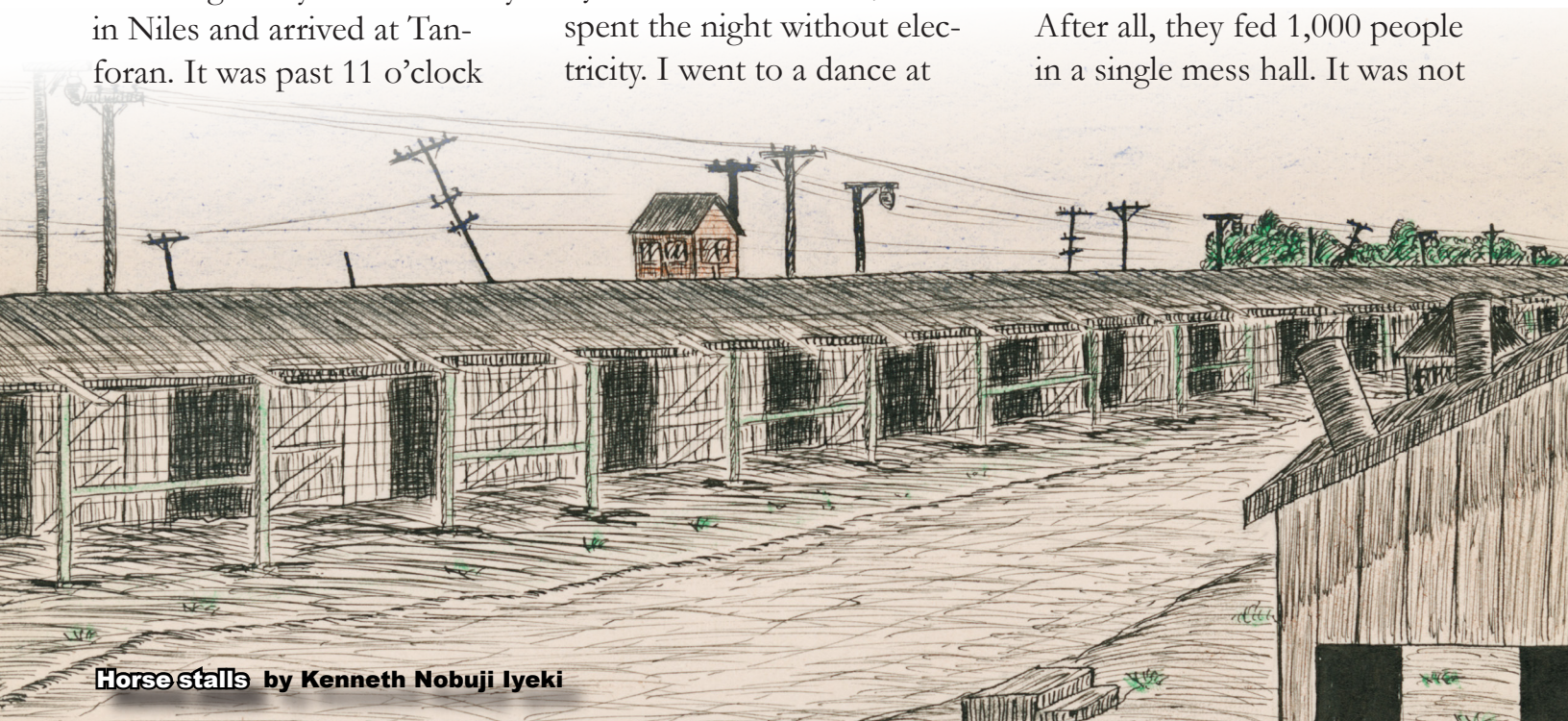
I would call the apartment we were taken to a "stall," because a "horse stable" doesn't sound nice. It is a two-room apartment, and although the windows don't open, the breeze coming in through the gaps between the wall boards was more than enough. It may be nice in summer, but it is not so nice now when it is not too hot yet.

Today, we just built a bed and did nothing else. The electricity still didn't come on, so we spent the night without electricity. I went to a dance at night, feeling guilty with Susumu-san. I met many people I knew and danced with, but I didn't really enjoy it. I decided not to go next time.

MAY 10
I barely made it for the breakfast between 7 and 8 AM. After that, I washed the windows and hung the curtains. As it was Sunday today, there was nobody to give us a hand and we could not finish our closet. Only Harano-san made us two shelves. Poor Harano-san. He is no match against mother's persistence. He finally fell for it.

Today was Mother's Day. I thanked Mom for her priceless love. There was an outdoor program. I was sorry I could not even buy a gift for Mom in the camp.

I ate dinner with Toshi-chan and others at the mess hall. After all, they fed 1,000 people in a single mess hall. It was not



Horse stalls by Kenneth Nobuji Iyeki

easy just standing there with a plate in my hand. I visited Satoh-san who arrived today.

I also met Nomura-san. The sky looked strange in the evening, but by night time it was pouring. It is troublesome as I must walk a long way just to wash my face. I wrote my first letter from here to Susumu-san.

MAY 11
It had been drizzling since early evening yesterday, but it soon turned into a full-blown downpour. As the roof of the horse stall is low, (the sound of rain) was as bad as the sound of a machine gun.

When I woke up in the morning, the sun was shining brightly. The rain had stopped but the road got so muddy that it was hard to walk. I wore rain shoes to go out to eat.

I went to the post office and learned that mail would be sent out twice and delivered twice daily. I spent the afternoon talking with Satoh-san and others, and listening to Toshi-chan's mandolin. I ate dinner with Toshi-chan again.

After dinner, Satoh-san, Toshi-chan and Fujiko-san came to my place. We made coffee, and toasted the leftover bread from our dinner. It was the first real coffee I've had in a long time. I felt bad to hear that Ohta-san, who was supposed to come here, was sent to Pomona.

I am sure Ohta-san is sorry to be pulled away from his friends.

MAY 12
As the breakfast time for building 23 was between 7 and 7:30, I rushed and arrived at the mess hall by 7:15. As I went early for the first time, I had enough milk and sugar first time in ages.

Today, the closet was completed, and I was able to hang up my clothes. Now I feel a little more settled. I sprayed perfume, so the smell of disinfectant would be lessened. The place has become a little livable.

The first baby was born in Tanforan. Bob Naruo-san is the proud father. I went to the employment office and signed up for a possible job. I got bored doing nothing, so I walked around with Toshi-chan again.

In the evening, a few of us got together at Toshi-chan's place. We played cards and read "Seishun (Being Young)" written by Fumiko Hayashi. We had coffee and went home.

Satoh-san was with us, too.

Toshi-chan said she wanted me to listen to "Ai no komado" (A small window of love) by Dick Mine because his voice sounded just like that of Susumu-san's. I wish I had a record of it so I could play it every day.

MAY 13
The camp life entered its fifth day, and the fun began to grow. Sunny day again today, so Toshi-chan and I walked around Tanforan.

The apartment buildings with absurd signages such as BARAKUEN (horse-enjoying-park), BASHOUEN (horse-smiling-park) and such were drawing people's attention.



From somewhere, the song "Shina no Yoru" (*China Nights, above*) came on, bringing back fond memories.

I had dinner with Toshi-chan,

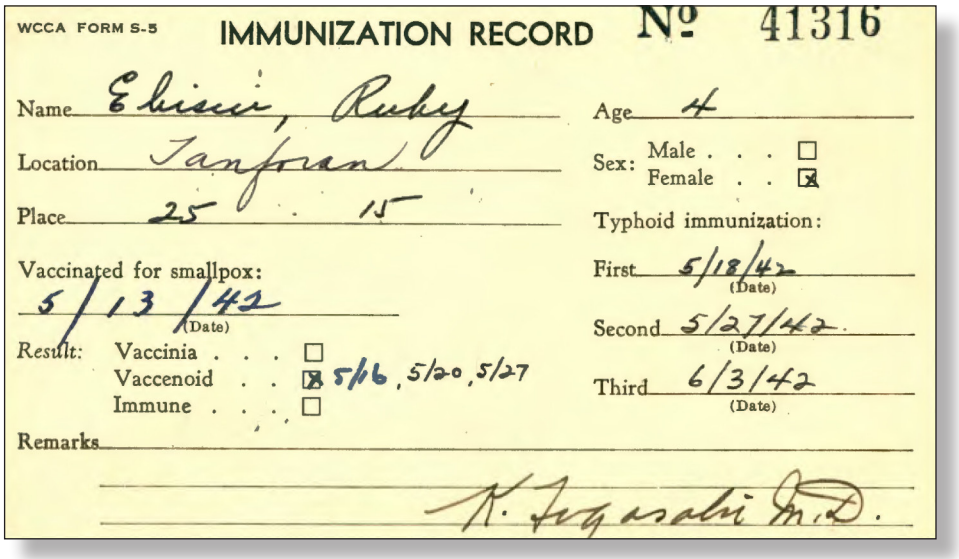
but we only took bread as there was not enough water. When we started toasting the bread at Toshi-chan's place, some people showed up, so we put them away in a hurry. I was introduced to Matsumoto-san, Masuda-san and others.

I thought I would get a letter from Susumu-san today, but I did not. I am sure it will come tomorrow. 8000 Japanese are living in harmony without complaint. How long can this kind of life really continue? I got a smallpox vaccination this morning.

some cornflakes. Did a little laundry then read "Kekkon Tenkizu (Marriage Weather Map)" written by Kikuchi Kan. I found it interesting.

In the afternoon, I visited Yamamoto-san's place again. Satoh-san was there, too. Matsumoto-san was looking for his younger brother as he had not come home since last night.

Later, we learned that he was in San Mateo hospital. It seems that he was taken there due to a sudden illness and that he could not even tell his home



WCCA FORM S-5 **IMMUNIZATION RECORD** No 41316

Name Ebisui, Ruby — Age 4

Location Tanforan — Sex: Male . . . ☐ Female . . ☒

Place 25 . 15 — Typhoid immunization:

Vaccinated for smallpox: 5/13/42 (Date) — First 5/18/42 (Date)

Result: Vaccinia . . . ☐ Vaccenoid . . ☒ 5/16, 5/20, 5/27 Immune . . . ☐ — Second 5/27/42 (Date)

Third 6/3/42 (Date)

Remarks

K. Fugasaki M.D.

On May 13, Ruby Ebisui received her smallpox vaccination, the same day as Tomoe. They did not know each other.

MAY 14
I waited for his letter all day, but it didn't come. I'm getting used to bread without butter. Coffee and chocolate have no taste because of the lack of sugar. Yesterday we got our first eggs at camp. Today we had no eggs, but we did get

phone number because he did not understand English.

I saw Sugaya-san on the street today. He was looking this way but I don't think he recognized me. I haven't seen Ishii-san. I thought I'd ask Sugaya-san when I saw him yesterday but

decided to wait for another time. I went to see a "talent show" at night, but the crowd was too large, I decided to go home and read a book.

MAY 15
It was a perfect day for a picnic, despite the thought that it was going to rain. Toshi-chan and I spent time laying on the grass, looking for four-leaf clovers and knitting.

We said to each other that it would have been so nice if we had all been on a picnic. As I was so happy to receive Susumu-san's letter at the post office, Yamakawa-san made fun of me saying "You'd better buy me a drink."

Toshi-chan looked happy, too, to receive a letter from Ohta-san. But I am sure she is truly wishing that he were here. Toshi-chan gave me her picture taken in April. She looks very pretty. I wrote back to Susumu-san at night.

MAY 16
It is hard to get up at 7, as it is cold every morning. In the morning, Toshi-chan and I washed our hair and set each other's hair. We laughed at the idea of setting each other's hair again, and said that we had never imagined doing so in such a place like this.



Line at a Mess Hall by Dorothea Lange • April 29, 1942

In the afternoon, we went to the same place as yesterday. Read "Meibouka (Beautiful Eyes Disaster)" by Kikuchi Kan, laying under "the hot sun." We took a book of popular songs and sang them. Our hair got dried by the sun without a dryer. Today I had a pair of geta made for me to wear to the shower. I am a Japanese after all. Geta is just the thing for such an occasion.

There is THE dance tonight, but I decided not to go, so I stayed home and knitted. Mr. and Mrs. Onizuka came to visit. Another peaceful day ended quietly as if nothing had happened. Without any consideration for what's in one's mind, morning welcomes the night, and night follows the morning.

MAY 17
Today was the second Sunday since we came to the camp, but it was like the first one. I wore silk stockings for the first time to go to Sunday School. At the Sunday School, I found many familiar faces. Somehow I went back to the old feelings when I attended the Buddhist youth conventions in the Bay Region.

Went to Toshi-chan's place again and had dinner with her at their dining hall. Played cards for about an hour with Masuda-san, Motoma-san, Fujiko-san and others, and went home. Since it was Sunday, there were a few visitors here and there. I saw two Catholic nuns, too.

MAY 18
It's amazing how fast the days go by. I don't know what I did this morning. Today, I had to stand in line for over an hour to show smallpox mark, naturally I didn't get a chance to do anything and the morning was over.

Whether it is to do the laundry, wash the dishes, or go to the mess hall, everyone has to stand in line and quietly wait for his turn. It's a good thing we have so much more time than money, but at times it can be frustrating.

In the afternoon, 5 of us, Masuda-san, Satoh-san, Toshi-chan, Fujiko-san and I went to our usual field and had interesting chats till 4:30. 4 of us went to the main hall for dinner, but it wasn't very good. After dinner, Tani-san played the accordion and sang solo for us.

Received a letter from Susumu-san. He is envious of my life. There is not a day goes by that I don't wish Susumu could come here too. I was a bit surprised to receive a letter from Kiyoshi-san. Although Kiyoshi-san's letter seemed to be in good spirits, it was somehow filled with a sense of loneliness.

MAY 19
Today was the first hot day since we came to the camp. The horse stable, which had been cold until now, was cooler today and much more pleasant than the 96 degrees in the barracks. It is said that "home is where you live," and there's no better place than our house. There are now lovely flower beds in front of the houses and "cooling benches" are built as well.

The horse stable has become more like a human tenement. But this tenement is the longest in the camp, housing 108 households. It is an elongated tenement. It is not surprising that sometimes some people hop in the wrong door.

I was delighted by Susumu's unexpected letter. He wrote that he hoped to be able to visit me. How happy I would be if he could do so!

Sam's mother, who was hospitalized at a hospital in San Jose, passed away yesterday. My heart is filled with sadness to think that she died alone and lonely.

In a better time, she would have received the generous care of her family members and would have been surrounded by many people, so she could have passed in peace.

So sad that only 9 people were allowed to attend the funeral. Sam had lost his usual cheerfulness. The sound of the shakuhachi comes through the stillness of the night.

MAY 20
It was a hot, hot day. Inside and outside. In the morning, on my way home from returning books to the library, I dropped by Satoh-san's place. Poor Satoh-san was in bed with a cold. In this heat.

Today, again, many people came in six buses from San Francisco. I went out to see if Dr. Kasuga would be there. Later, I heard that he was sent to Arizona.

I practiced penmanship in the morning. I also arranged hair for two people. When Toshi-chan and I went out to cool off in the evening, lots of people were out and about. The music of popular songs came from all over the place, and I forgot about the heat of the day.

When I dropped by Nomura-san's place, they were just bathing the baby. They let me watch. Mrs. Nomura and I talked till 8:30. They both are nice people. They were talking about Susumu-san, too. They said he was good at writing poems.

MAY 21
It is not like "Woman's Mind and Autumn Sky," but what a cold day it was today in contrast to yesterday's heat. I stayed home except for visiting Toshi-chan for two hours in the afternoon. At Toshi-chan's, Japanese popular songs came from the radio. We spent about an hour listening to them. I guess someone put records on the phonograph.

Finished reading "Beautiful Eyes Disaster." The main character, Tamako, lived an unhappy life because she was beautiful. Her beauty was her undoing. When I think about Tamako-san's life, I am thankful that I was not born a beautiful woman.

MAY 22
Stayed inside as it was a cold day. I set Kitagawa-san's hair and she gave me a chocolate

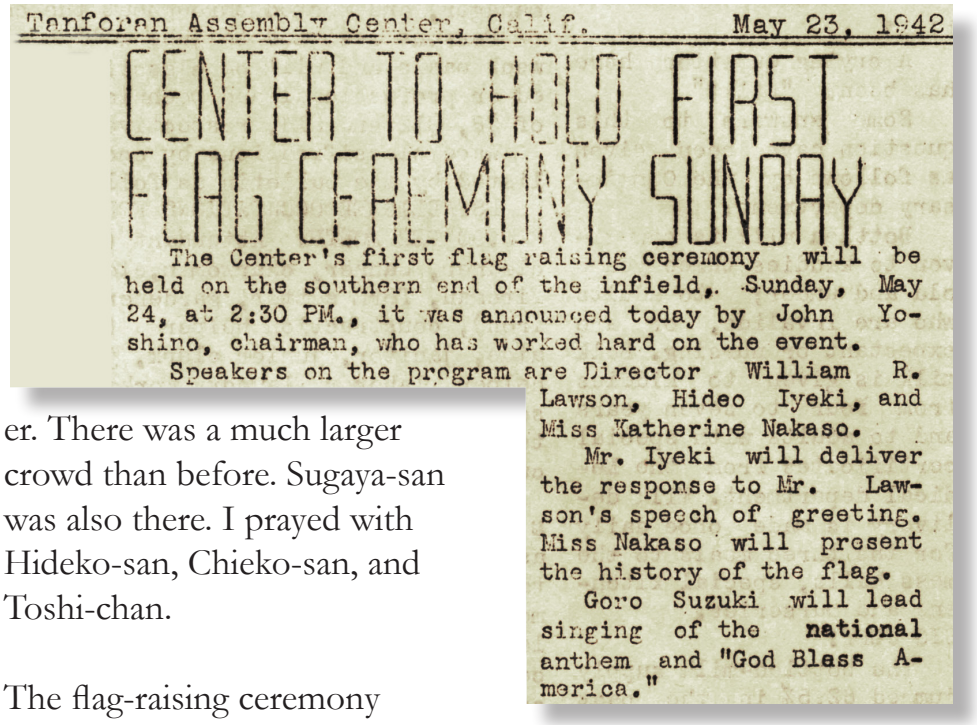
candy. It had been a while, so I enjoyed it. Started reading "Red Love" written by a Russian woman author.

I was so excited to receive two letters from Susumu-san that I jumped up and down. I am very happy to know that my existence is making him happy. These days I have been craving a mandolin. If I can learn a little while I'm dilly-dallying, I think I could play in an ensemble with Susumu-san. But Mom doesn't say "yes." I really want it, though. Received a letter from Nobuko-san who is in the camp in Fresno. She wrote it was hot there and everyone was walking around in shorts.

MAY 23
The ticket system has started today. We get a book of 2 dollar 50 cents. Outside of the book, we cannot use any cash at all. Some stores opened today and I got oranges after a long while.

It was cold as usual, so I stayed home. Received a letter from Mizoguchi-san in Arkansas. I made friends with *[illegible]* Hideko-san, three doors down. She is Kibei Nisei, and very pretty.

MAY 24
Sunday - In the morning we all went to Sunday School together. There was a much larger crowd than before. Sugaya-san was also there. I prayed with Hideko-san, Chieko-san, and Toshi-chan.



Tanforan Assembly Center, Calif. May 23, 1942

CENTER TO HOLD FIRST FLAG CEREMONY SUNDAY

The Center's first flag raising ceremony will be held on the southern end of the infield, Sunday, May 24, at 2:30 PM., it was announced today by John Yoshino, chairman, who has worked hard on the event.

Speakers on the program are Director William R. Lawson, Hideo Iyeki, and Miss Katherine Nakaso.

Mr. Iyeki will deliver the response to Mr. Lawson's speech of greeting. Miss Nakaso will present the history of the flag.

Goro Suzuki will lead singing of the national anthem and "God Blass America."

The flag-raising ceremony was held outdoors at noon. A hundred people attended and it was a grand event. Since it was Sunday, there were many visitors, and the weather was fine, so the camp was lively. When I met Satoh-san, she told me that she had received a letter from Susumu.

MAY 25
The rain, which had started falling at three in the morning, finally stopped around ten o'clock. The camp roads were so muddy that there was nowhere to put down my feet. It is only at a time like this that I realize how much I appreciate my rubber shoes.

I finally ordered a mandolin today. I'm just waiting for it to come soon. Satoh-san came in the afternoon. We talked about various things. She left around 4 o'clock. Received an English letter from Susumu-san. I was amazed at how much he has improved. I was happy to hear that he would be sending me candies. I am glad he is thinking of me.

Today we had our first death in Tanforan. She had been hospitalized in San Mateo since her first day in the camp, and finally passed away. She had a difficult postpartum period. She passed away, leaving behind a beautiful one-month old baby, without even looking up at the sky of world peace….

MAY 26
I thought it was going to rain again, but it turned out to be a nice day. Butter and eggs were served for breakfast for a change. Toasted bread with butter are delicious. Wrote a

letter to Motoyoshi Sensei and Susumu-san.

Received another letter from Susumu-san in the afternoon. Went to Toshi-chan's with Hideko-san and found Satoh-san there, too. She asked me if I received candies from Susumu-san.

Toshi-chan played the records while we were knitting. I listened to "Ai no Komado (Small Window of Love)" The singer's voice sounded very much like Susumu-san's.

MAY 27
It was a beautiful sunny day, but around four o'clock it began to drizzle. In the morning, I received candies from Susumu-san. I took them with gratitude for his thoughtfulness.

Received a letter from Chiyoko-san in the afternoon. She said the camp at Merced was very hot, and that Miyosi-san and Chizuko-san were there as well.

The mandolin I ordered on Monday has already arrived. I ordered a ten-dollar one, but they sent me a fifteen-dollar one. No wonder it sounds very nice.

MAY 28
Since the weather was fine, Toshi-chan and I washed our hair in the morning. After lunch, I went to Yamamoto-san's house again, and Matsumoto-san came too, so the three of us took a walk together.

At night, 4 of us, Masuda-san, Satoh-san, Toshi-chan and I went to the talent show. The event was held in the grandstand for the first time last night, as it had always been too crowded for people to fit inside the hall. It was a great success. It was very lively with solo singers, a harmonica band, etc. Looking far from the high grandstand, I could see mountains and the ocean. So beautiful. The sun was setting, turning the sky bright red.

It reminded me of the song, "When the evening darkness falls, my sorrows are endless, I miss you."

After the program, there was a nice moon, so the four of us strolled back. I was happy to receive another letter from Susumu-san. A lot of single men moved into the neighborhood, and it became almost too lively. There is a harmonica player and an accordion expert. I am practicing the mandolin, hoping I will be a good player, too.

MAY 29
It was a beautiful morning, but the wind picked up in the evening. I stayed inside in the morning, practicing the mandolin and calligraphy. Didn't receive a single letter. The mandolin case arrived. I spent about 2 hours in the afternoon at Toshi-chan's place.

In the evening, Toshi-chan came with her mandolin, so we played together. We called each other Sensei (teacher), then apologized to each other. We had a good laugh.

Later, Sizumi-san and Masuda-san also came but all of them left around 8:30. I played the mandolin so much today that my fingertips hurt. But I hear that unless you play till your fingertips hurt, you won't get good at it.

MAY 30
The Memorial Day ceremony was held outdoors. But it was cold, so I stayed inside and read a book. The title of the book is "Soshinzo (Two Hearts)" written by Itsuma Maki. It was written so well I didn't stop reading. Later, I practiced the mandolin.

The wind was blowing so hard that I could not walk with my eyes open. My kimono and hair were covered with sand. Hair

is so easy to get dusty, I feel it is a waste of water to wash it. I woke up at 6 and went out to take a shower. If I go leisurely after breakfast, I will have to have a cold shower without a drop of hot water.

MAY 31
Sunday— At 10, went to Sunday School with Toshi-chan. In the afternoon after finishing "Two Hearts," I went to Yamamoto-san's place to return the book. Satoh-san came so we went to our usual field to relax. Masuda-san joined us. Four of us took a walk again in the wind.

Since the Tanforan camp opened, it seems there have been several deaths. They don't announce it, so we don't know for sure, but yesterday, another baby died 4 hours after the birth.

I can only imagine what the mother is going through. In the evening, Toshi-chan and others came. We played hop-scotch together. The book "Two Hearts" is about a certain young man studying music. It is a romantic story about him and his various love affairs.

MEMO
The month of May, a month of many changes, has gone with the wind. Blown away by the strong winds of the Tanforan camp. What secrets does June hold?

JUNE 1

Received 3 letters – two from Susumu-san, one from Miyoko-san. Susumu-san's letter said since the ring had arrived, he wanted to come to bring it to me. Wrote back to him and Miyoko-san. Practiced the mandolin. I want to get good at it soon.

JUNE 2
It was a windy day. I got the items I had ordered from the grocery store in San Mateo today, including cheese sandwiches, which I hadn't had for a long time.

I placed another order from Montgomery. Received a letter from Susumu-san in the afternoon. The ring was glowing and waiting to be worn by a righteous owner, he wrote.

Satoh-san came and stayed till 3:30. I visited Toshi-chan



Tanforan men's shower room by Kenneth Nobuji Iyeki

later. She was complaining that Tatsumi-san would start working. It looks like I, too, will be forced to work in the kitchen. In the evening, the pie I had requested from Ogo-san came, so I licked my lips over a strawberry pie. As the nearby washroom opened today, it has become more convenient.

JUNE 3
I started working in the dining hall today. I am a waiter. There are about 30 people working together and they are all doing their jobs cheerfully.

I work two and a half hours for each meal, so it's not hard, but 6:30 in the morning is a bit trying. At night, I finish at around 6:45.

Today, I went to say goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Toshio Tomomatsu as they were leaving for Japan on a diplomatic exchange. They said they would bring letters to Japan with them, so I hurried up and wrote one. I just wanted to let my uncle know we were safe.

JUNE 4
I woke up at six o'clock and went to work. Kasai-san, my neighbor, wakes up at six o'clock to go to the dining room as well, so I have asked her to tap on the wall to wake me up.

We had ice-cream for the first time since we came here. It was Satoh-san's treat. We, the usual quartet, went to the talent show again at night. Today's program wasn't very interesting. I had expected Susumu-san's letter but it didn't come. I worry about him when there is no letter.

JUNE 5
I am working hard as usual. If I am late in the morning, I get teased by everyone, so I try not to be late. In the kitchen, everyone is working heartily and without complaints. I can even hear the whistling of "Shina no Yoru."

All I did today was to write a letter to Susumu-san. Arita-san came in the evening and asked me to sing at "Japanese evening" which would be held on the 16th. I told him I would do my best. I am going to practice "Mujo no Yume (Heartless Dream)" and "Ai no Sasayaki (Whisper of Love)."

JUNE 6
Worked as usual. Washed my hair in the morning. In the afternoon, Mrs. Ono, Fujiko-san, Satoh-san, Toshi-chan, Margie and I played Japanese cards.
I was planning on bringing the music scores and practicing the songs at Mary Ikeda-san's place. But unfortunately, the piano wasn't there and I could not practice. We promised to practice on Monday or so. Later, Toshi-chan and I practiced the mandolin. We were not in tune at all. I don't know what to do.

JUNE 7
Sunday - Went to Buddhist Church. Went to work as usual, too. Just because it's Sunday, it doesn't mean it's a day off. After all, one has to eat.

Practiced the mandolin at Toshi-chan's in the afternoon. In the evening, I went to the party for the kitchen workers. It was lively with about 150 people. Dance, game, and a strawberry shortcake was a big treat. For the entertainment, there were singing, playing harmonica, and others. I was nominated and finally sang. I sang "Madoni Motarete (Leaning on the Window)," a song I was not familiar with.

After the fun night, I went home – my sweet home (a horse stall) around 11. I took a hot shower after a hard day's work and crawled into bed.

JUNE 8
Sleepy morning. I was constantly yawning behind the cooking pan. At lunchtime, I went to Toshi-chan's place for a while, but I didn't do anything else. Not a single letter came. Wrote back to Kanda-san.

JUNE 9
Another windy day. Went to the dining hall as usual. Visited Toshi-chan a little while in the afternoon. Satoh-san was there, too.

Received Susumu-san's letter. He said he had requested the permission to visit on Sunday. I really wish I could meet him.
At night, Satoh-san, Toshi-chan and I went to the show at the No.4 mess hall. It was very lively with Tani-san's dance, solo singing, and a quartet,"Idiot Boys", consisting of Sugaya-san, Tajiri-san, Naetomi-san and Takagi-san.

JUNE 10
Today was my first day off, so I stayed lazy in the morning.
In the afternoon, Eiko-san and I went to Toshi-chan's again. Four of us, including Satoh-san, went to the field.

Later when I visited Matsumoto-san. Matsumoto-san was home with hay fever. We talked for a while and then it was time to eat, so I left. The food served by someone else was delicious. I have learned to appreciate it since I started working.

In the evening, I went to the music studio to practice singing. Ikeda-san was indeed such a good singer, I was taken aback. I tried "Ai no Sasayaki (Whisper of Love)" and "Mujo no Yume (Heartless Dream)."

In the morning, Naetomi-san, one of "Idiot Boys" of last night, came and introduced me to Mrs. Yoshimura. I learned that she was a cousin of Miyoshi-san's husband.

JUNE 11
I received a letter from Susumu-san that I had been waiting for. It said that he had asked the WCCA for permission, but they had not given it. Now I have nothing to look forward to. He said he would send the ring by mail. All I can do is to wait for his heartfelt gift.

I have completed Satoh-san's socks. I will give them to him the next time I see him.
At night, I went to the talent show but there were so many people I could not see well. It was a Hawaiian program with guitars and ukuleles. It was nice.

JUNE 12
It was the second hot day. I didn't have to wear a sweater. Susumu-san wrote that he would send me the ring because he could not get the permission. And the ring arrived promptly this morning.
Even if it is not the finest ring with a diamond, the feeling that went into the gift shines brighter than a million-dollar diamond.

In the evening, Eiko-san, Toshi-chan and I went for a walk in the cool of the evening. For a while, we watched the boys of our mess hall playing baseball. At Matsumoto-san's place, we played cards and chatted till 9 and went home. I practice the mandolin when I have time.

JUNE 13
It was a windy day but I spent time in the field with Satoh-san and Toshi-chan. When I gave Satoh-san the socks, he was very surprised and said jokingly that someone could be offended by it. Since it was Saturday, I was invited to an evening dance, but I decided not to go, so I declined.

Councilor campaign is underway in Tanforan right now. We are to elect 5 councilors.

JUNE 14
Sunday- sunny weather. After the singing practice in the morning, I went to Sunday School. As I went there early today, there were enough chairs. It ended at 11:15, and I hurried back to the dining hall. I worked till 2, then went to Toshi-chan's place again.

There was a first social event of Buddhist Youth Associa-

NEW COUNCILMEN PLEDGE BEST EFFORTS



The five winners of the election • Tanforan Totalizer • June 20, 1942

Toshimi Ogawa: "I appreciate the fact that the people have confidence in me and I will try to do my best for the welfare of Tanforan residents. Thank you for your support."

Satoshi Iiyama: "The wide interest in the elections indicates that the residents are vitally aware of our center's problems. I shall do my best to fulfill the responsibility of this office. I appreciate the support given me."

Frank Yamasaki: "Thanks to all my supporters. The interest in the elections was most gratifying. As one of the councilmen, I expect to be the representative of all the residents."

Albert Kosakura: "As one of the newly elected councilmen, I shall do my best to work for the cooperation between the residents and the administration, and for the improvement of Tanforan."

Vernon Ichisaka: "In sharing the responsibility with the other councilmen, I hope to serve in a manner that will produce the most good for all concerned. In carrying out our duty, we will need the support and the cooperation of all residents."

tion, so I attended with Toshi-chan.

It was fun with so many people. The only regret was that Susumu-san was not there. I was introduced to Tajiri-san, Takagi-san and others. I danced with Ishida-san and Matumoto-san, too. All of them are Susumu-san's friends. Now I have met all four members of "Idiot Boys."

JUNE 15

Blue Monday. When I was working in San Francisco, I used to say this all the time. When I started working here, it is hard to get up at six in the morning. It is Blue Monday again.

Five new girls joined us today. It looks like the workers in the dining hall don't last very long. Received a letter from Susumu-san in the morning. And received unexpected letters from Motoyoshi-sensei and Kiyoshi Kawaguchi-san.

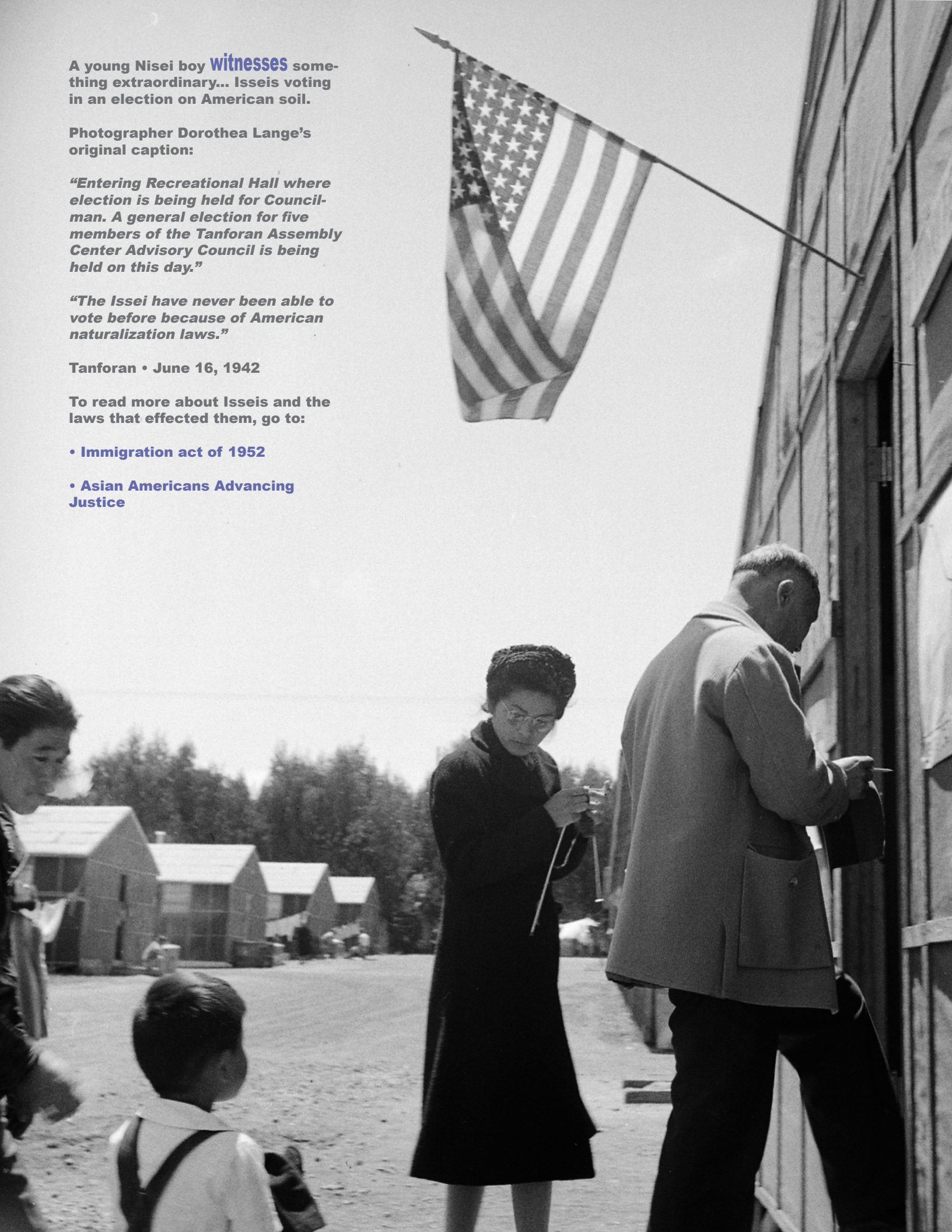
I was filled with a nostalgic feeling. Both Sensei and Kiyoshi-san are leading a lonely life. Today, a twice-daily people count survey has begun. They call it a "head count." I don't see any need to check so strictly, but I guess they started this kind of thing because the number of people has been decreasing one by one.

JUNE 16

Today was the election day for the Councilor. Everyone over 21 years old is allowed to vote. I voted for Yokomizo-san.

Prec. 3		
	Frank Yamasaki	237
	Toshio Suzuki	236
	Motomi Yokomizo	177
	Robert S. Iki	151

Motomi Yokomizu lost the election to Frank Yamasaki, who had more votes. Tanforan Totalizer • June 20, 1942



A young Nisei boy witnesses something extraordinary... Isseis voting in an election on American soil.

Photographer Dorothea Lange's original caption:

"Entering Recreational Hall where election is being held for Councilman. A general election for five members of the Tanforan Assembly Center Advisory Council is being held on this day."

"The Issei have never been able to vote before because of American naturalization laws."

Tanforan • June 16, 1942

To read more about Isseis and the laws that effected them, go to:

- **Immigration act of 1952**
- **Asian Americans Advancing Justice**

Received another letter from Susumu-san. I sent a reply to Nobuko-san at the Fresno camp. Five more letters to write.

Dr. Yamauchi did the physical examination in the afternoon. This is necessary for everyone who works in a mess hall. He didn't say anything about it, so I guess I am O.K. I went to see the rehearsal for the talent show in the evening. Tajiri-san and Hanyu-san were rehearsing. Masao Nakata-san was there and urged me to sing, saying I would be better than they would be.

Started reading "Wakai Mibojin (Young Widow) by Toshihiko Takeda.

JUNE 17
Today was my day off, so I didn't go out for breakfast, just stayed in bed and read "The Young Widow." I spent the rest of the morning staying inside, not doing much of anything. From noon, since the wind was as strong as ever, I couldn't sunbathe, so I spent all day knitting at Toshi-chan's place. Neither Satoh-san nor Masuda-san showed up.

I didn't receive any letters today. It is unlikely to receive letters if I don't send them out first. At night, I went to the neighbor's house to listen to a record, and when I returned home, the next-door lady on the right gave me some udon noodles, which I enjoyed very much. Udon is hard to come by in the camp.

JUNE 18
As I had slept in yesterday, I could not get up by myself this morning. I finally woke up when Yoshimura-san woke me up.

I was happy to receive a letter from Susumu-san in the morning, saying that he was working every day. I pray that he will remain strong and healthy.

While I was at Toshi-chan's place in the afternoon, Sakae-san came to call for me. I was surprised to hear that Motoyoshi-sensei had come for a visit. I rushed to go see him. He has lost a lot of weight. He had left his family behind. He must be worried about them. He kindly asked me about Susumu-san.

Satoh-san, Toshi-chan and I went to the talent show in the evening. We endured the cold to see it. Tajiri-san sang "Tanima no Tomoshibi (Lights in the Valley)", and Hanyu-san sang "Tabi no Yokaze (Night Breeze on a Journey)." Then both sang "Shina no Yoru." At night after I came home, I started knitting Susumu-san's socks.

JUNE 19
Recently, I can't practice calligraphy as much as I'd like. I don't think I'll ever be able to make progress.

I promised Toshi-chan to wash our hair together, so in the morning I went there after work to find that she had not yet returned from her art school. Toshi-chan is really into art. In the afternoon, while reading "The Young Widow," I fell asleep (not because the book was not interesting) and dozed off until 4:20. I intended to go to bed early, but 4 boys from next door came. We played cards and sang songs till 10.

JUNE 20
Saturday- it is a day off for students but the same working day for workers. I was invited to an evening dance but I declined. Instead, four of us - Satoh-san, Margie, Toshi-chan and I went for a walk. Later, I invited them to my place and spent time playing cards and such. Satoh-san is funny – he always makes fun saying he feels responsible to Susumu-san, as if he were my "bodyguard." No letters came today.

JUNE 21
Sunday- It was a busy morning. Woke up at 6, went to work at 6:30, came home at 8, fixed hair for two people, then went to my singing lesson. My voice usually doesn't come out well, even more so today because I have a slight cold.

Inoue-san was also there to practice. He sure has a nice manly voice. I went to Sunday School a little late. When I returned home, Sakae-san was in low spirits with a headache. I told her she shouldn't go to work, and I went to work alone.

At night, Sakae-san's fever went up to 104. I called the doctor and was told it was "bronchitis" and that she should be hospitalized because it could be contagious. She was taken by an ambulance.

JUNE 22
As Sakae-san is in hospital, I went to work by myself. When I visited Sakae-san in the afternoon, she was lying in bed looking bored. She was complaining that the doctor would not release her even though she was not sick anymore.

There was another funeral for an old man named Takahashi-san. The deaths are happening one after another. I really feel sorry for the old people. Received a letter from Susumu-san.

Today, the FBI was again inspecting our luggage. The reason for this is said that they did not check our luggage thoroughly when we arrived at the camp. I hear that they are looking for cutlery and Japanese books.

JUNE 23
Today is the day of the "Issei Evening." I feel somewhat restless. After visiting Sakae-san, Toshi-chan and I went to "voice study class," though it might sound funny. The teacher was Seiga sensei. There were a little over 10 people in the class. The teacher talked about the breathing.

At night, I left work early and went to "mess 4." This is the designated hall for the Japanese program.

I was looking forward to singing with Mary Ikeda-san's piano accompaniment but was disappointed that there was no piano. I refused to sing without the accompaniment, but people insisted. I finally sang "Mujo no Yume (Heartless Dream)" and "Tsubaki no Hei (Camelia Soldier)" with the recorded music. I think it was a failure.

After the program, there was a rehearsal at the social hall for Thursday's talent show, so I went there to practice. I am planning to sing "Mujo no Yume" again with Sadako Towata-san's piano. I don't have time to practice new songs. I asked Satoh-san and Toshi-chan to go with me.

JUNE 24
I felt relaxed as today was my day off in a week. A very windy day. I visited Sakae-san in the afternoon. She said she was sorry to have missed last night's program. Then I went to Toshi-chan's. Satoh-san was there. We couldn't go for a walk so we ended up knitting.

I ate at Toshi-chan's dining hall instead of returning for dinner. I hurried back to make it for the "roll call" at 6:30, then took a walk with Toshi-chan and Satoh-san. I practiced again at "mess 3" in the evening.

JUNE 25
It was a drizzly, wintery morning. But by ten o'clock, the sun was shining, and the weather improved more than expected. In the afternoon, I went to bed for a nap, but I couldn't sleep a bit because people kept coming by.

Went to the talent show at grandstand in the evening. My "Mujo no Yume" seemed to be better with a good microphone and piano accompaniment. Everyone gave me compliments, so I believe it was. I wish Susumu-san could hear it. Tajiri-san, Sugaya-san and Inoue-san, all praised me.

After the program, Tajiri-san, Takagi-san, Sugaya-san, Inoue-san and Takayama-san walked me home so I invited them in. Tajiri-san played the mandolin for us. As expected, he was much better than me and produced a nice sound. He wanted to borrow my mandolin, so I let him.

JUNE 26
It has been 6 days but Sakae-san has not yet discharged from the hospital. I went to see her during the visiting hours. She looked bored. I expected Suzuki-san in the afternoon, but she didn't come so I took a nap. I've asked her to accompany me in a song I'm going to perform at a show next week.

She kindly visited me at night. We have been practicing "Aozorani Utau (Sing Under the Blue Sky)" and "Madoni Motarete (Leaning on the Window)."

Received Susumu-san's letter in the afternoon. The director of the hospital also notified me that Susumu-san was just fine, but that he'd better wait until we went to the relocation center because the camp's facilities were not good.

JUNE 27
Saturday- It was an unusually hot day. People working in the kitchen must have had a hard time. In the afternoon, Toshi-chan and I went to the grandstand to cool off. The heat goes away when we are here. Lots of women came over at night, so I jumped out of my place.

JUNE 28
Today was hotter than yesterday. For the first time since I came here, I had to take off my shirt during the day. I even changed my blouse twice.

Went to Sunday School after work. On the way back, I met Tajiri-san and Sugaya-san, whom I invited into my place. We talked till my work time. There was a fire in our mess hall today, so there was a lot of commotion. I'm glad it was found early enough.

There was the first meeting for Kibei Nisei in the evening. Even though I am not Kibei, I went because a friend invited me. After a lot of planning, and a fun program of singing, harmonica, and The Idiot Boys, the meeting was closed.

The moon this evening was indescribably beautiful. Looking out the window, the bright red moon was nearly full as it quietly came up from the tree-tops of the gum trees. I sighed, looking at the moon on a calm, windless night. I imagined taking a walk with Susumu-san on a night like this and I felt sad.

JUNE 29
After 50 days in the camp, people's minds gradually became more at ease. Some people are still using hammers and saws to fix their houses. A grammar school, a high school, English classes for Issei and Kibei Nisei have been established, and normal life continues.

Men who have time on their hands, not children, but rather fathers, are very busy making sailboats, looking forward to floating them on the Tanforan Lake.

Sakae-san returned in the afternoon after 8 days in the hospital. Our place is now lively again.

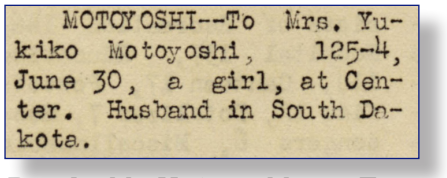
Suzuki-san came with his harmonica, and we practiced the songs. I feel so honored to be accompanied by such a skilled musician.

This morning there was the

eleventh death at the camp. It was a woman called Fujiwara-san living right behind our place. I heard that her father had been taken to faraway place. It's a sad situation. The moon is more beautiful tonight than last night. It reminds me of last summer's moon - the one we gazed at together. Received a letter from Matsushino-san who is at the same place with Susumu-san.

I was surprised to hear from him after five months. He is still writing only about funny things. Susumu-san's letter is always filled with his longing for Tanforan. Baseball game between Mess 11 and Mess 10; 8 to 7, our Mess 11 won.

JUNE 30
I jumped out of bed at 6:30 and barely showed up at the dining hall at 6:40. Everyone made fun of me. Around 5 AM, Motoyoshi-sensei's wife had a baby girl. Merika came to let us know. I wrote a letter on Yoshimura-san's behalf and sent it out by a special delivery. I am sure Motoyoshi-sensei will be relieved.


MOTOYOSHI--To Mrs. Yukiko Motoyoshi, 125-4, June 30, a girl, at Center. Husband in South Dakota.

Rev Joshin Motoyoshi was Tomoe's minister at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda, CA.

Tanforan Totalizer July 4, 1942

I left home with the intention of practicing songs, but I got stuck in Toshi-chan's place and played until work time.

Hoshino-san asked me to sing at the show of July 4 that the main mess hall. I declined as I have been participating in too many shows, but he doesn't back off. I don't know what to do.

MEMO
It's been more than two months since we have been in camp, but I still feel like I'm living in a dream. Sometimes I even forget what this camp life is all about.

Alaska was attacked. Japanese Army reached Vancouver. Hearing the news doesn't scare me at all as if it were someone else's story.

And if there is not enough sugar or vegetables, that is the government's concern, not the individual's responsibility. We have lost our sense of responsibility.

We do not have to work. These days, our purpose in life is playing and going to the dining hall with a plate in hand—this kind of life should not last long.

MEMO
Longing for Your Shadow

Longing for the shadow of you, in rain and sun. My painful thoughts, looking at the moon. The fire in my heartburns when it's forbidden. I cry yearning for you.
Oh loneliness, to comfort my pain, I play the guitar. Endless rain, lonesome tremolo,
Sad person, me.

Because of you, eternal long winter no spring for me, never. Should I keep living In the vain dream, my love

JULY 1
Sunny, day-off. In the morning, Toshi-chan and I washed our hair. On the way to the post office, I met Masako-san for the first time after a long time. We stood chatting for about half an hour.

Practiced songs with Suzuki-san until 5 o'clock. Tomorrow is the day of the performance. The same program will be performed at two different places on Thursday and Friday.

While four of us - Satoh-san, Tatsumi-san, Toshi-chan and I, were walking, we happened to come across another show. We stayed and watched for a while. The program was a little less interesting with all the same people. Received a letter today. I have been waiting for Ohta-san's reply.

A question arose as to whether the ducks swimming in Tanforan Pond were AHIRU or KAMO. I think they are KAMO, but Toshi-chan says AHIRU.

JULY 2
Good weather. Nothing unusual happened. As Yamada-san and Nakano-san came, I stayed home in the afternoon without visiting Toshi-chan. There was an "Issei Night" and I sang "Madoni Motarete (Lean against the Window)" and "Aozorani Utau (Sing Under the Blue Sky)" accompanied by Toshio Suzuki-san's piano.

It was an amusing program with first-class "singers and dancers." It was lively with the performances of "Idiot Boys" and Hakata Niwaka* as well. By the time I left for home around ten o'clock, a thin misty rain was falling, reminding me of the night in San Francisco.

[Translator's note: Hakata Niwaka is an improvised comedy performed in Hakata (Kyushu) dialect]

JULY 3
In the morning, I received three magazines from Matsushino-san, who was busy with his military service in Texas. I appreciate his kindness. If the time were right, I would be the one who should comfort him, but being in a place like this, it is the opposite. I sent him a thank you note immediately. Samples came from a yarn store in Philadelphia.

When I went to Toshi-chan's place after lunch, the bandana and the ribbon we had ordered had arrived.

Received a letter from Susumu-san in the afternoon. When I saw Satoh-san, he said he also received a letter from Susumu-san.

In the evening, there was another performance. This time it was nearby, so I didn't have to ruin my shoes. As I had to do it twice in one night, my throat feels strange.

JULY 4
Today, 4th of July, is one of the biggest holidays for Americans. Especially, this year, it falls on a Saturday, which would normally be two days off in a row. In Tanforan, there were also sports events, sumo tournaments, and entertainments to celebrate the day.

The main mess hall hosted the performances, and the number of spectators was much larger than that of Thursdays or Fridays. The microphone was of the best quality, and it was easy for me to sing. Suzuki-san's accompaniment was also better than usual.

After the program, sushi and sandwiches were served. Suzuki-san and the "Idiot Boys" walked me home.

We stopped by the house where the rumor said that fiery balls* appeared, but it was locked. We could not see the inside. Tajiri-san tried to scare me by saying the fiery balls would show up at my house tonight. Nobody knows what those are. The young couple who lived in the house finally ran away when the fiery balls appeared for three nights. Mystery?

[Translator's note: In Japan, it is said that the fiery balls are the spirits of the dead]

JULY 5
Sunday- I didn't do anything special besides going to Sunday School. Today's sermon was given by a white pastor who came from outside. After returning from the church, I watched the boat race at Tanforan Pond. It was a sight to see the cute sailboats moving in the wind.

When I went to Toshi-chan's in the afternoon, she was asleep though she had promised to meet me. At night, I went out for a walk. Went to Hoshino-san's place and borrowed a

record of "Ai no Komado" (Small Window of Love).

JULY 6
I ate too much pork beans for lunch, got sick to my stomach and went to bed at noon. I didn't even go to work in the evening. I slept well. I must have been exhausted from singing every night. In the morning, I received the reply I had been waiting for from Ohta-san. But I was disappointed by the bad news. He asked me to recommend someone if I had a good match for Toshi-chan.

According to today's news, shopping tickets will be given out starting this Wednesday. Also I heard that the government was giving out clothes to those who didn't have them.

The workers' checks were issued today for the first time. I heard that the dining hall workers would receive them tomorrow. But I can't get mine yet because the payment is up to May 21.

The F.B.I. is still on the watch in the haunted house, but they don't seem to have any clue.

JULY 7
I was full of happiness that after a day's work today, I'd have a day off. As usual, I went to Toshi-chan's place. Satoh-san was there, too.

In the evening, Toshi-chan, Satoh-san and I visited Masako-san. Masako-san and Kenji-san are soon moving to their parents' place in Tule Lake. When I passed by the main building, I saw many people waiting in line to get their checks. It is the first payday in Tanforan, so there is a lot of excitement.

As I started working around the beginning of June, I won't get paid until the next time. The salary paid this time is up to May 21.

I finished knitting a pair of socks. I was knitting for Susumu-san, but they were too small, so I gave them to Mitani-san. This time, I will knit green ones for Susumu-san.

JULY 8
Today we had the famous Tanforan wind again. Woke up around 8 o'clock, did hair-set for two people then washed my own hair. Wrote a letter to Susumu-san. In the afternoon, I went to Toshi-chan's place to knit and chat. Satoh-san treated us to ice-creams. Margie looked proud to receive a check of 2 dollars and 4 cents.

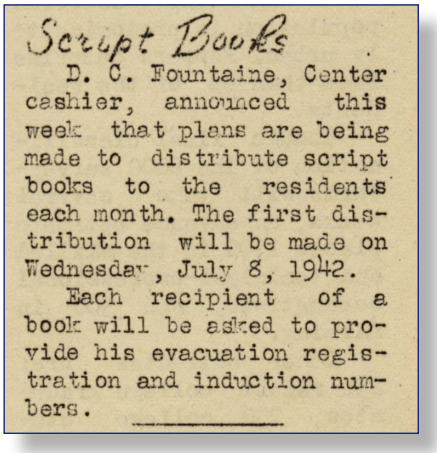
When I returned home, I found a letter from Miyoshi-san in Merced Camp. It says Merced is 115 degrees. I visited Mary Matsuura-san for the first time, but she went out to play badminton.

I stayed a little while talking with her parents. At home, Satoh-san was waiting for me. I started Susumu-san's socks with green and beige yarns.

JULY 9
I went to work and stayed inside the rest of the day. Today, caps and aprons were distributed to the girls serving in the dining hall. It is a cute green and white apron, but it looks too commercial.

At night, Sakae-san and I went to a talent show but it wasn't very interesting. We left early. On the way back, we peeked in the Japanese performances just as Tajiri-san and Kunisawa-san were singing "Shanghai Kouro (Shanghai Passage)." And "Akai Suiren (Red Water lily)" also by Kunisawa-san. He is young but has a beautiful voice.

JULY 10
Today is the day to receive a scrip book. For people over 16, $2.50, for a married couple, $4.00, and for children under 16, $1 each. At my house, there are two of us, my mother and me, so $5.00 per month. We will receive two months' worth, total $10. But these coupons can only be used inside the camp, not outside.



Script Books

D. C. Fountaine, Center cashier, announced this week that plans are being made to distribute script books to the residents each month. The first distribution will be made on Wednesday, July 8, 1942.

Each recipient of a book will be asked to provide his evacuation registration and induction numbers.

Tanforan Totalizer July 4, 1942

I went to get the coupons in the afternoon, but it was very windy and the line was very long. So I came home.

Received a letter from Susumu-san. He enclosed the letter from Nomura-san as he wanted me to read it, too.

In the evening, Yamada-san and Suzuki-san came and stayed till 10:30. Satoh-san came, too, but he left as there were too many people.

A couple of days ago, a boy named Ikeda was released from the hospital in Livermore and returned to camp. I was envious and wished that Susumu-san could be released soon.

JULY 11

Went to work late as usual. Wrote a letter to Susumu-san in the morning. Then I went to the main building to get coupons. There were not as many people there today as there were yesterday, so it was easy. On the way back, I met Masuda-san. We watched Tatsumi-san play tennis for a while.

Toshi-chan and I were going to see the Art and Hobby show in the afternoon, but we cancelled it as Toshi-chan had to work on someone's hair. We will go tomorrow.

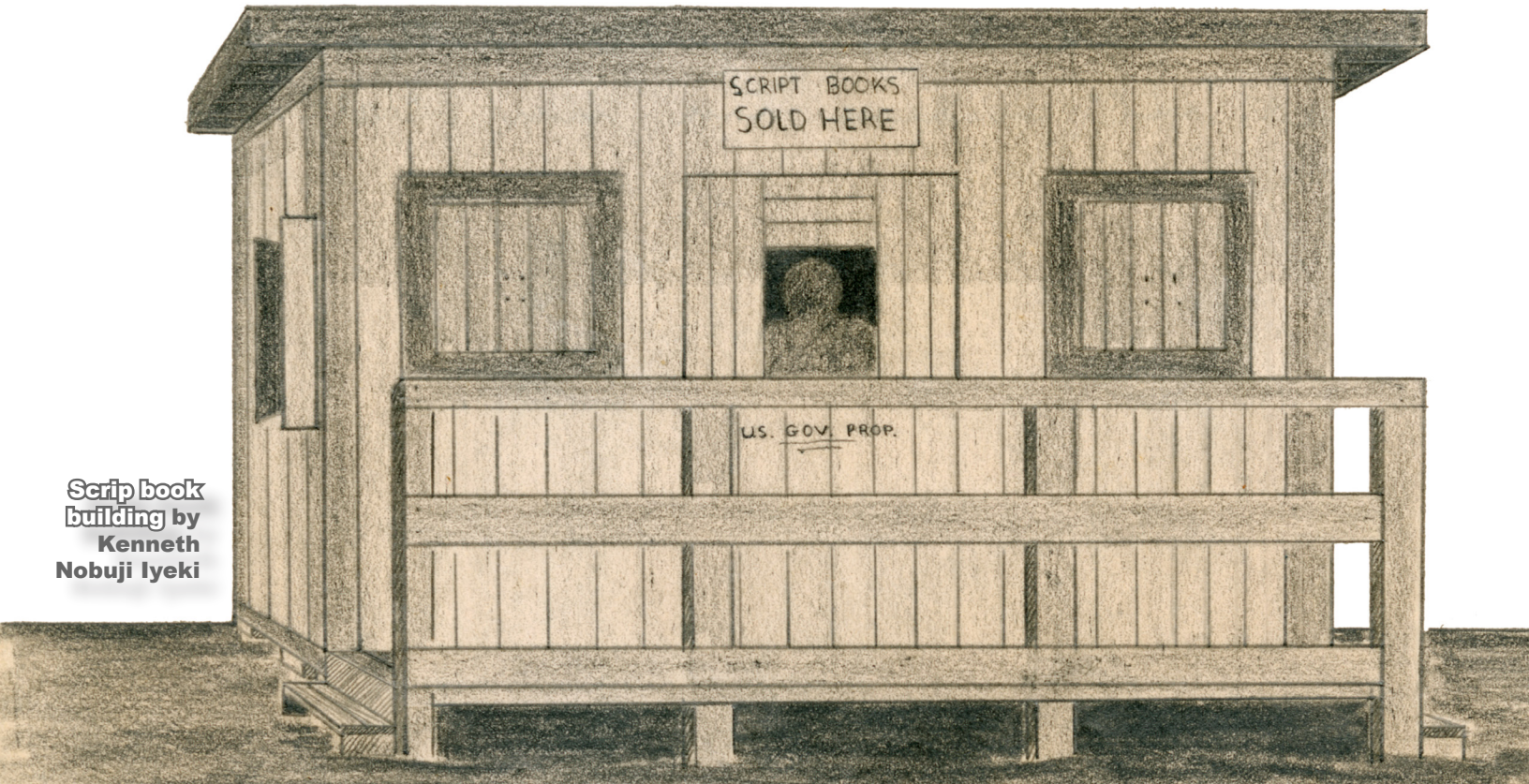
At night, Sakae-san and I went to the concert at Music Hall for the first time. It was a small place and full of people, so I stood in the back and listened. *[illegible]* Fumiko-san sang "Tsuki no Sabaku (Moonlit Desert)" but it wasn't very good.

On the way back, I dropped by Kikuko-san's place but she was not there.

JULY 12

Toshi-chan said she would not go to Sunday school today, so I went with Sakae-san and Yoshino-san. Ohsawa-san was waiting for me on the way and asked me to perform again. I replied I was not very keen.

As we said we would go see the exhibition this afternoon, I urged Toshi-chan but she said



Scrip book building by Kenneth Nobuji Iyeki

she would not go. So instead, I spent time at Toshi-chan's. Toshi-chan seems to have been depressed for the past four or five days and does not seem to be in the mood for anything. Something must be bothering her. I think it has something to do with Ohta-san.

There was another meeting of Buddhist Youth Association in the evening. I went with Toshi-chan but she left when we were told there would be no Bon-odori. After the meeting, there was "Ruten Ondo*," then dancing for about an hour before the meeting was closed. I danced with Tajiri-san many times. He is a very good dancer, so it was very enjoyable.

*[*Translator's note: Ondo means notes or phrases to lead others to do something (sing, dance, march, etc) as a group. Ruten could be a Buddhism vocabulary]*

JULY 13
Monday –As the exhibition was extended another half day, I went with Sakae-san after work, but there was a long line, so I stopped by a canteen and went home. Saw Satoh-san and Matsumoto-san on the way. Slept through the afternoon and woke up to find it was time to go to work. Received a letter from Susumu-san. Wrote letters to Miyoshi-san and Nobuko-san.

JULY 14
In the morning, I went to the craft exhibit which was postponed for another half day, and was amazed at the fine handicrafts. Tables and chairs made from the few pieces of lumber, Shogi boards, Go boards, hats and baskets woven from grasses in Tanforan, sailboats, airplanes, leather work, knitting, painting, etc.

Everyone watched in amazement. I wish I could show the dexterous and artistic hands of Japanese people to Hakujin (white people).

I saw Motoyoshi-sensei's baby. His wife and Mikumo-chan looked well. I can imagine how much he would love to see the baby.

I was overjoyed when the yarn I had ordered from East arrived at noon. I want to knit a sweater right away, but I have to finish the socks I'm knitting now.

Received another letter from Susumu-san. He said when he got a chance, he would have his pictures taken and show me how well he was doing. Wrote back to him, too. In the evening, we had unusually many house guests – Matsumoto-san, Ishida-san, Satoh-san, Komatsu-san - so many.

JULY 15
15th of Obon month - there was a Obon service at the Buddhist church. Even though it was my day off, I spent most of my time knitting, not doing anything special. Chiyoko-san wrote to me from Merced camp, saying it was unbearably hot.

Sent to Susumu-san a box of candies and tobaccos that I bought at the canteen.
They showed a news film at Reku 6* in the evening, but I didn't go as we had house guests. Nakano-san and Yamada-san.

On my day off, after getting in line, the meal tastes better than the rushed meal while I am working. This makes me want to stop working in the dining hall.

*[*Translator's note: Reku is likely recreation room 6}*

JULY 16
Nice weather! Wrote a letter to Susumu-san and Ohta-san in the morning. Wrote to Motoyoshi-sensei, as well, in the afternoon.

I was planning to go to a tal-

ent show in the evening, but instead, I went to help practice Bon-odori as I was asked to. I heard they would celebrate Obon next month according to the old lunar calendar. We practiced dances like Oharabushi, Kacchiri-odori, Ruten, Tennen no Bi, and others.

Today, one bar of laundry soap and one bar of face soap per house were rationed out. Now reading "Rakkacho (Note of Fallen Flowers)" by Tengai Kosugi.

JULY 17
Another nice day. Today was the second "payday." After standing in line for an hour from noon, I finally received my first check of $5.28. That was the wage for eighteen days. I will receive $8 next time. While standing in line, knitting and waiting, everyone made a joke that one sweater would be done by the time I got my check.

Even though there was a Bon-odori practice at the Buddhist church, I went to see a talent show exclusively shown to the workers. I went to take a quick peek at "Ondo" before that. The show was a vaudeville titled "Horse Stalls and That Ain't All." It was very interesting.

Since lining up the chairs took up a lot of space, everyone sat on the floor in the Japanese style. By the time the show was over, I couldn't even stand on my feet. If I am to go to Japan in the future, I don't think I will have any trouble. Darkness of the lights, bread without butter, bad roads, sitting on the floor – there is nothing that I haven't experienced.

JULY 18
Saturday- there is a song that goes "tomorrow is Sunday, young company worker," but there is no Sundays or holidays for a dining hall worker. One must eat 3 meals a day to live. No letters came.

Went to the "voice study" in the afternoon. I expected to see a class, but I was the only one. It was Tanaka-sensei today. Tanaka Sensei teaches each student separately, not as a class. She let me practice the scales a little. She said she would get me a song piece next time.

There is an order that card games, Shogi, Go, etc. are absolutely forbidden from today onward. The purpose of this order is to stop the gambling. At night, Satoh-san came to visit, so did Mr. and Mrs. Wada. When I returned home after taking a walk to Toshi-chan's place with Satoh-san, Mr. and Mrs. Wada were still there talking. It was 11 o'clock by the time I took a shower and went to bed. There was a ping pong tournament today. The winner of the women's group was Yoshiko Ikeda-san, and the winner of the men's group was Mitoma-san's older brother.

JULY 19
It was Sunday, but a dreary day. I thought it would start raining. As there was a Buddhist Obon service in the afternoon at the high school in the camp, I didn't go to Sunday School in the morning.

Today's lunch was a Sunday-specific, which was potato salad, two wienies, and ice cream for dessert. From 2 o'clock, there was a service then a bit of Bon-odori later. Everyone danced "Ruten" and "Oharabushi," and 10 of us danced "Tennen no Bi." Dancing without Japanese kimono is not a good sight.

At night, lots of house guests again. Matsumoto-san, Ishida-san, Yamada-san, Toguri-san, Komatsu-san and others.

JULY 20
Cloudy. Nothing unusual happened. Susumu-san wrote to me and I wrote back. But I fell asleep and forgot to send it out. I was surprised to receive a letter from Shiraishi-san in Texas. He said he got my address from Yamamoto-san. He

is teaching Jyudo at Fort Bliss. Card games, etc., which has been banned for some time, are now permitted. However, gamblers are to be arrested without reservation.

JULY 22
After work in the morning, I went to the canteen but there was nothing in the drug store. Received a letter from Susumu-san and Matsushino-san. Susumu-san wrote he had his pictures taken and would send them to me. Hope to see them very soon.

In the afternoon, I practiced singing accompanied by Suzuki-san's harmonica. "Ai no Komado (Small Window of Love)" and "Kage wo Shitaite (Longing for Your Shadow)." Yamada-san came over, too, and stayed till 4:30. He comes very often these days. I wonder if he is fond of Sakae-san.

Sakae-san and I went around the track for exercise. On the way back, we dropped by Kikuko-san's place. What a cute "love nest!" Linoleum, drapes, a table, a dresser, they have everything as if they were living in a town.

I was a little envious that they were showing off their loving relationship. Wrote to Susumu-san after I came home. Took a shower and went to bed after 11.

JULY 22
I was glad that the weather was nice on my day off. I overslept as usual, and everyone laughed at me. Received a letter from Susumu-san. In the afternoon, when I went to Toshi-chan's place, there were Satoh-san, Tatsumi-san and Yamamoto-san and others.

4 or 5 of them were talking about going back to Japan. Those who wish to return are required to apply. Yamamoto-san's family is hoping for this. Each person is allowed to take only $300 and a little luggage.

We would love to go back, too, but our luggage and other circumstances prevent us from doing so. Yesterday, I went to Mr. Green's office and told him I wanted to go see Susumu-san. I was told that if the doctor in charge said that the visit was necessary, he would allow it. I immediately sent a letter to Dr. Shaper to that effect. I wonder if he will give me permission.

JULY 23
Washed my hair in the morning. Received a letter from Nobuko-san in Fresno Camp. She always writes that it is hot, hot, hot.

After lunch, Sakae-san and I went for a walk and went to the canteen, but they had run out of ice cream, so I bought some candies that I didn't need.

Today, there was another fight in the kitchen. Everyone seems to be getting riled up, and there are often conflicts these days. It is interesting that the cause of these conflicts is over food, washing dishes, and other small things. They probably feel they are all working for a low salary, and that it is a job that they are not afraid to lose.

At night, I went to a talent show. It was a minstrel show and lots of fun.

When I climb to the top of the grandstand and look far, I really miss being outside. The reflection of the blue sky on the pond water is beautiful.

The sky in the west is pure red with the setting sun, and when I see a bus passing on the Bayshore Highway in the distance, my heart runs to Susumu-san. It brings back memories of the days when I used to ride such a bus to visit him.

JULY 24
Late nights make it hard to get up in the morning. I got to work late again this morning. When I returned, I found Su-

sumu-san's letter and 5 pictures. He looks much heavier than before. I am relieved to see he is doing well.

In the afternoon, Toshi-chan and Satoh-san came over, and we talked about going back to Japan. Both Satoh-san and Yamamoto-san's family have already taken the necessary steps to return to Japan. Nobody can say which is happier, those who are returning now or those who wait till the peace time. At night, Yamada-san and Komatsu-san came and stayed till 10:30.

JULY 25
These days, things are the same day in and day out, and life is mundane.

Today, Satoh-san and I spent the afternoon together, and he told me he was fed up with this kind of life.

When you think about it closely, every day is so meaningless. I hear that many people are losing their minds, and understandably so. I don't know how many more years we must live this lazy, scruffy life. Who on earth should we blame?

The red sunset has turned to darkness
The crescent moon is peeking through the clouds
Quietly gazing, I am alone

I'm lonely as I stroll along

JULY 26
Sunday- Toshi-chan said she would come today, so we went to the temple together. A hot day.

In the afternoon, Toshi-chan, Satoh-san and I went out for a walk, watching Sumo and a baseball game. Later, Yamada-san and Matsumoto-san joined us. We sat on the grass and sunbathed.

There was a meeting at Buddhist church tonight, but I didn't go.

JULY 27
Monday- Received a letter from Susumu-san. Miyoshi-san sent me a happy note. Didn't do anything special all day long. Wrote a thank you letter to Matsushino-san, and a get-well card to Kawaguchi-san.

JULY 28
In the morning, I heard that Motoyoshi-sensei had come from Sharp Park*, so I went to see him. As usual, there were so many people, I only had a short conversation with him, and then ran to work. Sensei said to let him know the news of the camp, as letters would be most comforting.

I gave Mary Miyazaki-san a permanent in the afternoon. I used a machine-less permanent from Montgomery for the first time. It came out better than I had thought. Masako-san came to see it.

At night, Yamamoto-san and Satoh-san came to visit and stayed till after 10. Since the moon was bright, Sakae-san and I walked to the fence to see them off.

JULY 29
A day off- slept till 8. I received a letter from Dr. Shaper so I immediately brought it to Mr. Green. I was disappointed to learn that he would not give me permission, since Susumu-san was not in a medical emergency.

After asking me a lot of questions about Susumu-san's illness, he asked me why we were not married.

He said he would arrange a car for me to go to Redwood City to get a license. I wrote to Dr. Shaper explaining the situation. I wonder what kind of reply I will get.

In the afternoon, I went to Toshi-chan's place and chatted till 5 with Satoh-san and Tatsumi-san. Went home, then went to "mess 16" with Nakano-san

***To learn more about Sharp Park's role during WWII, click here.**

to eat dinner. Masuda-san and Yamada-san are working there. Sukiyaki was a special treat and very delicious.

Today is Frances's birthday - she is 25 years old and must be a mother by now. I look forward to seeing her again someday. I haven't seen her for 6 years. She must have changed.

JULY 30
Cloudy with misty rain.
Spent all day reading. I finished "Rakkacho (Note of Falling Flowers)," and started "Daini no Seppun (The Second Kiss)" by Kan Kikuchi.

In the evening, Nakano-san, Kasai-san and I went to see a talent show. Sakae-san and Yamada-san were together. I tried not to bother them, and could not enjoy myself.

JULY 31
Susumu-san wrote to me and asked me to write to his father in Japan. His father's name is Katsuzo Tomine and lives at 90 Itako-cho, Ibaraki-ken. In the afternoon when I visited Toshi-chan, she was in bed with stomach ache. The disease is not uncommon in Tanforan.

In the evening, Kato-san came and told us that he received a letter from Motoyoshi-sensei, asking to prepare a petition from his students in Alameda so that he could return home soon. I told him I would do my best.

AUGUST 1
While wiping the bench at work this morning, I slipped in the soapy water and fell on my butt.

Everyone teased me saying give it another go, but it hurt a lot. I sat on an electric heater all day reading a book.

In the afternoon, I went to the music school for a little while. I practiced scales and "Who is Sylvia." In the evening, Satoh-san came to visit.

AUGUST 2
Sunday. Went to Sunday School. I invited Toshi-chan, but she said she would not go, so I went alone. I worried if I might fall asleep during the service.

In the afternoon, there was a Westlake opening ceremony, with a mahjong tournament, tennis matches, hobby shows, and much more. Satoh-san and I went to his older sister's place. We spent about one hour playing with Albert-chan. We were treated to coffee, then returned home.

MEMO
"A Small Window of Love"

In the City of Flowers
Scattering their young lives
Flowing through the night
Oh, the smoke of your pipe

The moon seen in the town hall
The tears of a girl weeping
The light of my dreams is lonely
Oh, tonight, too, is getting late.

The moonflower of the season is so sad
So sad my heart becomes every night
No matter how long I wait
Oh, He will never come back.

In the crimson of a maiden's heart
A fleeting night storm
Opening a small window of love
Oh, I'm waiting for you.

AUGUST 3
Dr. Shaper gave me the good news, and when I took it to Mr. Green, he said he could let me go today. But it was too soon, so I decided to wait until Wednesday.

Hirabayashi-san and Miyoshi-san went to get a marriage license this morning. They are getting married soon. I spent the afternoon going around with Motoyoshi-sensei's petition, so I didn't have time to do anything else.

When I passed by Hiyama-san's place, I got to see Shizuko-san's baby- a plump baby boy of 7 weeks old. All babies are cute. A family with a baby looks happy.

Received a letter from Kawaguchi-san. Very polite person. He wrote he wanted to go back to Japan. I imagine he misses his mother and sisters.

AUGUST 4
Went to Mr. Green's office and got the departure time to Redwood City. It will be Wednesday, 1:30. I can't wait for tomorrow, and yet I don't want it to come. If I see him, an hour or so will go by so fast. Maybe the best time is when I am waiting.

In the afternoon, Suzuki-san came, and we practiced some songs. There will be another Japanese show on Wednesday or Thursday. I am going to quit after one more performance because I don't think it is a good idea to be on stage too often.

In the evening, Satoh-san came bringing an abacus. He taught me patiently, but I didn't get it. Maybe I am not very smart. I just wanted to learn a little bit about it. Satoh-san was very happy to know that I was going to see Susumu-san. He left saying he would come back tomorrow to hear more about it.

AUGUST 5
Susumu-san was waiting in front of the courthouse - he looked even more handsome than usual. He looked good in a dark suit. I proudly introduced him to Oe-san, saying he was my fiancé. I was so excited I don't remember how I entered the courthouse.

In applying for the marriage license, I had trouble writing my "address" and my "job." I am a mess hall worker living in a horse stall.

Time flew by and all we could do was to hold each other's hands. We parted feeling unsatisfied. I left my heart with Susumu-san.

It has been 3 months since I last saw the world beyond the fence. But it was hard to appreciate while getting bumped around in the back of a truck. I envy people walking down the street. I am happy to think that I will see Susumu-san again within a week or two.

In the evening, there was a show so I went to see it. I was told that I was supposed to perform, too. I got on stage without any rehearsal. I was not confident and felt awkward.

AUGUST 6
There was a big buzz in the mess hall this morning about an article in the paper about our marriage license. Everyone made fun of me saying "when is your husband coming?" or "who is the lucky man?"

One person said he would hold a party, and another said she would bake a cake. Mrs. Yoshimura also told me Susumu-san was a lucky man. But I think I am the lucky one to be loved by a handsome man like Susumu-san, who is quiet and elegant.

The day I have been longing for is almost here, but I still cannot believe it. I went to the hospital this morning for a blood test. Once the results are in, I will be able to see Susumu-san again. I can't wait.

Also in the morning, I went to Red Cross to mail Susumu-san's letter to his father. The father will be happy to receive it. There was an evenings how again. As I failed last night, I

tried hard to do better tonight. Because of a bad microphone, I couldn't sing as well as I wanted to.

AUGUST 7
We did a major cleanup this morning to save our mess hall from eleventh place. The windows were removed and washed, the walls were hosed down, the tables were scrubbed with a brush both back and front then polished until they were shining. It took from 8 till nearly 12 o'clock.

I wonder how we would place next time. Because of it, I went to bed in the afternoon with aches all over my body. It was hard to get up at 4:30 to go to work. Received an English letter from Susumu-san, but it was so short, I was disappointed.

AUGUST 8
Stayed cloudy all day, even misty rain in the morning. There was the second distribution of scrip books, so I went and stood in line for half an hour. I got a book for $2.50.

Went to the music school and had a lesson for about half an hour. Tanaka-sensei asked me about my singing on Thursday. I blushed, but Sensei praised me.

She said she would teach me Japanese songs if I preferred them. She gave me a music piece for "Kokyo no Haiya (Old House in my Hometown)." At night, I sang again at a show at No. 9.

AUGUST 9
Sunday, but it was just an ordinary day. I only went to the Buddhist church. I was knitting in the afternoon, but I got sleepy and fell asleep. This morning, I rushed to my work 15 minutes before 7 o'clock and was laughed at by everyone.

Around 12:30, I went to see Motoyoshi-sensei. I was late for work again, and I worked without lunch. Various problems seem to be bothering Motoyoshi-sensei.

AUGUST 10
It was worthwhile to do the major cleaning of the dining hall on Friday morning, as this week, we went up from number 11 to number 3. We were so proud. From now on, we have decided to do a weekly cleaning.

In the afternoon, I gave a perm to one more person. I waited for Susumu-san's letter but it didn't come. Instead, received a thank-you note from Motoyoshi-sensei. It was a sad letter, so unlike him.

AUGUST 11
Today, I went to visit Toshi-chan for the first time in a while. Toshi-chan told me she had been staying inside and doing nothing but knitting these days. We talked about my marriage.

People are saying they are tired of the life in Tanforan and that they want to go somewhere else soon. Rumor has it that we will probably be going to Utah State. Ohta-san went to Wyoming from Pomona, and someone at Turlock went to Arizona.

At night, there was the first movie show at Tanforan. Diana Durbin's "Spring Parade." It was not easy as almost 3000 people were trying to see it at once. I heard that some people waited in line for an hour. We went very late, so we didn't have to wait too long, but the seating was bad. We sat on the floor and my feet went numb. I don't even want to go next week.

Read the letter from Susumu-san again and put it under my pillow before going to sleep. Tomorrow is my day off, so I can sleep peacefully.

AUGUST 12
Day-off. Nice weather.
Today, I received the doctor's certificate, so I went to see Mr.

Green. I am to go to the courthouse as soon as Susumu-san's side is ready.

Stayed at Toshi-chan's place till 5:30 and went home. In the evening, I treated Satoh-san to Udon noodle. Talk about Udon, I remember "Udon-ya" in San Francisco and Tendon at "Ten-katsu."

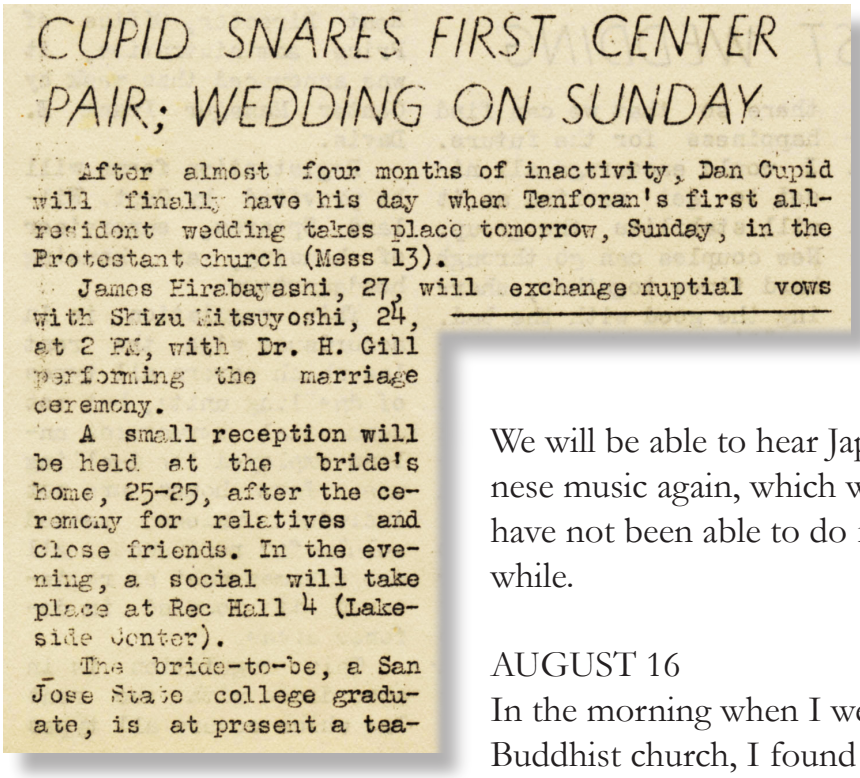
I converted two-months' worth of checks into cash. 20 cents were deducted, so $13.24 became $13.04.

Sakae-san went to an eye doctor in San Mateo and was not back even at 7:30 in the evening. I went to the hospital with Satoh-san to ask about it, and was relieved to hear that no one had returned yet.

After a while, they came back. They said they went to a restaurant on the way back, and that just when they were eating fried chicken, the office told them to come back immediately. They grabbed the chicken and hurried back.

AUGUST 13
Mailed a letter to Dr. Shaper and Susumu-san. Visited Masako-san and told her about my marriage. She was happy for me.

Received a letter from Merced Camp (from Chi-chan) to con-



CUPID SNARES FIRST CENTER PAIR; WEDDING ON SUNDAY

After almost four months of inactivity, Dan Cupid will finally have his day when Tanforan's first all-resident wedding takes place tomorrow, Sunday, in the Protestant church (Mess 13).

James Hirabayashi, 27, will exchange nuptial vows with Shizu Mitsuyoshi, 24, at 2 PM, with Dr. H. Gill performing the marriage ceremony.

A small reception will be held at the bride's home, 25-25, after the ceremony for relatives and close friends. In the evening, a social will take place at Rec Hall 4 (Lakeside Center).

The bride-to-be, a San Jose State college graduate, is at present a tea-

Tanforan Totalizer • August 15, 1942

gratulate me. In the evening, I sang again at the show. As they cannot change the program, I am singing the same songs every time.

AUGUST 14
Did nothing else but clean up the dining room in the afternoon. In the evening, I attended my last performance. I wanted to do well, but I was disappointed that I messed up.

AUGUST 15
I was in and out of bed with a stomachache. In the afternoon, I went to a music lesson, which gave me a headache, and I slept through the rest of the evening.

The Japanese music records that had been taken away by the authorities for investigation were finally returned today. We will be able to hear Japanese music again, which we have not been able to do for a while.

AUGUST 16
In the morning when I went to Buddhist church, I found it had been transformed into a beautiful place. It was decorated with curtains, an organ was set up, and even a microphone was placed. I thought I would like to get married in such a beautiful place even though it was in the camp. The sound of an organ has the power to calm the heart. It is an indispensable part of a church.

In the afternoon, I went to the first wedding in Tanforan. Hirabayashi-san and Miyoshi-san got married at the Christian church, and the bride was beautiful in her white outfit.

I was invited to the party in the evening, but it was a dancing party with lots of people I didn't know. I came home early. I was relieved to read in today's newspaper that Ambassador Nomura and his delegation

arrived safely in Japan. I was worried because Mr. and Mrs. Tomomatsu were with them.

AUGUST 17
Received a letter to congratulate me from Chiyoko-san in Merced Camp, and another from Tadashi Kusuda-san at the army base in Missouri. This is the first letter from Tadashi-san since we moved here. I wonder from whom he got my address and news about my marriage. Perhaps from Tadano-san.

Susumu-san wrote to me, too. We both are thinking the same thing. I know it is too early to hear back from Dr. Shaper, but I am still looking forward to it. How happy we would be if we knew the day we would see each other.

Today was busy as ordering for clothes to be delivered by the government has started. I imagine the U.S. government has lots of work. They take care of everything from clothing to pocket money for tens of thousands of Japanese people. We can live without any inconvenience while staying in the camp. We should be grateful.

AUGUST 18
Today, Susumu-san sent me an unexpected gift. It was a toiletry set, and when I opened it, the sweet aroma filled the room. So happy to receive Susumu-san's kindness.

It was a happy day as I also received a letter from Dr. Shaper. He wrote he would let me know the results of the blood test as soon as he got them. Tsuno-san and Kataoka-san moved from next door to No. 125. It has gotten too quiet, almost desolate.

We decided to borrow a room next door to prepare for Susumu-san's return. I think a "love nest" in the stable is rare and amusing. I received a letter from Mandokoro-san at the Michigan base. I felt nostalgic to read his handwriting after a long time.

AUGUST 19
Day-off –
When I went to Toshi-chan's place in the afternoon, Satoh-san was there. I hadn't seen him for a long time. He said he had had a cold.

Recently, I am not sleeping well. When I think various things in my head, I become wide-awake and cannot go to sleep. I am quietly planning to do this and that when Susumu-san comes back.

AUGUST 20
As Masako-san and Kenji-san are leaving for Tule Lake tomorrow, I went to say goodbye. They said they were sorry to miss my wedding.

In the evening, there was a program to introduce the music of Steven Foster. Foster's famous pieces were performed by solo, chorus, violin solo and others. Susumu-san would have enjoyed them.

AUGUST 21
In the afternoon, I went to the grandstand to see Masako-san off. I couldn't help but cry. Masako-san was also crying her eyes out. I think it must be hard for her because it is the first time she has to leave her parents.

AUGUST 22
The eviction from Tanforan was finally announced. It is decided that we are to leave between September 15th and 30th. Nobody knows where we are going, but I am told that most likely it will be State of Utah.

In the afternoon, I went to the music school. Satoh-san came in the evening to talk.

AUGUST 23
Sunday. Went to Sunday School with Toshi-chan in the morning. As Minister Matsumoto is

leaving for Arizona soon, it was a farewell sermon. Matsumoto-sensei is getting married in Arizona. He looked happy, smiling all the time.

Watched Sumo with Toshi-chan for the first time. It was fun because the people we knew, Nakano-san, Sakata-san, Morimoto-san and others-were wrestling.

Went to bed early without doing anything. These days, I go to bed by 9:30 because there are fewer house guests.

AUGUST 24
Received a letter only from Susumu-san, nothing from the doctor. According to Susumu-san, the blood test results should come out by Saturday. I expected a letter from the doctor to arrive today. But it didn't come.

I wish I could find out soon so that I could meet Susumu-san again, do some shopping and enjoy myself arranging for the wedding.

In the afternoon, I gave Mikami's Yuki-chan a perm.
At night, we all had to stay inside as the government-owned items were to be inspected.

AUGUST 25
The blood test certificate for Susumu-san was completed. I went to Mr. Green to ask for his help to get a marriage license. He was nice enough to make an inquiry to Dr. Shaper about Susumu-san's discharge from the hospital.

I was told he could come back to Tanforan after the discharge. I was so happy I jumped up. For ten long months, that's all I have prayed for. At last! The wait feels so long from today till the day Susumu-san comes back to Tanforan. I was singing "How Many More Nights Do I Sleep Before The New Year's Day?" *, and people laughed at me.

I want the wedding ceremony to be on September 6th. If the army gives Susumu-san a permit before that, he is able to move to Tanforan.

*[*Translator's note: Well-known children's song]*

AUGUST 26
Day-off.
Spent time at Toshi-chan's.
Toshi-chan also started working in the dining hall from Monday. She was complaining she could not relax as she always had to worry about the time.

When I heard that Susumu-san was going to be discharged from the hospital, I felt as if the world suddenly became brighter. Ten months, in a word, is nothing, but it was a long time. The things I had wished for every day began to come true before my eyes.

AUGUST 27
It was finally decided that the first group of 500 men would leave Tanforan on September 9. Four of our neighbors said they would go with the group, and they were beginning to pack their bags. Mom and I are feeling anxious, too. I will miss my neighbors. But by then, Susumu-san will be back here.

AUGUST 28
Nothing unusual has happened, but my mind is somehow clearer. When I go to bed at night, I can't fall asleep because I'm imagining so many things. Will things really turn out as I imagined? I will have to wait and see.

Visited Ushijima-san's place for the first time in a while and talked with Mrs. Ushijima and George-san about my wedding. Kiyoshi gave me a hand-made ring. One "diamond" on a black base. Kiyoshi is so cute.

AUGUST 29
Saturday.
In the afternoon, I went to the last music lesson. Satoh-san came over at night, asking if there was any interesting news. As I have just completed a

TANFORAN ASSEMBLY CENTER
SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA

Frank E. Davis
Center Manager
AUGUST 27, 1942

SPECIAL BULLETIN

CONDUCT ON TRAIN EN ROUTE TO RELOCATION PROJECT

I. It is of utmost importance to the comfort of all persons on trains en route to Relocation Project that proper sanitary conditions be maintained in each car on each train.

II. A Car Captain will be appointed for each car, who shall be responsible for the proper conduct of all evacuees in each car.

III. A Train Monitor will be appointed for each train, who shall be responsible for the supervision of the Car Captains and shall coordinate the work of these captains.

IV. The following rules of conduct shall be observed by all evacuees while en route on the train:

A. All waste material such as paper, small carton boxes, and all other waste material shall not be thrown on the floor or car seats. Special wooden boxes will be available in each car for this purpose.

B. Drinking water shall not be wasted as water is not available at each train stop and wastage will cause a shortage of water.

C. Sanitary toilets in the trains shall not be used while the train is standing or passing through stations.

D. Boxes, cartons and waste paper shall not be thrown into the toilets.

E. Food, fruit peeling, water or other liquids shall not be thrown on the floor or on car seats, particularly in the dining cars.

F. Each person shall keep his car seat and space around the seat clean and tidy at all times.

V. Evacuees will not be allowed to take lunches containing meat products on to the train as adequate meals will be furnished en route. Fresh fruit and other non-perishable food products which will not spoil may be taken on the train in limited amounts for between-meal lunches.

VI. The Car Captain and the Train Monitor shall be responsible for the enforcement of all of the above rules. Each evacuee is requested to cooperate with the Car Captain in observing the rules.

FRANK E. DAVIS
CENTER MANAGER

定住所に行く汽車の中の注意

(一) 定住所に行く凡ての撤退者が充持ちよく行くには汽車中の衛生に関することが一番大事である

(二) 客車一つに一人の客車長が指命され乗客の取扱に就いての注意責任を持つ

(三) 列車監督が各列車に一人就指命され各客車長を監督し又その仕事を統制す

(四) 撤退者乗客は客車中に於て左の規則を守らねばならぬ

A. 凡ての反古又は屑物例令は反古紙、紙箱其他の屑類は客車中の床又は椅子の上に捨てはいかぬ。木製の屑箱がこのため用意されてある

B. 飲用水は各停車場での供給は大々敷しき事故不足せぬ様にするため無駄にせぬ事

C. 便所は客車が停車中又は停車場通過中は使用せぬ事

D. 紙箱、厚紙製のもの、屑紙などを便所に捨てはいかぬ

E. 残った食物、果物の皮水又は他の飲物などを床又は椅子の上に捨てはいかぬ。食堂列車では殊更注意する事

F. 各人は互に其席又は其廻りを何時も奇麗にし且整頓し置く事

(五) 各人は肉類の入った辨当を持来してはならぬ。適当なる食事が各列車に用意されてあるから。新鮮なる果物及腐敗なき食物は少量に限り間食として許される

(六) 客車長及列車監督は以上の規則励行に対し責任を持たねばならぬ。各乗客は客車長とこの規則を守る事に就いて協力すべし

センター監督

フランク イー デービス

knit hat, I gave it to Satoh-san. He was happy and went home wearing it.

There was a dance party among Kibei people. I imagine Toshi-chan was busy as a coordinator. She told me to come, but I didn't. I am sure Susumu-san will be back by the next party. We will both be there at that time.

AUGUST 30
Went to Sunday School in the morning. I was offended when a white minister spoke so condescendingly about Christianity in his lecture.

In the afternoon, Toshi-chan, Imamura-san and I went for a walk, and took a look at boxing. I don't like boxing.
In the evening, there was the last party of the Buddhist Youth Group. I went with Sakae-san. There were about 200 people there, and it was very lively.

On the way home, I dropped my watch and was in a panic when I arrived home. When I went outside to look for it, I saw a shiny object a few steps away. I picked it up and saw that it was the watch I had been looking for. I was so happy because I had thought I would never see it again.

AUGUST 31
Received a letter from Susumu-san and Nobuko-san. Nobuko-san wrote that she had sent me something as a wedding gift. I don't expect to receive any gift in a camp. She is a very kind friend. Mitani-san kindly made a pair of clogs for Susumu-san. Shijo-san made me a handle for my knitting bag. They are memento of Tanforan and are more valuable than the purchased items.

MEMO
Covered in the dust and sand of the Tanforan, kids play happily without any care. Looking at their feet, they are wearing a pair of small geta* that their fathers have made in their spare time. Wow, the kids are as good at wearing geta as any Japanese children.

*[*Translator's note: wooden clogs]*

SEPTEMBER 1
First day of the month. First thing in the morning, I went to Mr. Green's office. He had not received any information about the permit for Susumu-san. He told me to wait till Thursday morning, and that if we still didn't receive anything, he would let me go to Redwood City to obtain the license.

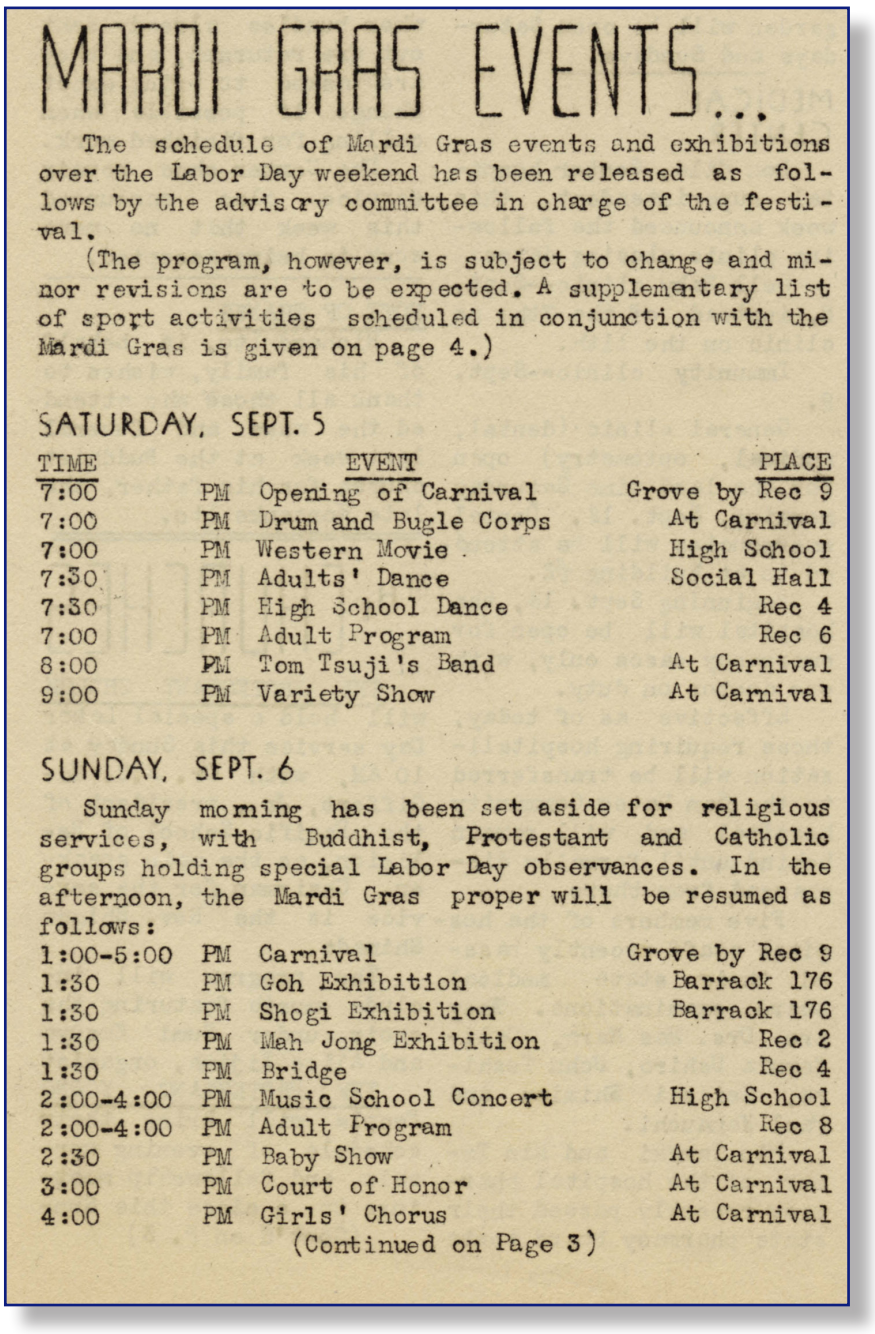
Went to the post office to get Susumu-san's pajamas which I had ordered from White house. As today was the third payday, I received a check of $8. The scrip books were also distributed, and I got a book of $2.50. When I returned home, I found the wedding gift from Nobuko-san. Two bath towels and two small towels- I was so surprised with the beautiful present.

At night, Sugaya-san came out of the blue and asked me for Susumu-san's address because his brother wanted it.

I told him Susumu-san would come to Tanforan within 2 or 3 days, but I ended up writing it as he was so persistent. I am sure it is his father, not his brother, who wants the address. His father must be using his "parent's authority."

SEPTEMBER 2
Received a letter from Susumu-san. He wrote about the nice memory when he first came to our home alone, this time last year.

On September 5, 6, and 7, there will be a contest for King and Queen for the Mardi Gras Festival in Tanforan, and I was selected as one of the 33 candidates, among which five judges will choose five princesses.



MARDI GRAS EVENTS...

The schedule of Mardi Gras events and exhibitions over the Labor Day weekend has been released as follows by the advisory committee in charge of the festival.

(The program, however, is subject to change and minor revisions are to be expected. A supplementary list of sport activities scheduled in conjunction with the Mardi Gras is given on page 4.)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

TIME		EVENT	PLACE
7:00	PM	Opening of Carnival	Grove by Rec 9
7:00	PM	Drum and Bugle Corps	At Carnival
7:00	PM	Western Movie	High School
7:30	PM	Adults' Dance	Social Hall
7:30	PM	High School Dance	Rec 4
7:00	PM	Adult Program	Rec 6
8:00	PM	Tom Tsuji's Band	At Carnival
9:00	PM	Variety Show	At Carnival

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6

Sunday morning has been set aside for religious services, with Buddhist, Protestant and Catholic groups holding special Labor Day observances. In the afternoon, the Mardi Gras proper will be resumed as follows:

1:00-5:00	PM	Carnival	Grove by Rec 9
1:30	PM	Goh Exhibition	Barrack 176
1:30	PM	Shogi Exhibition	Barrack 176
1:30	PM	Mah Jong Exhibition	Rec 2
1:30	PM	Bridge	Rec 4
2:00-4:00	PM	Music School Concert	High School
2:00-4:00	PM	Adult Program	Rec 8
2:30	PM	Baby Show	At Carnival
3:00	PM	Court of Honor	At Carnival
4:00	PM	Girls' Chorus	At Carnival

(Continued on Page 3)

I don't feel like participating in something like that at the age of twenty-four.

SEPTEMBER 3
In the morning, I went to Mr. Green's office and received a pass to go to the courthouse. I got some work done in a hurry and left at 1:30. I was given a short time from 2:00 to 5:00. My escort and I took the Greyhound bus.

Susumu-san was already at the courthouse waiting for me. He had bought a ring, too. It is not an expensive ring but a cute ring. I love it because Susumu-san chose it. It was hard to say goodbye again. I said, "I'll be waiting for you" with the joy of knowing that one day soon we would be together forever. My hand was sweaty from holding the license so tightly.

SEPTEMBER 4
Today is the first day off in nine days because I changed it from Wednesday to Friday. In the afternoon, C.O.D. came from White house and the grocery store. Susumu-san's bath robe was nice but mine looked very cheap. I want to send it back but as I don't have enough time, I will be patient and take it.

From afternoon through evening, I gave two women a perm, which kept me busy on my precious day-off.

SEPTEMBER 5
This morning, there was another inspection of banned goods. The barrack under inspection was guarded by five or six soldiers to prevent anyone from entering or leaving.

We waited from 8 in the morning. They finally came to our place round 4 in early evening, when we were tired of waiting. There are only females in our place, and the inspector was tired. He did not check anything, but said it was OK and left. The first day of the festival. There were various things in the evening such as a parade,

carnival, movies and shows.

SEPTEMBER 6
Sunday- Sunny day after a long while. Went to the Buddhist church. Went to the music school concert at the grandstand in the afternoon. Piano, violin, vocal solo and others. I was very impressed that everyone was so good.

At night, I saw the movie "Kitty Foyle" sitting on the floor of the high school.

SEPTEMBER 7
Labor Day holiday- but it had nothing to do with those working in the dining hall. It was the third day of Mardi Gras and there were shows at the grandstand, but I didn't go. Mardi Gras, which I had been looking forward to enjoying with Susumu-san, was already gone. But Susumu-san is still not here.

In the evening, we had a farewell party for the boys next door. They are the first group to leave on the 9th. Shijo-san, Mitsuya-san, Kasai-san and Nakano-san. Satoh-san came to visit and joined us. There were lots of people and it was fun.

SEPTEMBER 8
It looked like it was going to be sunny, but it started raining around 8:00. One moment, sunny and next moment, raining. I went to the post office and by the time I got home, it was pouring so hard that I was soaked to the skin.

Lunch time was messy with people carrying their rain gear. It seemed they pulled their raincoats out of the suitcases. They smelled like mothballs. Today has passed without any news. I am anxiously waiting.

Shizuko Nakano-san wrote to me from Arizona for the first time. She sent me words of joy because she had heard about my marriage. Received a postcard from Kino-san in Alabama. Also received the first letter from Masako-san in Tule Lake.

Turkey dinner was served at the mess hall farewell party. It had been a long time since I had had such a treat. I devoured it like a little child. Later, we danced at the recreation hall.

SEPTEMBER 9
Today, too, passed in vain, with no sign of Susumu-san's arrival. In the afternoon, Satoh-san and Toshi-chan came over. But they didn't bring any interesting news. 3:30 at night, we saw off the first group. There were more than 200 people.

Yoshino-san left as a member of the group. Kasai-san waved his hand saying "goodbye". Nine of the people who worked in the mess hall with me are gone. I feel lonely.

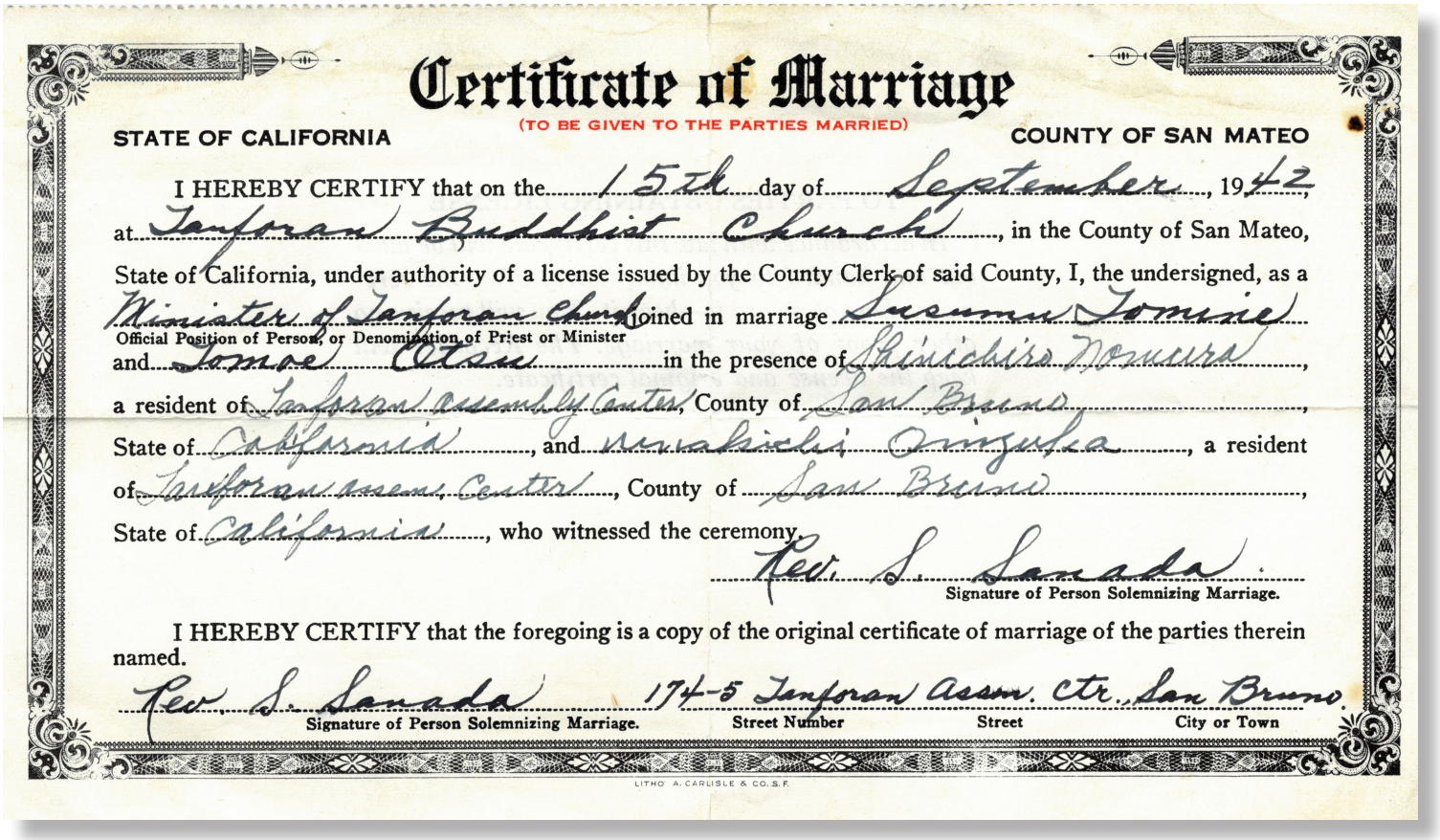
SEPTEMBER 10
I opened the letter from WCCA.* with much excitement. I was so disappointed because it said we should take time and wait till after settling down in Utah since it was currently in the middle of eviction proceedings. I was hoping that Susumu-san would come to Tanforan.

I felt like the strings that had held me together were snapped. My happy dreams disappear, and I am left with nothing but tears. I thought"Les Misérables" was just the word to use in such a situation.

SEPTEMBER 11
Susumu-san's letter brought me the same news. He wrote that he felt powerless and pessimistic.

In the afternoon, I gave a friend a perm, even though I didn't feel like it. While I was out, Kikuko-san and George-san came and left the wedding gift. A set of bath towels with an initial "T." I feel both happy and guilty to receive this unexpected gift. Mrs. Yagura gave me the bed jacket. Everybody

***To learn more about the Wartime Civil Control Administration, click here**



Certificate of Marriage

(TO BE GIVEN TO THE PARTIES MARRIED)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 15th day of September, 1942,
at Tanforan Buddhist Church, in the County of San Mateo,
State of California, under authority of a license issued by the County Clerk of said County, I, the undersigned, as a
Minister of Tanforan Church joined in marriage Susumu Tomine
Official Position of Person, or Denomination of Priest or Minister
and Tomoe Otsu in the presence of Shinichiro Nomura,
a resident of Tanforan assembly Center, County of San Bruno,
State of California, and Masakichi Onizuka, a resident
of Tanforan assem. Center, County of San Bruno,
State of California, who witnessed the ceremony.

Rev. S. Sanada.
Signature of Person Solemnizing Marriage.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a copy of the original certificate of marriage of the parties therein named.

Rev. S. Sanada 174-5 Tanforan Assm. Ctr., San Bruno.
Signature of Person Solemnizing Marriage. | Street Number | Street | City or Town

LITHO A. CARLISLE & CO. S.F.

is so kind.

SEPTEMBER 12
In the morning, I again went to see Mr. Green to talk about Susumu-san. Mr. Green said he would call Dr. Shaper on Monday and would request that Susumu-san should come to Tanforan to have a wedding ceremony.

If he could not come, we decided to go to the courthouse and have a simple ceremony on the same Tuesday.

I submitted the second petition to WCCA, but I think I will get the same response.

There were two wedding ceremonies today. Many couples get married in a hurry, with eviction just around the corner.

[No entry on September 13 and 14]

SEPTEMBER 15
The long-awaited wedding day - the day with once-in-a-life-time memory - was unique and interesting. Susumu-san could not come to Tanforan in time*, and we were to leave for Utah on September 18. Through the arrangement of Mr. Green, Sanada-sensei performed the wedding ceremony in the office we borrowed.

** this statement is confusing as Susumu does arrive in time, on Sept 15.*

I wasn't planning on wearing a white dress, but I ended up wearing it as Kikuko-san had strongly suggested. The sight of the "bride"gave me an indescribable feeling. I was so happy I cried.

The ceremony went more smoothly than expected, and I was relieved when Susumu-san put the ring in my finger. One regret is that we were not able to photograph us as a couple. Another regret is that we had to part three hours after the wedding.

[No entry for September 16 and 17]

SEPTEMBER 18
The last day in Tanforan - at 5:30 in the evening, we headed for Utah. Toshi-chan made me some omusubi and gave me some oranges.

I am very grateful to Satoh-san and Yamada-san for their help. Thanks to them, our packing was much easier.

Around 4 o'clock yesterday, I received a notice from Mr. Davis's office that Susumu-san would come to Tanforan on the 25th. With such a short notice, I could not do anything, so I just said goodbye to Tanforan, believing that I would see Susumu-san again in Utah.

Among the many people who saw us off was Mr. Green, who shook hands with me. I looked for Satoh-san, Yamada-san and Toshi-chan, but couldn't find them among the crowd.

SEPTEMBER 19
All day in the train-I was happy when we were allowed to get off the train for 10 minutes at Portola, the last station of State of California, around 11 (in the morning).

The white people in the neighborhood gathered around and stared at us with curiosity. After that, the train ran for about 5 hours through Nevada desert.

I will never forget the meals on the train. Not a piece of toast nor mashed potatoes could be compared to foods in Tanforan. Baked ham for lunch, and ice cream for dessert. It is like eating at an upscale restaurant.

SEPTEMBER 20
It was midnight when we passed Nevada and entered Utah.

It was about 8 when we arrived at Salt Lake. I saw two Japanese at the station. They must have come to greet the 500 Japanese on the train.

We arrived at Delta, the nearest town to the camp, around 12:30, then got off the train, transferred to buses, and arrived at the Topaz camp safely a little after 1:00. I was happy to be greeted by Shijo-san, Nakano-san, Morimoto-san and others.



Illustration by Mine Okubo • Topaz *Trek* magazine • February 1942, page 38

The first thought I had at Topaz was "I wish I could go back to Tanforan." Dust flies up with every step. I sighed and wondered if I could live in such a place. Because of the heat, it was hard to pack straw mattresses, fetch blankets, and wipe the dusty room.

We only finished bed making and called it a day. I wrote to Susumu-san at night.

SEPTEMBER 21
In the morning, I applied for a job at the Employment Office and was told that I would be working in the dining hall from as early as this noon. It was too soon. I reluctantly started working.

We were supposed to be given a separate room from Yoshimura-san, but we were put together with them again because there were not enough rooms. I went to the office and went through the process to have it changed. I sent Topaz news to Toshi-chan and Satoh-san.

SEPTEMBER 28
Went to Block 26 to greet the Yamamoto family. I was happy when I finally

Topaz dust storm by F.M. Taira • Topaz *All Aboard* magazine, Spring 1944, page 53





Artist Mine Okubo's page 7 illustration for an article titled *Relocation*, written by Larry Tajiri for Topaz *Trek* magazine • June 6, 1943 • Tajiri was an editor for the Pacific Citizen.

saw their faces near 11:00. I was relieved to see that they were all in good health.

Toshi-chan told me that Susumu-san would be coming here tomorrow. I was filled with so much happiness I could fly up to the sky.

I was planning on visiting Toshi-chan in the afternoon, but I cancelled the visit because when I finished my work,the "dust" was so bad that it was almost suffocating inside the house.

SEPTEMBER 29
Decided to take a week off from work starting today. Of course, it is because Susumu-san is coming. From 8:30 in the morning, buses started arriving. I waited at Block 29. When I finally saw Susumu-san's face on the eleventh bus, I breathed sigh of relief as if my lifelong wish had come true.

When he came off the bus with his guitar in his hand, I couldn't help but run up to him and call out "Susumu-san."

OCTOBER 2
Went to greet Satoh-san, Nomura family, Onizuka family, and Mr. and Mrs. Naruo.

OCTOBER 4
I am concerned as Susumu-san started saying his teeth were bothering him.

OCTOBER 28
First snow- started falling from around 6 in the morning and continued till around 11, but not enough to stay on the ground. It was dreary all day, a very cold day.

OCTOBER 29
Mrs. Minoru Hirai, baby girl.
[English only]

NOVEMBER 12
A show at "mess 9."

I sang without Susumu-san's permission. Soshu Nocturne and Ruthless Dream with Suzuki-san's piano accompaniment. I was complimented that mine was the best. I don't know if that was true. But I felt I sang well. I wish Susumu-san could have heard it.

After the program, we were treated to handmade udon noodles and manju buns. It had been a long time since I had had such a rare treat. I brought manju buns home for Susumu-san and mom.

NOVEMBER 13
As Susumu-san came home from the hospital after being there for four weeks, the house became lively again. I am happy to hear the sound of his guitar again.

NOVEMBER 26
Thanksgiving Day- nice weather. There was a turkey feast even in the camp. Busy day for those of us working in the mess hall. But I was happy that everyone enjoyed it.

I brought the "dinner" back home so I could eat with Susumu-san. People made fun of me, but I didn't feel bad about it.

DECEMBER 1
Susumu-san underwent his second surgery. When the doctor finally came out of the operation room after two and a half hours, I was finally relieved and relaxed.

As I entered the room after receiving permission from Dr. Murata, Susumu-san was lying on the table. When he saw me, he burst into tears, as if he was in agony. I couldn't help but burst into tears myself, and hugged him. Later I heard that the operation took a long time because the needle or something broke off and got lost.



Not long after Sus's arrival at Topaz, an official wedding photo was taken, with Tomoe wearing a dress borrowed from Kikuko Furuno, who was also from Alameda.

It his here at the end of 1942 that Tomoe's diary comes to an end. The Tomines would later transfer to Tule Lake camp.

Susumu would recover from tuberculosis. A son, Shinya "Chris" would be born in Tule Lake and at war's end, the family would settle in Tomoe's hometown of Alameda.

Artist Mine Okubo's page 18 illustration for an article titled *Landmarks of Pahvant Valley*, written by Frank Beckwith, Sr, for Topaz *Trek* magazine • December 1942 • Beckwith was the publisher of the Millard County Chronicle.

The Paiutes Native Americans called the Topaz area *Pahvant*, meaning an 'abundance of water,' which was true until Caucasian settlers diverted water from the Sevier River for irrigation.



Susumu Tomine was quite a musician, but while in camp, he devoted himself to other artistic pursuits, such as this shirt button made from an apricot seed, seen front and back. It's about the size of a penny.

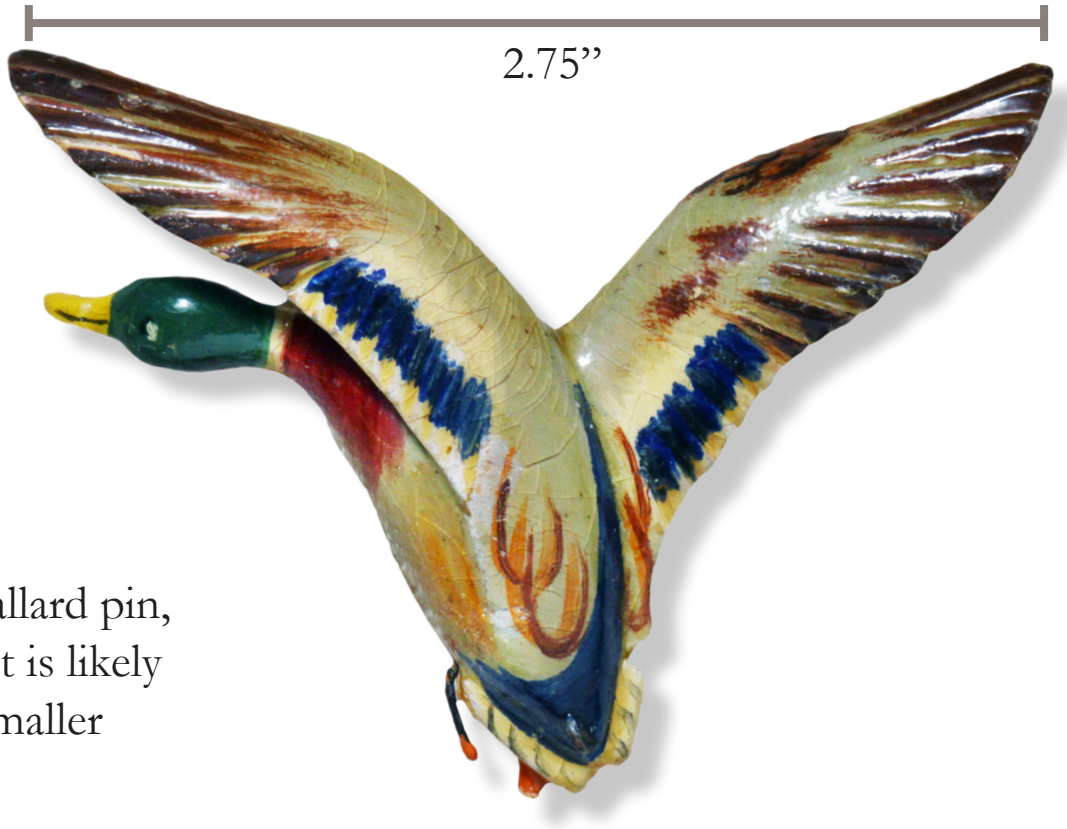




Below is a wood dinner plate given to the Tomine's as a wedding gift in camp.

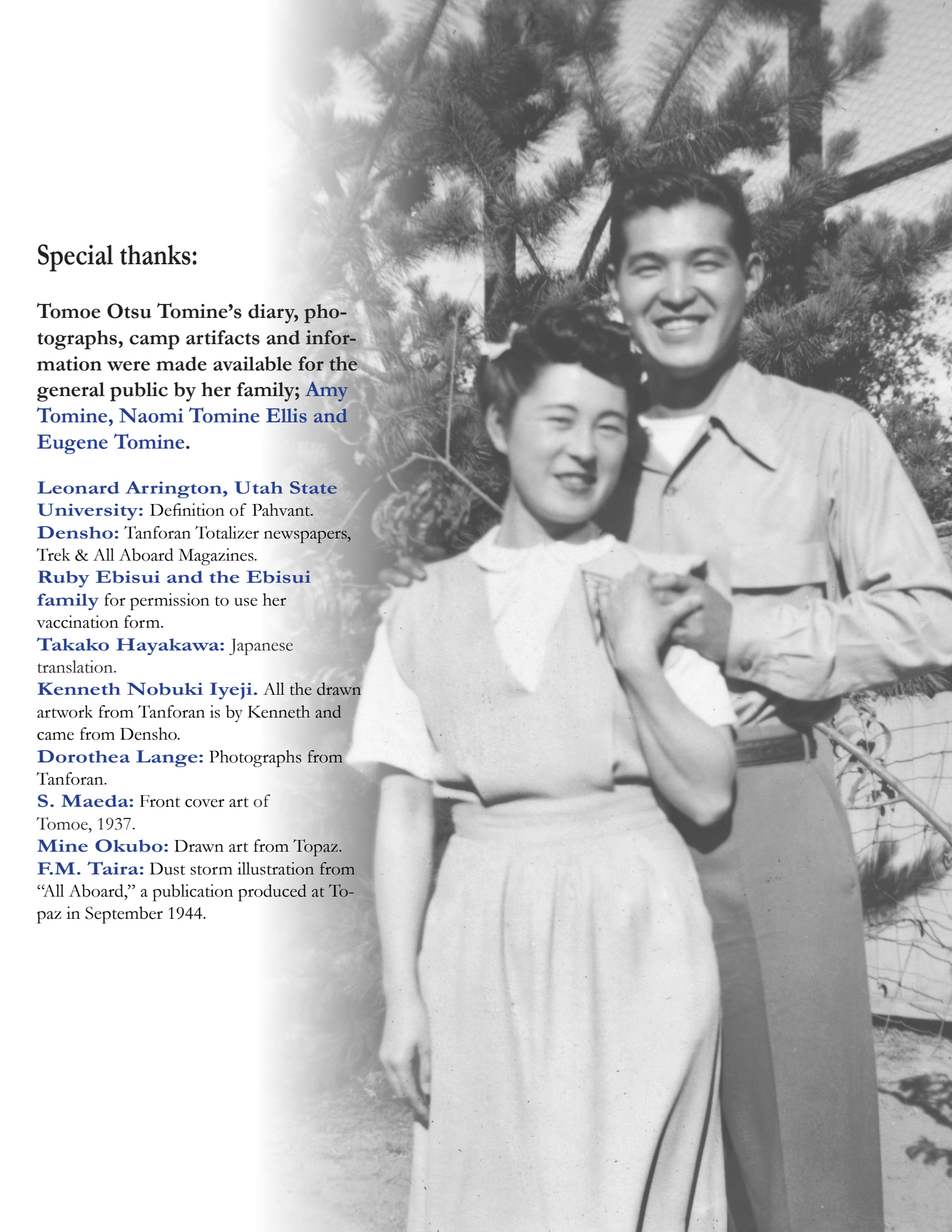



Sea shells
collected by Susumu
or Tomoe from Topaz
or Tule Lake



Sus created this Mallard pin, and also made what is likely an ashtray with a smaller spot for matches





Special thanks:

Tomoe Otsu Tomine's diary, photographs, camp artifacts and information were made available for the general public by her family; Amy Tomine, Naomi Tomine Ellis and Eugene Tomine.

Leonard Arrington, Utah State University: Definition of Pahvant.
Densho: Tanforan Totalizer newspapers, Trek & All Aboard Magazines.
Ruby Ebisui and the Ebisui family for permission to use her vaccination form.
Takako Hayakawa: Japanese translation.
Kenneth Nobuki Iyeji. All the drawn artwork from Tanforan is by Kenneth and came from Densho.
Dorothea Lange: Photographs from Tanforan.
S. Maeda: Front cover art of Tomoe, 1937.
Mine Okubo: Drawn art from Topaz.
F.M. Taira: Dust storm illustration from "All Aboard," a publication produced at Topaz in September 1944.

ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT



The Tomines at Tule Lake, 1945

Thank you for reading.

ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT

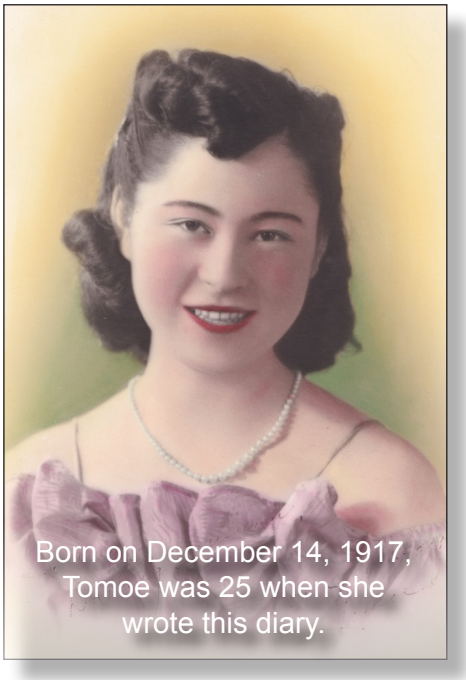
THE 1942 WORLD WAR II DIARY OF



Transcribed text & illustrated RED version

TOMOE TOMINE

PART ONE: February 1 to May 9, 1942



Born on December 14, 1917, Tomoe was 25 when she wrote this diary.

It is a privilege to read the innermost thoughts of another human being, decades after her death on October 12, 1997.

Tomoe Otsu Tomine's diary ("Toh-moh-eh Oh-tsu Toh-me-neh") begins written in Japanese on January 1, 1942, then switches to English in February. That's the month all the Japanese in Alameda, CA (an island where Tomoe was born, in the San Francisco Bay) were forced to leave their homes behind, to live in temporary facilities. Months later, 110,000+ Japanese and Japanese Americans would be sent to incarceration camps across America.*

This document shows you the English language pages, plus the February, April and part of the May pages translated from the Japanese. It also includes photographs, news articles, etc, that were not part of the original diary.

By the diary's late February entries, Tomoe and her mother, **Yoshino** ("Yoh-she-noh"), had moved some 24 miles southeast of Alameda to the Centerville vicinity (what is now Fremont), of the Washington Township. All Japanese Alamedans were ordered off the island by February 24, by Lt. General John DeWitt. The temporary assembly centers where they would soon live before going to the incarceration camps were not yet ready. Where to go? They moved in with **Sugino Ushijima** ("Soo-ghee-noh Ew-she-g-mah") at the farm that the Ushijimas leased and worked, in the Township.

Before the war, the Otsus and Ushijimas were friends in Alameda, but sometime around 1920 or 1921, the Ushijimas moved to the Township. Tomoe's diary's late February to May 9 entrees are written from there.

On April 16, Tomoe's diary switches back to Japanese. By September, her writing becomes sporadic, then non existent in October. There are a few more English entries in November and then it ends.

Tomoe Tomine was a thoughtful person, a talented singer and an eloquent writer. She was extremely devoted to her husband, **Susumu** ("Soo-soo-moo") as he was to her. At the time of this diary, he was recovering from tuberculosis in Redwood City, which is across the San Francisco Bay from Alameda and the Washington Township.

The Alameda Japanese American History Project is proud to present this material for you to read today.

*To learn more about this event and Executive Order 9066, click here.

Tomoe and her mother, Yoshino, move in with the Ushijimas in February 1942

Washington Township

Location of Sugino Ushijima's farm at Route 1, RFD 371 near the Bell Ranch Bridge in 1942. The bridge spanned the Alameda Creek at Decoto Rd. ***Rural Free Delivery*** Routes were how farmers received their mail, versus having to drive into town to get it at the post office.

The Ushijimas grew tomatoes and peppers on two acres, leased from Manuel Joseph of San Francisco. Niles was her post office, but she lives closer to Centerville.

Bell Ranch Bridge and the Alameda Creek. Tomoe mentions this creek in the diary.

Before 1956, this entire area was known as the Washington Township, and encompassed eight small towns, including Centerville, Decoto, Irvington and Niles.

In 1956, Centerville and other small towns nearby were incorporated into Fremont. Decoto became part of Union City.

Alameda is some 24 miles to the northwest, and from there, San Francisco is just across the Bay Bridge.

"I was born and reared in a town called Centerville, which was one of the districts of what is today known as the city of Fremont," said Tsuyako 'Sox' Kitashima. "Centerville was one of about eight small towns which comprised an area known as Washington township. If you blinked twice while driving through Centerville, you missed the whole town. But I suppose that was true of most of the towns in our area."

Sox's parents were friends with Sugino Ushijima.

Of the 550 total Japanese, nearly 100% of the 150 adult Niseis in the Township were members of the JACL by 1942, an extraordinarily high percentage compared to most Japanese communities. The Japanese represented four percent of the entire Township's population at that time.

Founded in 1934, the Washington Township (Centerville) JACL was at 3955 Walton Avenue near Centerville-Irvington Rd. It was a dirt road.

Centerville-Irvington Rd, also known as Main Street, is now Fremont Blvd

Editor's note:

Another version of this diary is also available, where you can read from the scans made of the actual English diary pages, versus Part 1 of this transcribed version.

Like any diary, Tomoe sometimes uses a sort of shorthand, or abbreviations of words or names that may seem like misspellings.

At the end of some dates are notes added by the editor.

Faded text in parenthesis are by Patsy Obayashi, explaining that as she was transcribing, she could not read the handwriting.

As you begin this diary, Tomoe is living in Alameda, CA. Know that in her world (and now yours), Pearl Harbor was bombed just a few months ago...



Biddle to Reveal Additional Regions In California Monday

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31—(U.P.)—Attorney General Francis Biddle Saturday designated 69 additional areas in California from which Japanese, German and Italian aliens will be barred for the duration of the war.

When the prohibitions become effective, any Axis alien found on forbidden territory will be interned for the duration of the war.

Nichibei Shinbun • February 1, 1942

FEBRUARY 1

Too bad, it rained all day today. I was disappointed as I could not take a picture that I had been looking forward to. I let Susumu-san read "Tomo's Charm." He was happy to know that others praised me. When I put the ring on Susumu-san's finger, I swore in my heart, "I am yours forever."

The two joyful hours that I had waited for two weeks has passed quickly. We left the mountain reluctantly. Susumu-san has become healthy enough to study since the 30th, which means another step closer to the discharge day from the hospital. So happy.



Tomoe and Susumu Tomine. Susumu is Tomoe's fiancee. He suffered from tuberculosis and was living in a TB facility in Redwood City, likely Canyon Sanitarium, on the west side of the San Francisco Bay.

FEBRUARY 2

A light rain is sadly falling. Stayed home all day and cleaned up the drawers. I packed boxes with many dolls and mementos given to me by various people on various occasions. I found the doll given by Fumiyo-san on my birthday 3 years ago. I turned it back and found the note saying "To my Tomo, from Fumiyo."

It brings me renewed fondness and nostalgia. For nearly six years since I parted from Fumiyo, we corresponded across the Pacific Ocean, but now we are not even allowed to exchange letters.

I felt a heavy feeling in my heart as I reminisced about the old days when we used to dance happily together. Fumiyo-san must be thinking about us in distant Japan. Today, the feared eviction order came to Alameda. It seems that all enemy aliens in Alameda must leave. The deadline is February 24. Where should everyone go from here?

FEBRUARY 3

As Masako-san was out to get the marriage license, I went to the salon to help. There were so many customers, Mae and I were running around from 9 to 6.

Received letters from Susumu-san and Hanamura-san at home. Susumu-san said he was happiest when he was with me. He is worried if I caught a cold from not wearing a coat on Sunday.

Hanamura-san's letter is the first one after the enlistment. He asked about the situation at Alameda. Tatsumi-san called from San Mateo, concerned about the eviction in Alameda.

I wrote to Mrs. Ushijima in Niles asking for a favor. We may end up staying there. If possible, I would like to be near where Susumu-san is. The rain continues to fall. It seems to be tears of sympathy for the

Japanese in Alameda.

Tomoe was working at a San Francisco beauty salon. She received her state license to practice as a beautician and hairdresser in 1934.

Hanamura is likely Howe Hanamura, of Alameda. He became a member of the U.S. Army 442nd Regimental Combat Team and was wounded fighting the Nazis in Italy. He survived WWII.

Sugino Ushijima really lived closer to Centerville vs Niles. See pages 2 and 3.

FEBRUARY 4

It's been a tough day since this morning. The walls fell and rain poured in. Troubles till the last minute before our leaving. I hate to live in such a hovel. The Caucasians at my mother's workplace are all kind enough to offer advice. It makes me sad that they are so sympathetic.

In the evening, Tatsumi-san and Imamura-san came to see if we needed help. They said they would find us the workplace in San Mateo. After they left, I wrote to Susumu-san. I asked him to come visit us before we move away as we have a lot of complicated things to discuss.

FEBRUARY 5

The dream was shattered by a rushing noise, and I jumped up to see that the wall on the other side had fallen down and water was coming in. Still half asleep, I took clothes out of my closet. I kept yawning all day. Rumor has it that all Issei people will be sent to a camp, which means I must part with Mom. It is hard, but I am not the only one. There is nothing I can do but calm down and let things be as they would be. No matter how bad the war becomes, I have never dreamed that it will get this bad.

Oh, how I wish this meaningless war will end! And I wish we can again enjoy the beauty of the nature and wonderful music with feeling of happiness.

Over a four day period, nearly one inch of rain fell in the Alameda vicinity. • Issei ("E-say") were the first Japanese to settle in America circa late 1890s. They would be Tomoe's parent's generation. There was much fear that parents and their children would be separated when they were removed from their homes and sent to the incarceration camps across America.

FEBRUARY 6

It's Friday so I went to work. As for the Alameda County eviction, I told the salon people that I didn't know where we would end up with. Issei people would rather be sent to camp. It makes sense that they feel more reassuring to suffer together in the same place than to be separated in old age.

When I visited my teacher at night, I learned it would probably be voluntary eviction. In that case, I will go to Niles with Mom and live in a farmhouse.

The world changes suddenly, and I now have to live a life I never dreamed of. Received an encouraging letter from Susumu-san. He says we will cry and rejoice again even though it is lonely now as we miss each other.

FEBRUARY 7

It has been 2 months since the war began. The changes that have occurred to the Japanese in the U.S. in such a short period of time have been profound.

The worse the war gets, the more the Japanese must suffer. What will become of us? This may create a bond among young people. But can the seniors bear the pain?

I hope we all live to see the day when the light of peace shines through. If one must die before the day comes, nothing could be sadder.

At this time, young people should join hands to care for and encourage the elderly. I said my final goodbyes to the people at the salon and left. It was a goodbye to the people I had worked with for nearly four years. It was a bit painful.

FEBRUARY 8

On a whim, I went to the mountain and surprised Susumu-san. Good weather for the first time in a long while made me feel happy. Took pho-

tos of Susumu-san, Kiyoshi-san and me.

Hope they will come out ok. Susumu-san got permission to come home the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday - three days. The happy day we waited and waited. I'm pondering how I should spend three days to get the best results. Guests stayed till 12 o'clock at night.

Hongo-sensei also visited us to talk about the house. Jan came and asked for my picture as a keepsake, so I gave her one. She said she would visit us in the country.

Sensei ("Sen-say") is an instructor or teacher.

FEBRUARY 9
Moving is a big task. Wherever I open, I only see junk. They are too good to throw away, yet too much trouble to take with us. My hands got dry and rough from touching various things. My hands look like those of farmers even before I become a farmer myself.

FEBRUARY 10
Good weather. Kept cleaning the house all day. Japanese in Alameda all look restless. I hear that Maruyama-san's store and Masano-san's beauty shop will be closed by the 15th. Park Street will get empty.

I heard that Kikuko-san's wedding is scheduled for March 21. I would like to stay in Alameda until then to see Kikuko-san in her wedding dress. We received a kind letter from Mrs. Ushijima, urging us to come over there as soon as possible. We decided to go to Niles at last.

Park is the main street in Alameda and is where many Japanese businesses were located.

FEBRUARY 11
Nice weather. Nothing unusual, same as yesterday.

FEBRUARY 12
Today is Lincoln's birthday, and my father's death anniversary. 18 years ago, my beloved father passed away. I clearly remember saying goodbye to my father when I was six years old.

But when I look at a picture of my father now, he feels like a stranger. I feel as if I never had a father. When I was a child, I depended on my mother alone and didn't mind not having a father, but as I get older, I sometimes feel I am missing something. I can see Susumu-san after I sleep tonight. I hope the dawn breaks soon.

We don't know how Tomoe's father, Kanzo Otsu, ("Kahn-zoh") died, circa 1923.

FEBRUARY 13
As today was Friday the 13th, I was worried something bad might happen, but it turned out to be alright. I left home at 2 o'clock to go to Greyhound Depot.

When I saw Susumu-san's face, I was so happy I jumped up. With a tie on, he looked very smart. I was proud to walk with him.

The first good news was that he had moved to Ward 4 on Thursday. It means he is one step closer to full recovery. In the evening, we went to the movies for the first time in three months.

It was more fun as I got to see it with Susumu-san. The title was"How Green Was My Valley".

In 2022, the drive from Alameda to Redwood City is about 30 minutes by car.

FEBRUARY 14
Strong wind all night last night. I was worried that the wind would blow the house down. I could not sleep well and the night ended. Susumu-san said he slept only for 2 to 3 hours. We went to San Francisco from around 10 o'clock and came home at 7:30.

We bumped into many people. First, Sugatani-san, then Sato-san and Ishii-san. Ishii-san was with his wife and one-year-old, cute Daniel-chan – a happy

family of three. I wish such a happy day would come to me soon. Ishii-san encouraged us in many ways.

Went to downtown, and Susumu-san bought me beautiful camellia flowers as a Valentine's Day present. I brought them to the salon. People praised them and made fun of me. But since they were the gift from Susumu-san, I didn't feel bad or discouraged.

FEBRUARY 15
We parted with the promise that he would come by 10 o'clock. I went to the bus stop several times around that time, but I could not see him.

When I was worried, he phoned and said he had overslept and that he would be on his way. It was 12 o'clock when he arrived at Alameda. There are only 4 hours left.

The hours flew like an arrow and the parting time came. I was filled with a desire to hold him back while I was with him to San Francisco. But there was nothing I could do. At last, the 5 o'clock bus took Susumu-san away. When I was left alone, I wanted to burst into tears.

FEBRUARY 16
Just busy moving.

FEBRUARY 17
Same

FEBRUARY 18
From the 16th to the 18th, lots of work to prepare for a move. I was covered in dust and the body was so tired. When I took a hot bath and went to bed, I was in heaven. We shipped out everything except for our beds. We decided to sleep one more night here in Alameda.

Moving to the Washington Township

FEBRUARY 19
When I said goodbye to many people and left beloved Alameda, tears I had been holding back oozed out. It was past 3 o'clock when we arrived the new home by a truck.

Mrs. Ushijima, working in the field, came out to greet us. Though the house is in the country, it is much nicer than my house. It is built in a country house style and looks very cozy.

The view from the back window is refreshing with a stream flowing below. The nearby peach tree is decorated with white and pink flowers. Willow trees will soon sprout green buds.

In the evening, the youngest, 11-year-old Kiyoshi-chan came home from school. Very friendly and lovable. Then 18 year-old Harry came home from work. We met him for the first time.

Late at night, the oldest, George came home. All four of them are cheerful and warmhearted. The two-person household suddenly became a lively six-person household.

"Arrived the new home by a truck" means the Otsus did not drive their own car to Niles/ Centerville. The flowing stream is the Alameda Creek. Kiyoshi, Harry and George are Sugino's children. Her husband, Seisuke, died in 1937.

FEBRUARY 20


War Zones for Nation Ordered

Roosevelt Directs Stimson to Set Up Military Areas From Which Aliens or Citizens Can Be Barred or Removed

Oakland Tribune • February 20, 1942

It was a beautiful day out but stayed in all day arranging the room and helping around the house. My one big task is cooking which keeps me busy all day long. In between, there was some ironing to do.

At eleven o'clock the mailman brought two letters for me—one from Susumu and the other from Tatsumi Yamamoto (guessed at this last name, handwriting hard to make out) Susumu's letters are the only thing that keeps me going. If I

didn't have him, I'll be so lonesome. Tatsumi is so kind to me. He is always concerned about my welfare.

On February 19, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. On February 20, Secretary of War Henry Stinson appoints Lt. General John DeWitt as military commander to carry out EO9066.

FEBRUARY 21
Sudden change in the weather brought rain, which was quite unusual, and unexpected. We were thankful that we had moved two days before schedule. Attended Kiku's home wedding at the Naruo's. She looked very sweet in her bridal attire. Chiyo looked very attractive in her red and cream gown.

It was good to see all my friends once again—missed Miyo, Masao, and Fusano though. Bob Naruo's home across the street was a peach.

Everything modernistic from front to the back. I can't even dream of a place like that.

The girls brought me home, but we got lost and by the time we finally located the house, it was twelve o'clock. We must've spent over an hour on the road.

"moved two days before.." - By February 24, all Japanese had to leave Alameda, to comply with Lt. General John DeWitt's orders to leave the island. Hence the move to the Ushijima farm.

FEBRUARY 22
Washington's birthday—also Susumu's and George's. Regretted deeply that I wasn't able to make the trip over to Redwood City. Seemed like a good Sunday was wasted. Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita moved in Sak, Tak, & Yas came with the truck. Fed thirteen people for lunch.

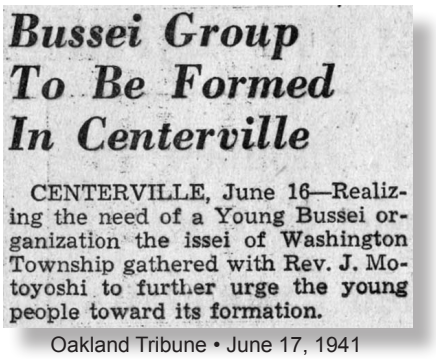
Wrote to Susumu and Mr. Ishii. Also 10 thank you notes for mother. Worked on Susumu's sweater for the first time in a long while. I must hurry up and finish it.

George is George Washington Ushijima, the son of Sugino Ushijima. GWU was born on Feb 22, 1921.

FEBRUARY 23
Holiday—George was home. Took me to the matinee in Hayward. Saw "The Corsican Brothers" & "Glamour Boy". Both swell. First ride to town since my arrival. Was a beautiful drive. Almond blossoms blooming along the road, and mustard greens covering the meadow with its yellow blanket. Went over to Sensei's back yard and Sensei was surprised. He thought I was dead since I never go out.

Told Kiyoshi I'd knit him a pair of socks. He's anxious for me to finish Susumu's sweater so that I can start on his sox. Another day ended peacefully amidst merriment & laughter. Mrs. Yamashita is the clown of the house.

In this case, sensei is likely Rev. Joshin Motoyoshi ("Joh-sheen Moh-toh-yoh-she"), of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda. He was well known in the Township before the war. "Before the war, in our Centerville area, we didn't have a Buddhist church," recalled Sachi Kamiji Fudenna (Sah-chee Kah-me-gee Foo-den-ah") in 2022. "Once in awhile Rev. Motoyoshi use to come and we would have a service and I would go to that." He was living at RFD 372, essentially the farmhouse next to the Ushijima's 371 farmhouse.



Bussei Group To Be Formed In Centerville

CENTERVILLE, June 16—Realizing the need of a Young Bussei organization the issei of Washington Township gathered with Rev. J. Motoyoshi to further urge the young people toward its formation.

Oakland Tribune • June 17, 1941

FEBRUARY 24
Rain. Went to Hayward with Harry to Employment Office and Bank. Found two letters from Susumu. --was glad to hear that Ishii san approved of me. Wrote letters to Susumu, Tatsumi, and Sato-san. Waited up for George and had another "jam session" up till 11:30. What a riot! Mrs. Yamashita was standing right by to keep the ball rolling.

Harry is Sugino Ushijima's son, born in 1923. Tomoe often went to the Hayward employment office, 15 miles to the north, to collect unemployment checks.

On this day, the Nichibei Shinbun reported: "FBI Continues Roundup Potential Dangerous Nationals. ALAMEDA: Torao Miki, Toshio Nakata, Toshio Kumagai, Naoyoshi Kuge and Hyakutaro Towata."

FEBRUARY 25
Beautiful day. Did a little ironing in the morning. Received another letter from Susumu, and one from Masano in San Jose. Harry, George, and my-

self drove to J.A.C.L. headquarters to have our pictures taken for the J.A.C.L. identification cards. Just one shot so it may be a failure. Sorta anxious to see it.

Met Chizu Kakimoto, Lillian, Sakata sisters, etc. at the Headquarter. Wrote five letters—to Masako, Susumu, May, Toshi, & Masano. Bought some yarn for Kiyoshi's socks.

Knitted all evening and got to the heel. Baked a devil's food cake for the first time. It tasted pretty good, but it had quite a number of holes which didn't look very professional.

FEBRUARY 26
The day was over casted and threatened to rain, but the sun was shining by noon. No mail today which was disappointing. Washed my hair after two weeks. Feel light-headed now. Took a walk along the highway with Sakaye. The air was crisp, but it was nice out.

Tried spading in the field and found out what a hard job it was. Tak and Haruko came to see their father & mother. They brought their baby with them. He's a darling. Finished Kiyoshi's socks—one side. Started on the other.

Missed Susumu's letter today. The "sunset" was exquisite! Tomorrow will be a fine day.

FEBRUARY 27
Ideal weather again just as I predicted. Ironed all morning. Received a mail from Susumu. He's worried about the evacuation.

I wonder what'll happen if I have to separate further away from Susumu? Will we even meet again? That is my sole worry. Susumu went under another examination.

I hope it will show favorable results. Wrote to Susumu in the afternoon. Harry varnished our room so that we can move in. Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita moved into the back house today. Harry also moved out into the back. Stayed up late again. Seems like we never get to bed before eleven.

Masato was over at Motoyoshi's. Said there were rumors about my marriage. Even congratulated me.

When Tomoe speaks of Susumu's 'examination,' it is for tuberculosis. "Harry varnished our room..." he must have cleaned it before Tomoe and Yoshino moved into it. The back house is a two room building in the backyard.

FEBRUARY 28
Moved into Harry's room. It looks swell! Nice & cozy. Received a letter from John. It was full of compliments. Said I resembled Ginger Rogers. If I can remember correctly Stan once told me that too. Even though it isn't true, it's a great compliment to me. Set Mrs. Motoyoshi & Sakaye's hair. Intended to go to a movie tonight but George worked on late shift so no car. Might get to go tomorrow.

MEMO

The month of February has gone by. In spite of the current conflict, the world goes around. In another week the war will enter its fourth month, and things aren't any better. Lately we have been hearing unfamiliar words like, enemy aliens, contraband, curfew zone, evacuation, F.B.I. and others.

We hear of many dangerous enemy aliens being "taken in" by the F.B.I. agents. Some of their sons are serving in the U.S. Army. Their family must evacuate from the prohibited area. Such is the life of the Japanese in the U.S. today. Worse things are expected to happen. We are ready to taste any medicine now.

At the end of February, Tomoe wrote this poem in her diary for Susumu, translated from the Japanese.

Leaning Against the Window

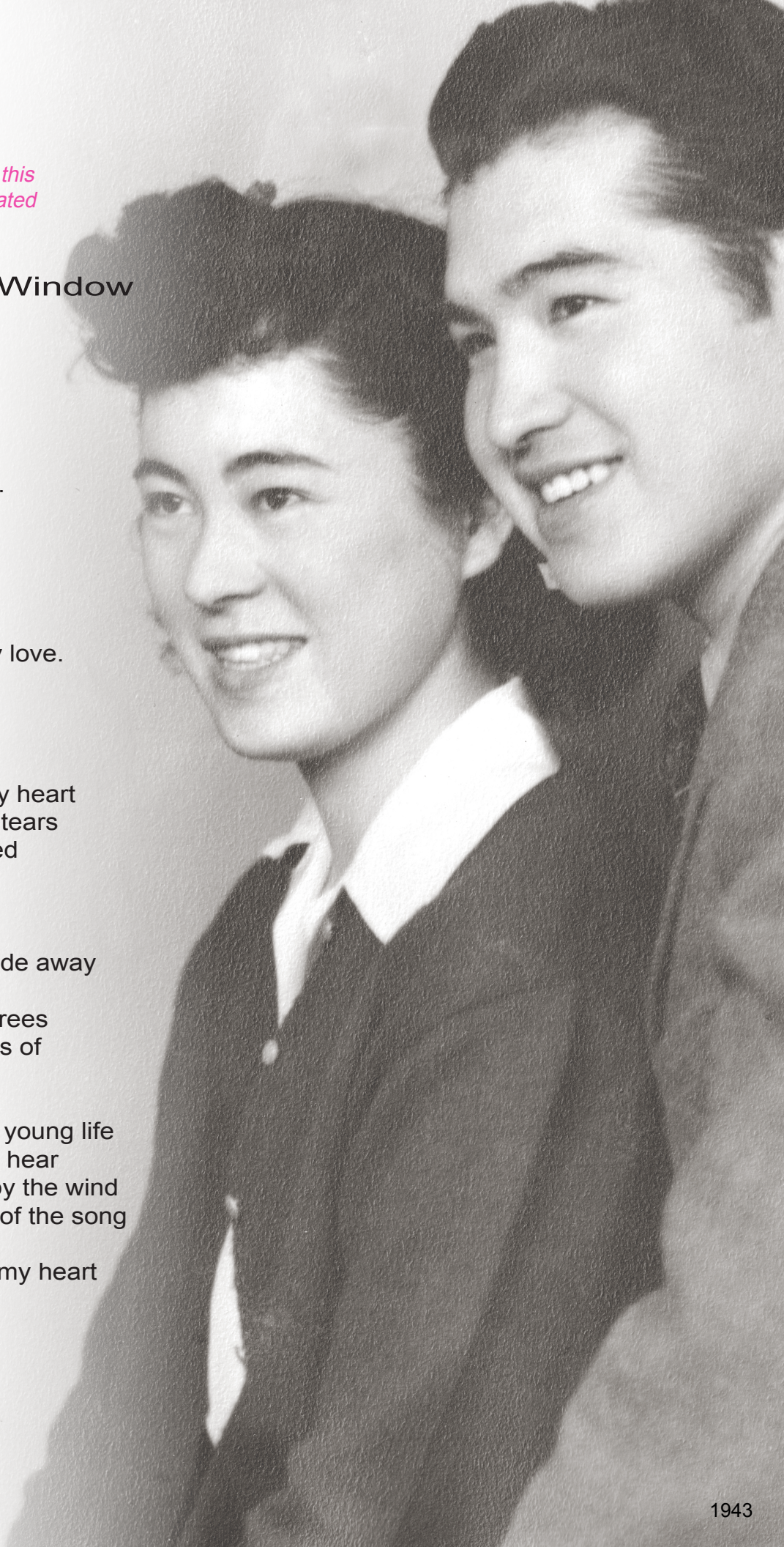
Leaning against the window,
I think of young days that will
never come back.
The days with full of dreams
were pure without a cloud.
Ah, away, afar, they have gone.
Memories of spring

Peaceful days have left me
with the longing in my heart.
This day, this heart
Is filled with the woes of earthly love.
Oh, my heart in tears, in tears

Blue path of red flowers
strolling alone and lonely
The fragrance of flowers fills my heart
Memories are overflowing with tears
This is the path two of us walked
picking violets together

I see his eyes in the blue sky
His lingering smile that won't fade away
I'm sad when I call his name
Farewell to the rows of poplar trees
Drawing an image with my tears of
The man I cannot forget

Flowers and birds are enjoying young life
The music of spring is sweet to hear
Tears on my cheeks, touched by the wind
My heart is wet with the sound of the song
My black hair is fluttering
With the song that whispers in my heart



1943

MARCH 1
Sunday—beautiful day. Had several visitors. Stayed home and wrote letters. Learned to drive for the first time. When the car started to me, I got so nervous I forgot everything. I wonder if I'll ever learn to drive.

At night, George, Harry, Min Ota, & I went to San Jose to see a movie. Expected to see 'Suspicion" but wasn't playing, so saw "Keep 'Em Flying". Got home at 1:00 A.M. for the first time in a long while. Seems like I can't take it anymore.

Tomoe never does learn to drive, Susumu would drive her everywhere after they married.

MARCH 2
Went to Hayward with Harry. Reported at the Employment Dept. Weighed myself and found I gained three pounds since I came to the country. This life must agree with me. I better watch my step though.

Received a letter from Susumu. I disappointed him last Thursday. I hope I can go this week. Finished Susumu's sweater and Kiyoshi's socks. Turned out pretty good but I hope it's not too small.

When Tomoe refers to 'the country' she means the countryside of the Centerville/Niles, a very rural area at this time.

On this day, the Oakland Tribute reported: "The stern law of military necessity, and not public clamor, will determine what is to be done about evacuating the West Coast's 200,000 enemy aliens and their children, and the decision will come shortly," Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, head of the Western Defense Command, declared bluntly today. DeWitt issued the orders to create Military Area 1 and Area 2, banning Japanese or restricting them to certain areas. DeWitt's use of a highly inflated number, 200,000, was common among those who wanted the Japanese out.

MARCH 3
March third—Girls Festival. The Motoyoshi's celebrated the day with o-sushi and other Japanese dishes. Brought a dish over for us too. Received five letters—Masao, Masako, Tatsumi, Susumu, and Mary. Seems like everyone is talking about the coming evacuation.

The prohibited area has been designated. All Niseis as well must get out. No specific date has been set but it won't be very long. Where to go is our problem. Yes, where can we go? Baked an apple pie but the crust was lousy. The boys enjoyed it though. Sugeo, Tom, Sa, & Archie came over to play poker and stayed till 12:15. Enjoyed watching them even though I don't know the game.

Girls' Day is a celebration of girls in Japan. Osushi is sushi, but is generally not the kind of sushi one thinks of from restaurants. Tomoe is probably referring to the makizushi or inarizushi that Japanese in America would make at home.

Nisei ("Nee-say") are Tomoe's generation, the children of the Issei. Issei were labeled enemy aliens by the US Govt,, Nisei were American born citizens, until they weren't.

The San Francisco News reported: Enemy aliens, for greater efficiency, have been classified into five classes and proclamations affecting their future will be forthcoming with these numbers, General DeWitt said.

No. 1—All persons suspected of espionage, sabotage, fifth column or other subversive activities. The FBI and intelligence services are rounding them up daily.
No. 2—Japanese aliens.
No. 3—American-born Japanese.
No. 4—German aliens.
No. 5—Italian aliens.
Archie is Archie Uchiyama, who lived nearby.

MARCH 4
All Japanese including American citizens must evacuate from the prohibited area. No date has been set as yet but plans are being made to evacuate them within sixty days, The government requests the Japanese not to get panicky for they are going to provide us with comfortable quarters and appropriate work.

Two weeks have passed since we settled down here, and now we have to think of resettling someplace else again. This time it will be pretty far away, and most likely the climate would be very disagreeable.

Received letters from Susumu and Sato-san. Sato-san said if he leaves Calif. We may never meet again.

MARCH 5
Another warm day like yesterday. Was my first really happy day in a long while. Harry took me to Redwood City to see Susumu. It only takes half an hour to the hills. Took some lunch, flowers, and sweater.

The sweater was just right. Spent a perfect afternoon up on the hill with no one around to bother us. It was an ideal

day for a picnic. Sat on the green grass over-looking the valley and talked of the past and future. Felt like staying there for hours & hours. Took 'Lady" out on the car for the first time, and she really enjoyed it.

MARCH 6
Nothing exciting occurred. No mail either. Spent the day reminiscing of the first time we had together—Susumu & I—yesterday. Wrote to Susumu in the morning. Six guests from Sekigohama's camp came for a visit. Finished one side of Harry's socks.

MARCH 7
Got up at 7:40 which was unusually early. After the breakfast dishes, and ironing and a little housework, it was already ten-thirty.

Got Susumu's letter. Susumu was very glad to see me. He thought I looked younger and prettier since I came out to the country (ho ho ho!) Susumu looked handsome as ever, I thought too.

Sakaye & I took a walk again. Walked up to the Niles Road today. Afternoon walk was rather hot. From now on we'll do it in the morning. Sakaye wanted to hear the Japanese records, so we played it for the first time in a long while. I still think Japanese music is good. We even tried to dance to "Tennen no bi"!

Composed in 1902, Tennen no Bi ("Ten-nen-noh-b") is a waltz and translates into the "beauty of nature." It is often performed at Japanese festivals in America to this day.

MARCH 8
Went to bed with a slight cold. Intended to get up early and make hot cakes but couldn't do it. Got up around 8:30, took a ride to San Leandro. Felt rather low so went back to bed again.

Mary dropped in around three o'clock which was a great surprise & pleasure. Got up and went to Sakata's with Mary but came back right away and went to bed again.

Toshi, Masako, Haruko, Tak, Yas, Johnny, Fusaye, Yasuko, Yuki, Yuri, and many others dropped in from town. Sunday is usually a visiting day around here.

MARCH 9
Got up and reported to the Employment agency, but still felt dopey so went back to bed after lunch. Received a letter from Kits. She seems very happy. Married life must be wonderful. I hope my turn will come soon.

Another letter was from Tatsu. He said my last letter encouraged him a lot. Spent the rest of the day in bed.

MARCH 10
Back to the daily routine. Feel fine now. Started to rain in the afternoon. Received a letter from Susumu, Mrs. Martin, and a wedding picture from Mr. & Mrs. Naruo. Both look elegant! Wrote back to Susumu, and also thanked Kiko. Today the ladies are starting to transplant the tomato plants. It is getting rather busy around the house for that reason Mrs. Yoshimura is in her overalls right in with the country ladies.

Went to see "Suspicion" in San Jose—Sakaye, George, Harry, and myself. Joan Fontaine won academy award in this picture. She really deserves it. It was a wonderful picture. Went to the bowling alley for the first time. Seems like an interesting game. Got home at one o'clock. Was still raining.

MARCH 11
Started out fine but commenced to rain in the afternoon again. By evening the rain had changed to wind and is still blowing hard. Received two checks from the unemployment office, a letter from Susumu, and one from Chizu. Nothing exciting happened. Still don't know when we are to evacuate and where. The best thing is to forget the war and evacuation and live from day to day.

Form NJACL-OA-1

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

(N. B. Taken by the undersigned individual as a prerequisite to membership in the Japanese American Citizen League for the year 1942. This organization is composed entirely of American citizens, is national in scope, and is pledged "For Better Americans In A Greater America." It has over sixty chapters and a membership of some 20,000 in over 300 communities in the United States.)

I, the undersigned, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I do hereby forswear and repudiate any other allegiance which I knowingly or unknowingly may have held heretofore; and that I take these obligations freely, without any mental reservation whatsoever or purpose of evasion. So help me God.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of April, 1942.

Notary Public in and for the County of Alameda, State of California.

My commission expires Aug 25 1945

Tomoe Otu
(Signature)

Rt. 1 Box 371
(Street Address)

Niles California
(City) (State)

Washington Township
(Chapter Name)

*In her February 25 entree, Tomoe writes that she went to the JACL office to have her picture taken. On **March 12 (see next page)**, she saw the resulting "frightful" photo, below. On April 8, she would sign this JACL Oath of Allegiance. Many young Niseis in the Washington Township did the same. Most Isseis declined, as they were at complete odds with the JACL.*

Right Index Finger



Photograph



Certificate of Identification

JACL Washington Township Chapter
Name Tomoe Otu
Address Rt. 1-Box 371
Niles California
Height 5 feet 1 inches. Weight 118
Distinctive marks
Birthplace 2313 Blanding Ave.
Street or R. F. D.
Alameda California
City State
Birthdate December 14 1917
Month Day Year

The willow trees in the front are turning green with the rain. Quite a change has come over in the surrounding in three weeks. The beautiful peach and almond blossoms are just about gone. Apricots are in full bloom now. The river underneath is running more swiftly after the rains! Wrote to Susumu & Betty.

MARCH 12
Nothing extraordinary occurred. Just a daily routine composed of housekeeping and cooking. Finished Harry's socks. Yoshimi brought the JACL pictures. Are they frightful!* The ladies were out in the tomato beds transplanting.
* See previous page

MARCH 13
Today was Friday the thirteenth, but I got away without any bad luck. Harry said he had his share of bad luck cuz he had to get up at 4:30 AM to cover the tomato beds on account of the rain. He got to sleep all morning though. Rev. Motoyoshi dropped in and talked for a while. On the way home he suggested Susumu & I get married as soon as possible if the doctor permits. Susumu should evacuate with me, Sensei thinks.



Received a letter from Susumu & Toshi. Toshi suggests we get together for a finale musical soirée. Sure like to go to S.F. once again. Wrote to S. in the afternoon. The day was very unsettled. The ladies started to work out in the beds but had to quit when it started to rain.

Tomoe was quite a singer, and Susumu an excellent guitarist, hence her interest in the 'musical soiree.' "S" is Susumu.

MARCH 14
The rainstorm that came last night continued throughout the day. Freezing temperatures came with it, and the wind almost took the trees by the roots. Around five in the afternoon the storm ceased, and snow were seen on the distant mountain peaks. Must have been the coldest day of the year.

MARCH 15
Yesterday's storm became a thing of the past and today—Sunday—really became a Sun day. The rain increased the water in the river below, and the water is flowing gaily with a merry tune.

The slow mooing of the cow somewhere in the meadow, and the hearty chirping of the birds in the trees tells me that Spring is in the air.

Being Sunday, we had many visitors from Alameda. Kiko & George, and Chiyo dropped in and surprised me. Kiko seems very happy. The ladies had another "Jam Session" at night with Mrs. Mikami joining the colony. The "shamisen" added color to the merry making.

The ladies can forget evacuation when they're singing and laughing away. Could've gone to the movies but stayed home.

A shamisen ("shah-me-sen") is a sort of Japanese banjo.

MARCH 16
Nice day again. Masuno dropped in, which was a pleasant surprise. It's her birthday today. She is 24 too. House cleaning, scrubbing, cooking, and ironing was enough to keep me going all day.

Finally got through with the dishes around 7:30, then wrote three letters—Susumu, Toshi, & Tatsumi. Received Susumu's letter in the morning.

MARCH 17
Nothing special happened today. Did the usual thing around

the house. George, Harry, Sugeo, Sam, & I went to see "Captains of the Clouds" and "Unexpected Uncle". Both good pictures.

MARCH 18
Received a letter from S. He expects me Thursday. Was a long day today waiting for Thursday. Wishing for a nice day so we can go for a walk again. Tomorrow will start a new month for us in Centerville. Has a whole month passed already? Time seems to have gone by swiftly since every day brought forth a new event.

MARCH 19
--was a very happy day. Lying in the grass and searching for a four-leaf clover with S. was wonderful. Couldn't find any, but happiness was with me anyway, so it didn't matter much. Talked about evacuation and our future.

S. plans to ask for a leave to settle his business. Hope we can both go to S. F. together and have one final fling.

Poor Harry slept in the car while we walked in the sun. Wrote a letter to "S" and a letter of congratulation to John in the evening. Heard Shig & Fusano dropped in while I was out. Too bad I couldn't see Fusano and talk with her.

"Poor Harry" Ushijima. He must have driven Tomoe to see Susumu in Redwood City.

MARCH 20
Excellent day. Spent about three hours outside. Got a slight tan. Hope to continue adding color. Finished George's socks. Started a pair for myself for a change. Lady—the cocker spaniel—is cute as ever. Today at supper time she got so excited she fell backward trying to stand up on her hind legs. Played some records in the evening. It was good to hear "Shina-no-Yoru" again.

Shina no Yoru translates into *China Nights*, and was a very popular song with the Niseis.

MARCH 21
First day of Spring—the day was worthy of the occasion—just enough crispness in the air to remind us that winter was making its exit. The sky was blue, trees green with new leaves, birds singing of spring, and the lazy mooing of the cow all helped to welcome the new season.

Exactly one year ago today Susumu & I met for the first time. –can still remember clearly the beautiful "Shina-no-Yoru", "Aizen Yakyoku" and "Hana Kotoba" sung by Susumu accompanied on the guitar by Ota-san.

They were rehearsing for an entertainment for the Kibei conference. Now I wish I had gone to that confab. I would have enjoyed it.

Ota-san: It was at Ota-san's (Oh-tah") place in San Francisco where Tomoe first met Susumu, at a musical jam session.
"I knew I was in love," Susumu said, "when I walked through the door and saw Tomoe at Ota-san's apartment. Ota-san was playing the mandolin and his brother was playing the guitar. Tomoe was chatting with her friends and didn't pay a lot of special attention to me."

A Kibei ("Key-bay") is a Japanese born in America, educated in Japan, then returns to America.

MARCH 22
First of the week is usually busy. Today being Sunday, we had plenty of visitors again. Mary & Lou dropped in for a while. Min, Setsu, Nami, Tomi, & the brother dropped in on the way home from San Jose. Mrs. Iwakashi had sent some "Ohagi" for Mrs. Yamashita and mother. I thought it was rather sentimental.

Stayed in my room & wrote to Susumu while guests were busy with their conversation in the dining room. Kiyochi kept me company.

Ohagi ("Oh-ha-ghee") is a sweet Japanese confection of rice and bean paste. Tastes better than it sounds.

MARCH 23
Went to Hayward for the unemployment compensation. Sakaye went with us, and we did a little shopping here & there.

MARCH 24

A new curfew has been established restricting the movements of all Japanese, American citizens alike, alien Italians & alien Germans. Under this law those affected must be at home between 8:00 p.m. & 6 a.m. and can only travel within five miles. A special permit is essential to travel outside of these limits. This is to go into effect Friday morning, March 27th.

Received a letter from Chizu in regard to the furniture we left behind. They are planning to rent their house. Received a letter from Susumu.



New Curfew For Japanese Starts Friday

Both Aliens and American-Born Get Warning by General

All Japanese-Americans as well as alien Japanese, Germans and Italians in coastal military zones and designated areas elsewhere in the eight Western States will have their movements drastically restricted under a new curfew order effective Friday morning.

The curfew was established in a proclamation issued today by Lt.-Gen. John L. DeWitt, head of the Western Defense Command, as the War Relocation Authority revealed plans for colonization of Japanese on the Colorado Indian Reservation at Parker, Ariz., and as the F.B.I. continued activity against enemy aliens in California.

Under the curfew order, American-Japanese and enemy aliens must remain in their homes from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m., and at all other times must be either in their residences or places of employment, or not more than five miles from their homes.

Oakland Tribune • March 24, 1942

MARCH 25
Nothing unusual; just the idea of being locked up after the 27th is sickening. Went to San Jose with Harry, George, Sam & Sakaye to see the town for the last time. Saw "The Man Who Came to Dinner".

Good comedy. Received a letter from Tatsumi. He is returning to S.F. today. Imamura son has gone back to Stockton.

MARCH 26
Found my letter addressed to Susumu on the dresser which should have been mailed yesterday morning. It was an important letter concerning our trip to S.F. too. Sent it out this morning. Received a letter from Miyo & Susumu.

Hiroshi Kanda came over to tell us that it would be safer to take our furniture and that no one will be given a permit for that purpose after today. Sam offered to take us on his truck so Harry, Sam, & myself made a hurried trip to Alameda and brought back all the furniture. Called up Toshi Y. while I was in Alameda.

Sam, Harry, Sugeo, Tome, Sakae, and I started out for S.F. from 9:30 for our final spree. Harry forgot his birth certificate, so all were worried about getting across the bridge, but we succeeded. Went to "Club Lids" for the first and unfortunately the last time.

Never had so much fun! Had steak dinner, saw a good floor show, and even danced. Tasted "Tom Collins" for the first time. Wasn't bad at all. Even held a cigarette in my hand. Took a few puffs.

It was fun to pretend for one night. Sam bought a corsage of two gardenias for me. That would probably be the last corsage for a long time too.

Left the club after 2 A.M., crossed the Bay Bridge for the last time, bidding farewell to S.F. and her beautiful Bay, reached home after 3:00. Mom was pretty sore but "what's done cannot be undone." End of a perfect evening!

MARCH 27
Curfew started today. A memorable day for us. Received an unexpected wire from Susumu saying he made a trip to S.F. on the 26th cuz he thought he couldn't get a permit later.

Rather disappointing but it's all for the best. Glad he made the trip. I wonder what Mr. Sugaya had to say. Anxiously waiting tomorrow mail. Heard from

Nobu. Made me feel happy. Awfully sleepy. Going to bed early.

On March 27, a new curfew was imposed, eliminating previous exemptions, such as night jobs. American born Japanese could not longer own firearms, radios, cameras, etc.

"This is a war measure," said Gen. DeWitt. "And I warn again that swift justice will follow any violation..."

MARCH 28
Received Susumu's letter explaining his hurried trip to S.F. He met Sato san, Ishii san, Nomura san, Mr. Ota, Toshi, Masako, etc. Mrs. Nomura had just become a mother, and Mrs. Ishii is expecting in the near future.

Susumu, Ota-san, & Toshi got together Wednesday night and had a musical soirée. Susumu seemed to have enjoyed it very much. Sorry I couldn't be there to join them. Mary Matsuura came to Centerville today since no one can evacuate voluntarily after Sunday.

Mary is a friend from Alameda.

MARCH 29
Was a quiet Sunday on account of the curfew. Mary & Sam came around, so we got together & looked at albums & schools annuals. Sak & Harry were trying to jitter-bug—our dance team. The Mikami family and Masato moved in next door. They have a total of fifteen people there now. What a mob!

Mr. & Mrs. Yamashita left from this house yesterday for Sanger. It's so quiet with(out?) Mrs. Yamashita. She was our leading lady that's why.

MARCH 30
Scrubbed, changed the pantry paper, dusted, cooked, etc. Was an unusually hot day—the hottest day this year. Sam drove me to Hayward to the Employment Bureau. Sam went to the War Board so. Took a chance and dropped in an ice cream parlor.

Received a letter of apology from Susumu, and another from Toshi. Toshi hoped we go to the same "camp". I hope so too. Wrote to Susumu and Toshi.

Camp refers to the 10 incarceration camps around the United States.

MARCH 31
Nothing exciting happened outside of the daily doings. Stayed home and ironed.

MEMO
Another month passed, and we are still able to live here. Thank Heaven! But it won't be long before our date will be announced too. San Francisco received the first order to evacuate. Certain districts around the waterfront must leave by Tuesday April 7th. Japanese Town District is still safe.

It stands to reason that the country people would be in the latter group since their produce is essential to the country. They must carry on till the last day. Neglecting the crops is considered sabotage and is subject to arrest.

APRIL 1
April Fool's Day. Didn't get caught though. Masat drove Fusaye, Sakaye, and myself to Centerville. Bought a pair of white shoes, a red blouse, panties, mother's slacks, etc. Noticed the salesgirls were all courteous. Drove home via Niles to enjoy the scenery.

We sure can enjoy the beauty of Spring if it weren't for the present condition we sig (?can't make out the rest of the word).

Bought everything I need, now I'm ready to evacuate.

April 1 was the deadline for all Japanese U.S. citizens to turn over guns, shortwave radios and cameras to the government. Gen. DeWitt proclaimed that no Japanese may leave areas in which they reside until evacuated by the Army.

APRIL 2
Sakaye & Fusaye came over and made two delicious lemon meringue pies, and were they delicious! Received Susumu's picture finally. Nice picture but doesn't do him justice. The finish is very poor.

Tried walking to town with Sakae & Fusa but didn't suc-

ceed. Was finally picked up by Miss Egashira. Collected Sakae's treat at Cloverdale Creamery and got a lift home from Fusaye Tanaka.

Got off at Decoto Road and were going to walk back home but was spied by Sam & Harry who were on their way to pick me up. He must've walked about two miles in all. Wrote to Masako & Susumu. Received a card from John. He's on his way to Colorado.

Also on April 2, the U.S.S. Hornet aircraft carrier slipped under San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, carrying Doolittle's Raiders, the aircraft that would drop the first American bombs on Japan. The Hornet is now a floating museum docked in Alameda, Tomoe's home town.

APRIL 3
Rain—no work outdoor. Practically the whole next door was over in the morning. Sam drove me to the War Board in Hayward.

Bumped into Mr. & Mrs. Kondo, Miss Tomimatsu, Jimmie Fudenna, etc. Had to wait an hour and a half for my turn. Went to the Employment Office for the final OK.

The man in charge thought that next Thursday would be too far in advance, so he told me to come back next week. He couldn't be sure whether orders would change again. Received a letter from Jimmie Kusuda via Air Mail. I wonder where he got my address? He's now at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

APRIL 4
Rain again. No work. Mrs. Hitomi and Mrs. Kitajima were over in the afternoon. Mrs. Kitajima entertained with the "shamisen" while Mrs. Ushijima sewed on a "futon". Mom is working hard on the bedspread. Wrote a letter to Susumu in the afternoon.

APRIL 5
Still kept on raining. Stayed in all day. Mrs. Yoshimura, Mrs. Sugino Ushijima, & mom went out to transplant from about three o'clock.

Shizu & Tom Mitsuyoshi, Sam, Susan, Sakae, Fusaye, Johnny, Harry, George, & I went to an Italian dinner in Niles. Our time was limited so we had to keep an eye on the watch. Had a swell steak dinner, and all went home contented.

Bought a pineapple pie for mom's birthday (incidentally mom is fifty today), and some candy for Kiyoshi. The day was just turning to night when we left for home. It's such a shame to have to pass by a theater and not be able to walk in. "Bedtime Story" was playing at the Niles Theater.

APRIL 6
Johnny, Harry, & myself went to the war board for traveling permits. Asked for one to go to the optometrist and got it. Johnny had to go into Alameda so went with him. Went to Roky's Garage & George Naruo was still working there.

Heard of Yosh Nakagawara's marriage to Cherry Shiozawa. He's home on a furlough from the army. Went to Dr. Robinson and had a re-check.

Got a pair of rimless. Went to Dr. We Hara's Telegraph office and saw Stan. He looked thinner somehow. I guess he's worried about Jean. She's expecting next month sometime.

Received letters from Masano & John. John wants us to go out to Colorado. He seems to like it a lot. Masano is cutting spinach. Seems like hard work.

Roky's garage is George Rokutani's auto repair garage in Alameda.

APRIL 7
Tuesday—stayed home and ironed. Went to play tennis with Johnny, Harry, Sakae but the courts were full so didn't get to play. Started on the blanket—knitting with old yarn. Hope to finish it before we leave here.

APRIL 8
Today is Buddha's birthday. Obasan made some "omochi". I helped too. Went next door

in the afternoon to a service. About twenty people were there. Also Chiyo's birthday. Bought a card but don't know her address. Will mail it as soon as I find out. Went to Centerville with George, Kiyoshi, & Sakae. Bought my ticket to Redwood City. (cannot read two words....) they asked for the traveling permit.

Oba-san made some "osushi" at night for me to take tomorrow. Going to bed with hopes for a sunny day!

Obasan ("oh-bah-sahn") = aunt, or a middle aged woman. This is probably Sugino Ushijima. Omochi is mochi ("moh-chee"), a rice cake.

APRIL 9
Get up early—six thirty for a change. The day was unsettled but wore my spring outfit,. Left home at 7:30 with my lunch and some lilacs. The bus trip wasn't so long, and I reached Redwood in about an hour.

From 9:20 to 4:30—had a wonderful time with Susumu. Kiyoshi joined us too. Three of us had lunch with cokes & ice cream too. The boys enjoyed the Japanese food for a change. Looked at Kiyoshi's album & one of Susumu's too. It was very interesting.

During the rest hour we hid in the laboratory and played cards. Kiyoshi was busy with the "lab work". Later in the day the two of us went back up the hill with Susumu's guitar and we sang and played to our hearts' content. We even ran under the tree to find shelter from the April showers.

Four-thirty came in no time, and regretfully we said "goodbye" not knowing when we'll meet again. My hopes are high. I have a feeling we can meet again soon. Please, Lord Buddha, let this hope come true. After several poor connections, finally reached home at ten to eight. Thanks to Sam. Might have been sitting in the "cell" by this time if it weren't for him.

When I reached home, everyone was waiting on the front porch. Harry & Kiyoshi had gone to the Decoto corner after me. Sakae was over to bid me farewell. She is to start working in a family from tomorrow. I'll miss her too! Kiyoshi said, "we missed you today". Which was the best thing anyone could've said.

APRIL 10
Nothing unusual.

APRIL 11
Cleared up for a change. Went to Washington Union Hi and hit some tennis balls around. Later played basketball for the Alameda girls against the Scotties. The score was unmentionable but was a good work-out.

Letters from Susumu and Masako. Baked a gingerbread. Turned out rather well. Received a letter from Chiyo unexpectedly. She's in Turlock with the family. At night wrote to Susumu, Chiyo, Betty.

The Scotties were a Centerville Japanese basketball team, coached by Hiss Kataoka.

APRIL 12
Sunday—played tennis again—Sam, Fusaye, Sakae, George, & myself. Sure got nice and stiff. A bottle of Coke was very refreshing after the exercise. Sakae's first day off. Sakae tried driving George's car. She's pretty good.

Sam treated us to an ice cream cone. Kiko & George dropped in around six-thirty. They had come beyond the limit. Wrote to Masako in the evening.

APRIL 13
George, Sam, Johnny, & I went to Hayward again. Went to get a permit to go to the optometrist again. Got it right away. Bought a white blouse for Sakae. Ironed in the afternoon.

APRIL 14
Nice day. Ironed in the morning. Went into Oakland & Alameda with Johnny & Fusaye in the afternoon. Stan gave me a pair of dark glasses for a souvenir. Saw Masa Hanamura,

Fusako Nakata, Mas Nakata, Sam Rokutani, George Naruo, etc in Alameda.

Got home after six. Received a letter from Susumu. Susumu wishes to buy me a ring but can't decide what kind to get. If possible, he would like to get married, but we must ask the doctor about his condition.

APRIL 15
General clean-up today. The curtains were taken care of too. Letters from Miyoshi & Toshi. Miyo is in Petaluma. She's busy packing up like the rest of us. Toshi is just about ready with her things.

Seems like the San Franciscans are going to be sent to Tanforan Racetrack near San Mateo. Went to Mikami's in the afternoon and read the novel "Kodomo??" by Yusuke Tsurumi. Swell book.

Tanforan is the racetrack turned assembly center, where the evacuated Japanese would live until being sent to one of the 10 incarceration camps. Assembly centers were temporary.

Tomoe's diary now switches back to Japanese and is translated below:

APRIL 16
Rained all day. April weather with many changes. Staying inside, knitting and writing letters.

Received a letter from Chiyoko-san. She wrote that everyone was worried because she was still unmarried at age 24. She also wrote that she wondered how long it would be before the good old days would return, and that she missed the days when we played together. Wrote to Toshi-chan, Betty, Chi-chan and Susumu-san at night.

APRIL 17
Following on from yesterday, it rained all morning. The boys were anxious to go thinning of apple trees but they gave it up due to the rain. After noon, the weather cleared up as if it had forgotten about the rain, and my spirit was lifted.

I visited Mary-san at the Sakata's. Her mother looked well. We listened to the records and talked. She gave me a ride home around 4:30.

A young Kibei man who had already been to Santa Anita sent camp news to the Nichibei Newspaper. He writes about many interesting things. He doesn't seem to like what Nisei people do.

APRIL 18
Sunny day. Mrs. Ushijima and Mom did huge laundry. I finished sewing two aprons and started another apron and a blouse. I borrowed "Child" written by Yusuke Tsurumi today.

I can't wait to read it. But I need to finish knitting a pair of socks for Enoki-san. I have so much to do.

I was told that Dr. Maquarter would come at 8 o'clock to give us typhoid vaccines. 15 minutes before 8, I went to pick up Sakae-san at her work.

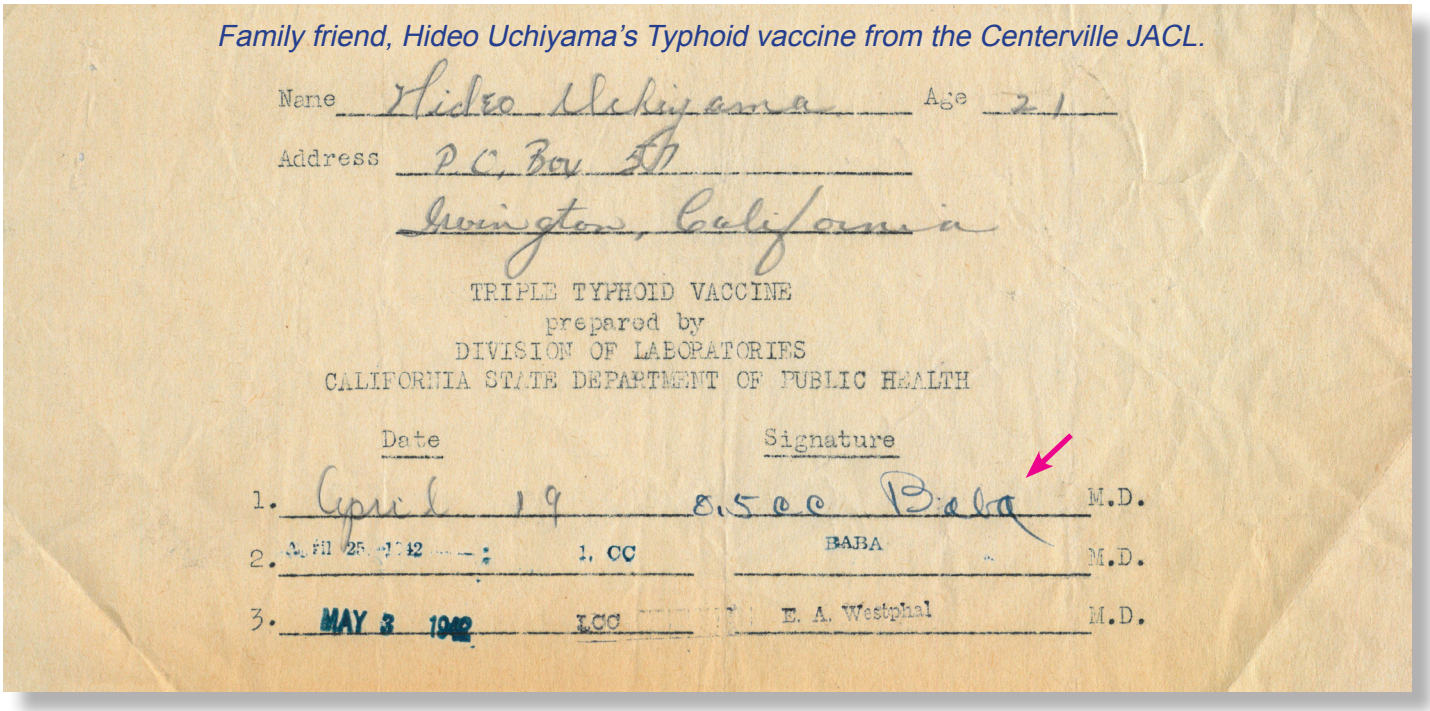
She had just started washing dishes. We panicked. Three of us including Fusae-san did dishes but when we finished, it was past 8.

While we were worried, the master came and told us he would make the "judge" drive us home if it got too late. We were relieved. Luckily, the judge of Centerville was among the customers.

After returning home, everyone lined up to get the injection. Kiyoshi, being the youngest, got it first. We were told we might get a headache, so we all went to bed early. Received a letter from Susumu-san.

Typhoid vaccines were being administered by the JACL in Centerville (see next page), and similar to other vaccines, some recipients suffered side-effects. Typhoid causes prolonged fever, nausea, headaches, vomiting, abdominal pain, rashes, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. It is transmitted via contaminated food and water, or contact with carriers. In 1911 a vaccine was produced, antibiotics were available in 1948. It killed 10 percent of its victims prior to the 1940s.

APRIL 19
I will never forget the pain I felt last night. My head was



Family friend, Hideo Uchiyama's Typhoid vaccine from the Centerville JACL.

Name Hideo Uchiyama Age 21

Address P.O. Box 57

Irvington, California

TRIPLE TYPHOID VACCINE
prepared by
DIVISION OF LABORATORIES
CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

	Date		Signature	
1.	April 19	8,500	Baba	M.D.
2.	April 25 1942	1. CC	BABA	M.D.
3.	MAY 3 1942	LCC	E. A. Westphal	M.D.

pounding and my body was shaking. I even wondered if I was going to die. If I got typhoid, it would be so terrible, judging from the severe after effect of the vaccine.

We must have two more shots. Besides, I hear the second one is worse. I am already worried that I may suffer more than I did last night.

Both Mrs. Ushijima and Mom stayed in bed all day. Children didn't suffer. Kiyoshi was running around with the neighbor's kids.

The others assembled at school today to have it done. Every single person is taking it because it is required to go to camp. I learned that Dr. Baba (see above), Dr. Togasaki and others came from San Francisco.

In the evening, I attended a farewell party for Fudenna-san, who had returned home on leave from the army. It was a lively gathering of nineteen people. It should have been a delicious Italian dinner, but we had little appetite due to the shots. Went to bed early again. Wrote back to Susumu-san in the afternoon.

The farewell party is for Harold Tarno Fudenna, a Washington Township native. Fudenna's family owned (not leased) perhaps the largest Japanese farm in Fremont; 20 acres of tomatoes & strawberries. He was inducted in the US Army on March 24, 1941 and served with the Military Intelligence Service in the South Pacific. Younger brother Takeo served with the 442nd RCT.

APRIL 20

Nice weather. Nothing unusual happened, and the day ended with work inside. At noon, I brought Mrs. Ushijima and others in the field Omusubi (rice ball) mixed with Miso.

They made a big fuss, saying, "I taste Miso!" It was like the joy one found water in a desert. I didn't have good material for dinner. I made a strange dish but they all said it was delicious. I was surprised.

Received a letter from Shizuko-san. She said she was very lonely. Speaking of Shizuko-san, this time last year, thanks to a certain person, I had some antipathy toward her.

But my childhood friend Shizuko-san is still one of my dear friends. I am glad we are friends again, re-living the feeling of good old days.

Miso ("Me-soh") is a soybean paste seasoning found in many Japanese foods.

APRIL 21

It looks like I caught a cold. My throat hurts. It was a nice day, I wanted to go out. But I stayed in the house because there were so many things to be ironed. Received letters from Susumu-san and Nishino-san. More evacuation orders were issued

in various areas. Fortunately, we are still safe here. Toshi-chan and others in San Francisco seem to be sent to Tanforan. What is to come has come at last. I've been waiting for a letter from Dr. Shaffer, but it hasn't come yet. I don't know if it will come tomorrow. I can't wait to settle the situation for the two of us.

APRIL 22
Stayed home as my cold is lingering. Sewed a blouse but it was too big. I will wear it as a jacket. I had a big laugh when Mrs. Ushijima said it would fit perfectly when I was "pregnant." I wonder when the day will ever come.

I got a rare letter from Yamamoto-san today. It says that people in San Francisco are busy evacuating. It also says those who lost their jobs are in trouble because they just hang around and play, and that they want to be sent soon.

We sew clothes and say we will wear them after we get there, but not one of us know where we will be sent to. Is it going to be a hot place or a cold place? Indeed, it is adventurous.

APRIL 23
I slept in this morning. It was soon noon when I was dilly-dallying. Mom, George and I went to town after noon. Bought some essentials. Made an appointment for a permanent. Next Wednesday.

Received a letter from Susumu-san. He writes that he will feel at ease if we can get married sooner than later. We have not received a note from the doctor. In the afternoon, I wrote to Susumu-san and Yamamoto-san. Later, I read "Child". I read to my heart's content again at night.

APRIL 24
Today my cold is much better, and the weather is nice, so I washed my hair. After 6 months, my hair is long enough to arrange it in a page-boy style.

The length is perfect now. I am not sure if I want to get it permed next week. I was surprised to read Nobuko-san's letter. She is getting married this Sunday to a man named Dohmoto-san.

Many weddings since the evacuation order. It is probably because the lovers are worried about being separated from each other. Anyway, it is a happy event. Got a shot again in the evening. Went to bed early.

APRIL 25
Stayed in bed all day due to the shot. Read the letters from Kikuko-san and Susumu-san in bed. I learned the news of Noboru Iwahashi-san's marriage from Kikuko-san's letter.

APRIL 26
My energy is back. Four of us went to play tennis in the afternoon. Made phone calls to Redwood and San Francisco from the town of Centerville. Shige-chan at San Francisco was out so I talked with Margie a little. She said they would be sent to Tanforan on Thursday or Friday.

Kikuko-san and George-san came over. Mary was just passing by, so the three of us talked about the good old days for the first time in a long time.

We parted, saying that we could probably go to the same camp and that we looked forward to it. We all sat together for the roast beef dinner. I took a Japanese bath with plenty of hot water and went to bed around 10:30. I don't think I will be taking a Japanese bath for much longer.

APRIL 27
After a long wait, the notice from the hospital finally came today. Should I say it is good news, or is it bad news? It could be either, depending on how you look at it.
The news that I would not be able to go with him was the most painful thing. But the

good news is that he will be discharged from the hospital in three months.

The director said it would be better for us to put off our wedding until he is discharged from the hospital. The director's concern seems to be about financial matters. Although I am filled with painful and sad feelings now, let's live cheerfully imagining the joy I will feel when I greet Susumu-san three months from now.

Received a letter from Toshi-chan, too. She seems to be busy with the evacuation coming up in five days. She said she would write a long letter once she got there.

Susumu's tuberculosis is the reason why she would "not be able to go with him."

APRIL 28
In the morning, 5 of us - Mary-san, Harry-san at Sakata(s?), George, Johnny and I went to Hayward.

It was to get a pass to go to Redwood but I did some shopping on the way. We found a very nice jacket in a store. Mary-san and I bought the jackets of the same style, hers is red, mine, beige. I am afraid it was a bit expensive. Bought a sport shirt as a souvenir for Susumu-san. I hope he likes it.

Did lots of shopping including stockings, underwear, a wedding gift for Nobuko-san and so on. I thought I hurried back to our car, but everyone was already waiting. "Are you done so soon?" and "You took so long"

They said two opposite things and made fun of me. It is said that women's shopping takes long time. When I returned home, I was surprised to hear that Motoyoshi Sensei was taken away by FBI. I didn't expect it happen now when we are close to evacuation.

Went to see Mrs. Motoyoshi to show my sympathy. She smiled sadly and said, "Yes, he finally went". Her eyes were red from tears, but she didn't fall apart. I thought her demeanor was that of a respectable Japanese woman.

I can only imagine what it must have been like for him to leave behind his pregnant wife and five small children. I think it is the right way for human beings to help each other at a time like this.

Finished reading "Child" tonight. Asako-san is a great mother. This war will produce many great mothers like Asako among Japanese Americans.

Joshin Motoyoshi, was living at RFD 372, when the FBI arrested him.

APRIL 29
Spent all morning ironing. After noon, went to get permed. It is called Centerville Beauty Parlor. I thought the hairdresser's skill was not very impressive for someone with ten years of experience. It's beyond words how bad my hair looked after being forced to sit for four hours.

I rearranged it after I went home. I was also disappointed that she cut my hair short. Received Susumu-san's letter written in English. He is getting better.

APRIL 30
I was excited from this morning as I was going to see Susumu-san. It started raining again at noon, and I wanted to cry. George drove me there.

First, I spoke to the director of the hospital. The director was nicer than I had expected. He kindly taught me many things.

When we said goodbye, I offered him roses that I had brought for Susumu-san, and he gladly accepted them. Had a fun time with Susumu-san from 2:30 to 4:30. Susan-san played the guitar for us.

I was very impressed with her skill. I had a little chat with Kiyoshi-san as well. I brought Susumu-san the sport shirt.

He said it was too good. We parted thinking we would have one more chance to see each other but when I got home, shocking news was waiting for me.

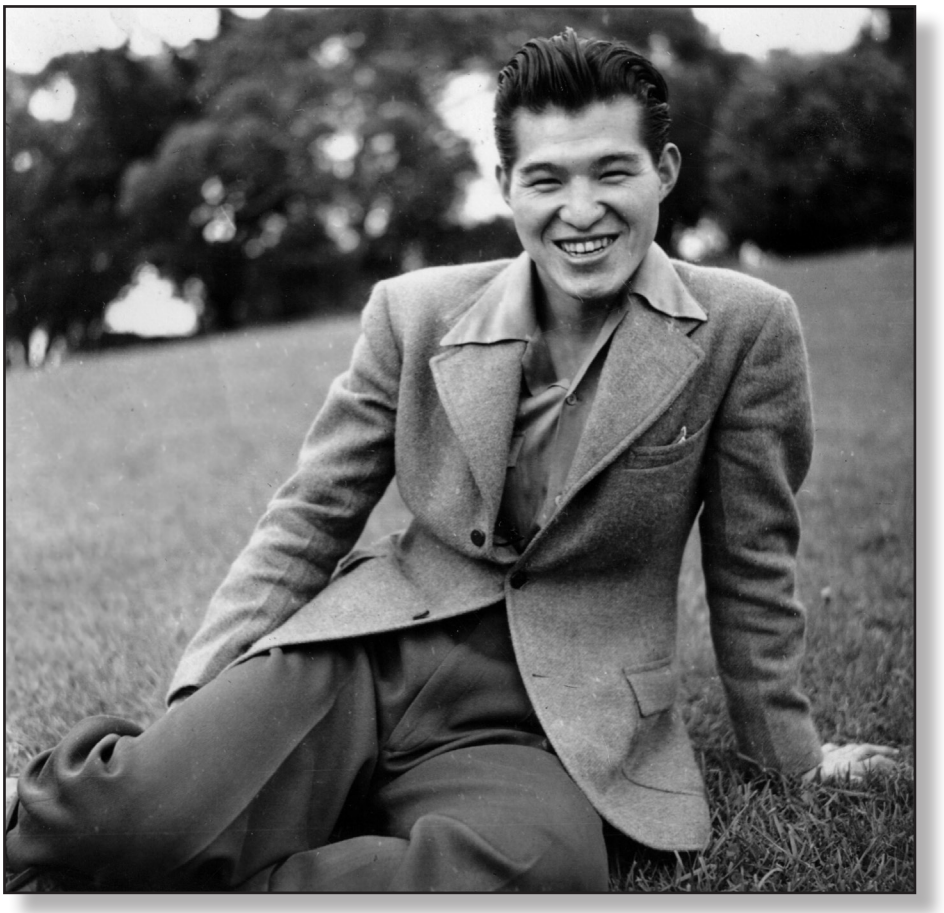
The evacuation order had already been issued for the area. We will be sent to Tanforan between May 7 and 9. I am glad it is Tanforan. I think I can see Toshi-chan, and maybe Masako-san, too.

MEMO
April has passed, while we were saying it would come maybe today or maybe tomorrow. We have lived in this house for over 2 months now. But what is to come has come.

It is finally decided that we must leave here. One cloud in my mind is that Susumu-san can't come with us.

But for Susumu-san, it is better to stay. I cannot be selfish. It is so hard to leave this beautiful little paradise where the bird song wakes me up in the morning and the quiet sound of the brook invites me to a dreamland at night.

It must be much harder for the Ushijima family. The proverb says "There's a green hill wherever you go". If I keep that spirit alive and keep moving forward, I should be alright.



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP JACL BULLETIN APRIL 30, 1942

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The people of Japanese ancestry of our township will be evacuated by Saturday noon May 9, to the Assembly Center at Tanforan.

The Civil Control Center will be established in Hayward on C. St. opposite U. S. Employment Office. All heads of the family will register there on Monday and Tuesday. You will receive further notice from our office in regards to the time you will be assigned to appear.

Every one should clean up the private affairs in the next few days if possible.

There are still few farms to be disposed of. Anyone having any difficulty should contact our office for any assistance.

The Federal Reserve Bank will have storage place for personal property for anyone wishing government accommodation.

TYPHOID INNOCULATIONS SUNDAY MAY 3

The third innoculation for typhoid fever will be taken care of on Sunday morning at 8:30 at J.A.C.L. Headquarters, Centerville.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

On May 15 the election for Board of Trustee for W. U. H. S. will be held. We will not be here for election. However, we want all our registered members to fill out the form for absentee ballots We will have these forms for you by Saturday.

Others who have not registered for voting are requested to do so at the J.A.C.L. headquarters. It is your duty as citizens.

MAY 1
What an irony- beautiful weather from morning. How I wish I could replace today with yesterday's rain. Since we were told we needed to vacate here by the 9th, I started to feel anxious.

Some say we are going to Tanforan, some say not, and I get excited or disappointed every time. I heard that residents of Alameda and Oakland would be sent to Tanforan by the 7th.

I didn't do much packing today. I must seriously start tomorrow. We only have one week left. At night, we got the last typhoid shot. If I don't get it right this time, people will laugh at me.

After the shot, young people next door and 3 of our family members, total 7 of us danced till 11 o'clock. It's been a long time since I've had fun. I think the carpet was scuffed a lot.

The April 30 notice from the JACL on the previous page must have taken a few days to get to the families in the township.

MAY 2
Another beautiful day with the fresh and clear morning sun. It was a shame to stay inside. I was afraid I might not be able to get up again, but I was fine.

Mom and Mrs. Ushijima were also fine this time. I packed one suitcase. I was surprised at how many possessions I had. Received letters from Susumu-san and Toshiko-san. Nobuko-san is now a "bride". The letter says that she is happy as everyone is nice to her. A ring and a photo are supposed to arrive from Susumu-san. I hope I will get them before we leave here.

MAY 3
Very busy with evacuation ahead. So busy I almost felt dizzy from the 3rd through the 9th. I remember Kiyoshi weeping over parting with his dog.

Everyone was irritated with so much to do. We were easily offended by the slightest thing and fought constantly. Even Mrs. Ushijima looked a little frustrated and said we all should go quickly to the camp. Mrs. Ushijima must be happy as the tomato plants at Chidori's were sold out.

There were no entrees on the pages labeled May 4 to 7, but on the page labeled May 8, Tomoe crossed out May 8, as if she wrote it on the 7th instead. "So busy I almost felt dizzy..." Perhaps she was too exhausted to write on those days.

MAY 8
Walking on the street at night, I see lovers and young people here and there, enjoying the pleasures of newly wedded bliss, holding hands, making those who look on envious.

I wish I were with Susumu-san. I pray he would come to me as soon as possible. I feel sad that I haven't received a letter from Susumu-san for about 3 days now.

May 9 would prove to be an extraordinary and fateful day for Tomoe.

Township Register • May 8, 1942

ALL JAPANESE LEAVE TOWNSHIP SATURDAY NOON!

Uniformed military police from the Presidio of San Francisco swarmed over Washington Township communities in their funny little O.D. go-carts Sunday afternoon as they hastily posted half sheets ordering all Township Japanese to register Monday and Tuesday for evacuation, at an address in Hayward.

All Japanese of our communities are to leave for the Tanforan Assembly Center by Saturday noon of this week, according to Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, dated and posted on Sunday, May 3 and issued by Lieut. General John L. De Witt.

All Japanese were required to register as families or single individuals, at 920 C street in Hayward Monday and Tuesday. All Japanese are to be evacuated to the Tanforan Assembly Center by 12 o'clock noon of this Saturday.

Any Japanese persons found in this Township after 12 o'clock Saturday noon will be subject to immediate apprehension and internment, the order states.

Evacuation of Coastal Japanese to inland reception centers has now passed the 35,000 mark, and evacuation from various areas is continuing daily.

Sayonara!



May 9, 1942

May 9 had arrived. The local JACL had issued a bulletin on April 30, and at least one uncertainty, their destination, had finally been made clear. So Tomoe, her mother, Yoshino (at center, above) and family friend Sugino Ushijima, nicely dressed for the occasion, picked up their suitcases, walked out of Sugino's front door* and were greeted by a Caucasian woman.

Dorothea Lange was in Centerville** on May 9, 1942, the day the Japanese were leaving for Tanforan Assembly Center in San Bruno, across the San Francisco Bay.

Lange made a number of photographs on the 9th, **including this one**, of the three former Alamedans on their way to the buses parked at the JACL office at 3955 Walton Avenue.*** That's how Tomoe, Yoshino and Sugino's photograph came to be made by one of America's greatest documentary photographers that day.

**The porch above has the 371 number on it, and in this case, it corresponds with the Ushijima's Rural Free Delivery (RFD) route number.*

The trio could have walked from 371 to the JACL that morning, but it's 2 miles, with luggage. It would take at least 40 minutes to do so. Sugino was 54, Yoshino was 50. Sugino's son, George, owned a 1941 Pontiac car worth $1300, but in March 1942, still owed $700 on the loan. It was likely sold or stored before this day. The Otsus did not bring their car to the Ushijimas.

***Lange was in Centerville on May 5. The next day she was in Oakland. On May 8 she made her way to both Hayward and Centerville and May 9 through 11 she was in Centerville again.*

The photo is clearly set up in advance. Did Lange arrange the photo through the JACL on May 5th or 8th? Did she give the trio a ride to the JACL office so they could board their evacuation bus on time (see next page)?

Lange considered the evacuation an act of facism and the end of democracy. She was literally sick to her stomach during this time period.

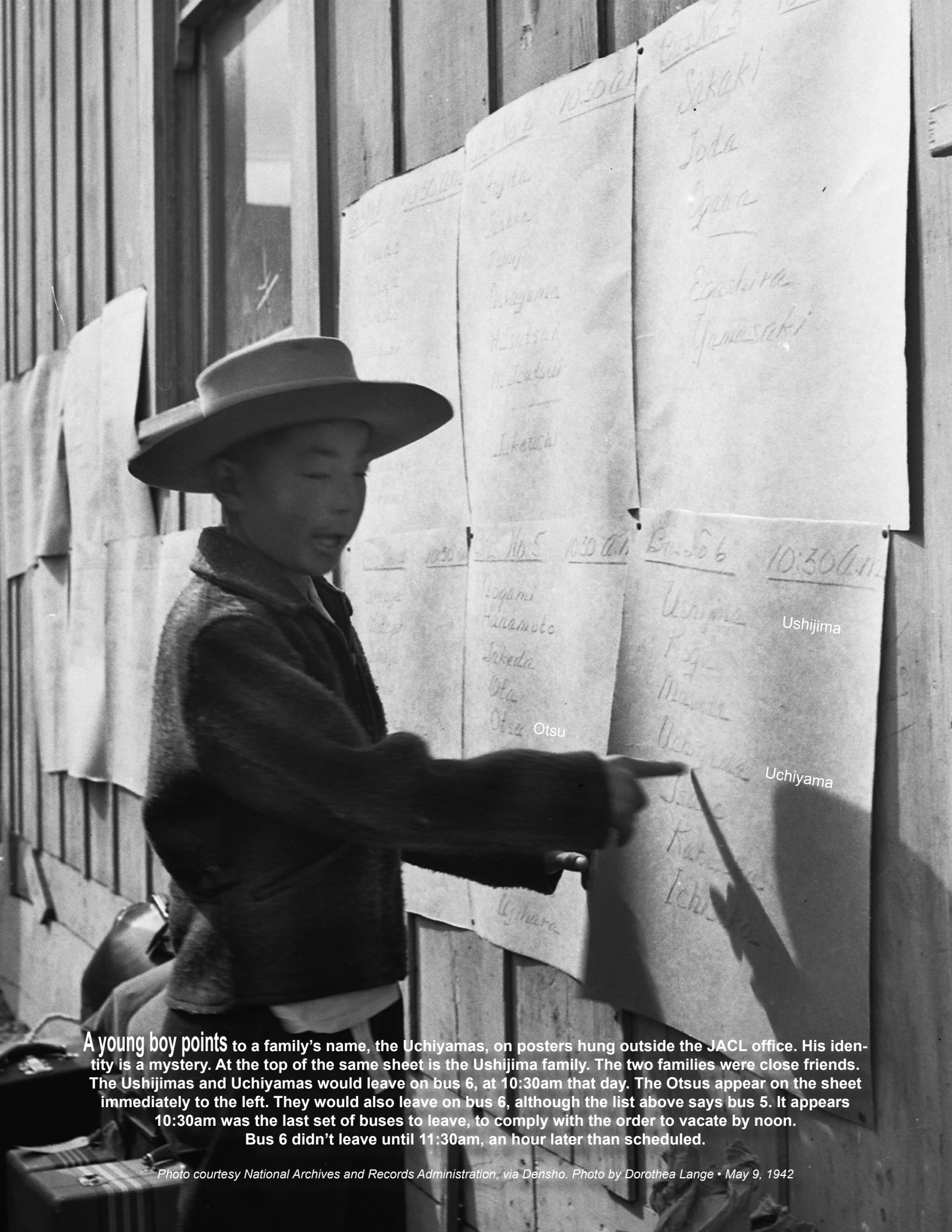
****It is unclear if the JACL building had a physical address of 3955 Walton in 1942. That may have come later. Today, the JACL building is a home but another street, Bonde Way was built between it and the church, and Walton disappeared. The home is now listed at 3810 Bonde Way.*

Photo this page courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photo by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942



Centerville Area Japanese await the bus that on this day, will take them Tanforan. At right is Sugino and son George Ushijima. Middle row, far left in white hat, is Archie Uchiyama, who Tomoe mentions in her diary. George Ushijima and brother Jimmy Kiyoshi are mentioned multiple times in the diary..

Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photo by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942



A young boy points to a family's name, the Uchiyamas, on posters hung outside the JACL office. His identity is a mystery. At the top of the same sheet is the Ushijima family. The two families were close friends. The Ushijimas and Uchiyamas would leave on bus 6, at 10:30am that day. The Otsus appear on the sheet immediately to the left. They would also leave on bus 6, although the list above says bus 5. It appears 10:30am was the last set of buses to leave, to comply with the order to vacate by noon. Bus 6 didn't leave until 11:30am, an hour later than scheduled.

Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photo by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942

Alameda Island Japanese families living in the Washington Township in 1942

Fujimoto, Ryoji
Hitomi, Mitsu
Imazumi
Iwaihara
Kamada, Asa
Kikuchi, Tsuruno
Kinoshita, Tokuji
Kodama, Motokichi
Koga, Matao & Shigeko
Kondo, Umetaro & Takiye
Kozen, Kenjiro & Kishiko
Kumagai, Toshio & Mitsuno
Kuwano, Densaburo & Asono
Matsuura, Kumazo & Saki
Mikami, Naoyamon & Koshie
Mitani, Enji
Madokoro, Heizaburo & Suga
Motoyoshi, Rev. Joshin & Yukiko
Narahara, Toki
Nakamura, Yukino
Nakayama, Kakunojo & Tane
Noda, Yokichi & Nobuye
Ota, Zentaro & Fukuyo
Otsu, Yoshino & Tomoe
Suzawa, Ryoichi & Ayako
Takeda, Risaburo & Ayako
Umene, Torakichi & Hiwa
Ushijima, Sugino
Yamashita, Moriji & Yoshino
Yamashita, Matsuzo & Furu
Yoshimura, Kazuo & Fude

This list may be incomplete

May 9·1942

The left side of the JACL office faces Walton, the Williams Brothers buildings & Centerville train station. (see next page).

The Centerville Presbyterian Church & cemetery is across from the JACL. The dark building at right was torn down at some point.

Isseis and Niseis wait for their bus at the JACL office at 3955 Walton Ave.

3963 Walton



This is a composite of two of Lange's photos of the JACL office at 3955 Walton Avenue, and is the only look at the entire building. Photos courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photos by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942


The Centerville JACL in 1939
see previous page
Lange is about here to make the photo on the previous page
JACL
3955
Walton
Centerville church cemetery
Williams Bros
Centerville Presbyterian Church steeple
3963 Walton
Walton Avenue
Williams Bros
Centerville-Irvington Rd
Centerville Railroad Station before it was relocated

Headquarters
Western Defense Command
and Fourth Army

Presidio of San Francisco, California
May 3, 1942

Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34

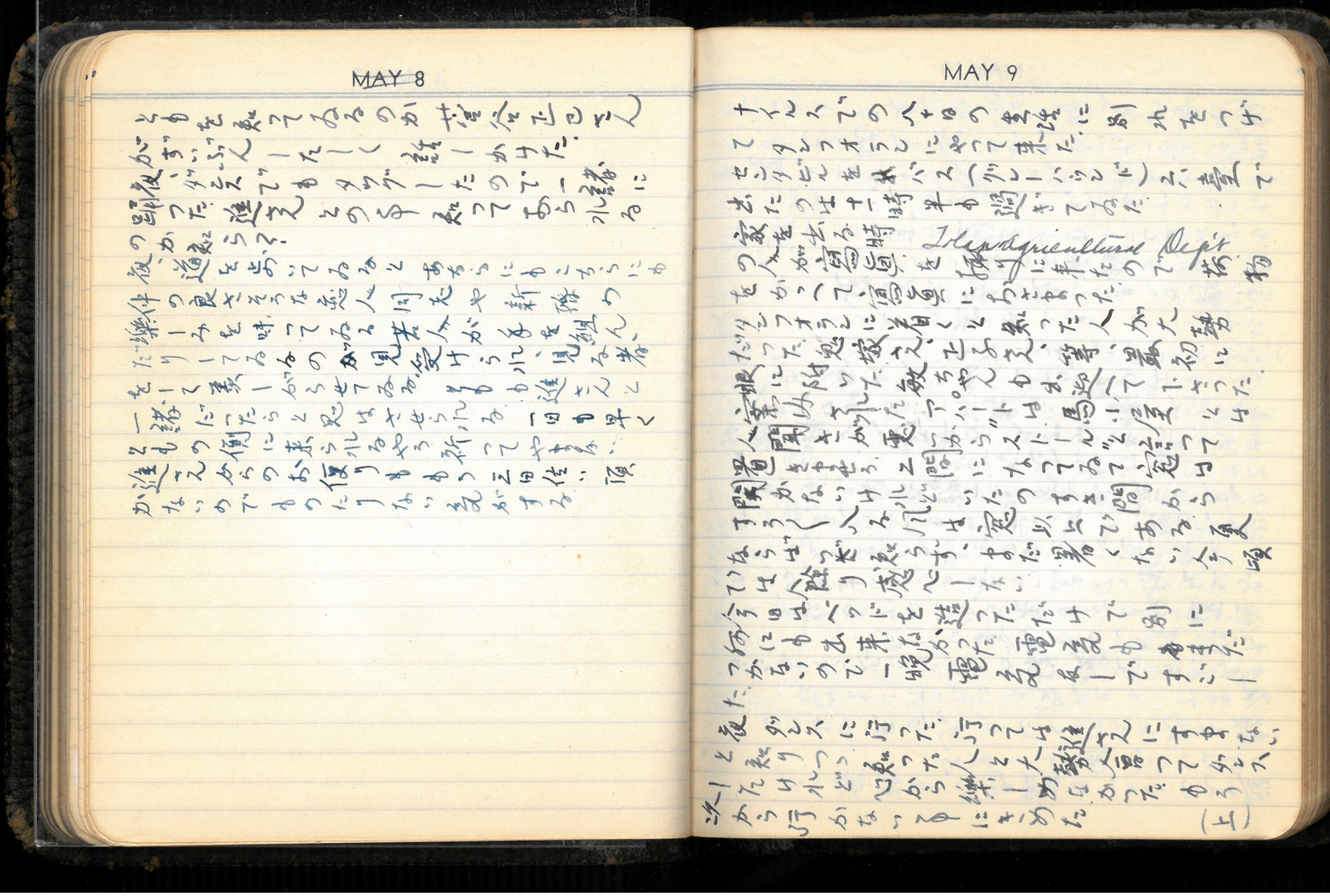
1. Pursuant to the provisions of Public Proclamations Nos. 1 and 2, this Headquarters, dated March 2, 1942, and March 16, 1942, respectively, it is hereby ordered that from and after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., of Saturday, May 9, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, be excluded from that portion of Military Area No. 1 described as follows:

All of that portion of the County of Alameda, State of California, within the boundary beginning at the point where the southerly limits of the City of Oakland meet San Francisco Bay; thence easterly and following the southerly limits of said city to U. S. Highway No. 50; thence southerly and easterly on said Highway No. 50 to its intersection with California State Highway No. 21; thence southerly on said Highway No. 21 to its intersection, at or near Warm Springs, with California State Highway No. 17; thence southerly on said Highway No. 17 to the Alameda-Santa Clara County line; thence westerly and following said county line to San Francisco Bay; thence northerly, and following the shoreline of San Francisco Bay to the point of beginning.



CEO 34 states that on May 9, 1942, the Japanese in portions of the County of Alameda, including the greater Centerville area, be excluded (removed) from those areas, as seen on the map they included in the order. The map is cropped down to just show some of the Washington Township vicinity. Dorothea Lange could have made the photo below in the parking lot of the Centerville Presbyterian Church.

Photo courtesy National Archives and Records Administration, via Densho. Photo by Dorothea Lange • May 9, 1942



On May 9, Tomoe wrote about the day she left for Tanforan:

After stayed at Niles for 80 days, we came to Tanforan. I left Centerville by Greyhound bus 6 at a little after 11:30. Upon arrival at the Tanforan, the personnel of the Tolan Agriculture Dept. took our picture with our belongings.

We saw many our friends, Onizuka-san and Masako-san, etc. Toshi-chan, who arrived before us welcomed us. The place they showed us for our stay used to be a horse stable, but let's call it as "STALL," which has two rooms with two stationed windows, and the boarded drafty walls that are not impressive.

Only thing we could do today is build the bed, the electricity is not installed yet so we slept without the lights.

I went to a dance at night thinking about Susumu-san and feeling very guilty, but I danced with my many friends. However I never enjoyed it without Susumu.

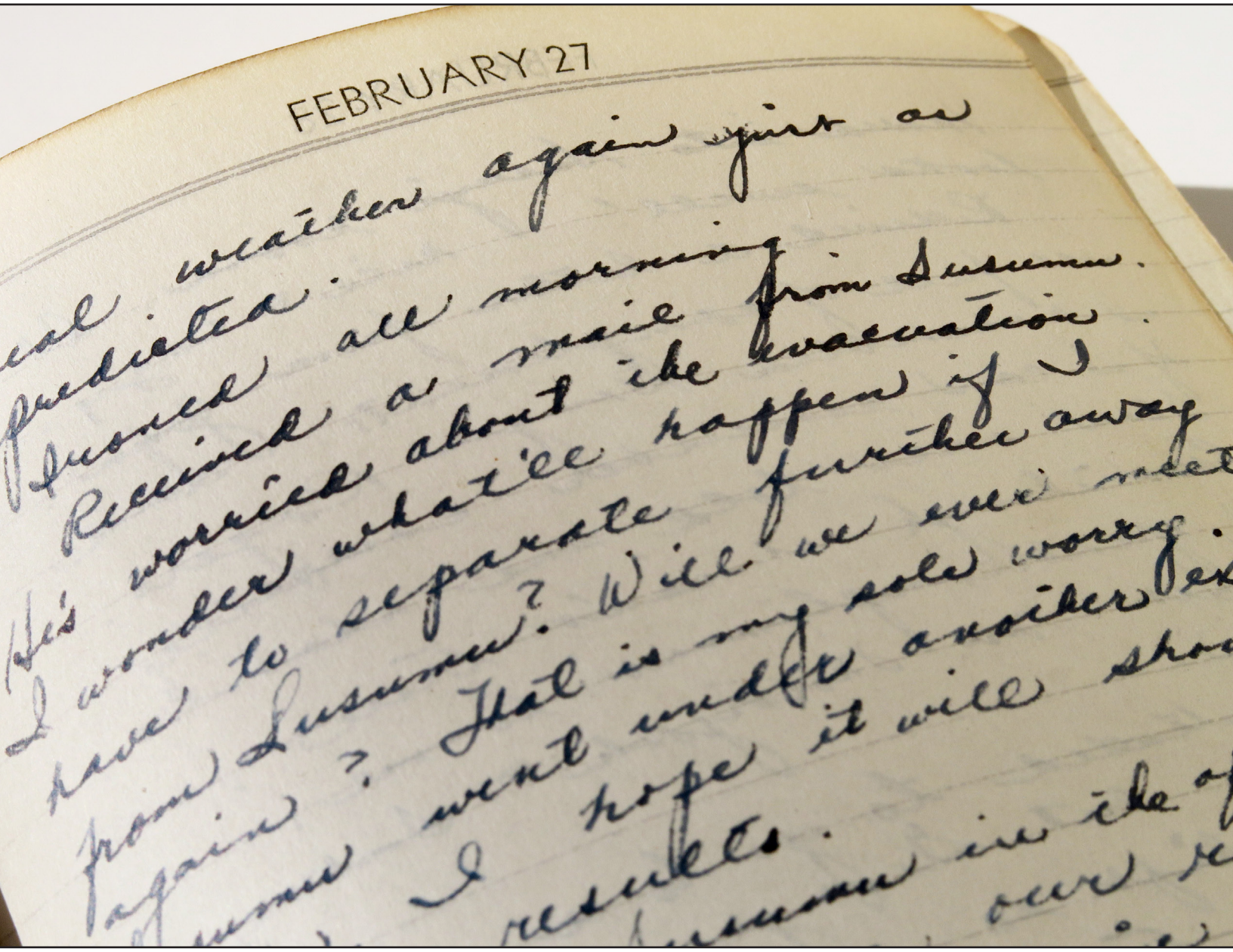
Masami Sugaya talked to me intimately as he knows me well. We danced together, but I couldn't enjoy it without Susumu. I'm wondering if he knows my relation with Susumu. I decided not going to dance anymore. On the way back, I witnessed many intimate couples, that makes me envious. I wish I would be with Susumu. I feel lonely since I haven't heard from Susumu for 3 days.

Tomoe Otsu Tomine's diary, photographs and information were made available for the general public by her family; Amy Tomine, Naomi Tomine Ellis and Eugene Tomine.



Special thanks to:

John Arai: Southern Alameda Buddhist Temple.
Harry Avila, Fremont resident and local historian.
Richard Cahan and Michael Williams: *Un-American* book.
Kelsey Camello, President of the Washington Township Museum of Local History in Fremont, CA. Information about RFD routes, the Washington Township, photos, documents and much more!
Jane Carr, Reference librarian at the Fremont Library.
Caroline Davis, Centerville Librarian. Wash Township information.
Linda Gordon and Gary Y. Okihito: Editors of the book *Impounded*, which documents Dorothea Lange and her photographs.
Stuart Guedon, Archeologist and Historic Geographer, Basin Research Associates and volunteer at the Washington Township Museum. Assistance with the Walton/Bonde neighborhood, maps, photos and much general expertise.
Takako Hayakawa: Japanese translation.
Lynn Heidelbaugh, Curator, History Department, The Smithsonian National Postal Museum Washington, DC. Information about RFD routes.
Bill Helfman: *Author: Sun Rising in the Eastern Sky: Japanese Americans in Washington Township, 1920-1942.* Information about Joshin Motoyoshi, the Township and the JACL.
Sachiko Kamiji Fudenna, her sister Michiko Kamiji Handa, Bob & Elaine Fudenna: Kamiji & Fudenna family information, Rev. Joshin Motoyoshi information. Sachiko & Michiko were teenagers when they boarded their bus at the Centerville JACL on May 9, 1942. As of 2022, they are still living in the Fremont area.
Tsuyako "Sox" Kataoka Kitashima & Joy Morimoto: Book: *Birth of an activist: the Sox Kitashima story.*
Kayanne Lam, City of Fremont: She located the 3955 Walton Ave address of the JACL office in Centerville.
Dorothea Lange: Documentary photographer. Thanks for the great photos, Dorothea!
Jenny Lynch, Historian and Corporate Information Services Manager, The United States Post Office: Assistance with RFD routes.
S. Maeda: Front cover art of Tomoe, 1937.
Alan Mikuni: Access to the 1942 JACL documents used in this document. He is one of the four remaining members of the Fremont JACL.
Brian Niiya: Content Director, Densho.
Patsy Obayashi: Transcribed the diary, thanks Patsy!
Rev. Dr. Greg Roth: Information about Centerville Presbyterian Church and the Walton Avenue neighborhood. He served CPC for 24 years and is also a local historian.
Yukiko Tanaka and family: Japanese translation.
Archie Uchiyama and his daughters, Gale Salazar, Jane Uchiyama and Kathy Takayama: Uchiyama family information. Archie is 102-years-old, and is still with us as of 2022.
David Ushijima, Sugino's grandson.
Sachiyo Yamasaki: Japanese translation.



See Part Two of this diary, which covers May 10 to the end of 1942.
To read even further about the love between Sus and Tomo, see the PDF,
"The Picture Worth a Thousand Lifetimes."

Thank you for reading.

ALAMEDA Japanese American HISTORY PROJECT

One Year Diary



A page from Tomoe Otsu Tomine's 1942 World War II diary. Sometimes she wrote in English, sometimes in Japanese. She was from Alameda, CA.

MAY 10

朝七時から八時の間の食事にやつと
間に合つた。それから窓を洗つたり、
カーテンを掛けたりした。今日は日曜日
だつたので手をかして下さる人もなかつた
のでクロセットも出来上らず、只原
野さんから棚を二つ造つてもらつただけ。
原野さんもお気の毒に、マヽ達の手
にかゝつては一も二も無い。とろ〳〵
ひつかつたと言ふ仕末。
今日は"奴の日"だつた。仰い奴のおんも
キャンプで掛した。野外でのプログラム
があつた。キャンプではお奴さんへの贈物
とて出来ず残念だつた。
夕食は敏ちやん等と一緒に向ふの食
堂で頂いた。何と言つても一つの食堂で
千人位食べさせるのだからたまらない。
お皿を持つて立つて居るのもまろゐでない。
佐藤さんも今日来られたのでお訪ねし
た。野村さんにもお會ひした。
夕方から空模様が変だと思つてゐたら
夜までには見ん降りになつてしまつた。
顔を洗ひに行くにも大分歩かないと
いけないので困つてしまふ。
進さんにこゝでの最初の手紙書いた。

MAY 11

夕べ夕方から霧雨になつてゐたが間
もなく本降りになつてしまつた。屋根の
底い馬小屋では機カン銃の音も顔負
けする位いだつた。
朝眼をさますと朝日は光々と照つて
ゐた。雨はやんだが道はぬかつて歩けな
くなつて居た。食事に行くにも雨靴で
行つた。
朝ポストオフィスに行くとメールは日に二回
出て二回はいだつされると聞いた。
お晝から山本さんの所で佐藤さん等と
お話し居り、敏ちやんのマンドリンを聞いたり
して過した。夕食は又敏ちやんなんかと
一緒に頂いた。後佐藤さん、敏ちやん、ふじ
子さんがそもの所に来て、コーヒーをわかし
夕食残りのブレドをトーストして頂いた。
久しぶりのコーヒーらしいコーヒーだつた。
此方に来る事になつてゐた太田さんが八モナ
に送られたと聞いて可愛相に思つた。
お友達から取りはなされた太田さんも
残念に思つておられるでせう。

Two pages from Tomoe Otsu Tomine's 1942 World War II diary. Sometimes she wrote in English, sometimes in Japanese. Japanese is written vertically and read right to left. She was from Alameda, CA.

MARCH 24

A new curfew has been established restricting the movements of all Japanese, American citizen alike, alien Italians + alien Germans. Under this law those affected must be at home between 8:00 p.m. + 6 a.m. and can only travel within five miles. A special permit is essential to travel outside of these limits. This is to go into effect Friday morning, March 27th.

Received a letter from Chizu in regards to the furniture we left behind. They are planning to rent their house.

Received a letter from Susumu.

MARCH 25

Nothing unusual; just the idea of being locked up after the 27th is sickening.

Went to San Jose with Harry George, Sam + Sataye to see the town for the last time.

Saw "The Man Who Came To Dinner". Good comedy.

Received a letter from Tatemi. He is returning to L. J. today.

Inamura Sob has gone back to Stockton.

Two pages from Tomoe Otsu Tomine's 1942 World War II diary. Sometimes she wrote in English, sometimes in Japanese. She was from Alameda, CA.

FEBRUARY 27

Ideal weather again just as
I predicted.
Received all morning
He's worried
I wonder what'll
have to separate
from Lusumu? Will we ever meet
again? That is my sole worry.
Lusumu went under another exa-
I hope it will show
results.