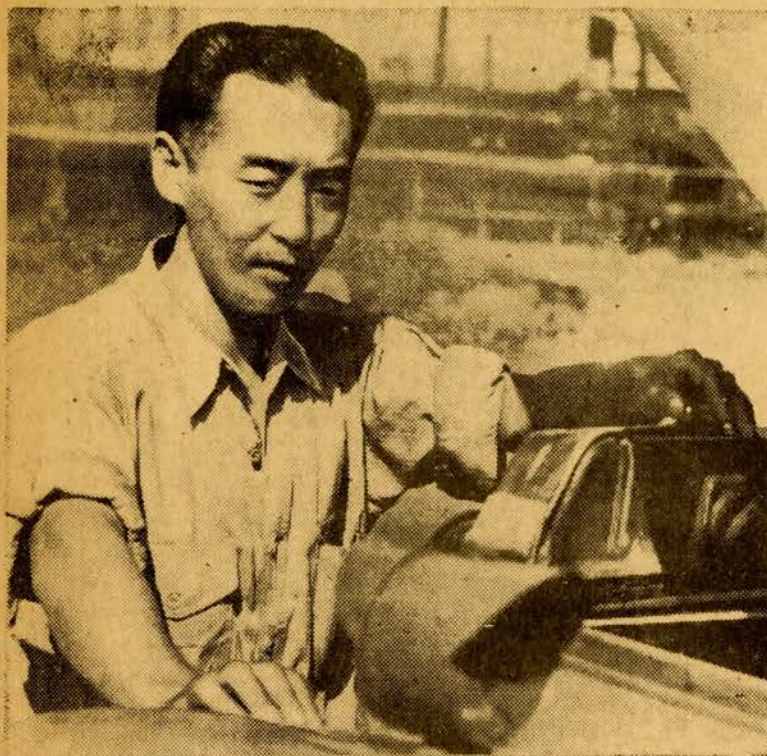


200 Jap-Americans Relocated Here

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PHILADELPHIA RECORD
August 20, 1943



Henry Odagawa, who formerly was manager of a \$3,000,000 business on the West Coast, now works as a truck driver for a produce firm here.



Mrs. Chujoko Taukahara Hirako, whose husband is in the U. S. Army, works at the office of the National Japanese-American Student Relocation Council.



Tad Tomita (left) and Shiro Shiaishi wait on a customer at the Swarthmore Co-operative.

(Cont'd. Page 2)

Internees Stress Their Loyalty

More than 200 Japanese-Americans, moved from their homes on the West Coast by the Government, have found a haven in Philadelphia during the last two months.

Through the War Relocation Authority, all have found jobs or have resumed studies they began in universities in the Western Defense Zone, now barred to them.

Among these "relocated" Nisei, or American-born Japanese, are a bacteriologist, a physician, several trained nurses, truck drivers, produce merchants, stenographers, a baby chick sexer, a machinist, several domestics, and a few agricultural workers.

And all, without exception, agreed they had received a friendly welcome and fair treatment at the hands of Philadelphians.

Hard on Them

It was hard on many of them, for all were required on short notice to dispose of all the possessions they could not carry and move into one of the 10 relocation centers established in the area east of the Rockies and west of the Mississippi River.

Needless to say, all took losses on those forced sales and many had to give up lucrative businesses or medical or law practices.

Typical is Henry Odagawa, general manager of the Three Star Produce Company, of Los Angeles, a concern which did a \$3,000,000 annual gross business.

When, after Pearl Harbor, he and 135,000 other Japanese (many of them, like him, born in America and educated in American schools) were ordered out of the West Coast by the Army, he had to give up his well-paid job, sell his home for "a fraction of what it cost me," and move with his wife and children to a barracks in the Colorado River Relocation Center.

There they remained, interned not only with loyal Japanese-Americans but also with the disloyal element, who propagandized continually against the United States. Meanwhile the backgrounds and affiliations of all of the temporary internees was checked by the Federal

(Cont'd. from Page 1)

Bureau of Investigation, Army and Navy Intelligence, and other agencies.

Finds a Job

Those found to be loyal were permitted to register for new jobs with the WRA, and Henry C. Patterson, relocation officer in Philadelphia, finally found a job for Odagawa.

The onetime manager of the big Los Angeles produce firm now is working as a truck driver for a West Philadelphia food concern, at a modest salary—and is thankful to have even that.

Looking forward to a family reunion in the near future is Chujoko Tsukahara Hiraoka, an attractive young Japanese-American whose husband, Yoshimi, is a private in a regiment now in training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Mrs. Hiraoka, who comes from Santa Barbara, is now working as a stenographer for the National Japanese-American Relocation Council, in the Commonwealth Building.

Like the others, she feels no bitterness toward the United States.

"I hated to leave Santa Barbara, which I think is the most beautiful spot in the world," she said, "but I suppose we would have had to leave anyway, whether the Government forced us to or not, because feeling against anyone of Japanese extraction is very high on the West Coast."

Her husband, she said, had been out of law school only a few months and was just beginning to work up a good practice when the expulsion order was issued. He was one of the first of the 10,000 Japanese-Americans in relocation centers who volunteered for the Army.

Like the others who have relocated here, Mrs. Hiraoka frequently is stopped on the street by policemen, who demand her nationality.

She usually gets by by showing her Government identification card.

Works at Hospital

Among other Japanese-Americans who are building new lives here are Henry Sigiura, now a bacteriologist at Wilmington Memorial Hospital, and his wife, a student at the Women's Medical College; Sachi Anraku, of

Los Angeles, now secretary to Patterson in the WRA office in the Stephen Girard Building here; A. W. Tada, who works for a large Philadelphia cleaning and dyeing establishment; Tad Tomita and Shiro Shirashi, who now run the produce department in the Swarthmore Co-operative Store, and Tomita's sister, Mitsy, a nurse at the Pennsylvania Hospital.

One "refugee" from a relocation center is working in a large defense plant in the Nicetown section, another is making parts for Army vehicles in a plant near Lansdale, a third is working in the Whittier Hotel, 15th and Race sts., as a night watchman.

About 50 of the 200 are continuing their interrupted studies at Temple University and Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges.

"And all of them," said Patterson, "have proved themselves loyal Americans."

May Be Blessing

"This relocation program may prove a good thing in the end, however, for it will spread them through the community and force them to associate with people of other racial backgrounds instead of herding together in small, predominantly Japanese, sections. Thus, eventually, they probably will become even better Americans."

Patterson said he has experienced no difficulty in obtaining jobs for his charges, and at prevailing rates of pay, for his office is continually flooded with phone calls from prospective employers.

"The demand for domestic help is the greatest," he said, "and we have now reached the point where we no longer can supply domestics. Those experienced in that work were the first to leave the camp, and the group we now have available are the young, intelligent Japanese-Americans who formerly held good jobs on the coast."

Many of the 90,000 still in the relocation centers are hesitant to leave them for fear of the treatment they will receive at the hands of their fellow-Americans of other racial backgrounds, according to Patterson.

"As far as Philadelphia is concerned," he said, "they need have no fears, for we have yet to hear of a single case in which a Japanese-American was mistreated here, and all are still in the jobs in which we placed them."

The Nisei in Cleveland

To the man on the battlefield every soldier shooting in his direction represents the same degree of physical threat. He may well lump them all, impersonally, as the enemy.

But we at home, knowing danger and hardship only vicariously, are likely to let our feelings toward our foes be graded by emotional reaction and we have set up separate classifications for the Italians, the Germans and the Japs.

Many Americans cannot resist a friendly impulse to blame all of Italy's evils on Mussolini and to remark of his people, Oh, well, perhaps they aren't such a bad lot at heart after all.

We resent the German arrogance and grudgingly acknowledge their skill and courage as fighters. We are coldly determined to whip them soundly and lastingly, by the methodical application of pressure and power.

For the Japanese, we reserve a flaming hatred and bitter contempt. Their savage treachery and their barbarity we would wish to repay through remorseless unremitting assault until their home island is crumbled and shattered. We seek not only victory, but vengeance.

Because of that feeling, the lot among us of Americans of Japanese descent has been extremely difficult. All of us, sprung from other soils, think nothing of Americans of German ancestry or Americans of Italian origin except that they and we are all Americans together, fighting for a common cause. But the Japanese-Americans, so-called, have instinctive mistrust and suspicion to overcome.

An example of that is the action of the Ohio American Legion convention voting to demand return to confinement of the Nisei, the American-born Japanese who are qualified citizens of this country. Their release, it was charged, endangers civilian morale. The implication is that we must suspect their loyalty.

The Nisei, along with all Japanese on the West Coast, were sent to inland camps shortly after Pearl Harbor. Now the War Relocation Authority is slowly re-establishing them in new homes and jobs through the country. We are told that their loyalty is thoroughly checked by the authority, with a supplemental, although cursory, check by the F. B. I.

More than 300 of these Nisei have come into Cleveland. The Relocation authorities here report that they have been received without any unpleasant incidents. Certainly, as American citizens, they have American rights and privileges, unless there is sound reason to doubt their allegiance. Cleveland conforms to its tradition of tolerance and liberality in helping them. make their contributions to a war for freedom.

* * * Free Jap-Americans Who Are Loyal, Plea of Teachers' Union

The American Federation of Teachers yesterday urged President Roosevelt and the war relocation board "to release speedily from the relocation centers all American citizens of Japanese descent and all Japanese whose loyalty to the United States and its democratic institutions is unquestioned."

At its 27th annual convention in the La Salle hotel the federation also took a stand against special restrictions on the immigration of Chinese and other Asiatics and recommended that the federal government strengthen and support the fair employment practice committee in order to combat racial and religious discrimination in this country.

Other resolutions urged support of the anti-poll tax bill and recommended that congress be encouraged to pledge the United States' participation in a world federation based on democratic principles and international cooperation.

THE OREGONIAN (Portland)
August 27, 1943

Stand on Japs Cost Him Job, Carr Claims

PORTLAND, Ore.—(P)—Former Gov. Ralph Carr of Colorado Friday blamed the west's Japanese problem for his defeat at the polls last year.

"I guess I was the only inland governor who expressed a willingness to take the Japanese from the coast states . . . I told my secretary that this would finish me politically in the state and my prediction came true," he said in a Journal interview.

"Interpreting the constitution as a lawyer I could take no other stand. That part of the constitution about all men being created equal and being guaranteed equal right as citizens has no amendment excluding Japanese, Jews, Catholics or anyone else. This is war, and we have to protect our country against enemies, but to condemn an entire race and refuse to accept American citizens of that race into our state seemed wrong to me.

"As it turned out the Japanese saved a good part of our sugar beet crop last year, and we are using them in our harvest fields again this year."

American-Japanese Win Confidence



THIS A. P. WIREPHOTO is from Des Moines, Iowa. Fellow garage employees of Fred Kitigawa (left) and Chester Ishii, former Los Angeles residents, voted 13 to 2 for keeping the American-born Japanese mechanics after A. B. Chambers, company head, heard of "objections" to his having hired them.

SACRAMENTO BEE

August 31, 1943

WRA Leader Says No Evacuees Have Done Sabotage

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 31.—(AP) Thomas W. Holland, Washington, D. C., head of the employment division of the War Relocation Authority, asserted yesterday at a conference of WRA officials from six northwestern states that Japanese evacuees from war relocation centers have yet to commit a single act of sabotage.

Holland said only about 15,000 of the 105,000 Japanese in the United States have pledged allegiance to Japan. "These," he added, "will be moved to Tule Lake, Calif., beginning shortly after September 1st."

Holland said hundreds of Japanese are being recruited for sugar beet harvests.

Japanese who have been given indefinite leaves from relocation centers are finding new homes and new opportunities to make a living. Holland said:

We have not had one complaint that any of these Japanese who are given leave have engaged in subversive activities.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

August 24, 1943

Center Japs Told Of Son's Safety

SACATON, Aug. 23—Tech. Sgt. Kazuo Komoto, son of Japanese-Americans residing at the Gila River War Relocation Authority Center near here, is recovering "normally" from wounds received in the Southwest Pacific, the war department has notified relatives.

Sergeant Komoto was inducted in March, 1941, entered the Camp Savage Japanese language school in Minnesota, and was sent to the Pacific area in January of this year.

It was while he was in service that his family, including four brothers, were evacuated from their home near Sanger, Calif., and sent to the center near here. One brother now is working in Chicago.

News of his injury was sent the family on July 30, but it was kept from his mother until the war department sent its telegram of his convalescence.

Intolerance

To the Editor: Let me express my appreciation of the story in *The Oregonian* of the happenings at the Japanese cemetery. Not being an eye witness but familiar with both groups involved, I was grateful for what sounded like a true account.

I can see no connection between this frustrated attempt to do a Christian act for an absent Buddhist brother and the winning of the war. I can see a very definite foundation being established for the future peace which we like to call just and durable. If this hoped for peace is being built on intolerance of other religious beliefs, desire for vengeance and a denial of civil rights then all our mothers of new babies may expect them to continue the struggle another generation. These are the things our boys went abroad to fight against—now they seem to be developing on the home front.

In the July News Bulletin, published by the University of Iowa is an article telling of a very successful school of religion established there in 1927 we find this thought:

"Through the years, the School of Religion has grown into a judicious force standing out against prejudice, misrepresentation, cynicism and indifference, representing a prayer for understanding and co-operation among the religious faiths of the nation."

Surely Portland needs a judicious religious force standing out against such a demonstration of prejudice and intolerance as was shown at the Japanese cemetery.

I write as one actively interested in Portland inter-faith work.

FERN S. GAGE,
Rt. 6, box 1076,
Portland, 1.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

August 31, 1943

Point of View

Editor—Many people believe the American citizens of Japanese origin cannot absorb our point of view. They say that if Americans lived in Japan for several generations they would still be Americans. History shows many cases where immigrants' point of view has changed radically from that of their point of origin. The American Colonies revolted from England. South American countries continued to speak Spanish and Portuguese, yet they revolted from their mother countries. The German Kaiser, at the beginning of the last war, could not conceive that a great many American citizens of German origin had adopted the American point of view. LEONARD A. TALBOT.

Santa Rosa.