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Outline

I. Family Life on the Tule Lake Project

A. Daily routine

1. Of father
2. Of mother
3. Of big sister
4. Of brother
5. Of little brother

B. Social life

1. Of sister
2. Of brother
3. Of father
4. Of mother

C. Problems

1. Of mother
2. Of father
3. Of sister
4. Of brother

Family Life on the Tule Lake Project

The family life on the Tule Lake Project is quite simple. Each morning after breakfast father leaves for work, mother prepares to do the washing or house cleaning, big sister starts for her job at the hospital, brother is off for school and the little brother is ready for another day of play. As the morning passes everyone comes home for lunch, except for big sister who eats at the hospital mess. As soon as lunch is over every-

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one is off again to his own work or play. Around five o'clock in the evening, one by one the members of the family again return home and clean up, ready to go to supper. After supper mother may go to a night class of some sort, father probably sits down and reads the paper, sister goes visiting, the brother starts his homework, and little brother tired from a day of play jumps into bed. This is the ordinary day for the average family at the Tule Lake Project.

Then too there is the social part of the family life. Some nights sister goes to a party and brother goes to a school dance. Other times father invites some friends over to play bridge and mother goes to a artificial flower-making class. All these things take very good care of the social life of the family.

Of course, in the routine family life there are problems. Mother has a hard time washing the clothes in the very hard water, father wonders how he's going to get lumber for the porch that ought to be built before winter, sister worries about the entrance application that she sent in for a certain university, and brother is stumped over a physics problem and a paper that he has to hand in for another class dealing with problems of democracy.

With a few problems, some home life and a little social life, the average family on the Tule Lake Project gets along very nicely.

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Outline of Family Life in Tulelake

- I. Good points
 - A. Cooperative spirit
 - B. Common ideas
 - C. Harmony
- II. Bad points
 - A. Sanitation
 - B. Climate
 - C. Fire hazards
 - D. Juvenile conduct
 - E. Education
- III. Improvements
 - A. Sanitation
 - B. Recreation
 - C. Education
 - D. Labor
- IV. Tuleans effort for welfare of colony

Camp life or rather collective living affects any individual or group, in a good way or vice-versa. Every individual gains or learns more or less through this routine-like life.

For instance, everybody utilizes the same mess hall, laundry, ironing room so cooperation and responsibility among the colonists results. These conditions finally forge into the fact that most of the colonists have ideas in common and thus result in good understanding and cooperation of each and all, and peace and harmony among them.

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Collective life in camp or not has some defective points. Sanitary conditions are not to be scorned especially in a community like this where cleanliness must be followed to the word. Though no bad epidemic of disease is possible the sanitation of the community can be improved yet. For weak and age persons the life here is of much strain on their life span. Smokes hang over the community like a cloud and the dust and intense cold; the fire hazards always ready to threaten the whole camp.

The educational facilities of the community through the great effort of the government, not to mention the great deeds and sacrifices by the teachers, is surprisingly efficient. Under this abnormal condition and atmosphere some teachers and pupils feel uneasy and restless, resulting in conduct of the latter. Out of school, juvenile with inadequate recreational facilities gather and there results another additional problem for the colony.

Furthermore, this life is taking most effect on the attitude and mental condition of the colonists. The tendency to rely upon the government and others increases daily.

These conditions prevailing throughout the camp can be improved and remedied in many ways. Indoor stages and gymnasium can be built and a better library system can be possible.

The employment situation is another matter to be considered. Boys under sixteen years are working and unskilled persons are holding offices, whereas the experienced are left with odd jobs. These conditions can be remedied with a few efforts by the placement offices and can be of much to the welfare and the good of the community.

All in all, Tuleans are satisfied with the life and security they find here and should endeavor to do their best and utmost for the welfare and good of the community.

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(Female)

FAMILY LIFE IN TULELAKE PROJECT

- I. Family life in Tulelake
 - A. Has ups and downs
 - B. Different trouble from outside
- II. Bad side of colony life
 - A. Separation of members of family
 - 1. In living
 - 2. At mealtime
 - 3. From the father
 - B. Family quarrels; in-law trouble
 - C. Education threatened
 - 1. Studying lessons and attending school
 - 2. Boys from Hawaii
 - D. Wrong concept of life by children
- III. Advantages of being here
 - A. Opportunities
 - 1. To learn and to do
 - 2. More time
 - B. Improvement of health
 - C. Making new friends
- IV. Thankfulness for Tulelake Project
 - A. Away from disrupted world
 - B. Bear with the bad

FAMILY LIFE IN TULELAKE PROJECT

Family life in Tulelake Project has its ups and down just as family life has elsewhere. But its troubles are quite different from the ones outside. In the following paragraphs, I shall look at the problems from the sociological point of view.

The bad side of the colony life is presented in many and unusual circumstances. Members of a family who ordinarily would live together are sometimes living separately because of desire or for necessity. The majority of the young folks live apart from their parents because they want more freedom, privacy, or they just want to get away from the noisy and crowded room. There is another way a family may be separated. In numerous blocks the mess halls do not have any seating arrangement, just seating the people as they come in. There are some parents who insist upon the children eating with them but some do not. This brings up a serious problem. The children may not be eating the right thing as they would under the parent's guiding eyes. There are a few blocks that have a regular seating arrangement with one family at one table. This arrangement should be followed by all the other blocks for the sake of the children. Many families are suffering because the father is interned at another camp. It is distressing to see these young mothers enduring undo hardships of bringing up young ones alone. Kind and understanding folks help them, but the firm guidance and companionship of a father is needed. To help these unfortunate families, the father should be either permitted to join them here or the families be sent up to him.

Family quarrels and troubles are no doubt numerous in the crowded quarters in which we live. As in normal times the in-law trouble exists

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here also. Here is a case in which a lady, whose husband is interned, is living with two widows. She will not live with her daughter and son-in-law because she absolutely does not get along with the latter. She made a wise choice, yet she is not happy where she is. A rather egotistical person; she is always complaining about being aroused from her sleep when her roommates go to work in the morning. If the joining of her and her husband is impossible, the best solution to the problem would be to permit her to have a room for herself.

Education is being threatened in this very camp. Some of the students are unable to study sufficiently because of the disturbance which are likely to come up from a overflowing room. There are others who do not even try to study, or worse still. some who do not attend school. This lack of interest and ambition may be partly due to the parents. It is the duty of the parents to see that their children attend school. Numerous boys from Hawaii, prior to evacuation, were attending Sacramento Junior College. Some were fortunate enough to be able to leave for the East before evacuation. The others are in this camp, apart from their families under these uncertain conditions, and losing much of their precious time which they were going to spend in attaining their education. This perplexing question, however, will be solved in due time, for most of them are financially able to continue their education elsewhere.

A somewhat different aspect comes into my mind. Possibly we will be in here quite a long time, then suddenly out of here to lead again a normal life. It is likely that some of the children will have the wrong concept of life. As we are being accustomed to having things handed to us, they might think the same thing is true outside. Trouble may arise when they

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just wait for their food without working for it. Here again the parents must teach for the future.

There are advantages to balance the inadvantages in this colony, also. Until now, the farmer's wife never had the opportunity to learn anything. She probably worked in the field all day, cooked for the family, and performed various other duties that left no time for learning. This is true of others also. Now everyone has equal opportunity learning something which she might have wanted to for years, absolutely free of charge. Never will such a favorable occasion appear again. Men and boys are spending hours and days on beautiful hand work, which would never have been done if we were not in here. Everyone is enjoying and making use of the time and the opportunities offered here.

I know of some person both young and old, whose health has improved tremendously after coming here. They are very thankful for this. A number of families would have been unable to feed or clothe themselves if they were outside now.

We will never cease making new friends here. They may become valuable life-long friends. One may even meet his or her life mate while here.

With its good side we can be very thankful to be here, away from all the turmoil, disruptions, and war hysteria of the world which is likely existing out of Tulelake Project. With its bad we must bear, for there is nowhere on earth where trouble does not exist, in family life or in other respects,

Family Life in Tule Lake Project

- I. Society
- II. Attitude
 - A. Parents and children
 - B. Influences
- III. Disadvantages
 - A. Living Conditions
 - B. Family relationship
- IV. Advantages
 - A. Adult education
 - B. Employment
- V. Personal opinion

Society never remains the same for it is constantly changing. In days of peace there is the unnoticeable gradual change in society, while in war-torn days as today the changing is more obvious and rapid. We, Americans of Japanese ancestry living here in Tule Lake, face somewhat a more distinct social change different from the communities in the outside world.

At present there are colonists who still possess the feeling of bitterness towards the government for the relocation movement as they did at the time of evacuation. Even some second generations feel the injustice of the citizens being under the same classification as the aliens. Many of the older people, first generations, who are stubborn and irritable, have the desire of stirring up disturbance and disorder within the project. Community disorders influence the family a great deal. Differences in opinions between the parents and the older children result in clashes

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within the family. These disorders may be blamed to a certain extent to the fact that many older individuals here are incapable of taking up community leadership. Most of the clear thinking personalities of intelligence are elsewhere in the alien internment camps.

There are many problems existing in Tule Lake which fall on the negative side. The concentration of such a great number and a variety of people in such a limited space takes away the enjoyment of home life. We do not have the same privacy as we once did at our respective homes. The housing standard of four, five, and in some cases even six persons to an apartment is very uncomfortable. Housekeepers have a harder task in doing their daily labor by hand, when while back home they relied mostly upon the aid of machines. We cannot enjoy meal times as a time for family gathering. In this society the family is not as closely bounded as it used to be.

As it is in everything, there is some good found as well as bad. The adult population is very fortunate indeed in being able to take advantages of the offers of the various educational facilities. People with enthusiasm and initiative acquire cultural education as well as education in fundamental knowledge. The second generations do not face the discrimination and the prejudices which they often faced in securing jobs. Being able to serve in the fields wherein their interest lies is one of the most fortunate opportunities of the niseis.

The attitudes of the members of the family determine whether a family will live happily in Tule Lake or not. If the colonists are able to live courageously looking at the brighter sides of life, surely the future would bring happiness.

Family Life in Tule Lake

- I. Complete alteration of family life
 - A. Problems to face
 - B. Great difference with life back home
- II. Group differences
 - A. Groups from 3 coastal states
 - 1. Namely California, Oregon, and Washington
 - B. Acquiring of habits of each other
 - 1. Both the good and the bad
- III. Great adjustments
 - A. Home
 - 1. Barracks compared to well-furnished ones back home
 - B. Mess system
 - 1. Differences in preparation
 - 2. Dining with other families
 - C. Occupation
 - 1. Engaging in occupation one likes
- IV. Split-up in families
 - A. Members away from family more
 - 1. Due to very close neighbors
 - 2. Due to more night workers
- V. Good adjustment
 - A. Weariness to difficulties and troubles
 - B. Good adjusting to changes
 - 1. Time has helped

Family Life in Tule Lake

After being evacuated from their houses which were very dear to them, all of the Japanese family of this Tule Lake Relocation Center have completely altered their manner of family life. Perhaps many of them feel a great resentment toward those who evacuated them, but they must face the problems and make the best out of it.

The typical family in this camp may come from California, a neighbor in the next block may be an Oregonian, and he may have some friends living across the firebreak who came from Washington. In any matter, the mixture of Japanese from all three of the western coastal states has certainly affected the people. Of course, these groups would have habits and customs, and naturally they would acquire the habits of each other; both the good ones and the bad ones.

One of the first adjustments which the family had to make was that of the living quarters. I'm sure that there was hardly anyone who has lived in this type of barrack before. The next thing to which they had to adjust themselves was the mess system. At home the mothers did most of the cooking and the family ate their meals happily together. But here the meals are all prepared at the mess halls and the family simply goes and enjoys their meals with friends, neighbors, and often with strangers.

Another way in which the evacuee family had to change was in its occupation. Before maybe the family lived in the city and ran a hotel or a grocery store, or maybe they ran a farm out in the country. Now, however, the family are engaged in some altogether different occupation from what they had been doing.

For the most part the family which have been closely knit are now quite split up. That is, the family members go out more than they used

to. Perhaps they go out to work on graveyard shifts, or they may go out to visit new friends which they have met here.

By now, however, I am sure that the people all are aware of the difficulties and troubles which face them. Also, since it has been quite a while that they've faced this camp life, the evacuee family are pretty well adjusted to all of the changes.

Community Life in Tule Lake

I. Advantages

A. Realization of importance of American citizenship

1. Fight for citizenship
2. Groups like JACL have better cooperation

B. Individualism

1. None
2. Cooperate to help U.S. war effort

C. Living costs

1. No rents
2. No household bills (gas, water, etc.)
3. No immense food bills

D. Education

1. Adult education
2. Opportunities to learn arts free
3. Be president of student body

II. Disadvantages

A. Education

1. Lack of essential equipment
2. Inadequate supply of good library books

B. Attitudes

1. "What's the use of studying-working?"
2. Loss of responsibility
3. Won't work hard for \$16 a month

C. Forget all about cooking: become slow-witted

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Community Life in Tule Lake

Realization for the importance of keeping our United States citizenship and fighting to maintain it is one of the advantages brought by the relocation. We, like many other Americans just took for granted our freedom of speech, freedom of press, and our freedom of religion. Not until evacuation did we realize how fortunate we were to be in this Land of Liberty. We are giving cooperation to the JAAC (Japanese American Citizens League) in aiding to defend our constitutional rights.

There is no individualism here. We realize that nothing is more important than to help our community and our nation. "All for one and one for all."

To the families who have ten to seventeen children, I think, the food bills which aren't there are a relief. Pity the mothers who would have had to feed twelve hungry teen-age older children! No rents, no electricity bills, water bills. No worries except "what are we going to do after this turmoil is over?"

The adult education is good. It keeps all the mothers and older people who aren't working, "out of mischief." I mean by that, that their minds are not idle and they are learning many arts which maybe outside they would have had to pay a great deal to learn.

There is a definite lack of equipment in the schools, such as in laboratory equipment, but that can't be helped. The other camps have even less, I hear, so we're not so unfortunate. I'd really like a better supply of books at the library. They really don't have many.

This camp life has lowered the morale of the people. It has mine, anyway, but I'm trying to do the best I can. I don't have the "what's

the use of working?" attitude. What I don't like is being enclosed with all Japanese. So many of the Isseis are gossips because they have nothing else to do. Short-tempered people are getting more, too. I hate this camp because it is so dull. Whatever brains I had, I've lost, I think.

When we get out of camp, many people will find it hard to work. Many of them are working in the messes, so they'll forget a lot of essential points in working \$16 is not enough to buy clothes and necessities with.

Many of the girls have forgotten how to cook. I've forgotten how to make coffee! I'd like to cook so as not to forget everything. I want my future husband (if I have one) to praise my cooking, not to grumble.