

the more difficult post-war period; by going out they can best serve this, their country, for they know that they are not helping to win the war by staying in the relocation center.

Those in the various camps do not think themselves to be pampered or coddled. They do not have any choice in what they want to eat. They do not have the privacy they were accustomed to back home. But, with all the inconveniences, dissatisfaction, and grumblings there are many who are afraid to venture beyond the security of the wire fence.

"Fear on the part of the evacuees is another factor which has discouraged their venturing away from relocation centers to work on our farms--fear of reprisals against all Japanese in this country, not sheltered in protective government custody, if the war in the Pacific should produce conclusive evidence of widespread brutality to American prisoners by Japanese war lords; or if major bombings of our Pacific coast cities should occur with shocking loss of American life and property...

Mental confusion is another factor. Confine 10,000 to 20,000 people in any congested area; let them live in this unsettled condition with a lot of time on their hands--time for idle talk, time for nursing grievances--treat them with a suspicion that breeds suspicion in return, and you are bound to spawn false rumors and intrigues that are not conducive to full cooperation...That's human nature."¹

OCCUPATIONAL RELOCATION

War Relocation Authority's first year has been that of administrative aches and difficulties. The first year is always the hardest. Charged with the responsibilities of re-establishing 115,000 Japanese evacuees from the military zone, the new government agency was concerned, during the first quarter year of its existence, primarily in providing places where the evacuees might live and work in relative seclusion pending development of order-

1. Excerpt from an appeal for cooperation in obtaining evacuee labor of Japanese ancestry from the Central Utah relocation project to help relieve the shortage of help on Utah farms made on Feb. 28, 1943 by Governor Herbert B. Maw.

ly plans for their relocation into normal stream of American life.

Its original program of resettling of evacuees did not gain momentum from Tule Lake Relocation Center until early this year. Yet, the bulk of the resettlers has been younger evacuees of Group B as indicated in the age-group chart of the Project population below.

AGE GROUPS OF THE EVACUEES IN THE TULE LAKE PROJECT

(Based upon the population total of approximately 15,000)

- A. 35% of population.....under 18 years of age
- B. 28% of population.....between 18 to 30 years
of age.
 - a. 1/2 of this group are women.
- C. 37% of population.....over 30 years of age
 - a. composed mostly of issei
 - b. 1/2 of this group is over 56 years old.

A quick glance of the chart would show that Group B comprises less than a third of the total population. Various factors contribute to why the resettlement program has been slow to affect the general Tule Lake Project population. To present a few:

- Most of the employment offered are for single persons who are inclined to be more adventurous than family men. Family men cannot support their families on wages offered to a single person. Single persons or married couples have a certain freedom of movement and are not hampered by the high cost of living as families are.
- A third of the Project population is those who are under 18 years of age. Because of their youth, their plans for relocation are frowned upon by their parents. This disapproval may apply also to a good number of single girls above 18.
- A strong feeling exists among a large number of evacuees of a hope to return to their former homes on the Pacific coast.
- Types of employment offered are not suitable for

Japanese evacuees. There exists a notion in the communities outside that the evacuees are only adaptable to gardening and domestic works. Project's population includes a considerable number of people trained as stenographers, mechanics, shop and mill workers, laboratory technicians, nurses, accountants, and many others with equally developed skills.

- Some have been embittered and disillusioned by the unfair treatment of being evacuated from their homes.

Fear. The fear of public reaction to unfavorable war news; the publicized high cost of living; fear of racial antagonism; and other aspects that must be considered when living in the outside make the camp appear more attractive.

- To many of the evacuees, especially the older issei population, the Project has become their "home". They would rather stay in the Project with their families and friends instead of venturing out into new and strange communities which may be hostile, and face an uncertain future. They prefer to remain in camps where they are sure of getting three meals a day and a place to sleep as wards of the government.

The U.R.A., according to its policy of encouraging the resettlement of the evacuees, is continually simplifying the procedures for relocation. To a great degree, the "red tape" of waiting for the approval of the leave clearance and of the indefinite leave has been done away. What took months to accomplish can now be executed in a matter of days, and the applicant for a job submitted through the U.R.A. Relocation field office can leave for the new job as soon as he accepts the job and receives his travel permit.

To assist prospective resettlers, the WRA has established relocation field offices in various parts of the United States. The function of the field office of the WRA is to explore the employment possibilities, to assist the local civilian agencies, committees on resettlement, and to forward job offers directly to the Project Directors in the camps.

Recently it has become possible for evacuees with limited funds to accept jobs they may have turned down if it was not for the new WRA policy of providing finances for the transportation and the initial living expenses. The financial assistance is ren-

dered by the WRA in the form of cash grants made before the time an evacuee leaves the Project.

To further assist the resettlers the WRA will aid in their housing problems. The National Housing agency has established War Housing Centers where new arrivals are given information on the available living quarters.

If the resettler should be faced with a problem much too big for him to cope with, the facilities of relief and of the welfare agencies are open to him and financial assistance may be obtained. And so, in this manner, the WRA is doing more than just encouraging resettlement by seeing to it that the evacuee is given a fair chance to adapt himself in his new environment.

Cooperating with the WRA and facilitating the resettlement program are various organizations--The Committee on Resettlement of Japanese, the JACL, the Brethren and the Friends Hostels, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Churches, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the American Friends Service Committee, the Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., etc. These organizations are working for the evacuees by raising funds, securing employment, providing loans, offering legal advices and aid, and by educating the public as well as the evacuees themselves.

The sugar beet workers have played a conspicuous part in the resettlement program. Although they did not go out for permanent relocation, the beet workers have proven to the American communities with which they came in contact that all the Japanese in the United States do not deserve the suspicion and distrust that were attributed to them.

The living conditions and the wages of the agricultural workers have improved in most cases since the initial recruiting. A sugar company was "taking a wise step by inviting representatives...to make a tour of the intermountain region. In this manner the terms and conditions under which workers will come can be explained by the leaders when they return. Thus there will be less disputes about the so-called misrepresentations as to living conditions and so forth."

On the whole, the resettlers are being well received. By the initiative and actions of the evacuees themselves, sentiments have been improved in communities where they were at first not well received.

"Of course there are chislers, leeches and bloodsuc-

kers who are only too willing to exploit evacuee labor. Some employers, according to the records, appear to think they had purchased title to chattels when they hired evacuee labor from the way they protested when workers left their employ because they were overworked. But the handling of these is a personal problem, and, although some have been victimized for a while, not a single one in this district has had the difficulty in righting the situation once he set his mind to it."

The prospective resettlers are strangers to the employers and so it is not only the evacuees who do not exactly know what they are getting into but also the employers who are taking a risk. There have been complaints of the evacuee suddenly, after a short while, leaving the employer much to his inconvenience.

The resettlers represent all the Japanese in this country. What they do and how they act has an effect upon the welfare of those both in and outside of the relocation projects.

It is felt that those of Japanese ancestry must again get upon their own two feet and attempt to make a living as normal people in society...to recall some of the pride they had in themselves and to share and to contribute in the making and the improving of this, their country.

STUDENT RELOCATION

The nisei youth in the projects is being confronted with three alternatives: 1. to remain in the center: 2. to look for a job; 3. to attend a college. What should the nisei do? Here are the arguments presented by Joseph Conard for attending school: (Conard is connected with U.S.R.C.--Ed)

1. To force these students to abandon their work would be a tremendous waste of the time and energy already invested in the students' education. Dr. Monroe Deutsch, Vice-President of the University of California, states that it would be equivalent to the "destruction of an important part of our national resources."

2. ...attitudes of the entire Japanese-American group of tomorrow will be shaped largely by their future leaders, the men and women now going to or preparing for college.

3. The entire group (without higher education)

may be forced to a position of economic and cultural inferiority, and no policy could more seriously threaten the long-term future of the Japanese group in this country.

4. ...the morale of the entire Japanese-American group will be enhanced. And older evacuee, in a letter...described some of the hardships of his present life and concludes that the really pressing problem is education of the young people.

A very large number of students have indicated their desires of continuing their education in spite of the disruption in their lives brought about by the evacuation. Most of the nisei students are able to pay only a part of the financial costs of the college. There are two reasons for the financial difficulties: 1. Families have suffered the loss of business and income through evacuation. 2. The overwhelming majority of students have attended State Colleges or Junior Colleges in West Coast States where their fathers' taxes covered the costs of tuition. There is the necessity of paying out-of-state fees.

Organizations Aiding Student Relocation

A nisei who wishes to go to a college and lacks the funds need not be perturbed for there are various organizations and friends willing to render them financial aid. The National Student Relocation Council in a form letter to the "Japanese" students encouragingly writes.

"We'll be glad to have you write us there (the new office in Philadelphia) and bring us up to date on your plans and problems and finances. Insufficient funds should not discourage you. No matter how little, or how much money you have, we need exact and up-to-date information to work on."

The schools themselves encourage students by offering scholarships, remission of fees, and work opportunities although they suggest that one should have enough funds for at least a year and not depend entirely upon scholarships and work.

In the Tule Lake Project itself there are several groups aiding student relocation. The Student Christian Association whose membership is open to anyone interested in higher education is making contacts with the SCAs in the many colleges, and notifying the college to which a nisei student is relocating from the project and asking the SCA to invite him, or her, into their as-

sociation. It is extremely gratifying to a new student in a strange college, in a new environment surrounded by strangers, to be cordially invited by them to join their activities.

Together with the Church Seminar group, the SCA has been sponsoring a series of forums on the problems pertaining to the Japanese in the United States in order to acquaint future resettlers with the problems they may face in their new environment.

Sponsored by the Union Church is the Tule Lake Relocation Loan Fund which is open to anyone for student or occupational relocation. The Fellowship of Reconciliation Travel Loan Fund offers loans for paying the travel expenses for the student and employment resettlement.

Then, there are denominational scholarships and loans, the World Student Service Fund, and the friends, both personal and strangers, must not be forgotten.

These are but a few of the organizations enabling deserving nisei students to relocate and to further their education in the preparation for the period after this great, destructive war.

Students accepted by a college or who have some other relocation opportunity:

Known to have arrived and thus definitely relocated.....	831
Have recently received their leaves and travel permits and may or may not have arrived.....	189
In the works in Washington and in Philadelphia.....	134
Temporarily postponed (because we have lost contact with them, because their parents object to their going because the community has turned sour or the college has changed its mind, or because the college has not been cleared for student relocation.....	117

Total of above 1271

Students waiting for placement.....1543

Total number of students who have applied to date...2814

From the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council as of April 13, 1943.

There are people who are friends of the Japanese in this country and do care for them. It is up to the evacuees to relocate themselves and to prove to them, their friends, and to those who do not know the Japanese, that they of Japanese ancestry are human and not the ruthless beasts that propaganda depicts them to be---that they can become an integral part of the American social pattern.

A relocated nisei girl writes that she is "leading the life of an ordinary American citizen and would recommend to anyone with intention of leaving to do so without hesitation."

A student at Baker University in Kansas writing to his friends says:

"...and fellas, I'm getting to know what Christian fellowship really can be like. People really treat me nice and there hasn't been one bit of offensive action toward me."

From a Caucasian student's viewpoint concerning the nisei student:

"I'm happy to say that apparently these Japanese students have become a real integral part of the student body. Several have been elected to campus offices and have achieved high scholastic records. They are respected and liked by the majority of other students."

One can quote letters and reports from the relocated, telling of the wonderful treatment they are getting, but of course it would be illogical to jump to a conclusion from just reading them that everything is just "dandy". It is not altogether so. A great deal of inconveniences and hardships have been experienced by nisei students in new environments somewhat foreign to them.

--William Osuga

Des Plaines Illinois



Des Plaines, Illinois, is a small town of some 8,000 inhabitants, about 17 miles from "Windy City". Trains from Chicago, or on their way to Chicago, come zooming through this town like stratosphere bullets, leaving in their wake, newspapers flying in the air, and a cloud of dust.

Most of the inhabitants of Des Plaines have never heard of the Japanese evacuation from the Pacific Coast. Most of the inhabitants, too, have never seen a Japanese American in their life until some five evacuees came to this town to resettle.

The five evacuees in this town are all employees of the Photo Service, Inc., which takes in stuff for both "Monkey Ward" and Sears Roebuck. Some of them are maintenance men; others are dopers and developers. Most of the evacuees here find the inhabitants of Des Plaines very sociable. In the neighboring town of Park Ridge, there are only two nisei, Mr. and Mrs. Yei-ji Kono, formerly of Fresno, California, and lately of the Jerome Relocation Center, Denson, Arkansas.

Mr. Kono is employed with the Superior Type Company in Chicago, a national defense job.

The evacuees employed in the Photo Service, Inc., are under standing orders not to clique together, but to mix as much as possible with their fellow American workers.

The people in the plant are very friendly, and evacuees are invited to their homes for various occasions--parties, dinners.

After the "tremendous, stupendous" experience of evacuation, it's kind of a let-down to the average evacuee to come into a town like Des Plaines, where the people are so indifferent and so busy going about their daily business. They are more anxious to tell you about their troubles, or experiences with rationing, priorities or points, than to listen to your story of the evacuation.

But to the average evacuee, who has been reading the "Pacific Citizen" too long, it's something of a great pleasure to come into a community like Des Plaines to find that the people are not hostile, or ready to drive you out of town, but are very friendly and courteous.

Of course, too, there are some people who mistake you for a Chinese. The other day, we went into a shoemaker shop to have our shoe repaired. We started to walk out of the shop without getting our ticket. The proprietor of the shop called us back and said, "No tickee, no washee."

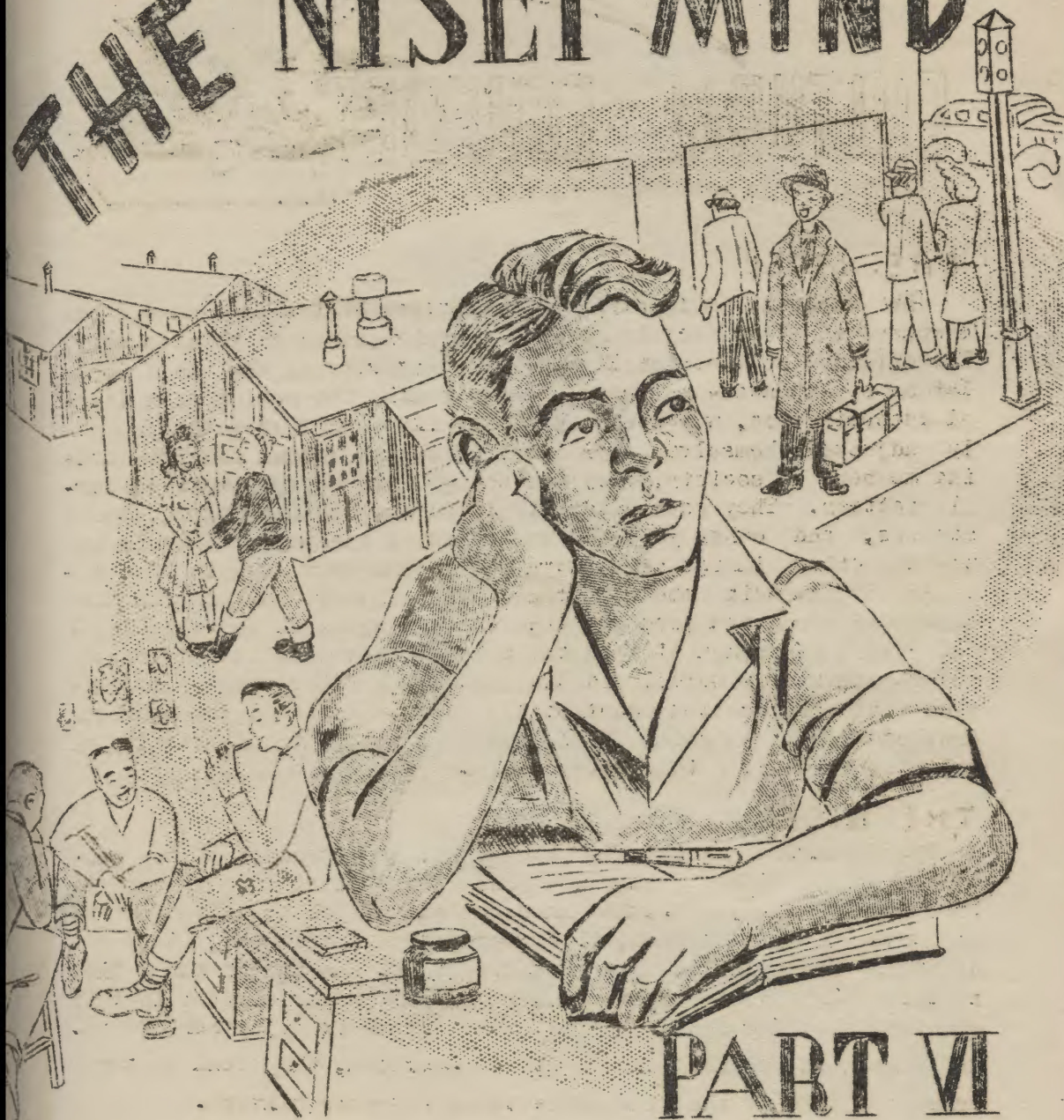
The next day, when we returned, he indulgently smiled at us and said, "How's business?" We said, "I work in the Photo Service." He said, "Oh" with wide-eyed wonder, "I thought you worked across the street,"--meaning in the Chinaman's laundry.

There have been no unpleasant experiences since coming here. However, once while crossing a lot with some little boys in it, they yelled at us, "Chinga-Monga! Honga!"

People in the Mid-West have not been conditioned to the "Great Yellow Peril" as have the people on the West Coast. Hence, once they get to know you, they treat you just as anyone else. You eat at the same dinner table, you go out with them and you do everything except sleep with them.

--Joe Oyama

THE NISEI MIND



PART VI