

JAPANESE-AMERICANS BUY IN ITALY



Associated Press Radio Photo, from Yank, the Army Weekly.
Pfc. John M. Masaki (left) of Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, a Japanese-American soldier, watches as his friend, Private Masakichi Gushi Puunene, of Maui, Hawaii, also a Japanese-American, buys religious post cards from an Italian priest (right).

SEATTLE TIMES (WASH.)
November 19, 1943

American Japs
In Italy Like To
Stay at Front

THE INYO REGISTER (Calif.)
November 26, 1943

No Hum . . . Manzanar
Investigated Again!

Coincident with the fuss stirred up at Tulelake Japanese center, J. H. Mulvey of the State Attorney General's office, was in Owens Valley this week trapping public opinion on conditions at Manzanar.

While here he interviewed scores of business men and other residents, visited Manzanar center, and attended the Inyo county defense council meeting.

Mulvey indicated he had been sent to the valley on instruction from a state senate fact-finding committee to determine if the residents of Owens Valley were desirous of having a state meeting conducted here relative to conditions at Manzanar and concerning other problems dealing with the Japanese.

It was understood that five similar investigations have been held throughout the state, dealing mostly with return of Japanese, to the West Coast and possible evasion of the Alien Land Act.

Response manifested at the Defense Council meeting indicated apparent satisfaction with the present management of the Manzanar center.

PEORIA JOURNAL-TRANSCRIPT (Illinois)
December 2, 1943

Japanese-Americans

Human nature seems about the same everywhere, but in war time there is danger of overlooking such facts. Thus many members of the Japanese race who are good Americans now have a rather tough time of it.

Insisting that Japanese-Americans are really Americans, one of them makes this appeal to his transplanted fellow-countrymen. He says:

"People are afraid of the unknown. When they do not know us, they are afraid of us. We have found this to be a fact. So many people have commented, 'Why, you are no different from us!' The sooner we become an integral part of a community, the better it will be for all of us. It will, I think, to some extent alleviate one of the post-war problems—the race question."

Another Japanese-American makes this sensible statement: "Above all, we who are at liberty must remember that we are ambassadors for the scores who are still in camps. We of Japanese ancestry are on trial as never before. The thing now is to prove to the general public that it is not a matter of race, that people are the same regardless of their origins, and that those of Japanese ancestry are not different."

This a very old problem, always more difficult in war time. But it can be solved on both sides by honest men of good will.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Nov. 16.—(Delayed)—(AP)—It is virtually impossible to evacuate to rear areas any of the Japanese-American troops fighting for Italy except in the case of very severe battle wounds.

These boys don't want to go back, even with injuries requiring days of rest, for fear they'll never catch up with their friends again. Soldiers hospitalized beyond a certain period are sent to replacement centers when they recover and thus may never team up with their old buddies again. They are more likely, under the laws of chance, to be assigned to some other unit.

One Japanese-American surgeon who had been injured appeared unexpectedly at the force's command post and was greeted with surprise there by a high-ranking officer.

"Thought you were in the hospital, Captain," said the officer.

"I was."

"What injuries did you have?"

"Four broken ribs."

"Four broken—what! Why didn't they send you back to Africa?"

"Well, they almost did," grinned the captain. "But I'd never get back with the outfit if I once got separated that much. I fixed it up with the division surgeon. They're carrying me on the records of the clearing station."

And he set off for the clearing station, where a man could let his broken ribs heal—if he didn't mind being only 1,000 yards behind the battle lines.

UCLA, CALIFORNIA BRUIN
November 22, 1943

Press-ure

We're getting sick of it. How much longer is Hearst going to get away with his alarmist tactics, his garbling of the facts, his premeditated misinterpretations?

Most dramatic manipulation of facts in a long time is the present campaign being waged by the Herald-Express and the Examiner regarding loyal and disloyal Japanese. Hearst and his underlings call them all disloyal regardless of the record of such groups as the "Guinea Pigs from Pearl Harbor," an infantry unit recruited in Hawaii composed almost entirely of loyal Japanese. This unit has accomplished every mission assigned and took every objective in four days of heavy fighting; its story is one of daring, doggedness, and heroism, according to the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

The Herald-Express leagues the Japanese of Tule Lake with those at Manzanar, heedless of the fact that the former is a segregation center for disloyal Japanese, who have currently refused to comply with administrative demands to till the farms and unload the coal for the support of the center; heedless of the fact that Manzanar is a relocation center for loyal Japanese who, after being thoroughly investigated by the F.B.I., Army, and other check agencies, are relocated in jobs outside combat zones. Japanese from Manzanar and other location centers have volunteered to come and work the farms at Tule Lake. These loyal nisei were in danger from the Kibei at the recent Tule Lake riot and were moved out of the area with administrative personnel.

The Hearst papers deliberately confused the relocation of Japanese from Manzanar recently with the Tule Lake exhibition and reported the stories entirely out proportion, obviously slanted toward a total discrediting of the War Relocation Authority. Facts were flagrantly twisted to create an alarming impression upon the reader that hundreds of "treacherous" Japs were released and roaming around the country loose, their bare fangs showing. No mention of the fact that a certain proportion of loyal Japanese are released periodically, after being thoroughly investigated, and given jobs in areas where people accept them and appreciate their loyalty. They

are not sent to regions where the irrational, un-American attitudes of over-emotional citizens may render them harm.

And the "tyrant press" viciously attacks the W.R.A. and, together with the American Legion, shouted incompetency in administration of the Japanese camps. In an editorial Friday the Herald-Express called the W.R.A. "pathetically ineffective," but no column space is given W.R.A. officials to defend themselves and no words are written about the success of relocation and administration and the skillful handling of the various riots by Dillon S. Myer and the other W.R.A. officials.

It is heartening to see the fair coverage given this pertinent issue by the Los Angeles Times. In that paper you will find both sides of the story; you may read the W.R.A.'s denials of the unwarranted charges hurled by Hearst, denials based on fact.

The terror campaign is not over. Today's Examiner continues to headline biased editorials on its front pages, stories which seek to disintegrate the important work of the W.R.A., a committee which is made up of social workers and specialists sincerely interested in trying to heal a wound which will stigmatize this country for many years to come. The problem cannot be solved overnight, and the Army cannot solve it overnight, as some organizations seem to think.

We come in contact with the work that is being done by the W.R.A. in relocation centers, through exchanges, that is, the Manzanar Free Press and the Heart Mountain Sentinel come to the offices of the California Bruin in exchange for our paper. Recorded in print are the activities of the Nisei, their participation in the War Chest drive, in Boy and Girl Scout troops, in good American sports, in religious observances.

We wonder how long Hearst can go on coloring the truth. Most of us have assumed a constant attitude toward his scare campaigns, we just don't believe him. We don't accept his version until we have checked the facts elsewhere. But there is little doubt that many readers are taken in. It is up to us who know his tactics to shout them, to warn our neighbors of his undermining influence, and to retain our rational outlook.

STAR JOURNAL
(Minneapolis, Minn)
November 23, 1943

Mr. Grew and Tule Lake

NOBODY has warned Americans about the tenacity of our Japanese enemies with more insistence and insight than Ambassador Joseph C. Grew. Therefore he is entitled to be heard with special respect when he examines the other side of the coin, as he did the other night before the Holland society of New York, which presented him its 1943 medal for distinguished achievement. Pleading that a distinction be made between enemy aliens and loyal Americans of Japanese descent, he said:

"Like the Americans of German extraction, the overwhelming majority of Americans of Japanese origin wish to be and are wholly loyal to the United States. Not only that, but they wish to prove that loyalty in service to their native land.

"It does not make for loyalty to be constantly under suspicion when grounds for suspicion are absent. I have too great a belief in the sanctity of American citizenship to want to see Americans of Japanese descent penalized and alienated through blind prejudice. I want to see them given a square deal. I want to see them treated as we rightly treat all other American citizens, regardless of their racial origin."

Undoubtedly Mr. Grew's vigorous words were evoked in part by public reaction to the trouble early this month at the Tule Lake, Calif., camp where disloyal Japanese are segregated. The careful, factual job which most newspapers did in reporting what actually happened there was tarnished by the colored accounts published by a few newspapers on the Pacific coast and by the Hearst press elsewhere, and by inflammatory treatment of the episode on the radio.

The facts are these: The loyalty of about 19,000 of the 120,000 persons of Japanese origin in the United States is suspected either because of their own declaration, or because intelligence or other records indicate that they might endanger

national security, or because they are close relatives of persons in the first two groups and have chosen to remain with them. Some 15,000 of these disloyal Japanese have been placed at the Tule lake camp and the other 4,000 were to be moved there.

The war relocation authority probably erred in treating the disloyal Japanese at Tule lake much like the loyal Japanese at our nine other relocation centers. The Tule Lake Japanese were entrusted with self-government, and they were policed within the camp by only six outsiders—and they unarmed!—although army guards functioned outside the camp. There were disorders Nov. 14. They were soon put down, after several persons had been injured.

The point is that this was at a camp where are concentrated Japanese citizens, or Americans of Japanese origin, who are known or believed to be disloyal, and that these are fewer than one-sixth of our Japanese population.

The happenings at Tule lake ought not to be allowed to reflect upon the more than 100,000 loyal persons of Japanese origin among us, most of whom are citizens, all of whom are as eager as the rest of us to see a United Nations victory and to have a part in it.

The Japanese-Americans have a higher percentage of men in our armed forces (10,000) than any other racial group. Before the war they had a smaller crime percentage than any other group. They had a higher per cent of their young people in college. Almost none ever were on relief. Secretary Stimson is authority for the statement that there has been no known case of sabotage by Japanese in Hawaii, either on Dec. 7, 1941, or since. The FBI says there has been no known case of sabotage by the Japanese on the Pacific coast.

Surely this is proof to any intelligent American that suspicion and distrust of those of Japanese origin among us simply because they are of Japanese descent is as unwarranted as distrust of all persons among us who are of German, Italian, Rumanian, Bulgarian, Finnish or Hungarian stock.

TM (New York)
December 5, 1943

(Story Page 4)



sono osato

IN THE first act of *One Touch of Venus*, right after Mary Martin sings *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, the curtain rises on *Forty Minutes for Lunch*, the first of choreographer Agnes de Mille's short ballets for the show.

As the dancers, in fuchsia jerseys and short velveteen skirts, whirl their first whirl there is a stir in the audience, an audible whispering of, "Where is she? I don't see . . . There! There she is. In the back row with that funny lily-patch thing on her head."

The she, of course, is Sono Osato, 24-year-old Japanese-American ballerina who stopped the show on opening night and has all but stolen it ever since.

Sono started a scrap book the night *Venus* opened. In the book she pasted a batch of good-luck messages from friends, and all the reviews. She feels fine about *Variety's*, "Sono Osato makes terrific impact"; *Time's*, "the delightful Sono"; the *Herald Tribune's*, "The prodigious success of Sono Osato is good news to her many admirers who knew her former ballet roles. In the first act she dances with a precise sharpness in every limb and a rhythmic punch that startles: she is a galvanic comedienne. In the second act she (is) glamorous, alluring . . . quite serious and beautiful."

But the review Sono really likes and rereads almost daily because it makes her giggle, was written by *The New Yorker's* dyspeptic Wolcott Gibbs. "I can only," he wrote, "pay my deep respects to Sono Osato, a marvelously limber girl of cryptic nationality who led the dancers and alarmed and fascinated me almost unbearably."

Frances Fitzpatrick, an American girl, and Shoji Osato, a Japanese photographer, are responsible for Sono's tryptic nationality and the intriguing blend of Oriental and Occidental in her face.

In 1918, Miss Fitzpatrick stopped off in Omaha, Neb., on her way to California with her father, a Washington, D. C., architect. The *Omaha Bee* sent its young Japanese photographer to take her picture and, as the story books say, it was love at first sight. Fitzpatrick went on to California; his daughter stayed and married Osato.

One of Sono's first memories is of the earthquake in Japan in 1923. When Sono was two, her mother and father had taken her to Japan to visit her paternal grandparents. Sono remembers she was in a bathtub in a house in Yokohama, watching her mother wash her hair, when suddenly everything around her began to rock and crash. Her mother snatched her up. Sono's only recollection of what happened immediately after that is of hearing her mother's voice repeating: "Close your eyes, Darling. Keep your eyes closed."

"None of us was hurt," Sono says, in her crisp young voice. "We all got away on the President Harding—I think that was the ship's name. When we got back to America, we went to Chicago to live."

Sono's father set up his own portrait studio and, because the going was tough at first, Mrs. Osato gave lantern-slide lectures on the earthquake to help out. By this time there were two more Osatos, Sono's sister, Teru, now 23, who was graduated from Bennington College and recently became engaged to a Navy lieutenant, and her brother, Mitsuru, now 18 and in the U. S. Army.

Sono says that their mixed parentage wasn't a problem to her or her brother, and sister as they grew up. "I think it's because of the way we were brought up. We were never taught to think of ourselves as different, and nobody treated us as different. People were always curious about us, but that was all."

Sono, who says she "always danced about everything," started taking ballet lessons when she was 10. "But I was terribly lazy. I hated to practice and I bet I only really

danced hard about one hour a week, maybe not even that."

When she was 14, Col. Wassili de Basil brought his Ballet Russe to Chicago. The night before the company left, de Basil auditioned the pupils at Sono's ballet school. As soon as he saw Sono dance he turned to her mother and said, "I wish to take your daughter for three years. Go home, Madame, and reflect."

Madame reflected, and as a result Sono left Chicago with the Ballet Russe, the company's youngest, and its first American, member. "It was my strange looks again," Sono says confidently. "I couldn't dance very well, but I had a good ear and learned quickly and I was well-built. But it was really because I was funny looking that de Basil took me."

For the next eight years, Sono toured with the ballet, dancing in this country six months each year and abroad for six more months. It wasn't so glamorous as it sounds, says Sono. She says it wasn't glamorous at all.

"It was work, work, work, morning, noon and night with every once in a while a little time out for a movie. I had to get over being lazy quick. There was no toast-of-the-Continent business, except once when some English people gave us a champagne supper in London. And no dukes or earls pursued us—oh, yes one did. A prince. That was in Berlin, in 1938. The Crown Prince sent flowers to all the ballerinas and came backstage, but we laughed behind his back. We hated to dance in Berlin. Even if we didn't know any politics—and none of us did—it was an awful place to be. There was always a feeling of someone looking over your shoulder."

Sono left the Ballet Russe in San Francisco in 1940. "I had had enough. I was fed up." She came to New York and, after a short rest, signed with the Ballet Theater here, dancing with it for two years. Then, last April, she was married to a young architect and until she started rehearsals for *One Touch of Venus*, was a happy housewife. She says she loved it. "And I was pretty efficient, too. Dancers usually are. They don't have maids to wait on them hand and foot."

Sono had met Agnes de Mille in California and had thought that her ideas about ballet were, "Gee, so exciting!" When she heard that de Mille was going to do *Venus*, Sono wrote asking if there were a part for her. De Mille wired back yes. Rehearsals started in August.

"Agnes is the most exciting choreographer I've ever worked with, and I've worked with most of them," Sono says. "Her kind of ballet is so much more alive and meaningful than classical ballet. Here you're making tradition, instead of adhering to it."

From the audience, Sono seems to sparkle with gaiety as she dances. She looks as if she were having a hell of a good time. Actually, she says, the only dance she really enjoys doing is the Crippen finale to the first act, when the entire company is onstage.

"I don't have to worry, then," she says. "But in my solo and the second-act ballet, I have to really dance hard and think about my elevation and style, and on holding the audience's attention, it scares me, kind of."

It's a toss-up as to whether *Venus* audiences are struck more by Sono's dancing or her looks. Sono doesn't know.

"She looks as exotic and mysterious as some Oriental princess out of a fairy tale," says one of her friends. And the crazy thing is that she's just about as exotic acting as, well, a puppy dog. She's warm and friendly and likes to cook for her husband. And she sends telegrams to Congress about things like subsidies and the poll tax.

Sono doesn't know what she'll do after *Venus*. "I'd like movies, maybe—even as an actress."—PECCY WRIGHT.



Dancer you can't forget in 'One Touch of Venus' got start on 'my funny looks'

DESERET NEWS (Salt Lake City, Utah)
November 13, 1943



MORMONS OF JAPANESE DESCENT now in training at Camp Shelby, Miss., are pictured with three members of the Church in Meridian. The Japanese boys are: (left to right—kneeling)—Tetsuo Yanagida, Norima Horimoto, Arthir Nishimoto, Masaichi Sewaki and a visitor. Standing)—Tsugio Watanobe, James Ishimoto, Frank Suzuki, John Isuhano, Miclo Yarnouchi, Ken Teruya and a visitor.

Japanese Make Pilgrimage For Baptism

BY ELDER JACK N.
ANDERSON

Southern States Mission

FIVE Mormon soldiers of Japanese descent, who have organized a Sunday School and M. I. A. at Camp Shelby, Miss., are planning to spend their first furlough in Salt Lake City and bring five associates along with them to be baptized. They hope to meet as many Church authorities and see as many sights as they can crowd into 15 days.

The original group included 10 Latter-day Saints who were sent to Mississippi from the Japanese Mission in Hawaii. Now three of them are in Italy and two others will not be able to make the trip.

"We are happy to serve the

Lord. Although we don't know whether we are giving all we have and doing the work as we should do, we have one or two visitors or investigators every meeting," Sgt. Roy I. Tsuga, spokesman for the group, reported to the Southern States Mission office in Atlanta.

Sunday School is held every Sunday evening and Mutual every Tuesday evening, usually attended by one or two white members from nearby Meridian. There are also a few Mormon boys from Utah in camp who attend occasionally.

The trip to Salt Lake City will be the climax of several months of dreaming and planning.

"We want to see all our

friends who served their missions in Hawaii and to meet as many high authorities of the Church as possible," said Sgt. Tsugi, "but our most important work will be to share our blessings with the boys who want to be baptized."

The five members who will make the trip are Frank Suzuki, John Tsukano, Yoshiyazu Horikami, Arther Nishimoto and Roy Tsuga. The two who will remain behind are Billy Okabe and Tetsuo Yansquida. The three in Italy are James Ishimoto, Isaac Akinaka and Kenneth Tereuja. The new converts, who also will visit Salt Lake are Tsugio Watanobe, Norima Horimoto, Masachi Sewaki, Etsuo Anzai and Minoru Kishaba.

LAMAR DAILY NEWS (Colo.)
November 30, 1943

AMACHE FUTURE FARMERS GROW 1,693 TONS PRODUCTS IN 1943

AMACHE—Future Farmers of America among evacuees at Amache have produced 1,693 tons of farm products during the past season, according to a report in the Nov. 17 Amache Pioneer. In accomplishing this task they set a production record equal to that of almost any school of FFA boys in the country, and they prepared 500 acres of uncleared land.

When harvest was all over,

their figures read 500 tons of alfalfa hay, 10,000 bushels of corn, 800 tons of corn fodder and milo, 100 tons of potatoes, 10 tons of dried beans, 18,000 their figures read 400 tons of tomatoes.

The 40 Amache FFA members toiled right and day to accomplish this feat. They worked under the supervision of Mas Watanabe, Jim Burgert, and Gerald Griffith.

POST INTELLIGENCER
(Seattle, Wash.)
November 19, 1943

Plea for Loyal Japs

To The Post-Intelligencer:

If your parents were born in Germany but you were born in the United States, what does that make you? Exactly! That is just the way the majority of Americans of Japanese ancestry feel.

Surely the action of the mayor and leading citizens of Kent, Wash., as reported in the P.-I., is based on thoughtlessness and misinformation, not upon conscious injustice. The Tule Lake Project is the one center for Japanese and Japanese-Americans reserved for the disloyal. Yet their rioting has determined the people of Kent to exclude all their former Japanese residents.

What about the thousands of loyal Japanese-Americans who once made their homes along the Pacific Coast? Confined in W. R. A. centers, they have been carefully investigated and observed for over a year.

If I were certain that the townspeople of Kent meant Japanese when they put up signs, "We don't want any Japs back here," I should not be writing this letter. I fear, however, that they mean anyone of Japanese ancestry. Hence I should like to inquire what they propose to have the government do with these people.

In conclusion, let me say that since evacuation I have talked with Japanese-Americans from Kent. "If you go to Washington, be sure to go to Kent." Is it a pretty town? "The most beautiful place in the world, and the best people live there." Where do you want to go after the war is over? With tears in eyes: "Why, back home. To Kent. People are our friends there."

JEANNETTE SMOYER.
Seattle.

JEROME NORTH SIDE NEWS (Idaho)
November 25, 1943

War Fund Passes Quota This Week

Patriotic Jerome County Folks Give Money Generously

Jerome county went over the top with a comfortable margin to spare this week in the National War Fund drive when returns Tuesday indicated a total collection of \$8,565.18 as against a quota of \$7200. In addition to this, Japanese-Americans at Hunt have turned in \$1,000 to the county drive and government employees at the relocation center have raised a fund of \$663.30; which makes a grand total of \$10,228.48 raised within the county so far for the 17 war agencies covered by the National War Fund drive.

The amounts raised within the county is divided \$2,463.57 in the Hazelton-Eden area; and \$6,101.61 in the Jerome area. These figures are expected to be increased even more when a final checkup is made by all solicitors working on the drive.

R. W. Williamson, county chairman, praised the work of both the solicitors and the generosity of the county Tuesday; and said that those working on the drive had found a very fine spirit of cooperation among the people they had contacted. He also praised the very excellent showing made at Hunt, where Japanese-Americans and officials there had succeeded in raising \$1,663.30 for the Jerome county drive.