

MANZANAR: Another View

S FORMER Manzanar evacuees we read Tad Uyeno's 50-part series POINT NO RETURN (Rafu Shimpo, August to October, 1942) with great interest. Although it is an important Evacuation story, it is too heavily centered around JACLers and its many significant events and countless number of Manzanar Citizens Federation (MCF) meetings, which Uyeno also attended, the first volunteers for Military Intelligence Language School (MILS), and contributions made by non-JACLers, among them Koji Ariyoshi (Hawaiian unionist, journalist); James Oda, Louis Obi, Karl Yoneda (Kibei, union organizers); Ted Akahoshi (Stanford graduate, chairman of six-man committee to draw up the constitution and bylaws of Manzanar Relocation Center. Others on this committee were Yamazaki, Inouye, Namura, Ogura and Yoneda). There were scores more, Issei, Kibei, Nisei men and women involved.

We would like, therefore, to outline some of the untold aspects of the Manzanar story. Manzanar Citizens Federation Uyeno writes about organization of the MCF on June 12, 1942, and its committee meetings took place before and after Aug. 3, however.

Quotes from Karl Yoneda's MANZANAR DIARY: (36-12-1) 7/20/42 — MCF meeting at Fogo Tanaka's "apartment," 7 p.m. Eleven attend. Among them Fred Tayama, Koji Ariyoshi, and Uyeno, Tanaka, Joe Masaoka, Tom Yamazaki, Kiyoshi Higashi, James Oda, Hiro Neeno and myself. Elect Ariyoshi chairman, Masaoka secretary. Decide to hold campwide meeting on July 28 at Block 15 kitchen. Following topics and speakers assigned: 1) Improve camp conditions, Mrs. Miyo Kikuchi; 2) Educate citizens for leadership, Joe Masaoka; 3) Participate in war efforts, Yoneda; 4) Post-war preparation for evacuees, Tanaka.

7/27/42 — MCF meeting at Fogo Tanaka's, 7 p.m. Ten attend. Final check-up on tomorrow's meeting. Report there may be trouble from Kibei group.

7/28/42 — MCF mass meeting at Block 15 kitchen, 8 p.m. Hall

packed, many standing outside, 102 degrees, all windows opened. Over 500 Nisei, Kibei and Issei men and women.

Meeting chaired by Ariyoshi, three young women acted as secretaries. Started late because of an electrical failure. Later found out someone cut the wires! Hiro Neeno (Hawaiian J. camp postal clerk) was first speaker, substituting for Mrs. Kikuchi. Very noisy, 25 to 30 Kibei and judoists heckled speakers, especially me, calling out "You inu", "FBI dog and traitor," "We (Japan) will win," "We will hang you," and so forth.

During question period mainly asked were: How about overtime and prevailing wage scale for camouflage net workers? If everyone joins the U.S. Army what will happen to camp? Do we have voter rights in camp, if so how can we exercise those rights? Who protects us if we get outside jobs? How can you trust camp administrators who are all white?"

Ariyoshi, Masaoka, Necno, Tanaka, and I, plus several others, nominated from floor to serve on the MCF Continuation Committee. Four administrative persons in attendance, congratulate MCF leaders on good meeting.

8/4/42 — MCF Continuation Committee met at Block 15-1-1, 8 p.m. Decide to hold another meeting on Aug. 6 to present rules and regulations for adoption. Ariyoshi and I of Petition Committee (separate and independent from the MCF) report we have obtained 218 signatures asking President Roosevelt to open a second front now and utilize manpower of Americans of Japanese ancestry in the U.S. armed forces.

(Among petition signers were T. Tanaka, J. Masaoka, F. Tayama, Uyeno, and 47 women. Original petitions and cover letter, signed by Ariyoshi and Yoneda, mailed to the President 8/5/42, are at the Hyde Park Memorial Library).

8/6/42 — MILS meeting at Block 7 kitchen, 9 a.m. Lt. Col. K. E. Rasmussen of MILS spoke on recruiting; 90 present. Ariyoshi reported on petitions sent

By KARL and ELAINE YONEDA

to President — more than 200 supporting Nisei to be taken into services. Rasmussen said that was good work. He interviewed all of us on ability to read and write Japanese. Said he would tion (MWF). For change, 112; for retaining MCF, 128 votes. Rules and regulations for MCF read, vote for adoption, 120; against, 114. Mori, Masao-ka, Hashimoto, Kurihara, Tana-

headed by Ben Kishi, Harry Uyeno & John Uyemoto

Leaflet posted in every washroom in Manzanar, June 24, 1942, urging all "true-blooded Japanese" not to work on camouflage nets which are war tools of U.S.A. Also asking Japanese to boycott the Manzanar Self-government Body.

Issued by Manzanar Japanese Black Dragon Asama.

Handwritten Japanese text, likely a leaflet or petition, with a circular stamp on the right side. The text is written in vertical columns and includes phrases like "同胞" (Fellow countrymen) and "戦争" (War).

return at later date for actual recruiting.

8:30 p.m. — MCF camp meeting at Block 15 kitchen. Attended by about 300, mainly Nisei and Kibei. AWWI veteran from Hawaii who is foreman of camp evacuee carpenters made fiery anti-U.S., pro-Japan speech, predicting Japan will win as it is a just war. He supported victory for Japan as "a full-blooded Jap"! He then moved that the name MCF be changed to the Manzanar Welfare Federa-

Joe Kurihara,

ka, Yamazaki and Yoneda — elect to go to Block Leaders Council meeting to explain purposes and aims of MCF. Relocation of Evacuees Committee of six elected — Kishi, Onodera, Oda, Tayama, Masaoka and Yoneda.

8/7/42 — Block Leaders Council meeting at Town Hall, 9:05 a.m. Yamazaki and I spoke for MCF and urged all meetings in camp be conducted in English. (This was an error on our part and helped create more confusion for awhile).

Masunaka, Block 30 leader, spoke in Japanese against proposal and ended by saying "Don't forget Yamato-damashii."

8/18/42 — MCF Continuation Committee meeting at Block 15-1-1, 8 p.m. Decided to send letter to Dillon Myer, WRA director, on following issues:

Note: the names and words typed in were in our original manuscript, however, the editors deleted them for their own reasons. (E and K)

- 1) Allow evacuees to relocate order to open businesses.
- 2) Work furlough for Nisei as well as Issei.
- 3) Draft-age Nisei should be called into services.
- 4) Allow Nisei women into defense industries and services.
- 5) Hawaiian Japanese seamen in camps be utilized in merchant marines.

The above surely indicates the MCF was not a paper organization. Furthermore, Ariyoshi as chairman of the MCF sent a letter to Roosevelt on Aug. 24, informing him that 793 Manzanar residents signed up asking they be used "in the protection of the vital Food for Freedom Program needed in the successful execution of the war against the Axis." Ariyoshi, as leader of 128 volunteer workers had already on June 9, 1942 contributed substantially in saving \$16,000,000 sugar beet crop in Southern Idaho (see Manzanar Free Press 8/31/42).

Let us quote from "The Nisei Victims of Racism" by Koji Ariyoshi (Honolulu Star Bulletin 4/9/71):

"Although the JACL leaders suggested that I lead the Federation, they finally kept from active participation, evidently because of the apparent bitterness toward them among the great majority of evacuees. My role in the Federation opened avenues to become acquainted with the camp administration. I was appointed a judge of the camp's main court.... The assistant project director, Ned Campbell, is a headstrong man who stated he could outtalk all of

Manzanar "Rebels"

Mad Uyeno writes, "The dissenters.... I'll call them 'rebels' for the lack of a more definitive term. They were in administration, anti-JACL, either or not they were 'active pro-Japan supporters'... as newspapers called them. I can't say." Also, he calls them "oppositional minority." (Author Roger Daniels uses the term "opposition.")

Let us examine the role of the so-called "rebels," which consisted of between 25 and 30 men who claimed to be members of the Manzanar Black Dragons Blood Brothers. They constantly disrupted things by spreading false rumors and threatening the lives of evacuees,

thus keeping the camp in constant turmoil. Were they then truly "genuine protesters" against evacuation or "kamikaze-type supporters of fascist-militarism?" We believe most of that group belong in the latter classification.

We were at war with the most vicious, brutal racists—Hitler's fascist butchers, Mussolini's musclemen, and the Japanese imperial rapists of Nanking. We had no choice but to accept the U.S. as it was at that time, and fight on the side of the Allies.

Although we were guilty in not speaking out against the

Evacuation Order and acquiesced fully, we have NO GUILT OR SHAME regarding our efforts to defeat the fascist Axis. We were sure there would be ovens in Manzanar and other camps if the Mein Kampers won the war and that all of us, including all non-white and white anti-fascists would end up in those ovens.

We believe, to this day, most of those "rebels" would have made good "oven-tenders" in such an eventuality!

Following are extracts from our diaries of some of the activities of the so-called "rebels," other than the beatings of Tayama and Sonoda, which we also noted:

3/23/42 — 800 volunteers, including me, head for Manzanar aboard train. Among them is

John Junichi Uyemoto, with long moustache like General Araki. (He is quickly nicknamed "General Araki.") Someone tells him, "You keep quiet or you'll go to Montana." Father Clement, Maryknoll priest, sitting in front of Uyemoto turned to him, remarking, "Don't worry, if you go to Montana I will go with you" (Montana had one of the enemy Alien Internment Camps).

3/28/42 — First Protestant church service 9:45 a.m. Block 2, Bldg. 15. Dr. F. H. Smith spoke in Japanese, emphasizing, "Japanese (Japan) very strong, never lost a war because they have Yamato-damashi." Many Issei and Kibei attended and congratulated Dr. Smith on his talk.

He loudly proclaims he is Hawaii born but has no use for the U.S. and Pres. Roosevelt.

including "General"

buildings

4/1/42 — SHOCK! Elaine and Tommy among families who arrived today, unbeknownst to their "Breadwinners in Manzanar." (Elaine, my wife, is Caucasian; Tommy, our three-year old son.) No toilets nor washrooms ready. What is the set-up going to be?

4/10/42—Elaine goes to Kidwell, Service Dept. head, protesting toilet conditions, requests partitions be built between and behind toilet bowls. She notes hysteria mounting in young girls when they come to use the facilities, also asks that knot holes in the green lumber used for the ~~benches~~ be covered.

5/20/42—Elaine and I go to see Roy Nash, new camp director, about outside visitor regulations, setting up hearing board, Japanese section of FREE PRESS, education for children in camp, and judicial power of administration.

Outside visiting now confined to Police Station for 15 to 20 minutes, regardless of distance traveled by visitors. Nash replies, "Visiting at Police Station smacks of concentration camp." He says he will see that it is changed; however, he wants to study other matters before commenting since his dealings had been with Indian problems in the past.

5/24/42 — Nice Sunday morning, we attend wedding of Art Hiraga at 9 a.m. Poppy sale today—2000 quota for this center. I sold 120 at wedding. A Kibei tells me, "You are collecting for American veterans. I will collect for Japanese wounded soldiers." Someone tells Ariyoshi and Oda, "Yoneda is communist, let's beat him; at Santa Anita they beat Fujii and Sugahara." He did not realize A & O are old union buddies of mine. He was told to mind his own business! (Shuji Fujii was editor of anti-fascist, anti-militarist paper "DOHO," and Kay Sugahara was member of L.A.-JACL Anti-Axis Committee.)

6/16/42 — Scavenger truck with Kibei crew, bearing Black Dragon flags (skull painted white on black cloth), appears in front of Block Leaders Council and Camouflage Net Garnishing Project telling everyone not to work on nets. Elaine signs up for net project and leaves library job.

6/22/42—Gang on truck with Black Dragon flags go from block to block telling everyone not to work on net project.

6/24/42 — Leaflets, "An Inu directed by Ben Kishi and

Who Betrays Us," posted on every camp washroom urging all residents not to work on camouflage nets and warning that the names of those working on project will be published. Also states, "Don't be like Chinaman. We are number one nation in the world," signed Blood Brothers.

6/26/42 — Leaflets by Manzanar Black Dragon Association posted in all washrooms, urging all "true-blooded Japanese" not to work on nets which are "war tools for U.S.A." Also asks residents to boycott the Manzanar self-government body.

6/27/42 — 1:30 p.m. camp meeting called by administration at Block 1 Kitchen. 200 present. Director Nash and Asst. Dir. Ned Campbell spoke on importance of camouflage net project. During question period, I ask, "What do you intend to do about the small group threatening those working on nets?" Campbell replied with an authoritative gesture. "In this camp, you are all Japanese, no difference among Nisei, Kibei and Issei. We all work together." (This from a former administrator in the Bureau of Indian Affairs!)

7/20/42 — As of today, total of 599 citizens — 465 men and 134 women — working on net project.

7/22/42 — Very hot, 114 degrees. While Tokie Slocum (WWI vet) and I were talking in front of Block 4 office, a Black Dragon truck suddenly charged us at full speed. We managed to jump onto top step. Truck busts lower step and speeds away. I report this to the Council meeting. Joe Kuri-

hara of Block 25 reports, "I don't want to do any favor for U.S. government and that will include Yoneda, Slocum and rest of that bunch. I am a full-blooded Jap now and nobody will change me!"

7/27/42—Elaine's arms breaking out in rash. Doctor says it is from dye in net material, several others have it too. She cannot go back to work until about Aug. 7.

8/8/42 — Kibei mass meeting at Block 15 Kitchen, 7:30 p.m. Ben Kishi, chairman, Oda and I appeal to them to use their common sense and think of the future of Japanese Americans in

Shigetoshi Tateishi & other Kibei make anti-U.S. talk. J. Kurihara makes pro-Japan speech.

Manzanar III

I'm a full-blooded
hip now; nobody
will change me!"

postwar period. We are
treated with bodily harm.
at inus, kill FBI spies."
someone calls in camp police to
ect us.

11/42—Rumblings at camou-
e, strike talk, many meet-
Koji Ariyoshi negotiates
vances.

14/42 — Ariyoshi, Blamey,
Yamazaki and Yoneda of
met with Phillip M. Glick,
A solicitor, and discussed
ibility of setting aside Man-
r as "citizen camp" and
ging in defense work at pre-
ng outside wage scale. Show-
im copy of letter addressed
VRA Director Myer that con-
s such an idea. We also told
the small pro-Japan element
t go in order to have har-
y in camp.

19/42 — "The General"
pers something to four
g boys standing around,
then begin to throw rocks
Elaine working on nets.

20/42—9:30 a.m. in front of

n Hall, 1-5-4, gang of Kt-
attempt to attack me with-
any provocation. At camou-
net project "General" talks
ome Kibei who later "play-"
throw rocks at Elaine.
comes home with bruises on
head and legs. Report oc-
nces to Campbell. He either
n't know the score or is
a slick politician. Nash will
ack tomorrow hopefully with
policy.

21/42 — Election of Block
der. Members of the Black
ons went house to house to
against the election of Yo-
as block leader. 350 of the
residents eligible to vote,
only 169 cast ballots. Re-
of election: Takeji Higashi
votes, new block leader; K.
da 13 votes, assistant block
er; Herbert Higuchi 1; Ma-
Ichien 2; Hajime Inouye
; Seigo Murakami 1; Ta-
i Nomura none; Stewart
yama 2.

23/42 — 14 Kibei including
Kishi, Shigetoshi Tateishi,
y Uyeno, Koichi Tsuji, Roy
one, Tommy Kono, Hisato
o, M. Minami, Ken Yada,
o Sasaki, Victor Nakanishi,
ji Yoshida, Jim Higami and
ara, come to our "apart-
t" at 9 p.m. and demand
ogy for my unkind remarks
Block Leaders Council meet-
Refused to do so. Ensuing
al argument lasted almost
hours.

Kishi

In the meantime, about a dozen
Nisei and Kibei judo students
were outside demonstrating in
threatening manner. Kibei leader
tells me that the Japanese
Imperial government would be
informed to take care of my
mother in Hiroshima! (How did
he know mother lives there?)

He also says that when the
victorious imperial army of Ja-
pan lands in Manzanar, I will
be first to be machine-gunned.
Finally, they left saying "We
will come back when your wife
and son are not home." Elaine
and Tommy sat through this
ordeal without a word, they do
not understand Japanese, al-
though Elaine jumped when
"Hiroshima" was mentioned.

Nisei, Kibei judo students in front of Yoneda quarters

8/25/42 — Some Kibei attack
James Oda. He is hospitalized
one week.

9/12/42—Ariyoshi married to
Taeko Ito. I'm best man.

10/5/42—Elaine to quit cam-
ouflage net project. I'm leaving
for Idaho, tomorrow.

10/8/42 — Tommy placed in
Block 1 nursery school, and
Elaine starts working as "kin-
dergarten helper" in same build-
ing.

11/18/42—Karl returns from
Idaho.

11/26/42—Another anti-admin-
istration Black Dragon poster
appears in washroom.

Manzanar Riot

Only a minute portion of what
led to the riot, such as anti-
JACL feeling, threatening notes
to JACL supporters, Manzanar
delegation attending JACL con-
vention which urged President
to reopen Selective Service to
Nisei (11/7/42) has been dis-
cussed in other articles. Rarely
disclosed is the fact that the
same threatening letters were
also sent to the 17 members of
the Manzanar Self-Government
Committee as well as to the

leaders of MCF on Nov. 7 by
the Blood Brothers. Also, peti-
tions had been submitted to the
President (8/5/42) - asking Ni-
sei be allowed to serve in U.S.
Armed Forces three months
prior to the JACL action in Salt
Lake City.

Ben Kishi and his

of Seigo Murakami

Moreover, on Nov. 28, 1942,
Manzanar was the first camp to
have 14 volunteers for the MILS.
They are Keiichi Amiho, Koji
Ariyoshi, Yoshiki Hirabayashi,
Shori Hiraide, Frank Ishida,
James Kamenishi, William Mu-
rata, Ichiro Obikane, James Oda,
Sho Onodera, Henry Uyehara,
Harry Yamashita, Nobu Yama-
shita and Karl Yoneda. Even-
tually all served in the Pacific
Theatre zones.

As Ariyoshi writes:

"We had to choose between
Hitler, Mussolini and the Japa-
nese militarists and their war
industrialists, and the allied
powers. If the Allies lost we
would not be able to fight for
our constitutional rights and
privileges. I felt this keenly when
I volunteered from behind barbed
wires when such a move was
very unpopular." (Honolulu Star
Bulletin, 4/9/71).

This enlistment, as well as
others, has been ignored by most
historians, who have elevated
Mike Masaoka as the first Main-
land Nisei volunteer, which oc-
curred in January, 1943!

Nights of Nov. 28 through Dec.
1, 1942 — groups of 10 to 12
speaking around our barracks.
James Oda and others stayed
with our family for protection.

On Nov. 30, Elaine applies for
Tommy to go back to Military
Area No. 1, and on Dec. 2 I left
Manzanar on the 7:55 a.m. bus

to Minnesota, via L.A. About
200 were at gate to bid farewell.
Families weren't allowed to go
beyond the barbed wire to say
good-bye. All had tears in their
eyes.

Certainly, the Manzanar riot
was the culmination of above
factors. However, the riot was
created, in my opinion, by a
small group of ruthless, misguid-
ed men of "goon squad" men-
tality. It is incorrect to say that
"the death list members were
predominantly JACL supporters
and consisted of only 12 names"
as Tad Uyeno wrote in his
"Point of No Return."

From the diary of Elaine,
Caucasian "voluntary evacuee"
who elected to go to camp be-
cause our three-year old son
Tommy (with more than 1/16
Japanese blood) was ordered to
Manzanar, come the following
entries:

12/2/42 — Return from seeing
Karl off to MILS. When will we
see each other again, be a family
again? Ever? Tommy constantly
sobbing, wheezing, vomiting,
getting feverish. At 6:45 p.m.
he's admitted to hospital again.
Yo (Ukita) stays with me.

12/4/42—Mrs. H. Higuchi tells
Alice Ukita. (Yo's sister-in-law).
"Karl walked out on Elaine and
Tommy because he was scared
of Kibei, that's why he went
into army." What hog wash!
Since Dec. 7, 1941, he's been
wiring, writing to Pres. Roose-
velt, etc., to be accepted for
Pacific service despite his age
(35) and family responsibilities!

12/6/42 — Wire from Karl
delivered this a.m., arrived in
Minneapolis. Heard noontime
Fred Tayama badly beaten last
night and Harry Uyeno, Block
22 cook, arrested for assault, and
that a mob had gone to Adm.
Bldg. demanding return from
Independence of Uyeno.

Tommy and I head for Adm.
Bldg. about 2 p.m. to check on
whether any wire regarding
Tommy's leave has arrived.
Find some 3000 gathered listen-
ing to speeches in Japanese.
Hear name Yoneda bantered
about by them, don't know
what's being said. Voices sound
threatening though. Chester, on
administration staff, came over
to where I was standing and
says it would be best if I didn't
stay around, since speaker after
speaker had indicated, "If Karl
Yoneda was here we would kill
him, but he has run away to the
Army, so we will get his son!"
—I ask for protection, no soap.
Return to 4-2-2 and lock selves
in.

Yo drops by, she has been
threatened by crazy judo guy
for associating with me.

Run again to get police pro-
tection, nothing doing. Lock door
as best I can. Chest of Tommy's
toys too heavy to move across
entrance. Do not go to evening
meal.

Kitchen 4 meal bell starts
banging at 9:30 p.m. and taken
up by other blocks. Kitchen 4
crew shouting, "Strike." Yo came
by again, says there has been a
shooting by MPs and more beat-
ings, but doesn't know details.
Martial law declared. Yo says
she cannot come anymore for
fear of what may happen to her
family. Commotion continues
till about 11:30 p.m. Sulking
figures all around our building.

12/7/42 — 1 a.m., commotion
starts again. Loud crying from
4-1-2 (Itos). Cannot contain self,
run across. Obasan Ito sobbing,
embraces me. I learn James Ito
has been killed, George Kano
4-1-3 wounded. They were on
way to night jobs at Adm Bldg.
unaware of mob trying to break
into jail or of martial law.
(Both had signed 8/5/42 peti-
tion to President.)

Ito's sister, Martha, warns me to seek immediate protection for Tommy and self. Ugly rumors spreading. I run back to 4-2-2, Tommy awake and crying for his daddy.

At 5 a.m., it is very cold and dark. I start running with Tommy toward Adm. Bldg., stopped and challenged by armed soldier.

He thought I was "lost wife" of an MP from other side of barbed wire. I make him understand I am "evacuee" wife seeking protection.

He takes us to Block 3, turns us over to other guard, so on down the line till Adm. Bldg.—it is surrounded by GIs manning machine-guns at ready. Good thing our escort knows the orders of the day, where would we be otherwise?

Inside, find many cots lined up on both sides, with desks pushed back. Campbell tells me he "forgot" we needed protec-

"Saw many black armbands . . . found out later 'Blood Brothers' wore them."

tion! I'm concerned about Taeko Ariyoshi, have not heard from her—she is pregnant and not among those in Adm. Bldg.

12/9/42.—Hear from Mrs. D'Ille, Taeko okay, what a relief. Escorted by armed soldier to 4-2-2 to finally pick up change of clothes, also to carry out whatever Tommy and I can. Crowd formed, told to hurry by escort.

In rush forgot purse, escort gets reinforcements, said he didn't like looks of crowd that had gathered. We return to 4-2-2 to find three men trying to break off lock. Get purse. Saw many black armbands, though it was mourning symbol, found out later "Blood Brothers" wore them and were forcing almost everyone to wear them.

Was Nakajo, George Fukumoto and Seigo Murakami's son

Manzanar

12/10/42—Stocum family going to New Mexico, rest of us in "protective custody" going to CCC camp in Death Valley. No word on Tommy getting permission to leave.

12/12/42—Tommy, first Death Valley patient outside those who had been beaten. I'm working in kitchen, Tayamas good cooks.

12/15/42 — R.E. Fryer, West Coast Regional Director who came in from Utah on way to Manzanar, says he will try and rush Tommy's permit. No word from Karl, wonder what news they're getting back there?

12/16/42—18 letters and cards from Karl up to Dec. 7 delivered Campbell back from Manzanar tells me to pack. We will be leaving tomorrow morning. Campbell has laminated card with Tommy's picture and reverse side bearing certain information re his right to be in Military Area No. 1. I'm to send monthly affidavit to General Dewitt, reporting whether or not Tommy had committed any acts of sabotage or been in fights because of his ancestry. He'll be all of four years old on 1/10/43.

All changes of address to be reported and okayed (this goes on till October, 1943). I have some questions on letter of instructions to me. Campbell tells me not to raise any objections,

ie. "in custody of Caucasian mother at all times." I point out we have many friends among peoples of all races—Negro, Filipino, Chinese — what if Tommy was to spend weekend with them without my presence?

12/17/42—Tearful good-bye to Ruth Yamazaki and others. Leave Death Valley, at 10:30 a.m. to Lone Pine and then Greyhound to L.A. My folks to meet us. Wonder what the fate of those left behind in Death Valley will be? How long will the camps continue?

CONCLUSION

We do not deny the JACL and its organ, the Pacific Citizen, edited by the able Larry Tajiri, made many contributions during the Evacuation period, but it is wrong to say "the agony and pain" was only limited to JACLers. We all suffered economically, physically and psychologically. We all remember the daily pro-Japan rumors, which persisted during the entire camp life, those alone could be made into a book!

Small terroist groups in Manzanar and other camps did nothing to help the lot of the evacuees. On the contrary, their activities and the blundering and mishandling by the U.S. government of the situation, influenced more than 5000 Nisei to denounce their U.S. citizenship, and over 8000 evacuees—men, women and children — going to "victorious Japan." Joe Kurihara, who led the first group of "repatriates," later came back to the U.S. as did most of the 8000 as well as some who had gone earlier on the S.S. Gripsholm.

The actions of these small segments cannot be treated lightly, attempts are still being made by some to identify these groups as "true protestors" against the Evacuation.

Instead, we feel, special tribute and honor should be given to the 730 men of Japanese ancestry who gave their lives during WWII, some of whom had

volunteered from behind barbed wire. Among them were Manzanar Issei activist Tom Yamazaki; L.A. Kibei activist George Gushiken, Seattle Kibei unionist Ken Omura and Hood River Nisei Frank Hachiya. Experiences of evacuation are varied and complex as articles by Tad Uyeno and us indicate. The Evacuation is part of the history of racism in this country.

The story of Evacuation—concentration camps—must be told, retold, not only to our children, but to the white and non-white world, so that it can help wipe out racism from our society.

Joe Kurihara,

Seiichi Kurihara and his ilk