MINIDOKA WAR DETENTION CAMP

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THE WRONG ANCESTORS

THE FATE OF 110,000 JAPANESE- AMERICAN EVACUEES IS A QUESTION WHICH POSES MAJOR TEST FOR AMERICAN DEMORCRACY...HERE BEGINS A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THESE U.S. "CITIZENS WITHOUT A COUNTRY"

Riots at a California Japanese evacuation center, charges in congress that the Japanese are living in unnecessary luxury and a labor crises in western farming areas have thrown Japanese-American evacuees before the nation as a "hot" issue.

To make an eyewitness appraisal of life in a typical relocation settlement, the Oregonian sent a veteran newspaper writer, Mel Arnold, to the Minidoka center, to which northwest Japanese have been removed.

THOUSANDS of Portlanders and Seattleites--members of the first mass of "citizens without a country" in American history--tramp ankle deep in the Idaho mud and stare bitterly at their barbed wire inclosure.

They are charged with no crime; they are accused of no sabotage. They had the wrong ancestors.

They are part of the army of 110,000 Japanese-Americans who were assembled in coastal areas by the army last year and shipped off to tem "relocation centers" in the interior. Here a in the Minidoka center, high on a sagebrush plain of south-central Idaho, are 9500 Japanese-Americans, principally from the two metropolises of Orgegon and Washington. Two-thirds of the colonists in this camp--as well as in the other nine centers--are American citizens.

Are they being held illegally? Federal Judge Fee of Portland caused a national furore several weeks ago when he challenged the validity of the entire procedure. He ruled that, in the absence of dec laration of martial law, the military had no right to regulate the life of ordinary American citizens.

But the authorities held that "the presence of all these people clustered along the coast and scattered throughout the interior valleys enormously complicated the problem of far western defense."

A nd even the stauchest defenders of the rights of the American citizens in the camps refrain from criticising the army fro its inital action. The Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian churches, which calls these "our war victims," concedes: "The benefit of the doubt should certainly be given to the motives of the army in ordering the evacuation. Because of the long record of doing everything too late that has had such tragic results for the democracies, the civilian has little right to criticise the army for acting on the basis of the wor st ped possible contingencies."

However, inists the council: "We must distinguish between the issue raised by the evacuation from coastal areas and the question of future policy. Even if this evacuation was necessary, it is still a very evil thing to deprive American citizens of all of their liberities by administrative fiat, without due process of law."

What's to be done with them? It is becomeing increasingly evident that the fate of this minority will be a major test of American democracy.

It must be remembered that the 110,000 members of these ten centers are, so far as the authorites can tell, rank-and-file residents. Known criminals and suspected criminals are locked up in internment camps.

Plenty of "toughtguy" talk is heard, everyone has listened to remarks such as these:

"Lock 'em up and throw away the key!"

"The only good Jap is a dead Jap."

"Ship 'em back where they came from!"

"Once a Jap, always a Jap."

The Native Sons of the Golden West have brought suit in San Francisco to bar Japanese-Americans from voting.

The Denver Post-belligerently trying to recapture th rootin', tootin', shootin' days of its mining-boom youth--recently twirled a couple of editorial six-shooters in the air and issued this proposal: that the Japanese-American men be locked in ~~eet~~ certain internment ~~s~~ camps. and that Japanese-American women be locked in other camps. Then America, the Post insisted could in a few decades forget the Japanese "population problem" ever existed!

The public at large takes a more sober view of the problem. The Gallup coll organization recently asked a cross-section of American citizens whether the Japanese-Americans should be allowed to return to the Pacific coast after the war. The results: 35 per cent would allow all to retun; 26 per cent would allow only Japnese who are American citizens to retun; 17 per cent would allow none to return; while 22 per cent remain undecided. Citizens in the five western states showed somewhat greater hostility toward the Japanese-Americans, with ~~enley~~ only 29 per cent voting to let all return.

HATRED:
Firmly Maintained by Many Persons

There remains, however a hard core of burning hatred in much of the population. It is typified by a barrel-chested laborer in Shoshone who growled: "We didn't build up the west to turn it over

to any Japs.... We oughta ship 'em where they came from."

When it was gently pointed out to him that two-thirds of the relocation-center residents were American citizens, he barked:

"That don't c ut no ice. Citizens? So are the rattlesnakes!"

But inside the barb ed wire citizenship is a live issue. For years the young "Nisei" (pronounced "knee-say") born in this country , had been boasting of their American citizenship. Some had even been a bit overbearing in their expressions of superior-it y over the immigrant "Issei" (pronounced "ee-say").

Now an occasional elder sneers at the youngster: "So you're an American citizen! But I see you're in here with the rest of us A lot of good that citizenship did you! Now you know what being a second-class citizen means."

Citizen and non-citizen, they're both going "schlop, schlop" in the mud of Minidoka now. No ordinary mud, this. It's black it's deep, and it has suction-fingers. Only a neophyte attempts to wear ordinary rubbers. First of all, the mud is much too deep. And, further, the natural glue content of the mud is strong enough to jerk off rubbers after a few steps. Minidoka colonists who can afford them have bought rubber boots and galoshes.

Bad as is the mud, the Minidokans vastly prefer it to the d ust of the drier months. When the evacuation trains from the Portland and Puyallup evacuation centers pulled up to the Hunt, Ida., siding last summer, the settlers scanned a barren, roc ky sagebrush plain, and failed to find a spot of green in the whole parched landscape. They stepped into an inch-deep layer of powder-fine yellow dust. Every step raised a spurt d ust; a thick pall hung in the sky over the three-mile-long cluster of t arpaper shelter that we re to

be their homes. They learned to tie wet cloths over their noses and mouths, and to rinse them out repeatedly through the day. They learned to carry cleaning tissue to the dining halls--to rub the dust from the plates. The ad ministrators saw its office staff go home at night as gray-haired women, and to c ome back in the morning shiny and b lack-haired.

The rain c ame and with it gumb o. But few complaints were he ard. It w as a part of the daily pattern of life--a nd a g reat rel ief from the dust . Winter has brought an increasing number of days with freezing weather, and this solves the mud prob lem by converting it into black, solid pavement.

The oriental sense of humor has helped ease the situation. When ffiends mention "walking in mud," a local artist grins and insists he's walking on marshmallows. When the mercury drops t o 32 deg rees, and a crispy coating forms on top, he remarks, "The marshamallows are toaste d."

The "city" is made u p of 36 blocks of ba rracks stretching in a semicircle reaching three miles from east to west, roughly paralleling the Twin Falls north-side irrigation c anal. The "city" is near one edge of the 68,000-acre tract in the Minidoka reclamation project. Because this area is broken up by huge outcroppings of lave, only one-quarter of the broad acreage is potentially suited to agriculture. The soil between the outcropping is the fertile and n eeds only irrigation water to yeild abundant crops.

In each block there are 15 buildings. Twelve are living q uarters; one, a utility building; one, a dining hall, and another,

a recreation hall (usually serving as a school, church or library). The tarpapered barracks buildings are 20 feet wide and 120 feet long. These are cut crosswise by partitions, forming one-room "apartments" of various sizes. A two-person family is given a room 10 by 20 feet; a seven-person family gets a roomm24 by 20 feet.

INGENUITY:
Shown by Colonists In Fixing Up "Homes"

Each "apartment" is furnished by the government with a pot-belly stove; a cot, matress and two army blankets, for each person. And a bucket. The colonists furnish the rest, and the originality they display impresses the ~~viet~~ visitor.

Working with scrap lumber and cast-off material, many colonists have achieved real beauty in their barren barracks. The women launder burlap potato sacks and bleach white flour sacks; then run vari-colored threads through the sacking, and hang them across the windows for curtains. Craftmanship of high order has produced comfortable chairs and useful chests and tables.

A "pet" project of the war relocation authority's administrative staff in Mindoka is a demnostration apartment being developed by George Nakashima, graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who helped design the New York state park comm ission's buildings at Jones Beach, Long Island; designed a Ford factory for Yokohama, and painted murals in the Pennsylvaia state capital. He was working on war housing in Portland and Vancouver when "caught" by the evacuation order.

The model apartment is designed to show the colonists how a little material and a lot of ingenuity can go a long way in making their barracks more livable.

All the buildings were put up with the t wo-by-four studding exposed on the inside walls. In the demonstration room, Nakashima covered this studding with cardboard ~~ea~~ cartons. Over the cardboard he pasted several thicnesses of newspapers. A thin coat of white paint softens the black headlines. The walls ~~eree~~-g were given a final dramatically "modern" touch by pasting vertical strips of blueprint paper in random widths.

Nakashima sawed a pickle barrel in half, and upholstered the open ends with potato sacks, to form two chairs. A third low chair was made of scrap lumber, using laced rope to form the seat and back. The chair is bolted together "so that it will be easily demountable when we move." Nakashima made screens by fashioning grids of thin wooden strips, and then building up a dozen layers of newsprint with paste.

Residents of the Minidoka relocation center smile grimly over the rumors that fly through Idaho about alleged luxuries in the camp. One of the first rumors was that the ~~br~~ barracks were being equipped with tiled bathrooms. The colonists think of that one often when sliding ~~thro~~ through the mud to the outdoor latrines--so amply ventilated that snow drifts in. Standard plumbing has been installed in the utility buildings, but cannot be used until two great ~~pumps~~ pumps for the sewage system are built in the east. Several pumps have been built, but each time have been transferred to more vital uses.

One construction feature that galls the colonists more than the mud or the ~~inconvein~~ inconveniences is the high barbed wire fence, with the top strand set on an overhang.

ENCLOSURE:

Hurt S elf-Respect Of Evacuee Group

"Every barb in the wire puntured the hearts, pride a nd self-repect of the colonists," recalled one young Minidokan. "We had been living for weeks in the center, on our honor to behave like true Americans. Our record was completely clean. And yet, just because someone miles away had decided tha t every camp had to be surrounded by barbed wire, contractors moved in and started to work.

"They set fence posts and strung barbed wire. A few of the colonists, taking the fence as a personal affront, slipped out at night and took down some of the wore. Finally the contractor connected the wire to a generator.

"The camp was stunned. In a matter of seconds, the word flew from one end to the other that "the fence is electrified!" We really did feel then that we were in a concentration camp.

"The Minidoka administrators got on the long-distance phone and got orders sent to the contractors to disconnect the ~~gereater.~~ generator. Within an hour, the charge was removed from the fence--but the barbed wire still keeps the wound open.

"And the amazing thing is that the fence was erected although during the day we are not required to stay within it! We are free to wander through the sagebrush. At night, however, we are required to be inside the fence."

The fence is still there, and the colonists still scowl at it when they move outside their barracks.

There has been plenty of work for the residents of the Minidoka center--now Idaho's eighth largest city--to do. Initial plans called for the colonists to concentrate on bringing into new cultivation

thousands of acres in the Minidoka reclamation project. It was planned that potatoes, beans and onions would be major crops. Also, alfalfa and clover would be grown, along with barley and oats. The colony would produce most of its food requirements, and perhaps a surplus for other relocation centers, according to early expectations.

But a critecal agricultural labor shortage in the surrounding farm areas prompted the war relocation authority, ± operator of the center, to jettison this grogram. As crops neared the harvest, it became apparent to the panic-ctricken farmers that only one-half or so of the normal labor supply would be available. With suga beets, potatoes, beans and apples reipening gast, some appealed to the federal authorities to release members of the relocation center.

In order to protect the interests of both the evacuees and of the general public, the war relocation authority set up five requirements which had to be met before the colonists could be employed in any specific agricultural area. These were: (1) written assurance from the state governor and local law enforcement officials that law and order would be maintained; (2) provision by the employer of transportation from the relocation center to the place of employment and return; (3) payment of prevailing wages; (4) no displacement of local labor, and (5) certification by the United States employment service that satisfactory housing would be provided to the evacuees in the area of employment.

Certain growers hastened to meet the requirements--and several installed bathtubs in their houses for the first time in order to satisfy the federal agency's inistence on sanitary provisions for the Japanese-Americans!

The first evacuees moved out of the center to nearby ranches of the more "daring" farmers. Their frightned neighbors held their

breaths, fearing to be murdered in their beds. Wild tales shot through the land of armed Japanese hoodlums assaulting their benefactors and knifing passersby. But the exemplary behavior of the entire group soon revealed the absurdity of these stories. The experimenting farmers watched with satisfaction the Japanese-Americans havest as much as two and three times more sugar beets per worker than the former migratory laborers.

Other farmers, who first had sworn they would "never allow a live Jap on my place," soon were eating their words, and were applying for workers to save their own over-ripe crops.

At the peak of the season, Minidoka had 2300 workers in the field. It will be recalled that the entire center's population is 9500. Three thousand are employed in the daily operation of the "city". When the children and the infirm are deducted from the total, it will be seen that virtually every ablebodied man and woman in the camp was laboring in the harvest fields. In fact, so many men went to work "in the beets" that the center's fire department was "manned" by women for several weeks.

Japanese-American doctors, lawyers, mechanics, students--as will as farmers--turned out for the harvest. The inexperience of many evacuees in this type of work was made obvious by the sudden appearance of "Beet Thinners' Supplies" signs in the drug stores of neighboring towns. On display window carried these placards: "Back Ache? Try a Good Liniment!" "Hands Sore? Use These Lotions." "Feet Sore? Three Proved Preparations." "Pep Up With a Good Tonic."

Lois Sato, a young Beaverton, Or., woman, who graduated a few years ago from a girls' poly-technic school in Portland, describes the life: "We commuted daily in an aged Ford pickup, which threatened to have a break-down constantly--and occasionally did. ~~Up~~- Unplanned

boards on each side formed the seats. Our alarms rang at 5 a.m. We drove 30 cold, dark miles to Filer, where we ate breakfast in a farm security administration camp set up in the county, by 7:45 we were swinging the hooked beet-topping knife or heaving the big beets onto trucks. We all learned what it was like to be "conked" by a husky beet thrown from the other side of the truck by an over-energi energetic fellow worker. We found the work hard, but not monotonous, since we had pleasant company and alternated topping with loading.

"We worked fre for an incerdibly goo-natured man, G.F. Smith, and his son---half a dozen truck breakdowns and not one bit of profanity!

"Not all the beet workers were so fortunate, especially those going to Montana--where the crop was only half of what it was in Twin Falls county, living conditions tended toward the primitive, and more farmers were interested only in what they could get out of the workers.

"The grapevine is even now busy spreading word of what districts and what farmers to avoid; next year they will suffer from a labor shortage due to their own fault."

JAPANESE:

Point With Pride To Harvest Record

The Minidokans point pridefully to their recent harvest record. The "Irrigator," twice-weekly mimeographed newspaper issued by coloneists, editorialized: "The community has suffered untold inconveniences during the interim that these workers have been out, inasmuch as the cream of our manpower has been drainedoff

Barred from participation in d efense in dustries, evacuated by "milit ary necessit y" to reloc ation c enters, and hooted at, even assualted by unthinking o utsiders, the Japan ese-Americans here have , nevertheless, contributed in n o small way to t he nation's victory program. The y have proved, in the only way possible, that they are loyal Americ an s.

The early mon ths of 1943 find intermount ain business and agricultural inte rests already concerned about the attitude of the evacuees. They credit t he Japanese-Americans with saving at least one-third of the crops in Idaho's rich Magic Valley. This year they will desperately need the evacuees for planting and cultivating t he sprin g and summer, in addit ion to harvesting in the autumn.

A new wave of rumor-mongering is causing business and farm leaders to be fearful t hat overt acts may occur which will make the evacuees afraid to leave c amp.

The Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce has just set up a "Squelch the Rumor" committee. Its first act was to expose in the Twin Falls News-Times the rumor that the loc al shortage of anti-freeze for the automobiles had been caused by Minidoka evacuees buying up stocks for t heir automobiles, The committee po inted out that the 9500 ev acuees are no t permitted to have a single automobile.

A number of the store clerks have been explaining every new shortage t o customers by blaming it on the evacuees. On Saturdays, especially, people from surrounding small towns throng the streets of Twin Falls. During the recent harvest season, when the Japanese-Americans field workers would be buying t heir own supplies, some of the o ut-of-towners would make loud, pointed remarks about "yellow Japs." Except for "die-hards," t he Twin Falls people were more restrained; they kne w how important the Minidoka camp was to local

business.

Lately the Min idoka ad ministrat ion has been drastically reducing the n u mber of passes issued to evacuees. They now average only ten a day, and Twin Fall merc hants are beginning to feel the pinch in their pocketbooks.

Claude Detweller, president of the chamber of commerce, warned the pub lic in a recent speech that "We'll suffer dearly, in reduced crops and reduced business, if wagging t ongues and "to ugh-guy" at t it udes make t he evacuees unwilling to leav e the safety of camp."

Detweller in sists the Japanese-Americans are "becomin g favorite customers among t hē merchants --they don't crab or belly-ache; they're fast in making selections, and they buy quality."

ATTITUDE:

Of Town Changed,
Declares Editor

J. J. Mullen, managing edit or of the Times-News, says: "We would have been in a jam without the help of the c olonists. The att itude of much of the communit y has changed from open hostility to friendly acceptan ce. Of course, there are still some hotheads who thin k the evacuees should not be allowed on the streets. But most of theloc al clubs have been out to the center, and they've seen t hat thousands of colonists are just some more Americans.

However, many a citizen, especially after a few beers, persists in thin king he has a white man's burden to maintain.

A country newspaper in an Idaho town sent an S.Ø.S. to Minidoka for a printer, aft er all avenues of search failed to loc ate one. Minidoka had an experienced Japanese-A merican, and he left t he barbed wire fence in high hope of establishing himself in the o ut-

side world. He proved an excptional worker. The publisher was highly pleased. But one Saturday a couple of toughies grabbed him on the street, shoved a "Jap-Hunting License--No bag limit," in his face and gave him 24 hours to get out of town. The printer is back in Minidoka now; and he's not looking for outside work.

He and a few others prefer to work in the camp at the official wage in the camp scale--$12.oo monthly for apprentice - $16.oo for ordinary workmen and $19.00 for supervisors and skilled workers--rather than face the possible cuffs and rebuffs of other employment.

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"DON'T CALL US JAPS, REQUEST YOUNG EVACUEES AT MINIDOKA** THEY'RE WHO WE'RE FIGHTING"

SECRETARY of War Henry L. Stimson has announced completion of plans ~~fre~~ for admission of "substantial numbers" of Japanese-American citizens into the United States army on a volunteer basis.

Said Stimson: "It is the inherent rifht of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle."

This article, second of a series, discusses the attitude of young "nesei" toward service in the army.

GRAVELY, LITTLE 6-year old Dokie, a Japanese-American, was decorating his schoolroom Christmas tree.

His teacher, coming over to watch, was startled by the sight of a dozen cellophane drinking-straws fastened to the limbs, pointing straight up.

"What in the world do these mean?" she asked.

"They're anti-aircraft guns!" he proudly announced.

"Weill," she asked, "what are they pointing at?"

"Jap bombers!" was the instant reply.

Little Dokie's attitude is well understood by the scores of Japanese-Americans in Uncle Sam's uniform who visit their parents in

the Minidoka relocation center each month. Their parents are among the 9500 Japanese-Americans, principally from Seattle and Portland, who are living in this war relocation authority camp. Altogether, 110,000 Pacific coast Japanese-Americans a re living in ten such camps. Two-thirds of them are American citizens.

Five thousand Americans with Japanese ancestry are serving in America's armed forces. Those from the Pacific coast signed up ~~befr~~ before the evacuation order. Every day several can be seen hiking through the Minidokan mud. Over the Christmas holidays more than 30 were here--sharing the one-room quarters of their families.

They are seen in the uniforms of privates, sergeants and lieutenants. For their entertainment the girls of ~~Mink~~ Minidoka have organized a USO c enter.

The young bucks of the Minidoka center were proud to inform the uniformed visitors that "we beat Twin Falls!" More 18-year-olds signed up for selective service, on the recent registration day, in Minidoka than in nearby Twin Falls, which has a greater population.

When Pacific coast Japanese-Americans were ordered evacuated, selective service boards volunteers, and reclassified the others. The youngsters, all American citizens, are still ~~eomplaing~~ complaining loudly about being "given the same draft rating as enemy aliens." One healthy-appearing teenage youth, Hiromi Miyagawa, protests: "It's unfair! We're supposed to be rated according to physical c o n-dition and dependents. We're certainly not aliens."

Told of tentative United States army plans to create a division of American-born Japanese, Taka Ichikawa, young Portlander, reponded: "Hundreds of fellows would go from this camp. We're entitled to it. We're Americans, the-same as anyone else."

Shown a published report that if such a division of Japanese-Americans were formed it "certainly wouldn't be used in the Pacific front," Ichikawa retorted:

"Whynot? They let a Caucasian-American shoot a Caucasian-Nazi. We are just as anxious to put a stop to the Japanese war lords as the rest of the Americans."

Repeatedly Caucasian (the term "white" is never used here) members of the war relocation authority's staff express surprixe at the complete Americanism shown by the younger people.

One school teacher sat behind two high school students at an entertainment put on by some of the elders. When several musicians came on the stage, with their ~~inetu~~ instruments of their homeland, one of the yougsters turned to the other and said:

"Here's some more of that corny Japanese music. Let's scram!2

At the same entertainment, when an elderly actor came out decked in ceremonial robes a comic-strip-reading child squealed: "There's the Bat Man!"

Every once in a while, when the school children get tooo rough on the playground, a Japanese-A merican youhgster is heard screaming the worst insult in their vocabularies: "You dirty Jap!"

Gladys Gilbertson, teacher in one of the schools, insists: W "Why, these children need "Americanization" courses less than any others I've ever taught. They really know what Americanism means. They've lived under it; then they've had their American freedom taken away; when they get it back, they'll struggle day and night to continue to deserve it.

"The other day, in the sixth grade, the teacher finally was able ~~to~~ to get an American flag for the empty barren classroom in the tar-paper barracks. When the children saw her hang it, they were so glad at the sight of it that ~~thy~~ they rose spontaneously and saluted!"

The 1320 students in the high school classes come from 56 different schools "back home" in Oregon and Washington. The typical student knows only a few others, and does not speak unless introduced. "Mixer cances"are helping correct this situation, and Boy S couts, Girl Scouts, Girl Reserves and Hi-Y groups are carrying on the work.

Young ~~peip~~ people have earnestly informed their teachers: "You know the people we're fighting are the "Japs"; we're Japanese-Americans!"

The outsider is naturally curious as to whether the denial of freedom is making the colomists bitter--especially the young people, for thse are the ~~Japanese-Ameriens~~ Japanese-Americans who will be the most vocal after the war.

A clue to attitudes is given by the following expressions on thefirst year of war by members of one class of high school seniors.

One ~~by~~ boy recalled that on December 7, "after I came home from church, I heard a little news report on the radio. It said: "Some foreign planes have attacked Pearl Harbor; their ~~in~~ identity is believed to be Japanese." When I he ard this, I couldN't believe it; but you can expect such treachery from the Japs. At school a few boys got wrong ideas about me. I tried to convince them I hated the Japs, and that I was just as loyal as anyone in the school."

Amy Mitamura said: "Every American has to make some sacrifices, and this is ours."

Lane Fujihado said: "When we think of what is happening in

Europe, it isn't so bad here. The war has taught many a fine lesson, too--to work, study and learn harder."

ATTACK:
Came as Surprise To Young Japanese

Kazuki Endo, recalling the P earl Harbor attack, reported: "We were shocked. We wondered how Japan could do such a thing to this peaceful land of ours."

The "westernization" of the colonists was dramaized during the recent holiday season. They threw themselves into a furious round of preparations for Christmas. Every one of the 36 dining halls was elaborately decorated. Dining hall 17 was given one of two first prizes. Permanent possession of a mural. In this big ~~pa~~ tarpapered building, a miniature Santa stood by a signpost in the middle of the hall. Above him is a signpost, one arm of which re ads "Seattle 1941" and points toward a typical American fireplace, arranged brightly in one en of the long room, with cndles on the mantel and stockings hung in place... signifying what Christmas had once been. The other arm of the ssignpost, reading "Minidoka 1942", is directed at a huge picture in the other end of the hall depicting the symmetrically arranged barracks of the center with the bleak hills of Idaho in the backgrqung, emphasizing that Santa was not forgetting the "citizens without a country."

One nursery child, knowing the difficulty of getting past the guards at the gate, in a worried tone asked her mother "can Santa get a pass?" Other children were fearful that Santa could not drop ~~the~~ through the narrow stovepipes that served the he aters . But on Xmas eve 36 slant-eyed Santa Clauses showed up in as many dining halls--- several climbing through fireplaces that had been setagainst window openings.

GIFTS:

Removed Sting Of Barbed Wire

Much of the sting of the b arbed-wire fence was removed by an overwhelming ~~outpou-r~~ outpouring of Christmas gifts from "outside Caucasian" sources--principally from Baptist and Episc opal churches throughout the country, and numerous churches in Seattle. Minidokan children were deluged with 17,000 gifts. The colonists were stunned at the expression of good will. Some decided the ~~fi~~ gifts were rewards for the colonists' honorable behavior record.

"Ror the first eight weeks we didn't have a single policeman inside the camp," rec alls Harry L. Staffor, project director. "And in all that period there wasn't so muc h as a black eye. Without any desrespect to their nationality, imagine 9500 Irish cooped up, with a record like that!"

Minidoka residents point out that few cities of their size can get along without a jail. Original project plans ~~previd~~ provided for a calaboose, but when New Years wint by without a single drunk case, it was decided that plans cna gather dus t on a shelf for a while.

Captian Clarence D. Lee, formerly ~~heafd~~ head of the detective bureau in Berkeley, Cal., and now chief of Minidoka's internal ~~seerr~~ security division, estimates: "A typical American town of this size would have at least four times as much crime as we do. A typical town would certainly have armed robberies; and we have none."

Worst ~~ei-r~~ crime in the camp was a frustrated knife attack. The offender, who pulled a blade in a dining hall and threatened a neighbor, is serving a 3o-day sentence in the county jail. One "major"burglary has occurred, staged by teen-age boys who stole #--$80 worth of cigarettes, cndy and other goods from a canteen. Sannetomo Kaneko, assistant chief, traced footprints left in the dust.

The youths were captured, most of the goods recovered, and the offenders placed on probation for three months.

The police force of 90 Japanese-Americans maintains a day and nite patro of the streets. It also keeps an ey out for any evidences of disloyal attitude toward the United States.

Not only do the Japanese-Americans provide the police service, but also they operate, with only ~~nemin1~~ nominal Caucasian supervision, the large-scale community enterprises. These enterprises handle all supplies and services not provided by the government.

In four general stores, colonists spe nd $1000 a day (an average of a dime per person) for household supplies, soaps, confections, fresh fruits, canned goods, newspapers and magazines. No sugar or coffee is sold.

In the community barber shop colonists get haircuts for 2o cents. Eight beauty ~~shi~~ shop operators are rushed, with "deluxe" permanents advertised at "2.25. The low prices are made possible by the $12, $16, and $19 monthly wages paid employees for unskilled, skilled and professional work in the center.

More than 1000 families have a daily newspaper delivered to their doors. On the city's news counters, comic magazines enjoy the heaviest sale , followed by women's and fashion magazines. After getting fashion designs from the magazines, the women buy yard goods from two dry goods stores, which enjoyed a $12,000 volume in the latest month.

Girls in camp have knitted hundreds of sweaters for brothers and ~~bu boy-b~~ boy friends who are in the army.

ENTERPRISES:
Will be Grouped Into One Project

John Essene, superintendent of community enterprises, says the projects provide "effective training in democracy."

So efficient is the operation of the enterprises with Japanese-American labor and supervision that a dividend fund set up for purchasers approximates lo per cent on the vlume. This will be paid after the co-operative organization is completed.

Iti is the Caucasians who boast of the colonists' eficiency, not the Japanese-Americans. The other day, when the newspapers headlined the action of the Japs in falling into an American trap on Guadalcanal, Russell Sprinkel, senior administrative officer, chided a group of evacuees who were sitting around a pot-bellied stove.

"I thought the Japs were smart!" he remarked, in an effort to test the reaction of the Japanese-Americans. "And here they walk right into our trap!"

The evacuees were a bit ~~start~~ startled by his brashness. But immediately one grinned and asked quietly:

"You don't see a hell of a lot of brains here, do you?"

PROBLEMS presented by the evacuation of 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from the west coast represent a major test for American democracy--to remove these people as a possible threat to national security and to do so in a way befitting our national tradition.

OUT OF A BARBED*WIRE inclosure on the Idaho sagebrush plains a thin trickle of America's "citizens without a country" is slowly beginning to flow estward.

Mostly Portlanders and Seattleites, their homes since last

summer have been the tar-paper barracks of the Minidoka Relocation center in south-central Idaho.

Here are approximately one-tenth of the 110,000 Japanese-Americans who were removed by order of the army from military areas of Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona. They were put into ten camps "pending development of orderly plans," according to a government statement, "for their re-assimilation into American life."

These plans are now in operation. American citizens who happened to have Japanese ancestors are now moving out--to the east. From this one c amp, about two dozen persons a week are being released. Plans call for a steady acceleration of this program.

The program for the War Relocation authority calls for the re-establishment in useful jobs, principally in the middlewest, of 3o,ooo American citixens of Japanese ancestry by next summe r.

Informed persons close to the relocation picture are holding their breaths over the poitical bombast that is certain to develop as the outward flow of evacuees continues.

SPEECHES:

Ecxoriate "Luxury" In Japanese Camps.

Certain ~~feir-~~ fire-eating c o ngressmen are already bursting their galluses making speeches about the Jap anese-American allegedly living in luxury in their camps. All through the west, the evacuees are being blamed for the shortages of everything from meat to butter to canned goods. A little investigation would have reve aled that the evacuees are fed by the quartermaster corps of the army--which would certainly have no incentive to cheat the boys in Guadalcanal in order to fatten the Japanese-Americans at home. The fact is, the c olonists are supplied ~~ary-~~ army basic rations, with ~~did~~ deductions to comply with consumer rationing restrictions. This means, for example, no butter half the time.

One politician protested loudly in a speec h the other day that the War Relocation Authority was actually planning to give standard sc hooling "to the Japs."

A good many yellow skinned kids, who are American citizens are feeling increasingly grim about that s ort of comment.

They know t hat incarceration in the Idaho mud, behind barbed wire is sapping loyalties to America. For years, the second and third generations have been cutting more and more ties with the older folks. Many of the oldsters are delighted that the Americanized young er people are being forcibly brought closer to them--in fac t, they could ask for nothin g closer than the present housing of eac h family in one room.

It is obvious t hat there are axis sympathizers among one-third of the colonists who are still Japanese citizens, anddeven among the two-thirds who are legally full-fledged American citizens.

Loyal Americ ans in the c amps realize these must be rooted out, and report s uspects to the authorities. The existance of axis sympathizers leads some out side observers to say: "Keep 'em locked u p until we can tell the b ad apples from the good." But the loyalist s in the camps counte r with: "Being locked up behind barbed wire is turning good one s bad."

The dynamit e inherent in locking up together good and bad, young and old, was dramatized in an editorial of Pacific Citizen, publication of the Japanese-American Citizens League, discussing the December rioting in t he Manzanar Camp of southern California.

RIOTS:
Held t o Show Evil
in Mixing Internees

"This is a practic al demonstration of the combustible result of forcing mut ually incompatible groups to live toget her in the restrictive atmosphere of a camp such as Manzanar. No group

of citizens or loyal aliens can be kept for eight months behind barbed wire fences and under the eyes of armed sentries without that experience somehow affecting their faiths in democratic processes. The fact that many of those residents of Manzanar actively resisted the defeatist propaganda of politically inspired agitators and, in the face of threats of bodily violence, spoke out for democracy speaks stirringly of their fundamental faith in America.

"The answer to the question posed by the Manzanar situation is that of segregation and isolation for those who oppose America--for the apostles of defeatism and despair. The answer if that of greater freedom for those who stand by America--for those who look to democracy. Anything less would be to rebuke those loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who have fought, in the bleak, unglamorous setting of a desert relocation center, the same battle which men of freedom fight throughout the world."

The Portlanders and Seattleites were furious at the behavior of the Californians, referring to them as "more of a coolie class; while we, you know, are more of a business and professional class."

The exemplary behavior of these evacuees from Oregon and Washington is being rewarded with a stepping up of the relocation program.

Great strides in this program have been made since September, when the Minidoka camp newspaper, the Irrigator, morosely concluded in the editorial of its first issue:

"We are not here by choice. But it is likely that protest will alter the fact that we are here, or dissipate the probability that we will be here until we win the war. With minor exceptions, we will be here until we win the war. With the minor exceptions,

we are here t o stay until the 20th century tyranny is routed from its seats of power in the axis capitals."

COLONISTS:
Urged to Apply
For Release

Now the government is encouraging the colonists to register for release--techn ically known as "indefinite leave." Applications are sought especially from men and women between 18 and 35 years of age, who have been t rained in American schools.

It is felt that these members will be able to face more aggressively "the fifficult task of relocating in a strange area and again finding themselves economic security and happiness," explains Harold James, senior employment officer for the ten evacuee centers.

"The problem is a stupendousone in view of the war, lack of knowledge of large sections of the country about the Japanese-Americans and the natural prejudices that spring from a lack of understanding.

"We are pressing forward with all possible speed because mass idleness is not only damaging to the morale of loyal American citizens and friendly aliesn, and is cotly to the taxpayer, but is aldo inexcusable in a national period of decreasing manpower and all-out production.

"Full prosecution of the war demands the positive use of evacuee skills and energies in the battle of production behing the fighting fronts of the war."

James emphasized: "The prime objective is dispersal. The colonists are not being released in batches. There will be no case of "50 Japs heading for Chicago." It will be a case of say, Dick Yasui, skilled mechanic, and his wife Mary, both graduates of American schools, with their two well-behaved children going to Chicageo, where Dick already has a job lined up.

Dick and Mary will have a chance, ~~pri~~ provided their neighbors and fellow citizens really believe in democracy, to become members of the community life--to become active in the church, school organizations, business groups, and other.

"It is up to citizens of good will to help these people t ake thie r rightful place in American life. If these people are insulted and rebuffed, they will have only one choice--to seek again the ~~isl~~ isolation of the "Little Toyos," or to return to the shelter of the camps.

PUBLIC:

Assured Leaves Given Only to Loyal Folk

"The pblic can count on it that thos e persons who are given indefinite leaves are loyal Americans. There is only one Japanese-American for every 1000 of the rest of us. There can be no excus e for not making room for them."

Before an application for indefinite leave, is granted, the evacuee is subjected to searching inquiry by the F.B.I. Operatives go into his behavior record and utterances in his home town and in the camp. They find out what kind of publications he read. His work record is checked. ~~In addd~~ In addition, if the colonist plans to work on the Atlantic coast, the army intelligence service makes a thorough investigation of its own, inaddition to the F.B.I. search. Finally, the applicant must have permanent employment arranged.

Once cleared, the evacuee is given a form letter testifying he is entitled to travel freely within the continental limits of the United States, excpt in the Pacific coast military area.

Then the relocation camp is through with him--except that it remains as a haven if the going gets too tough.

The released evacuees must still report to the War Relocation

authority any changes in jobs and addresses.

"It takes plenty of guts to go out into the hostile world right now," James stated, "especially for the young fellows who are leaving their families for the first time."

It is planned to have nearly all of the 30,000relocated in the broad spaces of the middle-west, where it is felt they will encounter the least blind prejudice.

To speed the program, the War Relocation authority is opening field offices in Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City and a half-dozen other middlewestern cities. ~~Fif~~ First man to be selected as a field representative of the authority was Fred Ross, young associate of James at Minidoka.

His first job, a nd the job of succeeding field representatives, will be in each c ity to s et up committees w ho will sponsor individual evacuees. An attempt will be made to ha ve church, chamber of commerce, union and youth group representation on these committees.

The representatives will next line up specific ~~je-b~~ jobs utilizing the skills of individual colonis ts. Lastly, they will serve as trouble-shooters where discrimination and other difficulties appear.

Working strenuously with the War Relocation authority on this program are the United States employment service, the Friends church and the inter-denominational Fellowship o f Reconciliation.

FRIENDS:
Seek to Pave Way For Relocation

The American Frien ds Service committee has sent trained social workers into the camps to help smooth the way for relocation. In an open letter to Minidokans, the Quakers promised:

"We shall welcome you as neighbors, and we trust tha t because of this sad experience we shall be better neighbors to you than we were in the past."

IN the interes ts of wartime production of food and other necessities, an occasional exception to the "diversification" rule is felt justified. Currently, Floyd Schmoe, Quaker representative here, and WRA officials are trying to relocate one group of 40 families on unoccupied land in western Colorado or Kansas. These families make up almost the complete membership of the Puget Sound Vegetable Grower's association, which in 1941 shipped 700 carloads of fresh product to the Atlantic coast. In the Minidoka c amp are the management a nd the sales force. The association has $80,000 capital--enough to finance its resettlement.

"At a time when every carload of food is a contribution towa rd victory, patriotic policy requires tha t we get this group onto the land in time for 1943 planting," decla red Schmoe.

A similar vegtable growers' organization, with s taff and capital, is included among the colonis ts at the Heart Mountain Relocation center in Wyoming.

Holding a sheaf of letters, Schome explained: "We receive many requests from people in the middlewest and east who want Japanese-Americans for domestic service. It is true that many evacuees, including college graduates, are eager to take such work in order to get indefinite leaves. However, the WRA is wisely refusing to grant leaves in such cases , because they would merely delay assimilation of the Japanese-Americans and would not contribute to the war effort.

"There is a false public impression that the Japanese a re a

servant people. But there is no greater ratio of chauffeurs and servants among them than in our population as whole. The fact is, no minority is econ omic ally self-sufficient. Almost none ever went on relief. There's no chance of the Japanese-Americans ever becoming soft like the Indians--unless through some calamity we keep them penned up on these reservations."

Government agencies are helping break the job bottleneck by beginning t o take evacueees as stenographers, auditors, bookkeepers and clerks.

In Denver two relocatedee vac uees are working on the production l ine in an arms plant, and a third is helping make precision military instruments.

COLONISTS:
Chosesn to Teach
Sailors Language

One hundred colists are teaching the Japanese language to Caucasians in a nave school on the University of B oulder campus in Boulder. When real estate interests refused to rent quarters to these Japanese-Americans, the navy inserted a full-page n ewspaper advertisement telling the citizens: "You would rent to sailors: this is just as important. This broke down the b arrier.

Another group of qualified linguists is doing similar work at the army Japanese language school in Minnesota.

To arm themselves with knowledge for tackling jobs, 900 are enrolled in adult education classes, organized b y Jerry Fogarty, director, in cooperation with George L. Townsend, chief of community services.

Three hours daily, five d ays a week, 270 are taking classes under the federal vocational education program. Theses include training in operating, repair and care of tractor, trucks, and automobiles

general metal and wood work, elementary electricity; gardening; shorthand, bookkeeping and accounting.

Others are taking night classes in American history, American government, arts and handicrats, mathematics and first-aid.

Operation of the relocation machinery, with its educational adjunct, is being continuallyprodded by Harry L. Stafford, project director, who was fomerly Idaho director of the agricultural adjustment ad mistration. Staffor, incidentally, has two sons in the armed servieces, one of whom was gravely injured in the sinking of the tanker Pecos in the South Seas. Stafford has ready reply for would-be toughies who snarl: "Turn melloose with a machine gun in this camp and I'd settle this Jap problem in a hurry."

St afford quietly asks: "Are my sons fighting for an America to be bossed by machine-guns?

Harry Stafford and Philip Schafer, former field representative of the social security board in New York state, have lived with the relocation program from the geginning of Minidoka.

The first week, confronted with the unanticipated crisis of a death in the community, Stafford and Schafer drove out into the sagebrush to the improvised graveyard at midnight, when they suddenly recalled that, after the impressive sunset service, no one had remembered to cover the grave. They parked the car with the headlights shining on the romping jack rabbits, and without a word, took two shovels and did the job.

"After going through one dust storm after another, everyone's nerves were on edge." Schafer explained. "We knew the colonists' morale would have been shattered if the burial had been botched."

Schafer insists that while most people think of the evacuation and relocation as a problem of the war, "actually it's a problem of the peace. After all, if we can't solve now this problem of a minority in our midst, how can we hope to tell the rest of the world after the war how to live democratically and how to live with its minorityies?"

THE END

Typed with 1933 portable Royal (lousy typewriter)