

January 29, 1943

Dear Kan-

Just a few minutes ago, the radio announced that the Japanese in the ten relocation centers will be used in defense and in agricultural jobs...that is after being okayed by the FBI. And right after that, the morning paper brought better news yet. Probably, you'll hear about it but just in case you don't, I'm going to copy it down. The article appeared in the Minneapolis Times-

"JAP-AMERICAN UNIT FOR ARMY -- Washington, Jan. 28.-  
(AP)- The army announced plans today for a combat unit of loyal Japanese-Americans.

Secretary of War Stimson said the decision to organize a Japanese-American combat team, including infantry, artillery, engineer and medical personnel, was based on "the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle."

He also intimated a greater use of loyal Japanese-American in war jobs. "

Boy, just imagine how much the actual putting of this announcement into actuality, will benefit the Japanese in U.S. Whether it implies future drafting of the nisei for this unit if organized, I don't know yet. But I presume that's the implication. Off-hand, I'd say that the outfit will have the Hawaiian unit as its backbone. Especially, after reading the article about the 100th Inf. (at McCoy) in the Reader Digest for this month. (Feb. issue). The article was a condensation of that which appeared in the Baltimore Sunday Sun. The writer, Blake Clark, entitled the article "U. S. Soldiers with Japanese Faces". If you should happen to find the issue around the camp, read it. It doesn't mention about our branch of service since that's

suppose to be a military secret. But if this plan of Stimson takes effect, the result should be gratifying. That with the Japanese-Americans in Defense Jobs should be a big asset on the post-war ledger. What do you think? As for the post-war thoughts, I was reading the "Irrigator" which Corp. Roy Sakai sent to me from Wyoming. This issue had the results of the Gallup Poll survey. From the pie chart, it appears that 31% oppose the return of the Japanese to the coast. (Thought it would be higher) 29% favor return and 24% favor return of citizens only. 16 % were undecided. The national vote for return of all was higher...35%. Considering we are at war with Japan, the percentage isn't so harsh. Perhaps, after the war when the first wave of indignation has subsided, it won't be so bad. Especially, if coupled with the services rendered by the loyal niseis in the armed forces. What do you think about my deductions? Sound like an optimist?

You asked if we ever talk about "after the war". Frankly, no. It seems that the average nisei here is just aching to see action. (Though at times you hear persons mention the humorous irony of they being in the service while their parents are in relocation centers or concentration camps.) How true this hold for other nisei doing glorified detail work on other posts, I don't know. But I'm sure this announcement by the Secretary of War tickled them pink. By reasoning, it seems to be an action confirming for many Americans ~~that~~ the loyalty of many niseis. Anxious as hell to see the public's reaction to this army release. There should be some humdinger of an editorial letters. At least the release was a slap in the face to those narrow-minded Americans whose philosophy seems to be, "Once a Japa always a Jap."

*Eabe*  
Eabe

# Rocks for Japanese Gardens Placed in Strawberry Canyon

Twelve of the 150 beautifully sol-  
ored and shaped rocks from all parts  
of Japan are now in place as the wat-  
erfall background above a pool in  
the University's new Japanese gar-  
dens, now under construction in the  
Botanical Gardens up Strawberry  
creek.

The gardens, made possible by a  
\$2,000 donation from the Japanese  
Alumni association and a gift of ma-  
terials from the Japanese govern-  
ment, will contain three authentic  
lanterns hewn out of rock, a decora-  
tive bridge, and plants presented by  
Japanese nurserymen in California.

T. Harper Goodspeed, professor of

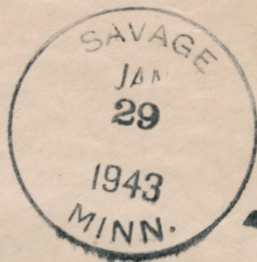
botany and director of the Botanical  
Garden, says that the addition will  
be authentic and classical model for  
other such gardens. It will be open  
to the public, and students of botany  
and design will use it as an outdoor  
laboratory.

Kaneji Domoto, University gradu-  
ate and nurseryman, is designing the  
garden. He assisted in planning the  
Japanese gardens at the Golden Gate  
Exposition and the recent New York  
World's Fair.

The University was presented with  
the materials from the Japanese gar-  
den on Treasure Island by the Japa-  
nese commission to the Exposition on  
behalf of its government.

T/Sgt. Y. Shibata, US Army  
Barrack "A"  
School & Student Detachment  
Camp Savage, Minnesota

\*\*Free\*\*



Mr. Kan Domoto  
6 F 5 C  
Granada Relocation Center  
Amache, Colorado