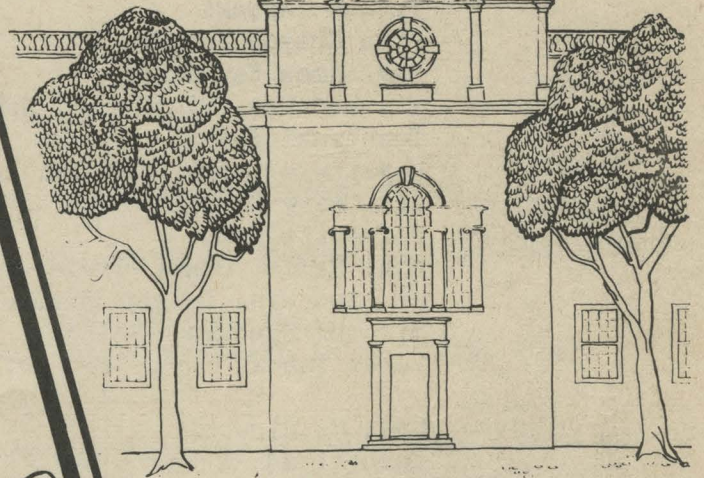


WANTED

A FRIENDLY  
COMMUNITY FOR  
FAMILY RESETTLEMENT

*JS Walker in entire charge of this  
pamphlet - also initiated its publication  
I believe it differs radically from  
former WRA material.*

*March Walker '45*



FOUND

THE CITY FOR FAMILY  
RELOCATION

PHILADELPHIA



FOREWORD

On June 30, 1945, there were 2016 relocatees in the district of the Philadelphia War Relocation Authority, which includes large parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. For the purpose of simplification, this pamphlet gives statistics only on the 725 relocatees in the City of Philadelphia and the immediate suburbs.

The following new Philadelphians have written or cooperated in the publication of this pamphlet:

Ichiro Hasegawa	formerly of Tule Lake
Mr. and Mrs. Kameo Hasegawa	" " Heart Mountain
George Kazuo Ikeda	" " Poston
Mr. and Mrs. Saburo Inouye	" " Jerome
Tetsuo Iwasaki	" " Poston
Miss Grayce Kaneda	" " Rohwer
Rev. Amos Kashitani	" " Manzanar
Mr. and Mrs. Michiyoshi Kohno	" " Heart Mountain
Toshiyuki Koiwai	" " Minidoka
Masatsugu Larry Miyakawa	" " Heart Mountain
Mrs. Mary Nakaji	" " Manzanar
Lafayette Noda	" " Granada
Miss Mariko Ozaki	" " Minidoka
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Uchida	" " Topaz
Hiroshi Uyehara	" " Rohwer
Masao Yabuki	" " Topaz
Mrs. H. Higuchi	non-evacuee
Kosh Miyasaki	non-evacuee
Mrs. Fuku Thurn	non-evacuee

All art work in this pamphlet has been done by Masao Yabuki.

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY



# PHILADELPHIA....

## Why?

WE THE RELOCATEES SPEAK TO YOU  
IN OUR OWN WORDS BECAUSE WE ARE  
SINCERELY INTERESTED IN YOU.....

Mr. and Mrs. Michiyoshi Kohno

(Michitoshi, Masako Mary, Tomiko, and Shiduko Kohno)

Relocated to Philadelphia  
from Heart Mountain in February, 1945

"It was February 5, 1945, when I came out to Philadelphia alone, leaving the family at Heart Mountain with a thought of finding a suitable place to educate my children in the East rather than the West Coast, where the anti-Japanese feeling still prevails.

"I was received very cordially by the officials of the WRA when I reached here. I explained the purpose of my coming here and the WRA advised me that I might have a little difficulty finding a house, but that jobs were plentiful, and I should come in every day.

"On my way home, I dropped into several stores but there was no unpleasant feeling from the people in the stores as well as from the people on the street. At the restaurant I was treated like anyone else. Another of my impressions was that in a time





like this, most of the people are conservative and serious. This led me to say to myself, "I'm glad that I came here."

"Three days after, I obtained my present job and that solved my first difficulty. The next problem was to find housing. But this was also solved by the help of the Church Federation. For the part of calling my family from Heart Mountain, WRA was good enough to teletype the center and it was not hard for me to sit and wait until they came. (On the other hand, the friends and neighbors in the center offered to help pack our things.) The family reached here on February 23. I had a feeling, at the time of my departure from Heart Mountain, that it would take about three months to get my family out. However, everything was completed in three weeks, and I have a heartfelt appreciation toward WRA.

"The month of February is the coldest month of the year and also the hardest time to find a job, but on the fifth day after my family arrived here, my oldest son got a job in a factory. My wife and daughter also found jobs. Thus our whole family started a new life in a new place.

"The two younger daughters are enjoying their school work in the public school near our home. All of the students and teachers are kind and cooperative. Anticipating my older girl's graduation from grammar school, arrangements have been made for her to enter one of the best high schools in the city. The youngest daughter would then go to the Junior high school which is close to the high school, and both would be able to attend school on the same street car.

"It is my opinion that young people who desire higher education can find it in Philadelphia, where all of the educational facilities are complete and readily available — colleges, universities, libraries, museums — all sources of enlightenment to students.

"As far as weather is concerned, there is no place like California. In the winter we have plenty of rain and snow, and Philadelphia is decidedly colder than Seattle, Washington.

"As to the food situation, it is hard to buy meat, but this is nothing unusual at this time as all of the people are feeling the shortage of food. However, the Japanese people like fish, which is not difficult to obtain.

"In the business and agricultural lines, there are opportunities for Japanese, and I would advise those people who have families to come out first to see the place and get first hand information for themselves."

\* \* \* \* \*



Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Takashi Uchida

(Miss Kay and Miss Yoshie Uchida)

Relocated to Philadelphia from Central Utah  
in May and July, 1944.

"Why did we relocate to Philadelphia? Simply because the girls sent for us. Why then did the girls choose Philadelphia?

"Well, our daughters, Kay and Yoshi were fortunate in receiving scholarships for graduate work in colleges in New England in 1943 when they left the Topaz Relocation Center.

"After finishing their studies in the summer of 1944, Kay was asked to remain at the college and was offered a position in the College Nursery school, which she accepted. Yoshi was fortunate to have received a call to teach at a Friends' School in Philadelphia which she accepted. So, there was the question for them to which place to call their parents.

"The attraction was in Philadelphia because it is a center of Quakerism and the people are so kind. They thought it would be better also for job possibilities for their Dad and so they decided to send for their parents.

"The other day, in the Hostel I met an Issei who recently came out from a center, and asked him why he came out to Philadelphia and he said instantly, "Why, I had no particular reason for that but I thought if I come East, it must be a city of nice and friendly people, so I took Philadelphia."

"It is true that the people of the "City of the Brotherly Love" are kind and friendly. We see much of the good influences of Quakers in this city and the state."

\* \* \* \* \*

Masatsugu Larry Miyakawa

Just relocated to Philadelphia from Heart Mountain  
in June, 1945

"One of the many things that impressed me since my arrival in Philadelphia, the nation's third ranking metropolis, is the genuine kindness of its populace. The reason for its being called "city of brotherly love" became immediately clear to me.

"The experience I had today on the street car is, I believe, representative of the general attitude of the people toward Japanese evacuees or for that matter, to any newcomers to this city. The street car stopped at a busy intersection.



An old man with a white cane got up from his seat and prepared to get off the car. When the conductor of the street car saw him, he got up and led the aged man by the hand, assisted him in getting off and escorted him across the street, where he was comparatively safe from the traffic. The conductor returned to the car and started the car on its course. Needless to say, I was quite impressed. I had never seen anything like it in any of the West Coast cities. I looked about and noted the expressions on the other passengers. They appeared indifferent. As a matter of fact, their expressions showed that this was a common everyday occurrence.

"One other thing which affected me deeply in this "city of brotherly love" is the fact that its citizens do not show any racial discrimination. At groceries, restaurants, department stores, barber shops, theatres, corner drug stores, etc., I have always been served cordially and with a friendly smile."

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. H. Higuchi  
Resident of Philadelphia since 1926

"Since we started our life in Philadelphia, 19 years have passed. When I returned from Japan to this city, it was in the year 1926. That year was the 150th anniversary of the independence of this nation, and the Sesqui-Centennial World's Fair was being held. At that time there were many artistic work of different countries displayed, and the things from Japan especially attracted the eyes of the people. The city was packed with spectators. However, in those days, the city had a law which prohibited the people from having any amusements on Sundays. Consequently baseball games, picture shows and other amusement places were closed, and this large city was rather quiet. This made me feel that the city was a real religious center.

"At that time the population of Philadelphia was two million, and I guess that there were about 100 Japanese people consisting of about ten family groups. Because of this small number, all of the Japanese had a family-like fellowship amongst themselves.

"After that I became a mother of two children. The oldest son is 18 years old and has just passed his physical examination for the U. S. Army. The second son is 14 years old. As the children grew up, we acquired a wider relationship with churches, schools, etc. and had better chances to get to know the people around us. Wherever we went we never experienced ill treatment, and all of our neighbors are very kind. We are living among them as one of them.

"Furthermore, this city has its traditional spirit of William Penn, and the ideals of the brotherhood of man are well taught and practiced. On the surface everything seems conservative, but we feel very much at ease living here.



"Since the city is situated between the Delaware and the Schuylkill Rivers, the land is rather low. The summer is very hot and it reminds us of the summers in Tokyo. Sometimes we do have a cold winter, but since I was reared in the mountains of Shinshu, it doesn't affect me very much. In the center of the city is Fairmount Park. In that park there is a Japanese garden which was brought from the St. Louis exhibition and there are also cherry trees which were planted by Ambassador Matsudaira along the Schuylkill River. They are large now and attract the attention of the city people.

"Lately a number of people are resettling from the West Coast, and we feel that our society is growing every week. Friends are extending the same hospitality to the newcomers as they extended to former residents. It is my prayer that God's blessing be upon those who have just come and that they might cooperate with the Friends to bring out the ideals of brotherly love and worldwide peace. In this way, we all might realize the ideals of the citizens of this metropolis."

\* \* \* \* \*

Miss Grayce Kaneda

(Mr. and Mrs. Tsunayoshi George Kaneda--  
Kay, Toshie, Ben, Roy and Ruby Kaneda - George Kaneda, U.S.Army)

Relocated to Philadelphia from Rohwer in April, 1944

"We relocated because we sincerely believed that the future of the Issei and Nisei in America would be more secure if we were able to steer away from our former "Lil Tokyo" patterns. Nisei and also Issei have been accepted on an individual basis in Philadelphia and have found a natural and congenial atmosphere in which to become a part of the community.

"Knowing the foregoing to be true, we felt that family relocation and assimilation would be simpler and possibly successful in the city of Philadelphia. So that is why the nine members in my family came."

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Kameo Hasegawa  
(Mitsu Hasegawa)

Relocated to Philadelphia from Heart Mountain  
in 1943 and January, 1944.

"Ever since we were obliged to evacuate from our old homes on the West Coast and live in a relocation camp, we were desirous of getting out of camp and leading a normal life on the "outside." However, we did not know the conditions which existed outside of California, and we did not know which way to turn. This was quite a problem.



"Our daughter had been wanting to enter a nursing school even from the time of evacuation and she negotiated with various schools for acceptance, but she was unable to find an opening because of her race. Finally, with the help of the Student Relocation Council, she was able to come out to Philadelphia and enter the nursing school at the Episcopal Hospital. That was two years ago when she went away.

"Since that time our thoughts turned to this area. The names Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, William Penn, etc. became the center of our thoughts. Since our daughter was here and since the city is the headquarters of the Society of Friends, we decided to relocate to this city. In the meantime, a certain person of the Quaker sect helped us obtain a job just outside of Philadelphia and we moved out here in January of 1944.

"The climate here differs from California. We can see the four seasons distinctly and it interestingly resembles the four seasons in Japan. There is no racial discrimination against the Japanese. The people are settled and quiet and it is our pleasure to mingle and live among them. I must say we are happy to be here."

Miss Mariko Ozaki

(Mrs. Komatsu Ozaki. George Tadashi, Setsuko Florence,  
Henry Kinshi Ozaki and Junko Grace Nitta)

Relocated to Philadelphia from Minidoka  
in 1943, 1944 and May, 1945

"It took me two years and 2½ months after leaving the Minidoka Relocation Center before I was able to call out my family. but now that they have joined me, I wonder to myself how I was able to do it even in that period of time. I started work in Washington, D. C. from February 15, 1943, and by October 1, 1943. I had made up my mind that it was not the place for my family. Upon request, I was transferred to Philadelphia, a city I chose at random. I have been living and working here ever since. I do not mind saying that my first few weeks in Philadelphia were miserable ones, and I thought I'd never get used to its narrow one-way streets and row houses. However, as I began making more friends and getting accustomed to Philadelphia life, I realized that I hadn't made a mistake when I chose this city as a place for my family to relocate.

"Without scrimping I was able to save enough, so that by December 1, 1944, I was able to call out my 14-year-old sister Sets from Minidoka and send her through school. This was my initial step. She made such a wonderful readjustment that I decided that the sooner my family left the Center, the better off they would be, especially in view of the fact that all the centers would be closing by December, 1944.

"I started writing numerous letters to Minidoka urging my family to join us. It was easy convincing my brothers, who rather looked forward to the adventure, but with mother it was a slow and



patient process. It had to be, because her heart was still in Seattle, where she had raised her seven children and had made her home for over 17 years. What made it especially difficult for mother was the thought of coming way out to the East Coast and leaving behind in a hospital on the West Coast her 19-year-old daughter whom she and the rest of us had not seen since evacuation.

"Mother did not realize that with the help of the Philadelphia WRA, the New York Area Office, the Washington WRA, the Seattle WRA, and the Philadelphia Department of Public Assistance, we were one jump ahead of her, having planned a complete family relocation. I was able to tell her that although it would take time, arrangements had been worked out for our hospitalized sister to come East and to be near enough to us for weekend visits. This would indeed make our family reunion 100% complete.

"January and February of 1945 passed, during which time I was monopolizing the U. S. mail with airmail letters to mother urging relocation. Gradually I could see that the seed was bearing fruit. In March, with the help of Mr. Robertson M. Fort of the American Friends Service Committee, I started looking for a suitable house for the family. Following up on the want ads daily was strenuous work, and Mr. Fort kept me company several days pounding the pavements. When a 3-story house was finally located, I started to shop for furniture and to look for a nice Nisei or Issei family who would want to rent the third floor.

"Financial help was offered me by the local DPA, and it helped to know that if I ever ran into any financial difficulties, I could count on them. However, by withdrawing a part of my savings and cashing my war bonds, I was able to furnish the five rooms and bathroom with the bare necessities. Caucasian friends came to the rescue and started me off right by giving me dishes, silverware, pillows, cushions, etc. The family and our 8-year-old cousin Grace, (whose father will join us in August), finally shook Minidoka dust off their feet and arrived in Philadelphia on May 15, 1945. What a happy reunion it was! Having lived for over two years in one room, it was amusing to hear Mom and the family say that five rooms were too much, that we didn't need all that space. Of course, we still haven't bought the living room and dining room rugs, and there are still a dozen other little things we need, but the family's presence fills the house with a cozy atmosphere, and it is such a pleasure for me to come home from work each day.

"My 11-year-old brother Henry received a guinea pig on his birthday, upon which he lavishes all his affections when he is not playing outdoors with his newly found Caucasian friends. Grace plays outdoors with her own Caucasian friends day in and day out; we just can't make her come home at bedtime. The other brother, 16-year-old George, was able to get a summer job through the WRA office as a dishwasher at Raquette Lake, 400 miles north of Philadelphia, where he



is having the time of his life. Mother keeps herself busy just washing and ironing, cooking, cleaning the house, and taking care of us. I could see that the first month for her was trying, and she missed her Issei friends at Minidoka. However, when she heaved a big sigh last Sunday and said in the presence of all of us, including my soldier brother who had come home on furlough, "How I missed Minidoka, but I can truthfully say that I've finally gotten used to Philadelphia!" My happiness knew no bounds. The twinkle in my eyes as much as said, "I told you that you'd get used to Philadelphia."

"Now that we have had word that my sister on the West Coast is coming, the Ozaki family's happiness is complete. I happen to be the only breadwinner in the family, and our budget has to be followed very closely, but we are managing and living a normal life once more. Can we ask for anything more?"

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Saburo Inouye

(William, George and Miyoko Inouye)

Relocated to Philadelphia from Tule Lake in 1942  
and From Jerome in 1943 and 1944.

"As I recall, it was February of last year when I was greatly impressed by reading the life history of Father Damien who, in order to bring forth the message of love to the leper colony, risked his life. It was about then that I became aware of the responsibility that has confronted us Isseis, and learned a further reason to leave the unhealthy atmosphere of camp life and establish a home for our children. The first reason was implanted by a Christian friend, who invited us to come to Philadelphia to establish a home for the children, who were facing inevitable difficulties and temptations from their abnormal living conditions. The second reason was, as mentioned, motivated by the parental duty that we had toward our children. We felt that it would be inexcusable for us to ignore the welfare of our children; with such thought we felt that as parents we should devote ourselves entirely to our children's welfare....and we should like to advise those who are thinking of relocation to come out as a family group.

"As for the much talked about Hostel and its facilities, one cannot expect ideal and perfect family atmosphere there, but those who have gone through there have expressed their appreciation for its convenience.



"A word more about ourselves: As parents of three children we share their toil as they work to support themselves. Our two boys finished their education at Swarthmore college here, and our daughter is now attending there. Needless to say, we are all happy over these, and we are really appreciative of the opportunity given us to resettle in this pleasant community. In closing, we like to express our further appreciation to the countless people who have created a friendly and brotherly atmosphere in Philadelphia."

\* \* \* \* \*

Tetsuo Iwasaki

(Shuko Frank Iwasaki, father,  
Mrs. Tetsuo Iwasaki, wife,  
Marsha Iwasaki, daughter)

Relocated to Philadelphia via Denver from Colorado  
River in July and October, 1944.

"Many years ago I had planned to come to the Eastern Coast in search of employment in the technical field. Through many bitter experiences in California I found opportunities few and limited. After making a thorough study of employment possibilities east of the Mississippi, I was certain that along the Eastern Seaboard I could find what I really wanted to make my life work.

"Leaving old friends, familiar places and my home town were just the things which prevented my plans from materializing at that time. Now, things have really changed. Our friends were no longer about us; California no longer a haven. The time had come to make, perhaps, the decision of a lifetime. To look forward to many years in a relocation center did not at all appeal to me. I saw the great change coming over my family while we were in the center for just four months. I came out when the first opportunity was presented to the residents of the center. Not being used to hard manual labor, the opportunity to harvest crops in the fall of 1942 in Nebraska did not provide too great an incentive to leave the rather complacent life of the Center. However, the chance to get out and see what changes had actually transpired during those few months could not be overlooked. With this in mind, I left for the "outside world" to see for myself the transformation of war readjustment taking place in this country.

"After leaving the Center and adjusting myself and the family to normal life in Denver, thoughts of post-war security became imminent. My travels in the past years had left few impressions of the East and industrial opportunities which could not be



forgotten. The choice of coming to the Eastern States was a big gamble for me. In fact, I could see no other place where post-war opportunities and security was in abundance. This is the reason why I am now in Philadelphia, the second largest industrial center in the United States.

"For those who have been preyed with thoughts of relocation, the reality must be met. The problem of relocation is inevitable. Whether you relocate in California, the Mid-West or the Eastern Seaboard, the problem still faces you. These are the things which the Philadelphia area has to offer you. The job and your future is here with one of the best post-war possibilities open now. Wherever you resettle, you must start all over again, and this area offers much in the way of future security."

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Fuku Kurokawa Thurn  
Resident of Philadelphia since 1937

"We are waiting your early arrival. Before the relocatees came, the Issei population in Philadelphia was comparatively low, but it is increasing day by day; and it gives considerable pleasure to us aged group. Won't you come out and join us real soon."



# PHILADELPHIA....

## 75%

**75%** OF ALL RELOCATEES IN OUR CITY ARE IN FAMILY GROUPS..... THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE IN THE COUNTRY. HERE ARE THE FACTS ABOUT US .....

WE HAD 725 RELOCATEES IN PHILADELPHIA  
ON JUNE 1, 1945

OF THESE 725:

- 515 people made up 125 complete family groups.
- 81 more people were in brother and sister groups.
- 129 people were here alone, but many of these plan to bring their families in the very near future.

PHILADELPHIA FAMILY GROUPS ARE LARGE.

21 family groups (155 people) have from 6 to 10 members in each family.

HERE WE ARE—92 OF US ARE MALE ISSEI, 56 ARE FEMALE ISSEI, 253 ARE MALE NISEI AND SANSEI, 324 ARE FEMALE NISEI AND SANSEI. WE ARE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS:

- 44 babies under the age of 6 years.
- 43 from age 6 to 14 years.
- 50 from age 14 to 18 years.
- 442 from age 18 to 40 years.
- 77 from age 40 to 55 years.
- 33 from age 55 to 60 years.
- 36 from age 60 on.





HERE IS HOW WE ARE EMPLOYED.

We are not, we believe, in wartime jobs that will vanish when the war is over. We believe we have permanent post-war security. Some of us are doing better than we did on the West Coast and some

OCCUPATION		Issei Male	Issei Fem.	Nisei Male	Nisei Fem.	TOTAL
1	Accountants	1		2	1	4
2	Administrative	1		1		2
3	Agriculture - Farmers	28	2	23	2	55
4	Artists			1	3	4
5	Beauty Operators				5	5
6	Bookkeepers				4	4
7	Butcher	1				1
8	Cashier				1	1
9	Chemists				2	2
10	Clerks - Payroll			1	2	3
11	Chick Sexors			23		23
12	Cleaning and Pressing	5				5
13	Cooks - Commercial	4				4
14	Dairyman			1		1
15	Dentists			2		2
16	Dental Technicians			3	1	4
17	Dieticians				2	2
18	Doctors	1	1	4		6
19	Domestic - Full time	8	11		40	59
20	Draftsmen			4		4
21	Dressmakers and Seamstresses		4		5	9
Engineers						
22	Aeronautical			1		1
23	Chemical			2		2
24	Electrical			5		5
25	Mechanical			1		1
26	Factory Work - Unskilled	5	3	9		17
27	Florists	1			1	2
28	Greenhouse men	1			1	2
29	Janitors - Housemen, etc.	7	1			8
30	Laboratory Technicians				3	3
31	Landscape Gardeners	1				1
32	Mechanics - Auto			22		22
33	Nurses Aides				3	3
34	Nurse - Registered				5	5
Office Work						
35	Clerk - Typists		1		24	25
36	Stenographers				19	19
37	Secretaries				23	23



of us have had to compromise. Some of us are doing domestic work but mostly to earn an education. There are 181 of us now getting that education. 64 of us are housewives and are raising families. The older people are doing well too. 111 of the Issei are employed in 27 types of work. We are building for a brighter future.

OCCUPATION		Issei Male	Issei Fem.	Nisei Male	Nisei Fem.	TOTAL
38	Medical Secretaries				2	2
39	Receptionist				1	1
40	Optometrists			1	1	2
41	Orderlies - Hospital	2				2
42	Pharmacists			1	2	3
43	Physicists				1	1
44	Poultrymen	3		4		7
45	Printers and Linotype Operators	1			8	9
46	Producemen	2		2		4
47	Research Assistants			2		2
48	Shipping Clerks	2				2
49	Social Workers				2	2
50	Statisticians			1		1
51	Store Managers (groc.- prod.)	3		7		10
52	Switchboard Operators				1	1
	Teachers					
53	Nursery School				1	1
54	Private School				2	2
55	College			1		1
56	Music			1		1
57	Language	5	2	3	1	11
58	Translators	1				1
59	Tree Surgeons			1		1
60	Truck Drivers			3		3
61	WareHousemen			7		7
62	Welders			2		2
63	X-ray Technician				1	1
	Skilled and Semi-skilled					
64	Construction workers			2		2
65	Inspector - Assembly			2		2
66	Instrument Tuner	1				1
67	Lathe Operator			1		1
68	Screw Machine Operator			1		1
69	Spray Painter	1				1
70	Supervisor			1		1
71	Time Engineer				1	1
72	Toolmaker			1		1
73	Watch Repairmen	1				1
GRAND TOTAL		86	25	149	171	431