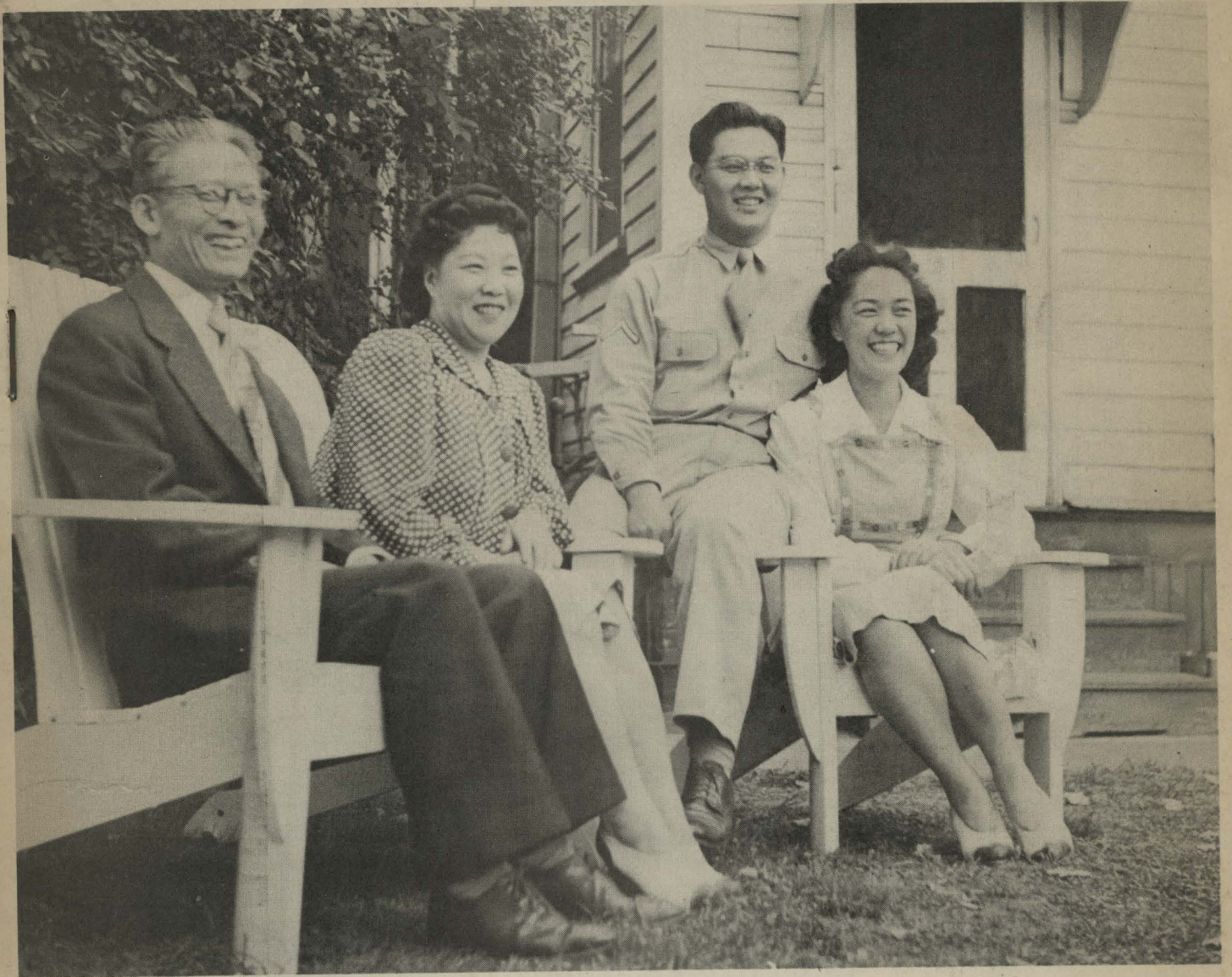


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Invitation to PHILADELPHIA



PRODUCE, POULTRY, FISH, OYSTERMEN DRIVERS AND HELPERS

LOCAL NO. 929, I. B. OF T., C., W. AND H. OF AMERICA

A. GOLDBERG
President

HARRY DANIELS
Secretary-Treasurer

Affiliated with
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR
THE CENTRAL LABOR UNION OF PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY

Phone, LOMBARD 8030

216 SOUTH SECOND STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.



April 27, 1945

War Relocation Authority,
11th floor, Stephen Girard Bldg.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

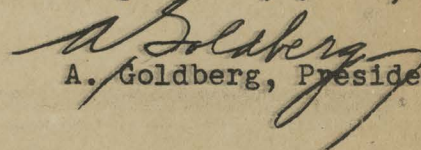
Attention: Edward Berman.

Gentlemen:

This is to confirm our conversation of April 27th and to insure you that Local 929 of the International Teamsters, has already accepted Japanese americans into membership of our union, and will continue to do so on an equal basis with men of every other race, color, or creed, and in fact this union discriminates against no one on account of race, color or creed.

We also wish to assure you, that the same equal treatment will be accorded any loyal person of Japanese ancestry who wishes to enter this industry in any capacity what so ever, whether in the retail or wholesale business, as is accorded any other person, as long as they follow the rules and regulations of the Union and industry.

Respectfully yours,


A. Goldberg, President.

AG:TS

The cover picture shows Mr. and Mrs. Eishichiro George Koiwai, Issei from Seattle and Minidoka, with their son and daughter-in-law Pfc. and Mrs. Eichi Karl Koiwai, in the garden at the rear of their Philadelphia residence. The Koiwais have another son, Toshiyuki Henry, who is chairman of the Philadelphia Nisei Council. Mr. Koiwai is employed by a cleaning firm. Eichi Karl attends Hahnemann Medical College, and his wife is a surgical nurse at Germantown Hospital. Toshiyuki Henry was graduated in June 1945 from the course in business administration at Temple University.

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* INVITATION TO PHILADELPHIA *
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MESSAGES FROM PHILADELPHIANS -- NEW AND OLD*

"Many of us who have relocated in the East believe that we have found many more job opportunities and less racial discrimination than in the West. Because of this many of us have decided to make the East our permanent homes. We have found Philadelphia especially good in relocation because of the numerous Caucasian friends who have gone out of their way to aid us in our adjustment to the city, truly making Philadelphia the 'city of brotherly love.'

"We have no intention of attempting to convince you to come to Philadelphia, or the East. These are matters of individual concern. Yet we feel that during your consideration for relocation, there may come a time when you would like to have more facts about Philadelphia and its possibilities. In this connection we would like to help you, and we feel we may be of some assistance with our experiences of the past which we here can relate to you."

New Philadelphians

"Citizens of this city have no antagonistic feeling toward people of Japanese ancestry but are very friendly toward us, especially the Quakers. Their deeds of kindness are bottom-reaching.

"For Nisei and Issei there are many opportunities particularly if they have special training. Generally speaking, however, most of them had to be contented with unskilled jobs. As in any other city, there is competition with the Negro people in low type of jobs, so Japanese should have special training. As for independent businesses, I suggest hotel, restaurant, laundry, grocery, etc., which would not take a large amount of money to start. We should never forget to cooperate with Nisei, and through them we can find cooperation with the Americans and find progress by so doing. I do not know anything in the field of agriculture, so those who wish to know anything in that line must go to experts in farming.

"It is alike every where that we have difficult times finding houses. However, if the people move in, they can manage to settle down. The climatic condition here, both winter and summer, is quite severe. We can never find a place like California. In the past we were over-blessed in living in a state like California."

Dwight Takashi Uchida, Issci
Topaz

*These statements appeared originally in Pcnn Notes, newsletter issued monthly by the Nisei Steering Committee of Philadelphia, which recently changed its name to the Philadelphia Nisei Council.

"The understanding and friendship of many have meant much. My employment in a biochemical research laboratory is an opportunity I could not secure in California. I like Philadelphia and would have you consider it as a possible place to live with your family."

Lafayette Noda, Granada
Ex-Chairman, Philadelphia Nisei Council

"One of the encouraging aspects of relocation has been the way the Nisei have been welcomed into the local churches. It is reassuring that the relocated Nisei are attending churches and finding fellowship.

"As their circle of activities widen, the Nisei are beginning to feel more at home and developing a sense of belonging. It is our hope that as the Nisei become settled, more will find their way to some church where they may participate and make a valuable contribution to the religious and social life of the community."

Hiroshi Uychara, Rohwer

"It is most gratifying as one gets about Philadelphia these days to find more of the good people of the city interested in their friends from the relocation centers and wanting to know how they can help in resettlement. All the nicest Japanese Americans must have come to Philadelphia, and we are very happy to have them here, and very proud of the different jobs they have done since they came and the various ways in which they have entered into the activities of the city. The Hostel has certainly proved a very happy venture, and we hope to see many new faces from the Relocation Centers during the coming year. We extend to all a very hearty welcome, with the promise that we will cooperate in every way possible to get those coming to Philadelphia permanently and happily located in what we believe is one of the pleasantest cities in which to live and work."

Henry Lee Willet, Chairman
Citizens Cooperating Committee and
Hostel's Board of Directors

"Most of our people have come from European or near Eastern countries. We have therefore been especially grateful for the relocated Japanese Americans and hope that more will make Philadelphia their home. Come and join us!"

Marian Lantz, Director
International Institute

"We believe that most of the Philadelphia Nisei would agree that ours is a friendly city, and somehow 'homier' than most large cities we know. The Nisei group is doing its share to uphold this tradition, not only by joining in the affairs sponsored by other groups, but also by carrying on a full social program of its own under the guidance of Grayce Kaneda, Lafayette Noda, Mariko Ozaki, and others. A fairly recent added feature has been a church service for the Issei conducted in Japanese.

"To you, wherever you are, who are looking for a likely place to establish your home and family, the Philadelphia area offers a great diversity of job opportunities from secretarial work to farming, homes for sale in any part of the city or suburbs, and most of all, a warm and friendly welcome!"

Dr. E. W. J. Schmitt, Pastor
Ebenezer Methodist Church

700 EVACUEES LIVE IN PHILADELPHIA--
A FAMILY CITY AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER

On June 1, 1945, more than 1750 resettlers were living in the Philadelphia WRA district, which embraces most of Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, the Eastern shore of Maryland, and the State of Delaware. Most of the resettlers reside within an area having a radius of 50 miles. Some 700 are living and working within the Philadelphia metropolitan area. In addition to the many Issei living only 40 miles away at Seabrook Farms, there are 146 Issei parents settled with their children in Philadelphia. The Issei are able to visit one another frequently, and they have social events together and with their children. One hundred fourteen of the Issei are employed in 25 different types of work, ranging from janitors to translators.

Very few of the hundreds of Nisei are here without their families. In fact, 70 per cent of Philadelphia's resettlers are in complete family groups, supposedly the highest percentage of family relocation in the country. The Nisei are employed in about 70 different types of jobs, many on a skilled and professional level. Philadelphia, in addition to being a family city, is an educational center. Perhaps that is why nearly 165 Nisei are attending grade and high schools, colleges, and post-graduate institutions. Twenty-eight of them are cadet nurses, and so Nisei girls in the stunning red and grey uniform of the Cadet Nurse Corps are frequently seen on the streets of Philadelphia.

Over 115 resettlers, mostly in large family groups, are living on truck farms, most of which are located within a half hour by bus from Philadelphia. Some of them have grown children employed in the city who visit them frequently.

WAR MANPOWER COMMISSION FORECASTS GOOD EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS--
PRESENT AND POST-WAR

Philadelphia is the second most critical manpower shortage area in the country (Newark, N.J., being the first). According to the War Manpower Commission Area Statements for March-April 1945, Philadelphia has employment prospects that are "very good in all major industries, as continued expansion is forecast. . . . Because of the diversified nature of industries in this area conversion to peacetime pursuits will offer many opportunities. . . . Extensive post-war planning envisions quick conversion of facilities. . . ." Many employers are ready with plans for, and some are already starting the production of civilian goods.

Under "Jobs Immediately Available," the War Manpower Commission bulletin adds: "A large number of unskilled male workers are in demand in all war industries and most civilian industries. Many types of skilled, semi-skilled, and trainee positions are open in both war and civilian industries. U. S. Government establishments and private industry have thousands of clerical, professional, and technical jobs which are going unfilled because of lack of qualified applicants." The bulletin also states that the Philadelphia "cost of living, including food, rent, clothing, fuel, etc., continues below the national average."

RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE AND OTHER COMMUNITY AIDS

Assistance is available to resettlers in the Philadelphia district, as in other parts of the country, from funds transferred to the Social Security Board by the WRA and dispensed as needed by local boards of the Department of Public Assistance in Pennsylvania and by county welfare boards in New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware.

The Philadelphia County Board of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Assistance was one of the first local governmental agencies in the country to be called on for cooperation in the resettlement assistance program. The County Board has helped quite a number of evacuee families to reestablish themselves in Philadelphia.

This help has been made available to resettlers not only in Philadelphia itself but in rural sections of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. In one instance a share-crop family had no means of getting along until their crops came in. The County Department of Public Assistance provided this family with funds until the harvest.

There has been no "red tape" nor any undue delay in meeting these requests. In Philadelphia, resettlement assistance is normally received within a few days after it has been requested. In emergencies it has even been granted the same day.

In quite a number of instances resettlement assistance funds have been made available for emergency medical purposes. In a number of instances, burial costs have been paid. Expectant mothers have been provided with maternity care and nursery supplies.

Effective June 1, 1945, WRA will provide assistance through grants issued at the center to those who need only temporary assistance, such as furniture and household equipment during the initial adjustment period. Accordingly, local welfare agencies will no longer need to provide assistance during the adjustment period.

Resettlement assistance funds will continue to be available through local welfare agencies to meet unforeseen needs occurring after the family's resettlement, due to illness, unemployment, and similar difficulties. In these matters, the welfare agencies in and near Philadelphia will continue to render a high standard of understanding, helpful service to resettlers.

The public agencies administering resettlement assistance funds have also been helpful to resettlers in other ways. For example, a professional man who was working and earning a very good salary needed some advice as to whether he should open an office in the place where he was living. Did the community need one? Could he get help in equipping an office and community support for his project? This doctor did not need resettlement assistance, but when he talked over his problem with the County Assistance Director the latter became interested, made inquiries which determined that it would be a good thing for this office to be opened, established contacts for the doctor to get the advice he needed, and at this writing is attempting to arrange a loan which will enable the doctor to become reestablished.

In addition to the agencies distributing resettlement assistance funds there are in Philadelphia many public and private social organizations which are interested in aiding Issei and Nisei to resettle.

The International Institute in Philadelphia, for example, has become a center of Japanese-American social and cultural activity. The Institute sponsors activities which are of special interest to Japanese American groups. There are also activities which enable Issei and Nisei to meet Caucasians, including many persons of other national origins, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

The American Friends Service Committee, which has its national headquarters across the street from the WRA office, not only materially helps local resettlers to find housing, but frequently counsels persons who need advice.

The Japanese American National Student Relocation Council is another agency which has its headquarters in Philadelphia and which has been very helpful to students in Philadelphia.

The Family Society of Philadelphia, a private family agency, provides assistance in complete privacy for resettlers as well as for Philadelphia residents requiring its aid. Here is a typical instance of such assistance. Recently a center communicated with the Philadelphia WRA office about a girl in serious personal difficulties. The office was asked whether she could come to Philadelphia and receive the friendship, help, medical care, training, and aid in planning which she needed. Above all, she wanted assurance that her personal situation could be kept in the strictest confidence. When consulted, the director of the Family Society indicated that immediate and competent help would be provided without embarrassment to the girl. On arrival in Philadelphia she was met at the station by a capable, friendly social worker of the Family Society. This woman helped the girl to get over a trying period and is now working closely with her regarding her every-day needs and her plans for the future.

There are hundreds of other social agencies in Philadelphia which provide persons with such services as personal and family counseling, vocational guidance and training, re-training and rehabilitation for handicapped people, and adult education. These organizations, associated in the Philadelphia Council of Social Agencies, maintain an information service which has been very helpful to resettlers in Philadelphia. An example of the Council's participation in the relocation program was a meeting on resettlement which it sponsored for its member agencies during May in the Social Service Building of Philadelphia. At this meeting the problems faced by resettlers were discussed and plans were made for the further coordination of efforts by all Philadelphia social agencies in behalf of resettlers.

RESETTLERS FIND HOMES THROUGHOUT CITY AND SUBURBS

The 700 evacuees who have already resettled in Philadelphia have found living quarters in all parts of the city and in almost every one of the suburban towns. There is no colony of persons of Japanese ancestry in Philadelphia, and no families are residing in slum districts. Quite a few families are residing in the vicinity of the Philadelphia Hostel, which is located only 20 minutes by street car from the center of the city. Significantly, the hostel residents in recent months have included a larger proportion than before of families that have come out from the centers as complete units.

Some families are living in houses for war workers which have been reconditioned by the Federal Public Housing Authority. This agency has also recently enabled some resettlers to move into large housing projects near Philadelphia where additional apartments are available.

A number of families have solved their housing problem by accepting work situations in private homes which have provided excellent housing for the entire family. Some of these situations enable members of the family to accept full-time outside employment. A number of college students and other young persons have taken "board-and-room" or part-time jobs with private families so that they could continue with their studies or work as apprentices at a new trade.

Although a few families of Japanese ancestry have met with discrimination while searching for a living place, these instances are definitely exceptional. Many families, on the contrary, have received the friendly assistance of real estate agents and apartment house owners in discovering housing leads and in obtaining places from them.

Most evacuee families with two or three children live in apartments of three or four rooms for which the rentals range from \$45 to \$50 monthly. A few families have found houses in the city which provide as many as eight rooms for a monthly rental of \$50, but such houses are scarce and difficult to find. Several families have purchased, or are arranging to purchase, their own homes in various parts of the city. One family has purchased for about \$4,000 an 8-room house in a typical Philadelphia street of "row" houses, that is, houses attached to one another. In another neighborhood of detached houses, a second family recently bought a 10-room house for about \$6,000.

Philadelphia's population of approximately 2,000,000 persons is spread over an area of 129,714 square miles. Because of the rural beauty of Philadelphia's suburbs, a pattern of living in the country and working in the city has developed among many of its residents. Most of the people, both in the city proper and its suburbs, live in private dwellings. There are good stores, schools, and churches in each of the many neighborhoods which make up Philadelphia and in each suburb.

Excellent transportation facilities enable one to reach downtown Philadelphia from most parts of the city in 20 or 30 minutes. Subway and elevated trains, buses, and street cars provide frequent and rapid service. Trolley fares are eight cents each or two for 15 cents. Suburban residents do much of their commuting by local trains. Since most of the suburbs are within 10 miles of the city, the time spent in commuting usually does not exceed one half hour each way. There is even a commuters' train which never leaves the city limits.

The majority of evacuees now living in Philadelphia and vicinity have found housing through the excellent aid of Mr. Robertson M. Fort, secretary for Japanese American Relocation of the American Friends Service Committee, which has its national headquarters in Philadelphia. Mr. Fort's office also serves as a clearing house for housing information developed by other agencies. These include the Philadelphia Nisei Council, formerly the Nisei Steering Committee, the hostel staff, the Citizens Cooperating Committee, the Philadelphia Homes Registration Service, and the local WRA relocation office.

Information about currently available apartments and houses, together with suggestions for evacuees seeking family accommodations, are given in the following letter. It was prepared by Mr. Fort of the American Friends Service Committee as a house-hunting guide for Philadelphia resettlers.

SO YOU ARE LOOKING FOR HOUSING?

April 11, 1945

Dear Friend:

So you are looking for housing? Well, the housing problem in Philadelphia is a problem--but there is housing available, so don't get discouraged. Here are a few pointers which might help you in your search.

When you first arrive in the City of Brotherly Love, don't be too depressed at the first sight of gray, dark-looking buildings. Remember that Philadelphia is a very old city, as well as the second largest industrial city in the country. You will find that the Eastern and Mid-Western cities are not as new, nor as clean, as the West Coast cities were before the war, but the housing that is available is good, substantial housing. It is not substandard, and millions of Philadelphians find it comfortable and pleasant to live in.

The first thing to do when you are ready to start housing hunting is to buy a map of the city at any drugstore. Pick an area to live in that you think will be suitable, then concentrate on that area. Read all the classified ads in the local newspapers and then start walking, because it takes plenty of walking. Go first to the American Friends Service Committee for information on housing in any given area, possible leads, and housing conditions in that area. After receiving the information, go to the area that you have chosen and look at the advertisements. Do not let any grass grow under your feet in getting there because apartments are rented quickly, and it might be gone if you put off going right away.

When you approach the first house, go up and ring the bell and assume without any question that the apartment will be rented to you, because nine out of ten times it will be. There is very little discrimination here. There is some, but not very much. If the apartment is available, your chances of securing it are almost as good as anyone else's, but if the apartment is taken or the landlady states that it is gone, take her word for it; the chances are that she is telling the truth. Sometimes, even if you are told that the apartment is gone, you may still see a sign outside the door saying "Apartments for Rent." However, in many cases that sign is a permanent one and stays there whether or not there are any vacancies. The turnover is so great these days that these signs remain as a permanent fixture.

If the apartment is still available, look at it carefully. See what possibilities there are to the apartment. It may be a little dirty or need a little painting, but remember that there is a shortage of labor these days, and landlords are not able to keep their apartments up, as they were formerly able to do. So if you think the apartment looks all right, or has possibilities of looking that way, take it, because if you tell the owner that you want to go off to think it over, or to look at other apartments, the chances are that the apartment will not be there when you return. Look as much as you want to, but if you see an apartment that has possibilities, take it. Don't think that

housing in any section of the country is better now than before the war. It's not. Most people would prefer to live in much nicer apartments, but the nice apartments have deteriorated because of the war and you have to take what you can find.

If, in your looking, you see an apartment which is all right but not suitable for your purposes, call Robertson M. Fort at the American Friends Service Committee office, RITtenhouse 9372, right away so that I can pass it on to others who are looking also. When you are pounding the pavements, don't pass by "Vacancy" signs. Don't say, "Oh, they always mean only sleeping rooms." There may be apartments also hiding behind that sign. When walking around, stop in all the neighborhood real estate firms that you come across. It doesn't hurt. Many firms may have nothing, but then again, they might. Apartments move very fast.

One, two or three room apartments are available in large numbers. The rental ranges in price from \$32.50 unfurnished to \$60. The furnished apartments are in the same price range. Four, five and six room apartments are scarce, but can be found by perseverance and continued searching. The prices range unfurnished at \$45 up. The furnished ones begin at around \$60. Houses for rent are extremely rare and range in price from \$50 up. There are many houses for sale ranging in price from \$3,500 for a row house in the city to \$50,000 in the suburbs for an estate.

Once an apartment is decided on, pay a deposit to hold the apartment until you move in. It is usually well to pay a half of the first month's rent as a deposit.

Leases on apartments vary from none at all, month to month, three, six and twelve months' leases. In signing a year's lease, it is well to insert in the lease the Army and Navy clause, which states that if the occupant is transferred out of town after four months of occupancy, the lease may be broken upon a month's notice to the landlord.

After you are finally located in an apartment and settled, volunteer your time to help other people secure their housing. Because they have to go through the same thing that you did and the more people that help, the more homes and apartments are turned up. I admit, it's not much fun to pound the pavements and help one another on housing, but it's the only way that it can be found. You cannot find housing if you stick your head outside the door of your temporary home and look around and say, "Oh, there's no housing," and go back in and close the door.

If there are children in your family, you will find in some cases that some apartment houses will not take children, but you will be able to find some that will, so don't get discouraged over that.

Don't get discouraged and don't hesitate to call on us any time that you want to. Don't think you are bothering us, or any of your friends, because you aren't. The latch string is always out to you.

Please contact - - - - - Robertson M. Fort
American Friends Service Committee
Room 601, 1201 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania
Phone - RITtenhouse 9372

for any further help or information.

OTHER PAMPHLETS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PHILADELPHIA

Center residents who wish to consider the Philadelphia district in their relocation planning will find much additional helpful information in previously issued WRA pamphlets which can be secured at the relocation office. These include "Facts About Philadelphia," an illustrated pamphlet available in Japanese as well as English, and "The Philadelphia Hostel--Resettlement Gateway to Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey." The monthly Field Bulletin should also be consulted regarding the range of relocation opportunities and the currently available situations in the Philadelphia district. The center relocation office can also provide detailed descriptions of newly developed job offers of special interest, which the Philadelphia WRA office regularly forwards to the centers. The Philadelphia staff is preparing for early distribution at the centers a pamphlet which will include statements by representatives of more than 20 complete family groups regarding their reasons for resettling in the Philadelphia district and for deciding to remain there.

Interested persons can also consult Philadelphia area maps, pamphlets, bulletins, and agricultural material in the relocation office and library.

June, 1945