The Philadelphia Hostel was established early in April 1944 primarily to assist evacuees arriving from the relocation centers to resettle in the area of Philadelphia, Pa., and in other communities, both urban and rural, in Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. By mid-September, almost 200 persons, the great majority of them newly arrived resettlers, had been provided with temporary shelter and aided in numerous other ways according to their individual needs. Hostel residents have been assisted in finding jobs and housing by the Philadelphia relocation office, the local Citizens Cooperating Committee, the American Friends Service Committee, and other agencies and organizations. The hostel staff has also had their cooperation in otherwise helping resettlers to make the transition between life at the centers and normal activity in the communities in which they have relocated. Among the hostelers have been a number of students who have been aided in continuing their education by the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, which has its headquarters in Philadelphia.

The hostel is operated on a non-sectarian basis under the sponsorship of the Philadelphia Federation of Churches, the local branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Citizens Cooperating Committee. Its operation is supervised by a board of managers consisting of two representatives from each of these organizations, several advisory members, and two resettled Nisei, Miss Yoneko Watanabe from Heart Mountain and William K. Fujita from Central Utah. Other members of the board are leading citizens of Philadelphia, including ministers, social workers, businessmen, a physician, and an attorney. The chairman of the board is Henry Lee Willet, president of the Willet Stained Glass Company. Mr. Willet is also chairman of the Citizens Cooperating Committee, a director of the Philadelphia Federation of Churches, a member of the executive committee of the Philadelphia Interracial Committee, and otherwise active in Philadelphia community affairs.

14 Family Groups Sheltered at Hostel

A total of 149 evacuees have resided at the hostel on arrival in Philadelphia from relocation centers. The residents have included 14 evacuee family groups, the majority of which has consisted of three to four persons; 20 Issei; and about 15 children under the age of sixteen. On leaving the hostel, most of the evacuees have gone to new homes and jobs either in Philadelphia or in other communities in Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey.

In addition to newly arrived resettlers, the hostel has also sheltered 47 other persons. These have included several Nisei soldiers on furlough, evacuees from other cities, and transient guests, including members of delegations representing evacuee relocation commissions at several centers who have visited various Eastern communities and Seabrook Farms at Bridgeton, N.J., in order to survey relocation opportunities.
Since the Philadelphia Hostel had been opened just before the occurrence of the widely-publicized incident at Great Meadows, N.J., it was also fortunately able to provide temporary shelter for the five Issei from the Gila River Relocation Center who were obliged by neighbors' protests to leave the farm in Great Meadows where they had been employed. During their brief stay at the hostel, they found other employment through the Philadelphia relocation office at the Newtown, Pa., farm of Herman S. Heston, where they have since been working.

Relocation Office Helps Hostelers Find Jobs in Many Fields

With the aid of the Philadelphia WRA office and other agencies, hostel residents have obtained employment suited to their capacities in many fields of work. Among those who have been assisted in finding jobs were architectural craftsmen, social workers, seamstresses, dressmakers, domestics (including part-time work providing board and room for students), mechanics, office workers, factory apprentices, industrial designers, bookkeepers, agricultural workers, electrical and mechanical engineers, producers, landscape gardeners, nurserymen, dental and laboratory technicians, practical nurses, cooks, dry cleaning and laundry workers, lithographers, and pressmen. The hostel has also sheltered a number of resettlers who have undertaken training in secretarial, industrial art, and beauty schools; at hospitals as cadet nurses; and at the American Chick Sexing School in Lansdale, Pa. About fifteen resettlers have taken the 3-months course at this chick sexing school, which has been operated for the past five years by S. John Nitta, formerly of Terminal Island, Cal. About two years ago Mr. Nitta married the former Ann Tomiko Kato, who came to Lansdale from the Manzanar Assembly Center. They have a two-year-old daughter, Joanne.

As indicated below, Colorado River has been represented by the largest number of resettlers from any one center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center</th>
<th>No. of Hostel Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado River</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Utah</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Mountain</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minidoka</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gila River</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rohwer</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granada</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerome</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manzanar</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>149</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As indicated in this map of Philadelphia, the hostel is near railroad stations and the local WRA relocation office.
Mr. and Mrs. Saburo Inouye, Issei houseparents of the Philadelphia Hostel, are shown with their children George Toshio, William Yoshio and Miyoko, who have been attending nearby Swarthmore College. George and William were graduated from the college last term, and Miyoko is in her sophomore year there. The Inouyes formerly lived at Tule Lake and Jerome.

A MAH JONG GAME ENGAGES THE ATTENTION OF THIS GROUP AT A SOCIAL AT THE PHILADELPHIA HOSTEL. SEATED ABOUT THE TABLE (LEFT TO RIGHT) ARE MASAO YABUKI, CENTRAL UTAH; MRS. ARNOLD NAKAJIMA, PRINCETON, N. J.; MAOMI SAKAGUCHI, JEROME; JENNETT G. WALKER, WRA ASSISTANT RELOCATION OFFICER, PHILADELPHIA; JUNE AMANOTO, MANZANAR, AND MR. NAKAJIMA
Resettled Issei Couple Are Hostel Houseparents

The hostel was directed for several months by Victor E. Gocetzol, formerly director of guidance at the Central Utah Relocation Center High School, who resided at the hostel until recently with Mrs. Gocetzol and their two-year-old son Tetsu.

Early in April Mr. and Mrs. Saburo Inouye, formerly of the Tule Lake and Jerome Relocation Centers, came to the hostel as houseparents. In that capacity they have not only ably conducted the affairs of the hostel, but have counseled and otherwise aided residents with personal problems. Mrs. Inouye's main responsibility is the hostel shopping and cooking. Recently she was elected a member of the Women's Club of a nearby Presbyterian church. Members of the club have given her numerous gifts for the hostel, including table covers, dish cloths, pot holders, and vases.

Mr. Inouye is in charge of the building maintenance. An expert cabinet maker and fond of using tools, Mr. Inouye has repaired furniture, built shelving, and helped in many other ways to make the hostel more comfortable. When necessary he assists Mrs. Inouye with the cooking, meets incoming evacuees at railroad stations, helps them pack their luggage when they are ready to leave the hostel, and aids resettlers in numerous other ways. In his spare time Mr. Inouye has been cultivating flowers and vegetables in the hostel's rear yard. Before coming to Philadelphia the Inouyes spent a month at the Friends Hostel in Cincinnati, where they served as counselors and where Mrs. Inouye was the dietitian.

Mr. and Mrs. Inouye determined to resettle for two reasons: to assist in the relocation program by serving as they have at the Philadelphia and Cincinnati hostels; and to be near their three children, Miyoko, George Toshio, and William Yoshio, who had previously relocated to attend Swarthmore College, which is not far from Philadelphia. Last June George received from Swarthmore the degree of bachelor of science in engineering and William was awarded the same degree in chemistry. George is now an assistant instructor in engineering at the College, and William plans to become an industrial chemist. Their sister, who is a sophomore, is also majoring in science. The three children live in Swarthmore, but frequently visit their parents at the hostel.

The Inouye family formerly lived in Sacramento, Cal., where Mr. Inouye was co-owner of a furniture store. While at Tule Lake he was a steward and also a farm worker, and at Jerome he was employed in the laundry. Mrs. Inouye was a nurse's aid at both Tule Lake and Jerome; at Jerome she was also a dietitian for 111 persons. She attended a pharmacy school in Japan and has a certificate from a household workers training course conducted by the Federal Works Agency in Sacramento.

7 Members of Colorado River Family Resettle Together

The largest family group which has resided at the Philadelphia hostel was the Shimomura family, formerly of Salinas, Cal., and the Colorado River Relocation Center. This group included Mr. and Mrs. Shungo Shimomura, Issai, and five of their eight children: Joshua Yoshiya, 16; Lincoln, 14; David, 12; Chiyoko
Anne, 9; and Mariko, 4. They came to the hostel on August 5 to be reunited with two other children, Toshiye, 23, and Sachi, 18, who came to Philadelphia last February. Another son, Taro, 21, who had relocated to Saginaw, Mich., in April 1943, was recently inducted into the army and is now stationed at Camp Blanding, Fla. While the Shimomura family was residing at the hostel, the relocation office in Philadelphia helped Mr. Shimomura in securing employment as a farmhand in nearby Riverton, N.J. Mr. and Mrs. Shimomura and the five children who came with them occupy a seven-room tenant house on the farm. The children attend nearby schools; after school hours Joshua and Lincoln assist with the farm work. Toshiye and Sachi live in Swarthmore, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia, where Sachi has a domestic position which, in addition to a salary, provides room and board for herself and her sister. Toshiye is employed as a typist at the Social Service Exchange in Philadelphia. She and her sister both secured their positions through the local relocation office. Prior to evacuation Mr. Shimomura operated a farm which he had leased near Salinas, and at Colorado River, he was a block gardener and later a janitor. At the center Taro was employed as a tractor driver and farmhand, Toshiye as a typist-clerk in the personnel office, and Sachi as an assistant in the community activities music program and later as a clerk and nursery school teacher.

Another hostel family included Reverend and Mrs. Tatsuo Sakaguchi, Issai, and their two children, Maomi, 21, Issai, and Edwin Moto, 8, Issai, from the Jerome Relocation Center. They came to the hostel on May 3 and left on May 17 for the summer home at Villa Nova, Pa., of an old Philadelphia family that lives in the city during the winter. Both parents and Maomi are employed as domestic by this family. Edwin Moto attends public school in Philadelphia. In August another son, Yoshitani Tom, came to Philadelphia from Fairfield, Ia., where he had been attending Parsons College. He will attend Temple University in Philadelphia this year and has been working at Cunco Press until school starts. He is staying at the Central YMCA in Philadelphia. Prior to evacuation the Sakaguchi family resided in Fresno, Cal., where Rev. Sakaguchi was pastor of a Presbyterian church. At Jerome he was active in church work.

In another family group of hostlers, the Iwatates from Colorado River, a marriage has occurred since their arrival in Philadelphia. This marriage, which took place in June, united Hidco Bill Iwatate and the former Mutsuko Ukagawa. Mr. Iwatate reached Philadelphia on April 26, and a few weeks later his bride-to-be arrived there with Mr. Iwatate's brother, Masao Edward, and the latter's wife and one-year-old daughter, Hidori Frances, who was born in Poston. In June both families moved into a rented house in Philadelphia. Prior to evacuation Hidco Bill Iwatate was a presser at a cleaning shop and a member of the staff of a Japanese American news company in San Francisco. Mrs. Iwatate assisted her parents on a farm near Los Angeles. In Philadelphia Hidco Bill was first employed as a laundry worker and later as a warehouseman for Eastern Cooperative Wholesale, Inc. He secured both positions with the aid of the local relocation office. Masao Edward Iwatate formerly resided in Oceanside, Cal. He was employed as a shipping manager of a farm product shipping concern, as an editor and Los Angeles branch manager of a Japanese American newspaper company, and as a salesman for the Pacific Trading Company. Shortly after coming to Philadelphia, he obtained employment through the WRA office as a printing pressman in a lithographing company.
Among the Issai residents at the hostel has been Joe Ichitaro Ogawa, a bachelor of 56, who came to Philadelphia from Gila River late in May and who is now employed as a gardener on the estate of an old Philadelphia family in nearby Chestnut Hill. This position was secured for him by the local relocation office during his hostel residence of one week. Prior to evacuation he had been for many years a landscape gardener for private families in Hollywood and Beverly Hills.

Houseparents Aid Young Nisei Resettling Alone

The hostelers have included a number of young Nisei who have resettled individually in Philadelphia and vicinity largely because their parents are relatives or friends of Mr. and Mrs. Inouye and know that they would look out for their children on arrival at the hostel. The Inouyes make a practice of writing to the parents of such young people to let them know how their children are getting along.

One of these young people is Toruko Yoya, 19-year-old niece of Mr. and Mrs. Inouye, who came to the hostel from the Jerome Relocation Center. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rizo Yoya, and two sisters, Kazuko and Sumiko, now reside at Heart Mountain, to which they went from Jerome. Before evacuation Mr. Yoya was a furniture dealer in Sacramento, Cal. Toruko came to Philadelphia on June 5 to spend the summer until college opened in the fall. The day following her arrival she obtained temporary employment as a typist with the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. Shortly thereafter she moved from the hostel to take a part-time domestic position with a family in nearby Elkins Park, Pa., which provided her with board and room in exchange for services. Toruko left Philadelphia on September 12 for Storrs, Conn., to attend the University of Connecticut there.

Another young resettler who came alone to the hostel is 17-year-old Joseph Iwata. He arrived on September 12 from Central Utah to attend the American Chick Sexing School at Lumsdale. His stepfather, George Totaro Sakai, is an old friend of the Inouyes, who assured Mr. Sakai that they would look after Joseph on his arrival. Mr. Sakai resides at Central Utah with Joseph's mother, Joseph's brother Harbert, 15, and his invalid grandfather, Shigetaro Iwata. Two sisters, Mary, 21, and Florence, 19, have relocated to Rochester, N.Y., and Chicago, Ill., respectively. Prior to evacuation Joseph and his family lived in Sacramento, Cal., where his parents were in the hotel business.

Hostel Is Centrally Located

A four-story building which was formerly a rooming house for college students was leased for the hostel. Located at 3223 Chestnut Street, the hostel is just a ten-minute ride by streetcar from the center of Philadelphia, where the WRA relocation office is located. Within a few blocks of the hostel are the 30th Street Railroad Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Station, the main post office, Drexel Institute, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University's Franklin Field at which football games and other sports activities take place. Also within walking distance are the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Benjamin Franklin Institute, Academy of Natural Science, and Fairmount Park. There are a number of churches in the neighborhood which hostel residents are invited to attend.
When the hostel was established there were a number of protests by nearby residents. They were soon reassured, however, principally with the aid of the Catholic priest in the neighborhood parish and the hostel's next-door neighbor, who showed their friendliness from the very beginning. Some of the evacuees who stayed at the hostel have since taken their own apartments or rented furnished rooms in the same neighborhood. Other resettlers are living in practically all desirable sections of Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs, and evacuee children are attending various public and private schools where they are treated fairly and without discrimination. A number of young Nisei have already won places on school athletic teams in Philadelphia and vicinity. For example, Richard Hayashi and John Masai, both from Jerome, are members of the baseball and football teams at Germantown Friends School.

In addition to furnishings purchased from the former lessee, such household goods as kitchen utensils, beds and bedding, linens, carpets, pictures, and books were donated by members of the sponsoring committees and by other individuals and organizations. Committee members and some of the resettled Nisei helped with the painting and reconditioning of the hostel in the early weeks. The Nisei assisted on weekends and evenings, sometimes working until midnight. A group of youngsters from a progressive school in New York City also helped with the cleaning and painting one afternoon during a tour of Philadelphia.

Gift From Wounded Soldier Among Donations to Hostel

Among gifts received by the hostel was one of $10 which was sent from an Army hospital in Italy by Staff Sergeant Paul Daniel, who was wounded last spring while fighting alongside Japanese-American soldiers in the 24th Division. In a letter to his mother, who lives in Glenside, Pa., 12 miles from Philadelphia, Sergeant Daniel wrote from Anzio beachhead: "I have no question of the loyalty of the large majority of the Japanese Americans. I've seen them fight and know those I am associated with are really a swell bunch of fellows." Later on, in another letter from the hospital, he said: "They are a fine bunch and are men America can be proud of." Other donations in support of the hostel have been received from resettlers in Chicago, Ill., Springfield, Mass., and other cities.

The hostel has ten bedrooms which provide for a capacity of twenty-three guests. The residents have averaged 15 daily, but on several occasions as many as 25 persons have been accommodated at the hostel. When it is filled to capacity, incoming resettlers are housed temporarily at the nearby staff house of the American Friends Service Committee or, if necessary, in the homes of Philadelphians interested in resettlement. The hostel has a large combination living room and library in which a radio, piano, project newspapers, magazines, books, and magazines are available for use by resettlers. The hostel serves both American and Oriental style meals, including such dishes as osushi, tempura, sukiyaki, pakkai, and fuyuha.

Rates at the Philadelphia hostel are the same as those charged at hostels in other cities. For daily board and room they are: $1 for all unemployed adults; 50 cents for children under 10 years of age; $1.50 per day for employed individuals for the first 10 days; $2 per day for employed persons after 10 days; and $1.50 for all overnight guests.
Hostel Is A Meeting Place for Groups and Individuals

Various social and educational activities are regular features at the Philadelphia hostel. On Thursday nights hostellers, other resettlers, and Caucasian friends assemble to attend informal discussion meetings which are addressed by guest speakers. On Friday nights the local Nisei Steering Committee sponsors a social at which bridge and other games are played and refreshments are served. Open house is held on Sunday afternoons, at which time many Issei and Nisei who are busy at work during the week stop in to chat with their friends and meet new hostel residents over a cup of tea.

The hostel is operated as a cooperative home with all the residents pitching in to do their share of the housework. Hostel residents are assisted by the staff in becoming acquainted with the city, securing ration books, arranging for the storage and shipment of baggage, and in many other ways. As houseparents, Mr. and Mrs. Inouye are constantly available to talk over problems with hostel residents and they are always at home to local and visiting resettlers. They give Issei all possible assistance, and they make every effort to have the Nisei feel that the hostel is for them a homey place to which they can return at any time.