

ADDRESS:  
THE DIRECTOR  
NINTH U. S. CIVIL SERVICE REGION  
NEW FEDERAL BUILDING  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
NINTH UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE REGION  
COMPRISING MISSOURI, KANSAS, OKLAHOMA, AND ARKANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, ST. LOUIS, MO. (1)

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO  
FILE I:JEM  
AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

Miss Grace Rayko Sumida  
Rohwer Relocation Center, WRA  
Rohwer, Arkansas

Dear Miss Sumida:

Transmitted herewith is the copy you requested of the Report of Interview and Special Hearing conducted by Mr. Lloyd C. O'Dell, Investigator, U. S. Civil Service Commission, on February 14, 1944.

By direction of the Regional Director:

Very truly yours,

*Floyd W. Lofton*

Floyd W. Lofton, Chief  
Regional Investigations Division

Enclosure





REPORT OF INTERVIEW AND SPECIAL HEARING

Applicant: Grace Rayko Sumida

Position: Clerk-Stenographer, Children's Bureau, War Service Regulation 4 Ind.,  
C. L. 4088

Address: 7-2-A Rohwer Relocation Center, WRA, Rohwer, Arkansas.

Conducted at: Rohwer, Arkansas

Witness: None

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Miss Sumida, the purpose of this interview is to allow you an opportunity to answer questions concerning information which has been received by the Civil Service Commission about alleged activities on your part. During this discussion you are invited to make any statements of your own regarding information to be discussed which will fairly present your side of the question.

A report of this interview will be recorded, and, upon your request, a copy will be furnished you.

It is the practice of the Commission to conduct these interviews under oath. Do you have any objections to taking an oath?

Answer: No

(Oath administered)

Question: What is your full name:

Answer: Grace Rayko Sumida.

Question: Where and when were you born?

Answer: Los Angeles, California, December 29, 1915.

Question: What is your present address:

Answer: 7-2-A Rohwer Relocation Center, WRA, Rohwer, Arkansas

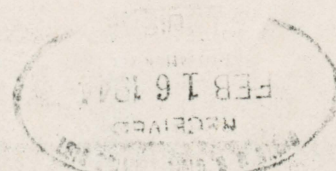
Question: The Commission's investigation indicates that a very close family tie exist between you and members of your family. That is correct, is it not?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Please name your parents?

Answer: Father: Chimata Sumida.

Mother: ~~M~~Masako Sumida. Maiden name, Murakami.





Question: Where were they born?

A. Japan.

Q. Do you know the name of the city or a more definite address than that?

A. Okayama.

Q. Is that the prefecture?

A. It is a prefecture.

Q. Prefecture corresponds to state, does it not?

A. Yes. They were born in a rural community in Okayama.

Q. What are their present addresses?

A. 7-2-A, WRA Center, Rohwer, Arkansas.

Q. Please state their ages?

A. My father is 55 and my mother is 51.

Q. What are their present occupations and what were their occupations before evacuation?

A. My father is working under the Adult Educational Department of the WRA as News broadcaster. He speaks to the other residents who do not understand English taking his information from periodicals, newspapers, radio, current events and any article which might be educational.

My mother works in the Social Welfare Department of WRA as Counsellor's assistant.

Before evacuation my father was proprietor of a General Home Appliance Store and Sport goods. My mother was housewife but occasionally helped in the store. This was in Los Angeles.

Q. Are they or either of them applicants for repatriation?

A. No, to the best of my knowledge.

Q. Are they or either of them internees or parolees?

A. My father is a parolee.

Q. If you know, please give the reason for his internment?

A. The way I understand it, it had something to do with our home appliance store. During the investigation which followed after Pearl Harbor the investigator came to our store to investigate about the radios that were on the store floor and our technician had removed all short wave band but the investigator not being a technician could not tell whether it was removed properly to regulations placed in effect after Pearl Harbor. The technician and my father were aliens and both were taken in custody. At the subsequent hearing they were exonerated regarding radio regulations. My father was interned for further investigation. Following a lapse of several months at the detention camp he was paroled and permitted to come here to WRA Center to join the family. The technician who was employed by my father was named, Yoshio Takashima, He was later repatriated to Japan.



Q. Please state how many brothers and sisters you have and give their names and present addresses?

A. I have three sisters and two brothers.

Mrs. Alice Endo, 72 C, WRA, Rohwer, Arkansas.

Mrs. Emmy Ito, 12 C-4-A, WRA, Amache, Colo.

Margorie Sumida, 7-2-A, WRA, Rohwer, Arkansas.

Marshall Sumida, 40 South Walnut Street, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Theodore Sumida, Hannan, c/o YMCA, 10401 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan.

Q. What are their ages compared to yours?

A. Alice is 30.

Emmy is 25.

Margorie is 15.

Marshall is 22.

Theodore is 20.

I am second to the oldest.

Q. What education have they had?

A. Alice is a high school graduate but she had, in lieu of a college education a visit to Japan. Visited the Orient, I think in the year of 1933. She stayed twenty months. I believe 1935 when she returned.

Emmy: High school, one year of Junior College, one year of University, UCLA. She had to quit school because of her health and went to business college after that.

Margorie: A student, Junior high school in the Center, 9th grade.

Marshall: He was attending UCLA and was a high junior. He quit school in December, 1941. Right after Pearl Harbor.

Theodore: Attended UCLA. He did not complete freshmen on account of evacuation. He attended school until just before that.

Q. How many of your brothers and sisters visited in Japan?

A. One, Alice. My oldest sister.

Q. How many of them have attended Japanese Language Schools in United States or in Japan?

A. We have all gone to Japanese schools at one time or another.

Q. Was such attendance confined to the United States or did one or more of you attend language schools in Japan?

A. Just confined to the United States.

Q. What employments have any of your brothers or sisters had before or since evacuation?

A. Alice is a white collar girl like myself and worked in business houses in California, Los Angeles and San Francisco, with the Pacific Trading Company. When Alice went to Japan I took her job with the Pacific Trading Company. She worked for a little while, maybe six months, in San Francisco. I do not know what year she worked



for the Japanese Consulate General in New York City as Clerk. Alice has been a housewife just before and since evacuation. In between these employments she worked for some other companies, names I do not know. I do recall she worked for the Pacific Trading Company in San Francisco during that period and also worked some for my father whose business was known as "C-Sumida and Company, in Los Angeles."

Emmy took Civil Service Examination, county and state, and worked for Los Angeles County and California State under civil service jobs and also was employed at the Sun Produce Company, Los Angeles. Her last job was with the Department of Motorvehicles, State of California. She now works in WRA Center, Amache, Colo.

Margorie has never worked since she is still a student in junior high school.

Marshall worked during summer vacation and winter vacation and did odd jobs such as fruit stand worker and wholesale nursery working as a clerk and swamper before evacuation. He is now employed at the Mt. Clemens Nursery, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. I do not know exactly the nature of his work.

Theodore: He also worked at odd jobs during vacations and week ends during the time he attended UCLA doing the same kind of work as my brother, Marshall. He has also worked for the WRA as Lumberjack. I forgot to mention that Marshall and Theodore both worked in the Santa Anita Assembly Center. Marshall as handicraft director in the recreation department and Theodore in the Mess Hall. Theodore first worked, after relocation, for Santa FE Railroad, Wellsville, Kansas. He then attended the Government Supervised School and took up Arc Welding, Des Moines, Iowa. He is at the present time in Detroit working in a milk company while he is waiting for Provost Marshall Generals Office Defense Clearance in order to work in defense plant.

Q. What is the military status on your brothers?

A. They have not received their reclassification yet but they will be placed in 1-A classification. I think their present classification is 4-C.

Q. Are they applicants for repatriation or ex-patriation?

A. No.

Q. Did any members of your immediate family decline to answer No. 28 of the "Army Questionnaire" With an unqualified affirmative?

A. To the best of my knowledge they did not.

Q. Please name other close relatives you may have, such as cousins and in-laws?

A. Brother-in-laws:

Aiji Endo (husband of my sister, Alice)  
Waterbury, Conn.

Ken Ito ( husband of my sister, Emmy)  
Amache, Colo. (WRA)

Cousins:

Mrs. Charlotte Ikehara, Honolulu, Hawaii. She is married to A Sargent of the United States Army.

Lincoln Shimidau, Chicago, Ill.

Cpl. Arthur Shimidzu, 442nd Inf. Camp Shelby, Miss.

Marie Shumidzu, Cadet Nurses Training School, Rochester, Minn.

Margaret Shimidau, Rohwer, Arkansas (WRA)



Uncle:  
Torajiro (?) Shimidzu, WPA, Rohwer, Arkansas  
Aunt:  
Mrs. Kinuno Shimidzu, Rochester, Minn.

Cousin:  
Toshio Sumida, Kooskia Camp, For Missoula, Mont.  
He is an internee ~~and~~ since he was an alien here on a student visa.

Q. Is that all you recall?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you related to Hiroshi Suzuki?

A. No, a family friend.

Q. Are you related to Teru Suzuki?

A. No, she is wife of first name named. Family friend.

Q. Are you related to Fred Yutaka Nakayama?

A. No, a family friend.

Q. Are any of these persons internees or parolees?

A. Mr. Suzuki is an internee, Cystral City, Texas. Mrs. Suzuki not internee but joined him there.

Q. Have any of them applied for repatriation or expatriation?

A. Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki and Fred Yutaka Nakayama have signed up for repatriation to the best of my knowledge.

Q. Please relate the circumstances under which you became employed by the Pacific Trading Company?

A. The co-manager, Mr. M. Nakanishi, of Los Angeles of the Pacific Trading Company was a family friend having come from prefecture in Japan in the vicinity of my father's home. He lived next door to us in Los Angeles and so when my sister, Alice, graduated from high school he ask her whether she was interested in working or not so that is how we got started and when she went to Japan I took her place. It proved to be a very congenial place to work.

Q. What was the character of this work done by you?

A. The Pacific Trading Company was principally a trading company which dealt in food, importing and exporting agent such as, MJB Coffee, carnation milk, rice, etc. It is an American Corporation with headquarters in San Francisco with branches in the Orient. They first started importing sardine meal, phosphate, and then fertilizer and my sister started working in that department as Clark. When I entered the company my work consisted of handling records, making records, taking care of invoices, etc. I began then taking care of that one department, acting as receptionist and directing customers to different departments. I worked at the switch board, teletype and operated PBX Board. I did all the work that was necessary in the department.



Q. What connection, if any, did you have in promotion and public relations work?

A. None other than what might be expected of a receptionist. When the manager was out I waited on the customers such as farmers and users of fertilizers. Directed customers where they had to go.

Q. Previously you have advised the Commission that your employment with this company consisted of two periods, with a trip to Japan in between. Please state what contacts, if any, were made by you with Japanese officials of the company while you were aboard?

A. I made one courtesy call to the Pacific Trading Company and that was the only contact that I had with them during my stay in Japan.

Q. <sup>Would</sup> ~~Will~~ you care to go back to work for this former employer after the war ends?

A. I can not answer this question. I do not know what the future holds for me. The Company is closed or has been closed by the American Government and I have applied for Federal Employment. I do not expect to ever return to their employment. While my avucation terminated this employmant, I had previously made plans to procure other employment. The reason for that, my sister was already working under Civil Service and liking position obtained and she said that it was for my own benefit that would be better to terminate with the company and take an examination and secure better paying position.

Q. Did your former occupation with the company involve relationship with Japan or with persons officially or otherwise connected with Japan?

A. None outside of office routine which is in line with business. The President, G. Sugihara, of the Corporation who is a resident of Toyko who came over on periodic visits.

Q. When you made your visit to Japan, did you have any social or business contacts with the President?

A. Just a courtesy call.

Q. When Mr. Sugihara would be in this country would he make social calls at your home?

A. No, he never did. The company would have a dinner in his honor and I would be invited as a guest.

Q. Please describe the time and length of this trip to Japan?

A. Fourteen months. I left middle of March, 1936 and returned early part of June, 1937.

Q. What was the reason for that trip?

A. As explained by my sister Alice's visit to Japan, the same pertained to me. My parents did not believe a higher education was necessary for girls and in lieu of a college education Alice and I were allowed to visit the country of my parents to visit relatives, travel and acquire some culture which would be suitable for us girls.

Q. Was the trip an organized, educational or cultural tour?



A. It was a solo trip. I was not accompanied by anyone.

Q. Who were your principal associates while in Japan?

A. Friends of my family whom I had known that lived in the United States and who had returned to Japan as well as ~~Miseis~~ <sup>Miseis</sup> whom I had known in California.

Q. How ~~many~~ much time did you spend with relatives?

A. I made one visit to my mother and fathers' home, that took about three weeks, counting the visits I made enroute might all total one month I spent with them.

Q. With whom did you reside the longer?

A. In Toyko with Dr. and Mrs. Ozawa.

Q. Who were they?

A. He is a dentist. She an operator of a dress shop. They were both residents of the United States and <sup>he</sup> received his education here. They were Isseis.

Q. What occupation, if any, did you have while in Japan?

A. I was not employed at all. Never had a job.

Q. What was your reason for returning to the United States?

A. I never did intend to stay very long. I decided I wanted to come home. No real reason, never did intend to stay there. Since I did not have a college education I might as well do as my family decided and know what Japan was like. I did not go there to stay any particular length of time and when ~~my~~ I became homesick I decided to come home.

Q. What was your occupation and where was your residence immediately after your return to the United States?

A. I lived at my former address, 1079 Orme Ave., Los Angeles, California. I was unemployed for about three months. During that time I went to my father's store occasionally and helped him out.

Q. In what activity did you engage, if any, other than assisting in your father's business as you have mentioned?

A. Stayed at home and looked after house. I have not done anything that is worth mentioning.

Q. What was your economic status in Japan?

A. I had worked, if you will look at my records, three years so in that period of time I had saved enough money to take a nice long vacation and when I was in a tight spot my family wired me the money. I was not continued on the company payroll during this visit.

Q. What social life, if any, did you engage in while there?

A. Dr. and Mrs. Ozawa who were my guardians and host in Toyko had lived in the



United States and Doctor having obtained his education in the United States, both were very Americanized, so we had very much in common. For instance, they lived in an American style home. We had American food. Only at supper time we had Japanese meal. We played golf, dance and went to theatres just a round of fun. Christmas and New Year we went to the hotel in formal attire to dine and dance. In between that time I had a sprinklin' of Japanese culture visiting shrines and historical spots and scene exhibitions and doing things "Japanese."

Q. What was your personal liking for living there?

A. It would be a good place to retire in if you had lots of money and wanted something different. As a permanent place of residence having been born in the United States I feel that the United States is my home so I would not consider any other country if it was not for the purpose of visiting, travelling or for a change. If anyone had an opportunity, I feel they would feel the same as I do. If they had a chance to travel most people would want to know what the rest of the world is like.

Q. Why did you not return to this country at an earlier date than you did?

A. If you want to get culture you can not get it in two weeks and it takes two weeks to go to the Orient and two weeks to get back. That would be a month. I went with the idea that there was no hurry in my coming back and I took it leisurely, nothing pressing in business or personal matters.

Q. What are your expectations of returning to Japan after the war to visit, study or live?

A. At the present time I have no intention because of the fact that we were evacuated and all sources of income was stopped entirely and the future only involves a struggle for oneself as well as a family. We are a family which sticks together so we are determined that we will first obtain a normal place in society again. How long that will take God only knows. My brothers and sisters, outside of Alice, having no connection with Japan, outside of my parents, are throughly Americanized. We feel our home is here. If good fortune presents itself maybe one of us will take a trip over there. No one knows what will happen. We have talked it over many many times as to what the family should do and they thought that no matter what happens that our future lies here.

Q. The Commission has information that you have attended meetings of the Okayama Juniors. Please advise the nature of that organization or society?

A. I do not know where that information came from. I only attended one meeting. I can tell you the nature of the organization. Okayama is the prefecture of my parents and the isseis have a prefecture society which is a society somewhat similar to states society. Different states have their societies and people get together and make acquaintances and in that way isseis feel a sense of security having an organization of that kind. People coming from the same place meet and help each other who are in distress as well as mutual assistance association. The Okayama Juniors consisted of sons and daughters of isseis who belonged to the prefecture society. They were, as far as I know, social organizations. I think it was after I went to Japan when I attended this meeting. It took place downstairs of an office building in Los Angeles. Okayama Juniors invited many blanket invitations for all those who were children who came from Okayama. It was not an active organization.

Q. Were your parents members of it?



A. My father was a member.

Q. Did they hold any office or take any active part in the organization?

A. I understand that when I was a youngster my father was active. If any man with plenty of money would be the top man. He was not active in the years as I have grown up. He might have acted as an adviser or something like that but no office that I know of.

Q. Is this organization similar to the Fujin Kai or the Junior Kenjin Kai?

A. Fujin Kai means Woman's Club, Fujin means woman and Kai means Club. If it was Okayama it would be Women's Auxiliary. Kenjin comes from Ken, means prefecture, Jin means person. Okayama Kenjin Kai would be people of Okayama prefecture club. So if you say just Fujin Kai, Junior Kenjin Kai you are generalizing. The Rotary Club has an affiliating organization known as "Rotary Anns" and as they were a Women's Club it would be a Fujin Kai. If it was translated into Japanese. Therefore I would say in answer to your question that the Okayama Juniors were not similar to the Fujin Kai or Kenjin Kai.

Q. Do you recall ~~every~~ ever addressing a meeting of the Okayama Juniors?

A. No, I do not.

Q. Is it possible that you could have and forgotten?

A. I do not know what I would have talked about.

Q. Is there an organization known as the Fujin Kai "Okayama"?

A. There was.

Q. Were you or any members of your family members of that organization?

A. My mother was, I was not. You have to be a matron and ~~av~~issei. I think that is what it is.

Q. Did that organization have affiliation with Japan?

A. Not that I know of except that <sup>this</sup> Woman's Auxiliary, "Okayama" Kenjin Kai. They do not have, as far as I know, any connection with Japan proper. Being only an American organization it was independent of Japan.

Q. Did your mother hold any position in that organization?

A. I do not know. I know she went to meetings occasionally. They did not meet with ~~xaqua~~ frequency as far as I know.

Q. The Commission has information that your mother was an officer in this organization as recent as 1940.

A. I guess she was, I would have to ask her to find out. I do not know.

Q. Do you think the organization should resume activity after the war?

A. If they wanted to. As far as I know it is a social organization and never engaged in any subversive activity as far as I know.



Q. Of what organization were you a member or to which you made contributions?

A. YWCA, 1929-1943; Japanese-American Citizen League, 1938-41 and Red Cross.

Q. Did you hold any official position in the Japanese-American Citizens League?

A. No.

Q. Were you ever a candidate for position?

A. I think I was once a candidate for corresponding secretary in 1940. I also recall having attended a convention of the Southern District at San Diego as a booster in 1937. This was when my sister ~~and~~ was engaged and she and her fiancée went and I went along.

Q. How many local members did this organization have?

A. I do not know.

Q. Could you approximate?

A. The information I had there were 5000 eligible in and around California; that is, they had reached the eligibility age, 21. Los Angeles very small presentage.

Q. ~~Did~~ Would you have any idea how many members nationally?

A. No. The average attendance in the Los Angeles chapter was fifty and they may have had a paid membership larger than this. I am not sure about that.

Q. How did you happen to join?

A. They came around and ask me and I paid my \$1.00.

Q. What was the extent of your personal participation in meetings?

A. I attended occassionally. That is about all. I participated in some events they had. They sponsored Missee week in Los Angeles and in conjunction with the event they had talent reviews and I sang on a number of occasions.

Q. Contributions you made?

A. Annual membership fee of \$1.00 and my talents and time.

Q. Who were the leaders of that organization?

A. There were many leaders as they changed officers every year. There was a Kibei Unit or branch of it.

Q. Were you or any of your family affiliated with this Kibei Unit?

A. No.

Q. What is the general purpose of that organization?

A. To fight for our rights as every other American citizen and to make a place for ourselves. In the melting pot which is America. Those of us of Japanese ancestry constitute a maniority in this country. It is to attain privileges



the same as accorded to Caucasian born Americans.

Q. Are you continuing your membership in that organization?

A. No, I have not paid the membership fees since evacuation but my father is a subscriber to the "Pacific Citizens," which is the official organization of the Japanese-American Citizens League headquarters located at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Q. Has this organization every engaged in any subversive activity as far as you know?

A. No.

Q. Does it maintain any relationship with any foreign organization in Japan or does it have any branches in that country?

A. No.

Q. Have you every been a member of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce?

A. No.

Q. Are you a member of the Kyokuto Kenkyu Kai?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever been a member of the Aikoku Fujin Kai?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever been a member of Kaigai Kuokai "Okayama"?

A. No, For your information this is another name for Okayama Kenji Kai. I think it means something about overseas.

Q. Have you ever been a member of the Japanese Association?

A. No.

Q. Have you or any members of your family been members of the Okayama overseas Association?

A. This organization has three names: Okayama Kenjin Kai, Okayama Kaigi Kyokai and now this third is Okayama Overseas Association. My father was the only member of the family who was member of this organization.

Q. Have any of these organizations to your knowledge engaged in any subversive activity?

A. To the best of my knowledge, no. I have read it through the newspapers but never has been proven.

Q. Have any members of your immediate family ever belonged to any or all of these organizations?

A. Yes. I think they have. The Japanese Chamber of Commerce affiliated with the United States Chamber of Commerce, my father was in that through business. The Aikoku Fujin Kai, my mother and father were members. It is similar to Red Cross. They send chocolates bars, etc., in packages to Japanese



soldiers who had been in the war with China. They also called on families whose husbands or fathers were in the war and extended sympathy to bereaved ones. My father was a member of the Kaigai Kyukai.

The Japanese Association was also known as Nihonjin Kai. My father might have paid fees.

Q. Have any of these organizations followed a policy of close supervision of all Japanese in the same Ken in this country?

A. No.

Q. Did any of these organizations foster Japanese education of the Neisei?

A. No.

Q. Did any of them contribute to the Japanese War Effort?

A. I do not know. They might have.

Q. Have you every registered for dual citizenship?

A. No.

Q. Have your parents registered you for dual citizenship?

A. No, none of us are registered.

Q. What is your attitude toward "dual citizenship."

A. I do not know because my parents never did register us and ~~was~~ it was never an issue in the family. Since the war ~~may~~ the question has become very important and many of my friends had dual citizenship which through no fault of theirs as their parents registered them through local Consulate at birth. As far as I know this practice of registering is keeping a complete record of the family history. For instance, the father maybe the legal heir to a family estate in Japan and in turn the eldest son who would be American citizen might inherit the Estate. If the father had not registered his child for dual citizenship, legally the fathers heirs would not have any claim on the ancestral estate.

Q. You have stated that your grandparents died in Japan. Did they leave any ancestral property in that country?

A. They did but my father is either the third or fourth son. He had no legal claim. Since none of us children have been registered for dual citizenship we in turn have no ties with Japan by any reason of any possible inheritance.

Q. What investments, if any, have been made in Japanese securities by you or members of your immediate family?

A. None, as far as I know.

Q. You have stated that your parents wanted you to visit Japan for the purpose of receiving culture training there?

A. Yes.



Q. Did such training include Judo or Kendo?

A. No, Judo is a form of wrestling while Kendo means fencing.

Q. The Commission has information that your family had a flag pole at your former home at 1079 Grimes Avenue, Los Angeles and that upon certain occasions such as Japanese holidays some emblem resembling a fish or a dragon would be flown. Do you care to make any statement regarding such instance.

A. Yes. If you know about Japanese festivals, "Boys Day" comes once a year on May 5th and at that time it is the custom to symbolize that day with a flying carp which ~~constitutes~~ denotes strength and stamina which is wanted in a boy. Since we had two boys in the family we observed this holiday by flying the carp. I wish to state that we also observed the United States holiday by flying the flag.

Q. Is this practice of flying the carp a religious rite?

A. No. It was a customary practice followed by regardless of religion of families of Japanese origin who had boys in their families to display this flying carp if they had one. It might be compared with the practice of hunting easter eggs on Easter or the Chinese display of their dragon on their New Years.

Q. The Commission's investigation indicates that a room in your home at the above address was barred to American visitors, is that information correct.

A. No, I do not know where they got that.

Q. The Commission has information that the house at the above address where you lived may have contained some kind of a shrine denoting possible ancestral worship?

A. No shrines in the house. This is a form of Shintosim.

Q. What newspapers or magazines were customarily read by you or the members of your family?

A. We read the daily papers. We took the "Los Angeles Times." Different periodicals such as: Harper's Bazaar, GoodHousekeeping, Better Homes and Gardens, Readers Digest, Etc. We subscribed to the Japanese Dailey of which there were three in Los Angeles, namely:

Los Angeles Japanese Daily News (Rafu Shimpo)  
 Japan-California News (Kashu Mainichi)  
 (Sangyo Nippo)

I do <sup>NOT</sup> read any periodicals printed in Japanese languages because my education did not enable me to read anything more than equivalent to the third or fourth grade; however, my father and mother did from time to time ~~procure~~ procure periodicals and read them. They were printed in Japanese language. Although my father reads English newspapers and speaks English. The books written in Japanese were published in Japan but purchased at book stores in California.

Q. Which language, Japanese or English, was customarily spoken in your home?

A. Mixture. Japanese which was Japanese Americanized Japanese.

Q. The American Newspapers have been carrying items regarding alleged atrocities



committed by Japanese soldiers on American prisoners. Do you believe such statements are true?

A. As far as I read it claims to be true. It has come from officially from headquarters and I guess I believe it. Since this is war I do not ~~want~~ know what is the truth and what is fiction, it might be over publicized. Government statements are usually concise. Government releases are without a doubt true so if atrocity stories came from that source it is believed by me to be the truth.

Q. Whom would you like to win the present war between Japan and the United States?

A. Since I am an American Citizen I want the United States to win. I do not like war. I believe in Christianity way of living and I would like to see an early termination of war whether it is complete annihilation or negotiated peace or unconditional surrender. It does not matter to me just so the war will be over at the earliest possible moment.

Q. Do you have any doubts at all on the subject?

A. No. This is my home and my country.

Q. On your answer to No. 27 of the <sup>INDEFINITE LEAVE "</sup>Application for ~~Definite~~ Clearance, it reads, "If the opportunity presents itself and you are found qualified would you be willing to volunteer for the Army Nurses Corp or the WAAC." ~~Yes~~ You answered, "Undecided, physically unfit at present."

A. ~~It~~ I did.

Q. What is your attitude to the question at this time?

A. At the time they questioned me I could not decide. The doctor told me that I would never be able to do any hard work. The Nurses Corp would be out. I can do "sit down" work but not work that requires physical exertion. My physical condition at this time is same as it was when filling out the questionnaire.

Q. The Commission has information that ~~xxx~~ on occasions a high dignitary from Japan visited in your home in Los Angeles?

A. It is true.

Q. Will you please identify such person or persons by name and rank and state purpose of such visit, if you know?

A. Consul Shintaro Fukushima, Los Angeles Consul at the time, <sup>called on us on</sup> ~~came over for~~ a social visit. His wife is a Chicago born girl of Japanese ancestry. I can not recall what year this was or how long they had been in Los Angeles when they made this call.

Q. The Commission has information that from time to time meetings were held in your home which were attended by many persons of Japanese origin?

A. They were not meetings. They were parties. We entertained a lot.

Q. You have stated you attended no schools while in Japan?

A. I did not.



while you were in Japan

- Q. The Commission has information that you attended the Mrs. Kawaii school?
- A. That is wrong without foundation. I never did. I am familiar with this school. It is a Christian Missionary school.
- Q. Do you feel that you have had a fair and impartial opportunity to answer and discuss all matters brought to your attention during this interview?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have any further statements to make for the record.
- A. No.

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CERTIFICATE

COUNTY OF DESHA  
STATE OF ARKANSAS

I, Ruby P. Holmes, a legal resident of McGehee, Desha County, Arkansas, do hereby certify; that at the request of Lloyd C. Odell, a duly authorized Representative (investigator) of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, I accompanied him and made a stenographic report of a proceeding conducted by him at the Rohwer Relocation Center, War Relocation Authority, Rohwer, Arkansas, on this date, wherein Mr. Odell was the interviewer and Miss Grace Rayko Sumida was the interviewee; that the interrogatories and replies thereto were, by me, first reported in shorthand and next read to and certified as correct by the above named parties; that such approval was signified by the parties affixing their initials to each page of said notes in my presence; that such notes were this day transcribed by me and comprise the annexed and foregoing "REPORT OF INTERVIEW AND SPECIAL HEARING", consisting of 15 pages and same is a true and correct copy of my stenographic notes.

In Witness whereof, I have affixed my hand this 14th day of February, 1944.

*Ruby P. Holmes*  
Junior Clerk-Typist  
Farm Security Administration