

RELOCATION NEWS

No. 12, Page 1

TOPAZ, UTAH

August 8, 1945

RELOCATION PROGRAM HAS SUPPORT OF 24 NATIONAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

Twenty-four national voluntary agencies are cooperating with the War Relocation Authority's Resettlement program. Their local branches, maintained in practically all cities, are at your service. The national agencies are:

American Association of University Women; American Civil Friends Service Committee; American Red Cross, Home Service Division; Boy Scouts of America; Camp Fire Girls; Child Welfare League of America; Community Chests and Council, Inc.; Family Welfare Association of America; Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; Girl Scouts of America; Home Mission Council of North America; Labor League for Human Rights, AFL; National Association of Legal Aid Societies; National Conference of Catholic Charities; National Congress of Parents and Teachers; National Federation of Settlements; National Organization of Public Health Nursing; National Travelers Aid Association; National Urban League; War Relief Committee, CIO; Young Men's Christian Association; Young Women's Christian Association; American Civil Liberties Union; American Federation of International Institutes.

40 PER CENT OF TOPAZ RELOCATORS THIS YEAR HAVE GONE TO CALIFORNIA

Since January 2, a total of 735 Topazans--40 per cent of all relocators from this Center--have returned to California, the Relocation division reports. The current ratio of applications shows that the percentage of residents returning to California has increased to 50%.

TWENTY-THREE FAMILIES RECEIVED RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE IN JULY

Twenty-three resettlement assistance grants, ranging from \$70 to \$289, were made by the Topaz Relocation office last month. In some instances, they included first month's rent as well as funds to purchase furniture.

TWO NEW ILLINOIS LAWS FAVORABLY AFFECT SECURITY OF RESETTLERS IN NEED OF LONG-TERM WELFARE ASSISTANCE

Under two new Illinois laws, most Issei as well as American-born Japanese over 65 now are eligible for Old Age Assistance up to \$45 per month per person, and resettlers become eligible sooner for general relief assistance from local welfare funds, the Chicago WRA office reports.

Old Age Assistance in Illinois previously was available only to citizens who had lived in the state five of the last nine years. Now both citizens and aliens who have lived in the United States continuously for 25 years are eligible provided they have lived in Illinois for one year, are over 65 and in need. Payments have been increased to a maximum of \$45 per person. Many Issei living in Illinois now are eligible for this type of assistance, and many newcomers will be eligible after living there one year.

The second law reduces from three years to one year the period of residence required before either a citizen or an alien who is in need can be given general relief assistance from local welfare funds. This assistance will be available to younger resettlers as well as to those comparatively few aliens who are 65 years old or over but who have lived in the United States for less than 25 years.

MANY TOPAZANS SIGNING UP FOR AUGUST 15 SAN FRANCISCO "SPECIAL"

The Leave office reports that many residents are revising relocation plans to take advantage of the eight-car reserved train scheduled to leave for San Francisco next Wednesday about noon.

The special train of five coaches, standard Pullman, baggage car and a dining or buffet car will replace the coaches previously scheduled to leave for the West Coast today and August 15, but will not affect the San Francisco-bound coaches reserved for August 22 and 29.

The incomplete relocation list for the ensuing week, as reported by the Leave office Monday is:

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PERSONAL ITEMS ABOUT FORMER TOPAZANS AS
REPORTED BY WRA DISTRICT OFFICES EVERYWHERE

STOCKTON--Yoshio Nishimoto, here recently from Topaz, by chance met a Caucasian stranger who invited him to lunch. The conversation disclosed that the stranger had been a prisoner of the Japanese at Corregidor and in an internment camp for three years. Before they parted they were fast friends. Proof? The stranger gave Yoshio a cigarette lighter, to remember him by.

OAKLAND--Mr. and Mrs. Kanzo Iyama, recently from Topaz, have accepted employment in the home of Mrs. G. V. Adams, 745 Santa Barbara Road, Berkeley, Calif., with whom they will live. Their son, Shigenori, now living at Oxford Hall in Berkeley, is attending the summer session at the University of California.

OAKLAND--Mr. and Mrs. Richard Towata, and their daughters, Carol and Judy, have returned to their home at 2139 Pacific Avenue, Alameda. The Towata's temporarily resided in Denver after leaving Topaz.

CHICAGO--Miss Marry Matsumoto, formerly of Topaz and San Francisco, who is attending Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois, is working during the summer months at the Chicago Church Federation, 77 W. Washington St. In the course of her work recently, Miss Matsumoto was asked by the Armitage Methodist Church to round up Japanese-American children in the neighborhood for a picnic at Caldwell Woods. Miss Matsumoto persuaded Little Edward and Sharon Takei, and Marion and Fay Nakashima to join the group of fifty children of all nationalities for the picnic. The four Japanese-American children spent the day playing baseball and various games and as a result have become regular church goers.

CHICAGO--Mrs. Frank Iwanaga, formerly of Topaz and San Francisco, who now is living at 4860 N. Winthrop, Chicago, Illinois, is employed by the Cook & Meier Company, 159 N. Michigan to make artificial flowers. Mrs. Iwanaga is the first Japanese-American that the company has hired. The Cook and Meier Company is very pleased with her work and recently asked if she could secure several other Issei and Nisei for that work. Mrs. Iwanaga learned to make artificial flowers while she was at the relocation center. She is very enthusiastic about the working conditions and says it is a pleasant, cool place to work and that the people are all very nice to her.

ROCHESTER--Issei Hideo Iyeki, formerly from Topaz and now living in Rochester, N. Y., recently wrote in a letter to the District WRA office. "Today being a Sunday, Kennie and I attended the morning service at the First Baptist Church. After the service, we were introduced to members of the church and Rev. Davidson. They received us just wonderfully and we were very much pleased with it. They are a very nice bunch of people indeed." One member of the church has referred Mr. Iyeki to the owner of a spacious five-room apartment. Mr. Iyeki's son, Kenneth Iyeki, is working at an optical company in Rochester. Mr. Iyeki's expects the other members of the family to join him soon.

CHICAGO--Sakae Toda, former chemist of Topaz and San Francisco, is working in the antique repair shop of old friends of his, Mr. and Mrs. K. Matsumoto, at 14 N. Michigan Avenue. "The chemical company still has my job for me in Oakland," Mr. Toda said, "but I came to Chicago a year ago because I wanted to attend night classes at Moody Bible Institute. I hope to go to Hawaii as a religious instructor someday." Mr. Toda has been attending Moody Bible Institute regularly. His wife, Suye, is employed in a cosmetic concern; his daughter, Peggy, in a glassware company; his other daughter Betty, is in a lamp manufacturing firm; his son, George, attends summer school; and his older son, James, at Fort Snelling, expects to go overseas next month. Mr. Toda said his family had no trouble finding housing, because the Matsumotos already had a flat rented for them at 1361 N. Wells Street.

ST. LOUIS--Bruce Kawamoto, formerly of Topaz and Sacramento, Calif., who arrived in St. Louis June 1, purchased a laundry known as the Kings-Del Bachelor Laundry, 5016 Delmar St., St. Louis. Mr. Kawamoto employs seven persons in the laundry he began operating June 25, 1945. Mrs. Kawamoto with her three children, will join him as soon as family housing is found. Temporarily Mr. Kawamoto has been staying at the YMCA, 1328 Locust St., St. Louis.

SAN FRANCISCO--Mr. and Mrs. Taro Isoye, and their son, Yukio, have returned from Topaz to their former home on Buchanan Street. Mr. Isoye has had several offers of employment from firms with whom he previously did business.

SAN FRANCISCO--Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ino, who left the Central Utah Center for New York City, have returned to their home in Buena Vista district here.

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