

A TULE LAKE
INTERLUDE

FIRST ANNIVERSARY
MAY 31, 1942-1943

The Tulare Dispatch

The Tulean Dispatch staff joins in with the many loyal Americans in Newell in dedicating this publication to the Japanese-Americans who volunteered their services to the United States armed forces.

In their willingness to stake their lives and fight for their native land despite the adversity of their circumstances they have made known to all free men who are fighting, a new and rich concept of American democracy.



A TULE LAKE INTERLUDE

FIRST ANNIVERSARY
TULE LAKE W.R.A. PROJECT

MAY 27, 1942-1943

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At Tule Lake

The rainbow comes once more
To arch the clearing blue,
 Bending above this new
City; and there before
Me lies the verdant moor.
 Of lake-bed bathed with dew,
And barracks stand in view
On right side of this tor.

With out-stretched hands I cry
For joy that blooms in seven
 Rich colors in a bow.
 It holds me rapt, and oh;
My heart leaps to the Heaven,
I almost reach the sky!

Ken Yasuda

Foreword

The first anniversary of Tule Lake Project marks another milestone in the lives of 15,000 Japanese evacuees. It also marks the beginning of a new life for thousands of loyal Japanese-Americans. Some will assume a completely new role in the olive drab uniforms of American soldiers. Others will emerge out of their physical confinements of sentry towers and fences, out of the self-imposed darkness of doubt and fear into a new world to face new responsibilities with new determination. By new responsibilities is meant the acceptance of obligations and trials borne of all citizens in any democratic community.

The book attempts to symbolize the earnestness of the War Relocation Authority, which is in no way responsible for the evacuation, in permanently resettling individual Japanese evacuees into normal American community as rapidly as possible. National Director Dillon S. Myer and staff have undertaken a gigantic social problem for which there is no precedent in American history.

Accounts of the progress and adventure of the first year cannot possibly be recorded exhaustively in this little book. To do so would require volumes of research work. What is attempted--more or less--is a general picture of the lives of the Japanese evacuees, the description of their temporary home, the glimpse of their social and economic backgrounds and how they think and feel.

With the realization that this gathering is not so much a complete summary as a living record of the evacuees, it is hoped that the collection will move all American readers closer to the problems of Japanese-Americans.

In preparation of this book, the editor has had the advantage of the guidance of Dr. Yamato Ichihashi, former professor of Japanese government and history at Stanford University and author of "Japanese in the United States," and Mr. John D. Cook, Tule Lake Project reports officer.

-The Editor

THE BUTTE:

TULE LAKE 1942

Now comes the sun with distance-piercing days
Revealing far the earth of folded past,
Reminding kin to kin of common birth,
Of fires endured, of dusty rains consumed.
Beneath these hills lie countless memories:
Of mountains born in flames, their watery graves;
Engulfing death, and ever-creeping life;
The terror'd days of our white sister's birth,
Who now serene and quiet with her veil,
Was born a black and wanton hellion cone
Spewing her thickened blood of liquid stone
Of silent watching broods of cliffs and buttes;
Of blackened skies and yellow lightning's blows,
Recoiling earth, the deadly hail of rocks;
Of seeing far the herds of dying deer
Sunk in a sea of flesh-consuming fumes.
Now to our quiet land so rich with pain,
Now to our laps great hordes of black-haired men
Each day at dawn arrive with waving arms,
Their earthly stores bound up in bags and crates,
Fleeing some god to find a refuge here.
Beyond the curve of earth, what range has burst?
On crumpled smoking plains, what thousands perished?

-S. K.

Introduction

The book presents a series of articles written by young authors; they touch upon various aspects of the evacuee life as experienced by the nisei during the past year. The articles are descriptive, historical, sociological, reflective, impressionistic and even flippant, and thus, because of their nature, they may appear somewhat disjointed. Nevertheless, they, as a whole, vividly portray and reveal the nisei minds as affected by what has happened to them since the outbreak of war. The writers speak simply and sincerely that which they have felt and thought, and of the new environments in which they have been forced to live. To them it has been a drama, indeed, an intense one, that has involved some 110,000 human souls; the drama has embodied many comedies and tragedies. How these comedies and tragedies strike the uninitiated can only be surmised, but to those who have actually participated in them, they are apt to stick for a long time. Ultimately, however, it is hoped that the more intelligent and courageous, at least, will emerge philosophically victorious.

At the same time, any human drama, and, in particular, a tragic one, whether fleeting and limited in scope or not, should not escape the serious attention of the thinking public since it too is involved even if indirectly. After all, unless the public is willing to rectify mistakes (committed by whom does not matter), and then to help in restoring to a normal life, these unfortunate evacuees and more especially those of the young generation, this so human a problem will likely breed yet another far more tragic one that might drive them into a philosophy of despair. This must be avoided.

This writer is an old man and a long resident in the United States, whose mature years were de-

voted to teaching of American youths with the dream that their cultural life be rendered richer. Life is a serious business, and it should not be shattered by transitory misfortunes. It must go on. Thinking men and women should read the articles in order to learn from them and to penetrate into the minds of their authors. Then they will understand the nature of their problems. With a necessary knowledge, they can help intelligently in solving them. If necessary, these few words may be interpreted as an appeal from a man who is not entirely ignorant of American, and Japanese as well as their ideals, to those capable of viewing youth problems sympathetically and striving for the general betterment of life.

Yamato Ichihashi