

Recently a representative of the War Relocation Authority covered the area from San Francisco to San Jose in which interviews were had with evacuees who had returned; attorneys representing evacuees, evacuee references, potential employers, and others. The western field office has submitted a few example interviews which are as follows:

#### Redwood City

Owner of small chrysanthemum nursery interviewed. Has very modern, pleasant home, no trouble in moving tenant out. Owner cordially received. Numerous old friends drop around to house. Check of nearby school--principal stated few thoughtless remarks, by children, perhaps, but wholesome atmosphere expected. A chrysanthemum shipper is managing the 2½ acres of plants. Pre-evacuation days owner grossed \$10,000 per year on 2 acres plants; netted \$4,000. Present operator grosses \$25,000 year, nets \$10,000 on 2½ acres, due to increased prices.

Owner is one of five occupying a 45-acre total, and all living within few hundred yards of each other. One or two others are planning on early return. Present tenants consist of two groups of Chinese, one Filipino, one Caucasian. Relations are cordial, present tenants are old employees or friends.

In general there are some 50 Chinese chrysanthemum growers, and a scattering of Filipinos, Caucasians. Pre-evacuation days there were 48 Japanese growers, about half that many Chinese. About fifteen shippers handle the sales to the east. Unquestionably, the Chinese growers will try to freeze out the Japanese, but with 15 shippers anxious to make their profit, it is unlikely they will hold together. Also, the shippers are old acquaintances with evacuees, and will probably welcome their return.

#### Palo Alto

Discussed problem of evacuee laundry owner with his attorney. Plant, equipment, living quarters have been leased, lease now up for renewal. Attorney has advised evacuee to renew lease with present tenant on long term basis. Cites public sentiment as detrimental to business if evacuee returns. Evacuee apparently has accepted advice. This is questionable. Laundries are scarce, demand great. Seems unlikely people would wash own shirts rather than patronize evacuee. Attorney probably much too fearful. Recommended evacuee come out and look situation over.

#### Stanford University

Lunched with several evacuee instructors at Civil Affairs Training school. Report work interesting, reception good. Enjoying work, but worrying about housing situation if families return. Housing extremely tight, almost impossible, San Francisco to San Jose.

#### Menlo Park

Talked with reference of evacuee contract gardener. States very fine man, contracted with various families - his own included, for years. All previous customers anxious to have him back. Thinks reception will be good.

#### Atherton

Spoke with owner of estate who is trying to get former gardener back. Very interested in evacuee problems. Former gardeners has decided not to return. Saw tenant house, large, comfortable completely modern. Terms offered seemed generous. One of Stanford evacuees interested in having his family return to this location and position.

Mountain View

Interviewed two recently returned evacuated carnation growers. Both families cordially received by old friends. One had dispute with tenant over terms of return. Settled amicably out of court. Considerable problems over run-down condition of greenhouses, securing additional equipment, getting gasoline allotment, etc. Outlook satisfactory, however. Both figures will take a year to get places back to old high standards. Carnations selling \$2.25 bunch--estimate gross business \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year. No fear of marketing. Old associates willing to do business with them. Planning to renovate old housing on property, and ask evacuee friend to come back and work for them.

San Jose

Talked with wholesale appliance hardware dealer, reference of an evacuee planning to return in next week or so. Spoke very highly of evacuee, stated he operated large general merchandise store, has good name, and should be able to open up again. All wholesalers will trade with him. Difficult to build up stock again, but wholesalers will be glad to give him fair allotment of their goods.

San Francisco

Evacuee who formerly owned dry goods store here on scouting trip. Highly pleased with reception. Owns home in former "Japanese town". Experienced in no unpleasantness with negroes in section. Wholesalers welcomed him warmly. Will trade with him to limit of their quotas. Real problem of collecting stock of merchandise. Not yet sure whether can open store or not, because of limited supplies available. Plans to return to San Francisco anyway.

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As additional information and interviews are received they will be published.