

# I N F O R M A T I O N   B U L L E T I N

## JAPANESE AMERICAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Pacific Coast Branch, American Friends Service Committee  
544 East Orange Grove Avenue  
Pasadena, California

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Number 4

April 27, 1942

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### AS THE PATTERN UNFOLDS

On April 3, "Good Friday", the first of the evacuees from Los Angeles County began to arrive at the Santa Anita race-track induction center near Pasadena. All came under military escort.

Upon arrival, their luggage was thoroughly searched for contraband. Then they were given medical inspection and cases of measles, chicken-pox, trachoma or any other contagious disease were immediately turned back to the County Hospital.

First arrivals were assigned to the stables, where the stalls had been sketchily cleaned and hosed and furnished only with bare army cots and one electric light. Empty ticks were available and bales of clean straw were piled between the long rows of stalls. When the stables had all been filled, the new barracks were used, as completed.

The mess halls are clean and airy and the food, "army B rations" type, is plentiful and well-cooked.

The hospital, with Nisei nurses in charge, is beneath the grandstand. It is clean and well equipped with the best type of hospital beds and inner spring mattresses, as well as the best in medical and surgical supplies and instruments.

Nearly 3,000 persons were checked in over the Easter week-end and on Tuesday, April 7, another large group, those evacuated from San Francisco, arrived by train. The Norwalk and Downey groups were also sent here later.

The group at the Blue Hills Hostel was sent to Manzanar, as well as 48 from the Forsythe Hostel when 900 Terminal Islanders were allowed to go in advance of other evacuees, if they so desired.

The Forsythe Hostel is still operating, as nearly half of the group elected to remain, and new people come and go as well. Thurston Griggs, a volunteer worker, has rendered splendid service as the Caucasian resident there.

### OWENS VALLEY

Many letters, uncomplaining and cheerful, are received from residents in the Owens Valley Center.

Visitors report dysentery. Shortage of hot water and soap for washing and scalding dishes and cooking utensils is reported.

Many of the workers wear muslin "dust masks" while outside to protect throat and lungs.

With so many children and young people idle and at loose ends, there is urgent need for the setting up of an educational program, as well as a recreational one.

The "Manzanar Free Press", mimeographed news sheet edited and circulated by the Nisei themselves, is helpful in stimulating community spirit in the Owens Valley Camp.

#### PUYALLUP

Puyallup Valley Camp, near Seattle, is yet another Santa Anita type of induction center, with a capacity for housing 8,000 human beings in long, low barracks with partitions going only part way up and only one small window to each "apartment". One washroom must accommodate 100 families. Mass feeding will be carried on. There is no shade and very little open space between the buildings. An eight-foot barbed wire fence surrounds the camp.

#### TOPPENISH

Near the town of Toppenish, sixteen miles from Yakima, Washington, an area of some forty acres in the midst of the Golding Hop Yards, is to be used as another induction center for evacuees.

Here in tiny, dark huts, formerly used by Indian hop-pickers during the picking season, the evacuees will be housed. Most of these huts have dirt floors and no windows except a small, unglassed and unscreened square opening at the rear of some--not all--of them. They are really long rows of sheds with flimsy board partitions between each 8' x 10' hut. There is one double-deck board bunk with straw in each hut.

The summer temperature soars to 110 in the shade of the buildings -- there is no other shade -- and the hop yards on all sides shut off any breeze. This camp, also, is to be surrounded by a high barbed wire fence.

Mess halls, laundry and wash-room facilities will be adequate when completed.

Roomy new barracks with floors, windows, screens, etc., are being built to house the soldiers who will guard the evacuees.

The original plan was to keep evacuees in these assembly centers only 48 hours and then move them on in community groups to permanent inland camps for the duration. The time has lengthened out to two weeks, for the first ones, and no permanent camps other than Manzanar and Parker Dam have yet been even designated.

The Pasadena office has received a letter of appreciation from the recreational director at Santa Anita for books, magazines, games and toys sent into the camp by Friends.

No regular educational work has been started in any of the camps by the management, but individual Japanese are asking for school books for all ages. They themselves will try to carry on until the proper educational system is set up.

New books can be purchased, if desired, from Patrick Lloyd, who usually devotes the profits from such sales to the Service Committee. Amounts so designated may be received at this office.

#### PROPERTY

The federal government has set up various agencies for assisting the Japanese with their property problems, but as yet there is no adequate custodian of property or conservator of assets.

Stores, businesses, farms, houses, harness, sewing machines, refrigerators and furniture are being sold at a terrific loss, and storage is "at your own risk".

#### FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Federal Council of Churches has organized to endeavor to meet the needs of the evacuees in the storage, sale or conservation of property. Friends are co-operating in this effort.

Sunday religious services at the camps are in charge of church federations. Friends are represented.

#### STUDENT PLACEMENT

Joseph Conard (Y.W.C.A. Building, Union and Allston Way, Berkeley, California) is giving full time, for the months ahead, to the work of the Student Relocation Committee. Efforts are made to place students in mid-western and eastern colleges and universities outside the prohibited and restricted zones. Several successful placements have been made to date.

This committee is an outgrowth of the concern of the Student Associations and the church related groups in the three Coast states. It is supported financially by the Friendly Relations Committee for work among foreign students, the regional board of the Y.W.C.A., and the World Students' Service Fund.

#### AS FRIENDS SEE IT

Those in charge of the evacuation claimed it was inevitable for the following reasons:

1. Race prejudice
2. Economic pressure
3. Local politics
4. Public hysteria
5. Military necessity

Recognizing the pressure of all these forces, West Coast Friends feel that there was and still is a better way.

In the words of the Tolan Committee before Congress: "We earnestly hope that every effort will be made by the federal government to protect the property and lives of these people, and to resettle them in normal and productive ways of living."

Seldom have Friends been faced with such an opportunity and such a challenge to relieve human suffering caused by "man's inhumanity to man". Will we be ready with a plan?

#### SERVICES OF LOVE IN WAR TIME

Frederick Dirks, a young Nazarene C.O., while waiting for his assignment to camp, rendered particularly fine service as the Caucasian resident in the hostel at Norwalk, especially among the teen-age boys.

Each week Japanese-speaking Friends visit the men in Tuna Canyon Camp near Tujunga to give them first-hand news of their families and to help them with business matters.

Friends gave volunteer help at the places of registration and medical in-

spection where hundreds appeared each day.

The Service Committee provided several cars for bringing the very old from Norwalk to Santa Anita.

Friends in the Bay area stood by and rendered every possible aid to the evacuees who were sent down to Santa Anita. They furnished cars and drove many to the station, where they waited to see them off. Food was provided as well, and best of all, the assurance that many cared.

Whittier Friends served a lunch of hot cocoa, sandwiches and fruit to the Norwalk group at the assembly center in Downey.

Seattle Friends in like manner extended sympathy and practical aid to those evacuated from Bainbridge Island.

Eight representatives from the Service Committee were at the train early on April 4 to see the 900 Terminal Islanders, including the 48 from Forsythe, off to Owens Valley. The F.O.R., Friends and Mt. Hollywood Congregationalists provided cars to take them from the Hostel to the train.

Perhaps the greatest service of all is that of the "countless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love" on the part of all Friends everywhere who extend the hand of sympathy and neighborliness whenever the opportunity comes.

#### VISITORS

It has been of inestimable worth to have the following Friends visit and consult with us upon this great problem: Frank Aydelotte; Eleanor Stabler Clarke; Gordon and Jane Bowles.

Walter and Marydel Balderston were welcome visitors at the Northern California Section Service Committee meeting on April 11 and 12, and their week in San Francisco was most helpful to the group there in considering the evacuee problem.

#### WHAT WILL THE PICTURE BE?

Outside the little house she was leaving forever, she stood weeping quietly and alone as she gazed at a huge, empty picture frame on top of a pile of smoking rubbish. She had carried that picture all the way from Japan, when, as a young bride, she had left her parental home to come to America. It was the picture of her beloved old father whom she knew she would probably never see again.

In heart-broken fear, this now white-haired old grandmother had tenderly placed her most cherished treasure on this funeral pyre and, in silent anguish, watched the flames until every trace of her father's face had been burned away from her sight forever, and only the empty frame had been left -- mute evidence of her fear and sacrifice.

He had been wearing the uniform of the Imperial Army of Japan.

As, all up and down the West Coast, these thousands upon thousands of people step out of the "frame" of their accustomed life and work and interests, what will the picture be within the framework of the new life to which we are sending them -- all these hundreds and hundreds of dislocated families and individuals? My heart sinks as I ask myself -- and you, Friends --

"What will the picture be?"

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Note: Send news material to Gracia Booth, 544 East Orange Grove Ave., Pasadena.