

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

JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Pasadena Office, American Friends Service Committee
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IN RETROSPECT

Three months have passed since the evacuation of all West Coast Japanese and Japanese-Americans from civilian life into Assembly Centers.

While the hardships, heartbreaks and almost impossible living conditions attendant upon this transplanting of 124,000 people have been great, their determination to meet disaster with faith and courage and the will to rise above it all, triumphant, have been a shining example to us all -- one we can never forget.

During their sojourn in the various Assembly Centers, in spite of the terrible mental suffering, which far out-weighed the physical, the evacuees have applied themselves arduously to the creating of a "homey" atmosphere. Flower and vegetable gardens, vines and shrubs, fish ponds and wee parks somehow grew almost miraculously out of the wilderness of sand and dust and discouragement -- symbols of their courage and the determination to carry on in the face of all odds.

Inside the crowded barracks, curtains, pictures, books and home-made furniture still further emphasized this same high courage.

In the recreation centers, classes in craft, Americanization, various school subjects, and physical training have kept camp morale at a higher level and much was done along creative lines, many people discovering their particular aptitudes for the first time.

Friends have encouraged and assisted the evacuees in supplying craft and kindergarten materials, school supplies and up-to-date good books and magazines.

Personal visits and correspondence from Caucasians have been most helpful in maintaining contact and assuring them that we have not forgotten!

Frequent visitation of those left behind in sanitariums and hospitals has been carried on by the Nicholsons, the Binfords, and Esther Rhoads.

The privilege of having Edna and Homer Morris with us for four months has been great indeed and their contacts within the camps as well as their guidance and advice in thinking through the whole vast staggering problem has been invaluable.

Walter Borton has likewise rendered an outstandingly Friendly service all up and down the Coast.

G. Raymond and Gracia Booth spent the month of August visiting Yearly Meetings, Young Friends Conferences, etc. in the middle western and eastern states and speaking to other groups in an effort to interpret the situation. David Henley also presented the problem to three Yearly Meetings while on his recent trip east.

There is unbounded sympathy and interest both among Friends and non-Friends in seeking a solution.

TODAY

Now, once again, our friends of Japanese ancestry are on the move by the thousands -- this time from their temporary barrack and stable homes in Assembly Centers to the more permanent Relocation Centers under the War Relocation Authority farther inland. These are:

Manzanar, California -- accommodating		10,000
Poston, Arizona	"	20,000
Tule Lake, California	"	16,000
Minedoka, Idaho	"	10,000
Gila, Arizona	"	15,000
Heart Mountain, Cody, Wyoming	"	10,000
Granada, Colorado	"	8,000
Central Utah, Delta, Utah	"	10,000
Rohrer, Arkansas	"	10,000
Jerome, Arkansas	"	10,000
Otwell, Arkansas	"	5,000
Total		124,000

In the field of student relocation, a tremendous task -- carried on all summer by the National Student Relocation Committee, with much volunteer help, lies one of our main opportunities for service.

The following extracts are from a statement released for publication by Robbins W. Barstow, director of the National Student Relocation Council.

A Statement Regarding Program and Procedure

THE NATIONAL JAPANESE-AMERICAN STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL is a non-governmental agency organized at the request of the War Relocation Authority, and working under its general oversight, to deal with the special problem of relocating in approved colleges and universities, American-born Japanese students affected by the evacuation. The Council and its program have the endorsement and cooperation of the War Department and the United States Office of Education, as well as of the War Relocation Authority.

SERVING ON ITS EXECUTIVE OR REGIONAL COMMITTEES are such leading educators as President Sproul of the University of California and Vice-President Deutsch; Chancellor Wilbur of Stanford University; President Mendenhall of Whittier College; President Nason of Swarthmore College ...

QUESTIONNAIRES DISTRIBUTED BY THE COUNCIL have been filled out by approximately two thousand students in the college group.

A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS in college administration and counselling is volunteering its services in the study and rating of this vast amount of data.

PROCESS OF RECOMMENDATION: Because it may be impossible to make the desired adjustments for all eligible students, first consideration is being given only to those in the upper brackets, scholastically, except in cases where students have already been admitted to some receiving college and have adequate funds to preclude need of scholarship aid from the Council. Each record is studied with a view to the relative importance of the completion

of an academic program for the particular individual. The analysis includes such matters as professional goal, service to the Japanese community, maturity of character, evidence of successful Caucasian contact, special interests or talents, etc.

UPON THE BASIS OF THIS ANALYSIS, plus personal interviews, the placement committee recommends particular students to the particular colleges which have evidenced their willingness to consider such enrollment. A statement of admission to the college, together with evidence of community acceptance and financial adequacy, is presented to proper government officials with a request for travel permits.

To date, 111 colleges and universities have been approved and a number of students have already been released and are in school. It is hoped that at least 200 students may be able to resume their college work this month.

AND NOW, TOMORROW!

The War Relocation Authority is now committed to a policy of releasing Japanese-American citizens from the Relocation Centers for the purpose of accepting private employment outside of the Western Defense Command.

Administrative Instruction No. 22 outlines the conditions of release:

1. It applies only to Japanese-American citizens who are in War Relocation Authority Centers and who have never established residence in Japan.
2. The applicant must have the offer of a job outside the Western Defense Command which will provide a living for him and his family.
3. Once a job offer is secured and the applicant has registered with the project manager for private employment, the War Relocation Authority must investigate:
 - a. His fitness for the proposed job;
 - b. His loyalty;
 - c. The willingness of the community to accept him.

This policy represents the most constructive program that has been announced by the government since the order for evacuation and there are two main points at which we can assist greatly:

- (1). Help the Japanese-Americans to locate jobs.
- (2). Help prepare communities to receive them.

Someone in the community will need to agree to act as "counselor" or "sponsor" of the newcomers. This entails the willingness:

- a. To meet them at the station on arrival.
- b. To arrange for proper living facilities if the employer has not already done so.
- c. To counsel with them in the event of the development of community opposition.
- d. To interpret the whole Japanese problem to the community.

Note: No financial obligation on the part of the "sponsor" is involved.

Homer Morris points out that, "To be effective, the efforts of the W.R.A. must be supplemented by individuals and private agencies in securing job openings and community acceptance. This is a place where you can start to work at once to help Japanese and Japanese-Americans get back into the normal stream of economic life. A great many difficulties will be encountered in this, but due to the present labor shortage this transition from camps to private employment will be easier now than after the close of the war. Every effort should be made to have the resettlement centers depopulated of able-bodied people by the end of the war. If this can be achieved, it will do more to soften the blow that has befallen our Japanese friends than anything else could do. This liberal policy of the W.R.A. deserves the support of all friends of the Japanese. It offers a place where we can begin at once in order to demonstrate our continued friendship."

"OUT OF THE WILDERNESS"

From "ALOHA", the Relocation issue of the "TULARE NEWS":

Representing the People

Now that we are about to depart from the Tulare Assembly Center, we can look back to see what we have come through. We were necessarily confined to a small area with military regulations governing our daily conduct and movement. The housing facilities and feeding system were not like those to which we had been accustomed back home. Certainly, these were conditions that could depress and demoralize the staunchest optimist.

But man does not live by bread alone. The truthfulness of these words were never better proven than by our manager, Mr. Nils Aanonsen. His kind, understanding, thoughtful and intelligent management has made our enforced stay much easier, much happier. To him, we owe a large measure of gratitude.

The time has come to say good-bye, Mr. Aanonsen, but you shall be long remembered. Our association with you will be a guiding light in striving to be better Americans in a greater America.

-- HARRY MIYOKE

Manager's Farewell Message

Soon you will be leaving the Tulare Assembly Center. For only four short months has it been my privilege to know you; but never before in my life has such a wealth of experience been crammed into so short a period of time. It has been a revelation to me to see how you have adapted yourselves to this strange and difficult life, and to watch the many ingenious ways in which you have found outlet for your energies. I have admired your willingness to do the menial tasks as well as those that brought ready recognition. I have marveled at the educational system which you have developed in the face of innumerable obstacles so that you might make yourselves more useful.

Through it all, in your work and in your play, you have maintained your dignity and your happy disposition. In this way I have learned from you how to become a better American, and for that I shall remember you always in humble gratitude.

-- NILS AANONSEN, Manager

From Gila Relocation Project:

"Well, here we are -- away out "in the sticks" of Arizona, on the desert! Our train trip was quite comfortable, especially our meals in the air-conditioned diner. We left the train at Casa Grande, about seventeen miles from here, and were brought to the camp in busses. Honestly, that trip was a nightmare -- dust, heat, desert!! When we arrived we almost cried from disappointment -- the houses will be very nice -- cream colored with double red shingle roofs and nice wooden floors -- more like a home in that way. But -- the laundry, ironing and toilet and shower facilities are not yet ready. Washing for whole families must be done in the small wash sinks and there is no running hot water yet for washing, showers, etc. Deep ditches surround our houses where pipes are being laid. When it is ready it will be much nicer than the Assembly Center and the staff is grand!!

"The food is very good, mess halls larger and we eat in less hurry and less crowded conditions.

"Really, we are so far from civilization here that it's pathetic. We couldn't run away if we tried. Some of us visit the Indian Reservation about five miles away to pass the time."

From Minedoka Relocation Project:

"Despite our unusual environment and the hot and dry and dusty climate, we are not unhappy, knowing ourselves to be under the very good care of the kind American Government. The houses and food are very good. Much has to be done on this project, but that is our responsibility -- it is up to us evacuees to make it home."

A.F.S.C. Family Letters

"Edna Morris and I, after spending more than three months on the Pacific Coast, start homeward on August 31st. On our way we propose to visit a number of Japanese who settled in Utah, Colorado and other western states before the freezing order went into effect. We want to learn how they are making the adjustments to new communities, how they are being accepted, and also what the prospects are for the settlement of other Japanese in these same communities. We shall stop also at a number of colleges which have accepted Japanese students. These localities may offer opportunities for employment as well as placement for students. We shall also visit some communities where there are Friends in order to see if job openings can be secured."

-- Homer L. Morris

"Eden, Idaho, does not lie in the Garden of Eden. (The Snake River flows nearby.) Like all except two of the eleven W.R.A. Centers, it lies in the midst of a barren desert. Depending upon the length of 'the duration' it may or may not be made, by the efforts of the colonists, to blossom. In the end, they must move again -- no one knows where -- for the land belongs to the Reclamation Service and Idaho has been promised they will not stay. We could make these camps the finest in the world and they would still be prisons. Hope is outside not inside. They appeal to us for help. Our responsibility is to get as many out as possible. If by the end of the war the camps are still full we have failed. If they are empty -- there is still a chance of a solution to the problem but it will not yet be solved!"

-- Floyd Schmoe

WHAT CAN I, AS A FRIEND, DO?

1. Work on Student Relocation.
2. Aid in adult education program.
3. Attempt to facilitate release of individuals and groups from relocation centers.
4. Maintain personal contacts with friends in camp.
5. Become "pen-pals" (as one Nisei puts it) with some whom you do not yet know, inside the camps.
Names and addresses may be secured from Gracia Booth as soon as the transfer to the new centers has been completed.
6. Endeavor to build up right kind of public reaction against the thing which has been done.
7. Help provide layettes -- literally hundreds of which will be needed during the difficult months ahead.
8. Contribute financially to this program for which such support is imperative.

YOUR PRIVILEGE

The unfailing testimony of Friends in a suffering world has ever been that the knowledge of a need gives birth to a concern, and wherever a true concern is born the persons and the means are forthcoming to meet that need, however overpowering it may seem.

And so, as we place the problems of these evacuees before you, along with the opportunity for resettlement and rehabilitation -- we are leaving their destiny in your hands, knowing you will not fail them.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Your contributions will be gratefully received by:

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
544 East Orange Grove Avenue
Pasadena, California

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Send news material, questions, or suggestions to Gracia Booth, 544 East Orange Grove Avenue, Pasadena.