

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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TWENTIETH CENTURY EXODUS

As this Twentieth Century Exodus of our Japanese neighbors proceeds and homes are broken up by the thousands; as businesses often of many years standing close down; as school and church and community ties are disrupted; as busy, useful citizens and their Japanese-born parents are lifted out of a normal life -- Friends on the West Coast have said, by deed as well as by word: "I am my neighbor's keeper."

On May 12, 13, and 14 the people of Pasadena and adjoining areas lost, through the evacuation, some 1300 of their Japanese neighbors, who went by train to the fair grounds camp at Tulare.

Friends, cooperating with other church workers, were up at an early hour each morning, driving Japanese families from their homes to the assembly center and helping to serve breakfast of hot rolls, coffee, orange juice and milk. A committee composed of representatives of local churches supporting the Japanese Union Church handled the transportation to the station and the preparation and serving of the food.

At noon on May 15, some 300 assembled to go by bus to Santa Anita, and food was again served and transportation provided.

The sincere gratitude of the evacuees knew no bounds as trains and buses pulled away and few eyes were dry, either among the departing Japanese or the Caucasians left behind.

COVINA

On May 14 and 15 several Friends drove the 23 miles out to Covina, very early in the morning, where they assisted with the serving of food. The American Legion loaned them coffee pots!

FROM THE BAY AREA

Friends have continued to help furnish automobiles, food and storage space in San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Mateo in aiding evacuees.

In San Francisco they cooperated with the Baptists and the FOR in operating a canteen for three days, giving food, cheer and Christian sympathy, while various religious groups gave aid in many other ways.

Josephine Duveneck has a permit for visiting Tanforan, another race track induction center near San Francisco, and reports fair conditions and a good personnel in charge. Her request for stoves where small babies were endangered by chill and dampness was granted.

A truck-load of recreational and reading equipment, including a piano, has been gratefully acknowledged by Director Kidwell of Manzanar. Another truck-load went to Tanforan.

Six convalescent cases were properly provided for by San Francisco Friends.

SANTA BARBARA

When some 300 souls were evacuated from Santa Barbara to Tulare, transportation and warm food were provided by local church groups.

Negroes and Japanese have lived side by side here for many years and the negro population let no opportunity slip by to help their departing neighbors, either with storage, transportation, or "last day meals" in their own homes.

OF GENERAL INTEREST

Herbert Nicholson spent several days, as a visitor, in the internment camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and reports favorable conditions there.

G. Raymond Booth was requested by the Nisei to preach at the morning service on Sunday, May 17, at Santa Anita.

Another induction center has been set up on the Fair Grounds at Pomona and is receiving its quota of evacuees.

Japanese-American students and alumnae in the University of Washington turned over to the Service Committee the sum of \$585.00, which they had been saving toward the building of a club house, to use in any way they desired. No doubt this gift is due to the influence of Floyd Schmoer and their love and respect for him and appreciation of his interest in them and their problems.

Joe Conard, heading up the Student Relocation Committee, reports a very good response from Japanese-American students who desire to continue their education. Several have already been sent on to the areas where they will study, while others are now being "placed".

Rev. Kengo Tajima, for many years pastor of the Japanese Union Church in Pasadena, left for Tulare with the first group of evacuees on May 12. On Sunday afternoon, May 10, he and his wife kept open house for their Caucasian friends and fellow-workers.

At Santa Anita, some of Walt Disney's artists make learning to read a merry game for some 1500 children assembled in "recreation hour" -- no official school work has as yet been established.

All types of school books, from primers to university textbooks, are very much in demand in all the camps, as well as all types of recreational and reading material.

JAPANESE-AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Letter from President of Pasadena Chapter

To our Membership:

As a parting word to you loyal members and friends, I wish to express my gratitude for the fine spirit of cooperation you have displayed throughout the trying days of this emergency. I trust you will face the uncertainties of the future with the same courage and cooperative spirit.

Coming at a time when our parents are in the twilight of their lives and we nisei are eager to step out on the threshold of our careers, this world conflict will result in many heartaches and disappointments. While we can hardly look with enthusiasm at what lies ahead, we can at least picture the privation

of others far less fortunate than ourselves and swing ourselves uncomplainingly into this program of wartime civilian control with the assurance that our government will not tolerate anything short of humane and fair treatment.

(Signed) NOBU T. KAWAI

LETTER RECEIVED BY SEATTLE OFFICE

Extracts from a letter written in Japanese to the American Friends Service Committee, Seattle Office, from Tacoma:

To the American Friend:

You have been doing excellent work for the benefit of us Japanese, and the trouble it has caused you is most deeply appreciated. Even though we are placed in a camp in America we consider ourselves fortunate because we know for certain America is our home.

We shall never forget what our American Friends have done for us. Even though we shall go through terrible hardships in coming months, we desire to strive with you for world peace.

My son ... even as an American feels helpless and is engulfed in a cloak of insecurity.

We are without land and are at times surrounded with an "unwanted" atmosphere; yet we have faith in mankind and shall strive to maintain our self-respect. We pray that Americans continue their efforts for freedom, peace, and justice.

Soon we shall be sent to Puyallup. We sincerely hope you may visit us there.

(Signed) A Japanese woman forty years old

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

A Japanese and a negro family in Santa Barbara had lived in the same area and been friends for many years.

A few days before they were to be evacuated, the Japanese man, with his two young sons, came to the negro home with the request that he be allowed to set out "a flower or two" for them, as a parting gift, in appreciation of their friendship of years standing. Deeply touched, the negro mother readily consented.

The "flower or two" turned out to be the complete flower garden of the Japanese family -- exceptionally beautiful -- which they simply dug up and carefully transplanted to their neighbor's yard, working early and late, until this labor of love was completed and the grounds about the shabby negro cottage a bower of fragrant beauty!

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