

American Friends Service Committee

Hostel and Office

2150 Grand Avenue - Des Moines 12, Iowa



Telephone 4-8761

General Office,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

November the
sixth 1943

JOHN AND JOSEPHINE COPITHORNE,
Directors

Dear Friend:

At Thanksgiving time last year a letter was sent to interested friends from Scattergood Hostel, telling them of the work being done there, and of the need for financial assistance. Scattergood closed in April because the necessity for that work was temporarily ended by the rapid increase in employment opportunities in the East. At that time we in Iowa turned our attention to another pressing problem, the relocation and resettlement of Americans of Japanese ancestry. At the request of the War Relocation Authority we have established this Hostel in Des Moines. Here we provide room and board for these people while the War Relocation Authority finds employment for them. Here they find a welcome and a home while they are making the difficult adjustment in a new community. From here they go to farms, cities and towns throughout the state.

The difference between the cost of this service and the dollar a day which each guest pays is met by voluntary contributions from friends of this work who want to have a part in expressing their friendship to this minority group. We estimate that it will cost about \$3000.00 to operate this Hostel for one year. This low operating cost has been made possible by the contributions of labor and provisions made by representatives of the churches, F.O.R. and many interested individuals.

You can help us in three ways, first by interesting yourself and your friends in the problem of resettlement, second by making welcome any evacuees who may come to your neighborhood, and third by contributing towards the cost of maintaining the Hostel.

We hope that you will find it possible to help us in all three of these ways. Make checks payable to "American Friends Service Committee, Hostel Account". Your contribution entitles you to Income Tax deduction.

Yours sincerely,

J. J. Newlin *W. W. Waymack*

(J. J. Newlin), Chairman
Iowa Committee of the
American Friends Service Committee

(W. W. Waymack),
Vice-President, Des Moines
Register and Tribune.

John W. Copithorne
(John W. Copithorne)
Hostel Director

L. G. Ligutti
(Rt. Rev. Msgr. L. G. Ligutti)
National Catholic Rural Life
Conference.

P.S. Here is a self-addressed envelope for your check.

In many ways Japanese Americans now are helping relieve acute labor shortages in Iowa.

There are cars running which might otherwise be standing idle for lack of repair work. Hospitals give prompter care than otherwise might have been possible. Letters are typed, watches repaired and service in restaurants and coffee shops speeded up.

These are only a few of the dozens of skilled or semi-skilled jobs which the Nisei are now filling in Iowa. Some are working on farms and others are attending war industry schools to learn new trades.

SKILLED WORKERS

Farm and domestic work lead the list of jobs, but



increasing numbers of Nisei coming into the state are entering the more skilled fields.

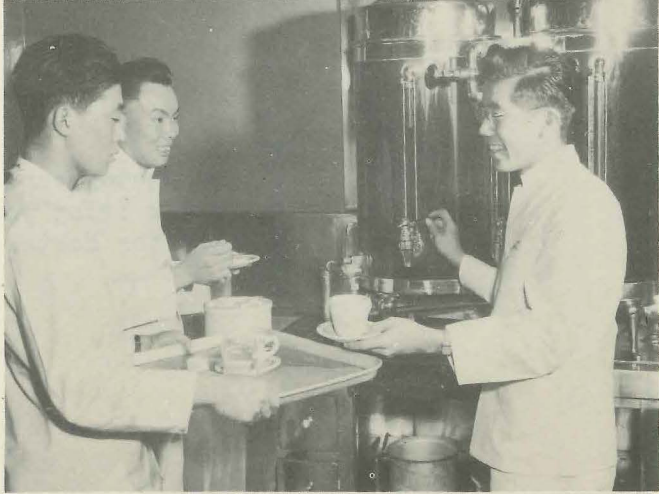
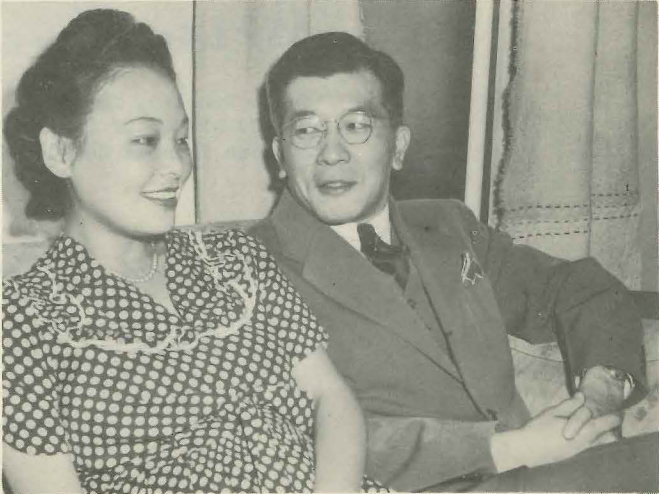
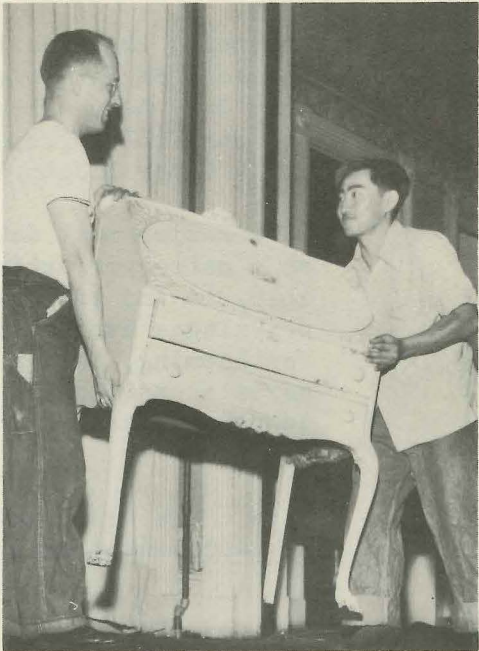
There are Japanese American doctors, nurses and hospital orderlies coming into Iowa. Others are pharmacists; many are skilled office workers. Hardly a business or industry exists in the state which cannot draw from the labor pool which the evacuees in the relocation centers represent.

A total of 232 American-born Japanese have been placed in jobs in Iowa since the relocation program began. Since the opening of the Hostel on September 1st, 53 evacuees have stayed there. A number of these are en route to agricultural jobs, some are entering War training classes and many are finding employment in business and industry in the various cities throughout the state.

MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUPS (Selected)

Americans of Japanese ancestry, 14 years of age and over, in California, Oregon, and Washington; Census of 1940

Agriculture:	
Men.	17,785
Women.	4,242
Retail trade (clerks, salesmen, etc.):	
Men.	6,592
Women.	2,690
Wholesale trade (both sexes)	2,190
Domestic service (private homes):	
Men.	2,421
Women.	2,323
Hotels, laundries, cleaners and dyers.	3,592
Manufacturing (all kinds).	1,978
Professional services.	1,326
Finance, insurance, real estate.	656
Railroading, trucking, etc.	686
Auto storage, rental, repair	292
Other business and repair services	119



Approximately 100,000 people of Japanese descent are living today in War Relocation centers. There are ten of these centers located in six western states. They were established as temporary homes when every person of Japanese descent was evacuated from the West Coast by order of the military commander in the spring of 1942. This movement was carried out simply as a military expedient. Two-thirds of the people in relocation centers are American citizens. None of them have been found guilty of any crime or accused of any intentions against the national security.

Individual evacuees who have been investigated and found loyal or law-abiding are now being permitted to leave these relocation centers to accept jobs on farms and in factories and to resume normal living. The policies governing this resettlement have the approval of the War and Navy Departments. The program has been sanctioned by the Department of Justice as sound from the standpoint of national security and has been approved by the War Manpower Commission as a contribution to national manpower needs.

"Anything that can legitimately be done to compensate loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry for the dislocation to which they have been subjected, by reason of military necessity, has our full approval."

- General John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War.

"The nation must decide and Congress must gravely consider, as a matter of national policy, the extent to which citizenship, in and of itself, is a guaranty of equal rights and privileges during time of war. Unless a clarification is forthcoming, the evacuation of the Japanese population will serve as an incident sufficiently disturbing to lower seriously the morale of vast groups of foreign-born among our people."

- The report made by the Select Committee of the House of Representatives, investigating national defense migration.

|| The photographs presented in this
folder bring you more graphic-
ally the Hostel and its people. ||