

G.

Hay Shinizu

## Mess Workers:

One of the most important office of this community is the mess workers, because if we do not eat this would not be a community but a graveyard; for people would be dying of starvation one after another.

There are many employees in the mess hall.

Let comes the Senior steward who has many duties to attend to, such as taking inventory, putting in the time for the workers, ordering the food, keeping track of the store room, etc.

Then comes the chief cook; he must see that there is enough food to feed the block; he also has to change the menu if the supply does not arrive.

The job of being a cook's help is very difficult because he must stand over a hot stove three times a day. He must take orders from the chief cook, clean the vegetables, cut them as the chief wants them, cut up the meat, serve the food and arrange it so that it would look appetizing.

Head waitress comes next. She has the duty of seeing that the waiters and waitress wait on the people of the community. She must see that the table is neatly arranged and see that the hall is clean. She also helps the waitress serve.

Waitress and waiter; Their duty is to serve the people. After meal they clean and reset the table.

The pot washer is to wash the pots, and pans, and the kitchen utensils.

Laundresses wash the dish cloths, and wash, starch, and iron the cook's uniforms. She also must iron the dish cloths.

continued

May Shimizu

Janitor must sweep the kitchen and the mess hall. He also mops up the place. He should build the fire, and he has to get up about 4 A.M. so that the stove will be hot for the morning breakfast. He also starts a fire in the hall so it will keep the diners warm in the cold frosty morning.

Last, but not the least, is the dish washer who washes the dishes for us. They must wash the dishes in a hot soapy water and then rinse in a clear chlorine water then rinse again in a hot clean water. The dish wipers wipes them and must know where they belong.

If it weren't for these people, we wouldn't be able to eat.

Kajiko Ogata  
Period I, II  
U.S. History

### Waitresses Job

The second day of my evacuation in Arboga I was assigned to a mess-hall job as a waitress. This was my first experience working in a mess-hall. Feeding approximately 250 to 350 people, with the setting only for 150. The shortage of cups and saucers, and silverware was a serious condition. I will try to explain to you what we went through in one meal.

Breakfast begins at 7:30. From about 7:00 o'clock people begin to line up along the messhall. As soon as the door is opened the people flop in by fives. They get their dishes and sit down to eat. After all the tables are filled, the line is held until vacancies appears. Wiping the tables and resetting it again to prepare it for the next. Washing the dishes and silverware takes quite a long time. The waitress is rush here and there to straighten out the table. The third time resetting is the same. Rushing everybody around is not unusual. At last the long line of hungry colonist has disappeared. What a relief it was! Then the workers eat. Everybody is scattered around. Everybody is enjoying their late breakfast while they talk and laugh. We have about 20 minutes to rest in. Then again the rush begins. Clearing the tables, refilling the salt and pepper bottles. The boys bring in the hoses to wash the tables and floor. A regular clean up period begins. They sing at top of their voices as they work. We wipe the water off the tables and reset the tables for dinner. The cooks begin the dinner preparation. After the tables are completely set we are allowed to go home only to come back at 11:30. This rush goes on for just one hour and half. But at the end everybody seemed to be quite out of breath but with a smile they turn homeward.

continued

Kajiko Ogata

From this I have learned what a great difference it makes to have enough of anything. With the cooperation from every worker we did very well with the difficulties we had.

Jimmy Haratani

## Working in the Mess

When I first arrived in the Relocation Center I started looking for work so that I may be able to serve the peoples of this community. I was planning on getting a job in the Warehouse; but since my friend who came to the Camp a day earlier told me that I should apply for a job in the mess hall, I readily went to a mess hall and started off with washing dishes. After working for a few days I went to the Placement and got my assignment sheet and I didn't have any difficulty in getting the job for I had already worked in the mess for a day or two while some of my friends had difficulty in getting their assignment sheets. For the first two months I was washing dishes in the mess hall, and this job was pretty complicated for me because I had never washed dishes in all my life before I came into the Camp. After a few days I was pretty good at washing dishes. While I was working in this mess hall we had a system where they used to bring in the dishes after a table had been cleared so that others wouldn't be disturbed, and we also took turns in washing dishes, one day we wash dishes and the next day we take the dishes into the wash room which was in the rear of the kitchen.

When school started this mess hall had a shortage of workers for the workers were mostly of school age, so since school started they started a new system which stated that all the people who eat in that mess hall take the dishes back to the wash room and I heard that it is working out fine. I didn't quit my job until the day before school started, and so I didn't have much time to play around as I used to do when I was back home. Although I used to work in a mess, it was not in our block, for the mess a block away. While working in the mess hall I used to have fun and I would say that working in the Mess is the easiest, and you could enjoy yourself while working.

Sanji Morimoto

Life as a Mess Hall Worker In Tule Lake

As you know, I am one of the 16,000 people sent to Tule Lake Relocation Center. After two or three days of camp life here, I started to look for work. There were many jobs open then, such as mess hall, truck driving, farming, and office work. My friend and I were fortunate enough to get a job as mess hall worker which I am going to write about.

When I first started to work in the mess, I had a feeling I was going to enjoy working in it because I knew most of the worker already. All I had to do was to find out what my duties were. Four of us waiters had to pass the sugar in the morning, water in the afternoon, soup at night, and sweep and mop the floor after every meal. We also helped the twelve waitresses carry the dishes. Our working hours were from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. We all worked about five hours every day and got credit for eight hours.

Working in the mess was a easy job, but I soon started to dislike it because it was getting boring to do the same thing day after day. It also was hot to work in when the temperature was very high.

If a person had some hobbies or any other thing in which to keep themselves busy on between hours, they could easily pass the time away, but I didn't have anything to do but play solitaire, baseball, and coaching a girls baseball team. The very few activities I was doing made the day very dull to me. The thing I did the most was to sleep about three hours every noon, because I had a hard time getting up in the morning.

The day I liked the most was my day off. Everyone employed in our mess had one day off out of six days instead of the regular one day off out of seven days. On my day off I usually slept until late, and ate in two mess halls.

Sanji Morimoto

This is about all there is about a life of a mess hall worker, because there isn't very much you do.

Sanji Morimoto  
Sept. 21, 1942 Period V  
English III

(Female)

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U.S. Constitution

Tashi Iwasaki  
Period 1CaucasianThe Personnel Dining Hall  
"Where East meets West"

Coffee, tea, or water asks a smiling Japanese girl, as a member of the Caucasian staff of the Tule Lake W.R.A. Project seats himself in the Personnel Dining Hall. Located by the Administration Building, the Dining hall, which serves the Caucasian staff, is manned by the Colonists.

When first started, the dining hall had only eight tables, but due to the coming of the school teachers, it was recently enlarged to accommodate eighteen tables. At first eight waitresses, four cooks and two dish-washers were sufficient to take care of the people, but now thirteen waitresses, seven cooks, one bookkeeper, two janitors, two bakers and four dish-washers are required to keep the dining hall the neat looking place that it is.

To conclude my visit to the Personnel Dining Hall, I was invited to dinner. The menu was roast port, lettuce salad, buttered beets, sweet potato and milk. It was a very delicious and appetizing dinner.



American Literature  
Period 1-2  
Arvene Mukai

(female)

### Tule Lake Relocation Center

#### Community Activities

Approximately two hundred fifty volunteers, who came from Camp Harmony, Puyallup, Washington and Portland Assembly Center to the Tule Lake Relocation Center organized the Community Activities Department for us who came in directly from home and other assembly centers. There were only two full time workers in the community activities during the month of May. They worked very hard trying to organize a library, a softball team and other activities for the nisei. Now in this Tule Lake Relocation Center of fifteen thousand colonists there are people from three states: Washington, Oregon and California. From the rural districts to the cities--infants, school-children, housewives, farmers, business men, and professionals are all gathered here to face this new form of living. Many of them who are poor have better living in this kind of center; some, who are not too poor or wealthy, believe that this is neither good or bad; but to those who are wealthy say that this place can be improved in many conditions.

The Community Activities Section is one of the sub-divisions of Community Services and at the present approximately half of the fifteen thousand residents take actual part in one or more activities sponsored by this department.

The two major purpose of the Community Activities program are: First, to extend the Americanism to the first generation, who are the issei. Secondly, to keep the second and third (nisei and sansei) generations occupied in various activities. Other purposes are to develop

Arvene Mukai (cont'd.)

leadership mostly among the nisei and to improve the mind, body, and spirit of the colonists during this period of camp life.

The activities which are already organized are: Fine Arts, such as Drawing and Painting, Dance Groups, Dramatics, Flower Project, and Music Center. Various clubs like, Book and Appreciation Club and California University Club have also been organized. In the Library there are four thousand volumes to read, two thousand of which came from Walerga Assembly Center library and the rest were donated from other libraries in this state of California. The daily average of seven hundred people come into the library and the average number check out as four hundred. The number of books check out is still increasing steadily. There are seven Recreation Nurseries--one in each ward. Over 500 children were enrolled from the ages of 6-10 years. The Out-door stage and numerous Recreation Halls are used for both morning and evening worships. Social Activities, are social dances, Song-fests, talent shows and festivals, Bon Odori, Movies for children. Sports--the total enrollment in sport is two thousand five hundred. Out-door sports are hardball, softball for girls and boys, horse shoe, and hikes. The in-door sports are boxing, weight-lifting, judo, table games and wrestling. Women's Handiwork--approximately 370 woman and girls have enrolled in the various classes, like: Red Cross Knitting; Sewing, Crocheting; Knitting, and Embroidery groups.

There are 160 full time workers in our Community Activities Department now, which is located at 1809.

American Life  
Sadako Okamoto  
Nov. 30, 1942

corrected

### Camp Life of Yours and Mine

Did you ever leave home and go to a place from which you might never return? I am certain that you never did. In fact, I never did hope to go to another place and live. Yet, on May 19, four months ago, I was forced to leave my beloved home and joined the people in Walerga Assembly Center, in Sacramento. A month later, I was transferred to this camp in Tule Lake.

Yes, we were like a primitive people with nothing to start on. People began making chairs, bookcases, and bureaus by their own hands. Some of them didn't even bring the hammers or the nails along with them, so they had to borrow them from their neighbors. Some even went from barracks to barracks in order to find a nail which the carpenters had dropped while building these barracks. What hard times they must have had.

As time passed by they began organizing a recreation staff in order to please the people from far and near. Programs were formed with all the cooperation from the people. The recreation leader went around from barracks to barracks asking the people to help them organize a perfect program. I am sure you, too, have realized that the talents were doing their best to please us.

Not only the recreation staff has been formed; a newspaper was born to this place. Yes, the Tulean Dispatch was born! I am sure this newspaper is helping you a lot in your daily life. If there isn't a newspaper how you know when the program is to be held? How do you, as a student, when school starts? The answer I am sure is "Newspaper!"

Sadako Okamoto (cont'd.)

The colony not only thinks of doing work but also thinks of their own religion. The church services are given here and there for all of us to believe the certain Gods.

It is a very clever idea to form the religious services because I think everybody in this camp should have their own religious feelings toward the Gods.

The hospital also was formed by the work of the doctors. The patient came in numbers but the doctors did their very best to make them well one by one. I know its their duty to do these work, but would you likely to do it if you were a doctor? I am quite sure that you might lose your temper when people come to you with a small case such as scratch on your hand. But for the colony's sake doctors are doing their best to please us in any way.

Oh, but, let us not forget the mighty firemen who will be useful to us from now on. They are the ones who put out the fires at any time at any calls. I am sure we can always depend on them if any case of fire occurs.

There are numbers of things that Tule Lake Colony had formed and organized for our sake but the things I have now written above are the chief organization of this colony. I am sure there will be much more improvements in this colony than there is now.