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Hashimoto, Kimi

Notes

1944-1945

(Kimi Hashimoto)

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A pair 1944 - p 9  
being corrected



July 2, 1944

TULE LAKE FIELDNOTES

ROSALIE HANKEY

TALK WITH KIMI HASHIMOTO

Kimi, a Nisei from Gila, was in fairly good spirits. We discussed the beating which had taken place in a neighboring block (Kurihara). She said that on the whole people didn't know why he was beaten up. Kimi likes her work in the Administration building. The Caucasians in her section are real nice to her, but some of the ones across the way are snooty. Kimi knew nothing about the warden election at all; she doesn't interest herself in such things.

TALK WITH MRS. KOMURA

Mrs. Komura said that in her block (21 - a supposedly tough block) there was no meeting held at all to nominate wardens. She knew no details about the beating. About the Hitomi beating, she said that some people said they really wanted to get the man's brother, Manager of the Co-op, but they thought Hitomi, should be beaten up too.

On the subject of beatings she had an interesting story to tell. Her sister-in-law's child had hurt her ear with a bobby pin. The ear bled pretty badly, but the mother hesitated to call the doctor, since an announcement has come out, stating that doctors could be called only in an emergency and minor ills should be treated at the clinic. Since the ear continued to bleed and the child cried, the mother finally called the ambulance. The ambulance arrived followed by a car with two policemen in it. (Mrs. Komura called them F.B.I. men, I don't know how she knew they were F.B.I.) The ambulance driver said, "Oh this is nothing," and went to speak to the policemen, telling them it was only a child who had hurt her ear. The men drove away.

Mrs. Komura also remarked that the Co-op is getting more and more unpopular. She has now been told several times by evacuees, *"If you say anything against the Co-op anywhere, you're going to be put in the stockade."*

So far as I have been able to learn, no one has been arrested for any of the supposedly "inu" beatings which have taken place. Said Mrs. Komura, *"They're too smart to get caught. The man who did turn himself over (the hammer assault) was crazy. That's why he gave himself up."* Mrs. Komura added that people were saying that even the hammer assault was an inu beating. The old man had found out that his friend was acting like an inu.

Mrs. Komura also told me that a woman whose husband is in the stockade had remarked at sewing class, that her husband had told her that all the men in the stockade would now be released the first part of July.

TALK WITH KURIHARA

Kurihara remarked that the man beaten in 74 was supposed to be very unpopular in his block. I asked why only third-rate inus were being beaten up. *"You should know,"* said he, *"the big ones are too well guarded. But the guard will slip up some time."* I said this was what I had suspected.

As to the warden nominating meeting, he said the people in his block had been urged to come to the meeting to elect the warden, but only about four people had gone. A friend from Manzanar came in at this moment and Kurihara said, *"How was it in Manzanar, were there enough inus there (to hold an election)?"* The friend from the Manzanar section said he didn't think anybody had been nominated in his block. *"Who wants to be a legal dog?"* he added.



He lived in ward II, with his parents. His brother went out on seasonal leave. George is a repatriate. He came from the Sacramento district but he didn't know Hitomi before he came here. George is a good guy from all points of view. He put in more time than anybody else for his 19 bucks.

On Colony Rumors that the Co-op and Coordinating Committee put People in the Stockade:

Three men were put in the stockade who led an attack on the Co-op. They didn't shut up after the December Co-op vote. They kept on pressuring and threatening and were put in the stockade. That's the only people I know of who were put in the stockade for speaking against the Co-op.

Present Attitude of Administration:

I think they're making a mistake in the Administration now. Not only about the stockade but in the apprehension of Hitomi's murderer. There's something brewing now. It is tied in with the murderer and the Coordinating Committee crowd. If they allow it to happen it's going to be bad.

Their ideas on "hoodunit" are the funniest things you ever heard. They have a new and opposite theory every day.

A lot of the colony thinks one group paid off another group to do this. They talk as vaguely as they dare, but they say as much as they dare along that line. You get the impression that the leadership in the group that was behind it is older and they kept behind the scenes and had a younger group do the killing. It was an expert job.

Robertson said here that the next murder would probably be among the following men, all ex-members of the Coordinating Committee: Shimada, Namakawa, who are now working on the Newell Star and in a rather vulnerable position; Nakao, Okamoto, and K.

He added that "All the Administration is saying about the Hitomi killing is that it was a personal affair and that all the evidence points to Hitomi's brother as the culprit."

TALK WITH NISEI GIRL ABOUT HER ARRIVAL AT TULE LAKE - KIMI HASHIMOTO

"One thing, when I came here I almost cried was that all of our friends were separated from us. We said, 'Let's move.' That was important with me. I almost cried when I came here and saw it."

"The few people who came in here later were not so bad off /segregants from Manzanar/. They were put together more or less in one place."

TALK WITH NISEI GIRL, FRIEND OF MR. TAKAHASHI'S DAUGHTER - HELEN SASAJIMA

This girl, who is an intimate friend of Takahashi's daughter said that she felt very badly that the Takahashi family had taken refuge in the hospital. It made things worse. She wished she would come back to the colony because the longer they stay out there, the worse it will be for them. Takahashi, at least, apparently, did not solicit help from the Administration. According to Helen, soldiers came to their home at night and told them that they would either have to leave camp and move to the hospital or the authorities would not be responsible for their lives. (Will try to check this.)



GOSSIP IN BEAUTY SHOP - HELEN SASAJIMA

The two Nisei beauty operators told me about the petition to stop the hunger strike which was circulated in their block Saturday. One of them had signed it. Both appeared to be very sympathetic to the strikers. Evidently, this petition was initiated some time Saturday before the strike was stopped. It has not been turned in to the Administration.

TALK WITH TWO NISEI GIRLS - KIMI HASHIMOTO

Two Nisei friends dropped in and gossiped during their noon hour. I asked about some Old Tulean contacts but was told that they didn't mix with the Old Tuleans. *"They don't seem to have much in common with us."* Several girls in their office are Old Tuleans but they don't get along.

I was told again of the widespread rumor that Resegregationists are to be sent to Poston. The rape scare is definitely dying down.

TALK WITH O'DAY

Besig said he couldn't see Dr. Miyamoto. The instructions from Washington were that he couldn't see anyone except people he had seen before (on previous visit).

He said he already had enough evidence and within the next few days action will be brought. He said he wasn't discouraged. He said Baldrin (N.Y. Head) hadn't written to him at all about the Tule Lake business. He thinks Baldrin may have sold out to WRA.

TALK WITH KURIHARAHunger Strike:

There's a certain amount of agitation going on. The people are taking an interest. They have circulated a petition. It seems they're willing to sign. But I'm trying to kill it. Because Mr. Best told me that the boys will be released within a month. That's why I wanted to kill the agitation which may cause trouble and hardship to the Japanese as well as to the Administration.

Mr. Best told me they will be released within a month. I told people if he doesn't release the boys within a month they can have the petition already signed for presentation. In the meantime, if they present the petition to Mr. Best he will feel he's being forced.

If Mr. Best will only live up to his word and release the boys within a month we'll have a different atmosphere.

The petition was explained to us in the mess hall. In general, it was in Japanese, and is very difficult to translate properly - it states that the poor boys have been kept in the stockade a long time and we would like them released. If they should die it will be on our conscience. If the colony would get together and petition Mr. Best to have them released, people would be grateful.

I couldn't find out who wrote it. So when I got this statement from Mr. Best, I asked a man to deliver this message to the writer. They may stop it or they may carry it through.

Some people have told me that Mr. Best cannot be relied upon. But I told them it all depends on how we look at that person. I don't believe in high pressuring a man if you can avoid it.

/I asked Mr. Kurihara what he had meant in our last talk by the term "dogs in the stockade." /



TALK WITH TWO NISEI GIRLS - KIMI HASHIMOTO

My two girl friends who work in the Administration building dropped in today for a gossip session. Both are more anxious to relocate than they were the last time I saw them. Mary told me that the resegregation rumors were dying down. Moreover, there were no particularly bad rumors about the Co-op flying around. Neither of the girls mentioned the proposed indictments.

*Aida* *Isida*  
TALK WITH FOUR NISEI GIRLS, MRS. MITZI ~~MITZI~~, LILLIAN ~~MANET~~, MISS B., MISS S.

*Isida Aida* *Bob Tanaka*  
Lillian ~~Manji~~, one of ~~Jim Takeuchi~~'s friends had promised me to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Mitzi ~~Nakao~~, the councilwoman from Topaz, and a strong anti-status quo person. When Lillian and I arrived at her home, we found that a tea party had been



So far I didn't want to be an informer. I didn't want to be called a dog. But if anybody is seriously hurt or killed - why should I hesitate? My conscience tells me as long as I shield him (Wakayama) I'm responsible to the public. As long as he's at large he'll continue. But as long as he doesn't do it, I won't say a thing.

I've visited many people. The majority are considering. They're afraid something will happen. Those who have a mind of their own, they won't sign. Only one man (with a mind of his own) has told me he had signed it.

Another thing I've heard from a most prominent person (in the pressure group), he stated that they had a number of killers among themselves.<sup>1</sup> Why does he say that?

Today Wakayama is not respected in his block. The people are waking up to the facts. They are not dumb. They see things. Of course, there are a few who are still behind him. Even his wife has said that she wants to move away from that block.

(Kurihara has repeatedly implied that Wakayama is a criminal. But he never says anything specific. Did Wakayama do something during the Manzanar riot of 1942 that Kurihara has revealed to no one? Or was he involved in illegal activities when he was secretary to the union local of Japanese fishermen at Terminal Island? Well, Kurihara tells only what he feels like telling, so I shall pick up the pieces as they fall.)

#### TALK WITH TWO NISEI GIRLS - Kimi Hashimoto

My two Nisei friends paid a sick call on me today. Neither had even heard of the petition.

#### Manzanar:

Kimi told me:

People blame Manzanar when anything happens. Every little beating and everything, they blame on Manzanar.

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<sup>1</sup> Later I heard from another person that the man who made this statement was Mr. Tsuda, a young Buddhist priest, who had played a prominent role in the organization of the Sokoku Kenkyu Seinen-dan.



(Kimi)

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May Kashimoto

CAVE BY ~~1~~

~~Due to my staying here~~ <sup>I'm staying in my room</sup> and to nurse my cold, Mary, an old Gitan friend, found me at home. ~~and~~ We had a long and depressing chat about the ~~present~~ present state of things. The first words out of Mary's mouth were, "Well, are they going to kick us out?" I said that I thought that that was their eventual intention although they were going to try to sugar coat the process by bringing a relocation group here. "What good will that do, when the people don't want to get out," said Mary. "A lot of them would rather go to Santa Fe." Her mother, she said, says that segregation was a dirty trick; bring them here with so much trouble and now it doesn't mean a thing. Many people, she said, hope that by renouncing citizenship, they will be allowed to stay here, but they're not sure. WRA should tell them about this.

Moreover, WRA should tell them out and out that they really will have to get out. This way, everything is so vague, people keep hoping against hope. "People are flat broke and what with what they hear about discrimination and shortage of housing and everything, it's pretty bad." I remarked that people in the other centers were probably feeling just as bad and this surprised her because "They ought to be loyal. Tule Lake is the segregation camp."

On the <sup>renunciation</sup> hearings Mary said no women had yet been called except by mistake (mistaking girls name for boys). Boys of 14 years had been called up though. Her own brother was given a paper excluding him from the defense commands. She wondered if everyone was going to be called and when they were called, what would the WRA do?

During the course of the long conversation I remarked that the people ought to sue the government for their losses. "But" said Mary, "That would be admitting that they want to get out and ~~any~~ none of them will admit that."

She too had heard the ~~rumor~~ rumor that perhaps all those



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renounce their citizenship will be taken to Santa Fe. "They all say they want to go," she added again.

"Well, I guess the best thing to do is sit quiet and see what happens," she concluded.

I believe that the attitudes which she expressed are common to a large part of the more <sup>"passive"</sup> ~~supine~~ residents of the camp. I suspect, however, that there is a great deal more bitterness and anger expressed than I pick up. Most of my informants now are too good friends of mine. I must try to <sup>talk to</sup> ~~contact~~ some ~~new~~ folks who don't know me so well.

We discussed the attitude of the ~~Evacuation~~ people toward the Coordinating Committee immediately after its formation. Mary said that the people had suspected them from the very beginning, just as was suggested at the conference.<sup>1</sup>

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- [1. The conference held in late November by members of the Evacuation and Resettlement Study.]



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1945, p. 1.

Mary Hashimoto  
CALL BY ~~2~~ and FRIEND - TWO NISTE GIRLS.

These two young girls who work in the administrative area invariably call on me when the camp gets restless about something, trying to get information to give them reassurance, something which is usually pretty hard for me to give. ~~them~~. They live in ward VII which has been hit ~~very~~ very hard in this pick-up. The first question they asked was if everyone who renounced was going to go to Santa Fe. This rumor is apparently very widespread and causing much <sup>concern</sup> ~~at~~. Due to the fact that I had an appointment with Mr. Oda ~~at~~ 10:00 I was unfortunately <sup>not able to talk very long.</sup> ~~unable to get any information out of them.~~ They volunteered no remarks about the <sup>to</sup> Hoshi-dan or the Hokoku.

BRIEF MEETING WITH MR. ODA - TALK WITH NOYES

At 10:00 Mr. Oda arrived and gave me the letters from Kawada, president of the ~~Hokoku~~ Hokoku, stating that the boys (friends of Oda) had resigned from the organization. ~~xxxxxxndadnmananlathen suggestedthatamimwianidmnn~~ ~~thisafternoonmamsmnnmampmnnhhm~~ I immediately went to see Noyes, asking Mr. Oda to wait. I tried to explain the situation to Noyes but he said that the boys didn't have a chance in the world. He repeated that renunciation in itself is an overt act of hostility against the U. S. government. Then he told me that he himself had started the rumor that all renunces ~~if~~ might be interned in Santa Fe. He had hoped that this would stop the flood of renunciations or get people to cancel them. If these boys would cancel their renunciations they would be ~~sakannidmnn~~ taken off the list immediately.

I returned to my barrack room and ~~givenMnnn~~ Oda told Mr. Oda what Noyes had said. Since it was ~~xxxxxx~~ lunchtime, we arranged to meet and talk again this afternoon. Mr. Oda gave me the following letter:







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fear that this ~~may~~ not be done. They also wanted to know what would happen to people who had not renounced their citizenship.

#### TALK WITH MORIHIKO TOMINAGA

##### News of Non-reuniting of Families

Most people expected it. It was not resented. The Hoshi-dan people expected to be segregated. But those outside of the Hoshi-dan ~~people~~ those taken to Santa Fe or Bismarck were taken as criminals. So they didn't expect they'll be reunited. This announcement didn't surprise them at all. *felt that*

When the Army put up the notice of the Hoshi-dan not reuniting, the Hoshi-dan thought it was just a bluff.

##### Publishing of "regulations"

Well, of course, everybody took it as a matter of course. I hope the police will arrest the leaders.

I was wondering why the Administration didn't put out a notice. I rather thought it was a trick to make the camp residents do something which the Administration doesn't wish. The administration has absolute power over the camp. They have the U.S. Army behind them. They can do anything they please. Why don't they put a stop to it? They simply ask them, "Please, don't do it." *Hokoku*

##### Similarity of camp Psychology

The Japanese think the same in all the camps, especially the Issei. They have the same feelings. Only those in other camps have property or their sons are drafted. That's why they wouldn't come (to Tule Lake).

I don't think anything will happen here in the next two weeks.

##### Bugle Blowing

I heard a lot of the young kids blowing bugles this morning. But they were not blowing them in Ward VIII. I heard some say to blow them more than ever, but most say, "It's no use." The leader behind the scene here in Manzanar told us they wouldn't blow again. That was yesterday evening.

I'm working at the Social Welfare now. There are so many young widows (Hokoku) coming in for aid. The real responsible people are still left in camp.

(When I told <sup>Mr. Kanaga</sup> what had happened to Tachibana, he said, "He belongs there.")

Mr. "T" <sup>Tachibana</sup> ~~can~~ story of how he ~~passed out his name~~ after he was beaten.

I talked for two hours with Tachibana after I was struck. A few days after I was struck I heard a rumor that those who



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TALK WITH THREE NISEI GIRLS - Kimi Hashimoto

These three girls are in the habit of calling on me about once a month and talking over the current situation. Often they call on me ~~when things get hot~~ to try to get some information on the particular worries of the moment. However, today, they did not appear to be concerned over anything except what possible changes would be made in the routine of camp existence if the Dept. of Justice took over the camp. They are particularly curious about what changes the <sup>Dept.</sup> of J. might see fit to make in the employment situation. They wonder if people will get paid and if a lot of people will lose their jobs.

~~Even though I know that~~ <sup>Although</sup> Kimi had a brother in the Hokoku, she now remarked that she wished the administration would come in and stop the bugling.

All three of the girls agreed that there was more talk about relocation in camp than there had been. I brought up the subject of the broadcast from Japan and one of the girls said, "my <sup>my</sup> - 20 years in Tule Lake. That's too much."

These girls, at least, are not enthusiasts for the arrival of the Dept. of Justice.