

LITTLE BLACK SCHOOLHOUSE



Following a brief rest period after evacuation, more than 1,400 young, nisei, sansei and older issei turned once again in pursuit of the three r's in addition to a varied assortment of other courses a scant three weeks after the first volunteers had arrived at the Center.

Responsible for this early inauguration of the vacation school were Walter E. Pollock, Service Division Director, and Inez Nagai resident education head. Miss Nagai, undertaking this ambitious program on the proverbial shoestring, shouldered much of the burden despite the lack of proper facilities at the inception. As the project progressed, furniture and shelters were added to relieve the congestion and lack of suitable equipment which necessitated the holding of many classes under the fig trees. The lack of textbooks was relieved through the donation of books by the Fresno City Schools, which greatly bolstered the faltering faculty.

The contribution supplied the much needed course material for the classes.

Presenting the department's accomplishments up to the time, an Open House was presented for the parents in which an evening program was held in the Center Bowl and exhibit in Recreation Hall 2 on July 3 and 4. Upon the instigation of the Adult English classes, the very successful Hobby Days show ran for three days beginning August 28. The display tables were lined with unusual, well-made articles which attracted huge crowds throughout the period.

Music, art, English, mathematics, needlecraft, dramatics, public speaking, and model airplane building were the original courses offered in addition to the pre-school and elementary grade classes. In fulfilling public demands and needs, new subjects were added to supplement the curricula. Adult English, refreshers were added during the summer.

KIDS PLUS LEADERSHIP--PRE-SCHOOL

Taking charge of many Center children of pre-school age were Rose Matsumoto, director; Dorothy Ichinaga, her assistant; and eight girls of the Girl Scouts Leadership Training Groups. Each of the girls took twelve children each under their wings and supervised their activities for one hour every school day.

The two directors planned the program every week, which usually consisted of nursery rhymes, daily health check-ups, and action games. Special events were held on certain days such as toy day, story telling, playground and art. The liberty to employ their own methods of instruction was allowed to each girl to induce the development of initiative and leadership in line with the Girl Scout program. The classes were held under the fig trees and behind laundries.

The eight girls assisting in the pre-school program were Yoshie Maekawa, Emiko Shinagawa, Avako Naito, Doris Sato, Norma Takemoto, Velma Yemoto, and Michiko Nagao. Overseeing this group was Toshi Doi.

BIG TURNOUT

ELEMENTARY CLASS

With a huge enrollment of eager junior residents in their elementary grade classes, a staff of inexperienced but capable teachers began instruction on May 29 at Recreation Hall 2.

Though plagued by the heat and lack of material at the start, these problems were soon overcome. To terminate the suffering from the rocketing mercury, the pupils were relieved of afternoon classes and all of the instruction was crowded into the morning hours. The Fresno City School through their board chairman,



Homer C. Wilson, came to the rescue with discarded textbooks to provide the students with material.

Although the curriculum was modeled after the regular elementary school courses, the Center grade session remained a local brainchild throughout. The informally conducted program included the time-honored three r's, history, geography, music, art, and social studies. Deviating from this well-traveled course, the local pedagogues added an innovation of their own with the inclusion of club activities and interest groups for the fifth and sixth grades.

Highlighting the summer work was the participation in the Education Department's Open House program by contributing numbers from all of the grades and displays of their art and handiwork.

Forming the faculty of these grades were Shizu Dakuzaku, Mitsu Suyegusa, Lily Ota, Toshi Magota, Hide Dakuzaku, Mrs. T. Arase, Taka Chono, Yoshiharu Matsumoto, and Shige Matsuyama. Akimi Uyeoka served as pianist.

SUGIMOTO, NAKAGAWA HEAD ARTISTS

Blessed with the presence of internationally famous neo-naturalist painter, Henry Y. Sugimoto, and landscape artist, Eizo Nakagawa, the Center art department struggled through a successful term despite a severe handicap in the lack of materials.

The two painters were assisted by Amy Kasai, Fresno State College student, in the drawing and painting while Sue Nagai and Fumiyo Wakimoto conducted the craft class. Still life figure and outside sketching were studied by the neophyte painters with sketchers using substitute materials while the crafts group worked on

sandals and folders. The instructors found many talented students which coupled with intense eagerness of most of the pupils contributed toward fine results. A large enrollment of 250 was registered in the classes. The Education Department's Open House provided an opportunity for the artists to display their works, which were received with much enthusiasm by the residents.

The Fresno State College donated a quantity of used drawing paper, caryons, water colors and molding clays which spurred the students on to harder work.