

BUDDHIST CHURCH FUNCTIONS ACTIVELY

Realizing the importance of spiritual enlightenment in these trying days, the work of the Buddhist Church was organized under the guidance of the reverends immediately after the arrival of the evacuees.

The ministry staff included the Rev. Kai, formerly of the Fresno Betsuin; the Rev. Kono, formerly of Hanford; and the Rev. Hirohata, formerly of Florin. Heading the Center Buddhist activities were Mrs. Kinu Fujinaga, secretary, and Grace Nishi, assistant, who were in charge of

the office of Buddhist Works, coordinating with the Buddhist leaders and making all necessary arrangements and collecting material for the various activities.

The weekly services for the first generation were conducted simultaneously in two recreation halls with the reverends in charge. Due to the predominance of Buddhists in this Center, the Recreation Halls were not adequate to accommodate all those attending.

The teachers included the following persons:

Kindergarten--Michiko Masai, Fusaye Sasaki, Michiko Kataoka, Sumiko Tsuji, Marion Nakatsuma, Miko Fujisawa, Kimiko Kawano, Toshiko Nishimura, Frances Sawai and Herbert Hirohata; 1st to 3rd--Fusaye Tokumoto, Grace Nishi, Shizue Ishida, Tsuru Sakata, Patsy Nakamura, Pauline Kimura, Fujiye Jitsumyo, Mikiye Matsuda and Sachiye Maruko; 4th to 6th--Atsuko Ono, Nori Masuda, Hatsumi Wada, Mrs. K. Kuriyama, Mrs. K. Fujinaga, Helen Nikaido, Jimmy Kawano, Chiyoko Fujimura, Michiye Nishimura and Richard Ochiai; 7th to 9th--Hazel Mizusaki, Fusako Matsui, Sumio Kono, Evelyn Iwamoto, Ruth Kaneichi, Ella Yoshinaga, Hideko Odaka and Sumiye Jitsumyo; 10th to 12th--Mrs. Konishi, Teruo Tsuruoka, Taro Matsui, Shigeru Matsuda, Kiyomi Nakamura, Akiko Kamikawa, Saburo Okamura, Bessie Hirohata and Kay Kuwada; graduates--Ayako Noguchi, Kikuo Ogawa, Haruko Kawano, Harry Takeuchi, George Nishio and Robert Kimura.

Flowers were given to the hospitals every Sunday by the S.S. 1000 boxes of crackerjacks were distributed to S.S. pupils and hospital patients for Obon.

The autumn equinox service (higan) was held at the Center Bowl separately for the Sunday School pupils and the first generation. Sunday School teachers were feted a dinner on September 29.

CENTER BUSSEI NUMBER 1000

Heading the 1000 Center Busseis were the following leaders of Division one, which included Blocks A to F, and Division two, which included Blocks H to K: Dr. George Miyako, Fujiye Jitsumyo, Ella Yoshinaga, Chiyoko Fujimura, Shoichi Dobashi, Kazue Sekiya, George Teraoka, Sumio Kono, Kiyomi Nakamura, Michiko Kataoka, Hatsumi Wada, Harry Takeuchi, Haruko Kawano, Nori Masuda, Masako Ono, Taro Matsui, and Ayako Noguchi.

The activities of the Young Buddhist group were interesting and varied. Included in the program were lectures by the Rev. Julius Goldwater of the Los Angeles Betsuin, panel discussions, singspirations, speech programs, acquaintance and farewell socials, and a minstrel show sponsored for the Center public. The chairman of the various programs were Dr. Saburo Okamura, Kiyomi Nakamura, Ella Yoshinaga, Haruko Kawano, Sumio Kono, Dr. George Miyako, Ayako Noguchi, Hatsumi Wada, Mrs. Kinu Fujinaga, Dr. K. Taira, John Hirohata, and Harry Takeuchi.

