

HEARING BOARD FOR LEAVE CLEARING

December 16, 1943

MEMBER OF THE BOARD: Wm. J. Carroll, Relocation Program Officer

INTERVIEWEE: Harumi Yamada
12 - 12 - EF
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

USES 5562

INTERPRETER: Fred Suto

CARROLL: You have never been to Japan?

YAMADA: I went when I was 4 and stayed until I was 16.

CARROLL: She indicates in her registration that she has never been there.

YAMADA: I had some girl fill it out for me and it was probably a slip up on her part.

CARROLL: You have never been to school in this country?

YAMADA: No.

CARROLL: Has she ever studied English at all?

YAMADA: No.

CARROLL: Is she planning on studying English?

YAMADA: She had planned but since she is occupied with the children she has no time.

CARROLL: How many children?

YAMADA: 5.

CARROLL: Her husband is a citizen of Japan, issei. Did she marry him there or here?

YAMADA: Over here.

CARROLL: How long has her husband been in this country?

YAMADA: Ever since he was 15.

CARROLL: What did he do prior to evacuation?

YAMADA: Farming.

CARROLL: Are her father and mother in Japan now?

YAMADA: Yes, both are in Japan.

CARROLL: Does she have any brothers or sisters in Japan?

YAMADA: About 8 brothers and sisters in Japan.

CARROLL: How old are they?

YAMADA: I don't know, probably born after she came to this country.

CARROLL: What year did she come to this country?

YAMADA: It isn't because of that. It is because I have so many I have lost track of them.

CARROLL: How old is her oldest brother?

YAMADA: About 30. He is in Manzanar.

CARROLL: Does she have any brothers or sisters in Japan?

YAMADA: Yes.

CARROLL: How old is the oldest one there?

YAMADA: 24. My sister is the oldest.

CARROLL: She came to this country when she was 16 years old?

YAMADA: Yes.

CARROLL: Who with?

YAMADA: I came by myself, called by my brother who is now in Manzanar.

CARROLL: Why did she come over?

YAMADA: It is my birth place so I want to come here.

CARROLL: Where did she meet her husband?

YAMADA: Puento, California.

CARROLL: How long has she been married?

YAMADA: 1933.

CARROLL: Does her husband have any parents or relatives in Japan?

YAMADA: He has both parents.

CARROLL: They were married in Japan, is that right?

YAMADA: Married in Puerto.

CARROLL: In his registration it says he went to Japan in 1933 for wife. What does that mean?

YAMADA: She came with him over here but they weren't married until they reached California.

CARROLL: She said her husband had some relatives in Japan. What are they?

YAMADA: He has elder sister in Japan.

CARROLL: Is that all?

YAMADA: Yes.

CARROLL: What does her husband do?

YAMADA: Probably a farmer.

CARROLL: Does her husband belong to any Japanese organizations in this country?

YAMADA: No, none whatsoever.

CARROLL: Has he made any contributions to the Japanese government?

YAMADA: No.

CARROLL: Never asked for repatriation?

YAMADA: No.

CARROLL: Has her husband?

YAMADA: No.

CARROLL: Do they plan on going back to Japan at any time?

YAMADA: She wants to go back just for a visit, to see her parents, but she has no intention of living there.

CARROLL: Who would she like to see win the war?

YAMADA: America.

CARROLL: Does she feel any loyalty to Japan?

YAMADA: No, she has no loyalty to Japan.

CARROLL: Would she have any objections to her husband serving in the American army?

YAMADA: No. No objection.

CARROLL: Does her husband belong to any Japanese organizations, such as kenjin-kai?

YAMADA: No.

CARROLL: Where does she want to educate her children?

YAMADA: In America.

CARROLL: Does she understand what the question 28 means?

YAMADA: She understood that it was a pledge of unqualified allegiance to the United States.

CARROLL: And forswear any allegiance to any other foreign power? Is that how she would answer it if it were again asked?

YAMADA: Yes, she would answer it the same way, 'yes'.

STATEMENT: Recommended. Nothing in this interview indicates any loyalty to Japan or disloyalty to the United States. She cannot speak English but since she has 5 children it perhaps can be readily seen she has had no time to study. She does not seem to have much information as to her relatives in Japan, not having seen them for a number of years. Nothing appears in her husband's record which would justify withholding of leave clearance.

J. Carroll