Japanese Peach Pickers

Some of the 24 American-born Japanese transferred last night from the relocation camp at Little Rock, Ark., for a month’s work in harvesting peaches and other crops on a farm near Belleville. Front row, from left: SMOKE SUGI, TAKASHI KAKITA, SKE KAJIMOTO and SHIZUO HOJO, a supervisor. Back row, from left: YOSHIKO KOSITANI, supervisor; TOSH MIYAMOTO, ROY YONEMURA, MAS ARAO and MAS MIYAMOTO.

24 JAPANESE ARRIVE TO PICK PEACHES ON BELLEVILLE FARM

From Relocation Camp at Little Rock—Dislike Rice and Fish Diet.

A group of American-born Japanese from the relocation camp at Little Rock, Ark., most of them former Los Angeles high school students with farm experience, went cheerfully to work on a farm near Belleville today, harvesting peaches to help feed not only the civilian population but the fighting forces opposing the country of their ancestors.

Smiling broadly, members of the group of 24, which includes a cook and three supervisors, said they were “very much pleased” at the change of routine, but shook their heads at the supply of rice sent along with them when they were transferred from the Arkansas camp last night. “We’re not quite so fond of fish and rice as some people think,” said 16-year-old Arthur Okuso, who will start his third year of high school studies at the relocation camp next month.

Relocation officers originally had planned to send 150 Japanese youths to the St. Louis area to harvest crops, but flood damage reduced the need, it was explained by Shizuo Hojo, one of the supervisors. He said a group of older workmen would be sent later from the camp to the farm, which is three miles southeast of Belleville and is owned by Alvin O. Eckert. The peach pickers will live in tents on the farm.