

" THE GROCERY STORE "

Until March of 1943, food was handled on an issue basis. Five pounds of food per man, per day. For children it varied according to age, food was selected placed in a basket or box and delivered to the home without regard for personal taste. This was most unsatisfactory, a great amount was wasted or a surplus accumulated in the home. It also lowered the morale of the internee.

In March the food store was opened, food was placed on the shelves in various categories and the internee allowed to make a selection. For example if he preferred peas instead of spinach, he could choose the peas, as one would do in normal life. A higher retail price was placed on the scarcer and more desirable items.

Camp money was issued every seven days, \$4.21 for adults, \$2.11 for children, the 21 and 11 cents was for bleach, cleanser, soap, etc.

Rationing was carried out to correspond as nearly as possible with that of the American citizen, with certain allowances for the eating habits of the nationals interned.

It has been stated before that this was the first camp to eliminate mess hall feeding and to set up housekeeping quarters. We were attempting to create a life as normal as possible and expected the cost to be much higher under this system, despite this the cost of feeding the internees under this system was \$.50 per man per day.

And everyone was happier, the housewife would go to the store in the morning to do her shopping, leave the baby outside in the buggy, make her choice of the items she desired, then go home and prepare the food as her family liked it.

It may be interesting to note, that during the peak population days, 600,000 pounds of food would be purchased each month.

Milk, while rationed, was delivered at the home by the "milkman" another person we know in normal life. Each adult was allowed a pint of milk a day, children 6 to 15 years eleven pints a week and those up to the age of five one quart a day.

The local dairy had difficulty carrying the entire load and powdered milk was often substituted.

Each home had a small ice box and ice was delivered daily to the home.

It was internee labor of course on the ice and milk delivery jobs, which also contributed to a normal routine of life.

