

Notes made to self , Sept. to December, 1942 regarding personal observations on relocation center arrangements, conditions, problem areas, etc.

Physical Arrangements;

Three separate camps (Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3, with central offices in Unit 1 with Project Director and staff, and Assistant Directors in Units 2 and 3.)

Communication: Difficult at the beginning, with only one telephone in each unit or camp, a hand-cranked model with one ring for the Unit 1 Central Office, 2 rings for Unit 2, 3 rings for Unit 3. Thus 3 telephones for over 17,000 evacuees and staff personnel.

Transportation: No regular "bus" (truck) schedule between camps, except for hauling food to mess halls, and miscellaneous goods.

After several weeks, arrangements were made for teachers and other civil service appointees to ride an improvised canvas covered truck to Parker town (20 miles distant) on Saturday evenings .

Personnel Housing: Very little advance planning. None for families.

New arrivals in September 1942 were assigned to Unit 1 barracks in 7 x 14 foot rooms in the main camp area near Central offices.

Unit 2 school principal and family was transferred to a barrack in Camp 2, adjacent to the Fire House in two 7 x 14 rooms, with a cold shower room for all barrack residents. One elderly couple, Mr. & Mrs. Davis, had one such "apartment" for the few weeks before his death following a weakening illness.

No heat nor hot water for sho^Wers until after Christmas, 1942. A severe dust storm Christmas Eve left pillows covered with dust, and also hairs and ears. The dust storm was so dense as to make the next barrack almost invisible, 20 feet away.

Meals were served in the mess hall in the block formerly occupied by the Military Police Company across the gravel road from the camp barracks intended for the evacuees. About a 1/4 mile walk to & from.

Shortly after Christmas all the Poston Two School teachers, the school principal and family and other appointed personnel were housed in the (whitewashed) barracks after the Military Police moved out. Later in the Spring the barracks were furnished with simple furniture and gas ranges, and otherwise made more livable for everyone, but meals were still served in the mess hall of the M.P. block.

Shopping Facilities, Etc: No local stores for food or other household items or personal items were available until the Community Enterprises system (a co-op run by the evacuees under W.R.A. supervision) were established in late 1942 or early 1943. Teachers and other appointed personnel made Saturday night trips by W.R.A. provided truck to Parker to purchase food, etc. for the following week

Dust Control, Landscaping: Gradually, evacuees workmen planted alfalfa around the M.P. barracks, and castor bean plants, etc. as in the camp blocks.

Notes made to self, continued, from Sept. to Dec. 1942:

Administrative Organization:

Inadequate charts to show organizational responsibilities, jobs, etc.-

Some dual titles, apparently resulting from use of Indian Service personnel to operate the whole project under contract with the W.R.A.

Some turnover of top personnel in Camp 1 Central Office, without adequate information to Camp 2, resulting in some confusion & frustration.

Very little orientation to the project or to the job, except by personal conversation and hearsay. An apparent air of uncertainty & caution.

Administrative Policy and Program:

An apparent absence of clear-cut policy re many aspects of the project.

Lack of information to the appointed staff. (Dependence on "grapevine")

During the November food handlers "strike": Advice to "sit tight" and to avoid taking sides, just talk in generalities.

Community Services Management Division (Nell Findley, John Powell, etc.):

Liaison apparently at top levels only. Lower level ill-informed at first. Due partially to lack of communication facilities, typewriters, etc.

Notes made by self apparently near end of service about June 1945, and possibly used as a basis for making a final report, copy of which is "lost":

What was your job?

What did you accomplish?

How did you do it?

What, if you had it all to do over again, would you do, and what would you avoid doing?

What happened when attempting to carry out policy?

What worked and what did not work?

What factors made a particular program a success, or a failure?

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1942 - 1945