

PERSONAL NARRATIVE  
 Of  
 Pauline Bates Brown  
 Reports Officer at Colorado River Relocation Center  
 August 16, 1943 to August 4, 1945  
 And  
 GENERAL OUTLINE AND HISTORY  
 Of  
 EARLY WRA PUBLIC RELATIONS IN ARIZONA  
 And  
 THE POSTON REPORTS DIVISION

My official connection with the War Relocation Authority, as an employee, began August 16, 1943, when I took my oath as Reports Officer at Poston. However, I had devoted much time, thought, and energy to WRA public relations in connection with my former work as Arizona director for the Office of War Information. Since much of the history of WRA public relations in Arizona during that period---November, 1942 to July, 1943---will not be a part of any report from Poston because the persons involved separated from there before final reports were required, I shall include excerpts from reports made by me to my regional director at that time. May their worth as otherwise unrecorded data excuse the length of the document.

December 26, 1942. From the report for the week ending December 26, 1942, is this excerpt: "News of the Christmas celebration at Rivers, the Gila River Project of the War Relocation Authority, was published by the daily newspapers in the state and carried by both wire services. It is the first information coming from there to the OWI---sent by their new public relations director, R. A. LeBarron. He also is working under a new superintendent, LeRoy H. Bennett.....Poston, near Parker is the sore spot as far as the attitude of Arizona people is concerned. I do not know who, if anyone, directs public relations there---but something is sorely needed. Arizona, as you know, felt very deeply about bringing the Japanese into this part of the world, since we are in the combat zone and the Salt River Valley (Phoenix) is the largest air-training center in the United States, to say nothing of the fields in other sections of the state. There has always been a strong anti-Jap feeling in the valley, some minor bombings of Japanese ranches taking place following disturbances several years ago. There is the fear, too, that the government will turn loose in a state whose population numbers only 500,000 persons of all races---Mexican, Indian and "whites"---some 35,000 people of a generously-hated race to be absorbed when the war is over.... There is need for publicizing as far as possible the activities in the camps."

January 2, 1943. "Theodore H. Haas, project attorney for the Colorado River Relocation Project at Poston came in New Year's Day to talk over the situation at Poston, from a public relations-news standpoint. Haas was accompanied by Vernon Kennedy, industrial relations officer there. Poston has received only adverse publicity, much of it due to the riot there several weeks ago. there is another side to the picture down there, and I suspect there will be stories on the project coming through very shortly. Poston is near Parker, and not far from the Parker dam...Both Haas and Kennedy seem like earnest, interested fellows. However it is going to take pounds of ink and reams of paper, along with a great many other things, to make the people in the area of the camp think its location near to a power project was wise, or feel friendly toward the Japanese in the Camp."

January 23, 1943. "Gila River Relocation Center's action in releasing the story of the murder of one Japanese by another, and the beating of the wife of the murderer was received favorably by the morning newspaper and the Associated Press here---in fact with a little amazement. Personally, I was elated, since such news is usually kept back to creep out through civilian employees and through other sources...This office has released two other stories from the Gila River camp this week...one on the fact that 600 American-born Japanese boys registered there for possible army service: that more than 500 relatives of persons in the camp are now serving in the armed forces, and that 46 veterans of World War I was evacuees living there. The other was to the effect that \$287,238 worth of vegetables had been raised at the camp between August and December 31, for use of the 14,000 people interned there. I have not received their consent to publicize the fact that the center has brought in from Mexico a herd of beef cattle to graze and fatten on the pasture land at the center and eventually be killed for meat, or that a herd of dairy cows has been obtained from another center to supply milk for the camp. It should be publicized, for the sake of the center, but of course I cannot do it without their consent. One of the biggest furores raised about the Japanese camp at 'Sacaton' was that Phoenix children were being starved of milk to supply the camp. The vegetable story released this week should, if papers will use it, refute some of the claims of local markets ravaged for Jap consumption. Stories of vegetables being hauled out as garbage would be killed if the fact that hogs are to be raised at the center could be gotten out. I can see no purpose to be served by suppression of simple stories of that kind. Unless the public is given an opportunity to learn something about the Japanese "in exile" there will be no chance for the relocation program, for which there is elaborate machinery set up, to succeed."

January 30, 1943. "Morrill Tozier, Washington WRA, arrived Tuesday morning and several hours of the day were given over to discussion with him of the various things affecting WRA in Arizona, and to arranging interviews for him with persons he expressed a desire to meet. Along this line, I made dates for him with Harold Safford, manager of Radio Station KOY, who though new in Arizona has taken hold with vigor and is rapidly becoming prominent in civic affairs; with Ernie Douglas, editor of the Arizona Farmer-Producer, whose homespun logic has won him quite a following both among rural and urban Arizonans. Later I suggested an interview with Governor Osborn and made the date, accompanying Mr. Tozier to the Governor's office. It seemed to me vital that anyone representing WRA should get the Governor's slant on the situation, since it is very definitely that of most of Arizona. Governor Osborn is adamant on one point: WRA, or someone in authority, should guarantee Arizona that the Japs will be returned whence they came at the end of the war, not turned loose on Arizona. That assurance has not been forthcoming, and I suspect that until it is, there will be more or less organized resistance to anything having to do with the Japanese Camps.

"The legislature this week passed a resolution, or memorial, asking that Japanese young people not be released from the centers to attend college, part of the argument being that if our own youngsters are being taken out of school to fight the Japs why should the Japs over here be permitted to go to school and avail themselves of advantages our own kids cannot. The resolution also asked the return of Jap youngsters now permitted to attend college. From a reporter friend today came the information that the Governor has asked for the use of the Japs in experimenting with guayule in the desert and marginal lands of the state. This, I'm sure, has been taken up with Myer in Washington. Osborn also seemed willing and anxious for the use of the Japs in the agricultural fields of the state, wishing however, for some guarantee against reoccurrence of the cotton fiasco late last summer. Arizona's feeling that it is again being pushed around by California also has much to do with the feeling toward the Japs. The Japanese situation here is definitely one which must be handled with kid gloves, else someone will be hurt. No broadside of propaganda will be accepted. Factual stories, carefully selected and released properly, will lower resistance without it being realized that it is happening. Once the motive is recognized, it would only serve to heighten the howls of protest."

"Since learning that Tozier and Markley were coming I had saved newspaper clippings concerning the Japs---editorials, etc. They are not too reassuring. Tozier told me of the changed setup in WRA of which Mr. Secrest wrote briefly. According to him, news would be cleared through OWI by a public relations man at the camps--- with a more liberal releasing policy than has been adhered to in the past. He also asked that I---all this being subject to regional

approval---keep in touch with the WRA office in Washington on all important public relations matters having to do with the Jap camps. To do that properly would entail at least a monthly visit to each of the camps, or one day for Rivers and two days for Poston each month. Under the present time schedule for this office, that would be difficult although from any other standpoint I should enjoy doing it. Allan Markley did not arrive until Thursday morning and I spent a couple of hours with him, going over the same ground I had with Tozier, only more briefly. Tozier left for Rivers early Wednesday morning, after spending until 11 p.m. here at the office working on reports. Both Tozier and Markley seemed to agree with my contention that the aura of secrecy surrounding the Jap camps must be broken through, by means of proper news releasing, before cooperation or even acceptance could be expected."

February 13, 1943. A story on the fact that a dual registration of Japanese is taking place at Gila River Project received good play in the Arizona papers. Military authorities are here from Washington to assist with the registration."

The next few weeks' reports are missing from my "files", but it was during that time that Western Defense Command relaxed the restricted zone in Arizona, eliciting howls of protest in all but the Tucson press.

March 20, 1943. "Rivers Relocation Center's induction of approximately 100 men into the army occasioned quite a good deal of interest among press services which were tipped off by a lieutenant from Luke Field. They---and I---were at loss to understand the Relocation Center officials' reluctance to talk about it, since it is definitely the kind of story which would merit public approval. Both press services asked the story of OWI. United Press also went to their regional headquarters in San Francisco and got from there---released by WRA in San Francisco---the full story, enabling them to score a scoop on AP. AP, although they were told by me to use whatever channels they might have to get the story---that OWI's function in the matter was to help them get it correctly---if gotten---held upon my advice that it would be released by the War Department in Washington, (which I was told by Rivers). They were definitely unhappy, but are coming around all right now."

"Hearing from an advertising agency publicist that he was preparing a blast on how well the Japs were fed in the camps and that he would get it on AP wire, I went in ahead of him with complete information as to Japanese camp menus. Placing the menu information with Harry (the AP) will keep an unfavorable story off the wire, I believe, even though the menu story may not be widely used."

"Feeling in Arizona toward the Jap relaxation order is still not good. Farm groups held a meeting this week, calling represent-

atives from all over the state. They went on record, according to newspaper stories, as asking congress to keep the boundaries as they were. Arizona is deathly afraid---and particularly the farmers--- that we will be saddled with the Japs, particularly in the Salt River and other valleys adapted to vegetable raising, after the war. As much as I dislike reiteration of an unpleasant thought, I still must say there will be serious trouble if they begin coming into the valley in any numbers at this time...either as land lessors or as workers for other Japs who can lease land..."

May 1, 1943. "Splended cooperation was obtained from Poston camp--- Colorado River Relocation Center---through Wade Head, director, and Norris James, in getting information as to the amount of food produced, consumed, rationed, etc. there for a story to present the positive side of the relocation center food and waste problems. Information asked was forthcoming promptly, and definite as to amounts, etc. Moving rapidly, Head called James and their chief steward, Snelson, together to get data as of April 30---the day they were called---and within little more than an hour they had called back with it."

"At the Rivers camp---Gila River Relocation Center---the story was a bit different. Bennett was not at the camp. I could not reach him here in Phoenix where he was said to be. His secretary insisted that I talk with her, which I did not do since 'twould only have been the waste of a telephone call charge. I asked for Firman Brown, assistant director. He was not there and no information as to where he could be reached was forthcoming. Finally a man by the name of Hoffman represented himself to be the assistant director and I talked with him. Another person was on an extension line the whole time I talked and he finally brought her into the conversation. He said the information I asked had been given so many times they probably had a mimeographed copy somewhere. I told him such information had been released to OWI only on the amount of vegetables grown. They called back with the information only partially available sometime after 9 p.m. I could obtain nothing, not even an estimate as to the amount of meat on hand, the amount of sugar on hand, the amount tomage or otherwise, of garbage. Questions asked them were exactly the same that had gotten direct and comprehensive information from Poston within an hour after the call". (Information asked was for background for a factual story to be released ahead of a story being prepared by Los Angeles Examiner striving to show mismanagement, hoarded food, illegal amounts of rationed goods etc. Examiner had sent men on a surprise visit to Poston, complete with camera, poison pen, etc. Head had called San Francisco WRA who got in touch with regional OWI with the result that I received a phone call from OWI regional to prepare immediately and release a factual story, based on information from the two camps in Arizona, to present the truth and take the thunder

out of Hearst's intended barrage. Despite Gila's non-cooperation, the story was compiled on Poston's data, released immediately, and carried by the press services, resulting in failure of the Examiner's intended spread.)

May 15, 1943. "Story on the first group of Japanese to go from Poston to Fort Douglas, Utah, from where they will go to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, to join the A-J combat unit was phoned by Norris James to this office and released from here. It has received nice play. James has left the WRA project at Poston to enter the army, the day he telephoned here being his last at the camp. Tucson Star and Arizona Republic carried stories from Rivers, released without clearance, reporting that more than 600 evacuees from Rivers are now working on "the outside", mostly outside Arizona. This is a story which, in view of strong-anti-Japanese sentiment in Arizona and the definite, almost rabid, determination that the Japs brought in from outside the state shall not settle here, must be handled very carefully."

May 22, 1943. "Transcription of a talk by Dillon Myer was placed by this office and was presented over KTAR, the state's largest station, at 8:45 last night. It will go from there to KVOA Tucson, but I do not yet have the time they will broadcast it. The Arizona Farmer carried a strong editorial this week on the Jap situation, outlining Arizona's fight to have the relocation camps elsewhere and the runaround given the Governor then. Arizona's fight to have someone take the authority or responsibility of disposal of the concentration at the close of the war and the fact that there are now living in Arizona as "free" Japs more than double the state's entire Jap population prior to Pearl Harbor also came in for some bitter airing. The editorial has been reprinted in other state papers."

"Japanese farmers in the valley (Salt River) have protested to state authorities that their crops are dying because of bugs, and they are unable to buy insecticides because of a state law that anyone dealing with a Jap must first notify the secretary of state and---I'm not sure of this provision---publish intent. The Standard Oil Company of California is in the courts now defending itself against action taken because they sold oil to a Jap without complying with provisions of the state law. Bishop Walter Mitchell of the Arizona diocese (Episcopal) broke out in print this week with a column and a half of expostulation at the unchristian attitude of Arizona toward the Japanese. The Gazette carried it as a letter to the editor."

May 29, 1943. "A continuing barrage against the Japanese resettlement program, with plenty of criticism of WRA thrown in, has been released in the local newspapers this week, with many of the state newspapers joining in. The governor's committee to investigate the

Jap relocation policy and the Japs being released has reported in stories given page one play. Monday's Republic carried a story in which the committee reported 'grave menace of serious conflict if present program is not immediately and effectively checked' and declared release of '100 Japanese per week from Rivers camp and about 250 from Poston camp...endangers the security of every citizen of the state.' Monday after noon the Standard Oil Company of California was fined \$1,000 for 'failing to publish notice of transaction with a person whose movements are restricted by war measures'. The company sold 50 gallons of gasoline to a Japanese. Standard announced they would not appeal the case---and rumor has it that every major oil company has instructed its stations not to sell to Japs under any circumstances.

"Thursday's front pages carried a story that Arizona's congressional delegation has appealed to Robert P. Patterson, under-secretary of war, for action that will prevent large numbers of Japs resettling in Arizona. The delegation pointed out to Mr. Patterson that Milton S. Eisenhower, former head of the War Relocation Authority, in testimony before the house appropriations committee June 15, 1942, gave assurance that none of the Japs would be resettled in Arizona. Quoting the letter: 'We are now informed by Dillon Myer that he will not adhere to such a principle. The people of our state inform us that the Japanese are being released to settle in Arizona regardless of their previous residence. This has caused a situation which in our opinion, makes the necessity of re-establishing the boundary line of military zone No. 1 as in the first instance'. The fact that the Japs refused to help with the cotton crop runs through every release. Arizona is much aroused over the situation, and the fear, widely expressed and justified, is that some-minor incident will result seriously."

(Quote from Arizona Farmer-Producer editorial headed "Dynamite" and expressing opinion that "just any little spark can set off a keg of dynamite" and setting forth the trifles, such as an automobile collision, or "any trifling dispute between an American and a Japanese over a head of water or a stray cow can start a riot that can spread like wildfire" and cause retaliation on American prisoners in Japan. Further says the Farmer-Producer: "The War Relocation Authority is apparently in blissful ignorance of what must be the result of its present policy...the story first told here by WRA spokesmen was that no leave would be granted to any evacuee until his record had been thoroughly checked by the FBI. Now it develops that the Hoover bureau never heard of any such arrangement. Every Japanese released from the camps is released on the sole responsibility of the WRA. If the result is bloodshed, that responsibility will also belong to the WRA".)

"The situation is far beyond the aid of friendly releases. I believe the presentation of the transcribed interview with

Dillon Myer which I placed KTAR and which was broadcast Friday, May 21, added fuel to the flame, rather than acted as a damper. The committee's first report was released in Monday's papers... with only one day's actual time lag. I don't believe it was coincidental."

June 12, 1943. "The big job for this office this week has been "tempering the wind to the shorn lamb" as far as possible to the War Relocation projects within the state. As far as keeping "public relations" happy in this respect, it's an impossible task for the attitude of Arizona and Arizona newspapers, with one possible exception, is the hackneyed Amos and Andy phrase popular a few years ago: "Even if it was good, I wouldn't like it". The Dies sub-committee hearings in Los Angeles have rated a secondary line on the front page of both local newspapers every day. Other newspapers throughout the state have given it quite a play---even the Arizona Star at Tucson which has gone on record as being in favor of "fair play" where the Japs are concerned and which used the stories on the inside of the paper in the beginning Saturday played the hearing story at the top of Page 1. Tucson is still in restricted territory as far as the Japs are concerned, under DeWitt's order, and not having the experience of seeing them invade the city in ever-increasing numbers, has been very self-righteous in its attitude, as far as the newspapers are concerned. The testimony at the Dies hearings coincides so closely with what Arizonans have been hearing from employees, former employees and residents near the relocation centers that nothing could convince them the reports are anything but true. An "accident" to a substation several months---probably more than a year---ago which put Luke Field in darkness for several hours was then attributed to Japanese residents of the valley. That incident is being revived in the public mind and the clamor for the Japs to be kept out of that area---and the areas surrounding the six (counting Sky Harbor, municipal port where some army training is being given) flying fields in the immediate vicinity is growing. The heaviest Japanese settlement in the state is very close to Luke and Thunderbird Flying fields, and it was in this area that the pre-war bombing of Japanese farms by valley farmers (supposedly) took place. Monday brings the hearing before the Corporation Commission of the Rivers center's fight against cancellation of the articles of incorporation for the Japanese Cooperative. The Commission contends that it is not a non-profit organization, as set forth in their application for incorporation since it provides for division of profits in the same application. Mr. Bennett, project director, sent an invitation to me to attend the hearing, which I shall do only if the work at the office is in such shape that I can leave it without too much interference. The hearing is open to the public and as such will be covered by reporters from the local press and AP. The morning paper's reporter will be fair in his reporting. I have talked with him concerning the incorporation muddle and know his reporting of



the hearing---from his expressed attitude toward it---will be just. The AP has taken an unbiased stand in this particular situation, as well as in the Poston hearings. I do not know who will cover for the afternoon paper, since their regular state beat reporter is on vacation. I have done this: extended the invitation of Wade Head, Poston Project Director, to local newspapers and press services to visit the center, passing along his assurance that reporters would be free to make their own investigations; compiled a telegram for him to send to managing editors of newspapers in Arizona and California which he would like to have send reporters to the camp; wrote and issued a statement by Head, refuting charges that Japanese involved in beating an attorney evacuee had gone unpunished and giving the fact that all involved were now serving penitentiary and jail terms, except one who was discharged because of insufficient evidence---also refuting charges that a "thieving ring" who were stealing food at the camp were unpunished and giving their punishment, which was jail sentence, after hearing before Federal Judge Ling. The story released was factual, and did not give the names of the Japs involved. Head will be in my office Monday or Tuesday and probably will talk with newsmen while here. I also have arranged to take the head of the governor's investigating committee, the head of the Farm Bureau Federation, the publisher of the afternoon paper who also is prominent in Chamber of Commerce activities, president of the Arizona Broadcasting Company, and general manager of the company operating the morning newspaper, and a newsman, who may represent either of the papers or the AP, to Rivers sometime next week. Bennett is particularly anxious to have the governor's committee visit there. Poston's refusal to let an Associated Press man in to the camp last November is having its effect now. According to Head, the AP man came down while he was in Salt Lake City, and during the riots at the camp, and was refused entrance. He said that when he arrived he immediately sought the man but he had returned to Phoenix. The AP says the man was there several days. They excuse it somewhat on the grounds that whoever refused him entrance was fearful for his safety...which irks Head. Head laughs at the idea that there was any danger."

June 19, 1943. "If there were a No Man's Land in this war, as in World War I, your Arizona OWI director would feel perfectly at home on the Tokyo front after this week here. Keeping out of the cross fire between the newspapers and WRA and yet giving assistance to the camp directors at both Poston and Rivers has required something akin to diplomacy...but so far I have been able to accomplish it.

As you know, shooting at the WRA centers in Arizona has come from two separate points---the Dies subcommittee meeting in Los Angeles and moving to Parker on the Poston "investigation" and the Corporation Commission with Rivers. Dies committee has not had so much to say

about Rivers---and people here attribute that to the fact that Mrs. Roosevelt visited that camp, and the hush-hush has been put on. But what the Dies committee left unsaid the Arizona Corporation Commission and the governor's investigating committee on the Jap relocation situation has said---plenty!

OWI'S part in trying to assist Poston has been this (part of this was included in last week's report but will include it as a recap): Wade Head called from Poston Saturday, June 12, wanting to extend an invitation to the newspapers here and in IA to visit the camp at any time and saying that a free hand would be given the reporters. He was disturbed about untruths which had been told by former employees. After inviting the local newspapers and the press associations which head here and obtaining their reactions, I called Head back and suggested that he follow the invitation with a telegram inviting them and assuring them of their freedom to make their own investigations. I also compiled the telegram which he did send that afternoon. During the conversation I asked him for information to combat the misinformation given out in the Dies hearing. I then prepared a statement saying that the eight Japanese who had beaten a Jap attorney evacuee were punished, five of them now serving terms in the Arizona penitentiary, two in federal custody (probably county jail in Phoenix) and one released for lack of evidence. The statement also pointed out that the food thieving ring told about by Townsend had been punished and several were in jail now, after having been tried before the federal judge in Phoenix. I also used Head's statement that Townsend was a disgruntled former employee who had been discharged for allowing the conditions he testified about to exist. The story was carried by both AP and UP and widely used by Arizona newspapers. A later result of the statement as to punishment bobbed up in the newspapers Friday when a columnist on the Gazette pointed out the punishment and gave the names of the prisoners as well as their backgrounds. That he used it to bring up the questions as to why Arizona had to feed these prisoners, when they were jailed on federal property, were not at any time Arizona citizens, all having lived in other states prior to evacuation, did not hide the fact that they had checked Head's statement carefully and found it true. The AP on the same day carried a story, used by the local papers at least, and I suspect many of the others, despite the fact that I yet have not had time to check the papers, emanating from Florence, Arizona and quoting the warden of the penitentiary to the effect that there are six Japs there...the five from Poston, and one from Rivers serving a term for manslaughter. Monday afternoon's paper, however, carried a backfire from the invitation to newspapers---a front page editorial, carrying a two line very black face head "Jap Relocation Camps are Menace to Arizona" said: Except outside the United States, the worst situation that now prevails in relation to the Japanese in

Arizona. Here, because our state is immediately to the east of California, we seem to have become the new front in the United States for Japanese advancement." Going on for some eight paragraphs, during which it quotes the telegram sent by Head inviting the press to Poston, it winds up with this paragraph: "Mrs. Roosevelt made a namby-pamby, white glove survey of a Jap camp near Phoenix, seeing no doubt what her attention was directed to. To Mr. Head, whom we know as a most genial gentleman, we must say that we, as newspaper people, prefer to write news about events when they occur rather than whitewash articles months later." A few paragraphs before, was this statement: "Back in November when Jap riots at Poston created such a national furor, Mr. Jack Lefler of the Associated Press Bureau of Phoenix was refused admission to the camp. He stayed at Parker several days endeavoring to get at the news which the American public had a right to have. But when Lefler of the AP was refused admission, the people of America were refused first-hand knowledge of their own affairs as they occurred." (This happening was before the OWI office in Arizona was functioning.)

Head came in to Phoenix Tuesday and into my office early in the morning. With sentiment as it was ---and is---I advised against further public statements, since they would only have been construed as whitewash and turned about in such manner as to discredit rather than help. He wanted to talk to Lefler since Lefler's turndown at Parker seems to have been engineered by Norris James, without Head's full knowledge of what was taking place in the public relations field. I called Lefler at the army camp where he is now a private in Uncle Sam's largest organization and arranged for him to come in and talk with Head. He came in Tuesday evening and he, Head and I had a long talk. Lefler, I think, is convinced that Head was not responsible for his being turned away---but it is pretty much "water under the bridge" now. I then arranged a luncheon date for Head with Harry Montgomery, head of AP in Arizona, for Wednesday. The understanding was that the whole thing was not for the purpose of publicity---in fact to be "off the record"---but to lay a background of understanding of the situation. The meeting I believe was definitely beneficial as far as future relations with the press are concerned. Montgomery and Head also went in to talk with Knorpp, publisher of the Gazette and author of the editorial quoted above, and Jack Lynch, managing editor of the Arizona Republic. That meeting also was not for the purpose of publicity, but rather to promote understanding. While the papers' representatives were yet somewhat on the belligerent side, I think the talk had much to do with softening their attitude somewhat. Head was to return to talk with Knorpp Thursday morning, but Wednesday evening received word that Senator McFarland as to visit Poston Thursday, so "took out" for Poston immediately to greet McFarland and assist him when he arrived.

That situation was explained to Knorpp Thursday in time for him to decide he was not being given a "run-around".

McFarland's visit brought very little publicity...he being wary enough not to express himself, since the situation is political dynamite for anyone connected with Arizona.

Head requested that I come to Poston to attend the Dies hearing but since it was an open investigation with reporters and press services represented, there was nothing to be gained by my attendance. A trip to Poston means at least two days out of the office and since I had been out of the office one day this week (a trip with the press to Rivers), I couldn't take the time unless I could do some good. Head understood that perfectly and agreed that it would be useless, after he understood that the press had no obligation to clear stories of open hearings with OWI.

The AP report of the Dies hearing in Poston was very good and quoted Costello as saying that after a quick inspection that the group had found general conditions apparently to be relatively satisfactory. The story also carried a statement by Head that "we welcome any thorough and complete investigation at any time" which added "That includes an invitation to all other interested parties. We believe that when congress looks into these things and that when they fully understand some of the problems of the camps, that we will get their full cooperation."

However, while that story was given page 1, Section 2, with two column head, another story of the Dies committee investigations in Parker concerning the camp was given front page, 3 line 30point head with deck, near top of page. That story---an UP release---began "Enough dynamite to blow up Parker Dam has been stolen from a mine three miles away within the last three months, Dies subcommittee was told at a special hearing here tonight." It went on to relate the amount, quote a special agent guarding the Metropolitan Water District aqueduct to the effect that the dynamite was stolen for the purposes of sabotage since they were too large for ordinary mining purposes. Stringfellow also is quoted as having instructed the guards working under him to kill any Jap on sight. The story runs a good half column with just such "tripe".

I called Head Saturday after the story appeared in the morning paper. He says the Bureau of Mines will have a statement within a day or two which will completely discredit that story. He has asked, and will receive, the cooperation of this office in getting wide dissemination of their statement.

#### RIVERS

Before the Dies committee got around to taking Rivers apart, I wanted to get a group of reporters and others interested to visit the camp, so that their investigations should not be colored by what

had been testified to by former employees. The trip, originally planned for last Saturday, actually came about Wednesday. Accompanying me were the publisher of the Arizona Republic, Charles A. Stauffer; Al N. Zellmer, chairman of the governor's investigating committee and former department commander of the American Legion in Arizona; Francis (Frank) E. Ross, Republic reporter and L. A. Andrews, Gazette Reporter and editorial writer. Bennett, project director, had to be in Phoenix to attend Corporation Commission hearing on move to cancel Japanese Cooperative at Rivers, but the party was accorded every courtesy---met at the gate, given run of the camp, taken wherever they wanted to be taken, fed at the Caucasian mess (using saccharin for sugar and no butter served). All questions were answered thoroughly and without hesitation. The group was taken to the watermelon patch and picked a melon apiece to bring home. Returning to the administration office, just before starting home, a heated argument arose over the WRA refusal to say what the disposition of the Japs remaining in the centers at the end of the war is to be. The WRA employees maintained that that was entirely beyond their control, and offered their cooperation in any way possible---tried to work out some manner---to keep Japanese released to places outside Arizona from quitting their jobs and returning to Arizona. This is the source of a great deal of trouble. Japs released to jobs in the Midwest work a short time then head back to Arizona where some Japs are farming. It is difficult to check, either for the WRA or the Arizona state government, but it is proven that there are many more Japs in the valley than the camps have released to Arizona plus those who were never relocated. The attitude of Arizona---and not only the farmers---is that regardless of fairness, humanitarian reasons, needs of manpower, ANYTHING, the state is NOT going to be saddled with a lot of extra Japs. Violence, and plenty of it, will result if the infiltration continues. I have never seen as violent a reaction, and continued reaction, to anything in my 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  years here as there is to this situation, except some 10 years ago when Salt River Valley farmers---and not just an organization of farmers---became alarmed at Japanese buying of lands through white "fronts" and did a little night riding, bombing of Japanese homes etc.

Good has resulted from the Rivers trip, even though I was a bit afraid that the prejudice would over-run what had been seen. Those taking the trip said they saw nothing but indication that the Japs were well treated, saw no evidence of extreme "coddling" and that there seemed to be a well organized administration of the camp. They did not talk to any of the Japanese, even though Firman Brown, assistant director, suggested several times that they should do so... just go out and pick a Jap at random, or as many as they wanted to, and talk with them. I also suggested it, but since the distance was rather far, the project vast, there was not time to do in one day all that should have been done.

An editorial has appeared in the Gazette since then suggesting that more food should be raised at the camps for lend-lease and army use...saying that enough land was not broken out in cultivation and that, given free hand to do it, the camp could produce much to help out the food shortage, without interfering with civilian trade. Saturday's Gazette carried as its banner line on the second front page a story that food expansion was foreseen, basing the story on facts I had given them concerning a projected visit of the commander of the quartermaster's Marketing office here Monday to see what could be arranged so that the army might get the surplus raised at Rivers. The writer wove into it his observation of production and possible production at Rivers and made quite a decent showing.

The Corporation Commission hearing developed into quite a wordy brawl with Terry, WRA lawyer from Rivers, losing his temper and going off the deep end rather badly. Commissioner Betts did likewise and a good time was had by all. Terry and Bennett took quite a beating while on the stand, all rules of parliamentary or court procedure seeming to be disregarded and with spectators shooting questions from the floor, heckling them etc. It is not surprising that Terry (particularly if he's as Irish as his name indicates) finally lost control. It is unfortunate, however, for much is being made of his statements.

Through sources close to the governor I received information Saturday that Betts was in compromising mood and that the corporation commission would probably drop the whole matter if Terry would amend the articles of incorporation to specify that the cooperative would operate only on the project and would disband at the close of the war. I immediately advised Rivers officers and action was taken to amend the articles Saturday afternoon. The corporation commission was so advised. Time will tell the remainder of the story.

The Spanish consul is reported to be in the valley, checking up on mistreatment of the Japanese, THAT will go straight to JAPAN. No actual violence has happened, so far as I know, but there has been every kind of legal action possible taken...concerns selling coolers to the camps have been sued etc.

My "pipelines" inform me that the governor is becoming concerned over possible violence because of numerous phone calls reaching his office."

June 26, 1943. "WRA still is on the pan in the state press, with less fury than during the Dies hearing, but still pretty vicious. Al Zellmer, head of the governor's investigating committee, is former state commander of the American Legion. His son arrived

overseas with the Air Force less than a month ago, followed by the sudden death of his wife within a week. 'None so blind as he who will not see' applies to Al just now. Were I to try to explain the actions of a man who is ordinarily fair, I would say he is finding an outlet for his bitterness at Fate through the Jap investigations...for he is not fair in what he says. Granted that Arizona does not want 'California's backwash' of Japs, there are still some Arizona men who can be fair beyond that point. Al cannot, and is making anti-Jap speeches before public gatherings, club luncheons and dinners, etc. constantly. My opinion is that Governor Osborn's statement that everything was under control, or nearly so, and warning the people not to commit overt acts, (against the Japs) as he did in Monday morning's papers are the result of his realization that his investigation committee is turning out to be a Frankenstein, which unchecked will destroy more than itself."

"The bitter feeling toward the Japs is another thing which is making the Negroes here restless. While I do not anticipate immediate trouble, only careful handling and intelligent handling will forestall it permanently." (Note: The Thanksgiving Day riots in the colored section of Phoenix that year cost the lives of several persons less than six months after the foregoing was written.)

#### "JOINING UP"

At the time the last report quoted above was written, OWI was having its own troubles and on or about July 1, 1943, was so effectively "cut off at the pockets" by congressional action that discontinuance of the field, or state, offices was necessary, which of course, ended my association with WRA as "liaison" between the centers, the press and the public. However, just before leaving for the Regional Office of OWI in San Francisco to wind up affairs of the Arizona state office I received a call from Mr. Bennett at Rivers offering me a position on his staff. This I did not wish to accept, although it pleased me to believe that my services had been of enough value as to prompt the offer.

In San Francisco, as soon as discontinuation of the state OWI offices was certain, Mr. Cozzens, through Dean Jennings, regional OWI director, offered me the Reports Officer position at Poston. I declined, since Poston was too far from my home in Phoenix and my husband to permit even week-end visits, and I was not too certain I wanted to be associated with the program. A member of the San Francisco WRA staff then came to see me personally---and then Civil Service asked me to come to their office to recommend anyone I thought might be suitable to take the place. However, the representative talked only of my taking it. Still, I left for Phoenix with the conscious part of my mind made up to take a position offered by War Manpower Commission which would permit

me to remain at home.

Genuine interest generated in the problems of the Japanese-Americans through handling the problems of WRA with Arizona (and Arizona with the Japanese) refused to be relegated entirely to the sub-conscious and during my leave period I found my mind reverting often to the centers. There was a strong urge to satisfy my own curiosity as to the Japanese-American kids---American citizens confined by their own government without any individual charges against them. However, I went to work for WMC. Before I had been fully processed into the new position, Allan Markley came to Phoenix, located me through the United Press, took me to luncheon, asked my assistance in arranging some interviews, and reminded me that the job in Poston was still open and mine if I wanted it. I succumbed to my own interest, and indirect persuasion, and promised to call him within the week.

The answer given in the call was affirmative. But before making it, I talked with many persons whose cooperation I would have to have to make the job a success, asking their opinion, giving them some of my reasons for being interested and attempting, indirectly, to get them interested along the same line. Not one person was discouraging. All, including Governor Osborn, gave their blessing and promise of cooperation. Most of them gave it---even the Governor in most instances, although there are outstanding instances of his failure to do so.

Preparations for segregation were in full swing when I arrived in Poston. Mr. Markley had been detailed to act as Reports Officer during this important period and remained to assist me in "breaking in". Without his able guidance, his understanding of center life, as to its effect on both evacuee residents and personnel, and his knowledge of the desires of the Washington office, taking over the job would have been much more difficult. By the time he was recalled to Washington, I was able to continue the system he had established for informing the evacuees of segregation progress etc. He concurred heartily in my belief that public confidence should be won by news stories of any outstanding events at the center, even though they might not touch on the program. Wade Head, project director, agreed. Consequently, a policy of releasing news---such as a wind-storm which swept through the camp unroofing buildings, a fire which destroyed two barracks, number of persons who left the center on the segregation trains, etc---was put in operation to the end that the public did not look for something sensational every time they saw a Poston dateline on a newspaper story. News emanating from there was much the same as that which came from any other town in the state, and after all, Poston was at that time the third largest "city" in Arizona. Public relations, which means only the winning of public confidence, were improved immeasurably.



However, it was very soon evident that public relations with the "outside" was only a very small part of my job. It was necessary, and that at once, to establish satisfactory relations with the center residents. The very title of the position "reports officer" carried a stigma which it was up to me to erase. Even though there had been no reports officer at Poston for several months' the memory of testimony offered, without basis of fact, in the Dies hearings by the former incumbent of the position was fresh in the minds of the evacuees and resented by them. Too, they recalled vividly that he had caused it to be believed that he was variously a representative of the FBI, of G2, and of the Naval Intelligence Service. To Poston evacuees, the function of the Reports Office was to spy upon their activities and to at least a large proportion of the evacuees, the Reports Officer was an inu (dog) who could not be trusted. Fortunately, on the staff of the Chronicle was an intelligent, straight-thinking Nisei of considerable influence with the residents, who after working with me for a little while and deciding for himself that my purpose there was legitimate and that no evacuee need to fear distortion of facts at my hands, "sold" me to the residents. Without the able help and loyal cooperation of Kenneth K. Hirose my path at Poston would have been much rougher.

Many problems had to be solved before the Reports Division could actually get into operation. Duties and responsibilities of the office had been parceled around to various appointed staff members, who, because of their own duties, had been able to give them only casual supervision. The Chronicle was almost autonomous. The Print Shop ran with almost no direction by the administrative staff. The Photo shop had been "farmed out" to the Leave Office and was being used only for identification pictures (and private enterprise.) The Reports Office had ceased to exist as such. There were no files, no manual, no record of previous procedures (if any), no staff and no office space, to say nothing of office help. These must all be "brought into line". In addition, I had been asked to assume personnel relations and to strive to bring closer relationship and understanding between staff members.

There were many days which stretched far into the night hours---and days when the only road open seemed that which led toward Phoenix, and home. Still, the challenge presented actually only lent interest to the job even though it drew copious sweat from the body and added gray hairs to the head.

#### THE POSTON CHRONICLE

The Chronicle occupied an anomalous position among WRA center newspapers. Under Norris James, it had undertaken a pre-tentious program, which under the changing conditions in respect

to relocation policy it was unable to carry out. At the time it began as "the Press Bulletin", James, and several others of the Poston staff, envisioned the center as a permanent institution, similar perhaps to an Indian Reservation. Although I am not sure as to the details surrounding acquisition of the mimeograph on which the first editions of the center newspaper were run, Chronicle staff members maintained it was purchased through funds received from subscriptions, paid in advance when a definite first publication date was made known. The first issue of the Press Bulletin was issued in August, 1942. It was a four-page sheet, delivered three times a week. There was no Japanese language section. The Press Bulletin, it was represented to me, was mainly an administrative mouthpiece and the need for some news medium for the evacuees was keenly felt by them. So, in October, 1942, it became, "the people's paper". Expansion was decided upon by the staff and James, and a contest to determine the "queen of Poston" was run, one vote being given for each month's subscription paid in advance at 30¢ per month. As a money-raiser, the contest was a huge success, more than \$1,500 being turned in to the newspaper's coffers, to be used for buying equipment, etc. Advertising from outside sources, as well as within the center, was accepted, display advertising costing 50¢ per column inch. The paper was mimeographed. A Whitlock flat-bed press was bought and installed in what came to be known as the "print shop building" and the Sunday edition was printed. Copy for all straight matter was sent to the Leach Printers in Los Angeles for composition, the metal being sent back as soon as each issue was torn down. A dream of purchasing a linotype, fortunately, came to naught and the time lapse necessary for exchange of news copy and metal between Poston and Los Angeles made the Sunday editions anything but news, although they might serve as history. A plan for contracting with the Associated Press for their news service also fell through, although it occasioned a bit of furore in Arizona press circles when the application for AP membership was presented. After three or four months of struggling with the printed edition, the Sunday printed Chronicle---for by that time through a "name contest" conducted in the center, it was The Poston Chronicle---was discontinued but the mimeographed paper, complete with Japanese section, was delivered daily.

During the era of grandiose dreams for the center newspaper, the staff had built, by their own labor, an adobe building some five or six blocks from the administration area which was to serve as a press club headquarters. A large room with a fireplace in one end and another smaller room connected with the larger one only by a portico and forming a sort of patio composed the quarters, and a large plot adjoining was sown to Bermuda and enclosed by a

rather elaborate worm-style fence for use for outdoor functions. This lay-out never served its original purpose but was used rather as an office for the Camp I Chronicle staff whose reluctance to leave it nearly caused a strike when it became necessary to consolidate the various units of the Reports Division in the administrative area.

The first move which affected the Chronicle after I became Reports Officer was that to bring it more closely under WRA. Mr. Markley had laid some groundwork, but little had been done toward the actual change-over. There was intense opposition to the change on the part of most of the evacuees, and some hesitancy on the part of the staff because they feared that the paper would again become only an administration mouthpiece and they had come to depend upon it for center news, just as the residents of a small town depend upon their weekly newspaper. The Japanese section employees were especially opposed, since under the new set-up they would have to submit translations of all material published before publication. This they had not been doing. Finally, after many meetings with the staff during which Mr. Markley and I met with more of the traditional "Oriental passivity" than I have ever experienced otherwise, we were able to get the promise of a sufficient number of fairly capable workers to stay with the paper until the new plan could be tried out. Community Council and the Block Managers then put up a howl. Markley and I, separately and together, addressed their meetings, assuring them that the Chronicle would remain a "people's newspaper", prepared, edited and published by evacuees, but under the supervision of the Reports Officer; pointing out the advantages of such an arrangement etc. ad infinitum, until immediately after September 1, 1943, the first issue of the WRA-published Poston Chronicle was delivered. Opposition died fairly rapidly, particularly with the Nisei, but the Japanese section employees still resented submitting translations before publication. Gandhi could have learned things about passive resistance from that gang. The distance between the Chronicle office and the Ad building made frequent trips between them a bit arduous, particularly when there were not enough hours in the day to get other routine work accomplished. I dropped in at least once a day in an attempt to become acquainted with the staff and break down their resistance in that manner. No sale. Even though they were courteous and seemed to listen closely, my requests fell on deaf ears. Finally, in desperation, I informed them that stencils not cleared with me would not be run. This brought a half-hearted response, after one Japanese section had been pulled off the mimeograph.

To make the handling of the Chronicle more difficult, editing and stencil cutting of Camp I was done in the Press (or

Chronicle) Building; preparation and stencil cutting for Camp II,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles down from Camp I, and for Camp III another  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles down the road from Camp II, or seven miles from my office. The mimeographing for the Chronicle was all done in Camp III. Proper supervision was impossible under this arrangement and another early move after my arrival was to attempt to bring the mimeographing down to Camp I. This met with the usual opposition to any move. Young fellows who were employed as mimeographers used the office as a club room and were loath to give it up.

#### STRIKE "ONE"

When after a legitimate amount of discussion for several days we finally announced the mimeograph equipment would be moved to Camp I soon, although no date was set, the boys chose a time when the Chronicle carried segregation news of importance, to strike. This was in early September and Markley had not yet left the center, so when we learned the boys were not at work, we immediately drove down to Camp III to discover why. It was a bit of a blow to the strikers when we carried stencils and paper back to Camp I, used a mimeograph machine in the ad building until the wee small hours of the night and had the paper ready for delivery on schedule the next morning. As usual, we were ably assisted by Kenny Hirose, business manager for the Chronicle. The next day the blow fell even harder when the strikers were dropped from the payroll and the mimeographing equipment moved to the Print Shop building in Camp I, where it remained until the close of the center.

The problem of adequate, capable staff was one that was ever with the Chronicle. Some rather brilliant writers were residents of Poston in the early days of the center, but most of these, being brilliant, had relocated before late summer, 1943, when I took over supervision. A notable exception was Hisaye Yamamoto, a "born newspaper gal" who is now working on a Los Angeles weekly newspaper. "Si", though master of satire as well as a good straight news writer, became editor-in-chief against her will, and filled that position capably and without much high-caliber help, for many months after Susumu Matsumoto was called into the Army.

It became apparent that concentration of the offices under the Reports Officer's supervision was absolutely necessary, since with the photo shop, nine different offices, each under a different evacuee "supervisor" (whatever the payroll title may have been) were my responsibility. Two of these were in Camp II and two in Camp III. Arrangement was made to have all Camp II and Camp III news come to Camp I for final editing and stencil cutting, and the Camp I editors (both sections) were made responsible to me for the news from all three camps. Then began the "softening up" process looking toward moving the Camp I Chronicle staffs up to the ad area. After two or three false starts---one when all the evacuee employees

planned to strike, another when the English section agreed to move and were talked out of it by the Japanese section---came the time when the move definitely had to be made. I met with my "gang" and told them; gained the publicly-expressed consent of the English section and half hearted-promise of the Japanese section. The day set was more than a week away.

#### STRIKE "TWO"

Two or three days later the grapevine reported that the Japanese section workers were quitting and were coming up to my office to resign if I wouldn't give in to their remaining at the Press (or Chronicle) building. Patience had ceased to be a virtue. I tried a bluff play---and it worked. Calling in one of the typists on my reports staff whom I knew to be in sympathy with the Japanese section, I directed her to prepare notices of dismissal for all the Japanese I staff, leaving the effective date blank. Then I remarked casually that I'd beat them to the draw this time...that if they appeared, they would not be given the chance to resign; the dismissal notices would be given them immediately. The reaction was what I had hoped for. My typist found occasion to leave the office almost at once. Checking discreetly, I found Miko had rushed a call through to the editor-in-chief of the Japanese section telling him what awaited him and his staff. They never appeared or offered to resign; they moved; there was no further trouble with my Japanese section staff, except a brief skirmish over gambling in their office in the ad building---and I'm forced to believe I gained stature in their eyes. At long last, I had won the right to be recognized as "boss", even if I did wear skirts. The move to offices adjoining mine in the administration building was made in mid-April, 1944.

History of the Chronicle from that point on is much the same as in any other center. There was a conscious effort on the part of the staff to be of service to the administration, all the while keeping in mind that the center newspaper was "the people's" newspaper. In March, 1945, they took on additional work to assist in publication of the "The World Outside", a "Sheet" devoted to presenting relocation news and opportunities---and my once recalcitrant Japanese section devoted much time and skill to presenting these opportunities in the Japanese language. I devoted as much time as possible to instilling into the embryo journalists the ethics of newspaper writing, along with improved English, grammar, etc. (Many of our later staff members were high school students who worked only part time.)

#### SECOND MOVE

A later move from the administration building into the Print Shop building, where room was made for the Reports Office and the two sections of the Chronicle, was made without any trouble. And, while the standard of the Chronicle as to good writing was

nearly always "below par", I feel that it served its purpose well. Certainly no staff ever gave more loyal support to a supervisor than "my gang" gave me; after I had proved myself to their satisfaction. It is my strong feeling---and sincere hope---that in some of the discussions with the staff over the wave of draft evasion that hit the center at one time, or over news suppression (there was in Poston as in every community in which I have worked on a newspaper, strong pressure to suppress certain types of news "because it would hurt the family's feelings") the staff may have imbibed some of the principles which are inherently American press, Hearst to the contrary notwithstanding. Perhaps also they received strengthening of their faith in their native land and the eventual rightness of democratic processes. At least, to the last member, they were inordinately proud of the 30 stars in the Reports Division service flag, as am I, and the fact that no member of the Reports Division evacuee staff joined the ranks of the draft evaders. One of the most satisfying experiences in my time at Poston was to find that my Chronicle and Print Shop staffs voluntarily and without any coaching "went to work" on an otherwise fine chap who had evaded before transferring to us to get him to change his mind and volunteer for Army service. (That he did not is due entirely to lackadaisical methods of federal enforcement agencies which permitted a backlog of approximately 100 evaders to remain in the center after evasion to influence other Nisei toward the same step. Mike definitely wanted to break, but always finally came back to "But, I've gone this far with the fellows, now...I can't break away. They'll think I'm a coward.")

Procurement of supplies of the right kind and without undue delay and repair of equipment when it got beyond the skill or experience of staff members was always a stumbling block to efficient operation of the division. Fumbling of the procurement section, first under Indian Service regulations then under WRA, and property control caused much unnecessary delay in receiving needed materials, even though ordered in plenty of time. Kenny Hirose, business manager for the Chronicle, was a life-saver in these matters. After Kenny relocated the assistant reports officer devoted much of his time to "ramrodding" orders through and chasing them, or essential papers relating to them, from warehouse to warehouse, or office to office, so we might have the supplies in time to continue publication. The fact that all equipment, such as typewriters, and mimeograph machines must be sent some 200 miles to Phoenix (or to Los Angeles) for repair, was a delaying factor in operation, which on at least one occasion caused suspension of the paper for several days.

#### PRINT SHOP

Poston had the only print shop in the WRA centers. Its establishment stemmed from the efforts of Norris James to publish

a printed newspaper, and while it often tangled the red tape of government regulations, its ultimate effect was good. History of the Whitlock flat-bed press is chronicled in preceding paragraphs. Type, cases, make-up furniture, lead cutters, and various other small items were also bought from the proceeds of the queen contest, subscriptions and paid advertising in the Chronicle. A paper cutter, a proof press and Chandler and Price job press were loaned by the U. S. Indian Service, from the school at Phoenix, for the duration. A model 1200 multilith was purchased by "Gus" Empie, assistant director in charge of administrative management (or whatever that office was called during the time Poston was under joint direction of the Indian Service and WRA) before my arrival, and placed in the print shop for the purpose of reproducing forms in the administrative division. A smaller multilith was purchased about the time of my arrival, in the belief that we could reproduce the Japanese section of the Chronicle by multilith-photographic process, through the use of the two machines. Two ancient mimeographs, whose history is lost in the maze of early Poston lore but which I believe were purchased by the Chronicle, also were brought from Camp III in September, 1943.

Five Issei and two or three Nisei were on the payroll of the Print Shop when I took over supervision. Work, such as printing wedding announcements, funeral cards, tickets, programs, etc. was being done at nominal cost, the proceeds supposedly being turned over to the U. S. Treasury revolving fund. Some work was being done for the administration---but the multilith, bought for the purpose months before had not even been set up. Little work was actually being done and there is good reason to believe that very few of the proceeds were finding their way into proper channels. The place, set apart from the ad building and seldom visited by appointed personnel, had become a gathering place for Issei who would have been just as happy had the trend of the war been in favor of Japan. In fact---and my informant is one whose information in other matters always proved authentic---the Print Shop was the fountain head of the "blue papers" distributed to Japan-lovers in the center (through an evacuee employed in the agriculture section) and giving the latest propaganda from short wave Radio Tokyo. First break on this information came when one of the Nisei employed there quit, rather than take the "blue papers" from the Print Shop to the farm employee for distribution. Several skirmishes with the firmly entrenched "staff" there were necessary before the foreman, influential among the evacuee residents of Camp I, decided that relocation was best for him and left for Philadelphia. I requested and received the resignation of another, and told another, a member of the Community Council, that it would be necessary for him to devote some time to his work in the Print Shop or resign---for by this time we had begun to use the Print Shop as the "press-room" for the Chronicle, and the example set by this man was not good for the Nisei mimeographers, circulation boys, etc. With no improvement, I indicated I would receive his

resignation gracefully if forthcoming within a few days. It was in before that time.

#### NEW "DEAL" SUCCESSFUL

This left only two of the old staff, and one of those I was particularly anxious to keep. Hiroshi Nakajima, as fine a person as I have ever known and as loyal an American as ever breathed although he cannot achieve citizenship because of his Japanese birth, had not participated in the activities of the old staff. In fact he had done all he could to discourage it. In addition, owner of a commercial printing establishment in Los Angeles before evacuation, he was a first class printer and was liked and respected by the Nisei on the Chronicle staff. To him and his cooperation plus efficient handling of his job, I---and the entire staff at Poston---owe a great deal. Together we set up efficient methods of record keeping and ordering, and I would bet my last salary check that not one cent was ever diverted from its proper channels during his administration of print shop affairs.

When it seemed we were at cross purposes with government regulations concerning printing, our sails were cut to keep within the boundaries even though it was evident those regulations had never taken into consideration the creation of anything like conditions which obtained in a relocation center. Applied here, the regulations were silly and meaningless, and defeated the purpose for which they were formed. However, law is law, and we conformed. No cash work was done. Only certain government forms, reproduction of which was permitted in the regulations, were multilithed, even though the wait for receipt of needed forms we had facilities to reproduce slowed the wheels of progress in certain sections for weeks.

I am beamingly proud of the record of the Print Shop, after the "dead wood" was cleared out. In cooperation with the education section, vocational classes were set up, with T. K. Shindo, now of Denver, as instructor, with Mr. Nakajima as advisor. Many boys received excellent instruction in the fundamentals of printing, multilithing, and paper handling which will stand them in good stead in years to come.

Previous to setting up the vocational education class in printing, several boys who knew nothing of printing before going to work either on the Chronicle or in the Print Shop, went "outside" and were able to take good jobs on the strength of what they had learned there. Notable among these is Noburo Yamakoshi, a talented young artist with a flair for cartooning. Noby while in high school went to work "spare time" on the Chronicle, then shifted to the Print Shop, still utilizing his talents for the Chronicle whenever we needed them particularly. He learned the type cases, job press



including make-up and two color work, all there was to know about a mimeograph including repair work, and mastered the intricacies of the multilith, including multi-color work; in fact, anything there was in the shop for him to work on. He left Poston for Chicago and immediately obtained work at the Government Printing Office at excellent salary. (Nights he spent attending the Chicago College of Fine Arts, changing shifts later to attend during the day. He will graduate in the spring of 1946.) Tom Horiuchi was another who went to work in a private printing establishment in Chicago, receiving full credit for his work in Poston on his union apprentice time.)

All work on the Chronicle, (including the extra when President Roosevelt died, and on which many hours of the night were voluntarily spent) was done in the Print Shop after the latter part of 1943. In addition the Red Cross year books and other worth-while publications such as center organization year-books were the output of the Print Shop staff. Much work done by Office Services in other centers also was done by the Poston Print Shop.

PHOTO SHOP

When I came to Poston, the Photo Shop was loosely under the supervision of the Leave Office since identification pictures were necessary for all persons leaving the center for any purpose. Equipment, such as there was, was scattered to the four winds of heaven. Western Defense Command regulations forbade the use of cameras by anyone of Japanese ancestry, and since appointed personnel were busy with their own affairs, no documentary pictures were being made. (Some had been made earlier by Washington WRA photographers). The demand for funeral pictures was a headache, since so much time was consumed waiting for the long services to end before taking pictures of the casket, the bereaved friends and of the family. A "system" which, to a degree at least, met regulations had been arranged whereby an evacuee photographer was placed under the supervision of the Caucasian funeral director to take funeral "shots"... else none could have been taken, and they were provided for in the Manual. Relaxation of the order, against Nisei photographers late in the history of the center, was a very decided help to the Reports Officer.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Two cameras, one a Six-Twenty Vigilant and the other a Zeiss-Ikon 120, were owned by the project, in addition to the 33 millimeter identification "Kodak". Much of the dark room equipment, including an enlarger, was the property of the evacuee photographer. This led to private enterprise which was never successfully stamped out entirely. Cameras had to be turned over to the Reports Officer

at 5 o'clock, or after the last picture had been taken in the event of shots taken of official "send-offs" for inductees etc. However, despite WDC regulations, it was impossible to keep cameras out of the hands of the evacuees. Cameras are mailable articles. There was no censorship of mail. Consequently, although the residents kept them out of sight, we were always conscious that there were cameras on the project.

There was the constant demand on the reports division photographer for prints and enlargements. Although he kept such work out of my sight, I often found evidence of outside work. (With nine offices to supervise, I could not be in any one all of the time.) Finally it came to the point where I could hardly get official work from the dark room within a period of days after it was sent in to be processed. And, after many talks with Yutaka, it was necessary to terminate him and hire a new photographer. Things went well for a time, then the new boy succumbed to the same pressures. A call to Army service saved his job and gave him a new one.

An older fellow in his mid-thirties was obtained for the work, and carried on more or less satisfactorily until I left the center. At least he was discreet about any private enterprise he might have been carrying on, and official work came first. Too, he was always able to account for government supplies, which was not always true of his predecessors. Negative files, which mysteriously disappeared from time to time under previous photographers, were inviolate as far as Al was concerned and he protected them, even to the extent of sending one predatory trouble-maker to the hospital for repairs to a long cut on his forehead (made with a coke bottle). Leader of the marauding gang, long a center problem, was sent to jail at Yuma as a result of this particular visit...and it would be better not to describe Al's condition at the close of the four-against-one battle. But the files were intact---and the gang never returned.

Pictorial documentation of any worth-while event was attempted. Memorial services for Poston Nisei who died in service; presentation of a Silver Star and of a Distinguished Service Cross to next of kin of Poston Nisei heroes; send-off celebrations for Poston Nisei leaving to join the Army; pictures of family members of Poston Nisei serving in the Armed Forces to be sent them; Nisei service-men home on furlough, particularly those who had seen overseas service; Nisei WAC and Cadet Nurses home on visits; fires; suicide and murder victims; vocational education class work; flower shows---anything which would present a pictorial history of the center was made and contact prints sent to Washington or Denver for their files. (Negatives called for were then sent in.) Many of these pictures were valuable for outside news release.

## OFFICIAL REPORTS

Official reports, as such, were taken very lightly by Wade Head, first project director under whom I served. While I believe he kept Washington WRA and the Indian Service informed as to happenings at the center, monthly reports were so much repetition of what Washington already knew, in his opinion. Most of the division heads, however, took a little more serious view, but systematized reporting was, to say the least, very spotty when I arrived on the project. I am not entirely certain that it improved too greatly afterward, although I did make an earnest effort to keep the reports rolling in as nearly on time as I was able to get them from their authors. Special reports on any out-of-the-ordinary event were always sent immediately.

There were no reports on file in the Reports Office, no documentation of any sort available. Some later came to light in the project director's back files---but long after reporting had become routine procedure for me.

There is little to be said concerning this phase of the work---and the evidence is already in the Washington files. It was a never-ending chore to get the reports from those charged with making them in time to meet Washington "deadlines"---and the Reports Officer was no better than the other division heads in this respect, and for the same reason: we were so busy getting the job done that there was no time to write about it. Active supervision took much time in the Reports Division; public relations, for which there was never really ample time, took a share. Actual reports writing became, of necessity, a step-child of the Reports Officer.

Until November, 1944, I swung the job alone---but not without hours of overtime which never reached a time-keeper's books. Then, Henry Bearden was obtained from the Ajo Army Air Base as Assistant Reports Officer. Although he had no writing experience, Bearden was invaluable. Preparation of the eternally-present budget, procurement of supplies and locating them after they arrived on the project, supervision of staff in Camps II and III, and various other duties were made much lighter after his arrival. Much of the work of the personnel newspaper, Poston Persiflage, was done by him. He also handled distribution of relocation pamphlets, photographs, etc. Much outside publicity given to Poston service men could not have been handled without his taking the burden of other details off my shoulders. A call to the Navy in March or April of 1945 deprived us of his services.

Fanny Connolly was signed on as secretary after Bearden's arrival, proved capable in that capacity and possessed of administrative ability, so when Bearden went into the Navy, she was advanced to Assistant Reports Officer. Later, when I transferred to Tule Lake, she became Acting Reports Officer. Ina Reinhardt took Mrs. Connolly's position as secretary and served, I believe, until the center closed, or thereabout.

## FINAL REPORTS

Final reports were being discussed before I left Poston August 4, 1945. Along with preparations for "X" Day this topic had been discussed with some thoroughness at the Reports Conference in Denver early in October, 1944 and Handbook Release 199 embodying some of the recommendations made there had been received. I had decided misgivings, then, when the Project Director, after urging by the Assistant Director in Charge of Community Management, set up a "final reports committee" to assume responsibility for the final reports. The committee was headed by Dr. Powell whose fond dream it was to see a "history of Poston" written. Truly, a history of Poston was a worthy undertaking but, to my mind, not one to be assumed as a final "official" report. It could not fail to be colored by the personal opinion of the writer or writers under his direction, (and this could be expressed in personal narratives, to wit, this passage)---and personal opinion of Poston appointed personnel as to cause and effect of many happenings varied greatly. Opinions of the great majority, I firmly believe, did not coincide with those of the head of the reports committee.

Nor could I see where a final report such as was being planned could integrate with reports from other centers in writing the overall final report of WRA-as-a-whole---and unless Washington thinking changed radically after the Denver reports conference that was one important reason for a common type of final report from all the centers and the reason for issuance of Handbook Release 199. Consequently I was not too sorry to wash my hands of all responsibility for final reports---and I did feel that I had a responsibility to the Washington Reports Office for the condition of final reports from Poston---when illness of my husband, Reports Officer at Tule Lake, made it expedient for me to transfer to that center.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public relations at Poston were always precarious. This was due (1) because of Arizona's extreme reluctance to have any of the centers located in the state, for reasons outlined in earlier passages of this narrative; (2) its location near Parker, narrow, bigoted, perennial boom-town community so far from centers of government that it had become a law unto itself and the reason for whose continued existence can only be found in the belief that "the devil takes care of his own"; (3) extremely poor handling of the press at the time of the November, 1942, incident.

My first move, with the full approval of the Project Director, was to attempt to remove any veil of secrecy which the public might have believed surrounded Poston. My most often reiterated remark to personal acquaintances, political figures, newspaper and radio

people, organization heads, magazine writers and influential lawyers was "why don't you come out and see the center? OK, maybe you don't like the Japs---but you're missing a first hand view of something entirely new in history of the United States. Since it's there, you'd just as well see it." (The last thought, of course, only if necessary.) In addition I appeared at several clubs such as the Phoenix Ad Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club, B and PW district conference, and Parker Woman's Club, in informal talks, always extending the invitation to visit the center. Only the Parker Woman's Club took advantage of the invitation since it was close enough that gasoline and tire rationing did not make the trip prohibitive.

A goodly number of individuals availed themselves of the invitation to the ultimate good of the center. Some of these were: John R. Murdock and Richard F. Harless, Arizona congressmen, who visited at different times early in April, 1944, during the Easter congressional recess. E. Oren Arnold, well-known magazine and syndicate writer, (March, 1944) whose efforts at placing his story of the center met with no success, but whose talks before various organizations in Arizona helped much. Joe Conway, state's attorney general, whose only purpose in taking advantage of the invitation was to possibly interest some of the personnel to support him in his race for U. S. Senator, in which, fortunately, he was defeated. William B. Chamberlain, executive secretary to Governor Osborn and writer of some note whose articles have been published in "the better" magazines. "Bill" was obtained by me to make the commencement address for Poston II in 1944. Dr. Fred A. Line, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Phoenix, whom I obtained to make the baccalaureate address to Poston II and III that year. Dan Garvey, secretary of state, who accompanied Bill Chamberlain, and later returned to be principal speaker at a "send-off" for Nisei entering the Army from Poston, and in 1945 to make the commencement address for Camp II. Bob Burns, free lance photographer who "lands" in Life frequently. Bill Turnbow, Arizona Gazette reporter and columnist. The foregoing are all friends whom I believe were definitely influenced to come out through personal persuasion.

Many others visited in line of duty, such as Bernice Cosulich of the Arizona Star (Tucson) who accompanied Dmitri Kessel, Life Photographer; Elsie Windsor of Orange, California; Phil Stern and Dick Wilkes of Life Magazine, Ernie Kleinberg of Acme Pictures, Milt Phinney of the Los Angeles Daily News who came in January, 1945, as a result of collaboration between Earle O'Day of the Los Angeles WRA and myself, to photograph the return of the first family from Poston to the restricted zone after the rescission of the Exclusion Order. I firmly believe no person came to the center

with anything approaching an open mind who did not leave it thinking much more deeply about the evacuees as people, not as some group of untouchables. Who knows, perhaps they even came to devote some thought as to conditions which would permit a large group of American citizens to be deprived of constitutionally-guaranteed freedom merely on the basis of possessing the same racial background of a people with whom our nation was at war. Perhaps the ironical inconsistency of a procedure which placed the relatives---in some instances very distant relatives---of the people of one of our enemy nations in internment, while the relatives of the peoples of two other of our enemy nations roved at will, may have impressed some. If so, more than the Japanese-Americans will have benefitted.

#### NISEI SOLDIERS HELP PUBLIC RELATIONS

As was universally true, the "Nisei in uniform" from Poston was the center's best public relations man. And their sisters in uniform helped too. After the "taste" of the November, 1942, incident had faded somewhat and the "papillae" of the press had been sweetened by a continuing flow of stories from Poston, what adverse publicity we received from the Arizona press was as a result of reinstatement of selective service for the Nisei in the centers. The filing of treason charges against George Fujii--which were dismissed finally because of lack of evidence---because of the appearance of bulletins in Camp urging the Nisei to refuse Army service, and later the refusal of some 100 Poston boys to be inducted and their arraignment were the bases of several stories. (Induction refusals were in groups of from one to 14). They were treated by the press as any other news, were not overplayed---in fact not given nearly the play expected and which might even have been excusable. News of send-offs for the boys leaving for Fort Douglas received good play.

The first Japanese-American soldier to be killed overseas from the mainland was the son of a Poston family and his wife and small son also were residents of the center. (He was Sgt. James Kiyoshi Shiramizu, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Yenzo Shiramizu and husband of Shizuko Ruth Shiramizu.) A volunteer for overseas duty as a replacement for the famed 100th Infantry Regiment made up originally of Hawaiian Japanese, Sgt. Shiramizu was killed in Italy January 11, 1945. News of his death reached the center at about the same time Nisei in the center were petitioning President Roosevelt for restoration of civil rights if military service was to be re-instituted on a "must" basis for the Nisei, and about the time the story on the anti-selective service bulletins in camp reached the outside. Stories on Shiramizu, his family and the memorial service for him formed an effective counter-balance for the unfavorable, or at least unpopular, news.

About that time, too, a number of Nisei who had served in the Aleutians came home to Poston on furlough. Stories to the Arizona press, and their home town papers, on them, although as Army Intelligence they could say little of their experiences, served

to balance public opinion. On the day before George Fujii was picked up by the FBI, (although a few of the center officers knew it was scheduled), I presented S/Sgt Ogawa, on furlough after the Aleutians, over KOY, Phoenix, on statewide network and stories concerning him made the same issues the Fujii pick-up made.

One of the best stories which could have come out of Poston came to my notice the week of February 12, 1945, when a United States Marine (correct) staff-sergeant came home to Poston on sick leave while recuperating in a coast Marine hospital from injuries received while landing, in the second wave, at Tarawa. For his sake, after checking with a friendly Marine public relations officer in Phoenix, we withheld the story---for although he had proved himself over and over, almost to the extent of losing his life, there was the danger that some "red-tape-worm" somewhere in the Marine organization might suddenly remember that boys of Japanese ancestry could not become Marines and wangle his discharge on fraudulent enlistment charges. (His parents had gone to the Marine recruiting station with him to sign necessary consent, since he was only 19 when he enlisted December 9, 1941, so his Marine enlistment was entirely legitimate, on his part.) Check by San Francisco WRA, to whom I referred the story, substantiated the Phoenix Marine's fear, so until I am sure Manuel has safely received his honorable discharge, the story must still go untold. Some day it must come out from under wraps.

Whenever I knew there was an adverse story about to break, I tried to hit the newspapers with a legitimate favorable story not more than two days in advance---And the "breaks" were often mine. Thus, often a send-off for a large number of boys going to Fort Douglas would offset stories of a few refusing induction, or of arraignment following refusal. In July, 1944---a critical month because of the high number of draft refusals, our telegraph wires were kept hot with War Department telegrams announcing the death or injury of a Poston lad overseas. (For that matter, the casualty announcements were ever with us after that month.) These were always fully publicized in the Arizona press and at least sent to newspapers in the home town of each boy concerned. Stories also were sent to home town newspapers when a Poston Nisei went into the Army. A high of 90 such releases was sent out one month by this Reports Officer (Poston Reports Office built up a background file of all sons of Poston, giving place of birth, educational background and school honors, kin in service, date and place of enlistment or induction, etc. which proved invaluable when the casualty reports rolled in. This file also provided the information for Washington Statistics Section, and the names for the huge honor roll, containing more than 1200 names, which we finally got around to installing.)

Award of the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for military achievement, to Mrs. Matsu Madokoro for her son, PFC Harry Fumio Madokoro, a volunteer from Poston who was killed in Italy August 25, 1944, brought state-wide publicity and editorial comment in late February, 1945. Brigadier General J. H. Wilson, chief of staff of the Ninth Service Command, flew to Poston to present it. Arrangement of the public ceremony, held in Cottonwood Bowl February 21, 1945, was my responsibility, and with the assistance of Camp II Boy Scouts and color guard, it was made one of the most impressive services I have witnessed. (Pictures of tall, white haired General Wilson pinning the decoration on tiny black-haired Mrs. Madokoro were taken by the Ninth Service Command photographer as well as the Reports Office photographer, and sent, some direct, some through San Francisco WRA, to various newspapers and press services. Madokoro was from Watsonville, California, but I was never able to discover what newspapers in that area did with the story. Ninth Service Command also took pictures of General Wilson congratulating Mrs. Toyota, five-star (one gold) mother while her son, Kameo, home on sick leave from a Colorado military hospital after his third wound in Italy, looked on.)

PARKER INCIDENTS

Parker provided stories which, if properly publicized, would have brought down the wrath of the decent people of the nation and the world on the state of Arizona, probably shaming it into behaving like an enlightened spot worthy of the traditions it enjoys.

One, when Andy Hale, bigoted barber, shoved PFC Raymond Matsuda, wounded American soldier of Japanese ancestry who was still on crutches, out of his dingy little shop, (November 9, 1944) received the publicity it should have---and the result was altogether good. Radio, newspapers all over the world, including Stars and Stripes and Yank called it to the attention of the people, the overwhelming majority of whom were righteously indignant. They voiced that indignation in letters to Hale, in letters to the press, and in hundreds of letters of encouragement to Matsuda. Radio commentators discussed it indignantly over nation-wide hook-ups, directing withering criticism at Hale and all his ilk.

Two later incidents which had even greater possibilities for properly moulding public opinion were suppressed by WRA---or at least by my project director, and certainly he would not have done it without official sanction from headquarters. Regardless of the fact that it was the decision of my superior officers, I felt then and still feel that it was a very grave mistake. Arizona is a proud state, and despite all bravado, would have felt keenly the scorn which would have been directed at her for her officials' failure to take any action in these cases. (After all, winter visitors from all over the nation are one of her chief resources.)



That it would have forced some action is certain. So, we permitted to go unchallenged except before a stacked "court" of politicians who could have been put to rout and forced into doing their duty by the pressure of public opinion, the stoning on the main street of Parker of three American soldiers with Japanese faces by a gang led by a drunken deputy sheriff. These boys were PFC Yasuo Takasaki, PFC Kazuo Charles Sukekane and Isame Charles Tanimura, whose rank I do not know. Two of them were on last furlough "home" before going overseas, and were waiting for the bus in Parker to take them to the embarkation center at Indiantown, Pa. Witnesses a-plenty were found, (including members of our own staff), some Parker townspeople were willing to testify, the press was interested and friendly---(United Press called after hearing of it at the capitol, but I could not give the story.) The Project Director, angry to the roots of his red hair, rightly placed the matter before the sheriff of the county...and got nowhere; also by telegram before Governor Osborn... and got nowhere; I then was sent in to talk to the Governor, taking with me two Parker business people who were interested and indignant and could corroborate my story...and got nowhere, for the simple reason that the politically powerful highway commissioner from the Yuma district, probably called by the Yuma sheriff on behalf of his Parker henchman, had been in to see Sid before we arrived. What had taken place so far was good...but we should not have stopped. When public officials refuse to do their duty, then the matter should be public property---and the decision of "the people's court" is usually just. (I am looking forward to the day when as Private Citizen Brown, without responsibility to any government agency, I can "slug it out" with the Governor, my long-time friend, on a "man-to-man" basis, although the time for any good to come of it has long since passed.)

The stoning of the three soldiers took place on December 18, 1944, the day following announcement of the rescission of the Exclusion Order, but, I am certain, was not connected with that announcement in any way. Suppression of the news, however, was prompted, I am told, by the fear that it would have unfavorable repercussions in some parts of California where many of the evacuees were due to return soon. Personally, handled right and it could have been, I believe the effect would have been beneficial, rather than otherwise.

Three separate attacks on Poston residents in Parker, one May 7 and two May 8, 1945, (V-E Day) also were not publicized. They, however, were harder to establish satisfactorily, although they were proved true. On the May 7 incident, the only persons from whom we could---and did---get affidavits were an Indian couple whose two sons were soldiers. Others saw it and told us of it---in fact the news was phoned to me at the center immediately after it happened and the attack was immediately investigated by Mr. Mills.

Identity of the evacuee, also waiting for a bus, could not be established, however, although the "new" deputy admitted it and assured us he had "given the man who did it a strong talking to". The May 8 attacks, although witnessed by several Caucasians who would not talk "officially", were made by one man, who admitted, yea boasted about, it. Planting a lead with newspaper and radio to the effect that on the day the rest of the world was celebrating the surrender of the race-baiters and other forces of fascism, bigotry and race-baiting ran rampant in Arizona, famed in song and story for its traditional "individual freedom" etc., we could have turned the news of the attacks to the benefit of our charges.

Of course, it's all "water under the bridge" now...but I firmly believe that many times we "missed the boat" through a weak news policy.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

For a conscientious employee in a relocation center, work hours could not be defined as from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., nor could any other definition be established...nor would it be desirable. Some of the most interesting and worth-while experiences came outside official work hours and beyond the duties outlined in the "job description." One of my unforgettable experiences was when shortly after selective service had been re-instituted for the Nisei, seven of the biggest Japanese I have ever seen filed into my office, and introduced themselves with this statement: "We understand you are not only 100% American, but 110% American, so we want to talk to you." They quickly relieved a fleeting anxiety with their next remark: "We want some help." So we settled down to a discussion of their problem, the strong feeling that immediate restoration of all civil rights should come with compulsory military service. After at least partially selling the idea that civil rights could be restored quickest by acceptance of military service and then working for restoration, I took them in to the Project Director, who went "on from there" with them. These fellows were of much assistance in turning the tide of center thinking in the right direction---but for several weeks a knock at my door at home late in the evening or on Sunday usually meant one of these boys had something to get off his chest.

I believe that my most valuable contribution---if any were valuable---to Poston and the residents there came in late June, 1944, when the Project Director, deeply concerned over the increasing number of induction refusals, called the division heads and some section heads together to discuss the probable causes and possible remedies therefor.

Knowing my tendency to say too much too strongly if I started on a subject in which I was intensely interested, I held my peace,

and after the meeting which held until 5 o'clock went back to my office, unlimbered my typewriter and set forth several reasons and suggestions. Briefly stated, I felt that we had not been giving the Nisei sufficient public support while the opposing forces influenced them on every hand. No notice was being given the boys who accepted service---and they needed strong, active support. USO rooms had been set aside...but they were still unfurnished and bare, and unused. Kids taken from communities where traditional American holidays and observances had been a part of their background had been thrust into a center where no such observances were held and Japanese traditional days were observed. Families had not been given an opportunity to express their pride in their sons in service---in fact, it was a decidedly unpopular thing to do. At least one other center where there had been no draft evasions, had made much of their men in service, dedicating a large honor roll with military pomp and ceremony, etc. This "memo" I left on the Project Director's desk and went home feeling perhaps that I was decidedly "out of line." (I had been overruled by a previous acting director when I attempted to get send-off celebrations started, as much for the sake of outside public relations as for any other reason.)

But to my happy amazement the Project Director recalled the same group to his office the next morning and read my "memo" to them---and action started. Plans were set in motion for a Fourth of July celebration, although we had less than a week to prepare for it. Tea was given in each camp, in Personnel mess halls, with personnel others, wives and sisters of service men serving as hostesses to vacuee parents and kin of Nisei service men, the afternoon of the Fourth. That it met a need was evidenced by a public statement made by a proud father in Camp III (at the tea): "This is the first time since I came to Poston that I could talk about my boy in the my without criticism. We are proud".

A staff USO committee was appointed by Mr. Mills, with instructions to have the USO club rooms in operation and ready for dedication by the Fourth. A mass celebration was scheduled for the Fourth in the high school auditorium. A committee was named to see construction of an outside honor roll. We started "full speed ahead" a program which should have been in operation from the earliest days of the center.

In addition, Mr. Mills appointed a "send-off" committee composed of myself as chairman, Dr. A. L. Harris, director of education as a direct-action person, and Scott Rowley, project attorney, as a reliable and dependable "balance wheel". This committee served, with a lagging interest, through many "send-offs". Effort was made to get outstanding "outside" speakers (either military men or businessmen) for these occasions, and in most instances we were

successful. The program, first of which was held July 8, 1944, became somewhat routinized, yet the send-offs never failed to draw a capacity audience---or more. After introductory remarks by the master-of-ceremonies who was usually an evacuee, the embryo soldiers were congratulated by Director Mills and introduced by him with a brief biographical background of each. The salute to the flag was led by the Boy Scout color guard, complete with bugler, ending in community singing of the Star Spangled Banner. A member of the Community Council addressed the inductees and their parents, the main speaker talked, the "Call to the Colors" was sounded by the Scout bugler, and the boys left the platform to go directly to the waiting buses---or as directly as their hundreds of well wishers would let them go. The ceremony, as often as I saw it repeated, never failed to be impressive---and the impact it had upon persons witnessing it for the first time is best described as "terrific". It served also to weld center thinking firmly in support of the boys who accepted service, and I feel sure it added the influence necessary to turn many a faltering Nisei's steps in the right direction.

Poston's community activities program, under the direction of a conscientious objector, had failed miserably to accomplish the purpose for which I believe it was partially planned---to provide the Nisei with some of the influences of a normal community. To that failure we can lay the majority of the draft evasions which plagued us and brought undeserved criticism on the majority for the sins of a few. To the unswerving and intelligent cooperation of Kay Kamimoto and Kenneth Yoshioka, CA section evacuee workers, a tribute must be paid for accomplishing what they did in the right direction.

Service on the leave clearance board; sponsorship of the Stardusters, young business women's organization; chaperoning innumerable youth dances; personal coverage of the "Anti-Jap Mass Meeting" at Brawley, California, December 1, 1944, plus organization of the parade and other observance of the memorial day requested for all men of the Ninth Service district by the Commanding Officer and set for December 3, 1944, at least highlight my "extra-curricular" activities as Reports Officer at Poston.

The two years in Poston were rich in experiences I would not have missed for anything in the world. Reluctant to join the ranks of WRA in the beginning, I now find myself proud to have been associated in its program. By that, I do not mean that I am proud of that blot on American history, mass evacuation and internment of American citizens and aliens who were in no way responsible for what had befallen the United States---but WRA was not responsible for that, contrary to what is still too general belief by those who do not take the trouble to inform themselves. I am proud, however, of the manner in which WRA handled a thankless assignment---made more difficult by the failure of some government enforcement agencies to carry out their functions in connection with it---proving that obligation to respect the dignity of the individual, basic ideal of the U. S. Constitution, can be carried out, even when individual liberty has been taken away.

Mistakes were inevitable in carrying out a program for which there was no precedent or pattern, and of which, pray God there will be no repetition in American history. But considering the human rights involved, the hysteria of the period and the political and economic interests which often sought to make a football of WRA, they were commendably few.

May the light of history prove that even in Poston it was a difficult job well done.

*Pauline Bates Brown*

Pauline Bates Brown  
Reports Officer