

ROHWER RELOCATOR

October 7, 1945
Vol. 1, No. 23

Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

TWO SPECIAL COACHES FOR OCTOBER 18

Two special coaches have been scheduled to leave for the west coast area on October 18. As in the past, the cars will be loaded at McGehee and will be picked up by the night train going north.

Those who are planning to register for these coaches should do so as soon as possible. Registrations should be made not later than October 12.

POSTON AND GILA UNITS CLOSE ON SCHEDULE

Gila River's Canal Camp and Camp 2 at Poston closed on September 28, three days ahead of schedule. Poston's Camp 3 closed one day later, or two days before the October 1 deadline. The number of involuntary scheduled departures was negligible. During the six weeks prior to the closing 5031 people left the three units. Only 292 people were transferred from the closed camps to the units remaining open and these will leave within a few weeks. The transferees were mostly those waiting for approval of outside welfare assistance, hospital patients, families of parolees waiting permits, and several exceptionally large families for whom housing could not be found. The remaining unit at Gila will close on or before November 15 and Camp 1 at Poston will close on or before December 1.

CHANGE IN CLOTHING ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS

The August clothing allowance voucher for those persons whose names begin with letters "A" to "S", was processed last week and the checks are expected before the end of this week. The voucher for those persons with names beginning with "S" through the end of the alphabet will be prepared so that they can be paid off in cash about October 15th. The specific announcement as to date and place of payment for the latter group will be made later.

After the August allowance, all payments will be made in cash because the Coop will not cash checks after October 6. Lack of clerical help made it impossible to complete the August voucher in time for all payments to be made by check before the Coop discontinued its check cashing service.

ST. LOUIS RELOCATION OFFICER TO VISIT HERE

Miss Mary E. Brooks, Relocation Officer, St. Louis, Missouri, will be in this center from the 15th to the 18th of October. Many center residents know the cordial welcome which Miss Brooks has given the people who have traveled on our special coaches. She is very much interested in Rohwer and has some splendid jobs to offer in the St. Louis area. Please make appointments to see Miss Brooks at the Relocation Office, 42-2-E, or come to see her while she is here.

RELOCATION PROGRESS

As of September 22, there were only 21,013 people remaining in relocation centers. This does not include Tule Lake. Since January 2, 1945, the population of the eight centers has decreased slightly more than 40,000. Relocation distribution since the first of the year is as follows; California, 41.9%; Washington, 6.5%; Oregon, 3.3%; all other states, 48.3%.

During the week ending September 22, the four centers leading in relocation were Poston with 1190, Granada with 651, Gila River with 603 and Minidoka with 425.

RECEPTION IN CINCINNATI, OHIO

Alfred Segel, well known columnist for the Cincinnati Post, a leading Ohio paper, describes the reception of relocatees in Cincinnati; "As a Cincinnati I can feel deeply proud of one of the social behavior of my fellow-citizens during the war.

Their friendly reception to the dislocated and relocated Japanese Americans does credit to them as members of a civilized community. Many of us felt troubled in the beginning: What would be the local attitude toward Americans who happen to be of the same racial stock as one of the enemies?.....Well, in its fine relationship with the Japanese Americans this community came through World War II with a self-respect becoming to civilized people. There may have been some discrimination that I haven't heard of but the main story of the Japanese American relocation here makes a glowing chapter of the local scripture.

I found among our people an increasing respect for the newcomers. I heard them spoken of as "nice people" which is about the most complete tribute one American can give to other Americans".....

SPECIAL RELOCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Chicago - A wealthy bachelor in Chicago wishes a couple to work for him. The wife should be able to cook, and the man should be able to drive a car and keep the yard. One child is permissible. He wants someone permanently and will pay \$150 a month and furnish apartment and board. Those interested should write to K. Matsumoto, 3949 South Lake Park, Chicago 15, Illinois, who is acting as the employer's representative.

Thermal, California - There is a ranch of 400 acres of which 120 acres are tillable on the Scott H. Foster Ranch, Route 1, Box 86, Thermal, California. Soil is Indio loam. Housing is available. Tenants may rent for \$30 per acre per year. The owner will lease for two years and renew. Land grows vegetables. For further information call at the Relocation Office, 42-2-E.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER HIRES NISEI

Chicago - The International Harvester Co. has been one of the first among the large industries in Chicago to recognize Nisei. Mr. Goode, of International has been employer, friend, and counselor to countless Nisei. Brush Arai, formerly of Granada and Los Angeles, who is doing personnel work for the company stated that three new boys from Tule Lake have just been employed. George N. Naojara, of Compton, has been hired as a "learner" in punch press work; Jiro Sanada, from Hawaii, as drill press worker; and Masao Miyata, of Inglewood, Calif., as solderer.

L. A. BUSINESS SCHOOL WELCOMES NISEI

Los Angeles - Whether or not a returned evacuee should be admitted to the MacKay Business College was put to a vote of the student body. They voted unanimously in favor of the Japanese American joining them and one student even arose and said: "Isn't that what we're fighting for?" The girl is now attending classes every day and according to Mr. MacKay, President of the College, she is very popular.

DEPARTMENT STORE WANTS FORMER NISEI WORKERS

Los Angeles - Bullock's Wilshire, Los Angeles Department Store, is interested in receiving applications for work from its former employees of Japanese descent.

HOUSING FOR ALL FAMILIES OF NISEI SOLDIERS

San Francisco - The Federal Public Housing Authority has made sufficient housing units available for all families of Nisei soldiers who wish to return to the San Francisco Bay region from Relocation centers. The units, all furnished, are in Richmond and Marin County.

Rentals for the Richmond units are \$31.50 for an apartment without a separate bedroom; \$36.50 for a one-bedroom apartment; \$39 for a two-bedroom apartment; \$43 for a three-bedroom apartment. Servicemen's families renting these units will be taken to them by WRA officials after spending their first night in the Oakland hostel. The Marin County accommodations are immediately north of Sausalito and are of the dormitory type.

PENSION CLAIMS CHANGED BY RELOCATION

Evacuee parents of deceased servicemen whose claims for death pensions have previously been rejected by the Veterans Administration and who are now planning relocation should not appeal their claims but should file re-claims since the closing of centers and the applicants' resettlement in outside communities may be considered a change of circumstances. In a letter to WRA General Omar N. Bradley, Veterans Administrator, explained that death pension claims which have been denied center residents up to this time were rejected because evacuees maintained at government expense on relocation projects were not considered dependents within the meaning of the pension law.

Relocation, of course, changes the situation and a new claim should be filed if dependency exists after the parents leave the center. Applications by Rohwer residents for filing death pension claims or reclaims may be obtained by addressing a request to the Manager, Veterans Administration, Little Rock, Arkansas.

FRESNO HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Fresno - The agricultural labor demand is at its peak here now. The WRA office reports that the demand for seasonal workers far exceeds the current supply. While opportunities for families for which housing is provided have not been so numerous, recently several such offers were unfilled.

Pointing out that while many of the job offers now being received are of a seasonal nature, no difficulty is anticipated in making permanent placements when the peak of the seasonal work is passed. Housing in the city proper is still acutely short. While some lay-offs in war industries have occurred, the influx of seasonal agricultural workers has more than offset the resulting vacancies. The rural housing situation is reasonably satisfactory.

EVACUEE LAWYER JOINS L. A. TIMES

Los Angeles - The first American lawyer of Japanese ancestry to resume his practice of law in Los Angeles is Elmer S. Yamamoto. Since his evacuation from Los Angeles in the Spring of 1942, Mr. Yamamoto has been a resident of the War Relocation Center at Poston, Arizona; and was one of the members of the Legal Department of the center.

Yamamoto, born in the Hawaiian Islands and hence an American citizen, took his law work at Loyola University, and was admitted to practice law in California in 1929. From 1929 until his evacuation he had an office in Los Angeles.

He is to be associated in the practice of law with attorneys A. L. Wirin and J. B. Tietz at their offices at 257 South Spring Street, Los Angeles.

NEWS OF ROHWER RELOCATEES

Los Angeles - Hideo Muto, formerly from Rohwer, and who has been working for the past two years in a defense plant in Chicago, recently arrived in Los Angeles and found employment as a threading machine operator. As soon as his house at 1371 W. 36th Place is vacated, which he expects will be within a few days, he will move his family from the Center to join him.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin - To meet needs created by the growing exodus from the centers as fully as possible, the Milwaukee Resettlement Association held a special meeting on September 23 at its hostel, Hospitality House, 1426 N. Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee 2. Masao Satow, Granada, spoke about his recent trip to the Pacific Coast. Sam Minami, Rohwer, Chairman of the Nisei Council, discussed the problems of local resettlers. Mrs. Ujio Niwa, Manzanar, hostel manager, was hostess for the social hour which followed the business meeting.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Five Nisei girls are enrolled at Milwaukee State Teachers College for the 1945-46 year. They are: Betty Hachisuka, Manzanar; Ruth and Lois Asawa and Emiko Y. Shimoto, Rohwer and Hannah Ikeda, Minidoka.

Stockton - Dr. Kensuke Uchida, who returned here recently from the Rohwer center, is making arrangements to reoccupy his old office. As soon as these quarters are renovated and made ready, he will move in and start practicing again.

University of Minnesota - George Matsuyama, formerly of Rohwer and Fresno, who recently married Elaine Abe from Jerome, is now working on his Ph. D. at the University of Minnesota.

Omaha, Nebraska - Mr. and Mrs. Hideo Ito and their two children who came to Omaha from Rohwer, are now living at 618 1/2 Main St. and Mr. Ito is employed as a watch-maker with the Gem Jewelry Company. The two older children are now attending school. The Ito family formerly lived at Stockton.

LOS ANGELES MARKETING SITUATION

Los Angeles - Evacuees who have returned to this area are experiencing no trouble in marketing their vegetables and no difficulty in the future is anticipated. Several wholesale firms on the Los Angeles market are now handling vegetables grown by returned evacuees. Three wholesale marketing firms have employed Japanese Americans as field men to solicit business. It is reported that at least seven firms on the market are either handling Japanese produced vegetables at the present time or are willing to handle them. Some of these firms have informed us that they think as more volume is available, practically every firm on the market will be glad to handle vegetables produced by persons of Japanese descent. It is also known that two or more carlot shippers are planning on buying and shipping carlots of vegetables produced by returned evacuees.

WANT AD SPECIFICS JAPANESE AMERICAN

Milwaukee, Wisconsin - Having answered a classified advertisement for a "Japanese American girl to work in florist shop," Helen Kimura Yamamoto, Gila River and 2545 N. Frederick, Milwaukee 11, is now doing window and artificial flower displays at the Edgewater Flower Shop, 404 East Mason St., Milwaukee 2.