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Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

CLOSING PLANS ANNOUNCED BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

The following statement by Ray D. Johnston, Project Director, gives the latest information concerning the closing plans for this Center.

"The ROHWER RELOCATOR in the issue of August 14, 1945 printed ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE NO. 289. This statement outlined the procedure for the orderly closing of the centers on the dates established. The closing of this center on or before December 15, 1945 is an established fact and our concern as we approach the coming two months' period is to plan so as to assure the movement of the remaining people with a minimum of inconvenience to the families and a maximum utilization of available transportation."

"It is obvious in planning for terminal departures that the number leaving on any one day or in any one week must not be so great as to over-burden railroad facilities. It appears desirable that, in so far as possible, departures to particular localities should be grouped so as to take advantage of special coaches - this applies to groups moving north and east as well as those returning to the west coast area. By the 1st of December, railroad transportation will be limited by the starting of holiday travel. It is essential, therefore, that all departures other than those persons awaiting approval by outside welfare agencies of welfare assistance plans be scheduled to leave prior to November 30th."

"For many individuals and families housing has appeared as a problem. The closing of the units at the Colorado River and Gila River Relocation Centers prior to the scheduled date shows that those needing housing have found it available at their destinations. It is urged that those family representatives who are confronted with a lack of housing at their first choice destinations consider the advisability of changing to their second or third choice destinations. It is pointed out that the Center is going to close on or before December 15th and, if a family can relocate in some non-west coast location, it is better to do so than to be scheduled for transportation to a west coast destination with the necessity for making final arrangements subsequent to arrival at that destination."

"Establishment of daily and weekly quotas will be made as of October 22nd to be effective not later than November 5th. Those persons who have not processed by October 22nd for departure will be considered in the scheduling program. In determining the dates of departure and destinations for scheduled families, certain general principles will be taken into consideration: the expressed choice of the family representative unless this choice is overbalanced in importance by other factors; special problems which might condition the capacity of the family members to travel at any particular time or which might condition the reception at the point of destination; grouping of families in order to take advantage of special transportation. These and other principles will be used as individual and group situations arise."

"It shall be the project policy to schedule departures to insure as much consideration as possible for the interests of the families. It must be born in mind, however, that the scheduling cannot be suited to the whim of every individual family representative. Individual concessions must be made in order that the interests of the entire group may be met. The cooperation of all is essential to the successful conclusion of this final phase of the relocation program."

SPECIAL COACH FOR CHICAGO, OCT. 23

The departure of a special coach for Chicago on October 23 was announced today. The coach will leave McGehee at 8:30 p.m. on that date and is scheduled to arrive in Chicago at 2:08 p.m. October 24. All persons interested in traveling to Chicago or points in the North and East on or near that date should make arrangements now with the Relocation Office. Information concerning housing in the Chicago area may be obtained from Roy M. Kawanaga, 41-3-E.

GRANADA TO CLOSE ON SCHEDULE

The second and largest all-Granada Railroad train took 578 Amache residents back to their California homes October 2. Scheduled to close October 15, and the first to be emptied of residents, the center had only 844 evacuees still living on the project after the departure of the train. At its peak population, three years ago this month, the Colorado Center had 7,565 residents.

The largest groups headed for a single locality were - 149 to Los Angeles, 87 to Sacramento and 63 to Sebastopol. Other destinations for groups larger than 15 returnees were, Colusa, Livingston, Maryville, Petaluma, San Francisco, Santa Rose, Walnut Grove and Yuba City.

The first entire train, returning evacuees to coast homes from Amache, left on September 22, carrying 422 passengers. Other group transportation arrangements have been by specially chartered coaches on regularly scheduled trains, both Eastbound and Westbound.

ROHWER RESIDENTS INVESTIGATE WILSON PLANTATION

Mr. Walter Atsumi, Block 34, Mr. Eiichiro Matsumoto, Block 41, Mr. Y. Suzuki, Block 38, Mr. Hideji Yakushiji, Block 8, and Mr. Haruji Sato, Block 40 left Rohwer Tuesday with Mr. Ab Ragon, Little Rock Relocation Officer, to investigate relocation opportunities at Wilson Plantation where thirty eight evacuees have already resettled. Most of these are from Poston but one family is from Gila.

One Poston resident, Masao Sano, came to Wilson in August on an inspection trip and liked the place so well he did not return to the center but had his family join him immediately. He sent the following telegram back to Poston: -

August 27, 1945

To:

Mr. T. Sumida
Block Manager
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

This is to advise that I found Wilson Plantation exactly as presented by Mr. Ragon. I am well pleased with whole situation and I recommend it to all other evacuee farmers. I am going to stay here. Have wired my family to leave Center about September 15 to relocate with me on Wilson Plantation.-----

Masao Sano

SEPTEMBER PAY ON OCTOBER 15 AND 18

Rohwer - It was recently announced by Mr. Ralph Estes, Project Finance Officer, that, beginning with payments for September, evacuee wages will be paid in cash. Payments will be made in the Canteen No. 1, building near Ad. Building No. 2.

All workers, except those in the Engineering and Mess Sections will be paid Oct. 15. Engineering employees, including janitors will receive their pay Oct. 18. Mess workers were paid last Thursday in Mess Halls 12 and 20 but will be paid in the future in the canteen building. Mr. Estes warned that all workers must bring with them their assignment slips or other positive means of identification when they come up to be paid.

YOKOHAMA SPECIFIC BANK PAYMENTS TO START SOON

Washington, D.C. - Evacuees having accounts with the Yokohama Specific Bank are now advised that first dividend payments may start not long after October 1, 1945, according to word received here today from George H. Mills, who is liquidating the bank under the direction of the Commissioner of Banking of the State of California. Evacuees are asked to discontinue writing letters of inquiry regarding payment, since the time and money involved in answering them will affect the amount of dividends payable.

In addition, Mr. Mills suggests that claims should be made as soon as possible. He estimates that to date only about 50 percent of the depositors have filed claims. Continued delay in filing may slow up liquidation and payment of dividends. Claims are to be filed with the Commissioner of Banking, State of California, San Francisco.

NEW RELOCATION INFORMATION

Japanese language editions of two English pamphlets previously distributed - "Business Opportunities for Issei in Washington", and "Philadelphia, the City for Family Relocation", are now available at all mess halls still serving meals and at the Relocation Office.

With these pamphlets there is also a report in Japanese on business enterprises operated by Japanese-Americans in Chicago. This report is the result of a survey made by Mr. Shotaro Hikida, formerly of Gila River and San Francisco. Mr. Hikida will make additional reports on business opportunities in other Midwest cities.

HOW TO GET SCHOOL CREDITS

Rohwer - All graduates of the Center High School and all other students who relocated before January 1, 1945 should send requests for transcripts of credits to W.R.A. Education Section, Barr Building, Washington, D.C. until March 30, 1946. After that time such requests should be addressed to: Commissioner of Education, U. S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.

Students relocating since January 1, 1945 can get their transcripts from the project until Nov. 1. After that time transcripts can be obtained as described above.

NEWS OF ROHWER RELOCATABLES

Belton, Texas - The News Bureau of Mary Hardin - Baylor College in Belton, Texas sends the following item, "Miss Mitsuyo Uyeno, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tomoichi Uyeno of Houston, Texas and formerly of Rohwer Camp, Arkansas, is pursuing a liberal arts education as a freshman at Mary Hardin - Baylor College in Belton, Texas, this year."

Miss Uyeno, a graduate of Rohwer High School Arkansas, was editor of the camp newspaper, Rohwer Outpost, associate editor of the school paper, Hi-Lites, and a member of Quill and Scroll, international honorary society for high school journalists.

Chicago, Illinois - T/3 James Yoshinobu, 46, father of five children, ages 3 to 15, and formerly from Rohwer and Torrance, Calif., where he had been engaged in large scale strawberry farming, recently visited his family in Chicago. Prior to his arrival here, he took a trip to Los Angeles, Calif. to explore resettlement possibilities. He stated that his family has been settled satisfactorily in Chicago and believes that they would be happier here. He also considers the Middle West a better place to raise his children. Therefore, Sgt. and Mrs. Yoshinobu have decided not to go back to California but to make Chicago their permanent home.

Cleveland, Ohio - Fenn College announced this week the following Japanese-American students enrolled for the first semester: School of Engineering--Kenneth Asamoto formerly of Parlier and Gila, and Paul Goya formerly of Sierra Madre and Gila. In the school of Arts and Sciences--Frances Kikuchi formerly of San Gabriel and Gila, and Mary Shinmoto formerly of Hayward and Rohwer.

New York - "The Reverend Tadao Kouchi, Buddhist minister from Hawaii and a resident of the Rohwer Relocation Center, was a recent visitor to New York City.

Addressing the Bussei congregation on Sunday September 23, the Rev. Kouchi stressed the importance of relocater Nisei keeping close touch with their folks through regular correspondence.

The Rev. Kouchi is making a tour of the mid-western and eastern states prior to his departure for Hawaii."

(From the Bussei News published by the YBA in New York)

St. Louis, Mo. - Relocation of the Shichizo Iwata family of Rohwer and Stockton was completed when Mr. Iwata joined the family in St. Louis on October 2 in their home at 3925 at McPherson. Mrs. Iwata, on joining her children, Fumi, Art, and Toshiko in St. Louis on September 8th, was delighted with the apartment which the children had rented and wrote her husband to join them here; Arthur is employed as draftsman at the Ramsey Accessories Manufacturing Corporation, 3693 Forest Park, and Fumi is attending Washington University. Toshiko is attending the St. Louis University School of Pharmacy.

Omaha, Nebraska - Miss Ilse Ito, formerly of Rohwer and Stockton, is taking an active part in the work of the Omaha Local Reception Committee. Ilse will be remembered as one of the key workers in the Welfare Office here.