

Attention: John Bigelow

October 1, 1942

INFORMATION ROUNDUP

War Relocation Authority

San Francisco Regional Office

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NOTE: This summary is for the CONFIDENTIAL use of the administrative personnel in the Washington and regional offices and at the projects; it is not a medium for official announcements or instructions.....  
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MANPOWER BOARD  
APPOINTED AT GILA

A Manpower Board of five evacuees has been appointed at Gila River to analyze the labor supply at that project. On the basis of that analysis, considering the age groups, aged and infirm, those in school, those employed on projects which cannot be cut without interfering with the functioning of the center, the conclusion was reached that a surplus labor supply of little more than 300 exists. This was in contrast to the original estimate that about 1000 would be available for cotton picking.

Evacuee labor will form only an auxiliary to the main labor needs in the cotton fields, since it is estimated that Mariposa and Pinal counties can use 15,000 in the Egyptian cotton fields. Labor from Gila River has so far been limited to Pinal County.

On September 29, 300 evacuees volunteered for work. The average amount of cotton picked per person rose from about 50 pounds on the first day to 88 on the third, and many picked over 100 pounds. Some achieved 150 pounds, which is good even for experienced pickers.

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PERSONAL PROPERTY  
BEING SHIPPED

Evacuees' personal property is now being shipped from storage in Los Angeles to Manzanar and Colorado River projects. During the coming week property will be shipped from the Seattle area to owners at Heart Mountain and Minidoka. The Transportation Section expects that in the next two weeks a large percentage of the property now in storage will be shipped to the projects.



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MOVEMENTS TO BEET  
FIELDS CONTINUE

Movements of evacuees from projects to the sugar beet fields continued this week with 147 leaving Manzanar on September 29 for Idaho. On the 30th, 142 left Manzanar for Idaho and Montana, and 148 left Colorado River for Colorado and Nebraska. Today, 25 are scheduled to leave Manzanar for Montana, and 16 from Santa Anita Assembly Center for Idaho.

Over 1100 have now left Minidoka for work in the beet fields. On September 28, 152 departed; the 29th, 87; and the 30th, 15.

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HANDBILL PRINTED

A handbill on the subject of fire prevention is being printed this week and distributed to the projects. Each apartment is to have a copy. It is pointed out that the danger of fire exists every hour of every day, and that every week must be made "Fire Prevention Week." For a sound fire control program it is recommended that:

- (1) A sounding device be installed that can be heard throughout each block.
- (2) Persons be appointed to call the Fire Department.
- (3) Persons be specifically assigned to use extinguishers, shovels, ladders, garden hose, and other fire fighting equipment.
- (4) A definite plan be worked out to evacuate people from living quarters, hospitals, and schools.
- (5) Persons be assigned to roofs of buildings to put out fires started by heat radiation or falling embers.
- (6) A comprehensive educational program be undertaken to teach the principles of fire prevention.
- (7) Regular fire drills be conducted.

Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, will be the beginning of an intensive educational campaign.

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FUNCTIONS OF  
MILITARY POLICE  
STATED

Policies pertaining to the use of military police at War Relocation centers have been announced in Circular 19. Functions of the Project Director, the civilian police, and the military police are outlined,



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Evacuees will have as great a degree of freedom within the relocation area as is consistent with military security and the protection of the evacuees. In general, complete freedom of movement within the area will be allowed from sunrise to sunset. Between sunset and sunrise, special permission must be secured for evacuees to leave the center limits.

Relocation "area" is defined as the entire area and includes one or more centers. A "center" includes the populated area and the administrative and industrial area.

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ALASKANS AT  
MINIDOKA

A unique group of colonists at Minidoka is made up of evacuees of mixed blood whose homes were in Alaska. Many of them are part Eskimo and part Indian. Although in most cases the Japanese blood is on the paternal side, some have not retained the Japanese name in its original form. As a result, Alaskan evacuees believe that many persons with the same amount of Japanese blood were not located and evacuated, simply because their names were not Japanese and many have facial characteristics of the Eskimo and Indian rather than the Japanese.

A total of 134 persons were evacuated from Alaska, about 45 of whom are of mixed ancestry. All of the full-blooded Japanese males were interned in the United States. The evacuees from Northern Alaska lived in native Indian villages, hunted whale and seal, spoke a jargon of English-Eskimo-Indian-Japanese and lived totally unlike the majority of evacuees from the states. They form one of the employment division's more difficult placement problems. Those from Southern Alaska were engaged in normal business pursuits.

Many of these evacuees from the North have never before associated with Japanese, cannot speak Japanese, and as a result, form an isolated group in the center. Because of housing difficulties at first, they were separated, but an attempt is being made now to locate them all in the same block.

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AROUND THE PROJECTS

Manzanar:

A 17-man commission has been set up to plan for permanent community government....New police department set-up turns over all the working details of the department to the Japanese members. They will be responsible to a board made up of the three Caucasian heads of the department... Library received 1500 volumes of non-fiction and fiction for children from the Los Angeles City Library. A collection of magazines, also for



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children, was sent in addition...By-Laws for the Manzanar Cooperative Enterprises were adopted by the Congress delegates...The canteen will be closed on Sundays, except for the sale of newspapers.

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Tule Lake:

Placing orders for Sears, Roebuck through Community Enterprises will save residents the 5% commission....The Forum discussion favored cooperatives ....Medical staff warned residents that water should be kept on the apartment stoves to raise the humidity, thus lessening the danger of colds and saving fuel costs....50th baby was born on September 19.....

A motion picture theater will be built within the next few weeks. Actual surveying and construction of building with seating capacity of 800 was scheduled to begin on Monday, September 28. It is expected to be completed in about seven weeks. Present plans call for daily shows, first-run pictures, new reels, and shorts. There will be a small admission fee....

A shipment of 600 hogs was to be received at temporary pens located across the railroad tracks pending construction of permanent ranch.... Construction of 20 laying houses, 24x292 ft. will be underway as soon as lumber and materials arrive. When established, it will be among the largest poultry farms in Northern California. An anticipated flock of 40,000 laying hens is scheduled to fill the plant when in full operation. Building designs are of an approved type for climatic conditions in the area. Modern facilities will provide an efficient method of poultry reproduction.....

A planning board is being organized to consult with the administration in helping to plan the general operating policies of the colony....Experimental research to preserve surplus farm vegetables for use during the winter is being conducted. Dehydration is the best method, but since dehydration equipment is in demand by the Army, an "emergency" method will have to be devised.

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Gila River:

Farm Management Division reports first crop of radishes ready. A variety of vegetables have been planted by the various units....Butte Camp Library is now open....Canal Camp has organized a Red Cross chapter....139 children are now attending the Canal Camp Nursery with three-year olds enrolled in the morning and four-year olds in the afternoons.



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Minidoka:

Election proceedings for the selection of a seven-man Fair Labor Practice Board are rapidly being worked out. It will hear the complaints of workers who feel they have received unjust treatment in regard to employment, working rules and unemployment compensation. Board Members will represent four major groups - agriculture, public works, dining halls, professional.... Clothing issue began on September 21.....

Two representatives elected from each block form a "congress" which will in turn recommend to the project director seven from among their number to serve as the council organization commission....Re-housing proceeds, to ease the housing jam....Stove pipe crews from Boise are working a 24-hour shift to hasten completion of apartment heating systems. Families with babies under a year old will have priority.....

Three more wells, one to be reserved for emergency use, are now in process of construction and will soon supplement the single well now supplying the center.....Opening date for the schools is October 5. Education workshop for teachers began on September 28.....Plans for co-operatives are slowed down by priorities. Only obstacle for completing the two super-stores seems to be the scarcity of nails for putting up shelves and counters.

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Colorado River:

In place of the blocked canal system of irrigation between the barracks, such as was adopted in Units 1 and 2, Unit 3 favored a simple leveling process which would save the top soil.....Residents were warned that waters in the slough south of the camps are highly contaminated and potentially dangerous for swimming. Fish caught in these waters should not be eaten.....Permits are required to build fires in all Poston parks except in the barbeque pit....

80% of the workers in the net factory being built in Unit 2 will be women.... Visits to the hospital are limited to twice a week because of transportation restrictions.....Arts and crafts exhibit is to be held on October 17, 18, and 19.....Four acres of Japanese vegetable seeds have been planted for harvest early next year.....An Issei receptionist has been set up in the Administration Building to act as interpreter and translator. May Issei coming in for information had been meeting delay and misunderstanding because of the language barrier.....

A total of 20 telephones are being installed in the three units, placed at convenient locations within the units.....Permission for barrack heating system in form of an oil or gas stove has been granted by the Army..... Ten different guayule seeds are ready for planting to determine the best breed or strain adaptable to the Poston climate....Unit 2 residents found guilty of violating ordinances as provided in the penal code will be subject only to imprisonment. This differs from Unit 1 in that their fines may be imposed.



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POPULATION: 66,935

Yesterday's census reports showed a total population at the projects in this region of 66,935. Minidoka had 8331; Central Utah, 5800; Manzanar, 9213; Tule Lake, 14,646; Gila River, 11,552; and Colorado River, 17,393. Other projects totalled 19,227 with Heart Mountain reporting 9966; Granada, 6997; and Rohwer, 2264. The total for all projects was 86,162.

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