

November 13, 1942

INFORMATION ROUNDUP

War Relocation Authority

San Francisco Regional Office

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. . . .

WINTER ARRIVES

Sub-freezing temperatures have now arrived at the projects with the additional problems of insulation, pipes freezing, increased fire hazards, and coal shortages.

Winterization is in progress at all of the projects, although applications for priorities to purchase additional necessary materials for completing the work at both Tule Lake and Manzanar have been **denied** by WPB and cannot be resubmitted until the beginning of the next quarter, January 1, 1943.

At Tule Lake all the evacuee barracks have been lined with sheet rock and installation is now in progress in the recreation halls and other utility buildings. However, there will be no insulation of latrines and bathhouses at present, since materials were not ordered. A particularly urgent problem is the protection of water and sewage pipes. There have already been numerous instances of pipes freezing. The temperature has gone as low as nine degrees above zero. So far no mains have broken, but there seems to be no adequate means for forestalling this happening. Stoves have been installed in all the barracks and are in the process of being installed in the warehouses, latrines, and bathhouses.

At Manzanar, lining of the barracks is practically complete, but no materials are available to skirt the foundations. If the water and sewage pipes are to be protected and barracks made more comfortable, some other means will have to be found. At this project the temperature has gone down to twelve or fifteen degrees and before the winter is over sub-zero temperatures may be expected. Stoves are installed, and linoleum has been laid in all but 20 of the barracks and the recreation halls. None is available for these.

The most pressing problem at Gila River is that of stoves. Five hundred wood-burning stoves have been shipped from Tule Lake, and the first shipment of 250 of the 3025 stoves on order is expected on November 15. Apartment roofs are now being perforated for stove pipes, but there are no roof jacks, and they cannot be bought. An attempt is being made to purchase locally used sheet metal to make temporary jacks. Until this is done, no stoves can be used.

The Minidoka buildings have been lined and the skirting of foundations is in progress. Stoves are installed. But the possibility of water pipes freezing has not been eliminated. The mains are wood-stave pipes covered with asphalt. However, the wood is green and is steadily shrinking, allowing water to seep through.

(Information Roundup - 11/13/42)

The ground becomes saturated around the pipes and the frost will penetrate more deeply than it otherwise would. A shortage of coal has already caused considerable discomfort, but a special order of 10,000 tons has been placed and delivery is under way.

The installation of wall board in evacuee barracks at Central Utah is about 85% complete. It will soon be started in the school buildings and three warehouses - the installation in the latter in order to conserve heat from stoves already installed to protect perishable foods. Because of the cold, school has been in session only during the afternoons. At the last report three out of four carloads of stoves had been received. Here the temperature has dropped to about twelve degrees and there has been some snow.

The coal situation at Central Utah has been particularly acute, but an emergency order of 6000 tons has been placed and delivery of about 500 tons a day has begun. Although Central Utah lies not far from the most important coal mining district in the west, the mines are so swamped with orders that it has been extremely difficult to purchase sufficient coal from them. In addition, coal has to be trucked in about fifteen miles. During the critical shortage, it was necessary to truck it in about 160 miles, the distance of the nearest mine that would sell the project coal.

The coal situation for all of the projects using this fuel is still far some solved. Transportation difficulties are a prime reason. Coal cars are being used to transport heavy equipment for the army; with the shortage of oil in the east, more coal is being used there than heretofore. Contracts for coal do not necessarily mean that a supply will be available or that it can be delivered on schedule. It has become a matter of purchasing coal wherever and however it can be found.

At Tule Lake it has been impossible to get sufficient trackage to handle the large number of cars expected and heavy demurrage charges may be expected. Equipment for coal unloading is also unavailable, so that the work must be done with shovels, a much slower process. At Central Utah the coal loading dock, delayed because of weather and labor problems, was expected to be finished this week.

Fire hazards will increase with the cold weather. This will result not alone from stoves, but from the hazards of freezing pipes, making water unavailable. At Central Utah and Minidoka it has been found that the tile in the chimneys cracks when heated and must be replaced with brick.

FRYER IN WASHINGTON

Regional Director Fryer left last Tuesday morning for Washington for a discussion of WRA policies. Director Myer will return with Mr. Fryer the early part of next week. En route they will spend a day at the Gila River project. Mr. Myer will go from San Francisco to Salt Lake City to attend the JACL conference there which begins on November 17.

Mr. Coverley is Acting Regional Director during Mr. Fryer's absence. Mr. Coverley returned this week from Manzanar, where he had been Acting Project Director. Mr. Solon Kimball is now Acting Director at Manzanar.

RAILROADS RECRUITING
EVACUEES IN MONTANA

Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads have begun active recruiting of track workers among the evacuees who have been working in the beet fields of northern Montana. No report has been received on the success of the recruiting drive. Great Northern is considering seeking workers in other areas where evacuees are in the harvest fields. In addition to scattered workers who have returned to projects, groups totaling 483 have returned to projects in this region. Seventeen have returned to Central Utah; 101 to Tule Lake; 143 to Minidoka; 78 to Colorado River, and 144 to Manzanar. There will be increased movements back from the fields during the coming week from Montana and southeastern Idaho. The harvest season in southwestern Idaho will continue for another two weeks.

OFFICE HOURS CHANGED

The regional office will cooperate in the effort to stagger working hours in San Francisco to relieve transportation congestion by changing its office hours from 8:45 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. to 8:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M. Other war agencies will follow a similar schedule.

ARIZONA CLOSED
TO COTTON PICKING

On November 7, Lieut. Gen. J. L. DeWitt withdrew permission for the use of evacuees for harvesting long staple cotton in Arizona. Nearly two months ago the War Department had lifted the restriction in answer to the appeal for labor necessary to harvest the valuable crop.

RECEIVING WAREHOUSES OPENED

Central receiving warehouses for evacuee property have been opened at most of the key points on the Pacific Coast. Warehousemen have been stationed at the warehouses and field supervisors assigned to the territories.

The receiving and transportation of evacuee property has been placed under the direct supervision of Clyde A. Jackson, who takes over the duties of R. E. Mansell, recently commissioned a lieutenant in the Transportation Corps of the U. S. Army.

2000 NEWS STORIES BRIEFED

A little more than six months after the Daily Press Review appeared for the first time on April 27, the two thousandth news story was briefed on November 10. The first thousandth item had been briefed on July 27, exactly three months after the first one. As would be expected with the first phase of the evacuation program finished, the number of news stories appearing in the press is slowing down slightly. The number of items briefed is not the number of clippings taken from the newspapers, since one story frequently appears in more than one paper.

WRA TO HANDLE REPATRIATION

On November 10, WRA took over from WCCA the handling of all matters pertaining to the repatriation of evacuees in the exchange of nationals between the United States and Japan. No word has yet been received as to when the next sailing of the liner Gripsholm will take place.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY
SUPPLEMENTED

Supplement 1 to Administrative Instruction No. 44 outlines the procedure to be followed in establishing industrial enterprises and in appointing project chiefs of industrial enterprise divisions.

Proposals for a new industry may originate on the project, regional, or Washington levels, but in any case a prospectus must be prepared containing all pertinent information. This will be reviewed by the Industrial Division in Washington, which will make recommendations to the Director.

After an industry has been approved, but before it goes into production, an operating plan, production schedule, budget, and adequate financial arrangements must be worked out.

A Chief of Industrial Enterprises may be employed at a project when the magnitude of the industrial enterprises warrants it. No full-time appointments can be made without the approval of the Director.

INFORMATION SERVICE

AT CENTRAL UTAH

An Information Bureau including information to isseis has been established at the Central Utah project. Other means of informing the residents is done by a bulletin board, posters, and oral announcements in both English and Japanese. The Topaz Times now has a Japanese section and weekly church edition.

Two residents have been appointed to further harmonious public relations within the center. One of these will assist the chief of the Reports Division in outside public relations. An informal council of prominent evacuees has been appointed to deal with rumors and fears in the center.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

IMPROVE IN IDAHO

With approximately 2300 evacuees from Minidoka and hundreds from other projects scattered throughout southern Idaho, the problem of public relations in this area has been of considerable importance. Because the evacuees have relieved the critical labor shortage and are spending money in the local stores, there has been a general tolerance and little open discrimination toward them.

In contrast to the attitude during the earlier days of the project, newspapers in communities near Minidoka have shown a friendly attitude toward the project, usually carry releases on project activities and print few letters attacking and otherwise commenting on the project.

The Twin Falls Times-News of October 28 printed a political advertisement attacking the incumbent county treasurer for employing a Japanese girl (who was not an evacuee). In its lead editorial on the 30th, the paper criticized the advertisement as contributing to intolerance and exemplifying the sort of thing for which we are fighting the Axis.

NEWS FROM THE PROJECTS

The Canal wood shop has completed over half the given quota of desks and chairs for schools and offices of both camps.... Next big crop will be spinach, and the harvest season is expected to last several weeks.... A trial dairy with a herd of 100 is planned. 500 is necessary size of herd to supply the daily milk needs of the community.... Camouflage net factory will be delayed two weeks due to lack of equipment.... Contracts have been awarded for construction of an addition to the administration building, two automotive shops, four quadruplex apartments, and two dormitories.... First shipment of stoves expected on November 15.... 58 tons of vegetables with a current market value of \$3550 were produced during October.

Manzanar Free Press:

An interesting editorial entitled "Positive and Negative Propoganda" in the issue of Nov. 2.... Seven persons were tried by the Judicial Court.... Efficient work on the part of the fire department and volunteers prevented a brush fire which threatened two blocks from causing a disaster.... Charter election was postponed to Nov. 30 to allow returning furlough workers to vote.... Lack of the necessary quorum caused cancellation of the Cooperative Congress last Friday, holding up recommendation for four new enterprises which had been set for discussion and approval.

Topaz Times:

First snow reported on October 28.... Third well for city water has been completed.... Fire Prevention Week was observed Nov. 1-7 with an intensive educational program.... Individual record survey has begun.... Reports from the commissary, food cost, food transportation, and butcher departments were presented at a meeting of residents in the dining hall management section, representatives of the Community Council and the block managers' association. An attempt was made to clarify the food situation on the project.... The road between the project and Delta will be improved by the state division of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads. It will be gravelled immediately and oiled sometime next summer.... Out of over 2000 residents over 21 and eligible to vote, only 268 voted in the California election by absentee ballot.

Minidoka Irrigator:

A bus line started operation on Oct. 27 with 20 round trips a day. Fare is three rides for ten cents. The bus was rented by Consumers' Cooperative Enterprises as an experiment.... A weather bureau is being considered.... Analysis of project jobs on a man-hour basis will begin soon.... Eleven men have been elected to serve on the Co-op's Board of Directors.... Project census has been completed... The Fair Labor Practices Board has condemned individual recruiting of evacuee labor for outside farm work.... The morgue and autopsy room in the hospital has been completed.

Tulean Dispatch:

The high school opened on Nov. 2 after having been closed for three weeks to allow students to harvest crops, but volunteers were still needed in the fields.... A planning board has been organized.... The first brooder house on the poultry farm has been completed and is fully equipped to accommodate 5000 chicks. A second house will be finished soon. A 40,000-hen capacity is planned for the farm.... Election of the Board of Directors for the Cooperative was scheduled for Nov. 5.

Poston Press Bulletin:

A strike of the Unit II police was settled quickly. The demands were for hot lunches for the night force and a truck for full-time use by the department.... On Oct. 19 the Bureau of Sociological Research began three courses for its field workers. Credit will be given by the University of Chicago.... A series of

conferences were held last week to improve the warehouse situation.... Physical examination of all students has begun.... About 100 high-school students of Unit III volunteered for cotton picking and harvested 1500 lbs. for the day.... Working hours will be 8:30-5:30 instead of 8:00-5:00.... First carload of chairs for school use arrived on Nov. 3.

PROJECT REPORTS (Filed in Documents Section):

Cotton Harvesting in Parker Valley: A report of November 1, explaining the cotton situation in Parker Valley and the need for evacuee labor. All harvesting was done on a voluntary basis, and during the week previous to the date of the report 8717 pounds of long-staple cotton had been picked, the greatest amount having been done by high-school students. As a result of work of the volunteers, the attitude of the cotton growers had become increasingly cordial.

Housing Situation at Manzanar: With the exodus of more than 1000 beet workers, the housing situation was considerably eased. The problem at present is largely concerned with couples without children. This report describes the arrangement of living quarters, the improvements which have been made, and the sanitary facilities.

Gardens at Minidoka: An interesting description of the development of gardens by the evacuees and how they have made ingenious use of the native plants and rocks.

Interviews with Editors in Klamath Falls and Tulelake: Antagonism toward the relocation center has been very evident in the Tule Lake district. This report is the result of interviews with the editor of the Tulelake Reporter and the editor of the Klamath Falls Herald and News. In each case prejudice and rumor were met with facts and foundations were laid for a better understanding in the press.

Evacuee Plea to Take Part in Industrial War Program: A copy of a letter and a resolution written by a resident at Minidoka to the United Camery, Agricultural, Packing, and Allied Workers of America. It is an impassioned plea by union workers of Japanese ancestry to take part in the industrial part of the United States war program.

Manzanar Miscellany: A report covering the "anxiety neurosis" of evacuees, various notes on center activities, and excerpts from the letters written by furlough workers.