

November 20, 1942

*Please deliver to:
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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 not a medium for official announcements or instructions....

HAWAIIANS EVACUATED

A limited number of persons of Japanese ancestry are to be evacuated from the Territory of Hawaii to relocation projects in Continental United States. The first group of 107, 75 of them adults, will go to Jerome, under Transfer Order No. 30. The exact time and place of disembarkation of this group has not been announced. Thirty-eight are members of families who are already residents of relocation centers.

Edwin Arnold, Special Assistant to the Director, is in San Francisco en route to Hawaii, where he will confer with military and civil officials with particular reference to the participation of WRA in the evacuation plans.

GILA SHIPS PRODUCE

The winter harvest at the Gila River project is now hitting its stride. In addition to supplying vegetables for Gila messhalls, three cars of beets, squash, and daikon have been shipped to Colorado River. The harvest season will extend through February. There will then be a short period before the spring crops are ready. The harvest season in this area extends through ten months of the year.

During the first sixteen days of November, seven cars of potatoes and mixed vegetables were shipped from Tule Lake to other projects in this region and two cars to the open market. The mixed cars consisted of beets, rutabagas, turnips, carrots, parsnips, nappa, cabbage, and endive. All the potatoes are now in the warehouse, and all remaining root vegetables will soon be out of the ground.

BEEF WORKERS RETURN

The movement of evacuee workers from the beet fields back to the projects is increasing. Since the first of November, 302 have returned to Tule Lake; 15 to Colorado River; 499 to Manzanar, and an unreported number to Central Utah and Minidoka. Since the latter two projects do not have to secure military

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clearance, reports of movements to the Employment Division are sometimes delayed.

The population of the projects in this region was 69,780 on November 17. This represents a rise from 69,140 on November 5. Current project census reports are: Tule Lake, 14,596; Central Utah, 7779; Gila River, 13,241; Colorado River, 17,110; Minidoka, 7776; and Manzanar, 9278.

BOARD INSPECTS PROJECTS

A board of Western Defense Command officers is now making a tour of the projects to determine the status of: (1) construction of initial facilities; (2) supply of initial quartermaster equipment; (3) hospital and sanitary facilities; (4) military police housing; (5) Signal Corps installations.

The board will not alone determine the status of the above items as of the date of the investigation, but will also report standards or items that are lacking. The board consists of Colonel Magill, Provost Marshall; Colonel Crall, Medical Corps; Major Sharp, Engineering Corps; Captain Peterson, Quartermaster Corps; and Lieutenant Knox, Signal Corps. Captain Astrup, WRA Liaison Officer, is accompanying the group.

STUDENT RELOCATION

In a letter prepared by the National Student Relocation Council, the progress made by November 1 was outlined. At that time 2166 questionnaires were on file in the Council's office with another 200 students known to be interested but who for various reasons have not filed questionnaires.

Of the 2166, more than 500 students have been accepted by some college. For more than 1300 others, transcripts, letters of reference, and other material have been assembled and analyzed, and the students are ready for placement as colleges and communities are approved, and as sufficient scholarship funds become available. Of the other 300, about half are now being processed and the other half have been placed in a "Postponed" file either at the student's request or because the student is not eligible for relocation at this time.

Of the 500 who have been accepted at some college, 340 have received travel permits. They are located in 24 different states, the greatest number being in Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, and Ohio.

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FIRES AT TULE LAKE

Four fires have been reported at Tule Lake this week. Three were under kitchen ranges and resulted progressively in damage amounting to \$25, \$50, and \$100. The fourth fire was in the vent of the space heater in the post-office.

The fires under the stoves were due to faulty construction. The ranges are placed on concrete blocks which lie directly on the wooden flooring. As heat is transferred to the combustible material, the wood becomes scorched and charring sets in. When charcoal, which absorbs many times its weight in oxygen from the air, forms, the danger of spontaneous combustion increases. The process of absorption of oxygen increases the temperature until the ignition point is reached. Since this usually occurs during a cooling-off period, a fire may start after the kitchen has been cleared. A common error is to assume that placing asbestos under the stove is sufficient insulation, but a circulation of air is also necessary. Where faulty construction has made possible charring under the stoves, fires may be expected to develop.

Lining buildings with plasterboard does not make the rooms fireproof, but merely fire resistant. Plasterboard, in fact, will conduct sufficient heat to ignite wood to which it is fastened before it becomes ignited itself.

Gasoline storage except in underground tanks is another fire hazard which fire protection officers have been warned to watch. Since gasoline fumes are heavier than air and do not disperse readily, they tend to escape along a path. Thus a spark at some distance from the source may explode the gasoline.

BLOCK MANAGERS HAVE VARIED ROLES

At Manzanar the block managers have found many jobs beyond their regular duties to aid the residents in small services and to contribute to their comfort. Through the hard efforts of the managers, some blocks have installed a pipe line to connect laundry rooms and shower rooms in order to get more hot water in the showers. Some have installed Japanese bathtubs and some have built volleyball and basketball courts. One has a sandbox for children. In practically all of the blocks the managers sell Sunday metropolitan papers to the residents.

MONTHLY LETTER FOR TEACHERS

A monthly letter to school personnel at the projects is being inaugurated today with the first issue of the Community School Forum. It is designed as a substitute for staff meetings and conferences which distance and travel

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restrictions make impossible and will provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experience on some of the problems which are important in the philosophy and development of schools on the projects. Mrs. Lucy Adams is the editor.

WINTERIZATION CONTINUES

Winterization continues at the projects as snow falls at Tule Lake and the thermometer hits new lows at other projects. At Manzanar volunteers are insulating the recreation and mess halls. Heating stoves have arrived at Colorado River and are being connected. At Central Utah stove installation will be complete with the arrival of liners for the chimneys. At this project the lining of apartments is 90% complete and the skirting of building foundations, 20%. Dirt will be packed against the foundations after the skirting is finished. Firemen are on a 24-hour basis in buildings with plumbing in order to prevent pipes from freezing. School buildings are being winterized as soon as possible, and it is hoped that the schools will be able to hold full sessions by November 23.

The coal situation at both Minidoka and Central Utah has been eased. Both projects are now receiving more than their daily needs and accumulating an emergency supply.

All stoves have now been installed at Manzanar, and lining of the barracks has been completed.

NEWS OF THE PROJECTS

Minidoka:

Community bus broke down after 1½ days of service, but is expected to resume its schedule soon.....The first snow has fallen.....Only 100 out of an estimated 1000 eligible voters voted in the general state elections.....A bus for administrative personnel living in Twin Falls will shortly go into service.... No more students will be relocated until the winter terms begin.....1300 Japanese books have arrived for the Japanese-language library.....A beauty shop has been opened.....Doctors will rotate their jobs each month to increase the efficiency of the hospital and to enable the doctors to keep up on all phases of their practice without undue overwork.

Central Utah:

Approximately 170 volunteers from the project contributed their time to the final drive of West Millard's scrap campaign. Fifty tons were collected..... The formal opening of the Protestant Church was held on Nov. 7 with about 300 attending.....Work has begun on the temporary hog farm. The permanent farm will consist of 160 acres with equipment for about 4500 animals. A shipment of 150 hogs is due soon.....

Contractors are expected to be out of the project by Thanksgiving..... Sugarbeet workers commuting from the project have added about two million pounds of sugar to next year's supply.....All canals have been cleaned and put into shape for fall irrigation of barley except for installation of a few diversional gates.....Four hundred additional fire extinguishers of the hand operated pump type have been received.....About 500 acres have been plowed and 160 acres leveled and made ready for seeding.....A weather bureau has been established. Records will be sent to Salt Lake City to be published as a part of the monthly and annual weather summaries.

Gila River:

Canal Camp's outdoor theater was inaugurated on Nov. 14 with a gala program.....Nine carloads of evacuee property have been stored in empty apartments, since warehouses are not available.....First daikon was harvested on Nov. 10, 56 days after seed was sown.

Colorado River:

\$350,000 has been allotted for the 70 school buildings. Ground was broken for the first school on Nov. 11.....Edward Davis, 12th grade instructor, was fatally stricken with a heart attack on Nov. 7.....Election of the Issei Advisory Board to the Poston III Community Council has taken place.... Twelve Parker Valley cotton growers requested Gen. DeWitt to lift the ban on cotton picking to permit evacuees to continue the harvesting. The request was refused.
