

*Please deliver to:
John Bigelow*

VOL. VI, No. 13

November 27, 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.

PLANS MADE FOR
WASHINGTON MOVE

Director Myer addressed the entire staff this afternoon, explaining in some detail the new emphasis in WRA policy on relocating evacuees outside of the projects and the need for establishment of one main office in Washington.

WRA is now moving into the fourth stage of the relocation program, the rehabilitation of evacuees throughout the United States except in areas excluded by the Army. Since this program involves a close coordination with other government agencies, the FBI, the State Department, and the Army among others, it becomes essential to concentrate the administrative staff in Washington. Simplification and tightening up of administrative lines is immediately necessary to insure the successful operation of the relocation program. Small offices will be set up in key cities throughout the country to facilitate the job of placing evacuees in productive American life where they will be able to help relieve the shortage of manpower.

Representatives of the Washington office are in San Francisco to aid in the transfer of personnel and equipment to Washington. Plans are under way to find temporary housing in Washington for those who are going east, and every effort is being made to accomplish the transfer as smoothly and quickly as possible.

PRIORITIES SOUGHT

Since the War Production Board has made it known that it will not consider individual applications for priorities unless as a part of an overall program, the Economic Management Divisions are now working out the details of the overall WRA program. Each project has been asked to submit its plans so that a program for each center can be submitted to WPB. This will include agricultural development, industries, and center construction, such as schools, warehouses, housing for the staff, etc. By the end of this week it is hoped that a general statement will be ready. Preparing this is an enormous task, particularly so since certain essential materials have by now become so scarce that even priorities do not guarantee their availability.

DIRECTOR APPOINTED
FOR MANZANAR

Ralph P. Merritt, former University of California official and later president of large cooperative growers associations in California, has been appointed Project Director at Manzanar. Mr. Merritt is widely known for his work during World War I as federal food administrator of California and later as president of the Rice Growers Association and the Sun Maid Raisin Growers. For several years he lived in the Owens Valley and knows the area intimately. For the past ten years he has engaged in ranching and mining in Inyo County and near Yerington, Nevada.

JUNIOR RED CROSS
AIDS CHILDREN

The Junior Red Cross is making available to children in the projects games, candy, toys, towels, washcloths, soap, crochet cotton, and other items, all of which will be distributed through the schools. The Junior Red Cross will also help in organizing groups of children outside the projects to write letters to the evacuee children. An exchange of letters between the Caucasian and Japanese youngsters, it is hoped, will contribute to a greater tolerance and understanding as well as aiding the evacuees' morale.

LEAVE REGULATIONS OUT

Administrative Instruction No. 22 (Revised), covering leave regulations, has been received. It specifies in detail the procedures to be followed for a short-term leave, leave to participate in a work group, indefinite leave, leave clearance, application by participants in work groups for other leave, and leave files. The instruction also includes sample forms which are to be followed.

More than 1000 applications for indefinite leave have been filed for clearance with the FBI by the Employment Division in Washington. About 150 have been approved, but most of these are persons who filed application for leave before getting offers of employment.

LAND GRANT RAILROAD RATES

The solicitor has rendered opinions to the effect that land grant railroad rates may be applied to the rail transportation of certain property by WRA. The property must be of a type considered "military property moving for military and not for civil uses." This includes all materials, equipment, and supplies required for the basic needs of evacuees; for the establishment and demarcation of relocation areas, and for roads or other means of access to such areas; for construction and maintenance of certain developments and improvements; and for use of the other branches of the Federal, State or local governments or Allies in prosecution of the war. Surplus crops shipped for sale on the open market are not subject to the land grant rates.

PROJECT REPORTS:

Manzanar: Managers of Blocks 16 and 22. Here are the detailed daily reports for one month of the managers of two selected blocks which show the wide range of services performed by the managers.

Tule Lake: Visit of Hugh Ball. This report shows the attitude of evacuees toward the evacuation and the project as expressed to Hugh Ball, one of the founders of the JACL and a good friend of many evacuees. The replies to his questions are more frank than those given to most interviewers.

Tule Lake: What the colonists like about project life. In contrast to a previous report on the fears of the colonists, this one reports the advantages of residing in a project, including the release from responsibility of operating businesses during the war period, the opportunity of training in specialized fields, the security from unpleasant incidents outside, and the opportunities for marriage.

Central Utah: Weekly narrative report of November 20. Highlights of the previous week's activities at this project were the completion of winterizing of the barracks including the installation of all stoves; receipt of an adequate supply of coal; the return of nearly a hundred workers, thus relieving the labor shortage on the project; completion of the coal-loading dock; canals and diversion gates about ready for the start of irrigation; an increasing number of cracked chimneys; plans made for a four-day Harvest Festival over Thanksgiving; and experimentation and testing of each type of coal-burning stove to determine the amount of coal needed for future use and to supply information whereby rationing of coal or management of its use may be put into effect intelligently.

FROM PROJECT PAPERS

Tulean Dispatch:

Individual records of the total population in the ten relocation centers will be sent to Tule Lake for coding.....The city charter was ratified on Nov. 16 by a vote of 3530 to 3089.....The judicial committee acquitted 31 persons of the charge of gambling.....Parents have been asked to cooperate in keeping up school attendance.....Seven issei were elected to the City Planning Board.....All Sears, Roebuck orders placed through the canteens will entitle the Community Enterprises to receive a commission.....More than 250 students have registered for college credit courses.

Topaz Times:

Now names have been given to the city streets. Streets running east and west have been named after precious and semi-precious stones found on the project area and streets running north and south after native trees and shrubs..... Authorization has been made for the purchase of 200 head of cattle.....The hospital has made an appeal for blood donors.....A considerable part of evacuees' household goods has now reached the project.....A library in the church offices will be maintained by the Inter-Faith Ministerial Association.

Gila News Courier:

Formal opening of the Butte units of the hospital was held on Nov. 22.....
Lettuce, green onions, and spinach are now being harvested.....50 trucks have
been acquired to ease the transportation problems. They were formerly used by
the CCC.....A shortage of crates was faced by the agriculture department.....
Thanksgiving Day was to be the occasion for a Harvest Festival, complete with
queen, coronation ball, and parade.

Minidoka Irrigator:

Electrification of the barbed wire fence around the center proved to have been
done by the contractor to discourage residents from cutting the wire. The
generator was disconnected, since it was not authorized by WRA or by the Army.....
The Co-op Board of Directors recommended that the proposed bus service be dropped
as well as the showing of movies.....A large crowd attended the arts and crafts
exhibit.....Chairs, pianos, and organs have arrived from Buddhist and Protestant
churches of Seattle. and Portland.....21 nisei and kibe were appointed to the
Military Intelligence Service School in Savage, Minn.

Manzanar Free Press:

A policeman was injured when attacked by an unknown gang.....Plans are being made
for a carnival on December 5th and 6th.....Co-op Congress voted to sponsor
movies and a shoe-repair shop.....A new charter is being planned for the city
government. Election of committeemen was held on Nov. 22.....In nine days the
shoyu factory produced 1500 gals. of sauce.

Poston Press Bulletin:

Work on a swimming pool for Unit II has begun.....A second shipment of books and
chairs for the elementary schools was received.....A new canteen was opened in
Unit I on Nov. 16. This is the largest one so far to be established.

ATTORNEY ARRIVES

Edgar Bernhard has arrived from Washington to assume the duties of attorney for
the Evacuee Property Division, which is to remain in San Francisco. Kent Silver-
thorne will remain here as Mr. Bernhard's assistant. Edwin E. Ferguson, Regional
Attorney, leaves tonight for Washington.

CONTRACT SIGNED
FOR NET FACTORIES

The U. S. Engineers have signed a contract with John M. Stahl, president of the
Southern California Glass Company, to operate camouflage net factories at Gila
River, Manzanar, and Colorado River. This is the first contract to bring
private industrial management into the projects in this region.

(Information Roundup - 11/27/42)

Under this arrangement the contractor will pay evacuees the outside prevailing wages on a piece-work basis. The evacuees will determine how the wages are to be paid in those amounts over the regular project scale. It is estimated that about 960 will be employed at both Gila River and Colorado River and 655 at Manzanar. Operations under the new plan are expected to begin next week.
