

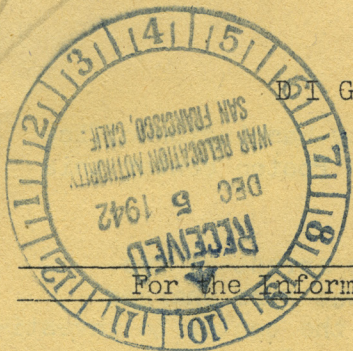
Bijalord

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

D I G E S T O F I N F O R M A T I O N

Washington Office

No. 27
November 28, 1942



For the Information of the WRA Staff Only -- Not for Publication

EVACUEE POPULATION -- 102,700 --

The evacuee population at relocation centers totaled 102,700 for the week ending November 21. With the sugar-beet harvest nearly over and the demands for seasonable farm labor decreasing, persons employed in such labor are returning to the centers in increasing number.

Populations reported for each project were as follows, figures given as of November 21 with the exception of Minidoka, Poston, and Jerome which are for November 14:

Poston	17,107	Rohwer	8,290
Tule Lake	14,730	Central Utah	7,800
Gila River	13,246	Jerome	7,655
Heart Mountain	10,197	Minidoka	7,587
Manzanar	9,641	Granada	6,386

HAWAII EVACUEES ARRIVE --

The first contingent of alien and native-born Japanese to be evacuated from Hawaii were brought in this week to the relocation center at Jerome, Arkansas. There were 107 in the group, most of them women and elderly persons.

SURVEY WRA MATERIAL NEEDS --

Data and information on the over-all requirements of WRA for building materials and equipment in 1943 are now being assembled at relocation projects and field offices and it is expected that a consolidated statement of such needs will be laid before the War Production Board within the next two weeks.

The survey will cover the expected requirements of the ten projects for all building construction, other than schools and administrative quarters, and materials and equipment needed in land subjugation programs. Other federal agencies with construction programs are also being asked to submit a statement of their needs.

REPORT ON POSTON ---

Below is a summary of a report received by the Washington office on the incidents which led to the disturbance at the Poston center this week.

The start of the trouble, apparently, was the arrest of two evacuees at Poston Unit No. 1 Sunday, November 15, who were charged with beating up another evacuee. FBI men came into the center to investigate the case and this created resentment on the part of a certain group of evacuees, said to be pro-Axis.

Taking advantage of the fact that the Project Director, the Assistant Project Director and the chairman of the Community Council were absent from the project, this group brought pressure to bear resulting in the resignation of the Community Council of Unit 1. A general strike was also called but the walk-out did not interrupt any of the essential services at the Unit.

Contrary to newspaper accounts the military police were never called inside the project and there was no violence. The report also states that there was no barricade of the community jail.

SCHOOL BUILDING CONTRACTS --

With WPB approval obtained on materials for construction of school buildings at eight of the relocation centers, contracts are now being let and requisitions for materials being placed. Still pending before the War Production Board are applications for construction of the school buildings at Poston and Gila River. John Provinse, Chief of the Community Management Division, and Morris Seltzer, Procurement Officer, met with officials of WPB Wednesday in regard to the latter two applications.

EVACUEE CHRISTMAS PARTIES --

Arrangements are being made to hold community-wide Christmas parties for all children at each relocation center, with the general program in charge of project staffs and evacuee groups.

National church and social welfare groups are actively cooperating in the arrangements and are making a collection of gifts to be distributed to each child at the centers. These organizations include various church denominations working through the Home Missions Council, the American Friends Service Committee, the Bretheran Service Committee, Unitarians, the Common Council for American Unity, YWCA Girl Reserves and many other groups. The Japanese American Citizens League is assisting in correlating the efforts of various organizations so that distribution of gifts may be uniform at the various centers. Local organizations in communities near some of the centers are also helping in the arrangements.

STUDENT RELOCATION ---

A supplement to Administrative Instruction No. 22 will be issued shortly outlining new procedures to be followed in handling applications for the student relocation program.

Clearances have been obtained from FBI for an additional 35 students, most of whom expect to enter college next semester.

A list of 30 additional colleges has been submitted to the War and Navy Departments for approval.

CENTRAL PURCHASING OFFICE ---

A plan is under consideration for the establishment of a central purchasing office in New York City to serve the community enterprise set-ups at all relocation centers.

RUNDQUIST HERE ---

George Rundquist, executive secretary of the Committee for the Resettlement of Japanese Americans, conferred last Saturday with T. W. Holland, Chief of the Employment Division, and John Province, Chief of the Community Management Division, in regard to plans for assisting evacuees in finding outside jobs and in helping them to reestablish themselves in the communities to which they go. The Committee is working under the auspices of the Federal Council of Churches and maintains its office in New York.

LEAVE CLEARANCE SPEEDED ---

FBI clearance of applications for indefinite leaves has been speeded up considerably during the past ten days, with action now taken on more than half of the applications filed with the Bureau prior to November 1, according to Robert Frase, Acting Chief of the Employment Division.

Most of those going out of centers are single men and girls, with a scattering of married couples and a few parents going to live with children.

T. W. Holland, Chief of the Division, is now on a field trip during which he will visit six of the relocation centers for conferences with project employment officers. A field office of the Employment Division is also expected to be set up soon in Chicago.

TEMPORARY LEAVES ---

Granting of temporary 30-day leaves has NOT been suspended at the

Granada and Heart Mountain projects as reported in some quarters. An administrative ruling has been made, however, that it is not permissible to grant such temporary leaves to persons wishing to take outside jobs while their applications for indefinite leave are still pending and awaiting clearance.

Temporary leaves for such purposes will be granted only in special cases and upon the approval of the Director. In some instances it will be possible to issue group-work leaves, rather than temporary leaves, for those who have offers of jobs in areas which have already been approved for evacuee labor.

CANADIAN EVACUATION --

The Canadian government has completed the evacuation of approximately 23,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from western British Columbia, the movement being accomplished over about the same period as our own evacuation program.

The Canadian relocation program is, however, slightly different since not all those evacuated were moved to relocation centers. The distribution of evacuees from Western Canada who were moved to the interior has been as follows: 13,500 to interior housing projects; 2,000 to road camps; 1,000 to self-supporting projects; 4,500 to sugar-beet farms; and 2,500 to other supervised employment.

SOLICITOR'S OPINIONS ISSUED --

In recent opinions issued by the Solicitor's Office it is held:

That if certificates of membership or other security issues are sold only to evacuees resident within a given center, such cooperatives are exempt from the application of the Securities Act of 1933 which requires that securities be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, provided further that the total of such security issues is not in excess of \$100,000. (No. 34)

That WRA may sell or issue to evacuees without charge, the clothing it has obtained from surplus stocks of the Army. (No. 35)

That the cooperative association at Manzanar is liable for both state and federal taxes on income earned during the period when the enterprises were operated on a temporary basis prior to their formal incorporation as cooperatives; and that patronage refunds may be deducted from net income if made in the form of credits on paid-up membership interests. (No. 37)

That evacuee lawyers on the staff of the Project Attorney have the right to use franked envelopes in mailing letters which they have written and signed in the course of rendering legal assistance to evacuees. (No. 38)

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS (For Week Ending November 21)

CENTRAL UTAH --

The first heavy snow-fall---and the first "real winter" experience for many of the evacuees. The coal supply is adequate; all barracks have stoves and have been winterized. Many of the chimneys are cracking and will need repair. Schools are operating on a half-day schedule. Plans made for an ice-rink, 440 x 400 feet. Adverse weather has slowed down the making of adobe brick for poultry houses. Plowing has been done on 700 acres. Fences and corrals for livestock are being built. More than 100 workers have returned from outside harvest fields which will relieve somewhat the shortage of labor reported by many of the administrative divisions at the project.

MANZANAR --

Back to the center from outside harvest fields came 356 workers. Many reported receiving unfair and prejudicial treatment and that they made little more than expenses, but most of them felt the experience had been beneficial and look forward to going out again next year. The police force apprehended the ring-leader of a group of boys who threw stones through windows of the apartment occupied by the police-woman and her family.

ROHWER --

Six officers of the Western Defense Command visited the project. A great deal of progress was reported by crews working in the woods to get out center's winter fire-wood supply. Chairs for the schools were received. No leaves were granted. Twenty-six Japanese soldiers, most of them stationed at nearby Camp Robinson, visited relatives and friends at the project.

TULE LAKE --

Eight indefinite leaves granted, one to take outside jobs, three to join husbands or fiancées, four transferred to other projects. There were 30 cases of measles, 27 cases of chickenpox. Two mess-hall fires, one doing \$150 damage.

GRANADA --

Thirty-one leaves were granted to persons taking outside jobs. Preliminary draft of community government charter completed.

HEART MOUNTAIN --

Money-orders sold by the post office during the week totaled \$14,663.02. Work of lining the irrigation canal suspended during the week because of unfavorable weather. The dentistry department has

treated 645 patients since the center opened. State geologist visited project in cooperating on clay research for the pottery. Approximately 400 women are enrolled in embroidery classes. A small crew of evacuees is employed at getting the project saw-mill, located about 30 miles from the center, into operation. A shortage of housing units at the center is reported. The Employment Division is swamped with requests for transfers to other centers. Contracts let for project school buildings.

MINIDOKA --

Land is being cleared for an airport about a half-mile from the center. Evacuees may be recruited for work in coal and copper mines. The board of directors of the cooperative association has recommended that bus service for the center be suspended.

JEROME --

Governor Adkins visited the center; said he found no evidence that evacuees were being "pampered". Seventy-three per cent of the qualified voters turned out for the election to choose 30 members of the temporary Community Council. A saw-mill has been set up for sawing planks.

