

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

DIGEST OF INFORMATION

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For the Information of the WRA Staff Only -- Not for Publication

TWO NEW PROJECT DIRECTORS --

The appointment of project directors for the relocation centers at Gila River and Manzanar was announced this week.

Ralph P. Merritt has assumed his duties as director at Manzanar, succeeding Solon Kimball of the San Francisco staff who has been acting in that capacity for the past month.

Project director at Gila River will be Leroy H. Bennett, replacing R. B. Cozzens, also of the San Francisco office who has been acting director. Bennett was formerly on the staff of the Industrial Division of WRA in San Francisco.

DIRECTOR RETURNS --

Director Dillon Myer returned to Washington Saturday from a trip to the field during which he visited several relocation centers, attended a conference of project directors at Salt Lake City, delivered an address at the national meeting of the JACL also in Salt Lake City, conferred with General DeWitt, and held numerous conferences at the WRA office in San Francisco relative to reorganization plans for the Authority.

Leland Barrows, Executive Officer, who accompanied Mr. Myer on the trip out, is expected to return to Washington Tuesday.

SPANISH CONSUL TO VISIT CENTERS --

Mr. DeAmat, the Spanish consul at San Francisco, is scheduled to make an official visit to several of the relocation centers beginning next week. He will be accompanied by Bernard Gufler, Assistant Chief of the Special Division in the State Department.

Centers which they expect to visit before Christmas are Gila River, Poston, Manzanar, and Tule Lake. During the month of January, the Spanish Vice Consul, Mr. Martin, will accompany Mr. Gufler on visits to the centers at Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Central Utah, and Granada.

Ralph Stauber, Relocation Planning Officer, who is making arrangements for the visit of the Spanish officials, said that the call is not being made as a matter of rights under the Geneva Convention but rather under the general right of the protecting power to maintain contact with citizens of Japan living at the centers. The Spanish government is the protecting power for Japanese interests in this country.

The visit of the Spanish officials will also give an opportunity for those wishing repatriation to make inquiry in regard to matters pertaining to that program.

LENS CONTRACT CANCELLED --

The contract with the Polarizing Instrument Company of New York City for the establishment of a lens-grinding factory at the Heart Mountain relocation center has been cancelled by the Army Air Corps. The company was unable to make the necessary financial arrangements to operate the plant.

The cancellation means that the facilities will be converted to some other use.

TENT FACTORY TO START --

The tent factory at Tule Lake is scheduled to get into production about December 15 in manufacturing tents for the Army Quartermaster's Corps.

The factory will be operated by a private concern, the Sun Tent Luebbert Company of Los Angeles, and will employ about 300 evacuees. It was originally intended to be operated as a WRA enterprise.

The contract has been re-negotiated to provide for a higher unit price for manufacture of the tents and covering the use of a heavier, fire-resistant grade of canvas that was called for in the original contract, and the cost of labor involved in packing the tents for over-seas shipment.

INFORMATION MATERIAL SENT --

A considerable quantity of literature relating to various phases of the relocation program has been sent out by the Office of Reports for distribution to those in attendance at national conferences of the Federal Council of Churches and the Home Missions Board being held at Cleveland this week and next. The material was sent at the request of George Rundquist, executive secretary of the Committee for the Resettlement of Japanese Americans, an organization set up by the Federal Council of Churches to assist in relocating evacuees outside the centers.

A quantity of informational material dealing with relocation has also been requested by the Friends Service Committee for distribution.

SABIN TO GIVE TALK --

Donald R. Sabin of the Agricultural Division will deliver a talk Monday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in Chicago. He will take the place of Director Myer who was originally scheduled for the talk. Sabin will outline the relocation program in general and also discuss equipment problems of relocation centers.

INTERNAL SECURITY SECTION --

A new section to assist projects in the organization and supervision of their internal security set-ups is being established under the Community Management Division in Washington. Heading up the section will be Willard E. Schmidt who has been chief of internal security at the Manzanar project.

He expects to come to Washington within the next two weeks, visiting Heart Mountain and other centers enroute.

LUCY ADAMS AT MANZANAR --

Mrs. Lucy Adams, consultant on education at the San Francisco office, has gone to Manzanar where she will be acting superintendent of schools for two or three weeks during the absence of Mrs. Genevieve Carter who is on leave.

Dr. Lester K. Ade, consultant on education in the Washington office and Mrs. Adams conferred Monday this week at Manzanar in further reference to the preparation of a standard list of school equipment and supplies which it is expected will be issued shortly for the guidance of relocation projects in purchasing such supplies.

QUARTERLY REPORT COMPLETED --

The first quarterly report covering the operations of the War Relocation Authority from the date of its inception, March 18, through June 30 will be issued next week. Copies will be distributed to the WRA staff, to interested members of Congress, various congressional committees, federal agencies and private organizations which have co-operated in the relocation program.

The report was prepared by M. M. Tozier, Assistant Chief of the Office of Reports, and it is expected that the second quarterly report, from July 1 to September 30, will be issued before the first of the year.

MISS GIFFORD TO SPEAK --

Miss Selene Gifford, public welfare consultant in the Community Management Division, will go to Chicago next week to give a talk December 12 on the relocation program at the annual meeting of the American Public Welfare Association. In attendance at the three-day session will be state and local public welfare administrators from all over the country. At the close of the session, Miss Gifford expects to go to Little Rock and then visit the Arkansas projects.

DISCUSS ADULT EDUCATION --

Proposals for expanding vocational training and adult education programs at relocation centers were discussed Thursday by John Provinse, Chief of the Community Management Division, and Dr. Allen C. Blaisdell of Berkeley, California, who was employed by WRA for a three-month period to make a study of the possibilities in this field.

Dr. Blaisdell recently submitted his report and recommendations after discussing the problem of education for evacuees beyond the high school level with a large number of educators in the West. It is hoped that a program can be worked out to provide additional vocational training and extension courses for evacuee students who are unable to finance college educations.

150 LEAVES GRANTED --

About 150 applications for indefinite leave have been granted thus far, of which about 100 went to evacuees taking jobs with private employers. Most of these found jobs through their own contacts and the rest have been placed through the aid of WRA and co-operating agencies. The Chicago area, Minneapolis and St. Paul have offered greatest opportunities for employment thus far.

Granada, Manzanar, Central Utah and Minidoka lead the projects in the number of applications for advanced leave clearance, according to Robert Frase, Acting Chief of the Employment Division, with Heart Mountain and Granada leading in the number of persons who have outside jobs. Most of the evacuees leaving these two centers have taken jobs in the surrounding area.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY ATTITUDES --

Field representatives of the Employment Division were asked to make a report on community attitudes and the restrictions imposed on evacuee workers in the various counties where they were employed in harvest work. Excerpts from these reports are given below:

In Montana, restrictions were generally relaxed in most counties. When evacuees first came into Broadwater county, they were barred from movies and pool-hall. Only restrictions now (November 18) are at saloons and one drugstore. At Valier in Pondera county, conditions were very good and all stores and business houses were open to evacuees. At Conrad evacuees were barred from loading cafes but other business places welcomed them. The attitude toward them in Great Falls was "not too good", due mostly to the large number of soldiers in the city which it was felt might lead to trouble.

Missoula was distinctly unfriendly although business houses remained open to evacuees. In Hamilton, Corvallis and Stevensville, conditions were good and no restrictions were imposed---with the exception that at Hamilton, evacuees were barred from a Chinese restaurant.

In Idaho counties, very few restrictions were imposed, although at first some attempts were made to enforce curfew. Evacuees living at FSA labor camps are free to go to town at any time. Practically all business places were open to them. Enforcement officers have been generally co-operative.

Generally speaking, evacuees made a good impression in most areas and will be welcomed back in the spring planting season.

FARM BUREAU HITS STUDENT RELOCATION --

The California Farm Bureau Federation at its annual convention in Fresno last week adopted a resolution asking "elimination of preferred education for persons of Japanese ancestry in view of American youth interrupting training to serve the country."

BOOKS ADDED TO LIBRARY --

Books added to the WRA library recently include: "Japanese in the United States" by Yamato Ichihashi, and "Race: Science and Politics", by Ruth Benedict.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES --

Recently published articles of interest to WRA staff members and copies of which are available at the library include:

"Some Japanese in Hawaii" by Blake Clark, in Asia Magazine for December. An article by Carl Sandburg in the November 29 issue of the Washington Post; an article in Time Magazine of November 30 on the award of the distinguished service medal to Col. Bendetsen for his direction of the evacuation program; an article in December 7 issue of Newsweek, on the Poston incident.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS (For Week Ending November 28)

ROHWER --

Eighty evacuees transferred from Jerome center; 23 returned from harvest work in Idaho. Good progress reported by crews working in woods in cutting winter supply of fire-wood. Shortage of trucks and other motor equipment reported at center and additional office equipment also needed.

TULE LAKE --

More sugar-beet workers return to center. Six indefinite leaves granted, three to persons taking jobs. There were 34 cases of measles, 8 cases of chickenpox. New permanent community council taking office December 1. Center visited by recruiting party from Camp Savage military intelligence school and 35 evacuees recruited to attend the school. All mess-halls served turkey with usual trimmings for Thanksgiving, and a community program was held. Plan expansion in adult education program. Additional quarters completed for administrative staff. The center marked the sixth month of its existence. Director Shirroll reported the conference of WRA project directors at Salt Lake City very helpful, hopes they will be held periodically.

CENTRAL UTAH --

Eight additions made to teaching staff. Supervising head nurse resigned. Thanksgiving celebration held featured by band concerts, a talent show and school program. A dedication ceremony was also held at the installation of a large bell loaned by one of the Delta churches for the civic center. Faculty members of Utah University conferred with project officials on educational matters.

JEROME --

Group of 107 evacuees from Hawaii received; 69 returned to center from outside harvest work. First meeting of temporary council held and organization meeting set for November 30. Approximately 4,000 attended special Thanksgiving day services. Former missionaries to China visit center. The weather turned

colder, stimulating wood-cutting operations. Construction has been completed in about one-half of the occupied blocks. Construction of walks is underway by a crew in each block. The building of ten four-apartment houses for administrative personnel is about to start. Hope to open center schools November 30.

HEART MOUNTAIN --

Back from the sugar-beet harvest came 251 workers. Three teachers resigned. The three community stores had a \$12,800 business volume during the week. Money orders issued: \$9,896. Construction of high school about to start. Night school enrollment totals 1,144. Work of partitioning living quarters continues. Cutting of timber for sawmill project expected to get underway next week.

MANZANAR --

Now project director, Ralph P. Merritt, assumes duties November 26. Proposal being considered to have private contractor take over the camouflage net factory, hiring evacuees to do the work. Workers returning from outside harvest labor numbered 251. Two elementary teachers resigned.

GRANADA --

Robert O'Brien, national field director for the Student Relocation Council, visited the center. An undisclosed number of evacuees left for Boulder, Colorado, where they will serve in teaching capacities at the U. S. Navy language school. Gambling is a center problem. First issue of "Granada Protestant Church Sunday School News" published. First burial made at center cemetery.