

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

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For the Use of the WRA Staff Only - NOT FOR PUBLICATIONREGISTRATION NEARS COMPLETION --

Minidoka was the first project to complete registration in all categories, having finished on February 25; Manzanar and Central Utah completed registration on February 26; Colorado River on March 3. At Gila River males from 17 to 38 years of age had been registered by February 25. Other projects were rapidly nearing the end of registration, with March 10 the deadline.

MILITARY AREA BOUNDARY MOVED --

The Western Defense Command announced that effective March 4, 1943, the War Department was moving the Arizona boundary of Military Area No. 1 approximately 60 miles south of its original location. This means that both Poston and Gila, plus all of Pinal County and much of Maricopa and Yuma counties, are no longer in the Japanese exclusion zone. Immediately following the War Department announcement, WRA announced that evacuees removed last summer from the strip thus reclassified will be allowed to leave the relocation centers as soon as they can be positively identified. Approximately 215 people are involved: 209 at Poston and six at Gila. Evacuees visiting the Arizona projects hereafter will not need escorts unless they pass through the evacuated area en route.

SENATOR CHANDLER AT MANZANAR --

Senator Chandler of Kentucky, chairman of the Senate sub-committee investigating the relocation program, was at Manzanar on March 3 and 4. This is the first relocation project he has visited to date. His future itinerary has not been announced.

LEAVE CLEARANCES --

As of March 5, about 15,000 applications for indefinite leave had been received. This included 4,000 received since February 27 as a result of the registration program at the centers. Indefinite leaves granted totalled 2471 and leave clearances, 2453.

During the month of February 9,000 applications were received, 971 indefinite leaves granted, and 1,681 leave clearances approved.

MORE WPB APPROVALS --

Last week the Facilities Review Committee of the War Production Board approved a pork and poultry unit, partitions for barracks, and a carpentry, plumbing and electrical shop at Tule Lake; a dairy farm at Gila River; a bakery and a carpentry, plumbing, and electrical shop at Manzanar; a bakery at Minidoka; and a pork and poultry unit at Central Utah.

STAFF HOUSING ACUTE AT GILA --

Because of a delay in the construction of staff housing and an increase in project personnel, no living quarters are available at Gila River for visitors to the project. Until the administrative quarters are finished, there will be no relief.

BUDGET HEARINGS HERE --

Hearings in WRA on the budget for the coming fiscal year were held on Saturday and Sunday, March 6 and 7. Estimates must be submitted to the Bureau of the Budget by March 15.

Project budgets were due in Washington on March 1, but on that date they had been received only from Central Utah and Rohwer. As of March 5, only three more had come in--Minidoka, Heart Mountain, and Jerome.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL NEEDED --

With the possibility of evacuee doctors and nurses leaving the projects on indefinite leave, the problem of maintaining adequate medical staffs is receiving considerable attention. All projects are urged to consider seriously the problem involved, since a shortage of doctors and nurses would affect evacuee health. Dr. G. D. Carlyle Thompson is at present in the field and will attempt to recruit additional doctors. Two more chief nurses were scheduled to report for duty this week.

CORE CURRICULUM SUCCESSFUL --

Use of the core curriculum--a course of study under which project activities are tied in directly with the school program--is proving most successful at Minidoka. The work program is being emphasized, and nearly 300 students are working part time.

At Central Utah the Director of vocational agriculture is conducting an agricultural education program that is the more remarkable in the excellent results shown, because most of the children are city-bred. Even girls are showing an aptitude for the work. Many types of interesting projects are being carried on, such as chicken raising, pig raising, calf raising, and experimental farming.

STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ---

| <u>Project</u> | <u>No.</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>PD-200's</u> <u>Prepared</u> | <u>Approved</u> | <u>Rejected</u> | <u>PD-200's to</u> <u>be Prepared</u> |
|----------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Central Utah | 27 | \$ 588,261 | 23 | 12 | 3 | 4 |
| Colorado River | 23 | 2,105,920 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| Gila River | 24 | 1,252,902 | 21 | 10 | 2 | 3 |
| Granada | 19 | 677,357 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 16 |
| Heart Mountain | 19 | 716,499 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 14 |
| Jerome | 17 | 777,702 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 15 |
| Manzanar | 23 | 609,418 | 21 | 14 | 1 | 2 |
| Minidoka | 19 | 613,683 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| Rohwer | 18 | 772,200 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 |
| Tule Lake | 27 | 907,200 | 22 | 11 | 3 | 5 |
| Totals | 216 | \$9,021,149 | 123 | 65 | 13 | 93 |

ARCHIVIST APPOINTED ---

Stuart Portner, formerly with the National Archives and for several years in charge of the WPA Historical Records Survey Project for Michigan, has been appointed Archivist in the Reports Division. Dr. Portner succeeds John Embree, who is now with the Community Services Division.

FROM PROJECT PAPERS ---

Agriculture and Construction: Work on a 30-acre park at Jerome will get under way soon, completion scheduled for about June 15.....At Granada a road to the main entrance gate from Highway 50 is being constructed.... Call for workers to develop land for cultivation has gone out at Jerome.

Education: Last month thirty-two were graduated from Granada's high school - the first senior class.....Tule Lake high school has organized a Student Forum, composed of the presidents of each class, representatives of home rooms, and presidents of the 27 clubs.....Course in conversational English for adults to be given at Gila River.....Second nursery school opened at Central Utah. Formal ground-breaking ceremony for new Topaz high school gymnasium-auditorium on February 22.....New curriculum advisor at Manzanar is Dr. W. Melvin Strong of the University of Utah.

Community Enterprises: Charter membership drive at Granada raised \$24,380.....Minidoka Irrigator is now a printed weekly, published by Consumers' Cooperative. First issue on February 27 consisted of eight pages with a mimeographed supplement containing cartoons and the Japanese edition.....Granada Co-op now has a stock of oriental foods.

CO-OPS TO BE REORGANIZED --

Plans are being made to help consumer enterprises in drawing up operating plans which will enable them to purchase commodities on a cash basis. In order to secure scarce goods, the project stores will have to be on wholesalers' lists of preferred customers--which means cash customers.

A meeting of the business staff of Community Enterprises will be held in New York to work out the new plans. Otto Rossman, Charles Beltt, Sulo Laakso, and Gerald Richardson will each visit two projects to assist local staffs in placing the plans in operation.

Sulo Laakso is a recent addition to the Community Enterprises staff and will be cooperative Superintendent at one of the projects. Mr. Laakso was formerly general manager of Greenbelt, Maryland, and merchandising consultant to the Consumer Distributors Corporation and the Edward J. Filene Fund.

LIBRARY NOTES --

Part 2 of the Senate Sub-committee on Military Affairs Hearings is now available in the Library. There is also a copy of the December issue of The Ace, published by the American Association of Agricultural College Editors, which contains an extremely fair-minded article on Granada by I. G. Kinghorn, Colorado Extension Editor. The writer blasts rumors of luxuries and emphasizes the American qualities of the evacuees.

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS PROGRAM OUTLINED --

An increasing need for more adequate information on social and psychological problems in project administration and relocation has resulted in the establishment of the Community Analysis Section in the Community Services Division. In the Washington office this work will be directly under the supervision of John Embree. At each center, community analysis will be handled by a qualified social investigator and analyst with the assistance of an evacuee staff.

The function of the Community Analysis Section will be to make relevant studies of the social structure and organization of the relocation center, including both formal and informal social groups. Special emphasis will be placed upon the degree of assimilation of the various groups, their place in the community, their attitudes toward one another and toward WRA, the effect of the evacuation upon both family and social controls, and the effect of administrative policies and procedure upon the evacuee community. Social trends within the center will also be studied and analyzed.

