

*Bigelow*

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

No. 50

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For the Use of the WRA Staff

CLEARANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Leave hearing cases which are not clearly eligible for leave on the basis of available information are now being considered by a review committee in the Washington office. The committee, appointed by the Director, is headed by Robert K. Thurber, and includes Solon T. Kimball, C. M. Featherston, and Allen Markley.

Under the procedure set up to facilitate leave clearance, dockets are forwarded to the committee after the hearings have been completed on the project. Cases are studied and classified, after which formal recommendations are forwarded to the Director. Final approval or denial of leave is then made, based on the known facts and the committee's recommendations.

This new procedure has eliminated much of the delay in handling such cases and has provided a means for giving all cases a judicial review. About two hundred cases have been processed to date, and it is estimated that more than 3,000 dockets will eventually be reviewed.

ROHWER BUILDS SUCCESSFUL IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Over 200 acres of vegetables at Rohwer were irrigated this season by means of a furrow-type irrigation system, never before used in Arkansas. This system, designed and built by evacuee farm workers at the center, has made it possible for Rohwer to maintain continuous vegetable production throughout the very dry season that prevailed in southeast Arkansas this summer.

Irrigation in humid Arkansas has heretofore been practically non-existent. Some farmers have used overhead sprinkler systems which are both costly to install and expensive to maintain. But irrigation of the furrow-type, as practiced on western farm lands, is wholly an innovation.

The system used at Rohwer required only a series of pumps to lift water from the bayou nearby to the planted area. The only maintenance cost is for the 20 gallons of gasoline which are needed daily to operate the pumps. By using this system, residents of the center were able to produce crops never before grown in Arkansas, and thus demonstrate that a wide variety of vegetables can be grown in the Mississippi delta section of the State.

Already the Rohwer experiment has created a great deal of interest among Arkansas farmers, and a number of independent producers are expected to install similar irrigation systems next year. Rohwer has scheduled 300 acres for furrow irrigation so far and may possibly increase this acreage.

RELOCATION MOVIE PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

Augmenting relocation drives now in effect at the Projects is the documentary series of motion pictures, "This is America", which is being shown at all relocation centers. This series of 8 complete programs has been compiled from the film libraries

of OWI, Department of Agriculture, and commercial organizations such as Greyhound Bus Lines, Standard Oil, and railroad companies, and contains factual and interesting material showing highlights of typical American cities and rural areas. It provides, in short, a good cross-section of life in the United States.

The first program of the series was viewed by 5,000 Tule Lake residents during the relocation campaign in August. Other programs of the series have been shown in other centers, with the films being interchanged between Projects according to scheduled presentation dates.

Evacuee reaction to these films has been excellent and a considerable amount of new interest in relocation has been stimulated. In some centers, relocation committees have followed up the movies with discussions, question-and-answer panels and other aids to relocation. The program will continue for several months until the 8 programs in the series have been exhibited at all centers.

#### BUSINESS ENTERPRISES PLAN CENTRAL BUYING SET-UP

The first step toward the federation of business enterprises for purposes of central purchasing and auditing was realized when delegates from the centers met in Chicago on September 28-30. The Meeting was attended by three delegates from each center and was devoted largely to a thorough discussion of the group buying problem.

It was proposed that a joint buying office be maintained in New York permanently, with expenses being shared equally by all business enterprises. Buyers thus appointed would be selected by the co-ops, and would receive regular salaries in accordance with the type of work performed.

The rapid growth of center enterprises, the scarcity of merchandise, and the need for careful buying and merchandising has made such a plan highly desirable. At the present time WRA is maintaining only one buyer in New York, and he has been physically unable to accommodate the heavy demands of all the centers. If the joint purchasing plan is adopted, business enterprises will be assured better service and wider coverage of commodity markets.

Business Enterprises Show Good Profit.--According to a recent study of current assets and liabilities, all center business enterprises have done well and are in good financial shape at the present time. Assets are far in excess of current liabilities, while sales have mounted steadily since establishment of the various enterprises. A comparative study of profits and sales is shown below:

SALES AND NET EARNINGS OF BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

to June 30, 1943

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>No. of stores</u>	<u>Sales from Beginning of Business to June 30, 1943</u>	<u>Net Earnings from Beginning of Business to June 30, 1943</u>	<u>Ratio of Current Assets to Current Liabilities</u>
Gila River	17	\$ 831,329.12	\$ 114,021.93	2.34 to 1
Ht. Mountain	12	654,783.46	95,495.75	1.67 to 1
Central Utah	16	241,066.65	54,024.17	2.23 to 1
Jerome	16	330,389.18	62,436.64	2.36 to 1
Poston	28	1,068,260.37	112,858.32	1.96 to 1
Tule Lake	20*	1,350,814.21	119,006.39	1.84 to 1
Rohwer	7	203,150.19*	35,332.55*	2.87 to 1
Manzanar	11	828,617.51	96,524.76	1.90 to 1
Minidoka	16	540,962.93	63,413.93	2.47 to 1
Granada	<u>11</u>	<u>297,897.90</u>	<u>32,215.21</u>	<u>2.76 to 1</u>
TOTALS	154	\$6,347,271.52	\$785,319.65	

\* (Estimated)

DIRECT RELOCATION PLAN MODIFIED (See DIGEST for September 15, 1943)

Modification of the original plan for relocating evacuees now in West Coast hospitals has been made, providing for general leave clearance for all who wish to apply. This clearance will be processed through the Washington leave office in co-operation with the Health Section in San Francisco.

Under the revised plan, evacuee patients who have been granted approval to relocate will be given written authorization, signed by the Field Assistant Director in San Francisco, stating that leave clearance has been granted and that the individual's relocation plan has been approved.

Before such authorization is given, however, the relocation plan must be approved by both the Chief Medical Officer and the appropriate Relocation Supervisor. The Health Section in San Francisco will outline the patient's plan to the appropriate Relocation Officer, requesting an investigation and report on the family's financial status and the facilities available in the community of destination for continued medical treatment, if necessary. If a social agency is utilized by the Health Section in the investigation, the completed plan will be submitted for approval to the Relocation Officer. Should the request originate in a Relocation Office, that office will contact the San Francisco Health Section.

Each patient's medical condition will be carefully evaluated in relation to the proposed plan by the Chief of the Medical Section to make certain that the proper medical care indicated in each case will be provided after relocation has been accomplished.

AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION

Only one resolution affecting WRA is definitely known to have been adopted at the convention of the American Legion held in Omaha during the week of September 20. This resolution recommended that "all functions of WRA and control of all persons of Japanese ancestry within the United States or territories be placed under the direct supervision of the War Department."

According to an Associated Press dispatch in the Los Angeles Times, dated September 23, however, another resolution was adopted by the convention urging the deportation at the end of the war of all aliens and all American-born Japanese who have been found disloyal to the United States.

CROP PRODUCTION GOALS WITHIN SIGHT

On the basis of current estimates, it seems likely that relocation centers will achieve about 90 percent of the acreage of vegetable production planned for the calendar year of 1943, according to Ernest H. Reed of the Agricultural Section. Actual production at the various centers will depend largely upon the date of the first killing frost.

Livestock production, however, is estimated at only about 75 percent of the plan developed in the spring. The deficiency is due partly to the delay in the construction of livestock buildings which had to be completed before production could begin and partly to the difficulty experienced in obtaining baby chicks and feeder hogs. A closer approach to the goal for 1943 is still possible if production is speeded up before the end of the season.

A comparative chart of vegetable production goals and acreage planted follows:

<u>Center</u>	<u>Acreage Planned</u>	<u>Acreage Planted</u>	<u>Percentage of planned acreage actually planted</u>
Central Utah	801	498	62
Colorado River	368	no report	no report
Gila River	1,653	1,653 (Est)	100
Granada	469	453	97
Heart Mountain	1,063	850	80

(cont.)

<u>Center</u>	<u>Acreage Planned</u>	<u>Acreage Planted</u>	<u>Percentage of planned acreage actually planted</u>
Jerome	630	590 (Oct. Est.)	94
Manzanar	308	320	104
Minidoka	420	238	56
Rohwer	610	610 (Oct. Est.)	100
Tule Lake	1,110	1,155	104

AVERAGE

90%

VALUE OF VEGETABLE CROPS (Est.)

\$2,801,500.

VALUE OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS (Est.)

1,416,000.  
\$4,217,500.

DEMAND FOR SUGAR BEET WORKERS SKYROCKETS

The need for seasonal workers to harvest sugar beet crops has increased to a point where intensive recruitment campaigns will have to be conducted in all centers in order to supply enough workers to meet demands.

It had been expected that requirements would be great, but the inability of the War Food Administration to recruit enough Mexican nationals for harvesting created an even greater demand for evacuee workers than was anticipated. The War Food Administration, sugar companies, and farm employer organizations are all working with Project Directors in setting up a program for the recruitment and use of evacuee labor.

CENTERS MAINTAIN EXCELLENT FIRE PROTECTION RECORD

Property losses resulting from fires at the centers during the quarter ending June 30 were far below the national average. Only 63 fires were reported during the 3-month period, with damage to buildings, contents, and equipment estimated at \$9,080. A large fire at Colorado River accounted for \$8,000. of the estimated total damage.

Fire losses for the quarter were less than 9½ cents per capita, which is particularly impressive inasmuch as the national per capita loss for 1942 was approximately \$2.50. The total population of the centers on June 30 exceeded 96,000 persons; buildings were valued at over \$40,000,000. A city of comparable size, such as Allentown, Pennsylvania, with a population of approximately 96,900, experienced fire losses of \$22,595 during 1942, with per capita losses estimated at 54 cents. On the West Coast, Pasadena, California, with a population of 81,800, and usually regarded as one of the country's best fire prevention cities, suffered losses estimated at \$83,670, the per capita loss being 88 cents.

The excellent record achieved is outstanding when it is realized that all project buildings are temporary affairs and highly flammable. In

addition, there have been problems of equipment and apparatus to be solved as well as the ever-present problem of recruiting and training inexperienced evacuees in fire protection work. Despite these handicaps, it has been possible to build up a staff of fire protection officers and evacuee firemen, and to maintain a fleet of fire trucks and apparatus necessary to insure complete protection. Fire protection staffs at all centers will continue to maintain constant vigilance to prevent the creation of new fire hazards and to eliminate those now existing.

#### ANOTHER COMMUNITY CHARTER ADOPTED

Residents at Gila recently accepted the community charter, and thus made their center the sixth one to adopt a long-range type of government. In addition to Gila, community governments are now functioning at Heart Mountain, Poston, Granada, Rohwer, and Topaz.

The Jerome charter has been approved by Washington and will be voted on as soon as segregation is completed. Minidoka is now in the process of revising and reviewing a proposed charter. Tule Lake will have no community government under segregation policies; an advisory group to the Project Director will, however, be established.

#### PERSONNEL CHANGES

Rex Lee, formerly Relocation Officer at Salt Lake City, has been transferred to Washington, replacing Robert Frase as Assistant Chief of the Employment Division.

Thomas Holland, Chief of the Employment Division, has resigned and is now associated with the National War Labor Board. For the time being at least, Deputy Director Elmer Rowalt will serve as acting Chief of the Employment Division.

Mark Benson, formerly with the Maritime Commission, has joined the staff of the Personnel Management Division and is assigned to the Placement Section. Meyer Weinger has been added to the Classification Section, replacing Melbourne Spector, who is now in the U. S. Army.

William Case, formerly with the Agriculture Section, has left to accept a position with the Commodity Credit Corporation of the Department of Agriculture.

#### LITIGATION

Mitsuye Endo Case. - (See Information Digest for August 2, 1943)

Attorneys for Mitsuye Endo, Tule Lake resident whose petition for

a writ of habeas corpus was denied, have appealed to the Circuit Court for the 9th Circuit. It is believed the appeal will be argued during November.

In handing down the decision, U. S. District Judge Michael J. Roche, Northern District of California, held that the petitioner must "exhaust her administrative remedy" before filing a petition with the Court. In other words, she must apply for indefinite leave in accordance with WRA regulations, and that only if such leave is denied by WRA may she ask for writ of habeas corpus.

The appeal will seek a reversal of this ruling on the ground that a citizen evacuee is entitled to leave a relocation center without being obliged to follow the administrative procedure of applying for leave.

Issuance of Solicitor's Opinion No. 77 --

This opinion concerning the probating of an evacuee's estate was recently issued by the Solicitor in order to guide WRA personnel in assisting evacuees with the problems of administering estates. The opinion discusses the more important legal problems involved, including jurisdiction for probate, appointment of an executor, delivery of property to representatives of estates, taxes, public administrators, family settlements and other matters.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM ACCELERATED

An intensive program of short-term vocational training designed to train workers for both on-Project and outside employment has been instituted in all relocation centers. The program provides for retraining and apprentice training for such skills as auto mechanics, sheet metal work, carpentry, and other essential occupations.

Most of the courses range from 3 weeks to 6 months, and lead directly to employment. Courses are designed to duplicate actual working conditions, using the facilities, equipment and technical personnel available at the centers. The program will be financed by funds allotted for the establishment of an Apprentice-Training Fund and will allow the employment of 100 apprentices at each center at the \$12.00 monthly rate.

Wherever possible, trainees will be employed in Project maintenance jobs and will receive actual on-the-job experience until such time as the courses have been completed or relocation has been effected.

AUGUST AT THE PROJECTS

CENTRAL UTAH:

Magazine ASIA gathered material for double-page spread of prize winning pictures by evacuee artists...500 children and activities leaders spent at least one week in summer camp...crop yields far below expectation, due to adverse soil and climatic conditions as well as late planting...162 indefinite leave applications granted...electro-cardiograph placed in operation at Project hospital...progressively greater number of residents used services of Evacuee Property Office...SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE published feature article and drawings made by resident evacuee artist... Joint Advisory Council Committee appointed to facilitate segregation,

GRANADA:

Agricultural program progressed well, although lack of sufficient labor delayed harvesting...116 indefinite leaves granted...80 Boy Scouts traveled to Mancos, Colorado to help dismantle old CCC camp...segregation progressed smoothly, with little misunderstanding or confusion...only 105 scheduled to transfer to Tule Lake...students entertained members of Pueblo Rotary Club...Co-op voted 10 percent patronage savings bonus and 6 percent interest on shares.

GILA RIVER:

Ship Model Shop delivered 223 models to Navy...Fluorine plant completed... local public relations improved, aided by personal contacts with Tucson and Phoenix newspaper publishers...More than 25,000 attended baseball games during the month... 1,622 women enrolled in pattern drafting and sewing classes...total of 4,753 evacuees employed on Project as of August 31.

ROHWER:

One hundred ninety-five granted indefinite leave...Co-op records reveal net profit of \$45,000 since operations began 11 months ago...1500 students participated in summer program... drought throughout August lowered agricultural yield...97 Boy Scouts took part in 5-day joint camp trip with troop from Arkansas City...new garage, ice house, and apartments for appointed personnel completed...Community Council appointed Segregation Committee to aid evacuees transferring to Tule Lake...country fair netted profit of \$1,260.

MINIDOKA:

Center baseball team participated in Idaho State Semi-Pro Tournament-- finished fourth...general public attitude in State continued good...segregation aided by 14-man committee composed of 7 segregants and 7 block delegates...housing readjustments due to segregation and arrival of transferees met with some evacuee opposition...second drowing of the summer occurred when 21 year-old youth lost his life in irrigation canal...first apartments for staff completed and occupancy started... Spanish Consular representative visited project...increased difficulty experienced in procurement of teachers...steady increase in number of cases handled by Evacuee Property Office...66 new cases opened during month.

JEROME

Election of new Board of Directors completed Co-op organization...high school sponsored carnival to raise funds for school annual--netted \$2,000...crops suffered



because of extreme heat and lack of moisture...166 indefinite leaves granted...Project visited by Congressional representatives who publicly expressed approval of the center...newspaper comments quite favorable...progress made in control of malaria and sanitary conditions--only one case of proven malaria in the area this year.

COLORADO RIVER:

Segregation and departure of repatriates for GRIPSHOLM sailing went along smoothly...public relations with Arizona press and political groups showed definite favorable trend...276 indefinite leaves granted...penal and traffic codes accepted by Council...100 tonsillectomies performed at center hospital during month...Evacuee Property Office succeeded in getting farm machinery in California released for shipment to other states where evacuee owners have relocated...planting begun later than usual because of extreme heat...turnover of personnel due to relocation began to be felt in various center employment enterprises...220 evacuee and appointed teaching personnel attended summer teacher training and curriculum workshop sessions which lasted 20 days.

TULE LAKE:

Frost every week in July and part of August resulted in poor growing season for crops--foresight in irrigating vegetable area saved considerable acreage...Co-op declared dividend of 8.8 percent...Project visited by Governor Snell of Oregon and State Senator Cornett--visitors well pleased with trip...butcher shop and slaughter house completed...residents interested in group farming organized a Tri-State Agricultural Society to facilitate raising of necessary funds...mail order and laundry services discontinued...committee organized to aid segregation...Spanish Vice-Consul visited project.

MANZANAR:

168-1/2 tons of vegetables harvested...dehydration and pickling plant processed 55,600 pounds of surplus farm products...public relations in surrounding area materially improved as result of making Project hospital facilities available to two Caucasian pioneers of Owens Valley...class of 78 students completed high school work in summer school...garment factory received first order for clothing from another center...75 indefinite leave applications granted...water conservation program inaugurated.

HEART MOUNTAIN:

148 leave clearances granted...medical social worker added to hospital staff...Evacuee Property Office handled 83 percent more cases than in July...general agricultural progress during month was good, with some harvesting completed...fire school held to instruct teaching personnel of center schools in fire prevention measures...sessions also held for hospital personnel...180 volunteer firemen taken to Yellowstone Park for course in forest fire-fighting...sawmill produced 58,946 board feet of lumber, valued at over \$3,000...Project visited by Governor Hunt and Senator O'Mahoney...9 press and radio people spent 2 days at Project, resulting in favorable publicity.