

Bigelow
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 StaffELMER ROWALT, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PASSES AWAY

Elmer M. Rowalt, Deputy Director died at his home in Silver Springs, Md. on Friday, October 8, after a brief illness.

A native of Ohio, Mr. Rowalt was 40 years old and had spent the major part of his professional life in agricultural administrative work. When WRA was created in March 1942, he was appointed Assistant Director by Milton Eisenhower, then WRA Director. Later, he was made Deputy Director, which position he held at the time of his death.

Director Myer stated, "Mr. Rowalt's judgement, administrative ability, and leadership will be sorely missed in WRA. The loss of his friendship will be a blow to all who knew him."

SEGREGATION COMPLETED

The last train to carry segregants to Tule Lake in the present segregation movement arrived at Tule Lake on Monday October 11 with 289 persons aboard. This completes the move, with the exception of approximately 1900 additional Manzanar residents who will be moved as soon as housing facilities at Tule are enlarged.

A total of 8,569 evacuees were moved to Tule Lake, while 6,250 were sent from Tule to 5 other centers. Approximately 6,600 remained at Tule Lake.

A total of 34 train movements were made during the program; 21 trains were used to carry evacuees to Tule Lake, while 13 trains took evacuees to other centers. The entire movement was handled by the Army, with Field Assistant Director Malcolm Pitts representing WRA. Train schedules were submitted by WRA to Army authorities who provided cars, military police and other equipment required in the move.

The breakdown below shows the number of evacuees sent from each center to Tule, as well as those transferred from Tule to other centers.

<u>CENTER</u>	<u>TO TULE LAKE</u>	<u>FROM TULE LAKE</u>
Central Utah	1447	1489
Colorado River	1358	--
Granada	125	989
Heart Mountain	866	1339
Jerome	1520	905
Gila River	1915	--
Manzanar	289	--
Rohwer	794	--
Minidoka	255	1528
<u>T O T A L S</u>	8569	6250

WELFARE SECTION INTERVIEWS THOUSANDS AT TULE LAKE

The movement of 7,000 evacuees from Tule Lake during the segregation program was greatly aided by the work of the Welfare Section which provided help and information to individuals and families through a program of personal interviews. Of the 7,000 residents who left Tule, 6,300 were moved to other centers while 600 to 700 re-located directly.

With 15,000 evacuees at Tule when segregation began, welfare interviews were held continuously under the supervision of Miss Selene Gifford and a staff of assistants. In addition to several members of the Washington office, interviews were conducted by 10 FSA Home Management Supervisors on loan from Agriculture, 9 temporary social workers recruited by the Civil Service Commission, and some evacuee personnel. Given 25 days to complete the job, the welfare staff finished all necessary work in 20 days, after which outward movements began.

Interviews were held for the purpose of: (1) determining choice of center for those leaving Tule; (2) giving help on any personal problems involved in the move, such as matters of health, special care, diet, or other family problems, and (3) making certain that all members of families were accounted for in the move.

Despite the fact that many resident workers left for other centers, all essential services continued to operate throughout the move. In many cases, evacuees worked overtime in order to maintain proper service. A number of key evacuee workers agreed to remain at Tule Lake until train movements are completed, after which special transportation to other centers will be provided for them.

AMERICAN LEGION AND VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS RESOLUTIONS

As reported in the last issue of the DIGEST, American Legion representatives passed several resolutions affecting WRA at their recent convention in Omaha. Since the publication of the last DIGEST, word has been received that two separate resolutions were adopted. The first demanded that the functions of WRA be transferred to the War Department. The second resolution which came in the closing hours of the convention, called for the deportation, at the conclusion of the war, of all alien and all American-born Japanese who have been found disloyal.

Legionnaires further favored the adoption of the following program in relation to both alien Japanese and Japanese-Americans:

- (1) The utilization in agriculture, wherever possible and practicable, exclusive of combat zones, of American-born Japanese, under Army Supervision.
- (2) The release of all Japanese-owned farm implements, cars, and tires for wartime use, under the doctrine of eminent domain.
- (3) The creation of a Congressional Fact-Finding Committee to study the Japanese problem in America, and to make recommendations for post-war action.
- (4) The passage of legislation by Congress to provide for the deportation of alien and American-born Japanese found to be disloyal to the United States.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: --

In addition to Legion resolutions, three resolutions were adopted by Veterans

of Foreign Wars at their National Encampment in New York on September 29th. The first of these was a commendation of General DeWitt, in appreciation of his "firm action in handling the Japanese situation on the Pacific Coast" when war was declared.

The second resolution demanded that all farm implements, machinery, vehicles, and other equipment owned by Japanese now in relocation centers be utilized by the Government, and returned to their owners after the war.

The third, and strongest resolution, opposed further relocation of evacuees. VFW representatives claimed that evacuees were being scattered throughout the country "apparently without control and proper surveillance". The convention expressed its opposition to the program of "infiltration into American communities of citizens and descendants of citizens of Japan".

DEPARTURE ON INDEFINITE LEAVE

Following is a summary of the number of evacuees leaving on indefinite leave between the weeks ending September 11 and October 2:

	<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 11	472	13,358
September 18	435	13,793
September 25	346	14,139
October 2	373	14,512

Tule Lake:

Relocation during the corresponding period at Tule Lake was as follows:

	<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 11	94	1337
September 18	104	1441
September 25	71	1512
October 2	53	1565

Seasonal Leave. -- The number of workers on seasonal leave has increased on a seasonal pattern. On October 2 there were a total of 7,588 evacuees out on seasonal leave. Only 6866 were on such leave on September 4, while July 31 found 6,530 seasonal workers away from centers.

EMPLOYMENT OF EVACUEES BY FEDERAL AGENCIES GAINING FAVOR

Another 18 Nisei girls have been offered jobs by Federal agencies in Washington with additional requests being received daily. Applications have been accepted and appointments requested by 7 Government departments, exclusive of WRA. Of the 18 girls accepted by the Government, 10 have arrived in Washington, and now await final

clearance before beginning their new jobs. In addition, 5 more agencies have requested names for certification and eventual appointment.

Nine Girls have been employed temporarily by the Community War Fund of Washington while awaiting final approval for Government jobs.

PROJECT EMPLOYMENT SET-UP REVISED

In order to separate activities of relocation and personnel management (employment) at the projects, the work of all project Employment Divisions has been divided between the newly-established Relocation Division and the Administrative Management Division.

Under the revised plan, the Relocation Division will be responsible for all programs and plans for relocation. A new section of the Administrative Management Division, to be known as the Personnel Management Section, will have full charge of personnel, including both evacuee and appointive personnel employment. In addition, this section will supervise the training of evacuees, testing of skills, and development of labor relations programs.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Leland Barrows, Assistant Director, is now acting Chief of the Employment Division.

Charlotte Dixon, formerly assigned to the Leave Clearance Section, has been transferred to the Personnel Management Section as a placement officer.

Dean C. McLean has been made head of the Seattle Property Office, replacing E. M. Joyce, now Reports Officer at San Francisco. Before coming with WRA, Mr. McLean owned and operated a large West Coast warehouse, as well as being active in other commercial and agricultural enterprises.

INFORMATIONAL LITERATURE FOR EVACUEES TO BE DISTRIBUTED

A series of illustrated pamphlets titled "Facts About America" is being prepared by the Reports Division, to be distributed at the centers for the information of evacuees.

The series will include statistical and factual data on the industries, agricultural production, recreational activities, and economic conditions in the states where evacuees are most likely to relocate. States on which pamphlets will be issued in the near future include: Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Maryland and Delaware.

In process of distribution is a series of illustrations showing relocated evacuees in their homes and jobs. These are intended primarily for posting in mess halls, recreation rooms, and other public places at the centers.

STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL TO BE DISOLVED

Plans for the eventual liquidation of the National Japanese-American Student Relocation Council were announced at a meeting in New York on September 29th. The organization will continue on a reduced basis for the present with total discontinuance set for March 1944.

The Council was originally created to aid in relocating those Japanese-American students whose college education had been interrupted by evacuation. With the enrollment of Japanese-American students in colleges now at the same level as before evacuation, Council officials believe that the primary aim of the group has been accomplished and that further activity is not necessary at this time.

EVACUEES OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN DISPOSING OF FARM IMPLEMENTS

Evacuees owning farm implements will be given further aid in disposing of them by means of a working agreement between California County War Boards and the San Francisco Evacuee Property Office.

Under present regulations of the War Food administration, County War Boards may offer to buy all idle farm machinery. If a purchase offer is refused, idle equipment may be requisitioned by these Boards. Before requesting the sale of evacuee-owned machinery, County War Boards have agreed to furnish the WRA Property Office in San Francisco with copies of letters sent to evacuees regarding proposed purchases. The State War Board has further agreed to withhold action until the Property Office has investigated the case through project Property Offices. In cases where evacuees are negotiating for leave clearance, California will extend the time limit until evacuees have contacted the War Board in the county in which they plan to relocate and made arrangements to move idle equipment.

This procedure will forestall the sale of equipment which evacuees have stored in contemplation of future relocation, and will enable center residents to arrange for the transfer of farm equipment as soon as leave clearance has been granted and relocation accomplished.

YWCA PLANS ASSIMILATION PROGRAM TO AID RELOCATED EVACUEES

Intensifying its work in community assimilation of relocated evacuees, the YWCA will launch activity programs in various large cities throughout the country. In conference with WRA officials last week were Mrs. Winona Chambers and Miss Esther Briesemeister of the National office of the YWCA. Acting as "representatives at large", Mrs. Chambers and Miss Briesemeister will work with both the Washington office and the projects on this program.

Kimi Mukai, formerly of the San Francisco YWCA and the Denver Relocation Office, has been assigned to the Chicago YWCA where she will be primarily concerned with the assimilation of Nisei in the Chicago area. The YWCA will study the effects of this program of assimilation in Chicago before undertaking similar programs in other cities.

ATTORNEY REFERRAL SYSTEM NOW IN OPERATION

Over 800 California attorneys have made their services available to evacuees by means of an attorney referral system now in effect. This plan enables evacuees to secure legal representation in matters which cannot be handled on projects by Project Attorneys.

Evacuees may choose a lawyer from a list of California attorneys who have expressed willingness to serve them. All negotiations are made through the San Francisco office of WRA where a list of attorneys is maintained. Evacuees requesting this service on special cases are given the names of three attorneys in the

locality of jurisdiction from which to choose.

The fee scale adopted is lower than those ordinarily charged for similar services. While relatively few evacuees have used this service to date, plans are being developed to inaugurate a similar system in Oregon. Washington attorneys have thus far declined to cooperate in such a scheme. Arizona authorities decided against the plan inasmuch as the volume of work would be negligible.

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY

Cushman - Safeguarding our Civil Liberties.

A Public Affairs Pamphlet giving the historical and legal background of our civil liberties as well as reviewing the "resources at our disposal for the protection of these liberties. "

Standish, Robert - The Three Bamboos.

A novel of modern Japan.

Book of the States. 1943-44. Issued by the Council of State Governments.

A reference book of current information on state governmental organization including administrative officials by function, recent legislation, taxation and finance, planning, welfare, law enforcement, and revised population estimates.

Miyamoto, Shotaro Frank. "Immigrants and Citizens of Japanese Origin. " (Reprint from Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, September, 1942.

World Almanac and Book of Facts, 1943.

PROCEDURAL ISSUANCES

The following procedural issuances have been issued since September 15:

HANDBOOK RELEASES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Approval</u>
3	Issuance of Leave for Departure from a Relocation Center--9 corrected pages	9/7/43
7	Finance Handbook --cover sheet, table of contents, index, forms reproduced	9/15/43
8	Educational Supplies	8/16/43
9	Priorities	8/7/43
10	Finance Handbook--notice of instructions superseded	9/23/43
11	Procurement--11 corrected pages	8/31/43
12	Issuance of Leave--5 corrected pages	9/7/43

MANUAL RELEASES

7	Regulations Affecting Evacuees	9/4/43
9	Regulations Affecting Evacuees (contraband)	9/11/43
10	Information and Reports	9/16/43
11	Information Useful to Evacuees	9/25/43
12	Bonding of Employees	9/25/43
13	Project Employment	9/25/43
14	Engineering	9/28/43
15	Provisions of Exclusion Program WRA Organization for Exclusion WRA Assistance to Excluees Other Agencies Part. in Exclusion	9/28/43
16	Basic Legislation and Orders	9/25/43
17	Education	10/5/43
18	Office Services	10/7/43