

Bojelan

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

No. 54

December 1, 1943

For the Use of the WRA Staff

RELOCATION TEAM STARTS TOUR

The first of a new series of relocation teams to visit the centers is scheduled to arrive at Rohwer on December 1st, for a 10-day visit. Headed by Harold Fistere, Cleveland Relocation Supervisor, the team includes Elmer Shirrell, Supervisor of the Chicago office, Dr. P. A. Weber, of the Salt Lake City office, Philip Barber, Washington Relocation Division, and Miss Gretchen vanTassel of the Reports Division in Washington.

The trip has been planned by the Washington Relocation Division as a means of furnishing center residents with the kind of information they require before making any decisions on relocation. The team will present a factual picture of conditions outside the centers, interpreting employment opportunities, as well as reporting on conditions in various relocation areas.

Supplied with last minute information of all kinds, team members will hold a series of afternoon and evening meetings with evacuee groups, with special emphasis on relocation opportunities for occupational groups. The material to be presented includes charts, photographs, newspaper clippings illustrating public attitudes, cost of living and housing studies, and other similar data. Highlighting the presentation will be the first showing of two WRA-produced sound motion pictures.

Shortly after Christmas, three more teams will be formed to visit additional centers. Announcement of future team membership and itineraries will be made after results of the Rohwer visit have been studied.

MILITARY POLICE UNITS REDUCED

Military police detachments at six centers have been reduced 50 percent. M. P. units at Rohwer, Heart Mountain, and Minidoka were completely relieved of duty at the centers and transferred elsewhere. They were replaced by half the present personnel of the companies stationed at Jerome, Granada, and Central Utah.

The removal of the troops was accomplished at the request of the War Department in order to relieve M. P. Units for duties which would make greater contributions to the military effort. The move met with the approval and cooperation of WRA. With segregation completed, it was felt that guard detachments could be reduced without endangering internal or external security.

While military units have been reduced by half, provisions have been made for the recall of military personnel in the event of any disturbances to protect either evacuees or civil communities. In most cases, additional units could be brought into troubled areas within an hour or two.

With the removal of the military guards, project officials are planning joint security programs which will call upon evacuee leadership to exercise greater responsibility in preserving law and order at the centers. It is felt that the success of such joint security programs will further develop public confidence in the evacuees and contribute to public acceptance of the relocation program.

#### DIRECTOR TO MEET RADIO AND PRESS COMMENTATORS

Nationally-known radio commentators and newspaper columnists will be invited to meet with Director Myer at a press and radio conference to be held at the Hotel Shelton in New York on Friday, December 3rd. The Director will present an up-to-date summary of the WRA program and will answer questions put to him by newsmen.

#### WRA MOVIES READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

After months of shooting, editing, recording, and processing, two WRA movies have been completed under the direction of the Reports Division, and will soon be distributed to all centers. The films GO FOR BROKE and THE WAY AHEAD will be given their first showing during the week of December 1st at Rohwer, when the relocation team visits that center.

GO FOR BROKE, photographed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi by WRA photographers Tom Parker and Charles Mace, shows the Nisei Combat Team in battle training, in preparation for overseas service. THE WAY AHEAD tells the story of former center residents who have relocated throughout the country. It depicts relocated evacuees at work and in their homes, and tells how they have entered into the life of their new communities. Both films are in sound and are photographed in color. A special Japanese language commentary will be provided for THE WAY AHEAD.

In the last stages of completion is a third film, A CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY, which has been planned for limited public distribution. This movie deals with the WRA program in general, showing life at the centers and the activities of evacuees who have been relocated. It is expected to be ready for distribution by the end of the year.

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS TO LEGIONNAIRES WELL RECEIVED

Director Myer addressed a meeting of The National Officers, State Commanders, and State Adjutants of the American Legion in Indianapolis on November 16th, at the invitation of national officials of the organization. The Director's 25 minute address was followed by a question and answer period.

Reviewing the program of evacuation and relocation, Director Myer stated, "We have tried in WRA to conduct our program in accordance with certain basic principles which we feel are essential in a democratic approach to the problem. We believe that loyalty cannot flourish in an atmosphere of suspicion and discrimination. We recognize that the foremost task before the people of this country is to win the war. We feel that this means concentrating on fighting the enemy rather than fighting among ourselves, and using all our available manpower where it will do the most good. Finally, we have faith in the American way of life and in the melting pot tradition on which this nation has developed. We believe that there is opportunity here for all people of democratic faith and that the United States has benefitted and will benefit by providing such opportunities for all its citizens without regard for race or ancestry."

PAUL TAYLOR LEAVES JEROME

Paul A. Taylor, Project Director at Jerome since August 1942, has resigned to accept a position with the Department of Agriculture in Washington. For the time being, E. B. Whitaker, Field Assistant Director at Little Rock, Arkansas, will serve as Project Director at Jerome, in addition to his present duties.

Mr. Taylor has been named Assistant to the Director of Budget and Finance of the Department of Agriculture. Prior to coming with WRA, he spent eight years with the Department of Agriculture in various capacities.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Reports from the projects indicate further progress in the vocational training program. New classes are in session at many centers, and are being supported by the Rural War Food Production Program and War Industries Training Program, both of which are Federally-financed and State-administered.

At Minidoka, full-time instructors have been provided for classes in farm machinery maintenance and farm construction. Gila has begun courses in farm construction. A number of other centers have inaugurated evening classes in farm commodities and farm mechanics.

Central Utah has received approval for full-time classes in auto mechanics and sheet metal work, while the Arizona State Education Department has approved full-time courses in auto mechanic and refrigeration service for Poston and Gila. Similar requests are pending from the two Arkansas projects.

Among the most unusual courses is a full-time beauty culture course for adults at Manzanar and a course in pastry baking which is being contemplated by another center.

Jerome is one of the first projects to employ a full-time high school teacher of automobile mechanics. Classes are open to all high school seniors and adults. For seniors, the course will take one year; adults will receive approximately 450 hours of evening instruction, all classes to be three hours long. At the completion of this course, students will be eligible for employment as journeymen workers on the project or as mechanic helpers in commercial auto repair shops. Classes are so organized at Jerome that trainees will get practical experience by servicing and repairing motor vehicles drawn from the project motor pool.

#### BUSINESS ENTERPRISES APPOINT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dr. Tatsuhika Miyamoto, Granada Business Enterprise official, has been named Executive Secretary of the newly-created Federation of Center Business Enterprises, with headquarters to be established in Denver.

As Executive Secretary, Dr. Miyamoto will serve as liaison officer between the Federation and WRA and will coordinate and distribute information of mutual interest to Federation co-ops.

Matters pertaining to commodity purchasing and merchandising will continue to be handled for the Federation by a staff of three salaried buyers, with offices in New York.

#### DIRECTOR ADDRESSES SOCIAL WORKERS

Director Myer was the featured speaker at the 39th Annual Session of the Massachusetts Conference of Social Work, held in Boston on December 1st. Addressing the group on "A Test Case for Democracy -- Japanese Resettlement", the Director presented a comprehensive review of WRA past accomplishments and the ultimate aims of the relocation program.

### SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM SPEEDED DURING VACATION

When the current school term began, several centers placed into use new buildings which had been completed during the summer vacation. At Heart Mountain, the new high school was completed and occupied. Central Utah finished work on the auditorium and shops building. Camp One at Poston completed its elementary school and began work on the high school, while Camp Two and Three high schools and elementary schools were nearly completed. All Poston buildings were constructed with adobe brick.

The shops, science and home economics buildings at Gila have been completed and are now in use. In addition to the new buildings erected, a number of barrack-type school buildings have been remodeled to make them more adaptable for classroom use.

### NEW RELOCATION OFFICES

The following new relocation offices were opened in recent weeks:

Buffalo, New York -- headed by John McCormick, formerly with the Employment Division at Jerome.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania -- Clement White, formerly at the Minneapolis Relocation Office, in charge.

Spanish Fork, Utah -- Office headed by James Jennings, transferred from Richfield, Utah.

### PERSONNEL CHANGES

William Wake has been appointed draftsman in the Operations Division and assigned to the Engineering Section in Washington.

Jack Gilbert, of the Washington Procurement Unit, has left to enter the armed forces.

Glen Cahn, Project Employment Section, is on leave without pay for an indefinite period.

## O C T O B E R   A T   T H E   P R O J E C T S

### CENTRAL UTAH

Project Director Charles F. Ernst featured speaker at meeting of American Public Welfare Association in Salt Lake City...students, under

supervision of teachers, helped in harvesting center crops...harvesting of 90,000 lbs. of tomatoes completed...350 head of beef cattle purchased...112 indefinite leaves granted...Carnegie Hero Fund investigator spent three days at project studying details of act in which project boy rescued companions from certain death...Protestant religious mission spent several days at center, holding successful meetings with residents...plans formulated for establishment of Service Men's Parents Club.

#### HEART MOUNTAIN

Poster shop temporarily closed pending installation of adequate heating facilities...88 indefinite leaves granted...6,000 baby chicks purchased...water turned out of canal system on October 19th and all irrigation stopped on that date...total of 11 fires during month with damage set at \$992.00...student and volunteer labor recruited to harvest crops...Fire Prevention Week climaxed by huge demonstration on final day.

#### GILA RIVER

First carloads of season's vegetables shipped to two other centers... 500 feeder cows, 519 feeder pigs, 2,500 baby chicks, and 4 dairy cows purchased or contracted for during month...40 large ship models completed by Ship Model Shop...Co-op paid cash patronage refunds exceeding \$13,000 to Tule Lake-bound segregants...public relations in Arizona appeared greatly improved, with several requests for speakers being made by Phoenix groups... Models of Army and Navy planes made for Government...special committee appointed to study possibility of establishing separate store to sell groceries and other items to Caucasian employees--plan completed and awaiting approval of the Board.

#### ROHWER

Evacuee girl spoke before Arkansas church groups and departed for speaking tour throughout Kentucky...82 evacuees granted indefinite leave clearance...two evacuees painted nine foot mural to be used as central decoration in auditorium of a girl's camp in Alabama...project cannery completed...3 doctors added to appointed staff at hospital...schedule of leave clearance hearings stepped up from 32 cases to 60 cases per week...requests for expatriation and repatriation hit new low...plans formulated for special instruction for handicapped children.

#### GRANADA

Silk Screen Poster Shop expanded facilities to take care of new Navy

orders...179 granted indefinite leave...discovery of several poliomyelitis cases resulted in temporary ban on gatherings which brought center activities to standstill...Council recommended formation of Evacuee Relocation Committee... several business enterprises moved to new Co-op Building...yields of fall planted vegetables exceeded all expectations...livestock enterprises handicapped by lack of facilities and extreme drought...grass fire destroyed 20 tons of alfalfa hay.

#### MANZANAR

Garment factory continued to produce work clothing and doctors uniforms for other centers...63 granted indefinite leave...674 tons of produce harvested during month...36½ tons of produce delivered to pickling and dehydration plants for processing...45 tons of surplus ripe tomatoes sold to local cannery... dehydration plant completed...Tailoring and Dressmaking Unit established by Business Enterprises...236 evacuee women received certificates for Home Nursing from American Red Cross.

#### MINIDOKA

During week of October 9th, 780 evacuees left center on seasonal leave... construction of gymnasium and community building begun...tomato cannery produced \$2,200 worth of products...public relations less favorable this month, as Idaho groups expressed concern over post-war land ownership in State... several resolutions opposing evacuees and objecting to their owning land adopted by V.F.W. and American Legion groups...harvest vacation declared for secondary school on October 2nd to last through November 15th.

#### JEROME

Community Council charter approved by residents...89 persons left center on indefinite leave...over \$25,000 worth of lumber produced in sawmill...unseasonal frost on October 15th killed all crops subject to frost... schools began 1943-44 term on October 4th...393 Nisei soldiers visited project USO room...Co-op study class on group farming organized...number of public assistance grants sharply reduced as result of more thorough system of investigation...special emphasis placed on speedy completion of wood chopping program--winter's wood supply expected to be stored within few weeks...4,000 residents attended anniversary entertainment program.

#### TULE LAKE

Furniture factory began production of household furniture to be used in equipping 40 new apartments for appointed personnel...business enterprises approved establishment of tofu manufacturing plant...also made plans for production of miso and building a soft drink bottling plant...dividend of 10.9 percent declared by co-ops for quarter ending September 30th.