

# QUARTERLY REPORT

October 1 to December 31

1942

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.



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QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

OCTOBER 1 to DECEMBER 31, 1942

PROGRESS OF RELOCATION

The third quarter-year of operations of the War Relocation Authority was marked by the final movement of West Coast evacuees from assembly centers to relocation centers, by the gearing up of a program under which evacuees might leave the centers for private employment, and by the upsurge of community unrest in the form of disorders at two of the older centers. It was a period of slow but steady physical progress and also of trial and error. At its close, the Authority was setting its sights more clearly than ever on restoring able-bodied and well-intentioned evacuees as rapidly as feasible to normal economic and social life in ordinary American towns and cities.

At the beginning of the quarter, seven of the ten relocation centers had received virtually their whole quotas of evacuees of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast military zone. During October Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona received its last large contingent of residents; Rohwer, in Arkansas, rounded out two-thirds of its population; and Jerome, also in Arkansas, received its full quota. As of October 1, the combined population of the centers was 86,915, not including 6,669 evacuees who had left the centers earlier to relieve the manpower shortage during the harvest season. By November 1 the movement from assembly centers to relocation centers



had been accomplished. During November and December, the seasonal workers returned from the harvest fields, a group of people of Japanese descent who had gone from their homes in eastern California directly to harvest fields voluntarily entered the centers, and an initial contingent of evacuees of Japanese descent from Hawaii arrived at the Jerome Center in Arkansas. As a result of this combined influx, the population of the ten centers by December 31 reached a high mark of 106,770 residents.

During this same period, the movement of evacuees out of the centers and back into private life outside the evacuated area began slowly gathering momentum. Prior to October 1, less than 100 residents had gone out of the centers on indefinite leave under the regulations adopted by WRA in mid-July. With adoption of the more liberal regulations toward the end of September, the Authority began tightening up its machinery to speed the handling of leave applications not only at the centers but also in Washington. By the close of the period, approximately 2,200 applications for advance clearance had been filed; 250 applications for indefinite leave had been granted; and 193 evacuees had actually left the centers and were-re-establishing themselves in normal communities mainly throughout the intermountain region.

The comparatively slow progress of the program was attributable in part to the time-consuming procedures governing leave clearance,



and in part to the reluctance of many evacuees to leave the sanctuary of the centers and face a public they believed to be hostile. As the quarter closed, WRA was beginning to realize that more assistance would have to be rendered evacuees seeking to enter private employment. Consequently, plans were made to establish relocation offices throughout the mid-western states to work with the United States Employment Service and other agencies seeking out work opportunities for the evacuees. As the year ended, one such office was on the verge of opening in Chicago, and plans were under way to set up other similar offices in Salt Lake City, Denver, Cleveland, Kansas City, and Omaha.

In late November and early December, signs of community unrest, which had been evident at several of the older centers during the summer, finally flared up in the form of disorders at Colorado River and Manzanar. Although the underlying causes and the concrete incidents precipitating the demonstrations were very similar at both centers, the pattern of the actual demonstrations differed. At Colorado River, the residents in one of the three communities making up the center conducted a number of protest meetings against the administration and promoted a strike in most of the community activities, but peace was restored without calling in the military guard. At Manzanar, the protests took a more violent form and had to be quelled by intervention of the military and finally at the cost of bloodshed



## ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION

After operating for nearly eight months with three levels of administration (in Washington, at the regional offices, and at the relocation centers) the War Relocation Authority on December 15 cut its organization back along simpler lines to two administrative levels. The three regional offices previously established in San Francisco, Denver, and Little Rock were abolished and new offices under the supervision of Field Assistant Directors were simultaneously set up in the same cities. The main difference is that each of the Field Assistant Directors will have only a skeleton staff and will serve as a personal representative of the National Director stationed in the field rather than as an administrator responsible for general supervision of a group of relocation centers. In short, the reorganization provided, for the first time, a direct line of administrative authority from national headquarters in Washington to the relocation centers.

Of the three regional offices, the one in San Francisco was most extensively affected. The offices in Denver and Little Rock had been established later and had only limited staffs at the time of reorganization. The San Francisco office, however, had been functioning since the very earliest days of the program, had supervised the work at six of the ten relocation centers, and at the beginning of the third quarter had a staff nearly three times as large as the Washington office. During the period of evacuation and movement



into relocation centers, when the WRA was working extremely closely with the Western Defense Command and the Wartime Civil Control Administration, the maintenance of a rather extensive staff in San Francisco (where headquarters of both WDC and WCCA were located) was virtually indispensable to effective operations. Later, as the evacuated population and the program emphasis shifted geographically eastward, this need gradually diminished. By December 15, when the entire evacuee group had been moved from assembly to relocation centers, it was possible to alter the status of the San Francisco office and to start transferring most of its personnel into Washington and out to the relocation centers. These transfers were only about half completed by the close of the year. Meanwhile, the function of the Denver and Little Rock offices was changed, but their personnel were only slightly affected.

Under the new set-up, the Field Assistant Director stationed in San Francisco will maintain contact for the National Director with the two centers in California (Manzanar and Tule Lake) and the two in Arizona (Colorado River and Gila River); the office in Denver will serve as liaison with the centers in the intermountain area (Minidoka, Central Utah, Granada, and Heart Mountain); and the Little Rock office will perform the same function with respect to the two centers in Arkansas (Rohwer and Jerome).



The following table shows the distribution of WRA staff as of October 1 and as of December 31, 1942:

<u>Location</u>	<u>October 1, 1942</u>	<u>December 31, 1942</u>
Washington	74	141
San Francisco	214	91
Denver	23	22
Little Rock	14	12
Manzanar	97	141
Colorado River	4*	4*
Tule Lake	136	161
Gila River	125	155
Heart Mountain	115	129
Minidoka	69	107
Granada	106	153
Central Utah	56	110
Rohwer	46	119
Jerome	<u>78</u>	<u>120</u>
Totals . . . . .	1,157 . . . . .	1,467

\* The Colorado River Relocation Center is under the jurisdiction of the Office of Indian Affairs. The center staff of appointed personnel, with the exception of the number listed above, are accordingly listed on the Indian Service payroll. The actual number of persons on the center staff as of December 31 is 224.



### COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION

Conditions growing out of the wartime situation seriously affected all phases of the program to make the relocation centers liveable and self-supporting. Throughout the quarter there were ever-mounting difficulties in getting basic materials and equipment. Housing, hospitalization, education, sanitation, recreation, and agriculture all shared handicaps. Nowhere was it possible to realize fully the plan originally made for well-rounded and productive evacuee communities. At all centers there were inevitable delays and compromises in almost every phase of community life.

Basic construction, as carried out by the Army Engineers, consisted of barracks for evacuee housing, mess halls, laundries, latrines and baths, and hospitals. At the beginning of the third quarter, this basic construction had been completed only at the three oldest centers--Colorado River, Manzanar, and Tule Lake. At the others, construction continued to lag behind evacuee arrivals. Even where basic construction had been accomplished, crowding was inevitable. At Manzanar, the oldest of the centers, there were at the end of the quarter 928 cases in which two families were obliged to share a single 20' x 25' apartment. Installation of utilities, involving the more critical equipment and materials, was even slower. At one center a serious health condition arose as a result of the lack of modern toilet facilities over an extended period of time.



Hospitals, a part of the basic construction, were as a rule lacking when the first evacuee contingents arrived at the centers. Yet the very conditions of transportation made facilities for hospitalization at the end of the journey a necessity. At the beginning of the quarter, carloads of evacuees were being taken a long distance through the heat and dust of the dry season; at the end they were being transported through winter cold. Every contingent had its chronic invalids, aged, new mothers and babies, and expectant mothers. In most cases an emergency station set up in a barrack intended for housing had to provide temporarily for the needs of patients. By the end of the quarter hospitals had been completed basically, though most of them suffered from a lack of equipment.

Aside from basic construction provided by the Army Engineers, there was also at all centers a considerable amount of construction to be accomplished by WRA. This consisted chiefly of school buildings, office quarters, and living quarters for the administrative staff. During the quarter priorities for the construction of high school buildings were granted for most centers, and in one or two instances contracts were let and construction was actually begun. Schools opened at practically all relocation centers during the period, but at a later date than in regular public schools and in buildings which were extremely ill adapted for classroom use. Administrative staff quarters were greatly delayed. At the end of the quarter, construction of living accommodations for Civil Service personnel was only barely

under way at most centers and many staff members were crowded together in inadequate and makeshift apartments.

Nevertheless, despite changing priorities and delays in shipments and transportation of supplies, commendable results in construction were achieved during the period. Office quarters, housing for personnel, rough equipment for school rooms, and recreational areas were prepared at nearly all centers. Essential winterization of barracks and mess halls was carried out and completed generally on schedule.

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### At the Centers

At every center, more evacuees are employed in the work of feeding the community than in any other single phase of project operations. Mess hall operations for the feeding of anywhere from 7,000 to 17,000 persons, transportation of foodstuff, warehouse handling, delivery to kitchens, and preparation and serving of food inevitably require large numbers of workers. Other community operations that engage considerable numbers of employables are maintenance and repair work, sanitation, and the safeguarding of health, fire protection, and internal security. These are primary, elemental services that must be maintained at any cost. They were maintained during the third quarter--a period when evacuee contingents were still being received at some of the centers and when manpower was being temporarily drained off for the harvest fields--at the expense of the agricultural program. One center, with a population



of about 10,000 had only 2600 males who fell into the generally employable age group, seventeen to fifty-five. Approximately half of these were at one time on work furloughs outside the center. This was an extreme case, but every center reported manpower shortage within the center during the harvest season. As the quarter ended, it was foreseen that as evacuees continued to leave the centers for private employment, increasing manpower problems within the centers would call for continual adjustment of plans and programs to the labor supply available.

During the period, comprehensive records of background, training and experience for each resident were completed at all centers. With such records on file, the placement offices were able to function with increased smoothness and efficiency.

#### Outside the Centers

The need for evacuee labor in the harvest fields of the intermountain and plains states increased steadily during the first half of the quarter. The first of October found 5419 center residents out on seasonal work leave. In addition, there were 1250 who had been recruited in spring and summer from assembly centers who were still at work in the fields. At the peak of the harvest season there were about 9,000 evacuees out on temporary agricultural jobs.

Distribution by states of those who went out from relocation centers is shown below as of October 1:

Idaho.....	1939
Montana.....	1532
Colorado.....	664
Nebraska.....	342
Wyoming.....	334
Arizona.....	300
Utah.....	277
Oregon.....	41

The three hundred employed in Arizona were engaged in picking long-staple cotton, working out of the centers on a "commuter" basis, but in the other states the majority of workers were employed in sugar-beet areas, and their transportation to and from the place of employment was provided by the employers.

In accordance with procedures established in the summer, each employer desiring to hire evacuees was obliged to fill out a form indicating the kind of work to be done, its approximate duration, the wages paid, and the housing facilities available. These forms were presented to the nearest office of the U. S. Employment Service, from which they were forwarded to relocation centers to be submitted to the evacuees. This gave the evacuee a somewhat more accurate idea of the conditions under which he might work. In some instances, however, potential earnings were overestimated by the farm operators and living facilities were misrepresented. In some locations, where lack of facilities at the place of employment necessitated eating



in restaurants in the closest town, evacuees occasionally encountered hostility and sometimes outright refusals of service.

Generally speaking, however, the living conditions of the evacuee crews were adequate and their relations with the nearby townspeople were reasonably satisfactory. Most farm operators were well satisfied with the quality of work performed by the evacuees, by their willingness to work in bad weather, and to work long hours when that was imperative to the saving of a crop. In some instances, groups of farm operators and local Chambers of Commerce expressed their appreciation of the services of the evacuees in formal letters and resolutions sent to the relocation centers.

The figures in the following table showing those employed outside the centers as of December 31 indicate the number of evacuees who went out on seasonal leaves and remained out because they obtained permanent employment. Leave regulations permitted extension of the seasonal leaves in such cases, pending the issuance of indefinite leave clearance.

STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT AT RELOCATION CENTERS  
 December 31, 1942, and at the Peak of the  
 Harvest Season

<u>Name of Center</u>	<u>Number of Residents</u>	<u>Employed at Center</u>	<u>Peak of seasonal Employment</u>	<u>Out on seasonal leave, December 31</u>
Central Utah	7,899	3,816	748	428
Colorado River	17,615	7,946	822	373
Gila River	13,320	6,148	200	57
Granada	6,805	2,332	1,116	550
Heart Mountain	10,722	4,618	1,300	287
Jerome	7,815	3,993	0*	0*
Manzanar	9,916	4,599	1,028	198
Minidoka	9,042	4,157	2,300	570
Rohwer	8,451	4,149	0*	0*
Tule Lake	<u>15,053</u>	<u>6,702</u>	<u>930</u>	<u>265</u>
Totals	106,038	48,460	8,444	2,728

Throughout the quarter opportunities for private employment outside the centers continued to develop. Although the majority of the requests continued to be for domestic or farm labor, there was a gradual but perceptible increase in demand for workers in trades, for clerical and professional workers, and for other types of employees. A small but significant number of requests came in from cities and town of the mountain and plains states for a wider variety

\*The two Arkansas centers were not occupied until after the exodus to the harvest fields had taken place. At the close of the season, these two centers received several hundred workers who had gone directly from assembly centers to the harvest fields, but they sent none forth.



of occupations, such as nursery assistants, truck drivers, auto mechanics, service station attendants, beauty parlour operators, nurses, hospital attendants, radio repair men, social case workers, laboratory assistants, engineers, teachers, and chick-sexers.

#### EDUCATION

Hampered by lack of adequate teaching staff, lack of buildings, furniture, and text books, relocation center schools opened and functioned during the third quarter. In one or two instances, and at the older centers, schools opened before the end of September, but the majority started during the month of October. As the last centers to be occupied, the two Arkansas centers were even more delayed: Rohwer opened school in November, while Jerome was on the point of opening as the quarter closed.

With no exceptions, schools at the centers opened in unpartitioned barracks meant for other purposes and generally bare of furniture. Sometimes the teacher had a desk and chair; more often she had only a chair. In the first few weeks many of the children had no desks or chairs and for the most part were obliged to sit on the floor--or stand up all day. Linoleum laying and additional wall insulation were accomplished in these makeshift school rooms some time after the opening of school. At some centers cold waves struck before winterization could be started.

By the close of the quarter, it was no longer necessary for many pupils to sit on the floor, but seating was frequently of a

rudimentary character. Text books and other supplies were gradually arriving. Laboratory and shop equipment and facilities, however, were still lacking. No center had been able to obtain its full quota of teachers.

In spite of these handicaps, education managed to function on at least four different levels at the centers: nursery school, elementary school, high school, and adult education night classes. During the quarter grade and high schools progressed to the point where school clubs were organized and extra-curricular activities were shaping. Adult education classes, conducted by the evacuees without compensation, were increasing in number and variety. Classes in Americanization and in both oral and written English drew the greatest number of adults, but interest and demand also formed well attended classes in plant pathology, agricultural entomology, ethics, human relations, race relations, and a variety of commercial subjects. Most centers, furthermore, arranged with the state departments of education to have classes carried on for the benefit of assistant or student teachers among the evacuees. At the end of the quarter, efforts were being made to introduce certain university extension courses for those students whose college education was interrupted by evacuation and who have not the means to avail themselves of the privilege of student relocation.

#### STUDENT RELOCATION

Under the tentative leave policy adopted on July 20, students whose education had been interrupted by the evacuation program could,



needs of that center, but also to contribute to the needs of other centers; in addition, some of the vegetables were sold in the commercial markets. Hay and grain, too, were raised at Tule Lake and used to feed a herd of hogs, which by the end of the quarter were beginning to supply the center with pork. The older centers all managed to produce crops of vegetables and some livestock feed. At Gila River planting of 820 acres to winter vegetables was accomplished before the close of the period. However, those centers which were occupied in late summer or early autumn, all in localities where the growing season was short, were unable to begin their agriculture programs at the time of occupation.

During the quarter the agricultural enterprises of the centers were seriously affected by the loss of many of the best workers to the outside harvests. In planning for the year ahead, it became increasingly evident that the more liberal leave policy is likely to remove more and more of the workers from the centers and that many of the experienced farmers will tend toward resettlement in private life. Because of this fact, plus the shortage of equipment and materials, the whole agricultural program had to be revised downward. As the period ended, plans at all centers called for raising vegetables for evacuee mess and feed for live stock, but only a limited amount of production for outside markets was contemplated.

#### INDUSTRY

Although original plans for establishment of industrial enterprises at relocation centers were modified downward during the second

quarter, a number of industries continued operations or were established during the fall period. The camouflage net factory at Manzanar went on turning out nets for the Army under private management until the disturbance of December 5 and 6, after which it was permanently abandoned. Toward the close of the period, a considerably larger net factory began operations at Gila River and another was moving toward completion at Colorado River. In both of these establishments prevailing wages will be paid to evacuee workers. Sewing projects to renovate and repair work clothes for evacuees and woodworking establishments to produce furniture for the center schools and for other community needs were established at several of the newer centers. Both Manzanar and Colorado River began production of bean sprouts and soy sauce and were looking forward to increased production at the close of the year. Plans for a small plant to turn out ship models for the Navy (to be used in identification courses) moved nearer toward realization at Gila River, and a silk screen poster shop at Granada (also planned to serve the Navy) was almost ready to begin operations as the quarter ended. Looking ahead to 1943, the WRA was planning at the close of the year to follow through as fully as possible on commitments previously made for industrial enterprises but was contemplating no further expansion in this field.

#### HEALTH AND SANITATION

#### INDUSTRY

Although hospital buildings had been completed in only four centers at the beginning of the quarter and the medical program at



most centers was still functioning on an emergency basis, general health conditions continued to be good. In the face of many handicaps, marked progress was made by an understaffed and overworked medical and nursing organization in establishing and maintaining a broad and comprehensive health program in keeping with the standards in normal communities.

Instruction in preventive hygiene, first aid, and home nursing was given to residents. Through the work of the visiting nurses and the periodic physical check-up on school children, communicable diseases were kept well under control. Diphtheria immunization and tuberculin tests were among the first services undertaken after the center health department graduated from its emergency phase and began to render the additional services that public health authorities regard as a community responsibility. Formula kitchens for the preparation of infants rations were in operation at all centers during the quarter, and other diet kitchens functioned in the hospitals and for individuals whose health prevented them from eating the regular mess hall fare. Frequent and thorough inspection of mess halls, laundries, showers and latrines was a feature of the health program at all centers.

Problems of varying seriousness developed in connection with the water supply at some centers during the period. Basic utilities were incomplete at the time of occupation, and unfinished sewerage systems continued to be a hazard. At Jerome, where water was pure at the source, it became contaminated by the necessary, frequent

opening and closing of water mains, and diarrhea developed among the residents. Garbage disposal at some centers was another serious problem. Open pits in the period of warm weather and flies were a menace. Winter cold lessened the risk inherent in the situation, and it was hoped that basic materials and equipment for overcoming it altogether could be procured before the next warm season.

### CONSUMER ENTERPRISES

Only Manzanar entered the quarter with an over-all consumer cooperative association fully organized and incorporated, and because of certain legal technicalities this first association to incorporate was unable to operate under incorporation until the end of the period. In the course of the three-month period, incorporated cooperative associations began to function at Central Utah, Tule Lake and Minidoka. The remaining centers were, at the end of the year, continuing under the temporary plan of community enterprises. All the unincorporated associations were working toward incorporation by the end of the quarter.

Typical enterprises include dry goods and grocery stores, shoe repair, radio repair, laundries, barber shops, and dry cleaning establishments. The two newest centers had the lowest number of enterprises functioning. At the end of the quarter, Jerome had three stores operating while Rohwer had a single canteen. The table



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below indicates the status of consumer enterprises at the different centers:

<u>Center</u>	<u>No. of Enterprises as of December 31</u>	<u>Gross Business</u>	
		<u>September</u>	<u>December</u>
Central Utah	8	\$ 13,343.11	\$ 45,364.39
Colorado River	28	79,977.63	107,209.94
Gila River	9	42,000.00	115,200.47
Granada	7	11,152.63	33,214.98
Heart Mountain	10	44,901.89	86,750.34
Jerome	3 (Occupied in Oct.)		30,128.48
Manzanar	5	56,865.58	67,514.48
Minidoka	24	45,080.57	80,647.41
Rohwer	1	137.32	20,074.23
Tule Lake	<u>22</u>	<u>91,700.00</u>	<u>150,890.71</u>
	116	\$385,158.73	\$736,995.56

Toward the end of the period, the policy on community enterprises and cooperatives was spelled out by WRA in further detail, with the provision that the incorporated cooperative must pay rent and also clothing allowances for employees retroactively to the date of the establishment of the original enterprises. This ruling caused disturbance among the residents of the centers who protested that the rental rate was too high and the clothing allowance requirement discriminatory. Unquestionably the adoption of the policy by WRA delayed the progress of the cooperative movement, and at the close of the quarter, the Washington office was moving toward a modification of requirements.

#### COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

By the close of the year, evacuee government of one type or another was functioning at all except one of the relocation centers.

At Tule Lake and Central Utah, charters had been drawn up, submitted to referendum vote, and formally approved both by the evacuee residents and the WRA. At all other centers (except Minidoka) charters were either being drawn up by committees of evacuee residents or were under discussion while temporary governments continued in operation. At Minidoka, no attempt was made to establish a formal pattern of evacuee government, but the Project Director made a practice of consulting representative groups of evacuees whenever important decisions affecting the community had to be reached.

One of the most difficult problems that arose in connection with evacuee government was the question of participation by the alien residents. Under the policy on community government adopted by WRA in August, alien residents of the centers were allowed to hold appointive offices and to serve on committees created by the community council, but were not eligible for election to the council itself. Since the alien group at all centers includes most of the more mature and experienced residents, their exclusion from the council caused widespread discussion. As the period closed, the WRA was re-examining this particular phase of the policy on community government with a view to possible modification.

Another perplexing question was the degree of responsibility for community management which could and should be delegated to the evacuee government. The WRA, as a government agency responsible to the President and the Congress for the proper expenditure of government



funds, obviously had to retain ultimate control over the relocation centers. Yet, at the same time, the Authority was anxious for a variety of reasons to stimulate a maximum of evacuee participation in and responsibility for the management of community affairs. At each center, the attempts to resolve this question had to be worked out in the light of the social structure of the evacuee community, the work program under way and projected, the attitude held by neighboring communities toward the center and its residents, and other factors pertinent to the local situation.

#### COMMUNITY WELFARE

The very nature of center life--its crowded living conditions, inadequate facilities, and above all the lack of privacy--intensifies the complexity of the social welfare problem. This environment not only aggravates existing problems but breeds new ones that would probably never have arisen under normal living conditions. Marital difficulties, juvenile delinquency, inter-family quarrels, all find encouragement within the single-room apartment that contains married and unmarried, young and old, stable and unstable in undesired and undesirable proximity.

The welfare program of WRA began the quarter with a severe shortage of staff at the centers. In addition to the common difficulty of finding qualified persons who were willing to live at the centers,

there was also a salary problem involved. Since the original concept of the position of welfare counsellor at centers underestimated the administrative responsibilities actually involved in the position, it was extremely difficult to recruit properly qualified persons. As the quarter ended, however, the classification was raised, and there was hope that WRA could retain the services of competent welfare directors and acquire the needed supplementary personnel.

Much time was necessarily spent by welfare personnel in listening to personal and family troubles. Out of such conversations came information which concerned a number of other branches of the administration and also the well-being of the entire community. It was the welfare personnel, for example, who most frequently discovered the need for changes in housing, health conditions, mental conditions requiring attention, and who generally perceived the earliest signs of delinquency in young boys and girls.

During the quarter a new duty was added to the work of the welfare staff. At all centers, this branch of the administration was made responsible for handling the cash clothing allowances. At nearly all centers, the initial family survey necessary to determine the distribution of the allowances put a severe strain on welfare staffs. Because of this fact plus the complexity of the original procedures and the large amount of clerical work involved, distribution of the allowances was delayed at almost all relocation communities.

Aside from handling clothing allowances, the welfare staffs at the centers investigated and acted upon requests for public



assistance grants, arranged for transfer of evacuees from one center to another in instances where families were separated by the hazards of evacuation, and dealt with a miscellany of requests that might be grouped under the heading of "service cases". These included making funeral arrangements; trying to adjust marital problems; providing necessary assistance for the blind, the deaf, the dumb, the cripples; making provision for the care of orphans and illegitimate children, and attempting to prevent juvenile delinquency by operating on the factors that inevitably foster it.

#### CONSERVATION OF EVACUEE PROPERTY

By the beginning of October, enough time had passed to bring into prominence certain faults in arrangements the evacuees had made with private firms or individuals for the care of their property in the evacuated area. As accounts due the evacuees failed to materialize, or tenants abandoned premises without the formality of giving notice, or the evacuees wished to get their household goods out of private storage and have them shipped to the relocation centers, they turned in increasing numbers to WRA for assistance.

Existing regulations permitted WRA to transport free of charge such personal property as was stored in government warehouses to the owner in relocation; property that was privately stored could be shipped at government expense to the center only if the owner first had it transferred to a government warehouse. It soon became evident

that most of the evacuees who wished to take advantage of this offer were seriously handicapped by lack of funds to effect the transfer of their possessions to the government warehouses. Meanwhile, check-ups on personal property made by WRA at the request of evacuees revealed that in some instances, so-called "friends" of the evacuees had misused the possessions they had promised to guard, while in others, goods stored in churches or vacant stores had been injured by flood or fire or vandals.

The increasing tendency of the evacuees to seek relief from the misfortunes attendant upon absentee proprietorship through the Authority, and the growing inclination of many of the land-owners to sell their holdings through the Evacuee Property Office brought an accumulation of work to the Office which rendered expansion and reorganization necessary to effective performance. By the end of the quarter, plans were well under way to reorganize this branch of the Authority. These plans included enlargement of the staff, the creation of additional field offices at Portland, Oregon, and at Watsonville, California, and a liberalization of the regulations governing transportation to permit moving household goods from private storage at government expense.

#### RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The figures on church attendance at the centers during the quarter indicated that about 42.5 per cent are Buddhists, 42.5 per cent Protestants, and 15 per cent Catholics. Two centers



peopled by former residents of the Northwest had minority groups of Seventh Day Adventists. During the quarter, the three main religious bodies at the centers organized into numerous departments and entered into broad and energetic programs to answer the social, spiritual and cultural needs of the community. With expansion of activity, nearly all centers reported a substantial increase in church attendance. The societies and clubs common to these major religious groups in the average community flourished in the relocation centers and launched discussions and study groups that supplemented the activities of education and welfare divisions.

As the winter season approached, church groups and organizations throughout the country exhibited a deepening interest in the relocation centers and in the problems of evacuees. The Federal Council of Churches appointed a Committee to aid people of Japanese ancestry in relocation centers, and by the end of the year a campaign was underway to raise money for church-building purposes at the centers. During the period, however, all church services were held in recreation barracks.

Toward the end of December, the Heart Mountain Community Christian Church organization received an appropriation of \$10,000 from the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church for the erection of an attractively planned church, but decided to postpone the actual construction until school buildings could be completed.

Specific churches lent to the centers--or, in many instances, donated outright--musical instruments, including pianos and organs,

and considerable quantities of recreation material. Outside churches and affiliated societies provided Christmas gifts for the children at all the centers. As the period ended, with the increasing flow of evacuees back into normal life, religious organizations were taking an active part in finding work opportunities for the evacuees and in helping them to find suitable living quarters and to adjust to life in new environments.

#### LANGUAGE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Recruiting of volunteers for a Japanese language school maintained by the Intelligence branch of the United States Army continued at the centers throughout most of the quarter. A recruiting officer visited each center for the purpose of interviewing and examining candidates. Loyal American citizens of Japanese descent were needed for teaching the fundamentals of the Japanese language to officers of Military Intelligence, and in other capacities as translators and interpreters. Keen interest was shown in the response to the appeal for recruits, but many candidates were rejected because their knowledge of the Japanese language was inadequate for the purpose.

Throughout the latter part of November and most of December, the successful candidates were departing from relocation centers to don the uniform of the United States Army and begin life as soldiers in the Intelligence service.



The numbers recruited from each center during the quarter were as follows:

Central Utah.....	9
Colorado River.....	8
Gila River.....	29
Granada.....	12
Heart Mountain.....	2
Jerome.....	17
Manzanar.....	21
Minidoka.....	21
Rohwer.....	5
Tule Lake.....	<u>43</u>
TOTAL .....	167

#### REPATRIATION

During the quarter, in anticipation of a second voyage of the Swedish liner Gripsholm to effect an exchange of nationals between the United States and Japan, the War Relocation Authority received from the State Department in Washington a series of lists naming persons desired by the Japanese Government. The persons named residing in the various relocation centers were notified that they had been so named, and were asked to indicate whether they desired to be exchanged to Japan or to remain in the United States. Out of a total of 2800 persons on these lists who were residents of relocation centers, only 290, or 10.4 per cent, stated that they wished to go to Japan;

2422, or 86.5 per cent, of those notified, stated that they did not want to go to Japan and preferred to remain in the United States; the remainder failed to reply.

During the summer and fall, when some of the evacuees had arrived at relocation centers but while many were still in assembly centers, an opportunity was given to all to file applications for exchange or repatriation to Japan. When the lists of persons named by the Japanese Government were received from the State Department, it soon became evident that only a small proportion of the persons named were persons who had earlier applied on their own initiative for repatriation. Also, many evacuees who had not requested repatriation, when advised of their having been named by the Japanese Government, were torn between amazement and indignation. Some American citizens named by the Japanese Government, presumably because they were sons and daughters of aliens who were also named, were intensely indignant. A few even went so far as to refuse to sign a declination because they felt such an action would admit an interest in Japan which in fact they did not have. After the whole situation was explained, however, these people were, as a rule, willing to sign a declination so that the record might be complete.

The quarter ended with a total of 3,396 persons listed as having requested exchange to Japan (3106 of whom had never been included on a State Department list) and with the Gripsholm still awaiting sailing orders. The willingness of the Japanese Government to accept persons who had requested exchange or return to Japan but



who were not on the lists submitted by that government was still in considerable doubt at the end of 1942.

#### THE POSTON INCIDENT

The Colorado River Relocation Center consists of three separate communities set three miles apart. They are known as Poston I, II, and III. Unlike the other centers, Colorado River is administered by the Indian Service, but it follows general policies laid down by WRA. It was the scene of the first really serious demonstration carried on by evacuees at a relocation center.

On Saturday night, November 14, an evacuee resident of Poston I, while asleep in bed, was attacked and beaten with a piece of pipe by a group of unidentified men. The victim was a man who had made numerous enemies in the days before evacuation and who was suspected by many residents of the center of being an informer. Early Sunday morning the victim's former brother-in-law and another man, a popular Judo wrestling instructor, were arrested by the evacuee police on suspicion. The head of Internal Security called in the FBI, and an investigation was conducted over a period of several days. No charges were preferred, but the Poston police continued to hold the men at the request of the FBI.

On the second day of the suspects' detention, a group of older evacuees called on the Acting Project Director, attested to the good character of the suspects, offered evidence to prove them innocent, and asked for their release. The request was refused pending completion

of investigation. The next day, a determined but orderly crowd of about a thousand older men assembled outside the jail and demanded the release of the prisoners, saying that they would not permit removal of the two from the community and calling for a general strike of all center employees. The temporary community council, composed of young American-born evacuees met to review the situation, consulting with delegates from the crowd and an evacuee lawyer who represented the suspects. The outcome of this session was a recommendation to the Acting Project Director that the men be released. The recommendation stressed two points: (1) the detention was illegal in view of the fact that the law stipulated that a man could not be held indefinitely without a charge being placed; (in Arizona the time limit is twenty-four hours); (2) the Council felt strongly that this beating was an internal problem that should be dealt with in the community court without interference from outside authorities.

Wishing to have the cooperation of FBI and believing that one of the men was definitely guilty, the Administration overruled the recommendation of the Council. The Council, having represented the desires of the community in the matter of the recommendation and being brought up thus sharply against the restriction of the Project Director's veto power, promptly resigned in a body.

After the FBI representatives had completed their investigations and left the center, the Administration released one of the suspects, against whom there was no evidence, but held the other and prepared to file charges against him in the County Court. Meanwhile the



evacuees had quickly formed an emergency committee to provide leadership and deal with the administration. This committee arranged to continue all services vital to the community: mess operations, police, fire protection, and hospital. Pickets, organized into eight-hour shifts, surrounded the center jail to prevent removal of the detained man from the community. No attempt was made to release him from the project jail, however, and in the conduct of the strike no damage was done to any person or property. Many bonfires were built at night in the picket area, and there was a touch of carnival spirit in the crowd.

On November 23 an agreement was reached with the emergency leaders, by the terms of which the prisoner was released to the custody of two evacuee lawyers pending trial within the center, and the emergency leaders assumed the responsibility of putting a stop to such beatings as initiated this incident, improving efficiency in center work, and establishing better collaboration with the Administration. No trial had been held up to the end of the quarter. The incident was wholly confined to Poston I and did not spread to Poston II or Poston III.

#### THE MANZANAR INCIDENT

In its early stages the Manzanar incident was strikingly similar to the disturbance which took place at Poston just a few weeks earlier. On Saturday evening, December 5, a former owner of a chain of restaurants, unpopular with many residents of the community

even before evacuation because he was believed to be an informer, was assaulted in his apartment by six masked men. He attempted to fight off his assailants, but before the noise attracted the attention of neighbors and the men were frightened away, he was severely beaten with a club about the head and shoulders. In the hospital, he identified one of the masked men as an avowed enemy for a long period. Arrested and questioned by the center police, this man could not establish an alibi and was sent to the jail at the nearby town of Independence. Of several other suspects questioned during the night, only one was detained; he was kept in the center jail.

At about noon the following day, December 6, a large mass meeting was held in a fire break at the center. The Acting Chief of Internal Security sent a detail of evacuee policemen to the meeting, but they returned shortly, reporting that they were not wanted and had been asked to leave. The Project Director and the Acting Chief of Internal Security thereupon decided to attend the meeting. Meanwhile, the Assistant Project Director was instructed to ask the commanding officer of the military police company to stand by with his men in the event of trouble. The Project Director and internal security officer reached the meeting just as it was breaking up, and were informed that the purpose of the meeting was to protest the arrest of the suspect and demand his release. A committee of five had been appointed to confer with the Project Director.



Soon the Committee of Five, followed by a large group of men and boys, arrived at the Administration Building to talk to the Project Director. Simultaneously the military police commander and a dozen soldiers arrived and lined up between the police station and the Administration Building. Machine guns were mounted. The Committee of Five demanded the release of the suspect. For about an hour and a half the Project Director walked among the crowd and talked to the people. He refused to negotiate with the crowd and demanded that it disperse. Although the crowd was in general angry and sullen, it was respectful to the Project Director. The Committee of Five, however, were excited and spoke violently. Four young men kept the Project Director surrounded as he talked with the crowd, evidently to assure his safety. Agitators were circulating through the crowd working to keep sentiment at a high pitch.

As soon as the military police commander heard the demands of the Committee, he sent for more soldiers; during most of this period there were about 30 soldiers present. The crowd grew more unruly and threatened to get out of control. The soldiers were taunted, and some sticks and stones were thrown. A number of the non-evacuee school teachers and other personnel had mingled with the crowd and stood in danger if force were used to disperse the crowd. Finally, as a compromise measure, the Project Director took the Committee of Five around a corner of the building and after some discussion arrived at the following agreement:

- (1) The detained man would be returned to Manzanar within an hour after the crowd dispersed, and would be tried in such manner as the Project Director decided;
- (2) The crowd would disperse immediately;
- (3) There would be no more mass meetings.
- (4) The residents would make no attempt to deliver the detainee from jail;
- (5) All future grievances would be taken up through recognized committees;
- (6) The Committee of Five would help find the assailants of the beaten man.

One member of the committee then addressed the crowd in Japanese to explain the terms of the agreement and to tell the people to go home. The speech was received with considerable enthusiasm and applause. The Project Director questioned the evacuee chief of police concerning the speech, and the man said it was "all right". It developed later, however, that this man knew very little Japanese and did not understand what had actually been said. As a matter of fact, the spokesman announced to the crowd that a victory had been won and that the crowd should disperse to reassemble at six o'clock and secure the release of the detained man from the center jail. With this understanding, the crowd dispersed, but not until all the soldiers had withdrawn to the road outside the center.

At the appointed hour the crowd gathered in a firebreak just across from the hospital. Several hundred men went to the hospital



to demand the surrender of the beaten man, but he had hidden himself so effectively that the searchers left, convinced that he had been removed earlier. The main body of the crowd converged on the police station to demand the release of the prisoner. At this point the military police commander was requested to send in a military guard and to take responsibility for order in the center.

For a short time after the arrival of the soldiers the crowd was quiet. The commanding officer talked to the Committee of Five in the station, reminding them of their agreement made during the afternoon; then he addressed the crowd. Seeing that there was no hope of dispersing the crowd peacefully, he finally gave the order to throw gas grenades. The crowd scattered, but a strong wind minimized the effect of the gas, and in a few minutes the crowd came back. One of them started a car, headed it toward the mounted machine guns and jumped out. An officer of the military police, unable to see that the car was driverless, opened fire with his machine gun. The soldiers took the shots for a signal to start firing, and some of them discharged their shotguns into the crowd. When the smoke and dust cleared away, the injured were carried into the police station by the evacuees and were removed by ambulance to the hospital. One boy of seventeen was killed instantly. Another boy, twenty-one, shot through the stomach, died in the hospital several days later. One was not wounded but was treated for exposure and tear gas. Nine were wounded more or less seriously, but all of these recovered.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INCIDENTS

Although both of these disturbances were referred to in the press as "pro-Axis" demonstrations, they were actually the culmination of grievances and tensions that had been accumulating over a period of months. There is absolutely no evidence to indicate that the Manzanar incident was in any sense a "celebration" of the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Though graver in development, the Manzanar incident paralleled basically the Poston incident of the preceding month. In both cases, the spark that touched off the conflagration was the arrest of an evacuee on suspicion of having taken part in the beating of an unpopular evacuee believed by the people to be an informer. At both Poston and Manzanar, it was clearly indicated that many evacuees refused to believe the detained suspect guilty, that the rest felt that even if he were guilty he should not be punished for assaulting an informer, and that practically all were firmly against his removal from the center for trial as they believed such matters should be handled within the relocation community. In both instances the basic causes underlying the incidents were similar. Any thoughtful analysis of these incidents should include consideration of the following influences and factors:

- (1) Loss of income and property as a result of evacuation;
- (2) Uncertainty about the future in this country;



- (3) Dissatisfaction with some members of the administrative staff;
- (4) The policy on evacuee government excluding the aliens from membership on the community council;
- (5) The arrest of evacuees and their trial outside the relocation area;
- (6) The separation of Japanese aliens held in internment camps from their families, many of whom reside in the centers;
- (7) The variations in food between the kitchens of different blocks;
- (8) Delays in the payment of wages and clothing allowances;
- (9) Confusions about administrative policy;
- (10) Rumors of misappropriation of food;
- (11) Suspicions that informers were operating within the center;
- (12) Pre-evacuation quarrels and feuds between various factions of the Japanese-Americans;
- (13) Reliance by the administration upon young leaders who were not regarded as representative of the evacuees and upon other purported leaders who aided in the evacuation;
- (14) Discrimination against the aliens, and their exclusion from positions of importance in center administration.

As a result of analyzing the factors which contributed to these disturbances, WRA closed the quarter with plans shaping in two directions. First, the Administration, with heightened awareness of the complexity and grave significance of the human problems and attitudes arising from conditions of center life, was determined to enlist all possible assistance from qualified agencies and to employ all relevant techniques both in discovering the underlying causes

of community unrest and in bringing about their elimination. Second, the Administration was working toward the formulation of definite procedures for isolation in special camps of those who menace community living, and for segregation of those known to be disloyal to the United States; the retention in relocation centers of the first group jeopardizes the peace of the community, while the continued presence of the second menaces the status of the Japanese-American citizens.

#### INTERNAL SECURITY

Following the Poston and Manzanar incidents, extensive efforts were made to improve and tighten up the internal security or police organization at all relocation centers. As a first step in this direction, plans were made for appointing a national chief of internal security on the Washington staff; as a second, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was asked to survey the internal security problem at all centers and to make specific recommendations; as a third, the Civil Service internal security staff at each of the centers was revised to assure adequate training supervision for the evacuee police.

At each center, three jobs were set up in the Internal Security Division to be filled by non-evacuee Civil Service personnel; a Chief of Internal Security, an Associate, and an Assistant. Because of difficulties in recruiting properly qualified people, however, it was the exceptional center which managed to round out its internal



security organization during the quarter. At the close of the period, most centers still had only one Civil Service employee in internal security work. Details of organization and size of evacuee staff at each center were determined by the local Chief in the light of the center's population and its individual needs for police protection. As of December 31, the size of the evacuee internal security staffs at the centers varied from 18 to 160.

Most centers experienced a shortage of men on the police force during the harvest season, but in general were able to fill vacancies by using older men, who have done very good work and are suited for their positions by maturity and the respect which they command in the communities. The quarter under discussion saw the establishment of training schools for police officers at most of the centers. In these courses the police learned tactics common to the best police departments in the country and were also instructed in first aid. The aim of the police departments was to function so thoroughly as crime preventors that the business of crime detection would be reduced to a minimum. As a practical step toward achieving this end, every center maintained patrols in three eight-hour shifts, so that at no time within the twenty-four hours was the community without adequate police protection. Violations of law or center regulation during the quarter were few and chiefly in the category of misdemeanors rather than of felonies.

## FIRE PROTECTION

At all centers marked progress was achieved in the field of fire protection. Two centers, Granada and Rohwer, reported that they were, by the end of the quarter, adequately equipped and manned to face any emergency which might arise. Most of the centers received at least the basic essentials of fire-fighting equipment and by the close of the period had completed construction of fire stations (though in some instances the stations were too small to house the equipment, or lacked heating facilities adequate to prevent the freezing of fire truck discharge valves, nozzles, and pumps); a few of the centers had installed communication systems so that fires could be brought more promptly to the attention of the proper authorities. There remained some disparity between the number of fire hydrants and the length of fire hose on hand, and at Manzanar a problem existed because the water pressure on one side of the center was too low to combat major conflagration or to allow the sprinkler system in the hospital to operate effectively. However, the very handicaps under which the departments labored served to develop ingenuity and resourcefulness on the part of the firemen, and gave additional point to the fire-prevention educational program for the residents.

Intensive training and constant vigilance on the part of the firemen, together with the full cooperation of the residents, proved highly successful in lessening fire hazards at the centers. Such



fires as occurred during the quarter were in almost every instance derived from faulty installation of stoves or water heaters (indicating a general hazard that could be promptly remedied) or from the less easily solved problem posed by the general use of sub-standard electrical wiring or the installation (particularly in the colder centers) of chimney flues inadequate for the type of heating required.

#### LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE RELOCATION PROGRAM

Litigation. During the quarter there were significant developments in litigation testing the constitutionality of the evacuation. Federal judges handed down two decisions during the quarter concerning the constitutionality of the Western Defense Command's curfew regulations and evacuation orders. The Federal District Court for the Northern District of California upheld the constitutionality of the evacuation orders in a criminal prosecution by the Government against Fred T. Korematsu, an American citizen of Japanese ancestry who had not obeyed the orders. On the other hand, the Federal District Court for the District of Oregon, in a similar prosecution against Minoru Yasui, a person of Japanese ancestry who violated the curfew regulations issued by General DeWitt, stated that the curfew orders were unconstitutional as to American citizens (although holding that Yasui was not a citizen and hence that he could be punished for disobeying the orders). At the close of the quarter these cases were awaiting appeal to the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Also

in the process of appeal to the same court was the Hirabayashi case, a criminal prosecution against a citizen of Japanese ancestry who had violated the evacuation orders. In that case the Federal District Court for the District of Washington had, during the preceding quarter, upheld the constitutionality of the evacuation orders as to American citizens.

At the end of the quarter there were two cases pending in Federal District Courts in California which were of immediate concern to WRA because they challenged WRA's constitutional right to detain evacuee citizens in the relocation centers. In these cases, writs of habeas corpus were sought for Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wakayama of the Manzanar Relocation Center and Mitsuye Endo of the Tule Lake Relocation Center.

One other case of indirect interest to WRA, decided during the preceding quarter by the Federal District Court for the Northern District of California, was Regan v. King, a case that attempted to compel the San Francisco registrar of voters to strike the names of citizens of Japanese ancestry from the election register, on the grounds that they were in fact not American citizens. The suit was dismissed on the authority of the Supreme Court decision in the case of United States v. Wong Kim Ark. At the close of the quarter, an appeal of Regan v. King was pending before the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The Office of the Solicitor kept in close touch with all litigation of interest to WRA or to evacuees, keeping WRA informed



of the implications to the relocation program of all judicial decisions handed down. In addition, the Solicitor's Office cooperated with the Department of Justice in the preparation of briefs on the constitutional questions raised and in the determination of litigation policy.

Project Attorneys. By the close of the quarter appointed Civil Service attorneys had been assigned to most of the relocation centers, as project attorneys, to assume responsibility under the Solicitor's supervision for all legal work at the centers. This legal work included: (1) legal advice to the project director and his staff in the administration of the center; (2) assistance in formulating plans for evacuee self-government and law enforcement; (3) participation in trial of cases involving law and order offenses by evacuees; (4) advice to evacuee-operated consumer enterprises on all legal aspects of their management and assistance in organizing them into cooperative associations; and (5) aid to evacuees seeking legal assistance in their personal affairs or property matters. There was a very noticeable increase in work in the last-named category, as the evacuees became more and more aware of the legal services available to them. Much of the evacuee property work required collaboration with the field offices of the Evacuee Property Office, research into tax and property law, and preparation of leases, contracts, powers of attorney, and various other types of legal instruments. In addition the project attorneys were active in establishing and maintaining good working relationships with State and local authorities whose duties impinge on project operations--

judges, law enforcement officers, tax authorities, and various other State and local officials.

Evacuee lawyers who had been admitted to practice in some State, and, at some projects, law students and tax and insurance counsellors were assigned to the office of the project attorney to assist him in carrying out his functions. These staff members performed very valuable legal services, particularly in the field of assisting evacuees with their personal and business problems.

Over-all legal work. Until the reorganization of December 15, the regional attorneys at Denver, Little Rock, and San Francisco continued their activities in furnishing legal advice to the regional directors and their staffs and in reviewing the work of the project attorneys. Upon the discontinuance of the regional offices, the Washington office of the Solicitor assumed this review function, but established a field office in San Francisco for the purpose of assisting the Evacuee Property Office there in carrying out its legal functions.

In Washington, the Solicitor's Office continued to give legal advice to the Director and his staff, assisting in the preparation of procedural documents and doing all necessary legal research on problems raised by project operations and relocation policies. Twenty formal opinions were issued during the quarter, covering a broad range of legal problems, such as the legal basis for organization of evacuee self-government at relocation centers; the liability of consumer enterprises to pay Federal and State income taxes; the procedure for



organizing consumer cooperatives under the District of Columbia law, including the preparation of sample articles, by-laws, and other organization papers; the ways in which American citizenship might be lost by evacuees; the extent of WRA's authority under its executive order and appropriation language to buy real property or to extend assistance to persons other than those covered by evacuation orders; military censorship of photographs taken at relocation centers; and the applicability of Federal fiscal and other statutes to various activities proposed by WRA.

In addition to maintaining relationships with the Department of Justice on matters involving litigation (see above), the Solicitor's office continued its liaison with the Alien Enemy Control Unit, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of that Department in legal matters relating to parolees from internment camps, deportees, and persons in relocation centers suspected of subversive activities; with the Alien Property Custodian and the Foreign Funds Control Unit of the Treasury Department on questions involving the vesting or freezing of evacuee funds and property; with the Bureau of Internal Revenue on tax matters affecting evacuees and evacuee-operated organizations; with the Department of the Interior in problems arising under the memoranda of understanding covering WRA use of reclamation and Indian lands for relocation center purposes; and with other Federal agencies whose programs affect WRA activities.

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The final quarter of the year witnessed the development and expansion of leisure-time activities at all centers. Whereas the quarter opened with nearly half the centers lacking qualified non-evacuee advisors for the program, it ended with such supervisors on the job in all centers but one. The arrival of these qualified leaders gave impetus and needed direction to an important phase of the relocation program. Very few of the evacuees had training or experience adequate for the assumption of active and efficient leadership in the field of group activities; many were interested in taking part in the program, but their efforts were handicapped until the presence of an experienced supervisor allowed training and instruction.

Certain leisure-time programs common to all centers were established early in the period of occupation: athletics, social recreation, forum and discussion groups, and religious activities. Until winter weather interrupted outdoor sports, such as baseball, softball, touch football, and basketball were popular leisure-time pursuits. Only in the two Arizona centers, however, were such sports possible during the winter season. The indoor sports program was limited by the nature of the recreation halls--ordinary barracks with low ceilings--and by the fact that many recreation halls had to be converted to office, school room and other uses for which they were not intended. Lack of adequate recreational equipment at most centers continued throughout the quarter. Ping pong, judo, and boxing matches



proved popular among the indoor sports that could be carried on in the available space during the winter. Social recreation included dancing, play production (both modern and occidental dramas and traditional Japanese plays), concerts and community sings, and the arrangement of card games, checkers, chess, go, shogi, and mah jong for interested groups.

During the quarter, the organization of clubs for young and old went forward at all relocation centers. These clubs fall into two categories: those that are chapters of national organizations, and those that are purely local in nature. During the autumn, representatives from the national organizations visited the different centers and helped with the formation of branch units. By the end of the quarter, most centers had chapters of the American Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts inaugurated. The local clubs showed a wide variety of interests and covered a range that begins with the purely recreational or social and ends with the definitely intellectual or sociological.

#### SUMMARY REPORTS ON THE CENTERS

##### Manzanar

The entire October-December quarter at Manzanar in California was over-shadowed by the disturbance of December 6. Prior to that date, the community was working up to the point of combustion; subsequent to it, the populace was recovering from the shock and violence of the incident. The demonstration seriously affected the

organization and size of the appointed staff. Conditions made it necessary to substitute non-Japanese in posts previously filled by evacuees. Until new personnel could be recruited and inducted, school teachers substituted in clerical and other jobs.

Throughout the autumn Manzanar experienced a shortage of workers. Slightly over 1,000 harvest workers went out in October, cutting the supply of internal workers from 5,200 to 4,200 and 500 students withdrew from labor to go to school. The disturbance disrupted employment except in divisions concerned with subsistence and hospital services, and even when all evacuees returned to work on December 19, drastic reorganization and reassignment took place because of the replacement of many evacuees by Civil Service personnel.

Manufacturing enterprises, with the exception of the short-lived camouflage net project, functioned satisfactorily during the period up to the time of the general strike. The garment factory, reconditioned during the quarter, received power machines of all types with consequent acceleration of production. Until November most work in the factory was done on domestic machines. The 25 employees manufactured camouflage masks, beauty shop smocks and uniforms, kitchen aprons, waitresses' uniforms, towels, denim coats and policemen's shirts. The soy sauce factory, installed in November and employing four men, was expected eventually to supply other centers in addition to Manzanar, but in December the disturbances



at the center temporarily cut down production. The bean sprout project, which began production in October with four workers, produced an average of 1600 pounds weekly for delivery to the mess halls. A woodcraft undertaking was at the close of the quarter still in its formative stage. A shop had been reconditioned for its use, and tools and equipment had been set up. A temporary toy shop was functioning and had produced sample toys.

All crops planted at the center during the summer were harvested during the fall. About 717 tons of vegetables, melons, and pears were produced, with a value of \$43,500 as estimated on the basis of Los Angeles market reports. All products except three carloads of Swiss chard and two of watermelons sent to other centers were consumed at the center. No planting was possible after September because of early frost. One-third of available acreage was utilized in 1942. Shortage of farm implements, a makeshift irrigation system, and late planting prevented further development. At the close of the year plans were being made to plant 300 additional acres in the 1943 season.

#### Colorado River

With the return of cooler weather, the tempo of community progress at the Colorado River Relocation Center in western Arizona accelerated noticeably throughout the autumn months. In fact, just before the demonstration in late November, the center, despite

unusual difficulties of supply and communication, appeared to be achieving a considerable measure of community stability. And the demonstration itself, for all its regrettable features, undoubtedly had a healthy effect by bringing certain basic difficulties into the open.

On the agricultural side, the center was forced during the period to lower considerably its previous estimates of future production but was able, because of favorable climate, to continue production of certain essential foods well into the winter. Toward the end of the quarter a plan for farm development in the undeveloped Parker Valley was drastically curtailed because of retarded development of the main irrigation canal from Headgate Rock Dam, twenty-five miles distant from the area. During October and November, however, reclaimed land was planted to spinach, lettuce, Copenhagen cabbage, onions, broccoli, and celery for early spring harvesting. By the end of the period, subjugation crews had cleared and prepared for cultivation an additional 140 acres of desert, bringing the total acreage of cleared land to 305 acres. Hog and chicken farms were in process of preparation for use early in the new year when stock purchases could best be made. Construction of pens and fences, however, awaited the procurement of lumber.

Industrially the quarter was a period of exploration. Surveys were made of production possibilities in a variety of enterprises ranging from ice cream manufacture to ceramics. In the established



undertakings of charcoal and Japanese food manufacture, production was stepped up by the end of the quarter. In the month of December the Moyashi (bean sprout) factories operating in two of the communities produced 6,205 pounds for consumption in the community mess halls.

The schools of Poston opened under the handicaps common to all relocation centers. Poston I, largest of the three communities, suffered the greatest inconvenience in that classes were scattered over a square mile (because it was impracticable to move any large mass of the residents), whereas at Poston II and III it was possible to allocate one entire block of barracks for school use. The library system was closely tied in with the school system, operating under the joint direction of the Superintendent of Education and the Director of Recreation and Adult Education.

The three police units of Poston functioned without an appointed non-evacuee supervisor until early in October when a former officer of the San Francisco Police Department took office as Chief of Internal Security. This man immediately founded a police academy which proceeded to train the evacuee force in modern police methods. During the disturbance in November in Poston I, the entire force of that unit walked out, but continued unofficially and voluntarily to perform their regular duties, patrolling the area, and cooperating with the Administration with such good effect that there was not a single instance of violence during the entire period of the disturbance.

During the quarter the center's official newspaper underwent changes in name, management, and program. When the Daily Press Bulletin became the Poston Daily Chronicle, it changed from complete WRA supervision to evacuee management. By the end of the quarter, the Chronicle was functioning on a sound financial basis, with a paid subscription list of 2542. In addition to the community-wide eight-page daily mimeographed paper, it issued the Poston Christian Church Weekly with a circulation of 500 copies; the Poston III High School News, a weekly for circulation to school children and appointed personnel; and the Poston Red Cross News, a monthly with a circulation of 500.

The Poston Community Enterprises, consisting of 28 business establishments, moved its program forward under a trust agreement between citizen evacuee trustees and the Project Director. Under the terms of the agreement, all profits must be used for the benefit of the community. As of December 31, \$4,965.25 had been expended for such public benefits as movies, recreation equipment, and materials for regularly sponsored clubs. Since the Enterprises were started without capital, it was necessary to retain most of the profits to keep sufficient reserve for operations and expansion. At the end of the quarter, plans were going forward to incorporate the enterprises as a cooperative.

#### Tule Lake

This center in the northeastern corner of California ended the quarter with two outstanding accomplishments: (1) the production



and harvesting of bumper agricultural crops, and (2) the establishment of a highly effective community government.

Tule Lake's success in agriculture can be attributed to two factors: early occupation of the center which allowed time to prepare land, plant, and harvest before the frosts; and the rich fertility of the soil in the area. The results were achieved, moreover, in the face of serious labor troubles which threatened for a time to stop all agricultural work at the center. These difficulties came to a head in mid-October, at the height of the harvest season, and were accompanied by the unexpectedly simultaneous maturing of many crops. To meet the situation, high school students and evacuee women volunteers were recruited for temporary work in the fields. Certain groups, as a gesture of civic pride, contributed labor without accepting pay: the councilmen, the recreation staff, the Boy Scouts, the newspaper staff, and many members of the administration. Eventually the labor difficulties were adjusted and the regular crews were returned to work in time to finish up the harvest.

By December only rutabagas were being harvested. The major crops were potatoes, cabbage, carrots, daikon, celery, beets, turnips, lettuce, spinach, Chinese lettuce, onions, parsnips and rutabagas. These crops provided food for the center mess halls, 95 carloads for shipment to other centers, and 55 carloads for the commercial markets, the latter bringing a price of \$75,935.75. In addition, 1,200 tons of vegetables were stored for winter consumption. The farm produced also 1,850 bushels of oats and 15,927 bushels of barley.

After a rather turbulent period under a temporary system, a long-range community government was set up in early December and functioned throughout the remainder of the period with intelligence and efficiency. The election of the community council received the serious attention of the colony voters, who had had time to realize that the center should be run in the most efficient way for the good of the greatest number.

Closely allied with the government organization was the merit rating board. This board, chairmanned by the Assistant Project Director but otherwise composed of evacuees, made monthly checkups on all evacuee workers, grading them from A to E. These detailed reports were compiled to promote the efficiency of the individual and as a reference for investigations in connection with outside employment. The Fair Practice Committee, which formerly functioned under the Employment Division, showed toward the end of the quarter a tendency to divorce itself from all divisions in order that it might operate with complete lack of bias. This Committee of seven evacuees, each representing a different work division, investigated charges made against workers, looked into reasons for dismissal, and made recommendations according to the nature of the findings. Aside from having power to recommend reinstatement or dismissal, the committee was empowered to recommend a change in employment if that course seemed advisable.

The Planning Board, which came into existence October 1 exercised a dual function: (1) preparing research on major problems



likely to have an unfavorable repercussion among the residents as a whole, and (2) making recommendations for the institution of practices which would eliminate friction and promote general welfare. The committee was composed of seven male alien residents--one from each ward--an executive secretary, two members of the community council, and three technical research workers from the WRA administrative staff. Out of the discussions and reports held at planning board meetings came valuable decisions, the execution of which was definitely to the advantage of the community. The board stood behind the building of recreational facilities within each block to minimize opportunities for juvenile delinquency; it discovered the facts pertaining to the spoiling of a consignment of pork; it designated children who needed supplementary food; and it was responsible for requiring all mess and butcher shop workers to pass syphilitic and tuberculin tests.

#### Gila River

The Gila River Center, located in the desert of south-central Arizona and composed of two communities--Butte and Canal--was in the final stages of basic construction at the beginning of the quarter, and continued to receive large contingents of residents throughout the month of October. The confusion resulting from large inductions of evacuees for whom living quarters were incomplete lasted as long as induction took place. It was late in November

before the hospital unit was ready for use. November and December were given over to an extensive partitioning program to allow a modicum of privacy within the small apartments, and by the end of the quarter the greater part of this work had been finished.

The group leave program affected a very small percentage of workers at Gila because the only seasonal work readily available was located within the evacuated area. By special arrangement with the Western Defense Command, about two hundred evacuees were allowed to commute daily for a two-month period to the cotton fields of central Arizona. The fact that opportunities for seasonal work were limited had its compensations. Because of this situation, Gila River did not experience the labor shortage within the center that was common to other centers, and the farm program was successful during the quarter. The 820 acres under cultivation produced vegetables with an approximate total value of \$310,682, supplying the two Gila River camps and sending carloads to other centers. Two nurseries were in operation, propagating seeds and root stocks for vegetables, trees, flowers and shrubs. Since the acquisition of live stock was delayed until the new year, 5,000 acres of grazing land were leased, and some income derived.

The quarter saw complete organization of the Internal Security Division into policing platoons, juvenile officers and bicycle-mounted patrols, with a training program in progress. While the crime rate was low for the average municipality of 14,000 inhabitants,



it was high in view of the law-abiding habits of Japanese Americans prior to evacuation, and this fact caused serious concern among the evacuee residents. Community leaders were especially concerned about the increasing problem of juvenile delinquency which took the form of vandalism, burglary, theft, and assault. With the Internal Security Division, Parent-Teacher groups, and recreation leaders deeply interested in the problem and combining forces to combat it with effective leisure-time planning, however, improvement in conditions was expected.

Community Government, at the close of the quarter, was still functioning on a temporary basis. A tentative draft of a charter for a long-range governmental organization, however, was in process of formation. The Community Enterprise Association continued to supply the center with dry goods, shoes, drugs, hardware and groceries, and was conducting a study of the organization and maintenance of a cooperative and expecting to reach the incorporation stage shortly. The camouflage net factory at Gila began production in the last two weeks of December, but wage and health problems made recruitment of workers very slow. The quarter ended with a plan under consideration which it was hoped would remedy the situation.

#### Minidoka

The Minidoka Center in south central Idaho sent 2300 residents to the harvest fields of the surrounding area, with the result that the number employed in activities within the center rose from about

one-third to nearly all of the population between terminals of the quarter. To maintain essential services in the community it was necessary to train women as firemen, truck drivers, and warehousemen. One of the brighter aspects of this seasonal picture was to be found in the friendly relations established between evacuees and the farmers whose crops they saved. While the general public in some outlying towns continued to resent evacuees eating in restaurants, shopping, or attending moving picture shows while they were on seasonal leave, the farmers and business men who profited by the presence of the evacuees sought greater tolerance on the part of the public. Five Twin Falls farmers wrote to the Administration to voice their appreciation of the high quality of labor provided by the evacuees.

However, with such a severe shortage of labor on the center, it was especially hard to fill unpleasant and disagreeable jobs such as coal handling, land clearance, and garbage disposal. WRA was unable to provide gloves and footwear for the workers, two items worn out rapidly by those engaged in outside manual labor. As a result, the evacuees were reluctant to take on work that necessitated frequent clothing replacements where no means were provided with which to acquire such replacements.

Minidoka schools were late in opening, the elementary classes beginning on October 19 and the high school on November 16. The high school faced a curious problem in the fact that few of the students



knew each other. The student body was derived from no less than 56 different and widely separated public schools in the evacuated area. As a result, it took time for the pupils to get acquainted, but by the end of the quarter, a school paper and various amalgamating student organizations were underway to help create a more normal school atmosphere.

The presence in the community of a number of experienced businessmen from Seattle and Portland encouraged a rapid and efficient organization of Community Enterprises and their conversion to an incorporated cooperative. The filing of Articles of Incorporation for the Minidoka Consumer's Cooperative took place on December 22. Many services were added during the quarter. Showing of motion pictures began, and flower, barber, watch repair, shoe repair, general radio repair, and beauty shops opened.

Although there was no outbreak or large-scale demonstration at Minidoka during the quarter, there existed anxiety, fear, and considerable resentment caused by three specific factors: (1) lack of indoor flush toilets, and the relation between this lack and a rather sinister infection which developed among mothers and new babies; (2) lack of coal for heating residences until mid-November, well after the arrival of cold weather; (3) the fact that first pay, for the month of September, was not distributed until mid-November. However, as stoves were installed in all barracks, delivery of food occurred on schedule, street lights were installed, winter moisture

ended the dust condition, and as pay days and clothing grants arrived with some regularity, the morale of the people improved.

### Heart Mountain

The first of October found Heart Mountain in northwestern Wyoming with the last large inductions accomplished and basic construction of the community completed. There was overcrowding in living quarters because the center received a larger allocation of evacuees than was originally intended. Miscalculation of the size of family units also resulted in considerable discomfort. Although an equal number of large and small apartments had been constructed, the center actually received nearly four times as many small families as large. Since the small rooms were all occupied before the last large contingents arrived and since such vacancies as existed were all in large apartments, it was necessary in many cases to put two families in a single apartment until the work of re-partitioning could be accomplished. The situation was aggravated in November and early December when 1200 people returned from work furloughs, usually arriving in large groups and late at night, requiring immediate assignment to quarters.

During the harvest season the center experienced a serious labor shortage. A survey of the 10,785 residents revealed only 2600 men between the ages of seventeen and fifty-five and it was from this group that practically all the harvest workers were recruited.



The shortage of workers at the center, however, served to prove the mettle of the firemen. With the fire department badly understaffed, the remaining firemen voluntarily worked anywhere from 65 to 100 hours per week to assure the community of round-the-clock protection.

In connection with community government, the question of alien participation was at Heart Mountain a particularly sore point. At this center, the aliens functioning as block managers commanded an unusual amount of community respect largely because of the effectiveness with which they solved many of the community's more serious problems. A succession of such problems arose during the quarter, any one of which might easily have developed into an "incident" had it not been for their discreet handling by the block managers. Agitation over clothing allowance dispensation before procedures were clarified, a walk-out strike of the entire police force, crises arising over the unloading of coal, collection of garbage, and recruiting of sugar beet workers were some of the situations dealt with by these "elder statesmen." The secret of their success was attributed to the fact that they had no fear of setting an example, even though it meant in one instance working with the coal crew without compensation until they had dignified a disagreeable but essential type of work. In another case, they took active responsibility for law and order during the police situation and personally guarded government property. The close cooperation developed, after the police force difficulty, between the block managers and the administration was a prime factor in maintaining peace in the community. One of the most conspicuous benefits achieved

through this relationship was the control of the many boys' and young men's gangs, hold-overs from assembly center or even earlier days. By the end of the quarter, practically every gang had been transformed into a properly supervised boys' club with a healthy recreational program.

Industrially, Heart Mountain had cabinet, poster, canning, and sewing projects in production during the quarter. Early in December a sawmill was established in the Shoshone National Forest by WRA and timber cutting operations were begun under Forest Service permit. This mill, surrounded by a large tract of forest with trees marked for cutting by the forest rangers, gave promise of filling a need for an essential material at the center and also seemed likely to provide the evacuees an opportunity to acquire a new skill. From late October through the remainder of the quarter, a group of evacuees spent nearly full time preparing living quarters for the thirty men required to man the sawmill and repairing the road from the mill site to the center. Plans were made to operate the sawmill throughout the year, thus insuring the center of an adequate lumber supply.

#### Granada

Granada, in southeastern Colorado, began the quarter with induction just completed, and the 7600 people starting to settle down to community life. Beginning the quarter with evacuee barracks erected in all 30 blocks but with 18 of the blocks lacking plumbing



facilities and lacking mess hall service, the community had advanced by the end of the quarter to the place where it could concern itself with maintenance rather than with fundamental construction work. During the harvest season, this center, with more than 1,000 able-bodied workers out on leave, experienced a particularly acute manpower shortage.

Community government was still in the hands of the Temporary Council, but the charter for a permanent government was written and revised and ready to be voted on. Community enterprises increased during the quarter in both number and business volume, grossing \$64,674.33 for the quarter. Plans were being made for incorporation as a cooperative as the period ended.

The Granada Center was particularly fortunate in the establishment of friendly relations with neighboring towns. A limited number of shopping passes were issued daily to evacuees who needed to make purchases in Lamar and Granada. Groups of merchants from both towns extended official invitations to the center residents to visit the towns, and many townsfolk came out to visit the center. Basketball games between the center and outside high schools and town teams increased the general friendliness, while local newspapers also helped to foster and strengthen the mutual respect and good will.

#### Central Utah

The first half of October brought from Santa Anita and Tanforan Assembly Centers the last of the large evacuee contingents. November

represented the peak of outside employment with 748 engaged in seasonal work. At the end of December, when the harvest workers had returned to the center, the population totaled 7,909.

During the quarter, considerable progress was made in general construction and public works, and by the close of the year the scene had changed from one of dust and excavation and expectation of construction to one of settled community life. Barrack construction was complete with winterization of living quarters and dining halls; stoves had been installed in almost all buildings; the hospital had been dedicated; gravel and asphalt roads were laid; a new post office was finished; plumbing and carpentry crews were functioning efficiently, and a permanent telephone system was completed, connecting major points of administrative activity. Canals and diversion gates were made ready to function for cultivated land in spring, and irrigation plans were being developed for the care of the city's transplanted trees. In December workers on the landscaping project brought in by truck from the surrounding area 4,800 willow saplings, 1,000 tamarisks, 20 Utah junipers, and 24 Siberian elms.

Late in November plowing began on a 600-acre truck crop section, 150 acres of barley and sweet clover were planted, and brush clearing and plowing were to continue as long as the weather allowed. Hog and beef-cattle projects were started, and equipment was prepared for the introduction of a poultry section.

The Topaz Consumer Cooperative Enterprises incorporated during the quarter with a membership of 5,170 and a total, paid-in



share capital of \$5,170. As of December 31, five main stores were operating with a total of 40 evacuee employees. The association was also sponsoring moving picture showings, radio repair, laundries, and barber shops. Additional services planned for 1943 included dry cleaning, watch repair, and beauty shops.

On December 15, residents voted and ratified the constitution for community government by a large majority, and with the election of the Community Council on December 29, all steps in establishing community government had been accomplished.

The quarter saw the school program change from a formative stage to a well established system serving more than 2,000 pupils of grade and high school age, about 2,000 enrolled in adult education courses, and 182 enrolled in the 3 pre-school centers.

Community activities were varied and enthusiastically supported. The Topaz library, which opened in early December with more than 5,000 volumes, sponsored weekly recorded concerts which were well attended. There was a four-day harvest festival at Thanksgiving, and the Christmas holidays carried a program that included a dining hall decoration contest, a speedball exhibition, issei programs, special religious services, a pageant, dances, and distribution of gifts to children and the aged.

The center had weekly church services conducted by Buddhist, Catholic, Protestant, and Seventh Day Adventist clergymen, with a total average weekly attendance of 2,450. The Topaz Times, published

daily except Sunday, started issuing a magazine supplement each Saturday, and on Christmas Day put out a 30-page holiday magazine. As the quarter ended, the interest of the young was focused on plans for an ice skating rink.

#### Rohwer

The quarter opened at Rohwer with 2,434 people in residence and the bulk of the population yet to come. Most of the administrative staff had been appointed as of October 1, and a few hundred evacuees had been assigned to jobs; as the blocks were occupied, Block Managers were being selected to represent the people in the administration of the community. There was, however, no police force, and a fire department was still in process of organization; land development had not yet started; a project canteen had been operating one week; basic construction was only 75 per cent complete, and the scene was one of dust and confusion.

Employment difficulties arose from the rapid filling up of the center and also from the necessity of using inexperienced men on jobs calling for skilled workers. Of the evacuees recruited for construction work, only one had previous experience in the line. Evacuee foremen and supervisors also had to be trained. By December 31, physical construction was about 98. per cent complete, and the quarters for administrative personnel, constructed with evacuee labor, were 65 per cent complete. In October the majority of workers



were employed in mess, transportation, and preparation of barracks for occupation by the contingents of evacuees that kept pouring into the camp. By November large numbers were employed in wood cutting and land clearance and advance work for construction of personnel apartments.

In mid-October the hospital opened, equipped to offer full service to the community, and by the end of the quarter the center's health staff was working on mosquito and fly control. Improvements in the drainage system being carried out at the close of the year were expected to aid malaria control. Schools opened in November without furniture, books, or enough teachers, but conditions had improved by the end of the year, and college extension courses in education for evacuee teachers were being started to enable these teachers to qualify for teaching certificates under state law. A well organized police force had functioned so ably in preventing crime or misdemeanor that up to December 31 it had not been necessary to make a single arrest. Interest in the approved plan of community government was limited because of the restrictions imposed, but in November a temporary council of citizen evacuees was elected, and 6 alien residents were selected as an advisory committee. Together these bodies made plans for incorporating the community enterprise association and appointed a commission to draw up a charter for a long-range government. This constitution was completed in December and approved by both the temporary council and the advisory board.

## Jerome

Jerome in southeastern Arkansas was the last center to be occupied. It was not until October 6 that the advance contingent of 200 evacuees arrived from Fresno Assembly Center. At the end of that month the population was close to the 7,000 mark. As of October 1, basic construction of buildings and services was 90 per cent complete, the unfinished portion being chiefly water, sewage, and hospital facilities. The quarter was drawing to a close before the final touches of construction--such as window screens, sills, doors, and insulation--approached actual completion.

Road work was an essential undertaking, as ingress and egress during the winter depended entirely on having roads surfaced and drainage ditches installed before the rains began. The other imperative task was the cutting of fir wood for heating residences. This work consisted of felling the trees, trimming them, and hauling logs by truck, wagon, and mud boat. The wood cutting was limited to land selected for spring planting of food and feed crops. Labor was slowed by the inexperience of the evacuees in lumbering work. Few, if any, of them had ever worked at felling trees or chopping wood before, and the entire crew had to be trained in the handling of the tools, axes, cut-off saws, and cross-cut saws.

Although schools were unable to open during the quarter, registration had been completed by December 31, with 1,188 assigned to the high school, 818 to the elementary schools, 96 to the kindergarten, and 1,200 adults to the night school. Schools were scheduled to open immediately after the beginning of the year.



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

October 1 - December 31, 1942

- October 1 -- New leave regulations went into effect, making it possible for aliens as well as citizens, who met certain requirements, to reestablish themselves in private life.
- WRA opened a New York Office for the purpose of cooperating with the Second Service Command on the Individual Exclusion program.
- October 6 -- Jerome Relocation Center, last of the centers to be occupied, received its first contingent of evacuees.
- November 1 -- Final movement from Assembly Centers to Relocation Centers accomplished.
- November 5 -- General Emmons, in a Press Conference in Honolulu, announced a program of limited evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii, explaining that there would be no mass evacuation and that only those not essential to the war effort would be affected, the evacuees to be sent to relocation centers on the mainland.
- November 14 -- The "Poston Incident" got off to a start with the night attack on an evacuee resident at the Colorado River Relocation Center.
- November 18 -- A Federal Judge in Portland ruled simultaneously that the curfew order was void with regard to American citizens, but that Minoru Yasui, 26, American-born Japanese, having lost his citizenship by reason of a former period of employment in the office of the Japanese Consulate, was guilty of violating the War Department's curfew order.
- November 23 -- The "Poston Incident" ended in an agreement between evacuees and administration.
- First contingent of evacuees from Hawaii, 107 in number, arrived at the Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas.
- December 5 -- The night assault on an evacuee resident at Manzanar Relocation Center precipitated the "Manzanar Incident".
- December 6 -- The demonstration took place at Manzanar, the Military Police were called in, bloodshed followed, and a short period of military occupation began.
- December 15 -- Announcement was made of the abolishment of WRA Regional Offices and the transfer of the San Francisco staff to Washington and to the relocation centers.