

CENTRAL REGION

Heart Mountain Relocation Project
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

March 6, 1943

Mr. Jack Kiba
Assistant Director
Community Activities
Public Service Hall 32
Rohrer, McGehee, Arkansas

Dear Jack:

First of all an apology from Heart Mountain Community Activities is due you. Your letter of February 8, was open in another department, the envelope thrown away and the contents forwarded to my desk with a note attached seeking your location. I traced your whereabouts through friends in the "Sentinel", and returned your letter to the forwarding desk believing they wanted to send the reply to you later. However, I learned today that you were not answered. I am, therefore, writing this informal letter, from one evacuee to another, and trust that my answers to your inquiries prove satisfactory.

All block activities were avoided in our center, in order to keep recreation programs out of "politics", as much as possible. We found block consciousness a stumbling block in our effort to create a program for all the people of the center. I am glad, personally, to learn that you are steering your department along the same lines as ours. We will have much in common to discuss. Enclosed please find a copy of our chart, by which our organization operates.

FINANCE

The people in our center have not yet taken over Community (Consumer) Enterprise and therefore all our activities are more or less self-supporting.

MOTION PICTURES

An admission charge of five cents is made, children six years of age and younger are admitted free. Two 16 mm., sound projectors are used. We start one show in a mess hall at 7:00 p.m., taking care of the people of two blocks. When the first reel is run off, it is rushed to the next mess hall and the second showing is started thirty or forty-five minutes later. By this method the picture is shown to four blocks early enough in the evening to satisfy the parents of the younger children.

About five hundred to six hundred spectators are accommodated each night, and the entire center of twenty blocks is covered in five days. The proceed is being kept to buy another 16 mm. sound projector.

I believe that your Mr. Sam Minami will receive an official reply to his inquiry made several weeks ago.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB DEPARTMENT

This department is at present financed through the sales of salvage, such as grease, bones, egg boxes, bread boxes, batteries, sacks, etc. We have one coordinator and several volunteers from this department to help collect and reclaim these items. To date, the amount collected from salvage is sufficient to run the activities of the entire boys and girls club activities.

ADULT DEPARTMENT

Adult entertainments (kabuki and shimpa) are shown in each mess hall and an admission charge of about fifteen cents per adult is made to defray the expenses of renting costumes, wigs, and to purchase materials to make stage properties, sceneries, etc. The other adult activities required very little in the way of finances as most of the supplies for knitting, sewing, embroidery, and flower arrangements are purchased by the evacuees themselves and only instructors are assigned.

ATHLETICS

The high school and grade school physical education instructors are on our payroll at present, and we work in very close harmony with the education department. The athletic equipments and supplies are used both by the education and by the Community Activities.

We have not yet set any maximum price ceiling as we have tried to keep every cost down to a minimum. After all we must try to conserve everything and if we set a maximum, I am afraid that everyone will try to out-do each other--something to be discouraged in order to keep juvenile delinquencies down and make wholesome recreation available to all persons in the Center.

If I can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to call on me personally. Your letters to our directors will be most welcome, but he is away at present, and I may have to answer them until he returns.

Cordially yours,

DAVID YAMAKAWA
Assistant Director
Community Activities