

War Relocation

Authority

U.S. Government

# NEWS LETTER

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL RELOCATION OFFICE

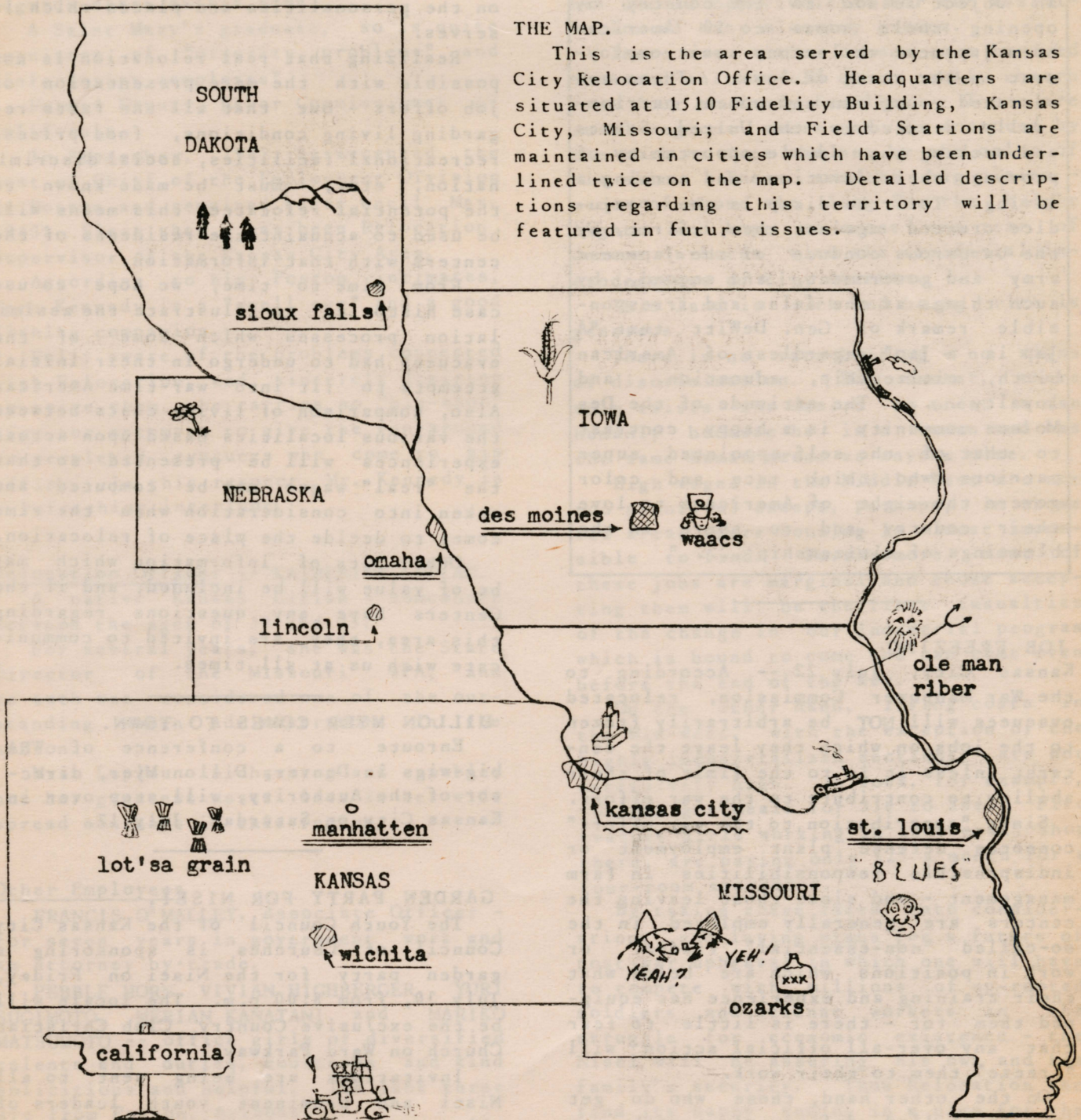
Missouri - Iowa

South Dakota

Kansas - Nebraska

VOL. I NO. 1

JULY 26, 1943



### THE MAP.

This is the area served by the Kansas City Relocation Office. Headquarters are situated at 1510 Fidelity Building, Kansas City, Missouri; and Field Stations are maintained in cities which have been underlined twice on the map. Detailed descriptions regarding this territory will be featured in future issues.

AN EDITORIAL FROM THE CHICAGO SUN ---  
June 5, 1943.

"Citizens of Des Moines have given an object lesson to the country by opening their homes to 50 American born Japanese while they await employment in the state of Iowa. These are educated young men and women, patriotically devoted to the United States and seeking the double opportunity of proving their devotion and earning a living. Their handicap is the prejudice created against them, first, by the barbarous conduct of the Japanese army and government, and second, by such things as the false and irresponsible remark of Gen. DeWitt that "A Jap is a Jap" regardless of American birth, citizenship, education, and loyalty .... The attitude of the Des Moines community is a happy contrast to that of the self-appointed super patriots who think race and color govern the right of Americans to love their country and to share in the blessings of citizenship .... "

#### JOB FREEZING

Kansas City, July 22 -- According to the War Manpower Commission, relocated evacuees will NOT be arbitrarily frozen to the jobs on which they leave the centers; unless it is to the limit of their ability to contribute to the war effort.

Since "contribution to the war effort" connotes defense plant employment or indispensable responsibilities in farm management - and since those leaving the centers are generally employed in the so-called "non-essential" trades, or work in positions which are below what their training and experience has equipped them for - there is little to fear that any over-all official action will "freeze" them to their work.

On the other hand, those who do get jobs in skilled defense plant work may have to remain for the duration.

#### WHY THIS?

This News-letter is being published by the Kansas City Regional Relocation Office for the purpose of depicting in an informal manner the many sidelights on the personalities and places which it serves.

Realizing that real relocation is not possible with the mere presentation of job offers - but that all the facts regarding living conditions, food prices, recreational facilities, social discrimination, etc., - must be made known to the potential relocatee, this means will be used to acquaint the residents of the centers with that information.

From time to time, we hope to use case histories to illustrate the assimilation processes which some of the evacuees had to undergo in their initial attempts to fit into war-time America. Also, comparison of living costs between the various localities based upon actual experiences will be presented so that the "real" wages may be computed and taken into consideration when the time comes to decide the place of relocation.

Other bits of information which may be of value will be included; and if the Centers have any questions regarding this area, they are invited to communicate with us at all times.

#### DILLON MYER COMES TO TOWN.

Enroute to a conference of WRA big-wigs in Denver, Dillon Myer, director of the Authority, will stop over in Kansas City on Saturday, July 17.

#### GARDEN PARTY FOR NISEI.

The Youth Council of the Kansas City Council of Churches is sponsoring a garden party for the Nisei on Friday, July 30, from 8:00 p.m. The locale will be the exclusive Country Club Christian Church on Ward Parkway.

Invitations are being sent to all Nisei and prominent youth leaders of this area, and approximately 200 are expected to attend.

## THE KANSAS CITY OFFICE.

Area Supervisor -- VERNON KENNEDY.

Born in Tacoma, Washington about 46 years ago. After sojourns in Mexico and Arizona, settled in Sacramento - and now regards there as his home.

A Saint Mary's graduate, so is quite cognizant of "minority problems" and "inferiority complexes".

Former Deputy Labor Commissioner of California.

In September, 1942, he accepted the post of Chief of the Employment Division at Poston and remained there until May, 1943. Since then, has been Relocation Supervisor of the Kansas City Area.

According to his Poston intimates, Vern Kennedy is a "swell egg" and a good fishing companion.

Fully aware of the problems connected with Relocation, and sincerely desiring to solve them, he carries no "big-shot" airs nor attempts to give the run-around to perplexed evacuees who come to his office. In this respect, Mr. Kennedy is a refreshing interlude.

Relocation Officer -- KATHERINE LUPLAU.

A native Kansas Citian - somewhere between the ages of 30 and 35.

For several years, she was the State Director of the Missouri WPA, and as such was considered one of the outstanding women administrators in the nation.

Mrs. Luplau is charming and capable, but her greatest asset lies in her wide spread contacts in this region.

Other Employees

FRANCIS O'MALLEY, Associate Officer - for seven years in government work and an attorney by trade.

PEBBLE HORN, VIVIAN HIGHBERGER, YURI SUGIMOTO, MERIAN KANATANI, and MARIKO MATSUMOTO -- office girls of diversified talents and duties, courteous and kind solicitous and helpful. The last three are from Poston, Arizona.

ROBERT S. IKI, Relocation Counselor - from the Central Utah Project.

## THE LAND.

Bound by the Mississippi, the Platte, the Missouri, and the Kaw - fed by the waters of the Eastern Rockies and the Western Great Lakes - lighted by the globes of countless towns - this land has untold opportunities for the assimilation of many minority groups.

There are cities of one to a hundred thousand which could quite easily absorb from four to forty families. There are rural regions where one is accepted by the work he does and not by the color of his skin. There are the big cities - mecca of those who long for the bright lights and hope to erase one year of desert darkness with the artificial incandescents of city streets.

This land is rich and being rich is generous.

There is no race-baiting - no signs of discrimination. But rather, there only exists the desire to treat a man humanly because he is a human and has the same human needs as anyone else.

High wages in the Middle West are not too plentiful except, perhaps, in those few areas where housing is almost impossible to find. Furthermore, most of these jobs are marginal and those accepting them will be the first casualties of the change in our industrial program which is bound to come and can come even before the end of the war.

On the other hand, living costs in the Mid-west, with the exception of the highly industrialized sections, are not excessively high. In Iowa, for example, you can get meals for 35¢ to 50¢. Five evacuee girls working in an overall shop there, are paying only \$25 a month for a four-room apartment.

By taking these facts into consideration, and laying plans for a future of post-war upheaval in which one will have to compete with millions of up-rooted soldiers and defense workers in the struggle for economic existence - the Nisei will be assuring his own and his family's security. Thus Relocation can find its happy ending in a plan for the future and not in a hectic hunt for the highest paying job.

## FIELD STATIONS.

The following are the field stations operated by the Kansas City Relocation Office.

Information regarding placements in the respective areas may be obtained by direct contact with the officials listed.

They will be glad to serve the residents of the centers by presenting each person's qualifications to prospective employers with the aim of fitting the job to the individual and not the individual to the job.

To accomplish this, sufficient data must be furnished. Whether this is done by personal correspondence or by the filling of forms such as WRA #26 and Civil Service #57, is up to the individual's discretion - but all are urged to transmit as complete a docket as is possible.

## THEIR ADDRESSES.

E. H. Leker  
Extension Annex, Third Floor  
Manhattan, Kansas

Frank Gibbs  
520 Liberty Building  
Des Moines, Iowa

Myrle White  
1605 Van Dorn  
Lincoln, Nebraska

E. G. Kennedy  
727 Paul Brown Building  
St. Louis, Missouri

W. M. Parmeter  
1217 City National Bank Bldg.  
Omaha, Nebraska

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
1510 Fidelity Bldg.  
Kansas City 6, Mo.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## NEWS LETTER DEBUT

This "News-letter" will be published approximately every other Friday in Kansas City, Missouri.

Those receiving copy are asked to make them available to as many people as possible.

(Notice to Block-managers:  
Please post on the bulletin boards  
in your block)