

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT  
Topaz, Utah

FINAL REPORT OF THE TOPAZ POSTAL  
SERVICE SECTION

Submitted by me. Hideo Iyeki, Resident foreman, July 1, 1945, when I left my office for my own relocation.

The Topaz Post Office opened its doors for business on September 20th 1942, in the building which is now used for the Administration canteen and mimeograph room. Its operation was started with a crew of three boys and one girl. Mr. James F. Hughes, Assistant Project Director, was then head of the Administrative Division under the Project Director Mr. Charles F. Ernst. Our Post Office was under the supervision of Mr. James Hughes.

On September 26, 1942, Hideo Iyeki was appointed foreman to take charge of the postal service unit in cooperation with the Office Service Section, now called Mail and File Section. A few days later, Mr. Willoughby was sent from the Delta Post Office to operate the full function of the regular U.S. Post Office in cooperation with our Residents Department.

Military censorship on incoming parcel post packages for evacuee residents was started on October 1st 1942 and lasted until March 1943, when it was found that the army had no right to censor evacuee's mail for the reason that the evacuees were not prisoners of war. During five months of military censorship and inspection of two to three hundred parcel packages of evacuee residents daily, not one contraband was found. Only a few kitchen knives were seized.

In the early part of December 1942, the Post Office was moved into the new building, the present location. The new building was divided into two departments with a wall partition between: One for the caucasian postal employees (U.S. Post Office Department) who took charge of all outgoing mail, money orders, registering mail, selling stamps and G.O.D. parcels. The resident depart-

ment handled all the incoming mail for the residents. All mail for Topaz was sorted out at the Delta Post office into two separate groups; one for the evacuee residents and the other for the W.R.A. offices and appointed personnels. The W.R.A. mail was handled at the Mail and File Section.

#### OPERATION OF THE SECTION

Up to June 1943, the W.R.A. Postal Service unit had twenty-three personnels:

- 1 Foreman
- 3 Office desk clerks
- 11 Mail carriers
- 4 Parcel clerks
- 4 Truck drivers

Two trucks were assigned to the unit for mail transportation.

The mail transportation between Delta and Topaz was handled twice daily by the W.R.A. trucks.

Each mail carrier delivered first, second and third class matters from house to house twice daily in three blocks.

Residents called for parcel post packages on receiving notices from the office.

In April 1943, mail boxes were installed in the block managers' offices so that the residents could deposit their mail in their own blocks. The mails were collected from these boxes twice daily by the mail trucks.

At the beginning of summer 1943, a drastic change in the operation of the Residents Department was made. In order to comply with W.R.A. new policy, a reduction in the number of the resident postal service workers was made as follows:

	Old No. of Personnels	New No. of Personnels
Foreman	1	1
Office clerks	3	22
Mail carriers	11	6
Parcel clerks	4	2
Truck attendants	4	4

PRESENT SYSTEM OF WRA POSTAL SERVICE UNIT OPERATION

Number of Personnels: 14

1. Foreman: Supervises the whole operation of the unit.
2. Two office clerks: General office work, correcting addresses and forwarding mail. They sent out to the residents notices of arrival of Registered or Insured mail.
3. Six mail carriers: Each mail carrier delivers mail in five to six blocks per day. Each block gets mail delivery service once a day, either in the A.M. or P.M. All the mail carriers sort the mail.
4. Two parcel post men: Sorting and listing all the parcels to have them ready to be delivered to each block by a truck. They take care of the second and third class mail, which are also delivered to each block with parcel post packages. They take care of the empty mail sacks.
5. Three mail truck attendants: They work in cooperation with two mail truck drivers who are on the Motor Pool pay roll. They are in charge of transporting mail between Delta Post Office and Topaz for which they make two trips daily except Sunday and Monday, being no trip on Sunday and three trips on Monday. Within the Project, they make trips to all the block managers office twice daily except Saturdays and Sundays, delivering parcels, papers and magazines and, at the same time, collecting mail from the block mail box.
6. Special Delivery Mail and fragile or perishable articles are delivered to individual apartments by the mail truck.
7. Notices are sent out from the office through the mail carriers for the residents to call for the C.O.D. packages, Registered mail and Insured packages.
8. All the Registered mail and Insured parcels are recorded. Also all the forwarded letters and parcels are recorded in the office.

the name of every member of a family, its sex, age, identification number, its address before evacuation, address of former assembly center and present center address.

In case an evacuee leaves the center, his forwarding address is added to the Directory. See the attached sample. It took two months to complete this most complete Directory of the evacuee residents of Topaz. It proved to be the most dependable guidance and the best reference for the Post Office workers. Within the next one year, so many residents moved and so many changes of addresses were reported that the directory had to be revised for 1945. The revised issue was completed at the end of 1944. At both times, a great assistance was given by the block managers to expedite the completion of this tremendous task. An extra typist was added to the regular office personnel, specially assigned to type out six hundred pages of the first directory. The second volume was not so heavy as the first one due to the decrease of the Topaz population.

A new program was inaugurated on March 23rd 1944 for the weekly issuance of dead mail lists. With the cooperation of the block managers the new lists of dead mail and some times an important notice with its Japanese translation are posted weekly in each dining hall and other public places. This was very helpful in clearing the dead mail.

Relationships of the Postal Service Section with other Sections and Divisions:

Unlike the other WRA Sections, the Postal Services was in operation almost independently. The caucasian department is the branch office of the Delta Post Office. It operates independently as the U.S. Post Office. In September 1943, Mr. Willoughby, the first superintendent of this branch office, left Topaz and Mr. Cleo Whicker succeeded him to supervise the Topaz Post Office with three other caucasian clerks.

The Residents department is under the supervision of the WRA Administrative Management Division. Mr. James F. Hughes was the first head of the Division. On February 15, 1944 he left the center to join the Navy and Mr. Roy Potter took his place. On March 23, 1944, Mr. Potter left the center and Mr. Walter Honderick became the head of the Division, and a month

later Mr. Gilbert Niesse became our latest Division head.

Our mail trucks are provided by the Motor Pool for transportation of mail.

The lists of daily arrivals and leaves have been supplied by the Statistical Gate House for our reference.

This Section works in close connection and co-operation with the above Sections as well as with the office of the Block Managers Headquarters.

Estimated figures, according to our daily record, of mail handled in our Section for the evacuee residents in the year 1944 was follows:

1st class mail(including Registered)	431,830
2nd & 3rd(Papers & magazines)	344,020
4th class(Parcels including Insured)	<u>111,334</u>
Total	887,184

Today, July 1, 1945, when the center population was reduced to half of that of last year, the volume of incoming mail decreased considerably.

About 1,200 first class, 900 second and third class and 200 fourth class matters are handled daily by the Section.

Of all the resident personnels in the Postal Service Section, only four persons, H. Iyeki, H. Nagamoto, G. Nikami and K. Tanaka have remained in service for the last one and a half year. The rest of the persons have been changed often. Only one person, Hideo Iyeki, the foreman, has stayed in the office from the very beginning of the Topaz Post Office.

BLOCK #

**SAMPLE**

NAME, in Full English and Japanese  Last, Middle, First	SEX AGE  M or F	FAM. #	I.D. #	Former Address Before Evacuation	Assembly Center Address	Present Address	
IYEKI Hideo Minoru Kenneth Nobuji Donald Shozo	M F M M	56 44 19 16	20676 " " "	1019A " " "	3614 E. 12th street Oakland, California	16-28 Tanforan	6-11-E