HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ON

CRYSTAL CITY INTERNMENT CAMP

Courtesy of

Three Star Nursery, Inc.

Gary & Cheri Hayakawa

Shig & Kim Takahashi

RECEIVED
CRYSTAL CITY
JUN 27 1945
INTERNMENT CAMP

Form 30-81 (3d Rev. 4-23-45-5M)
MEMORANDUM & ROUTING FORM
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Immigration and Naturalization Service

Crystal City Internment Camp

Folder 101/061

Camp Progress Narratives and Reports.

Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

105/034 101/061

TO : All Division Heads, Crystal City Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas

DATE: July 20, 1945

FROM : J. L. O'Rourke, Officer in Charge
Crystal City Internment Camp

SUBJECT: History of facility

Our Central Office has instructed that a history of the Crystal City Internment Camp be prepared for submission to the Bureau of the Budget for incorporation into a general war effort history of government agencies.

To insure full coverage of all historical operations here, each of you is directed to furnish the Operations Officer with a summary narrative covering operations of your division from the beginning of this camp until the present time. While this particular report we must make will be specific and represent a general picture of the life and problems of the Crystal City Internment Camp, you should go as much into detail as possible in arranging your summary, so that it may be retained for use in preparing a detailed history of this camp at some future date.

In submitting your report, you should consider not only operational problems and functions, but the ~~various~~ problems you have encountered as well. Also, outline as many human interest stories as you are able to recall.

J. L. O'Rourke

Officer in Charge
Operations Officer
Administrative Services Officer
Surveillance Officer
Internal Relations
Internal Security
Medical
Education

LTM/drb

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Joseph L. O'Rourke, Officer in Charge
Crystal City, Texas

DATE: August 25, 1945

FROM : W. F. Kelly, Assistant Commissioner for Alien Control
Central Office

SUBJECT: History of Crystal City Internment Camp

You will recall that in a memorandum dated June 22, 1945 we called your attention to the fact that we are preparing an overall history of our alien enemy program which will become a part of the Service's history of wartime activities required by the Bureau of the Budget. We would appreciate receiving the material requested of you by September 15, 1945.

WFKelly

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CAMP

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE OF
THE CRYSTAL CITY INTERNMENT CAMP

ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF CAMP

In the Fall of 1942, this Service was ready to establish a family internment camp, which had been under study and consideration for some time. In connection with the location of a site for the internment of internee couples in early 1942, a Farm Security Administration migratory labor camp was inspected by members of this Service then engaged in the construction and opening of a male internment camp at Kenedy, Texas. The Federal Correctional Institution for Women at Seagoville, Texas was finally obtained for this particular internment program, but a full report of the labor camp at Crystal City, Texas remained on file in the Central Office; so when an immediate location was needed for the family internment camp, officials in the Philadelphia office were in position to promptly arrange with the Farm Security Administration for transfer of the Crystal City property to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Accordingly, on November 6th and 7th, 1942, a few officials of the Service assembled in Crystal City for the purpose of converting the migratory labor camp into a family internment camp.

The principal factors favoring the Crystal City location were: (1) forty-one three room cottages and one hundred and eighteen one room shelters, together with service buildings, already existing on the premises; (2) adequate utility services to accommodate a camp of 2,000 persons; (3) an exceptionally mild winter climate which would be an asset with respect to custodial maintenance of women and children. The only concession made by this service was the loan of some twenty used victory huts to the Farm Security Administration to obviate the removal of a number of shelters from the premises.

The Crystal City camp was originally intended to be populated wholly by persons of Japanese nationality and ancestry, contemplated to total not more than 2,000 individuals. It developed, however, that considerably in excess of this number would be interned at Crystal City, so several expansions in the program were authorized and effected, until accommodations for a maximum of 3,500 people were realized in early 1945. These expansions required actual extension of the internment area and movement of the eastern compound fence several hundred yards from its first location. Plans were carefully drawn and executed for the buildings originally contemplated, but expansions thereafter made it necessary to construct buildings and facilities wherever space could best be afforded, and at the conclusion of our construction program, the camp was quite crowded, yet orderly with respect to the lay-out of buildings and communal service centers.

The camp, as of July 1, 1945, consisted of 694 buildings, of which

519 were constructed by this Service, after occupancy of the premises, at a cost of over $1,000,000.00, (considering utility extension and miscellaneous related items). Another $350,500.00 have been expended for operational equipment. (These figures are approximate and do not include general operation costs).

Construction was the principal objective of the small group which launched the Crystal City camp on November 7, 1942. At that time, both materials and craftsmen were scarce, and a tremendous amount of endeavor was necessary to obtain building supplies and the necessary men to frame such supplies into buildings. These difficulties were magnified by the tremendous amount of construction work then in operation among the numerous military installations in this area. However, with concentrated effort and the assistance of other Immigration offices in the general area, sufficient craftsmen and laborers were recruited to complete the job, and by April 1943 there were 228 employees on our temporary roll for a weekly payroll of $7,147.59.

The location and procurement of building materials was little more difficult than the priority problems encountered. Priority applications were constantly in preparation, and no less activity was directed to attempt expeditious authorizations after the applications had been submitted. In spite of this, there were few occasions when an actual lay-off of workmen became necessary because no building materials and supplies were available, although there were numerous instances where a car load of such supplies would arrive just in time to avoid a shut-down the following day.

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

To accomplish the opening and operation of the Crystal City Internment Camp, eight regular Service employees were assigned to Crystal City in November 1942. Two of these were Central Office personnel; three were detailed from other camps; and three were officially transferred here. Of these, only three still remain in Crystal City. This group, with some construction employees from other camps and intermittent details of various Patrol Officers from the San Antonio District, formed the nucleus of personnel for the camp, and at the close of June 30, 1945, only 12 regular Service employees (appointed prior to the war) were stationed here, viz: Mr. J. L. O'Rourke, Officer in Charge; Mr. L. T. McCollister, Operations Officer; Mr. H. L. Adams, Chief, Administrative Services Division; Mr. E. D. McAlexander, Internal Relations Officer; Mr. Larry R. Elwood, Chief, Internal Security Division; Mr. Rea P. McKinney, Examiner; Mr. Gerald P. David, Chief, Surveillance Division; Mr. M. J. Wilce, Chief, Supply Section; PatrolInspectors Omer L. Hix, Luther T. Barr, and Andrew J. Mosser; and Mechanic Ralph F. Hall. The balance of personnel was recruited after the beginning of tbe Crystal City project.

The first few months of operation at Crystal City were strenuous for key personnel and the few capable clerical employees this

office was able to recruit. It must be conceded that the untiring efforts of all concerned in this early personnel contingent and total disregard for number of duty hours enabled the Administration to overcome the burden of activity which seemed impossible at the time.

This being the first venture in the internment of family groups, no precedent for operations existed. The Administration could only apply and temper basic regulations existing for the detention of male internees and prisoners of war, and plan and organize office space and personnel on a more or less hypothetical basis with the limited knowledge as to the camp's future that was then in their possession.

Basic policies and procedures to launch our program were formulated in a assembly of Service officials at Crysrtal City during the early month of operation. Mr. Earl G. Harrison, then Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Mr. W. F. Kelly, Assistant Commissioner for Alien Control, Mr. N. D. Collaer, then Officer in Charge of the Crystal City camp, and Miss. Evelyn W. Hersey, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, were present for this conference. Mr. J. L. O'Rourke (who succeeded Mr. Collaer as Officer in Charge here in June 1943) and Dr. Amy N. Stannard, who were directing the Seagoville camp at the time, attended the conference, so that experiences from that facility could be considered in planning for Crystal City.

For the first few weeks, all office operations were transacted in a three room building which has since become only a small part of the space now allocated to the Maintenance Division alone. Rapidly outgrowing this space, general Headquarters functions were transferred to what was then the residence of the Manager of the migratory labor camp. This building consisted of a living room, two bedrooms, kitchen and bath. The Officer in Charge and Supervising Engineer utilized one of the bedrooms; the Principal Clerk and her fiscal staff the other bedroom; while the Assistant Officer in Charge officed in the living room with all remaining personnel. Within a few days, a 16' x 16' victory hut had been erected at the detention compound front gate and was immediately pressed into service as headquarters for the Surveillance Division (which was then in a stage of formation), a central employment agency and headquarters for timekeeping and construction accounting functions. One telephone served the entire facility at the beginning, so to extend communications, a radio car transmitter was borrowed from the Del Rio Border Patrol Sub-district. This automobile was parked in front of the general Headquarters office, with various and sundry personnel dashing to and from to receive and transmit messages. To improve reception, a station receiver was shortly installed inside the building, and everyone associated with the camp in those early days still well remember how it was necessary to form a human chain between the receiver in the office and the transmitter in the car in order to inform the operator the text of communications received when the automobile receiver failed to function. Two months later, an automobile type transmitter and a telephone switchboard were

installed in the kitchen of the building then serving as headquarters, and from that time on, both radio and telephone communications were satisfactory,. The present headquarters office was completed and occupied in March 1943 and later doubled to its present size.

The basic organization generally applicable to other camps of this Service was adopted for Crystal City, namely: (1) Headquarters Division (Officer in Charge and Assistant with general administrative and fiscal employees); (2) Supply Division (responsible for procurement, distribution, and property control accounting); (3) Liaison Division (for miscellaneous contacts with internees and general liaison work between the Office of the Officer in Charge and aliens in custody); (4) Surveillance Division (responsible for general custody of internees and prevention of escape); (5) Maintenance Division (responsible for maintaining buildings and utilities already installed); (6) Medical Division (responsible for medical administration to internees and composed of personnel detailed drom the United Statew Public Health Service. Numerous changes in organizational rearrangements have occurred since that time as needs developed, and at the close of the fiscal year 1945, functions were allocated among seven principal divisions: (1) Administrative Services, (2) Surveillance, (3) Internal Security, (4) Maintenance, Construction, and Repair, (5) Internal Relations, (6) Education, and (7) Medical. These divisions, in turn, are subdivided into various sections and units and headed by either the Office of the Operations Officer or Office of the Officer in Charge. An authorized strength of 161 was in effect on July 1, 1945. The Education, Medical, and Maintenance, Construction, and Repair Divisions headquarter in separate buildings inside the internment compound; Internal Relations and Internal Security Divisions occupy the same building inside the compound; while all other divisions and offices occupy the General Administration Building outside the fence. Practically every division has experienced several movements as operations and increased personnel necessitated larger quarters. While every office has experienced considerable expansion since beginning of the camp, the only major change; which constituted a noticeable revision of the original basic organizational outline, was the formation of two divisions (Internal Relations and Internal Security) from the office which was originally termed the Liaison Division.

The vast majority of personnel employed at Crystal City were untrained in the type of work they were called upon to do, and with respect to clerical positions, few had had any previous experience whatsoever. This fact, coupled with our inability to recruit employees from outside because of the isolated location of Crystal City with respect to shopping and activity centers, resulted in a tremendously heavy load, both from the standpoint of work, training and supervision, on the part of the limited experienced personnel assigned here. To illustrate the location handicap, the expression in a preliminary report, submitted to us for concurrence, by Miss Mabel B. Ellis of the Y.W.C.A., New York, following one of her trips here, is recalled. She said, in

effect: "Because of the isolated location of Crystal City, the employees of the internment camp have relatively little more freedom than the internees behind the fence." Naturally, the lack of recreational and entertainment facilities here has made retention of personnel difficult, and there has been quite a turn-over of personnel.

Difficulties of the Officer in Charge and key staff members assisting him is policy formation and over-all direction of operations were further increased because of the general attitude of a large majority of official personnel. Selling these employees on the internment program was an obstacle in itself, which, in effect, squeezed the staff members referred to in between the natural demands of an internee group and a corps of workers who were convinced in their own mind that anything received by the internees was too good and too much. Naturally, this condition did not alleviate the general suspicions and accusations of a hostile public whose ration cards would not permit them to enjoy as much meat, sugar, etc., as nationals of enemy countries who were in government custody. The tolerance developed by our official employees and general understanding which now seems to evidenced on the part of the general public is considered one of our major accomplishments.

PREMISES AND UTILITIES

The premises owned by the Farm Security Administration at the time of our occupancy consisted of 240 acres of land, and this Service obtained an additional 50 acres through purchase, making a total of 290 acres for the facility as a whole. One hundred acres are contained within the fenced compound, with the remaining acreage devoted to farming, personnel residences, playgrounds, etc. In the beginning, water was supplied by the City of Crystal City, electricity by the Central Power and Light Company, natural gas by the Texas Gas Utilities Company, and telephone by the Del Rio and Wintergarden Telephone Company. All utilities appeared adequate for the population originally planned for, but as increases occurred, it became necessary to incorporate a deep well on the premises into our domestic water supply, and construct a sewage disposal system of our own. The electrical demand has increased from 50 KVA to over 300 KVA, and the original electrical system, consisting of one bank of three 15 KVA transformers, has grown into a system supplying ten banks of three transformers each, varying from 7 1/2 to 25 KVA. Water requirements have risen from 250 GPM pumping capacity to 750 GPM (including irrigation needs) but even this amount has not been adequate during this summer -- water pressure frequently dropping to zero in the mains. Fortunately, no fires have occurred, as it would have been difficult to extinguish or control a blaze under such circumstances.

We have experienced many electrical failures, but emergency generator units have permitted us to maintain power for fence lighting and operation of our water and sewer systems. The few

hundred yards of all-weather roads originally existing have grown to some ten miles of roads and walks and permit access to any part of the camp, regardless fo weather conditions.

The Maintenance, Construction, and Repair Division is responsible for upkeep of all buildings, grounds, and utility services. In addition, this Division has participated in much construction work and has been charged with that responsibility since completion of the major program instituted at the beginning of camp activity. All shop work has been performed by this Division, and it must be admitted that the many accomplishments of this Division have been largely due to the cooperation extended by skilled internees. Only five official employees are assigned to this Division.

Under the caption of "Maintenance of Grounds" fall the landscaping and beautification projects. Crews for these activities are composed entirely of Japanese gardeners, who have converted many unsightly sections of the camp into beautiful scenery. Such improvements are especially noticeable around public buildings such as the hospital and schools.

INTERNEE POPULATION

As indicated in the outline covering Establishment and Construction, the Crystal City camp was originally intended to accommodate only Japanese internees and members of their immediate families. However, by the time the construction program was actually beginning, it was decided to temporarily accommodate thirty-five German families then in custody at Ellis Island and Camp Forrest, Tennessee, said group to be transferred to Seagoville as soon as adequate facilities were arranged at that location. So, on December 12, 1942, the first internees, consisting of 115 individuals, arrived for induction at the Crystal City camp. The families comprising this movement were not complete as to members, but with the delivery by the United States Army of 15 internees from Camp Forrest on December 15, 1942, the camp then consisted of 35 complete families and a total population of 130. In view of the intended short stay of these internees, a temporary internment area was arranged by roping off the 29 three room cottages which had been allocated for use within the internment compound. The compound fence had not been completed at this time, and the remaining 12 cottages of the 51 existing on the premises had been allocated as residences for key members of the official personnel. Inasmuch as an adequate complement of guards had not been employed by that time, it was necessary to obtain assistance from the various Border Patrol units adjacent to Crystal City in order to provide adequate surveillance for this first group. As these 35 families had to be billeted in 29 housing units, 12 families had to share cottages. This group had promised to help construct the camp before leaving Ellis Island, but immediately began to object to such work because it would benefit only Japanese -- so very little constructive assistance was rendered by them.

The next group of inductees arrived on February 2, 1943 -- 12 German males from the Kenedy Internment Camp and 131 German internees from Costa Rica. On February 13, 1943, one additional German male was transferred from Kenedy, and the Corrigan party of 93 Germans from Ellis Island arrived February 19, 1943. The first group from the Seagoville Internment Camp was received March 10, 1943, and consisted of 1 German male, 4 females, and 2 children -- and our first Japanese: 14 women and 14 children. The first camp birth occurred on March 10, a German male. On March 17, 1943, two more groups were received: 23 Japanese males from Camp Livingston, Louisiana and 4 German males from Stringtown, Oklahoma. On March 23, 1943, 94 Japanese males were brought in from Lordsburg, New Mexico, having been transferred to Crystal City in advance of their families for the purpose of assisting with the construction and incidental work preparatory to completion of quarters for family occupancy. The arrival of this group brought our camp population to 523 -- 378 Germans and 145 Japanese.

By this time the original idea that Crystal City would be strictly a Japanese camp had been abandoned, and plans from that time forward contemplated a mixed nationality group. From this date, increases in population occurred steadily until a peak of 3,374 was achieved on December 29, 1944, including 2,371 Japanese, 997 Germans, and 6 Italians. It was not until July 31, 1943 that the Japanese repatriation in August 1943 left the Germans again in the majority. On Februaty 12, 1944, the Japanese again took the lead, and population figures have been in their favor since, there being 2,548 Japanese, 756 Germans, and 12 Italians in custody at the close of business June 30, 1945. In this connection it is interesting to note that, because of the thought that German internees would be in Crystal City for only a temporary period, they were permitted to utilize the best quarters and facilities available in the camp (cottages with indoor toilet and bath, large auditorium and community center, etc.). Consequently, by remaining here, they enjoyed favor over the Japanese with respect to types of quarters and communal facilities, until their occupancy of a particular section of the camp had become so static and customary, it was impractical to effect a wholesale redistribution and yet respect the committed obligation to provide separate bath, toilet and communal facilities for each nationality. Therefore, with respect to types of quarters, community center and services which supply both groups, the Germans enjoyed favor until a repatriation in January 1945, when it became necessary to reclaim an entire German section having toilet facilities in the buildings for assignment to additional Japanese who arrived.

From its inception through June 30, 1945, the Crystal City camp inducted 4,751 internees (including 153 births). Of this number, 954 Germans were repatriated in two movements (February 1944 and January 1945), and 169 Japanese were repatriated in August 1943. One hundred thirty-eight internees have been released or paroled, 84 interned at large, 73 transferred to other facilities, and 17 have died.

In practically all cases, the women and children here are voluntary internees.

INTERNEE ORGANIZATION

In line with the general spirit of the Geneva Convention, this Service adopted the procedure of dealing with the problems and complaints of internees as a group through a spokesman, duly chosen by his fellow internees. It is obvious that no relationship between the spokesman and Administration can be perfect, because pressure is brought to bear which demands that the spokesman make some complaints to justify his office. However, it is a peculiar fact that more difficulties and clashes between the Administration and internee spokesman's office occurred with the first spokesman elected from the small German group comprising the first population of the camp. Upon arrival of the Ellis Island contingent in Crystal City, it developed that two individuals were vying for the spokesmanship, and with the arrival of the remaining family members from Camp Forrest a few days later, their desire for representation brought forth a third candidate. Due to this small group's inability to choose one of the three men as its representative, this office agreed to recognize a tri-head speakership; so for several weeks the Officer in Charge daily conversed, explained, and stipulated to these three individuals. It was soon apparent, however, that the whole transaction was literally going around in circles, since the three spokesmen could not themselves agree on any issue of importance. The German group was then instructed to elect one individual to serve as spokesman, and, unfortunately, the person chosen (one of the three referred to above) was an individual thoroughly sold on his own importance and with a deep-seated Nazi philosophy which proved detrimental to the peace, harmony, and welfare of the German group in this camp. His theory was that of strict dictatorship, with not only every internee subject to his whims and fancies, but every notion of the Administration subject to his approval. Life was soon miserable for most of the Germans in the camp, and within a short period the Administration found it advisable to declare the spokesman "persona non grata" and instruct the German group to elect another spokesman. Operation of an internee council, as recommended bys the Administration, composed of july elected representatives from the camp zones, never had a chance of succeeding because of the first spokesman's underhand and terroristic methods designed to crush any form of internee government formed on a democratic principle or permitting the rank and file internees to have a voice in their own affairs.

The second spokesman, as an individual, was very satisfactory, and his personal contacts with the Administration were pleasant; however, his tenure of office was stifled by the underground organization built up by the former spokesman, and because of threats and intimidations coming from this source, he was, to a large extent, a puppet spokesman who received his instructions from the individual preceding him. From all indications, this second spokesman's repatriation to Germany in February 1944 was a

tremendous mental relief to him, since he seemed to enjoy the prospects of life in a war-torn Germany to that of remaining as spokesman for the Germans in the Crystal City camp. This second spokesman departed in good favor with the Administration, however, because in exercising the authority of the internee "constitution", which provided that a departing spokesman would appoint a successor to fill his unexpired term, he chose a strong man. Under this third spokesman, who was duly chosen when regular election time came again, the entire situation changed, and he cooperated fully with the Administration in suppressing the terroristic and under-cover elements then existing in the camp. During his tenure, we transferred a number of undesireable internees from the camp, including the first spokesman referred to in this text. Incidentally, this third spokesman of the German group was paroled while still serving as spokesman. Relationship with the German spokesman's office has been satisfactory under two regimes since that time.

Experiences with spokesmen for the Japanese group have been very much different than with the Germans, as their form of government is entirely the opposite. For example, the Japanese organization contains so many councilmen and assistants that it has been slow and cumbersome to go through "due process" with them. Basically, the Japanese internee organization is democratic, the spokesman being elected every six months. The chief digression from our form of democracy is the fact that woman suffrage is not recognized. Among the males, only formal internees vote; so a voluntarily interned boy who reaches majority does not have a voice in internee affairs.

Two interesting observations made by this office in dealing with representatives of the Japanese group are: (1) their habit of initiating numerous requests which they themselves cannot believe will be granted, and (2) always requesting several times as much as they expect to receive. Through re-elections and successive terms in office, only four individuals have served as spokesmen for the Japanese group in this camp.

Recognizing that wide differences of opinion and political adherences existed among the internees in custody here, this office has always maintained an open channel whereby any individual could gain access to the Officer in Charge or other camp official acting for him. Many have taken advantage of this opportunity, but the natural desire of the internee organizations to keep their hands on the pulse of the individual internee thought has prompted an endeavor to have all matters cleared with the spokesmen's offices first. However, this desire has caused no unpleasantness since the days of the early German spokesman.

Probably the chief difficulty experienced in dealing with the internee population generally was the early desire on the part of the Germans to have full control of enterprises and projects on which internees' services were utilized, and the tendency of the Japanese to over-staff every project and burden liaison between themselves and the Administration with too many assistants whose

duty it was to get all information about a project or activity so that the council could always be appropriately informed; whereas, on the other hand, the Administration has demanded that all such activities be under the general direction of some official employee. To win this "battle" the Administration has invoked a regulation which does not permit an internee to receive pay for any work which was not duly approved by the Administration and directed by an official employee.

CAMP LIFE AND ACTIVITIES

The objective of the Service in establishing the Cystal City family camp was to provide normal life for the internees, so far as circumstances would permit. Six types of quarters were provided, consisting of: (a) one-room shelters 12'x 16' to accommodate childless couples and couples with one infant or small child; (b) three types of buildings consisting of four apartments each, containing 210, 242, and 288 square feet, designed to accommodate 2 1/2, 3 1/2, and 4 1/2 persons, on the average, respectively; (c) buildings containing 720 square feet of floor space divided into three apartments with one inside toilet in each building; (d) buildings containing 720 square feet of floor space divided into two apartments with one inside toilet in each building, each of which was designed to accommodate six persons; (e) three-room cottages containing 500 square feet of floor space, each with inside toilet and bath, designed to accommodate families suffering from illness, special circumstances, etc.; (f) victory huts (both single and double units 16'x 16' and 16'x 32' respectively) which were added to accommodate population in excess of that planned for.

Internees living in the four-apartment units and victory huts use central bath and latrine facilities, there being no toilets in the buildings occupied. All other internees, except those temporarily residing in cottages, use central bath facilities, since quarters have only a toilet installed therein.

Each housekeeping unit is arranged for family style cooking, and with the exception of the victory huts, all units have been provided with running water and a kitchen sink.

In designing quarters, a space allowance of sixty square feet per adult and larger child was stipulated, with younger children entitled to forty-five square feet, and approximately forty-five square feet additional allowed for cooking and eating. Thus, a family with two children would theoretically be entitled to a middle-sized one-room apartment in a quadruplex building; however, it soon developed that these basic figures could not be placed into effect, because, in most cases, the composition of the family units (sex, age, etc.) was such that more space had to be allowed than was originally planned. For this reason, our theoretical capacity of 4,000 internees, prior to the erection of the last victory huts, actually provided space for only 3,000 people, and many family units were extremely crowded even then.

It might seem odd to state that individuals in custody at this camp prefer the arrangement here to life in a Relocation Center, in spite of the closer security, censorship, and numerous restrictions in effect. The apparent answer to this attitude is that the family unit is enabled to cook in living quarters, rather than assemble for mass feeding, and the general work program in effect here which keeps most of the population occupied on constructive and useful projects.

When groups of families arrive at Cystal City for induction, they are admitted to the camp by the Surveillance Division, at which point the Internal Security Division accepts custody and processes the individuals, which includes examination of personal effects, papers, documents, baggage, etc. Coincidental to this activity, the Internal Relations Division specifies housing assignments, and after processing by the Internal Security Division, the family units are conducted to the quarters they will occupy. For a period of two to three days, these new arrivals are fed in a common mess hall, while they are arranging their quarters and drawing subsistence allowances. Food items are then purchased from a central grocery and meat market operated on the basis of a general store, the internee "spending" a token type of money in exchange for food commodities at a stipulated price. This price arrangement is worked out on a theoretical basis, which, by perfect allocation of "money" allowances, results in achieving the stipulated daily diet, with respect to the various types of foods. However, the internees have personal choice in purchasing food, with the exception of commodities which are rationed, and if they desire more potatoes at the expense of less flour, for example, they may exercise that choice. Shopping at the central store is required for all subsistence items except milk and ice, which are delivered to the doors of the internees' quarters, resulting in a convenience to the internees and obviating the necessity of the Administration refrigerating these items. An initial allowance of cooking utensils, furniture, bedding, etc., is provided by the Internal Relations Division, and it is necessary that the individual turn in the worn out item before replacements are effected thereafter. A clothing store, operated on the same basis as the food store, supplies wearing apparel and is a great improvement over the early method of direct issue.

In connection with the daily activities of internees in the camp, it is interesting to note the contrast which occurs about their premises from the time of original occupancy until a period some six months later. Many improvements are effected about these places, including the addition of porches and extra rooms by internees at their own expense, landscaping, gardening, etc. An estimated $50,000 have been spent by internees personally for this purpose. Another sight worthy of mention is the morning shopping tour of the housewives, at which time literally scores of home-made carts (in which groceries are hauled back home) are parked in front of the store building. Many mothers leave their small children in these carts while they are obtaining daily needs inside the store.

A well rounded recreational and entertainment program is enjoyed by the internees which includes the usual out door sports and indoor parties and games common to any average town. The key note of summer recreation is their ability to counteract the terrific heat with s sojourn in the camp "swimming pool", which is a vast reservoir providing irrigation for farming activities. Upon the occupancy of the premises, this reservoir was inadequate in size and entirely overgrown with water hyacinths; so in order to provide storage for irrigation water, it was necessary to dredge this reservoir and line it with concrete. An agreement was reached with the internees, whereby they were permitted to use it as a swimming pool in return for performing the necessary labor on the project. Tennis courts, baseball diamonds, volleyball and basketball facilities, etc. are scattered among all vacant spaces existing. Boy and girl scout activities have been participated in actively by the Japanese group.

The internees present frequent recitals, dramas, musicals, and related cultural activities and enthusiastically celebrate holidays whenever the occasion arises. The Japanese group is especially noted for this, asking that they be excused from work in order to celebrate practically every holiday, whether it be a Japanese holiday or American holiday. This office still regards with interest their request, through the spokesman's office, for permission to honor July 4, 1943 as a holiday, while in contrast, official employees were working as usual on that day. The major festive day for Germans is May Day, and the Japanese conduct their major celebration on New Year's Day. The annual doll festival by the Japanese is also a big event, while the Germans join in the general spirit of Christmas and Easter evidenced by Americans.

The Government has provided moving pictures for the internees twice each week, using 16mm sound on film equipment covering productions as good and recent as obtainable in that field.

The Administration has experimented with the morale of the internee groups by permitting a number of picnics outside the internment compound. Usually these picnics were held on the Nueces River, which is located near camp, each picnic being participated in by a group with a common bond of activity (school classes, farm workers, kitchen employees, etc.). The results were highly satisfactory, but such activities were temporarily discontinued because of the too frequent requests that were being received for such privilege, culminating with a request from the German Spokesman's office that the entire group of Germans (over 600) be permitted to enjoy a mass picnic at the same time. Surveillance and Internal Relations personnel were pressed to cope with the frequent small picnics and entirely inadequate for such an event as this.

Several enterprises are operated by the internees, chief of which are the canteens. The history of internee canteen operations is one of growth from a very small store handling a few items to two canteens (German General Store and Japanese Union Store) handling thousands of different commodities and having combined gross sales

of approximately $200,000 yearly. The business of the canteens materially increased after discontinuance of a procedure whereby the Government issued articles of convenience and necessity to internees. It was decided to issue another form of fibre tokens in various denominations to be used by internees to purchase these articles in their own canteen. The issue of these tokens, like the subsistence issue, is based on composition and age of members of the family, but is made monthly rather than weekly. Under this plan it became necessary for the Government to purchase a sufficient quantity of welfare articles to redeem the canteen tokens issued to the internee population, and as a result of this a deparate Government canteen-stock warehouse was set up under the direct supervision of an official canteen manager, from which the canteens could requisition commodities. At first the Supply Division was permitted to purchase on government order all types of commodities within reason in exchange for canteen tokens, but subsequently regulations were revised to limit government purchases to the following categories of welfare items: confections, fresh fruits, beverages, tobacco, toilet articles, and bakery goods. This meant considerable procurement as approximately $7,000 in canteen tokens are presently being issued per month. In addition to those items procured by the Government, the canteens are permitted, through the medium of canteen purchase orders approved by the Chief Supply Officer, to purchase other store items from various sources from Maine to California. Each canteen has an internee canteen manager who operates the canteen under the supervision of the official canteen manager, and the internee staffs in both canteens total about sixty persons. Their financial matters are rigidly supervised, and all payments of invoices are made by checks drawn on a local bank and signed by an official employee. The problems attendant to the operation of these canteens have increased in proportion to their growth, and many hours of conferences have been necessary, as, in a majority of instances, no precedent had been established.

Other enterprises include a barber shop, beauty shop, hobby shop, and sewing room. Internees operating these enterprises, as is true with the canteens, are paid the prevailing $.10 an hour wage for their work, the revenue for which is obtained from fees assessed patrons. The barber shop is operated solely by Japanese personnel, and at one time the beauty shop personnel was composed of only German internees. The sewing room provides facilities for internees to make their own clothing from staple goods "purchased" in the clothing store, while toys and numerous products of wood are turned out in the hobby shop, which serves the dual purpose of enabling internees to gain skill in this type of workmanship and supplying the camp with toys and gifts during the Christmas season. Looms for weaving have also been provided the internees whereby rugs, drapes, and related items are made.

Several hundred books have been made available for the internee library through contributions from the YMCA. The YWCA, National Catholic Welfare Conference, and American Friends have also aided in providing library material. In addition, the internees have made use of the Extramural Loan Service of the University of Texas

Library.

Besides the Legation of Switzerland and the Spanish Embassy, acting as protecting powers for the Germans and Japanese, respectively, various organizations have contributed to the welfare of the internees at the Crystal City camp. Among these organizations are the YMCA, YWCA, American Friends, Red Cross, War Prisoners' Aid, and the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

VISITATION AND CENSORSHIP

The internees have been permitted contact with friends and relatives outside of internment through general correspondence and personal visitation. Although several policies of visitation have been in effect during operation of the camp, the present regulation requires that all visits be conducted under surveillance, with the exception of students returning to the camp during vacation, who are permitted to reside in the camp with their parents. A visitation building was erected near the main compound gate to accommodate internees and their visitors.

Correspondence has been large, as internees are permitted to write four letters and two postal cards per week for each family unit, with two extra letters allowed for each child over the age of sixteen. Letters are written in English, German, Japanese, and Spanish languages. No limit is invoked on incoming mail and parcels, and the censorship section has been averaging approximately 1,000 pieces of mail daily, with a tremendous rush occurring during the Christmas season when no limitations are placed upon correspondence. Of course, all correspondence and parcels (incoming and outgoing) are subject to censorship. Employees censoring mail have encountered humerous, serious, routine, and indifferent attitudes in the texts of letters read. The known fact that a third party will read a letter does not seem to bother the composer; so family secrets are bared, promises made and broken, anger and disgust protrayed, etc., just as though the writer or receiver were not in custody.

CUSTODY AND CONDUCT

Principal custody of internees in the camp is vested in the Surveillance Division which constantly patrols and observes the fence line, permitting departures from and entries into the area only upon proper authority. Internal Security Division operates a small police force inside the compound twenty-four hours a day to preserve order, count internees, and generally determine the state of affairs in the camp. Very few internee fights or displays of violence have occurred. There have been no escapes or attempted escapes, and the only disciplinary actions invoked during the history of the camp were the transfer of several German males to Fort Stanton, New Mexico, transfer of the first German Spokesman and his family to Algiers, Louisiana, the removal of one German male internee for the manufacturing of intoxicating liquor, and

the temporary detaining of a Japanese male during an investigation of alleged trouble-making propensities on his part.

The peak work loads for both the Surveillance and Internal Security Divisions occur when parties are inducted into the camp and during repatriation movements. On such occasions, the services of practically the entire staff of guards are required, with considerable overtime performed by each.

CAMP WORK AND PRODUCTION

Through the internee employment program in effect here, an average of 700 employees is provided employment in the camp for which they receive $.10 an hour. A large number of this group work, a regular eight hour day in key activities, with the remainder employed on an intermittent or part time basis. Monthly payrolls now average $10,500.00. Every official division of the camp has a number of internee workers assigned to its activities, who work under the direction of some official employee, and, in most instances, perform work that the Government itself would otherwise be obliged to conduct. Examples of general work performed in this connection by internees are operation of the grocery and meat market and subsistence warehouses inside the compound in which only one official employee is assigned; the fire department and internee security officers, protecting property against fire and generally assisting the Internal Security Division in the preservation of peace and order within the camp; the clothing store; the medical and hospital staff, which includes surgeons, physicians, pharmacists, laboratory technicians, nursing aides, and orderlies; maintenance personnel, charged with maintaining buildings, utilities, and grounds. Considerable internee assistance is received in production projects, which include the manufacture of furniture, mattresses, clothing, and farm produce for use in the camp. As an example, $33,846.00 worth of produce (vegetable, fruit, honey, and pork) was raised and utilized during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945. This included nearly 50,000 pounds of pork, and monthly production of this commodity has been increased. 9,000 items of men's, boys', and children's apparel and some 1,000 items of ladies' and girls' clothing were manufactured in the sewing project last fiscal year. These were mostly small items, of course. Also, a large supply of infants' clothing, including 3,000 diapers, innumerable alterations, and several thousands of items for official use (sheets, towels, hospital clothing, etc.) were produced in the sewing project. The major item of manufacture is 956 mattresses which have been made here at a substantial saving to the Government.

Community service projects, such as the steam laundry and shoe repair shop, are operated by internee workmen. The former handles all official laundry and sheets for individual family units. The internees perform their other laundry by hand in laundry facilities located adjacent to the various bath and toilet buildings. The shoe repair shop repairs shoes which have been issued to internees and considerably lessens the volume of shoe

procurement by the Administration.

Internees operate several functions for their own convenience and service, under administrative sanction (canteens, beauty shop, barber shop, special food processing shops, etc.).

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

The immediate need incident to opening and operating an internment camp is procurement and supply. We had to face this problem at Crystal City with an inadequate staff and against a depleted market. The problem was magnified because, in addition to regular operating needs, supplies and materials for a large construction project were also necessary. During the early months of our operation, we followed the procedure of improvising to conduct business in spite of the shortage of equipment and supplies, indicating our willingness to accept any and all items from surplus lists which we felt could be utilized to advantage. Crude wooden tables and apple boxes made up the furniture in most offices, with the floor substituting for filing cabinets. To appreciate this obstacle, it must be realized that nothing was on hand when the premises were occupied except equipment in the one office which served Farm Security Administration needs. It was a matter of borrowing and begging from other offices of the Service until requisitions could be rushed through. Local private and public offices were called upon for assistance also (typewiters borrowed from public schools, our mimeograph work accomplished at the County Courthouse, etc.). Soon a considerable quantity of property and supplies began to arrive in carload lots from other camps and surplus property lists, which found us without warehouse space to accommodate same and without adequate personnel to check the items when they arrived. A large number of one-room shelter living quarters were commandeered for these items and warehouses gradually leased in the town of Crystal City until adequate space was finally obtained. Our property accounting records fell so far behind during the first few months of operation until we have just now been able to incorporate everything into our property accounting system. Incidentally, considerable "junk" was shipped to us from various government establishments being liquidated, a large quantity of which had already been surveyed and was of no use to us.

The "then and now" comparison of the method of food distribution parallels the proverbial horse-drawn cart to shiney delivery truck story. Upon the arrival and domiciling of the first group of internees, the foodstuffs for each family were assembled in wooden delivery boxes from a small grocery store stock and delivered to each house. Before long a large market containing grocery, vegetable, and meat sections was in operation, to which internee families came to purchase their needs. An official store manager directly supervises the operation of this market, but the numerous store clerks are both German and Japanese, and an internee cashier from each group is responsible for ringing up sales as the customers depart from the store. At one time, notices in

connection with the store sales were posted in four languages: German, Japanese, Spanish, and Italian, in order to cover all nationalities interned. The meat market, with its present staff of 16 internee butchers, receives carcass meat and reduces it to commercial cuts for sale to the internees. At first, only the elementary tools were available, but at the present time modern equipment such as an electric bone saw and electric meat grinder is in use, in addition to a freezing storage vault and several large walk-in refrigeration boxes for meats, as well as a large vegetable storage unit which was constructed by the facility. In the food distribution, as in all other phases of operation, it is necessary that Japanese and Germans work side by side. For the most part, cooperation is good, but occasionally a situation arises, such as the time the Germans accused the Japanese butchers of partiality when, in cutting fish for distribution, they would give the Germans the part including the tail, whereas the Japanese would get the meaty portion. The German diet, with few exceptions, compares favorably with American foods, but the Japanese were granted foods characteristic of their national diet. This included miso paste, soy sauce, rice, noodles, seaweed, dried shrimp, adjinimoto seasoning, tofu, etc. Twenty-two Germans and thirty-six Japanese are employed as clerical workers and warehouse workers in connection with the operation of the grocery store and meat market.

The subject of tofu is a very interesting one and worthy of special comments. For many months after the inauguration of the camp, the Japanese group asked that they be allowed to set up for the production of tofu. We learned that tofu is a soft food made from soy beans, and nigari water and has a high nutritional value. As the Japanese claimed it would take the place of leafy green vegetables, we arranged a schedule whereby it would be issued one day per week in lieu of vegetables. A separate victory hut was erected and the necessary equipment installed to operate what was promptly dubbed the "Tofu Factory". Tofu is made by first soaking soy beans then grinding them into a mushy consistency. This latter is done in what is known as a Mexican "masa" or corn grinder, which equipment was made under contract by a local Mexican. The crushed beans are then cooked in a large steam kettle, then placed in special cloth bags and strained to remove any solids. Nigari or calcium chloride solution is then added, and the resulting mass is placed into wooden forms for solidifying and cutting into squares of one pound each. These squares are then placed into large vats of water where they float on top of the water and are sold to the customers for the camp money mentioned above. As tofu can best be kept in water, each internee family has a small carrying container which they have fashioned from tin cans and which has a handle for convenience in carrying tofu to their homes. Tofu has become the subject of much bantering between the officials and the internees, as they, in their zeal to justify their desire for tofu, claimed that it would take the place of "everything", and a favorite stock answer to many of their numerous requests is, "We gave you tofu, and you said it would take the place of everything."

Clothing was an early problem. A portion of the Supply Building was set up as a distribution point, and all clothing was received and issued there, by a group of Japanese and German internees under the supervision of the Chief Supply Officer. The first stocks consisted mainly of work clothing for men with very little for women or children.

There was some friction between the internee groups, each suspecting the other of securing the most, so a card system for each individual was instituted. These cards listed the articles deemed essential for one year, but procurement problems made it impossible to meet our committments. In February 1944 the clothing program was made a principal function, with the task of procuring and issuing assigned to the Special Assistant to the Officer in Charge. Procurement was endeavored and record sheets set up for each internee with the minimum needs, sizes, etc. listed. Then a crew of internees, under official supervision, began to fill orders. A typical sheet for a woman might read: anklets, size 9 1/2; dress, size 18; slip, size 36; panties, M; brassiere, size 36. An internee clerk would go to the shelf, select the proper size, if available, and put the articles in a paper bag, after which they were checked by an official employee. This allowed no choice in selection, and in too many cases, sizes were incorrect. Before one-half of the needs were supplied, the stock was depleted. So many problems and difficulties arose under this plan that it was deemed necessary to discontinue this system, and the clothing store was temporarily closed. An entirely new plan was then launched. A large building was constructed with counters, shelving, and cash register similar to a dry goods store in a small city. The merchandise in the old store was sorted and put on the shelves of the new location which opened for business on May 17, 1944.

Clothing was then on a regular "sale" system as in effect for food. Camp token money was issued to each internee family. Each adult 14 years or over received $5.25; children age 6 to 13 years received $4.00; group 2 to 5 years, $2.25; and group 6 months to 2 years, $1.25. The store was filled with merchandise, and a staff of internee clerks, under the supervision of an official store manager, was employed. The internees contended that their most pressing need was sandals and shoes; so for the first week, only those two articles were sold. By the end of the week, additional merchandise was received, and the following Monday, the store was open for the sale of all merchandise. When the doors were opened, the women came in screaming, running and pushing to get to the dress racks. It was a bedlam for days as they fought to get the dress of their choice. It was the first time since the first day of their internment that they had been allowed to select the things that they actually needed. As merchandise continued to arrive and the needs were fulfilled, the excitement subsided to a considerable degree. There were many problems to work out, but they were each solved in turn. All the internees were receiving their actual needs, and most of them were satisfied. Any group in custody will have its malcontents, and this camp was no exception.

In December 1944, more than 600 Germans were repatirated. On previous repatriation occasions there had been no excess stocks of clothing to draw upon, and it had been a tremendous task to try to procure enough winter clothing for the group to make the trip to Germany. However, this time it was handled in a very orderly manner. The repatriates were given a list of articles from which they might request their needs. If useable wearing apparel was found in their luggage during Customs inspection, of the type requested that had been issued by the Service, it was to be repossessed. This was done in many cases when it was definitely established that the clothing was government issue and not clothing that had been previously purchased by the repatriate in the camp clothing store in exchange for token money. One wealthy German asked for an overcoat, and it was issued to him. However, during the inspection of his hold baggage, six all wool overcoats, of better quality than the one issued, were found and the one issued was repossessed. The German commented, "I just wanted to see if I could get by with it."

Clothing for sale in the store was being purchased at wholesale costs, as the buying power of the internees was much greater than had they been required to pay retail prices. It was deemed advisable to cut the allotment, and on April 1, 1945, the allotment for each internee was reduced to $4.00 for adults; $3.00 for the group 6 to 13 years; $2.00 for the group 2 to 5 years; and $1.00 for the group 6 months to 2 years. As it became increasingly difficult to procure sufficient amounts of clothing, it appeared advisable to begin rationing clothing items with the exception of shoes. By June 1945 it became necessary to institute a more rigid form of rationing, and so a system was established whereby each individual internee was limited as to the amount of clothing in the essential classes that could be purchased during the year.

The present store is a vast improvement over the system used at the beginning. Three display windows have been installed and are lighted at night. Instead of the pushing and disorderly crowds of customers in the store, as formerly, the entrance of potential purchasers is limited. Internees are given numbers as they come to the entrance and allowed to enter numberically. Families being released from internment, and there have been many since V-E Day, come to the clothing store with their token money and purchase their needs for the trip. If the articles needed are not in stock, either in the store of the warehouse, it is the duty of the Store Manager to try to purchase it locally. This is done only when the family has sufficient token money to pay for the articles. Special shoe requests continually come to the Store Manager from people who, for physical or mental reasons, can not wear the shoes provided in the camp. If it is definitely a case where the camp shoes will be too unsatisfactory, shoes are procured locally or from any other source available.

Procurement is the main problem at this time. Even though it is not possible to buy enough for every internee so that they may buy each rationed item on their cards, there is no indication of any

critical need.

The first permanent quarters constructed for Supply Division offices were in the same building and adjacent to the food market, but after a number of months in this location, these offices were moved outside the internment compound because of the necessity of expanding the food store and the fact that constant access to the offices by internees considerably delayed activities and impaired efficiency.

To illustrate the magnitude of procurement, it is pointed out that approximately one million dollars per annum is obligated by the Supply Division to fulfill operating requirements.

So, like the other divisions in the camp organization, the Supply Division began operations on a modest scale and expanded with population increases and added responsibilities until, as of July 1, 1945, the staff consisted of sixteen official employees and approximately 130 internees performing duties in connection with procurement and distributor for the 3,316 internees and nine official divisions.

Procurement assistance on meat and foodstuffs by the U.S. Army, which was inaugurated early in our program, relieved us of a tremendous strain, and it is doubted that we could have supplied our needs without this cooperation.

MEDICAL

When the first group of internees was inducted in December 1942, the Medical Division was composed o one staff nurse from the Public Health Service. The personnel doubled with the arrival of a Chief Nurse a few days later. Headquarters were set up in the only large building on the premises, with two rooms allotted for this purpose. Supplies and equipment consisted of two small home-made tables, a wooden bookcase, four folding chairs, two pair of scissors, one $.25 first aid kit, and the personal property of the two nurses referred to. A physician and a dentist in the town of Crystal City were called upon when necessary, as a medical officer from the U.S. Public Health Service was not assigned here until January 1943. A dentist was transferred here by the Public Health Service February 20, 1943. The official Medical staff at present includes a medical officer, dentist, and seven nurses.

By February 1943 plans for a hospital had been crystalized through collaberation and discussion with a Crystal City surgeon, frequent consultation with the nurses then stationed here, and ideas of laymen which seemed logical for incorporation into the blueprint. By this time, cotton, gauze, adhesive, and some drugs had been obtained, as well as a few instruments, and the staff could suture a small wound, open an abscess, or excise a splinter. Instruments could even be boiled, as a small sterilizer had come into our possession.

By February 12, 1943, an internee physician had been added to the medical staff, and a number of voluntary internee workers were assisting as best they could, including six untrained girls working as nursing aides. Organization and progress to this point was a lifesaver, as on this date the first appreciable increase in population occurred through the arrival of 112 Germans from Costa Rica. This group arrived with forty cases of whooping cough and an epidemic of impetige. Fortunately, the camp was not yet crowded, and it was possible to isolate the entire party, and these epidemics were controlled without a single case developing among the population already in camp. After this, classes were inaugurated for nurses' aides, with the regular nurses teaching the girls clinic procedure and bedside nursing as best they could without the necessary equipment to illustrate lectures and techniques. Soon supplies and equipment began to arrive, but as the hospital was still under construction, storage space became a critical item, and the staff and patients could hardly enter the "clinic" for the numerous boxes which were stacked on all available floor space.

On May 15, 1943, the clinic section of the hospital was completed to a stage where occupancy was possible, and the medical staff moved in. Before long the entire edifice was completed, and the modern 70-bed hospital and clinic which is in operation today can hardly be contrasted with the improvised set-up which looked after the health and medical needs of the internees the first few months of camp life.

Although the completed hospital was regarded by all concerned as someting of an Empire State Building, there were still many obstacles, chief of which was mud. The area on which the hospital was situated was formerly a cactus and mesquite thicket with a type of soil that created mud practically up to the knees when it rained. Most of the rain in this area falls in a short season, and extra shoes and stockings were soon standard equipment for nurses and employees preceeding to the hospital for duty. The word "mud" is firmly indented in the minds of all early employees at this facility, although the situation has now been mastered by the construction of all-weather roads and walks.

The completed hospital was officially opened for business on July 1, 1943, and the opening was a gala event in camp history, the first group of nurses' aides being "graduated" the day before with an appropriate ceremony. During this month, additional Public Health Service nurses were transferred here, which enabled the medical staff to function on a 24 hour basis. The internee consists of 49 employees, which include five physicians, two dentists, one pharmacist, and laboratory technicians, nurses' aides, orderlies, and janitors. Tribute must be paid these internee workers for the valuable service rendered, and, in most cases, for the cooperation manifested. To illustrate their general attitude, reference is made to the Japanese pharmacist who dispenses drugs and medicines with an eye on the government pocketbook and a resultant economy that could not be excelled by an official employee. For example, he frequently takes it upon

himself to lessen the quantity prescribed by the physicians, if he feels the patients might waste part of the medicine, telling them to bring back the empty bottle for a re-fill if more is required. Another example is the tremendous quantity of lotion necessitated by excessive summer temperature here. This druggist has devoted hours to mixing the ingredients himself, because the cost was considerably cheaper then if purchased in wholesale quantities. To date some 30,000 prescriptions have been filled, which does not include medicines dispensed to the wards and in the clinics. Comparable work has been rendered by internee surgeons who have performed many major and minor operations.

As was the case with all other official offices and functions, delay in acquiring surgical and medical equipment and supplies was a tremendous obstacle, but at the present time, the hospital is adequately equipped to meet almost any need not in the specialist field.

Three dental chairs are in operation in the dental clinic, and both the official dentist and his internee assistants are regularly engaged in performing extractions and fillings and providing dentures as necessary.

The eye-glass situation has been a problem, and the internees made an issue of it early. No professional man in this field was available locally, but in September 1943 a contract was finally made with an optometrist about forty miles from the camp. Ten internees a trip were taken to his office at routine intervals, but this arrangement was generally unsatisfactory and too slow. Finally, in March 1944, arrangements were made for an optometrist to come to camp twice a month. This proved satisfactory and has continued up to the present date, but there is still a long waiting list and will be up to the end of operations in spite of the 1,300 refractions to date and repairs exceeding that number. The Japanese especially are subject to poor eye sight, and it seems that almost everyone needs some form of correction.

November brought the first death in camp, an internee assigned to the Medical Division. He worked as a laboratory technician, was very conscientious. A comparatively young man, he was suddenly stricken with cerebral hemorrhage and died in a few hours. The entire hospital internee staff, German and Japanese, attended the funeral in uniform. They made rather a nice appearance marching off together, all in white.

While every official division has had its problems, it seems that Medical has been a clearing house by which the concerned internee hoped to establish leverage to support his plea. To illustrate, if a heater is supplying water too hot to suit the fancy of the individual, and if maintenance is unable to immediately dispatch an employee to lower the temperature, an appeal is issued to the Medical Division to request that the matter be expedited, because it constitutes a potential source of burn; if a day's delay occurs in removing a scrap pile, medical should demand its removal as a menace to health; the houses are too hot, and it is to the Medical

Division's interest to see that they are insulated or air conditioned to avoid having to treat a few individuals for heat stroke; the concrete floors in quarters are a hazard to cases of pregnancy, and Medical should direct that they all be covered with rugs; it is to Medical's interest to instruct that this couple be provided with single beds to avoid the wife's nervous breakdown if she must continue to sleep in the same bed with a snoring husband. Although humerous, these illustrations are no exaggeration, and the Medical Division has been deluged with thousands of similar applications. In other words, it soon became obvious to internees that many of their whims and fancies could not be satisfied unless a medical reason existed, and every conceivable type of medical appeal has been originated.

All internees are vaccinated for smallpox, with typhoid, whooping cough, and diptheria injections optional. The Japanese, as a group, accepted typhoid immunization, and most parents of both groups chose whooping cough and diptheria serum for their children.

In July 1944 the camp was exposed to a second epidemic. Another large movement from South America arrived with measles. Isolation was necessary, but our facilities were not so adequate as with the first epidemic group, and this party was quartered in victory huts during a period when the daily temperature hovered around 112 degrees. Only one death resulted from this epidemic, and no cases developed among the internees already in the camp when this particular group arrived.

In general the health of the camp has been remarkably good. There have been mild epidemics of influenza, strep throat, and diarrhea which would be normal to any community, and several stillbirths have occurred. The only violent deaths during the history of the camp claimed the lives of three children: a German boy crushed by a truck, and two Japanese girls drowned in the swimming pool. Other than these, all deaths were due to natural causes, in most cases already present at the time of internment. This is obviously an unusual record for a camp of this size over a 2 1/2 year period and is quite contrary to a lengthy prognostication compiled by an internee physician during the early days of our existence, in which he portrayed a bleak outlook for the health and welfare of the persons interned here, chiefly because of the excessive heat during a long summer.

One hundred and fifty-five children have been born of internee parents while in this camp. The first birth was a Caesarian operation performed in the downtown hospital, with our first camp birth occurring "at home" in internee quarters since a hospital was not yet available. With the exception of interring one stillbirth in the Crystal City cemetary, the remains of all others have been cremated, and there now exists in the office of the Officer in Charge a locked filing cabinet which contains the cremated remains of these individuals.

Other statistical information portraying the activities of the

Medical Division are as follows: 204 major operations; 881 minor operations; 27,614 complaints considered, involving 84,200 our-patient treatments; 1,770 patients hospitalized, representing 16,772 days relief at the hospital; 9,225 immunizations; 11,107 house calls; 1,298 refractions.

Patients have frequently been sent outside the camp for treatment or consultation, including trips to San Antonio, Texas, New Orleans, Louisiana, Lexington, Kentucky, and Baltimore, Maryland. No matter what the cost, no patient ever went without the treatment necessary. From a standpoint of human interest, two of these cases are outlined below.

One was a young man, twenty-one years of age, who gave a history of having infantile paralysis at the age of two years, which resulted in a paralysis of the left leg muscles with instability of the ankle joint and partial paralysis of the thigh muscles, which also caused weakness of the knee joint. Our government fitted him with a hip length brace. While learning to use the brace, he, of course, used crutches, then a cane. Now when you see him, you would never guess from his actions or the way he walks that he has a useless leg. The only English he could say was, "Thank you," but the smile on his face and the happiness in his eyes express his gratitude.

The other is a boy, now fourteen, who gave a history of having a fall at the age of three, which resulted in total loss of air conduction, and the child was therefore unable to learn to speak, since he could not comprehend sound. Examination disclosed that he had very excellent bone conduction, and that with a hearing aide he could perceive sound. Our government fitted this child with a hearing aide, and for the first time in his life he could not only appreciate sound, but learn to talk as well.

EDUCATION

When the Crystal City Camp was established, the government realized that the education of the children would be one of its obligations, so a Supervisor of Education was employed on April 26, 1942.

The first objective was the establishment of policy, and since a large number of the children would ultimately return to Germany and Japan, a native language school system was approved for each group. Internees served as teachers, and pedagogical procedures and organization were vested in them, subject to the Administration's approval and sanction of subject matter. But there were children whose parents contemplated remaining in the United States following internment, and our Service agreed to install on official school, based on the regular school system in operation in the State of Texas. This school was open to enrollment by any child, German or Japanese, who desired to continue or begin the American education.

The supervior's first office, furniture and fixtures consisted of a one-room shelter with a kitchen table borrowed from internee quarters. This room was shared with the German School Principal, as office space and equipment were not available at that time.

The German School, with an opening enrollment of some 250 students and reaching 420 before they were moved, was housed in the community building along with the medical clinic. Four rooms and the auditorium were used for this purpose. The German carpenter shop had made some desks, and the German teachers were very resourceful in improvising materials for the students to study. The Japanese had four duplex buildings in which they were trying to give some schooling. A nursery and kindergarten were established immediately after the camp was opened. As the primary purpose of the government in establishing educational facilities was to enable the children not to lose any time in school work, the nursery and kindergarten was designated as an internee activity under the general jurisdiction of the Supervisor of Education, since it was strictly a pre-school activity.

The big job that faced the Supervisor of Education was to determine the number of students that would be in the camp, which school they would attend, and if they would be in high school or grammar school, to secure books for the Federal Grammar and High School, materials such as tablets, pencils, notebooks, etc., for all the schools. The camp had about one-half of its maximum population. To make estimates as to the above needs, a survey of the entire camp of students as to what school they would attend, which, with information from the Central Office as to contemplated arrivals, formed the basis to estimate the needs of each school. Building space for the Germans was over-estimated due to two repatriation movements. The Japanese school was under-estimated as two groups of Peruvians arrived instead of continental Japanese as expected.

Although the school buildings are pre-fabricated, they are attractive and meet the needs in every respect. Used school desks were purchased cheaper than the carpenter shop could make them. They were more satisfactory for school purposes, relieved the acute lumber shortage, and did not demand the carpenters' time which was needed on major construction.

The opening of the Federal schools was delayed about two weeks, because the buildings were not completed in time due to the late arrival of materials. the elementary school building was completed first, and both the high school and grammar school operated in this one building at the beginning. Two grades were placed together, which made four rooms available for the high school. After about a month, the high school was able to move over to its own building.

Due to the extreme shortage of teachers all over the United States, and particularly Texas, the recruiting of a faculty was difficult. Another factor which caused reluctance to accept jobs here was the unknown tenure of the job. In spite of this, a

satisfactory and capable staff was obtained. Every teacher had a degree (several masters degrees) and previous experience as public school teachers. Immediately the school set out to affiliate its work with the Texas State Department of Education, so that its students could enter colleges or universities. Every subject taught was affiliated, and several of the school graduates are attending colleges and universities at the present time.

The curriculum of the high school was unusual for three reasons. First, the student body consisted of about 150 students. To keep down the cost the curriculum was limited as much as possible and still meet the needs of its students; second, physics and chemistry were not taught, since a laboratory in an internment camp would be out of place, and these courses without laboratories would not be of much value; third, a minority group is always opposed to any kind of experimentation on them. When Vocational Home Economics and Agriculture were placed in the curriculum, only a very small number signed up for these courses. They were immediately discontinued, as the cost was too great for the number wanting the courses. On investigating the reason for such a small number desiring these subjects, we found that the Japanese thought we were trying to make domestic helpers out of their daughters and farm laborers out of their sons. At this writing, the attitude has changed, and if it were possible, quite a number would like to have those courses.

When school opened, two big problems faced the school administrators. First, every child was a transfer. A few had report cards and duplicate transcripts of the work that they had in other schools, but the large majority did not. In order to get started, everyone was placed in the grade and subjects on his word, and transcripts on each student requested. Less than one percent had to be demoted for misrepresentation. In some instances, transcripts were very hard to get. A Hawaiian girl who was a senior in high school received hers just one week before graduation. As our students were from so many different states and territories, and the school standards varied so widely, it was difficult to arrange a course of study suitable for all. In some states the students enrolled in the vocational curriculum were not required to study any math. Before a Texas high school diploma can be granted, a student must have at least two years of math, which meant that several seniors had to take Freshman Algebra as well as Plane Geometry. Numerous other conflicts similar to the above arose. The second big problem that faced the students and the administrators was that when the students went to Relocation Centers, they lacked from three to nine weeks completing the semester and were given incomplete credits for this work. To keep them from losing this time, special classes were held here before school, on Saturdays and during the summer until all had had an opportunity to make up all such courses. Several times during the year all of this would have to be done over again, because large groups would be sent in from Relocation Centers at intervals during the year.

During the first year, school spirit and school activities were

very hard to develop. This was due to several reasons. First, the children resented having to come here; second, there was not any school tradition behind them; third, the students were strangers to each other as well as strangers to the faculty; fourth, make-up work took so much of the teachers' and students' time; fifth, all Japanese students went to the Japanese School at the close of the regular school day to study that language; sixth, there were no inter-school relations and activities. With all of these handicaps, the faculty set as their first objective the stabalization of these boys and girls emotionally, and then to teach the academic subjects as much as possible.

At Christmas 1943, a tremendous effort was made by the Federal Schools to see that a Christmas program was carried on. As most of the children were buddhist, they did not understand too much about Christmas, but they did understand the spirit of the undertaking. This was brought out when the Japanese Spokesman, who was a Buddhist priest, told the Supervisor of Education that the Japanese people did not believe in Christmas, but they certainly did appreciate what the teachers were doing for their children. As the school year progressed, the school was able to sponsor more and more activities, which, in the end, brought about a normal student-teacher relationship.

The high school sponsored a picnic for its entire student body on the river. As the river was only a short distance from the camp's boundary, everyone walked. This was a most enjoyable day for everone. Some fished; the more artistic drew pictures; others pitched horse shoes; others played bridge, each and everyone doing just as he pleased and enjoying himself very much. The entire group hiked home about 4:30 that afternoon. All of the teachers agreed that this was the easiest group to chaperon that they have ever experienced. Each class gave a party. The seniors had a banquet, and the Japanese complimented us on everything that we did until the final social, which was to be the highlight of the year -- the Junior-Senior Prom. The Japanese Spokesman decided that he would break this up. He sent a notice to the parents to keep their boys and girls at home; some did, but enough students came to make it a very enjoyable affair. The students' delight was short lived. Most of the students attending the American school took one hour of Japanese language and custom after the American school was dismissed. The Japanese school teachers resigned because they had failed to teach the harm in dancing. Some of the students were overjoyed, as they did not have to attend Japanese school anymore; some were heartbroken at the insinuations cast upon them. After a conference with the Officer in Charge, the Japanese school was re-opened. As a last "shot" at the prom, the spokesman wrote a letter of protest to the Commissioner, who reminded them that these children were American citizens merely following American customs and traditions.

The Senior class decided to sponsor a Senior Annual. As school was almost out, it was to be very short, and certainly not very presumptuous. It did serve its purpose, and everyone was well pleased with its accomplishments. The grammar school and the high

school had their Commencement Exercises with the usual programs. Each graduate was presented a diploma, and the high school graduates wore caps and gowns.

The school gained further respect when the State Supervisor for the Texas State Board of Education inspected the school and granted full affiliation in all the courses that were being taught. Added recognition was gained when the Validictorian decided that she wanted to attend Texas University and was admitted to the College of Pharmacy.

When the 1944-5 semester opened, Biology and Art were added to the curriculum. Class organizations were developed at the beginning of the year. School spirit was developed when the high school played football against a general camp team. This came about accidentally. The Officer in Charge saw a football game between two teams of the camp. The game ended without either team scoring, as the boys had a lot of zeal and pep but very little coaching. He called in two of his staff members, who had previously coached, and asked them if they would each coach a team. After consulting with the Japanese, the game was arranged. This game ended in a scoreless tie. Since a majority of the boys on one of the teams were high school boys, the Supervisor of Education organized a high school team, and a game with a team from the rest of the camp was arranged. A drum and bugle corps and a pep squad was organized. No one would have realized that he was at an internment camp at this game, for it was like a thousand other small towns in America. About one thousand people were in attendance; songs and yells by the pep squad were continuous; hot dogs, coffee, etc. were sold to the spectators; and between halves colorful stunts were performed by the Drum and Bugle Corps and Pep Squad. This game also ended in a tie, but at the final meeting, the "All Stars" won.

As the year progressed, the following organizations were effected: a Student Council, an Honor Society, the G.A.A., Service Club, School Paper, and an Annual Staff.

The school paper was published once each six weeks and on special occasions. The English teacher and the Commercial teacher were co-sponsors. The English teacher was responsible for the contents of the paper and the Commercial teacher for cutting of the stencils and the mimeographing. All of the actual work was done by the students. The outstanding issue was the Senior Edition.

The annual staff was elected early in the year. Several publishers of annuals were contacted, but due to shortage of materials and help, none were taking any new customers. The Hentz & Connell Engraving Company would do the engraving. The class decided to do the rest in camp. The staff and their sponsor (the English teacher) received every courtesy and the best of cooperation from the official staff as well as from individual internees from the Germans as well as the Japanese. "The Roundup" was a very good annual for a school the size of the Federal High School.

Each class had its own parties during the year, and the grammar school and the high school went on a picnic, but the outstanding social events of the year were the Junior-Senior banquet, the Junior-Senior Prom, and the Senior play. The Junior-Senior Prom was enjoyed by all and without anything to mar the occasion.

Schools were closed again with appropriate commencement programs in both the high school and the grammar school. Two seniors entered Texas University; a post graduate entered Wayne University, Detroit, Michigan, and three more seniors have been accepted to the University of Texas for the fall term.

Enrollment during the past term was 186 in the high school and 144 in the elementary. Sixty-six have been graduated from high school during the two terms, with forty completing the elementary school requirements. Although matriculation was open to both nationality groups, the student body has been predominantly Japanese -- the early German spokesman "instilling sufficient regard for the German system into the minds of parents to insure patronage.

MISCELLANEOUS

Brief mention is made of our culinary and financial functions.

A steward is employed to assist in the overall food program and direct mess hall operations. Due to the home-ccoking arrangement, very little activity has been required for internees generally, since most families were experienced in household operation. The exception was diet cases, where professional assistance was rendered to insure that medical instructions for diabetics, hypertension, etc., were adhered to.

An internee mess is operated where families may eat when the wife and mother is ill or hospitalized; the hospital kitchen serves patients hospitalized, and an official mess is operated. All cooks and waiters are internees, the steward being the only official employee assigned to culinary activity.

Many internees had personal funds in their possession at the time they entered this facility; others receive money from outside sources -- friends, relatives, etc., -- and there is the $10,000 paid them each month for "pay work". To control these funds, as prescribed by regulation, all such money is collected and deposited to an Account of the United States Marshal with the U.S. Treasury. Each internee is permitted to withdraw up to $30.00 monthly from his individual funds. (Larger amounts may be withdrawn upon proper authority.) In order to keep an accurate record of these deposits, withdrawals, and disbursements, the Financial Officer presently maintains 1,508 accounts covering $286,332.94. His functions actually compare with those of a small bank except for the loan feature.

ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR OF INTERNEES

From a political standpoint it might be assumed that all internees are adherent to the countries of origin, but from the beginning our populations have been divided into two groups. The main index to these respective groups is repatriation or non-repatriation. The leaders of the so-called repatriate group are strongly loyal to the countries with which we were at war. Although many of the non-repatriates sympathized with the cause of their fatherland, a large number of this group evidenced a pro-American attitude. In some cases this American loyalty was designed to incur favor of the Administration, but we have no reason to doubt that it was strictly genuine on the part of others. This division of attitude was the basic cause of most differences among the internees, as the "repatiates" loudly blew the horn of loyalty to their home country and branded the others as traitors. From the standpoint of the Administration, no distinctions could be made in the basic treatment accorded the two factions. It was learned early in the game that any favoritism extended an internee because he championed the American cause, not only aggravated trouble with the other group, but subjected the favored internee to intimidation and underground pressure while he was in the camp. These group classes were especially true with respect to the Germans. Although the Japanese followed suit to a certain degree, the individual attitude of an internee has been fairly well respected.

Following cessation of hostilities with Germany, a noticeable quiet reigned supreme among the internees of that nationality, and the expression of our Internal Relations Office, "There are now no Nazis in the camp", was more truth than fiction from all outward appearances.

Overall, we feel that the internee population highly respects the administration. They have, of course, grumbled many times, but we have no doubt that each individual realizes that the treatment accorded by this Government has gone far beyond the "must" requirements outlined in the international agreement to which we are signatory.

It might appear strange, but most complaints concerning food and quarters have come from individuals experiencing a medium or low standard before internment. Those actually accustomed to better things seldom condemn their present accommodations and generally accept camp conditions in good spirit.

GENEVA CONVENTION

This agreement by various countries of the world to govern the treatment of prisoners of war has been the foundation of our internment program. In the early stages of internment, practically every enemy alien in our custody majored in the study of this document and became an authority on those sections which stipulated things that must be and might be followed by a

detaining power. The few clashes with the Japanese under the provisions of this treaty have been so few until they are hardly worthy of mention. For a long time, however, it was almost a constant subject between the Administration and the German group, but as it was gradually realized our policy for this family camp afforded treatment even better than that actually required, the Geneva Convention became almost a lost document as far as the internees were concerned.

RETROSPECT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The lot of staff members at this facility who have been charged with major responsibility has not been easy. Many discouragements have been experienced, and burdens have oftentimes seemed insurmountable. Some of these employees frankly state that if they had their choice in the matter, they would never affiliate with another internment program. Others, however, would be the first to volunteer since they realize the experience gained is invaluable. In spite of the many difficult and trying situations, administration of an internment camp is fascinating because it is never known today what tomorrow will bring.

Admittedly, many mistakes have been made, but we feel most of them have been corrected and that our operations have been fairly consistent. Very few precedents existed, and spot judgement is a daily requirement.

From the experience of this office, we would recommend either a master camp with sufficient compounds to separate nationalities and types of internees, or else separate camps for all such groups if a new program were being launched. The master camp could be administered more economically and would be our preference. No serious difficulties have arisen among the different nationality groups at this station, but they have very little in common and just are not compatible. Naturally, the problems of the Administration were practically doubled. The problem is further magnified by the pro-American and pro-enemy factions that make up these groups, and if separation could be achieved whereby not only a group of like nationality, but of like attitude as well, would be to itself, internment utopia might be realized. Under this arrangement the Administration could almost consider the compound fence a demarkation line, and, with the exception of required contacts, permit each particular group to govern and conduct itself as desired. We recognize that separation of groups from a political standpoint would create some difficulty since our experience has shown that there are ever changing opinions and views.

It may be that we have seen only the undesirable side of family internment, but it is the general opinion of our staff that voluntary internment should not be permitted. This reaction is only natural following the observations of attitude changes on the part of American born women and children while interned. Pro-enemy sentiment is in the majority, and under this daily influence

typical American boys and girls have been changed in heart, attitude, and behavior. This of course has not been true in all cases, but it is only logical that a human being will be affected when he is completely removed from an American influence. This office greatly admires the children of interned parents who have weathered the storm of public sentiment outside a camp, and we do not attempt to restrain our emotions when we see these children, many of whom are members of our military forces, visit their parents who are here as dangerous enemy aliens.

We can see no objection to women, actually interned themselves, being joined with their husbands, but we would caution extra careful consideration of evidence in the case of any women, since our observation has formed the opinion that a woman, because of her usual emotional state, will generally develop an anti-American complex through internment, even if no such prior attitude existed.

101/061

W. F. Kelly, Assistant Commissioner for
Alien Control, Central Office
J. L. O'Rourke, Officer in Charge
Crystal City Internment Camp
History of Crystal City Internment Camp -- your memoranda of June
22 and August 25, 1945

September 11, 1945

Air Mail

Mr. McCollister, who was assigned the task of preparing this historical summary, has just returned to the office from five weeks' incapacitation and will conclude the report in time to reach your office not later than September 21, 1945.

LTM/drb

ORIGINAL MAILED BY
D ON 9-11-45

I would like to thank Mr. James G. Cassedy of the National Archives, Washington, D. C. for his great effort and cooperation in locating this historical narrative on Crystal City Internment Camp. As you can see, this narrative only covers the period from the beginning of the camp through June 1945.

Japan was defeated in August 1945 and, in December, the government began releasing residents either to Japan or to various part of the United States. Even after many of us had departed, more people were brought in from other camps and Crystal City remained a viable internment center until late 1947.

Additional information regarding Crystal City is available in Thomas K. Walls', The Japanese Texans, published by the University of Texas, Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio.

The National Archives also has extensive information consisting of approximately 60,000 pages of documentation. Unfortunately, the Archives did not have the staff to research thousands of files to provide us with information covering June 1945 through the closing of Crystal City in 1947.

If anyone has the opportunity to visit the National Archives, we would appreciate your assistance in obtaining information that would complete this book, (June 1945 through late 1947). The Crystal City INS camp case folder is 101/061, located in the Civil Archives area.

Any information will be welcomed. Please forward it to Kimiyo Takahashi, c/o Three Star Nursery, Inc., 17235 S. Newhope Street, Fountain Valley, CA. 92708.

I hope you found this reading material interesting and informative.

Kimiyo (Hayakawa) Takahashi