

TULEAN Dispatch DAILY

Vol. 5 No. 58

Thursday, May 27, 1943



ELMER SHIRRELL

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY FISH

MOVIES

SUGAR BEETS

COAL CRISIS

CO-OP

STUDENT RELOCATION

SEPTEMBER

REGISTRATION - A. J. UNIT

HARVEST FESTIVAL - QUEEN
MIKS

JANUARY

WAKS

Anniversary ISSUE

MAY

HARVEST

COVERLEY

JAMBORE

TALENT

SHOWS

GREETINGS

HIGH SCHOOL

SPORTS

EXHIBITS

LITTLE TH

BOXING TOUR

J. D. COOK

CRITICAL CON

COUNCIL

FORUM

OUTDOOR STA

Although I was not privileged to share with you the early pioneer days here at Tule Lake, I am graphically reminded on every occasion of the great progress that has been made during the first year of the inhabited existence of our center. This progress is expressed both in terms of tangible achievements and of intangible social evolution. It is my privilege to extend to each of you in a personal and individual way my most sincere congratulations. You have done a fine job, you are a real credit to yourselves and to America. On behalf of the Director of the War Relocation Authority, I offer you official greetings on this first anniversary of the founding of this center. At the same time it is my deeply held wish that before many such anniversaries have rolled around this center will be a thing of the past and all of you will have returned to happier and better adjusted lives among the surroundings finer, more permanent American communities.

All of the members of the appointed staff, including many who have been with you from the beginning, ask me to convey their best wishes and deepest appreciation.

May the day bring much joy and the symbol of a better life in the future.

Harvey M. Goverley
Project Director

TULEAN Dispatch DAILY

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.....Tsuyoshi Nakamura
 Managing Editor.....Eugene Okada
 City Editor.....Kunio Otani
 Literary Editor.....George Nakamura
 Research Editors.....Masayo Yokota, William Osuga
 Sports Editor & Promotion Manager...Hideo Shintaku
 Make-up Editor.....Dick Kurikawa
 Circulation Manager.....Harry Inukai
 Reportorial Staff...Hidemasa Sato, Fumiko Yumibe,
 Speed Torio, Mariko Suzuki
 Artists.....Masao Inada, Dick Kurikawa,
 James Masano, Fumio Katanabe
 Clerical.....Masao Saito, Mitsuko Nagata,
 Grace Otani
 Technicians.....Masao Okawa, Harry Inukai
 Japanese Section.....Keant Moriyama, Mary Oshiro,
 Tesbin Shibata, Tsutomu Obana



IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME NOW...

On a chill dawn of June 23, 1942, the train rumbled and wended slowly in the murky fog of Siskiyou hills. I woke up shivering and my feet were cold. I put on my shoes, snuggled into my blanket and tried to go back to sleep --but I couldn't.

The train coach was dead still and I could see the huddled figures sleeping uncomfortably in their seats. I peered out of the window and the clean white summit of Mt. Shasta loomed before me. I stared at it blankly, unimpressed because it did not look real. It was too much like a painted picture.

I remember that morning the train groped its way in the gray mist. My mind was assailed with inexplicable feeling of uncertainty and doubts. I've heard that Tule Lake was a dried-up lake basin of shifting dust without a blade of grass for miles around.

It may sound silly now, a bit sentimental perhaps, but I looked forward to renewing boyhood acquaintances and meeting people of my home town whom I've never met. I've been away too long. I told myself that I'll keep busy doing anything to render my mind impervious to sourness and cynicism.

A year has passed already; a year of strain and conflict living together under one big roof. Somehow, the most primitive things, things we took for granted, have now become a blessing thankfully received. God know we have much to be thankful for; the food we eat, the friends we've met, and we've even noticed the freshness and greenness growing around the barracks.

But we are not defeated, any more than the Tule grass that has persisted in the sand under heat, snow and the trampling of many feet.

NOT A DAY FOR CELEBRATING

Just a year ago on this day May 27, about 450 evacuees from the Puyallup and Portland Assembly Centers tumbled out of the train and gazed upon Tule Lake Project. This group was the first contingent of evacuees to be sent to the newly built Project.

Exactly a year has passed since the first group arrived here and today we are observing the anniversary of Tule Lake Project.

The occasion is not one which calls for boisterous celebration for the events of the past year, the mental anguish and heartache experienced by the evacuees do not make a proper theme for celebration.

The word anniversary connotes some sort of an accomplishment over a given period of time. It usually implies success.

This term then is not a fitting one for us since we are not accomplishing anything by our isolated existence here. A second anniversary would be tragic for it would be an indication that we are gradually becoming accustomed to this purposeless life.

During an anniversary event, one usually receives congratulatory messages; on this our anniversary date, messages of condolences would be much more appropriate. Messages of congratulation should be addressed to those who have successfully relocated and are now a part of a normal community life. On this date then we should firmly resolve to follow in their footsteps so that a year from now will not find us still living behind barbed wire fences.

• Dispatch Birthday Today •

A year ago today the TULEAN DISPATCH was born. Until June 2, however, it was known as the Information Bulletin. Except for the first few issues, the DISPATCH has always been a daily and for that reason it has performed an inestimable service to the residents of this city.

The DISPATCH was the first project newspaper to publish a literary magazine--August 1942, and it was also the first project newspaper to incorporate a Japanese Language Section, which it did on September 3. The DISPATCH, unfortunately, is not printed. However, this does not detract from its high journalistic value. Despite losses in personnel through relocation, the DISPATCH today maintains its high standard and, indeed, even surpasses in some respects former standards.

John D. Cook,
Information Chief

FAMOUS FIRSTS

FIRST CONTINGENT

First contingent of evacuees, consisting of 447 volunteers from Puyallup and Portland Assembly Centers arrived in the Tule Lake Project on May 27, 1942.

First fire broke out in the administration staff apartment on the morning of May 28, 1942.

FIRST P.O. WORKER

First evacuee post office worker selected was Miss Masae Kawasaki of Seattle, Wash.

First job to be assigned by the Placement office was to Helen Hayashi as a stenographer for Gilbert Niese, former administrative officer, on May 27. She left the Project May 18, 1943.

FIRST NURSERY SCHOOLS

First nursery schools opened on May 30 at #4-19 and #518.

First newspaper under the name of "Information Bulletin" also made its debut on May 27, 1942.

FIRST PUBLIC DANCE

First public dance held on May 30 at #720 with the theme "Hello Dances".

First church service held on June 2, 1942 with the Reverend George Almond officiating.

FIRST LIBRARY OPENING

First opening of the public library was on June 2, 1942.

First opening of magazine and periodical dept. on June 9, 1942.

FIRST SKELETON FOUND

First Indian skeleton was unearthed accidentally by three youngsters, Tom Yego Jr., Ernest Nomura, and Bill Nakata under barrack #511.

First organized sports league started on June 12, 1942 with the start of softball.

FIRST MASS MEETINGS

First mass meetings held for organization of self government on June 11, 1942.

First meeting of block managers on June 16, 1942. Discussion on health, sanitation, maintenance, recreation, and welfare was held.

THEME

The theme selected for the anniversary edition of the DAILY TULEAN DISPATCH is "Famous Firsts".

We, the staff members, have compiled a list of as many of the first happenings as possible since this center came into existence on May 27, 1942.

In attempting to interview "Famous First" persons we found that relocation has taken many of them from the Project and therefore it was impossible to contact them.--Editor.

FIRST SUPT. OF SCHOOLS

First superintendent of schools was named as Kenneth M. Harkness, arriving here on June 18.

First crop planted at the farm was potatoes on June 18.

FIRST PROJ. DIRECTOR

First project director was named as Mr. C.E. Rachford, who arrived on June 18, 1942, although Elmer T. Shirrell was acting director from the first day.

First hospitalized patient was Geraldine Oki, daughter of Thomas and Mrs. Oki, #526.

FIRST DANCE BAND

First dance band organized on June 20 under "Woody" Ichihashi.

First official post office created here on June 24 under the name of Newell.

FIRST BABY BORN

First baby born on the Project was Newell Kazuo Noda, son of George and Kumiko Noda, #2117-A. He was born on June 28 at 6:12 a.m., weighing six pounds.

First opening of community barber shop took place on July 2 at #718.

FIRST RELOCATED STUDENT

First student to be relocated was Harvey Itano who left for University of St. Louis School of Medicine on July 4.

First variety show was a grand success attracting 8000 colonists at the main firebreak on July 4.

FIRST SURGERY CASE

First recorded surgery case was declared successful on a woman patient who had an ovarian cyst removed by staff surgeons on July 15.

First movie was shown for kiddies under 12 years which began from July 15 featuring a cowboy film, "Destry Rides Again."

FIRST MARRIAGE COURSE

First course in marriage was conducted by Reverend Shigeo Tanabe on July 28. Tule Lake was the first center to offer such a course.

First travel bureau was formed on August 8 with Henry Yamada appointed head of the bureau.

FIRST BUTCHER SHOP

First butcher shop was opened at #336 on Aug. 17.

FIRST MAJOR FIRE

First and only major fire in the Project happened on August 13, with Canteen #3 suffering a \$4,000 loss.

First magazine published by The Dispatch came out on August 25.

FIRST ROBBERY

First major robbery in the city was reported on August 28 when Canteen No. 4 was robbed.

First group of Tuleans left for Japan after signing repatriation papers departed on September 1 from New York harbor.

FIRST R.C. MEETING

First meeting of the Tule Lake Red Cross went into the records on September 1.

First queen to be selected here was on Labor day, September 6, with Shiz Tamaki taking honors.

FIRST SHOE STORE

First shoe store opened Tuesday, September 9, with \$15,000 worth of shoes expected to be sold in two weeks.

First high school student to register on first day of school, September 14, was youthful George Sakita from Sacramento, Calif.

FIRST YPCC CONFAB

First YPCC conference ever to be held in a WRA center was held here on October 10 and 11 with 690 Christians registered. Outstanding feature, and another first, was the presentation of two scholarship awards to Sam Takagishi and Sumi Koga.

First weight lifting contest within the center was scheduled on October 22.

FIRST HARVEST FESTIVAL

First Harvest Festival held on October 31 when a half-day program was enjoyed by all.

First Thanksgiving Day celebrated in the center was on November 26 with colonists enjoying turkey and all the trimmings.

FIRST ARMY VOLUNTEERS

First group of volunteers to U.S. Army School at Savage, Minnesota left on December 4, with Tule Lake Project boasting largest delegation from any center.

First program to be held in the first factory building completed was on December 5.

FIRST SCRIP SALE

First day for selling scrips at the canteen was on December 9.

First traffic accident was recorded on December 23, when Paul Yoshikawa was injured by a truck.

FIRST CHRISTMAS

First Christmas celebrated in the city was on December 25, 1942 and various organizations within the colony and outside donating gifts to the children.

First official day in office for Harvey M. Covarley as project director was on Wednesday, December 30, as E.L. Shirrell turned over the office to him on that day.

CONSTRUCTION STARTED APR. 15

The construction of the Tule Lake Project, the largest single relocation center, started on April 15, 1942, soon after the evacuation order was issued by the Army officials.

The Project is located near the border line of Southern Oregon in the northeastern tip of California in Modoc County.

The project area totals 7000 acres of land and has over 1,000 buildings to house the 15,000 evacuees.

FIRST NEW YEAR DAY

First New Year to be observed by Tuleans in the Project was January 1, 1943, with everyone looking forward to a brighter new year.

First and only twins were born to Kiyoshi and Fujie Shimono, #6712-E&F, Born on January 14 at 5:09 and 5:31 a.m., weighing 5 lbs. 4 oz. and 5 lbs. 6 oz., they were named Donal and Ronal, respectively.

FIRST PHOTO SERVICE

First day for photography service in the colony was on February 9.

First Order of Merit cards were issued to 395 persons on April 14.

FIRST R. CROSS DRIVE

First Red Cross drive was slated between March 29 to April 3 and this Project hit above the \$1250 quota.

First clean-up day was officially declared April 17, 1943 with all residents cooperating wholeheartedly.

FIRST NYA ENROLLMENT

First announcement made on May 7 that evacuees may enroll for NYA resident centers for training in defense work.

First plans for the TSO announced on May 11.

FIRST COMBAT TEAM

First volunteers, six in number, left the city on Thursday, May 20, 1943.

First all-city picnic was held on Sunday, May 23, sponsored by the Co-op.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

First anniversary of Tule Lake observed on May 27, 1943.

FIRST Impressions

FIRST EVACUEES REPORT

"No trees or a lake"... "a desolate place"... "a vast place in desert country"... "cold"... "for ten days sleet, rain, snow, wind, storm—we thought we'd stuck our heads out"... "cold and drizzly"...

Such were the first impressions of the first volunteer group on arriving on the Project, as expressed by Joe Fujii, Cumi Kobayashi, and Mary Shinojima.

"The stovepipes certainly looked good after being out in that cold," reminisced Mrs. Iikue Iki, a Portlander.

According to Miss Shinojima even a hailstorm came out to greet them. But two things seemed to have saved the day--their first meal and the warmth of the Caucasian personnel.

Joe Fujii, especially, waxed eloquent on the subject of their first meal--six quarts of milk on each table, baked ham, roast pork, vegetables, dessert, generous quantities of butter and sugar. "Our first meal and the Caucasians were just perfect," he enthused.

"The Caucasians were excellent--showed us every consideration and kindness," Tom Iki declared.

FRANK C. SMITH:

"TERRIFIC RUSH...EVERYBODY PITCHED IN...WONDERING..."

The first days of the Project? Frank C. Smith, Housing and Employment head, leaned back in his swivel chair and puffed meditatively on his favorite Comoyo pipe, filled with Heinie's Bread.

"Jittery. Fumbled the engineers to finish Ward I, practically camped there...Preparing barracks for

ONE OF FIRST

SECRETARY GIVES HER EARLY VIEWS

"I feel almost as comfortable here in Tule Lake as at home." This was the brave sentiment of Miss Ruth Young, one of the first women to be quartered here, according to the second issue of the Information Bulletin, the ambitious forerunner of the Dispatch.

"...When one is so interested in the development of the project, personal disadvantages are forgotten," she added, according to the article. Miss Young, formerly secretary to Project Director Elmer I. Shirrell, is now working in the same capacity to Mr. Shirrell in Chicago.

Although the general sentiment seemed to be that camp life turned out better than expected--let Mr. Fujii, who left Wednesday for IYA school express it: "I'm plenty glad to get the h--l out!"

the first group with very little to work with--no mops or brooms, a lot coming, but none here...terrific rush...everybody pitched in--driving cars, and trucks, cleaning out the store, unpacking goods, everything." (Thirty-five to forty persons composed the entire Caucasian personnel, including about ten women.)

"Concerning what the evacuees would think of us and vice versa...wondering how things would run...But it was quite a revelation the way things went, after things got started...How were those first days, Ray?" (Ray Shinojima is Mr. Smith's second brain between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.)

The job that lay ahead?

"I thought it was going to be a tough one. It was tough, but I had a lot of fun, made nice friends--five of my girls are still with me."

"The year has just flown by. Don't you think that's just about it, Ray?"

MARION FRANCIS SAYS:

"IT WAS LIKE...A MERRY-GO-ROUND"

When I arrived on the Project, the first week in June, things were already whirling. I had no idea how or where to begin my work, and while everyone was cordial and helpful no one could stop whizzing long enough to tell me where I fitted in. It was like trying to jump on a merry-go-round that was whirling at such high speed that even the riders were blurred. I seemed to have arrived too late--I could never possibly catch up. Only Mr.

Shirrell was calm and leisurely.

All I learned about my job that first day was that nobody knew anything about it and that there was not a penny available for the Adult Education program. I retired to my army cot (the only article of furniture available) convinced that I was entirely unfit to tackle the job before me--the only incompetent on the staff dizzy with purposeful activity.

On the second day I

began to get people and their functions sorted out. I even began to think that if only I were a little brighter I could catch hold somewhere and do a little functioning myself. Suddenly, with pleased surprise, I saw some little thing to catch onto as a start. That was like stepping onto the merry-go-round. Before the day was over I was whizzing around with the rest. Then I discovered, in breathless con-

(Continued on page 6)



The chattering birds flying around in their nests in the cliffs broke the quiet peace surrounding the hills. The clouds drifted by with a beauty of grace that might catch an artist's fancy. The sun beat mercilessly on the colony below driving the colonists to seek the shade. Alone, high among the clouds away from civilization, and surrounded by nature, one's thoughts become clear and clean cut as ice.

Try to forget there ever existed such a city below, a pulsing throbbing of 15,000 hearts? No, in that way I would become a dreamer forever living in castles or air, a coward in the eyes of God. With a struggle, I tried to face the realities and looked back searchingly into the past, first piecing together this and that like a jigsaw puzzle, and finally it was a complete picture in my mind. The struggles and strife, our never ceasing heartaches all rushed back to me, but with it too mingled the sweetness of unending hope erasing bitterness from our souls. So often had I suddenly awakened from my slumber deep into the night and wondered if God had heard my prayers. Has he forgotten me? All this came back to me as I pondered thoughtfully, desperately trying to grasp a better perspective of our lives way below the hills down there in the colony. Shadowed behind my thoughts I daily heard a voice earnestly preaching a Sunday Morning Sermon; that voice now grew stronger and stronger in volume and finally could not ignore its significance...

"The sweetest fruit of life thrives not in a valley of sheltered peace and prosperity, but comes from the weather-beaten land of hard fought victories."

In our hands lies the weapons with which to fight our battle and in

FIRST BABY BORN HERE IS MAN OF FEW WORDS

Newell Kazuo Noda, the first baby to be born on the Project, is a man of few words. In fact his vocabulary consists of one word, "Mama," according to mama, Nana and papa, co-designer creators of Tule Lake's first born, are George and Kunitako Noda, who live at 2117-A.

According to Mrs. Noda, Kazuo is a normal baby in most respects. At his birth on June 28,

he weighed six pounds, today he hits the 19-pound mark--this is, including his three teeth.

What does he think of the future of the nisei, the issei? What is his opinion of a fourth term? Does he believe in wartime marriages? Alas, when interviewed, all nineteen pounds of him were sound asleep on his stomach--oblivious to the world clamoring at his doorstep.

"A MERRY-GO-ROUND"

(Continued from Page 5) tacts, that most of the staff had been there only a day or days before me.

At that time there seemed to be more Caucasian personnel than evacuees. But the trains were bringing people in at the rate of about 500 a day. By my third day I'd begun to make some colonist contacts. Then I was deep in interviewing and organizing the department, and being seriously hampered for lack of a desk and some office supplies and, particularly, some place out of the path of the thousand or so people stampeding through the one wing of the Ad Building daily. Those were the days, too, when it wasn't safe to sit down without looking behind you first, because some one was sure to have pulled your chair out from under you the moment you got up, and to have carried it off somewhere.

From then on colonists inundated the office. Those who came to see me were chiefly young adults, on fire to teach or study in any of a hundred courses from calculus to landscape gardening. Their morale amazed me, in those first trying days of adjustment in the new center from which, the departure seemed to remote for promise. Their energy was like a battering ram,

our hearts a beacon of hope and faith to light our pathways through the darkened future.

crashing, through obstacles including that hardest one of all, the apparent utter lack of facilities and resources for a program.

They built a program--an excellent one; and they've kept it going through all sorts of departmental vicissitudes. There have been a few slackers, an occasional malcontent or troublemaker, some grabbers without regard for the rights of others or for the general good. But the overwhelming majority are the staunch young, and older, community builders, planning, working together, accomplishing, tirelessly, joyfully; bearing out the impressions they crowded in one me, a year ago, of eager will and power for sound, democratic social achievement.

FIRST SHOWING OF LITTLE THEATER

On December 7, the Little Theater at #408, drew up its curtains with their first performance under the direction of Mrs. Sada Murayama. Dramas were very enthusiastic with Eugene O'Neill's "Ile", starred by Grace Yamadera and Perry Saito. Dickie Moriyasu and Hiroshi Kashiwagi brought down the house with laughter in George Kelley's comedy, "The Flattering Word." A fantasy, "Maker of Dreams" by Oliphant Downs well put over by the talented terpsichorian, Yukio Shimoda.

First Sport Started Here On June 12 With Softball

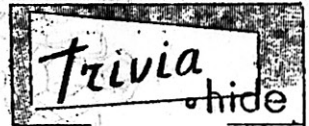
The first organized sports league for the Tuleans started on June 12, 1942 with the start of softball, the first major sport. On that evening the first games to be recorded were: Clarksburg 14, Oregonians 11; Scrubs 12, Fighting 17th 11.

Winner of the opening league, and the first champion to be named in any sport, was the Salem Senators on June 26.

From then on nearly every athletic event was a first, including the title winners in the various sports; the all-star selections; and the outstanding performances.

Many of the "first" records will never be equaled again since relocation has taken a big toll of the city's athletes.

The "firsts" will remain the best in this center's sports history.



The honorable senator from Washington may have been speaking of the seventh to the 13th groups of "evacuees" to arrive on the Project, when he accused the WRA of coddling and pampering. When it is noted that these "evacuees" are getting sleek and fat doing nothing but eating and sleeping around the clock, it seems plausible.

Rationing is unknown to them. Ham and bacon are lavishly abundant. In fact, these "colonists" get all the delicious garbage they want to eat, and some oats in addition!

The oft-mentioned fecundity of the race has also been found true. According to figures quoted by Sab Goto, administrative accountant for the farm, the original 1257 hogs have increased to 1748, not including the 635 that have fulfilled their life goals.

FARM IS ONE OF THE FIRST

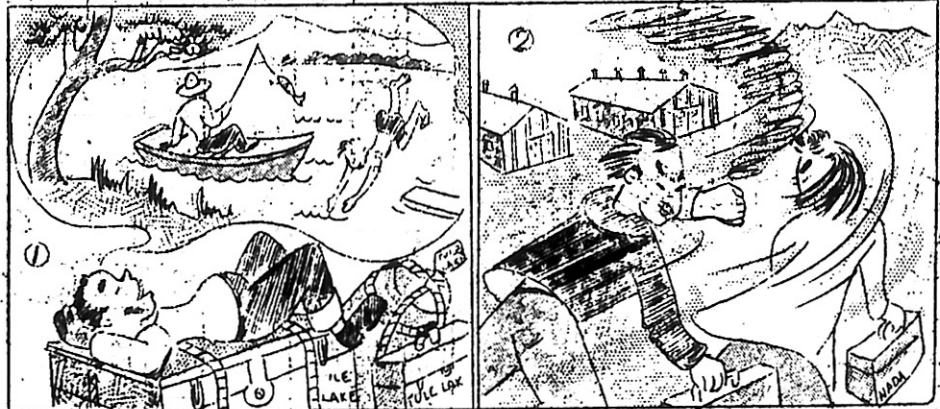
The Tule Lake farm made its debut as a vital vegetable producing center in the first week of June 1942, with 450 laborers planting \$125,000 worth of various varieties of seeds and plants on the vast 2500 acres of black alluvial soil of Tule Lake bed.

The following were the variety of vegetables planted: potatoes, onions, carrots, rutabagas, cab-

bage, table beets, turnips, peas, parsnips, beans, cauliflowers, spinach, squash, pumpkins, lettuce, swiss chards, nappes, cucumbers, and daikon.

The first crop to be harvested in the newly planted farm was the peas.

Tule Lake has one of the largest agricultural projects of all relocation centers and is proud to have the best growing fresh vegetables.



"WE HAD THE CRAZIEST DREAM"

The name of the relocation center, Tule Lake, created false pictures in the minds of most of the evacuees before they came here and discovered what the place was really like.

When evacuees learned that they were to be sent to this center, they imagined a large picturesque lake surrounded by tall pine trees. They pictured themselves swimming, fishing and boating or lounging beneath the shades of trees during hot

weather--what an ideal summer resort.

The northerners who had never been to California saw themselves plucking ripe juicy oranges, peaches, and other well-known California fruits.

Then they came and discovered what Tule Lake was really like: a bottom of a reclaimed lake, dry, dusty and treeless and no lake in sight.

There was snow on the ground and it was late in May. Cold wind chilled them, and dust storms were

frequent.

A story is told of one evacuee who brought a complete set of fishing equipment. Swimming suits were included in the baggage of many of the others. Some, before they left home, made arrangements to have their outboard motors sent to them. They quickly changed their minds upon arrival. As evacuees get together and reminisce, these and many other humorous stories will be relished over again.

SEWAGE PUMP

No 5 CANTEEN

34	35	36
33	32	31
22	23	24

No 2 FIRE STATION

37	38	39
30	29	28
25	26	27

52	53	54
51	50	49

No 3 FIRE STATION

57	58	59
----	----	----

74	73	72
69	70	71
68	67	66

21	20	19
10	11	12
9	8	7

18	17	16
13	14	15
6	5	4

46	47	48
45	44	43
40	41	42

BASEBALL FIELD

No 1 FIRE STATION

HOSPITAL

GYMNASIUM SCHOOL

FACTORY

ADMINI STRATION

POST OFFICE

OUTDOOR STAGE

FLAG POLE

T.S.O.

REC DEPT.

TULEAN DISPATCH

WARDEN

HDCM

PLACEMENT OFFICE

PLANNING BOARD

No 3 CANTEEN

COOOP

DITCH

