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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

DEC 24 1942

Mr. Wade Head
Project Director
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Head:

Enclosed is a copy of General Order No. 14 recently issued by the Alien Property Custodian, and published in the Federal Register for Thursday, December 17, 1942. 7 F. R. 10546. The order requires that all persons who have acquired from a designated foreign national since January 1, 1939 any interest in any work subject to copyright under the laws of the United States shall file a report of that interest with the Alien Property Custodian not later than January 15, 1943. Regardless of when obtained, the interest must be reported if it has been recorded in the Office of the Register of Copyrights subsequent to January 1, 1939. Likewise, if any money has been paid to or has become due a designated foreign national for an interest in any work subject to copyright since January 1, 1939, the interest must be reported regardless of when obtained. In the latter instance, if no report is made because no money was owing or paid for such an interest during the period January 1, 1939 to January 15, 1943, the time when the report is to be filed, and money is subsequently paid or becomes payable to a designated foreign national for an interest in a copyrighted or copyrightable work, the person acquiring the interest must report it to the Alien Property Custodian within thirty days. The term "designated foreign national" is defined in paragraph (c) (4).

All evacuees should be informed of the issuance of this Order. Copies of forms to be used by persons subject to the Order in filing required reports may be obtained from the Office of the Alien Property Custodian in Washington.

Sincerely,

D. J. Myer
Director

Enclosure - 1



POSTON

TITLE---ALIENS AND NATIONALITY

CHAPTER II---OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

PART 503---GENERAL ORDERS

Report of Interest of Designated Foreign Nationals in Copyrights

Under the authority of the Trading with the Enemy Act, as amended, and Executive Order No. 9095, as amended, and pursuant to law, the undersigned hereby issues the following regulation:

503.14 General Order No. 14. (a) Every person having or claiming any interest in any work subject to copyright under the laws of the United States shall file a report on or before January 15, 1943, with respect to each such work, if

(1) Such person has obtained any interest in such work from any designated foreign national or anyone on his behalf at any time on or since January 1, 1939, or

(2) Such interest, regardless of when obtained, has been recorded in the Office of the Register of Copyrights at any time on or since January 1, 1939, or

(3) Regardless of the date on which such interest was obtained, any designated foreign national or anyone on his behalf now holds or claims any interest in such work, and monies or other things of value, exclusive of offset, were or are owing, have been paid or have become payable by such person to any designated foreign national or to any one on his behalf at any time from January 1, 1939, to the date of the report made hereunder.

Such report shall be executed in duplicate and under oath on Form APC-18¹/₁ (which is hereby adopted and made a part of this regulation), shall be filed with the Office of Alien Property Custodian, Washington, D. C., and shall contain complete information as provided in said Form.

(b) If any work, otherwise required to be reported under paragraph (a) (3) above, is not reported because no monies or other things of value were owing, paid, or had become payable with respect to such work, from January 1, 1939, to the date of any report otherwise required thereunder, and monies or other things of value, exclusive of offset, subsequently are paid or become payable by any person, to a designated foreign national or any one in his behalf, such person shall file a report with respect to such work. Such report shall be made within thirty days after the close of any accounting period during which such sums become payable and shall contain a statement of the title of such work, the dates of the contracts or other writings under which such sums were paid or have become due, the names of all parties to said contracts or other writings, and the method used and amounts established in computing payments arising therefrom.

(c) For the purpose of this regulation:

(1) "Person" shall mean any individual, partnership, association or corporation.

(2) "Interest" in a work subject to copyright shall mean: ownership, part ownership, or claim of ownership, in whole or in part, of any subsisting copyright or claim of copyright, and any right, license, privilege or property in or to or with respect to such work; and any right, title or

Report of Interest of Designated Foreign Nationals in Copyrights

Under the authority of the trading with the enemy act, as amended, and Executive Order No. 9086, as amended, and pursuant to law, the undersigned hereby issues the following regulation:

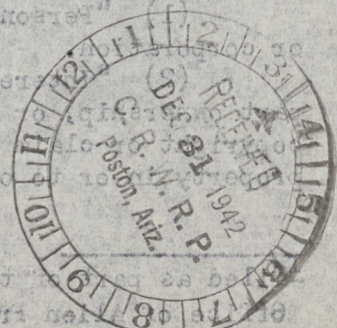
503. In General Order No. 14, (a) Every person having or claiming any interest in any work subject to copyright under the laws of the United States shall file a report on or before January 15, 1952, with respect to each such work, if:

- (1) Such person has obtained any interest in such work from any designated foreign national or anyone on his behalf at any time on or since January 1, 1939, or
- (2) Such interest, regardless of when obtained, has been recorded in the Office of the Registrar of Copyrights at any time on or since January 1, 1939, or
- (3) Regardless of the date on which such interest was obtained, any designated foreign national or anyone on his behalf now holds or claims any interest in such work, and monies or other things of value, exclusive of offset, were or are owing, have been paid or have become payable by such person to any designated foreign national or to any one on his behalf at any time from January 1, 1939, to the date of the report made hereunder.

Such report shall be executed in duplicate and under oath on Form APO-101 (which is hereby adopted and made a part of this regulation), shall be filed with the Office of Alien Property Custodian, Washington, D. C., and shall contain complete information as provided in said form.

- (a) If any work, otherwise required to be reported under paragraph (a) (3) above, is not reported because no monies or other things of value were owing, paid, or had become payable with respect to such work, from January 1, 1939, to the date of any report otherwise required thereunder, and monies or other things of value, exclusive of offset, subsequently are paid or become payable by any person, to a designated foreign national or any one on his behalf, such person shall file a report with respect to such work. Such report shall be made within thirty days after the close of any accounting period during which such sums become payable and shall contain a statement of the title of such work, the dates of the contracts or other writings under which such sums were paid or have become due, the names of all parties to said contracts or other writings, and the method used and amounts established in computing payments arising therefrom.

- (c) For the purpose of this regulation: "Person" shall mean any individual, partnership, association, trust, or any other entity in a work subject to copyright shall mean: ownership, claim of ownership, in whole or in part, of any updating or revision of copyright, and any right, license, privilege or interest in or with respect to such work; and any right, title or



interest in, to or under any contract or other instrument, and any royalty, share of profits, license fees, or other emolument or compensation reserves with respect thereto. Such interest shall also include, but not by way of limitation, any interest as hereinbefore described which is held or claimed as trustee, agent, representative or nominal proprietor.

(3) "Work subject to copyright" shall mean: all the writings of an author within the meaning of the Copyright Act including, but not by way of limitation, literary, artistic, dramatic, musical and dramatico-musical compositions, and any and all versions, adaptations, arrangements, transcriptions, translations, and recordings thereof, whether or not copyright has been obtained thereon in the United States; Provided, however, That such term shall not include commercial prints and labels.

(4) "Designated foreign national" shall mean:

(i) Any individual who is a resident of, and

(ii) Any business organization organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business within,

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Esthonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Rumania, San Marino, and Yugoslavia; and those portions of Belgium, Denmark, France and the Netherlands within continental Europe.

(iii) Any persons included in the Proclaimed List of Certain Blocked Nationals on November 12, 1942.

Executed at Washington, D. C., on December 1, 1942.

(Seal),

Leo T. Crowley
Alien Property Custodian

(F. R. Doc. 42-12798;; Filed, December 3, 1942; 10:07 a.m.)

interest in, to or under any contract or other instrument, and any royalty, share of profits, license fees, or other emolument or compensation reserved with respect thereto. Such interest shall also include, but not by way of limitation, any interest as hereinafter described which is held or claimed as trustee, agent, representative or nominal proprietor.

(3) "Work subject to copyright" shall mean: all the writings of an author within the meaning of the Copyright Act including, but not by way of limitation, literary, artistic, dramatic, musical and dramatic-musical compositions, and all versions, adaptations, arrangements, translations, and recordings thereof, whether or not copyright has been obtained thereon in the United States; provided, however, that such term shall not include commercial prints and labels.

(4) "Designated foreign national" shall mean:

- (i) Any individual who is a resident of, and
- (ii) Any business organization organized under the laws of or having its principal place of business within:

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Rumania, San Marino, and Yugoslavia; and those portions of Belgium, Denmark, France and the Netherlands within continental Europe.

(iii) Any persons included in the proclaimed list of certain blocked nationals on November 12, 1942.

Executed at Washington, D. C., on December 1, 1942.

Allen Property Custodian
Leo L. Crowley

(Sgd.)

(P. R. Dec. 12-1942; Filed, December 3, 1942; 10:37 a.m.)



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Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

November 18, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Empie

FROM: John W. Powell, Acting Chief of Community Management

Attached is a letter from Elmer Rowalt which Mr. Schmitt loaned to me recently. The letter sternly assumes that evacuee property work can all be carried on inside the Project, except for what the field offices do outside. In practice, this is simply not so. I checked this letter with Mr. Head and with his consent have been authorizing Mr. Schmitt to take field trips (a) with prior telephone agreement with the Los Angeles field office; (b) in areas difficult for them to reach; (c) when urgent matters had piled up to a point which made Mr. Schmitt's presence on the spot desirable.

I simply pass this on to you as an indication of the policy which this Division pursued while the Evacuee Property Section was part of it.

John W. Powell
Acting Chief of Community Management

W.R.A.
340 Henry Bldg
Seattle 1, Washington

November 23, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO : Mr. Dean C. McLean
Senior Evacuee Supervisor

SUBJECT: Needed Personnel.

The lack of personnel to service evacuee farm problems in any degree of efficiency is reaching serious proportions. Increasing farm problems are arising which require immediate attention, any of which are foreclosures due to defaults in payment of contracts, directly responsible from lack of personnel to contact present lessees to collect rent due.

....The complaints received from the Evacuee Property Officer at the centers , which are justly founded, are increasing daily...

Unfortunately, at the time of evacuation, many lessees were not properly investigated are unreliable and do not intend to meet their obligations. Numerous farm properties in this area are being occupied by such tenants who have not paid their rent and who have no intention of paying their rent and are remaining on the property merely occupied as residence.

Also many so-called farm operators are leasing farm property to avoid the draft. The Washington State Law requires that a lessee farmer if remaining on farm ~~property~~ property after March 1, regardless of the circumstances, cannot be evicted until the end of that growing season. Consequently, it can be seen that the problem is becoming more acute and immediate action is necessary.....

/s/ Earl S DeSmidt

MEMORANDUM TO: Russell T. Robinson

.....

December 3, 1943

SUBJECT: Evacuee Farm Property Supervision and Collection

(Presents the ~~last~~ memo from deSmidt).. There are considerable number of involved farm leases in this district which require immediate attention, in ~~view~~ view of the fact that after March 1, a farmer cannot be evicted from his farm regardless of circumstances, he retains the right to harvest any crops which he may have planted.

Therefore, operators, who are unsatisfactory and who are permitted to plant next spring will be impossible to remove. Additional defaults in farm rentals are increasing. Also, many farmers who were given an extension of time awaiting the 1943 harvest are unable to meet their obligations.....

/s/ Dean C. McLean

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COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
Poston, Arizona

Mr. Mills

April 14, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Len L. Nelson
Assistant Project Director

SUBJECT: Evacuee Freight

This Memorandum is addressed to you on a subject that has long been in controversy. As far back as July 1943, it was felt that freight should not be handled in connection with the Leave Office. This was especially true in the matter of lost freight shipments, and the unnecessary work involved, which I believe, is not very pertinent with the Leave Section.

Again in December of 1943, the matter was taken up with Mr. Haverland and Mr. Barrett of the Transportation Division, inasmuch as they, at one time, handled the transportation end of the evacuee freight leaving this project. At this time the drivers and swamper were transferred to the motor pool leaving our office with the record work.

The problem of transporting evacuee property belonging to both relocatees and transferees from this center to points on the outside has never been cleared up, and the burden of responsibility for this work still is in our division, whereas it rightfully belongs in your Division.

It is our firm conviction that every section should shoulder the responsibility which has been delegated to them by the WRA Administrative Manuals, Instructions and handbooks. The transportation of Evacuee Property from this center is the responsibility of the Evacuee Property Officer. This is clearly indicated in Administrative Manual Chapter 100.1, Paragraph .3, Section (1) wherein it states as follows:

"The functions of the center Evacuee Property Officer includes the following: Act as counselor to Evacuees concerning their problem, and assist on the center in selling, leasing, operating and TRANSPORTING or storing their property under the terms of Manual Chapter 100."

In Paragraph .5-B, the term "property", as used herein, refers to any and all tangible or intangible property interests of an evacuee.

"Household and personal effects", including clothing, household furniture, kitchen equipment, utensils, and hand tools."

May we further refer you to Chapter 100.3.1.C wherein it states that the TRANSPORTATION of the Evacuee Household goods includes any place outside of a center, to a center or from a center, or any place outside of a center.

Mr. Len L. Nelson

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April 14, 1944

In view of the above related facts, it is quite clear that Chapter 100 "Evacuee Property" is intended for the Evacuee Property Officer and not for any other section, except for reference purposes.

The Relocation Division has not received any instructions stating that the leave section has been vested with the Authority to make any evacuee property shipment. Moreover, the position of "Baggage and Freight Supervisor" on the Relocation Division's payroll has been abolished, as of March 1, 1944.

I wish to recommend that your Division assume its duties as set forth in the Administrative Manual Chapter 100. Please make the necessary arrangements to transfer this responsibility, including the compiling of Government Bill of Lading, crating and other duties relating to freight shipments. We ask that this be made effective not later than May 1, 1944.

/s/ James D. Crawford
Relocation Program Officer

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COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
Poston, Arizona

Project Memorandum No. 96

May 11, 1945

SUBJECT: Sale or Lease of Evacuee Farm Properties

The Area Offices of the W. R. A. in California have advised us that they have frequent inquiries from individuals desiring to purchase or lease farm lands or other real property from evacuees.

In order to assist the several offices in making contacts and to render the greatest possible service to evacuees in the Center who desire to dispose of property through sale or lease, it is requested that each evacuee having such property address a letter to John G. Hunter, Evacuee Property Officer, Administration Building, Unit I, stating the type of property, the number of acres available for sale or lease, housing facilities, utilities, location, type of farm crops if any, and any other pertinent information that might be useful.

The Evacuee Property Officer will also be pleased to have brought to his attention any personal property; i.e. automobiles, farm equipment, etc. which any evacuee may wish to dispose of, and he will assist in any manner possible in its disposition.

Duncan Mills

Duncan Mills
Project Director

Mr. Mills
Colorado River

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Ware Relocation Authority

Washington

MAY 17, 1945

Memorandum

To: All Project Directors

Attention: Evacuee Property Officer

Subject: Insurance for protection of property for evacuees

I believe you will be interested in the following item from the April 28 report of Mrs. Nina Pollitt, Acting Project Attorney at Granada, to us:

"Policies were received this week from the United States Fire Insurance Company of New York with branch offices in San Francisco. William A. Kempenich, 444 California Street, San Francisco, is the issuing agent. Another evacuee secured insurance on his automobile from the Fireman's Fund Group, San Francisco.

/s/
H. Rex Lee
Acting Chief, Relocation Division

Mr. Mills
Colorado River

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

War Relocation Authority

Washington

MEMORANDUM

MAY 19, 1945

TO: All Project Directors

Attention: Relocation Program Officers

Subject: Insurance

We are quoting the following excerpt from the May 11 report of Mr. Edgar Barnhard, Assistant Solicitor in San Francisco in reference to evacuee insurance. This is for your information and should be made available to all your staff members.

"Perhaps we have ridden out the insurance storm once again. I can now report that the whole situation is very much improved. You will recall that early in 1943, we went through a period when it was almost impossible to place any kind of insurance for evacuees. But once we obtained a single source which could be depended upon to issue policies on acceptable risks--whether the property was owned by evacuees or others--the whole difficulty died down. I trust this will happen again, now that I am able to report once more that we have reestablished a good dependable source.

"Our old standby, William Kempenich, 444 California Street, San Francisco, has somehow worked it out so that he is once again able to place fire insurance on real or personal property owned by persons of Japanese descent on the same basis and on the same rates as on property owned by anyone else.

"In addition, with certain very substantial restrictions, automobile insurance of all kinds, including even liability insurance, may now be placed for evacuees. The first restriction is that alien owners cannot be covered; only American citizens. Next, the insurance company has indicated that applications from certain localities--in which there seems to be somewhat more vigorous opposition to the return of evacuees than elsewhere--will not be accepted. Finally, top limits are \$2500 on property damage, \$10,000 to \$20,000 on liability (which is certainly not bad) and there will be a premium surcharge. On that portion of

the premium which represents automobile, fire and theft insurance, the increase will be 100%; on that portion which represents public liability, the increase will be 50%.

MEMORANDUM TO: All Project Directors

Attention: Relocation Program Officer

"The company is the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. Simultaneously with the mention of this company in Mima Pollitt's report, Bob Cozzens received a letter from an insurance agent in Los Angeles which mentioned the same company. Vic Furth took up the matter with them and was given the above limitations."

/s/

H. Rex Lee

Acting Chief, Relocation Division

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
Poston, Arizona

July 21, 1945

Memorandum To: Mr. James Suzuki, Unit I Council
Mr. George Y. Katow, Unit I, Chairman, Finance Committee

Subject: Liquidation of Evacuee Funds and Properties.

In the light of our discussion with Mr. Lipian and Mr. Mills, the following is my understanding of the Administrative decisions reached regarding the field of operation of the Liquidation Commission:

1. Formal action by the residents transferring title of the Shibai stages to the Project Administration will not be required, since these stages are affixed to ground which is Government property, and for which no rent was paid by the organizations which enjoyed the use of the stages. They, therefore, automatically become part of the Government installations of this Project, and title is assumed by the Project without necessity of transfer. The Liquidation Commission, therefore, need not concern itself with the Shibai installations.
2. Movable property, machines, tools, coolers, and other equipment purchased with evacuee community funds should be inventoried and a list submitted to Property Control so that, if it is decided to remove these properties from the Project, it will be clear that the Government has no claim on them.
3. Community funds raised and administered entirely by evacuee groups should be listed and reviewed, and the report on them should be inspected by an officer appointed by the Project Director. I should suggest that Mr. Mills be asked to direct the Finance Officer to assign Mr. Ray Goetting to perform this function. The disposition of these funds will then be entirely in the hands of the agencies authorized by the residents.
4. I suggest that you call upon all groups and individuals having in their charge either movable property or funds, whose disposition will be subject to review by the Liquidation Commission, to submit to you their statement and inventory not later than August 4, 1945. I understand that the Commission's report to the Community Council will be made on August 15. I suggest, therefore, that the final accounting to the Property Control and Finance Offices will be made not later than August 20. This will permit ample time for the disposition of the funds and properties in question.

Any further advice or assistance which I can give during my remaining days in Poston, I shall be happy to give it at your request.

John W. Powell
Assistant Project Director

Mr. Mills

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
Poston, Arizona

NOTED

AUG 24 1945

August 23, 1945

Maurice Lipian

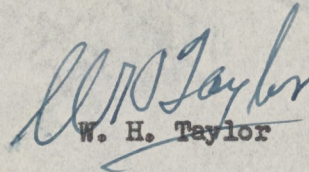
MEMO TO: Mr. John G. Hunter
Evacuee Property Officer

FROM : W. H. Taylor

SUBJECT: Activities of Receiving, Crating, and Shipping stations
for the first half of August.

Attached is an analysis of the property shipments made during the first half of August by individual units, and the total for all three units, showing carrier, number of shipments, weight and number of pieces.

Also attached is a comparison of the activities for the last half of July and the first half of August, showing an increase during the first half of August of 43 shipments made, and an increase of 102,849 lbs. shipped.


W. H. Taylor

Comparison of Activities for Periods from
July 17 to Aug. 1 and Aug. 1 to Aug 15 (Inc)

Camp I

	<u>No. Shipments</u>	<u>No. Pieces</u>	<u>Weight</u>
July 17 to Aug. 1	54	677	75,768
Aug. 2 to Aug. 15	<u>64</u>	<u>847</u>	<u>85,276</u>
Increase last period	10	170	9,508

Camp II

July 17 to Aug. 1	18	298	34,500
Aug. 2 to Aug. 15	<u>36</u>	<u>633</u>	<u>68,666</u>
Increase last period	18	335	34,166

Camp III

July 17 to Aug. 1	60	787	79,045
Aug. 2 to Aug. 15	<u>75</u>	<u>1,422</u>	<u>138,220</u>
Increase last period	15	635	59,175

All Camps

July 17 to Aug. 1	132	1,762	189,313
Aug. 2 to Aug. 15	<u>175</u>	<u>2,902</u>	<u>292,162</u>
Increase last period	43	1,140	102,849

Camp I

	<u>No. Shipments</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>No. Pieces</u>
Western Truck	29	45,473	436
Express	12	3,340	39
UCL&D	20	31,288	319
AT&SF	3	5,175	54
TOTAL	<u>64</u>	<u>85,276</u>	<u>847</u>

Camp II

Western Truck	21	55,633	511
Express	2	925	11
UCL&D	13	12,108	111
AT&SF	--	-----	---
TOTAL	<u>36</u>	<u>68,666</u>	<u>633</u>

Camp III

Western Truck	40	103,895	1,070
Express	20	4,560	59
UCL&D	3	4,625	39
AT&SF	12	25,140	254
TOTAL	<u>75</u>	<u>138,220</u>	<u>1,422</u>

All Camps

Western Truck	90	205,001	2,017
Express	34	8,825	108
UCL&D	36	49,021	469
AT&SF	15	30,315	308
TOTAL	<u>175</u>	<u>292,162</u>	<u>2,902</u>

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

~~OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS~~
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

NOTED
DEC 4 1945
Maurice Lipian

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
POSTON, ARIZONA

December 3, 1945

Memo to: Maurice Lipian
Assistant Project Director

From: John G. Hunter
Evacuee Property Officer

Subject: Weekly report of activity -- Evacuee Property Office
November 26 to December 1, 1945

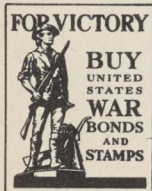
During the past week, one particularly memorable achievement was attained, which was the last vestige of evacuee property movement from Poston. At the beginning or during this period, there were 145 lots of family property in the WRA Warehouse at Parker. Of these, 25 were shipped to forwarding addresses furnished by relocated evacuees.

The past seven days has been a period of accomplishment in clearing about three-thousand or more files which have passed through the Evacuee Property Office. This work has entailed a great deal of arduous and sincere effort.

We have, too, co-operated with the Finance Section in furnishing copies of Bills of Lading, together with WRA Form 156, authorization.

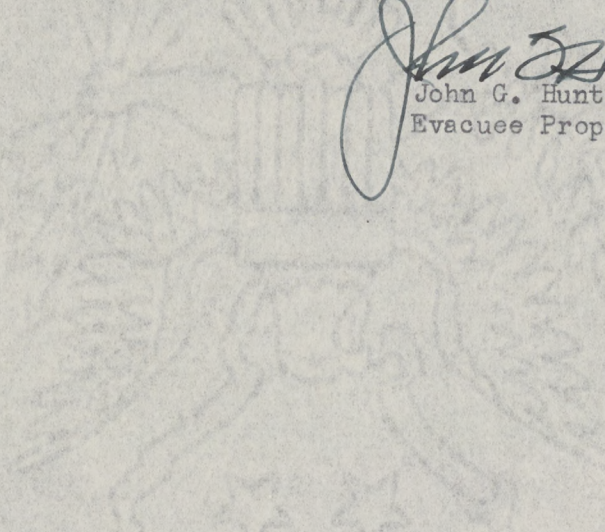
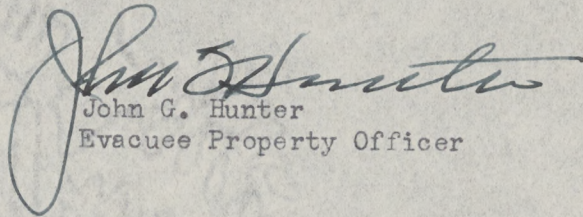
Along with these activities, we have cared for numerous complaints in all the various categories which might be imagined. Checking these matters is extraordinarily difficult because of mis-information or lack of information.

Much time has been involved in handling small estates, including a trip to Yuma, Arizona, the County Seat, 175 miles distant, on the part of the Evacuee Property Officer and the Project Attorney, the purpose being to interview the County Attorney regarding the handling of such estates. That office made written declaration of disinterest, which means that we must now contact the County Administrator of the California jurisdictions, in which the decedents



resided before evacuation. Estates are therefore in status quo.

Along with the above, which seems to constitute almost a week's work, the Evacuee Property Officer submitted his narrative report, covering the activity, responsibility, and ramifications of the Evacuee Property Office, since inception of the Project.



John G. Hunter
Evacuee Property Officer

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
Preston, Arizona

Mr. M. L. Lillo

December 19, 1945

MEMO TO: Mr. Hunter

SUBJECT: Expediting Movement of Evacuee Property
Still in our Warehouses

During my visit in Los Angeles, Mr. Dillon Myer suggested that we attempt the following procedure in order to expedite the movement of the evacuee properties which are still in our warehouses:

1. Prepare a complete listing by lot, indicating the name and family number of the owner, the place to which he has relocated, the number of pieces held in storage, and the weight of each and aggregate weight of all pieces.
2. This list should be prepared by relocation districts. Each such list should be transmitted to the District Relocation Officer requesting his assistance in expediting the disposition of these items.
3. Copies of this correspondence should be transmitted to the Area and National offices of the WRA.

M. L.

Maurice Lipian
Assistant Project Director

MLipian:rms

Los Angeles Times

LIBERTY UNDER THE LAW

EQUAL

RIGHTS

TRUE INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM

CC

TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 12, 1943



ALL WAS CONFUSION—Rev. Chikyo Kurahashi, left; Rev. Jitei Ishihara, center and Mrs. Cecil Itano, Jap relocation camp internees, inspect damage done to their goods stored in temple here. R. A. Walling, Federal official, looks on.

Times photo

Vandals Loot Temples Here Where Jap Goods Are Stored

Household effects of more than 100 Japanese-American families evacuated from the coastal area after Pearl Harbor have been looted from their storehouses in two Japanese Buddhist temples, it was disclosed yesterday by War Relocation Authority officials here.

Three Japanese, two of them aliens and one a third-generation resident, have been brought to Los Angeles from relocation centers in Colorado to identify the remaining property, which will be removed to government warehouses temporarily and later sent to the owners.

Vandals who broke into the temples destroyed much of the stored property, consisting largely of dishes, furniture and personal effects, besides turning the closely packed temples upside down and scattering the belongings of various families throughout the rooms.

Two Priests Returned

The looted temples were located at 2800 E. Third St. and 123 S. Hewitt St. At the former, the property of nearly 100 families was stored, while a smaller group had stored their effects in the Hewitt St. building. Value

of the goods stolen and damaged by the vandals will amount to several thousand dollars, it was estimated.

Rev. Jitei Ishihara, an alien, former priest of the E. Third St. temple; the Rev. Chikyo Kurahashi, another alien Buddhist priest, and Mrs. Cecil Itano, a third-general Japanese-American, who says she does not even speak the Japanese language, were those returned.

Called 'Atrocity'

Ishihara was the priest in charge of the E. Third St. temple. All three were given permission to enter the restricted coastal zone by Army authorities after careful investigation of their records, according to Rudolph W. Schmidt, evacuee property officer of the War Relocation Authority, who is in charge of the trio during their expected five-day stay here.

"This is one of the most ridiculous atrocities of the war," Schmidt declared. "It will not hinder the Japanese war effort, but it works a hardship on many loyal Japanese-Americans and it forces the United States government to strain overtaxed transportation facilities still further to take care of this property."

JAPS RETURN HERE, FIND STUFF JUNK

Homecoming for the first three Japanese to reenter the city since the mass evacuation of their people to relocation centers was a brief and unhappy occasion yesterday.

Authorized by a special army permit, they spent the day at Nichiren Buddhist temple, 2800 East Third St., sorting out and salvaging the belongings of 100 Japanese families that were reduced to junk recently by vandals.

They found the interior of the temple in riotous disorder.

What the vandals could not recognize as worthy of stealing they mutilated. Neatly stacked piles of household effects were pushed over and thrown wildly about. Mattresses and upholstered furniture were slashed with knives. Exquisite, fragile ornaments were smashed or crushed under foot.

Under the direction of the war relocation administration, the property was moved from the temple to a government warehouse at 836 Santee St. It will remain there under guard for the duration of the war.

The three Japanese designated by the army to assist in the salvage work were Rev. Jitel Ishihara, pastor of the temple; Rev. Chikyo Kuraha-

shi and Mrs. Cecil Itano.

Mrs. Itano is a second generation Japanese; the two priests are aliens. Mrs. Itano is living at the Granada relocation center at Amache, Colo., and the priests are quartered at the Colorado River, Ariz., center.

Rudolph W. Schmitt, WRA evacuee property officer at Colorado River, and R. A. Walling, evacuee transportation supervisor for Southern California, were in charge of the moving.

"The WRA went to considerable trouble to get army permission for these three people to do this work," Schmitt explained, "Only someone acquainted with the property would be able to make any sense out of this mess."

"We have some pretty bad cases of vandalism of Japanese property, but this is the worst and the most stupid I have ever seen."

Evidence of Schmitt's confidence in the three salvagers was frequently evinced during the sorting out process.

One or another would utter an exclamation and hold up some ruined object that all three recognized. Mrs. Itano exclaimed with relief when she found her radio had not been seriously damaged.

She is not too pleased with life at the relocation center.

"After you have owned property and lived in your own home it is hard to get used to being herded together with 8000 other persons," she said.

"The food is monotonous. About all we can look forward to is fish. We get meat about twice a month and then it is so disguised in stews that we can't tell what kind of meat it is."

"However, there is enough food and I suppose it is healthy."

The Japanese in her camp have a farm project, she said. In addition, there are plenty of jobs administering the duties and providing for the rest of the evacuees.

Schmitt pointed out that Japanese of the type returned here for the salvage operations are not internees.

"They have been thoroughly investigated and their loyalty to the United States is not questioned," he said. "They are permitted to travel anywhere except on the coast."

"Their property is respected by the government just as much as any other citizen's. The problem they present is simply that of relocating them in other places where they can start life over again."

(Newspaper item taken from the Daily News, Los Angeles, California, October 12, 1943.)

THEFT AND DESTRUCTION OF EVACUEE PROPERTY
AT NICHIREN TEMPLE, LOS ANGELES

Resulting from misplaced confidence and poorly planned storage of personal property. This a narrative report of information this property officer has obtained, and ^{the} action taken.

At the time of evacuation about one hundred Japanese families stored their household goods and ^{the} personal property they were not able to take to assembly centers in this church. Management of the church property apparently was the responsibility of Sanji Hazemoto, who is now located at Heart Mountain project. This information first became known to the Evacuee Supervisors at Los Angeles sometime the later part of July, 1943.

On July 23, 1943, we received a copy of a letter and teletype from Mr. Elmer H. Cordes, Los Angeles Office, which notified Mr. Ray Johnston, Project Director at Heart Mountain, that conditions at the Nichiren Church in Los Angeles were bad and that probably one hundred families had their personal property stored within the Church. The Church and residence had been left in the care of a Maye White under the authority of Sanji Hazemoto. Upon Mr. Cordes's investigation with the Police, Maye White was found to be a woman of a very questionable character. Her associates were negroes, and on occasions they were known to have removed furniture and personal property from the Church in trucks. The negroes also had police records--one McKensie having been taken in custody at least six times.

We immediately notified Mr. Cordes that the Pastor of the Church, Rev. J. Ishihara, was a resident of this Project, also ^{that} about twenty-five of the families involved were residents of this Project. Multiple communication between Projects resulted in a request to have a party of evacuees visit the Church to identify and repack the property to be moved to W. R. A. storage.

About August first, Mr. Dillon Myer and Mr. Cozzens visited Los Angeles and their attention was called to this Church by Mr. Cordes and Mr. Sloan, Evacuee Property Supervisors, and an inspection was made.

About August fifth, S. Hazemoto signed a revocation of the Agreement with Maye White at the suggestion of Mr. Cordes, who made several attempts to serve this notice, both by personal service and by registered mail. The registered mail was returned. The house on the Church property at 2804 E. Third St., Los Angeles, had been vacated, and water and power service discontinued.

During this interval the Police had found the Church property had been broken into and some young boys were found in the building. I am of the opinion ~~that~~ these boys were turned over to the Juvenile authorities.

Correspondence between the interested parties at the various Projects as to the person best qualified to go to California, and with the assistance of the Chief of the Evacuee Property Division in San Francisco, we were enabled to obtain permits for Rev. J. Ishihara and Rev. C. Kurahashi, both aliens from this Project who were most familiar with the storage of property there, and Mrs. Cecil Itano, a citizen from Granada Relocation Project who had been a diligent worker in the Church since the founding of the Church fourteen years ago.

Due to the segregation program this trip was not possible until October 10th, at which time arrangements were made with the W. R. A. Transportation Division to assist in the removal of all the property to the W. R. A. Warehouse.

On October 10th, I escorted the evacuees to Los Angeles by private auto, and as soon as we arrived at Los Angeles we entered the Church. The picture ~~s~~ we had previously seen should have prepared us for the scene we were to observe, but I can hardly say they did. The first few minutes inside that Church convinced us that damage would be very great and our job ~~to~~ ^{was} be a very difficult and a trying one. Every package, box, trunk, and piece of this property had been pilfered with very few exceptions--dresser drawers were emptied, and drawer ~~s~~ and contents scattered in every direction. The boxes and trunks were generally empty or nearly so with evidence of the contents thrown hither and yon. The aisles were piled high with broken picture frames, inner tills of trunks, clothing, glass and chinaware--many broken or damaged. In fact, one could see most any article that might be found in any home scattered or under foot, probably soiled, broken, or torn. To any home loving person this sight was pitiful, and the evacuees were noticeably grief stricken.

We then proceeded to the hotel where we had arranged appropriate reservations ~~s~~ to comply with our military orders granting the visit to the "restricted area".

Early Monday morning, we were again at the Church ready for the enormous task ahead. Very shortly, newspaper correspondents from all the papers called at the Church for a story and pictures which made front page in two of the daily papers, ~~s~~ important spots in the other papers--all papers carried pictures.

During the entire week the work progressed to finish only at the time of dead line on our permit. A hurried job was done of gathering up those things that ^{might} be of value to the owner, and identifying, if possible, the owner. When impossible to identify the owner, the property was packed with the intent to send it to Poston for further effort at identification, and if it is found necessary some will be sent to other Projects for identification.

It was noticeable that such items as typewriters, hand luggage, and good portable sewing machines, etc., were missing, some tell-tale part being left behind from which we were able to make this determination. Noteworthy also was the fact that the property marked in the name of "S. Hazemoto" ^{was} ~~were~~ unmolested.

The care and consideration given each lot of property by the visiting evacuees deserves commendation. We were very fortunate indeed to have the care and assistance of Mrs. Itano whose womanly touch proved very valuable. It would have been a mistake to have omitted her from the party.

The evacuees had ample opportunity to see the W. R. A. Transportation Department in operation and have expressed high praise and satisfaction with the worker of this Department. After the job had been completed late Saturday night, we took the evacuees to the W. R. A. Warehouse on Santee St., and we heard them express amazement and satisfaction with the way their property had been cared for and handled. It was possible for them to see why we are not able to give them all the prompt service they had previously expected. The evacuees were also able to see the changed conditions now existing in a "world at war", and compare this with what existed when they left California.

The evacuees have an offer from a neighbor to rent the house which they now have under consideration. The Evacuee Property Supervisor at Los Angeles will also try to rent the Church for the duration.

At a meeting of the Poston members of October 19th, it was decided that before any definite steps were taken along these lines the members in other Projects be allowed to voice their opinions. While the Rev. Ishihara has full Power of Attorney signed by S. Hazemoto he is reluctant to act until he has the unanimous approval of the members. We are now awaiting further developments on these matters.

Submitted by,

R. W. Schmitt
Evacuee Property Officer
Colorado River Relocation Project

November 1, 1943

POST SCRIPT:

Through the efforts of Mr. L. F. Sloan and Mr. Elmer H. Cordes, Property Officers at Los Angeles, the residence is now rented to Mr. Ande, a property owner next door, with an agreement to act as caretaker for the Church property. All personal property of the evacuees have been removed to the W. R. A. Warehouse or sent to the evacuees.

With the cooperation of the Los Angeles Property Office, this Property Officer has requested the District Attorney of Los Angeles to attempt to get sufficient evidence to prosecute the people guilty of this atrocious case of theft and vandalism. There are some hopes at this time that this case may be brought to trial.

STATEMENT BY MRS. CECIL ITANO WHO ACCOMPANIED R. W. SCHMITT TO LOS ANGELES TO IDENTIFY GOODS IN NICHIREN TEMPLE

Leaving Granada, Colorado on October 6, 1943, was like a dream, for after waiting months of much indecision--pro and con on the advisability in entering the restricted area of California--to be actually entrained to my destination--Poston, Arizona, seemed incredible. Heretofore, all my hopes were always blasted to nothingness--to have obtained my permission and my wish materialize was beyond my wildest dreams. Although I had only a short time for my preparation for the trip--I did not think that ~~time~~ was of any consequence to quibble about.

On October 8, 1943, I reached my destination at 10:30 P. M. at Parker, Arizona. On October 10, 1943, the Rev. Jitai Ishihara, Rev. Chikyo Kurahashi, Mr. R. W. Schmitt, Evacuee Property Officer, our official escort, and myself drove away in the morning toward my beloved California that is so dear to my heart. As we neared toward Los Angeles, many familiar land marks brought faint nostalgia of former happier occasions. After registering at the Hotel Rosslyn around 6:00 P. M. and while glancing around I had a sad home coming for I realized that the Los Angeles that I knew of yore was no more. This to me was indeed a severe realization.

On October 11, 1943, we went out to view the Nichiren Church. The catastrophe before my eyes was a hopeless mass of deliberate destruction. Everything was a conglomeration of unrecoverable damaged things. Nothing was untouched, sewing machines were ruined, furniture broken, mirrors, smashed to smithereens, broken glass from breakable articles, household goods scattered helter skelter, trunks broken beyond repair, albums, pictures precious only to the respective owners thrown to the four winds. Standing among this debris of disreputable damage--my heart was full of unwept tears and compassion for the people who trustingly stored their valuables and treasured household belongings. These things were all carefully packed and separated and divided into two categories--namely--the things that were to be used in the near future, the necessities of life, were packed with infinite care and deliberation; the other things that we thought were excess baggage were either sold at a pitiful sum or were given away to dear friends with a little pang of regret--for we do get attached to our personal effects and belongings, characteristic of any human being. While surveying the irreparable damage, I noticed that things of intrinsic worth were what the plunderers were searching for and anything that could be converted into immediate cash were taken and residue was abandoned regardless of value and preciousness. Electric irons, sewing machines, refrigerators, washing machines, radios, Per-

sian rugs, typewriters, were systematically filched--not one box went by unscathed. Could this unwarrantable plundering be averted if such vicious propaganda libelously slandering us--American citizen of Japanese descent--who have complied with every Government phantasy--forsaking our homes--giving up established business--farm lands which would be cultivated and producing food for the Army and civilians at this time of ~~Man~~ power shortage--to be depicted as a despicable and undesirable human race and other unfound accusations necessary? After all California did gain much from our taxes, donations, our contributions to the community, our dogmatic loyalty to the state, why this ostracism? Through days and nights of endless separating, dividing, segregating merchandise to the rightful owners--my only thought was--how was I to face these unhappy people again and report their losses that money could never buy again. Things that we did gather up carefully were not so much of monetary value but for sentimental reasons dear to the owners' heart only--the other things were things needed to carry on in the future the necessities of life. How can I prevent the people from becoming too bitter? Will this unscrupulousness be accepted? Can I justify this pilfering? Will they be satisfied with only remnants of their belongings? Vandalism is indeed heart rending. In my heart I keep repeating dear God why did this happen and please show me how not to become too resentful. Sometimes I thought that I would never come out alive from this nightmarish infamy. Could this unlawful pillage of heartbreaking destruction ~~have~~^{be} prevented if such propaganda had not been publicized throughout this country giving the plunderers the assurance that we would never return to California even to protect our rights and belongings? Will such injustice be justified in such land of democracy and fairness? Indeed this is a bitter cup of gall to swallow. But this quotation comes vividly back to my mind from Shakespeare--"The quality of mercy is not strained--it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven. It is twice blessed--it blesses him that gives as well as him who takes--". My only hope that such pilfering will be stopped before malice gnaws too deeply in our hearts beyond restitution.

My faith in humanity has been somewhat restored by the unwavering understanding of my Project Director, Mr. J. Lindley of the Granada Relocation Center, Mr. Wade Head, Project Director of the Colorado River Relocation Center, and to Mr. R. W. Schmitt who has put me back on my feet on the solid earth again with a much better perspective and has endeared himself to all of us for his tremendous capacity of humanness and understanding of our tormented minds.

Submitted by Mrs. Cecil Itano

October 20, 1943

PROCESS CHART

Department of the Interior
 War Relocation Authority
 Colorado River Relocation Center
 Poston, Arizona

Place of Origin-Division: Administrative Management

Section: Evacuee Property

Date: 2/45 (Supersedes Chart 1/9/45)

Unit:

Name of Form: Government Bill of Lading

Number: Standard Form 1103-4-5-6

Use of Form: To Transport Government Things

No. of Copies: Original and 6 copies

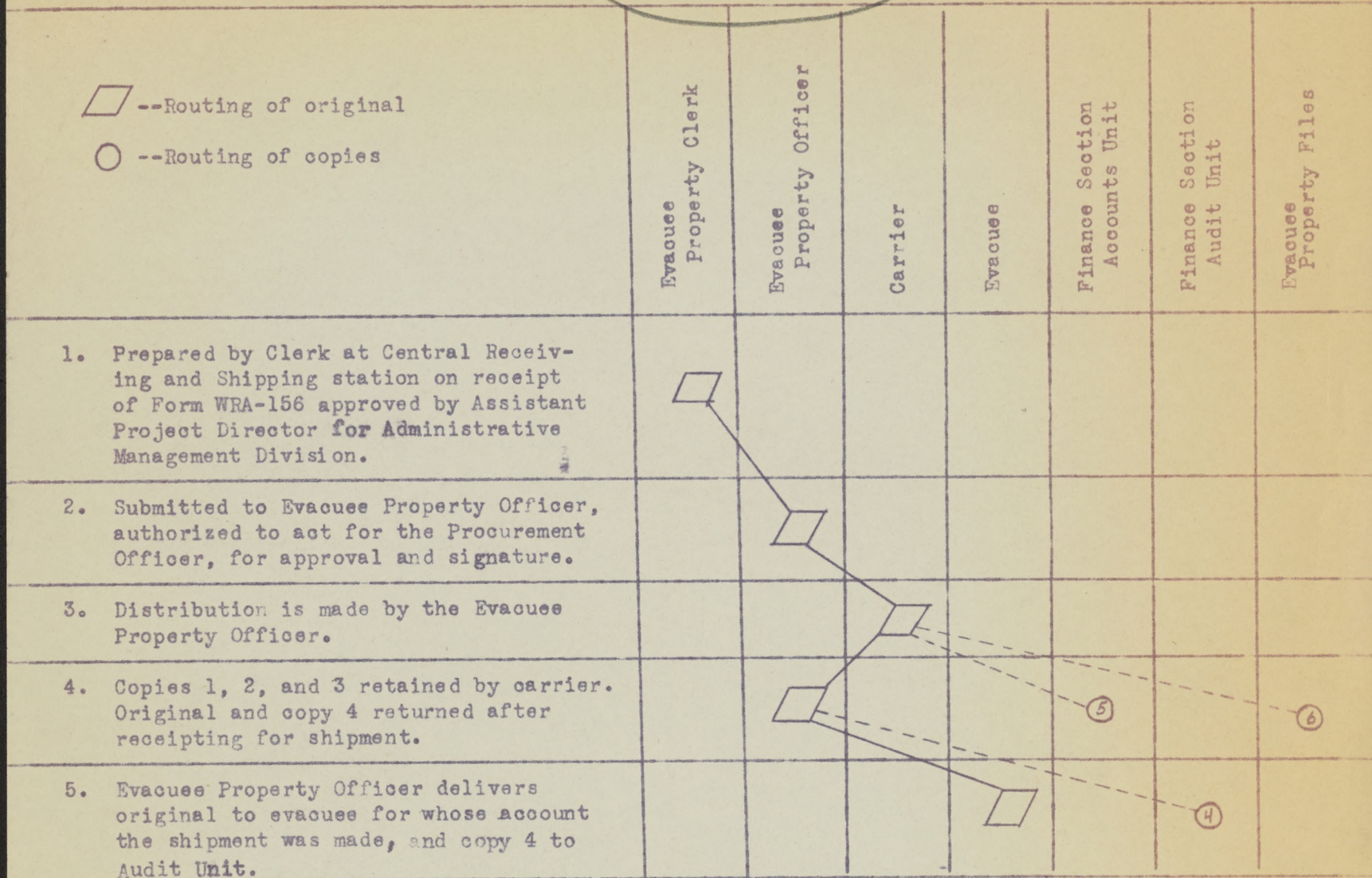
Form prepared by: Clerk

Signed by:

Evacuee Property Off. Approved by: Evacuee Property Officer

◻ --Routing of original

○ --Routing of copies



EVACUEE PROPERTY

APR 1944

R. W. Schmitt
Evacuee Property Section

The history of the attempt to take care of evacuee property begins when the Federal Reserve Bank was appointed under the Treasury Department to handle property which the Japanese residents of the West Coast were forced to leave behind them when they were evacuated. There were very few instructions, the scope of the work was enormous, and nearly everything in the way of possible deals had to be handled. Until the work came under WRA there was a lack of proper handling. The records of the WCCA are not yet altogether available to WRA, which has meant a break in our work, and the inactivity during the change from one organization to the other was greatly felt. A conference was held recently in San Francisco, in which the importance of the situation was emphasized to the national leaders. Increased cooperation and greater facilitation of our work by the Washington office should result.

At the Project the section is now under the Administrative Management Division, though it has been under the Project Director, and the Community Management Division at different times in the past. Its function has been worked out on the project, for the most part, as administrative instructions have been neither complete nor altogether realistic. We try to do what people need to have done. At first, I went as Evacuee Property Officer to California whenever necessary, which was much appreciated by the evacuees and made much of our work considerably easier. Now branch offices have been established in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, and Sacramento, covering the whole restricted area, and we are no longer permitted to make trips from the project without authorization from

(4577)-A

Washington. Instead, the project records the problem and transmits it to the field office. The field officers contact the people concerned and attempt to make whatever adjustments are possible. They must constantly combat the tendency on the coast to feel that the evacuees are not coming back; they must deal with people who are getting good revenue from the property; and they must often make the best arrangements they can about an agreement which was originally very poor from the standpoint of the evacuee.

When at first we tried to confer with the evacuees on the project, many felt that the deals they had made were quite alright. We got from twenty-five to one hundred cases a week for the first six months. Gradually interest increased, more problems arose, and now we hold about 130 interviews a week regularly. The difficulty of defining a "case" is very great. Some cases require many interviews; some require less. This problem of definition, and the resulting problem of presenting the volume of our work statistically, makes it difficult for us to justify our existence. However, the importance of our job is being realized more and more, both by Washington and by the evacuees, who are finding out that they can get help on their problems. Our counseling, of which we try to do a good deal before actual negotiations are begun, is of a confidential nature, a fact which promotes confidence in our office.

The problems with which we deal bear a great importance to life here, to relocation, and to the final resolution of the whole situation. It is important that the Evacuee Property Section know what the relocation situation and relocation policy is. We have been asked to encourage relocation. Relocation plans, in themselves, stimulate discussion with our office, since people feel reluctant to resettle

until their property is in good hands. Also, they often want to recover equipment or furnishings which they need when relocating. However, some people want to keep their property in California. Others have had to dispose of their land because they could not get good title under the alien land laws, or because of unfavorable local attitudes. It is possible that others would have more heart in relocation if they could dispose of property satisfactorily. A seller's market exists on the coast now. We can get more for property than before the war, or than we will be able to get after the war, and it is generally all cash. We have collected over \$100,000 in cash for people here, in addition to our other services which have a value of three or four times that much. People are gradually beginning to realize that it is better, easier, and cheaper, to settle now than after the war.

Between March 30 and October 1, 1943, we handled the following kinds of problems:

- 228 interviews on motor vehicles
- 142 interviews on farm machinery and equipment
- 79 interviews on farm management
- 105 interviews on business property management
- 17 interviews on residential property management
- 71 interviews on commercial stocks and equipment
- 73 interviews on miscellaneous collections and adjustments
- 18 interviews on insurance
- 65 interviews on church, school, and other community storage problems
- 11 interviews involving entry to safe deposit boxes
- 295 interviews on storage and transfer of evacuees' personal property

This list gives an indication of the scope and distribution of our work.

The work is complicated by several factors. Many people have problems in several different locations. We do not always get all the information at first, which causes delays and misunderstandings, and could result in serious trouble. It is often very difficult to ascertain the true owners of the property in question. Aliens have

property in the name of other people. Also, people like to handle other people's property. Our property office has a good reputation and we occasionally get requests to handle property problems of residents of other centers. There is a lack of correct information and of records and documents. Many important records which were left behind in trunks, safe-deposit boxes, or with one-time acquaintances, are difficult to recover now.

In addition, people cannot or will not understand that war has changed conditions on the coast to a very great extent. Their friends are gone. Mortgages have been foreclosed and new owners have taken over property. There has been a tremendous movement of people into the states on the Pacific Coast, and that, and the war industries, have changed the area greatly. But it is very difficult to get people to realize this; they persist in thinking of the home town in a pre-war condition.

Difficulties also arise because in Japan separate deeds were given for the land and the house, and people do not understand that in this country improvements on the land go with it, at the time of sale. Another complicating factor is the alien land laws of the west coast. For several years aliens could buy land, but in the first decade of this century land laws were passed to prohibit that. Since then the laws have been constantly evaded because aliens bought in the name of American-born children or Caucasian friends. Now a law has been enacted which states that any person receiving the benefit from property shall be construed as the owner of it. If this person is an alien and therefore ineligible to own real estate, the property can be escheated. This law is designed primarily to cover agricultural land. The sale of land has become very difficult and often impossible

because the owner cannot get a certified title and hence cannot convey title to a new purchaser

As far as public relations are concerned, we do not get a favorable reaction on the west coast, but on the other hand there is not too much unfavorable reaction. I was in California last year and noted that while in some places sentiment against the evacuees was growing, in others it was becoming more favorable. There is a marked improvement in the Los Angeles area, in spite of reports to the contrary. I was there with three evacuees; we were on the streets a good deal and no incident occurred. In fact, there was very little curiosity shown them, and no comment made whatsoever. Race prejudice as such on the west coast was largely stimulated by the war. Previous feeling against the Oriental had been much more openly based on economic competition.

The projects, especially when first opened, have limited warehouse facilities. A five hundred pound limit was set on the amount of goods which could be shipped to the centers to avoid overcrowding what storage space was available. WRA then secured storage facilities in the cities in the evacuated area where personal property is stored free of charge. This service includes movement to the warehouse and shipment to the ultimate destination when the owner relocates. The regular fee for such service is charged for handling commercial property. It is not yet clear how far the responsibility of the WRA extends in the case of applicants for repatriation and expatriation. When an applicant is accepted for repatriation the alien property custodian is notified and the property becomes the responsibility of his office.

The evacuee property office so far has handled property only

(4577)-E

as far as the project. Other movements, as well as storage, have been the responsibility of the warehouse department and the leave office, which delegate the duty of shipment to the appropriate office. On May 15, 1944, a directive from Washington went into effect which states that henceforth "the shipment of household goods and personal property of evacuees leaving the center will become the responsibility of the Evacuee Property Section."

In March, the five hundred pound limit was released, and we immediately had many requests for shipment of property to the project. In all movements of goods the transportation section has been a bottleneck from the beginning because of difficulties in securing equipment. There is a large back log of unfilled orders for shipment. However, we are hoping that this situation will be relieved before long. We are glad to ship property which is needed to the project, but anything which will not be used is better left in warehouses on the coast where we have well-guarded, fireproof storage facilities. Lumber, though requiring priority, is more available there than on the projects. Since crating lumber is scarce its use must be restricted to a bare necessity in the movements of goods.