

FILE COPY 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
JANUARY 6, 1945

Librarian
Lynn
Beattie
Sanctuary
E. Brown
J. Brown
C. Brown
W. H. H.
File (7 H)

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

The captain and two enlisted men of the Army Interviewing Team remained at the center during the week checking records and doing the necessary paper work in connection with the army interviews. The captain left Saturday to return to the west coast, but the enlisted men remained here. Major English and Major Morgan are expected to return for a few scattered interviews.

The Project Director has received from the Army team a list of 26 individuals who have been interviewed and placed on the cleared list, but we have no information concerning the number of people who were given exclusion notices or notices that their cases are still pending. The Project Director has been advised that a complete exclusion and segregation list will be furnished the Washington office by January 20 and it is supposed that this list, insofar as it concerns residents of this center, will be forwarded here. It is important that we receive this list as soon as possible so that it can be easily determined who is eligible to leave the center.

There is a great deal of interest in relocation in general but there is a lack of interest in returning to California. The Relocation Office is crowded with people who are interested in settling in other parts of the country. Most of these people, however, do not have specific plans as to where they want to go or what they want to do but there is a great demand for information on relocation in general. On the other hand, the Community Analyst is of the opinion that there is a substantial group of people here who have no relocation plans and who state that they have no intention of leaving the center unless they are forced to do so.

In the latter part of the week there has been a wide spread rumor among the evacuees that five men from Gila River Center were beaten or stabbed in Los Angeles. This rumor reached such proportions that the Project Director has wired Mr. Cuzzens for a confirmation or denial. Many people here are of the opinion that the story ^{was} started in a deliberate attempt to discourage relocation on the west coast.

The Joint Advisory Committee met this week and it is interesting to note that practically all questions raised by the evacuee members of the committee concerned relocation and practically none concerned new WRA procedure. The old questions of housing, employment and community acceptance were the ones that were discussed the most and there was apparently little interest in changes in WRA policies resulting from the opening of the west coast. However, we believe that more questions on procedure will arise as soon as more time has been allowed for the study of Manual Release 158.

Since January 2 there has been a considerable number of visitors arriving without permits from Relocation Field Offices. These people were sent to the Relocation Office for interviews and all have been admitted for a limited time. We believe that there will be a great many more of these visitors and that they may become quite a problem. Evacuee residents have been instructed through the project paper to notify relatives and friends on the outside that visitors should have approval of visits in advance by Relocation Field Offices.

Two representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service arrived to check on cases of illegal entry. They brought with them a list of 26 persons to be interviewed. They are now checking our records and will send a list of doubtful persons to their New Orleans office for further checking and from there those that are still doubtful will be sent to Philadelphia for additional investigation. Cases that are still considered doubtful will be referred back to the project for interviews by the Immigration and Naturalization men here. These representatives have stated that they estimate there will be approximately 150 to 175 people who will be interviewed.

Mr. Edward B. Marks of Washington Office arrived at the center Monday to assist in interpreting new procedure and to report to the Director developments arising from the lifting of the mass exclusion order.

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WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
JANUARY 13, 1945

Librarian
Supervisor
Director
Secretary
E. R. ...
Japan
Cherry
Miller
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GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

One family returned to California this week and it is believed that 25 individuals will have left for the west coast by the 23rd of this month. Fifty-five have left the center on Indefinite Leave since January 1. The relocation office is crowded to capacity with evacuees coming in for interviews, for general information and to make family plans for relocation. Since they have become convinced that no transportation and subsistence grants will be made unless there is an approved family plan, there has been a great increase in interest in having these plans perfected. Most of those who come to discuss their plans do not intend to relocate immediately but it is a good indication that they expect to leave the center eventually. The relocation program officer has recently had an inquiry from a large farm operator at Stockton, California, who has land and houses to take care of 100 families. The offer is being considered by evacuee leaders and they are now awaiting more detailed information concerning it. It is believed that the visit of the relocation program officer and five evacuee leaders to the New Orleans area was well worth while. Among the evacuees was the chairman of the council, who is also chairman of the Resettlement Planning Commission, the chairman of the block managers, one of the evacuee farm supervisors and Mr. Koh Murai, an agriculturist of wide reputation among the people of Japanese descent. The group was particularly pleased with the soil, climate, and the attitude of New Orleans people. Mr. Murai and the farm foreman are planning a return trip to that area within a few weeks for a stay of a week or two in order to obtain more detailed information and, if possible, to make definite arrangements for resettlement of several farmers there.

Except for one clerk-stenographer, the appointed staff of the Relocation Division will be complete by January 16. It seems likely that there will be a radical increase in relocation as soon as school is out and plans are now being made to use some of the teaching staff as temporary employees of the Relocation Division as soon as they have been released from their school duties at the end of the present term.

As might be expected, various kinds of rumors are circulating through the center tending to discourage relocation. As was mentioned last week, one concerned the alleged beating of evacuees in Los Angeles. Mr. Cozzens' vigorous denial of this was printed in the project paper and since that time we have not heard a great deal on this subject. Another rumor is that all evacuees must have a permit if they move more

than five miles from the original point of resettlement on the west coast. This evidently arose from the restrictions that still apply to aliens. Still another rumor is that trial-indefinite leave will be reinstated within a short time and this has a tendency to make evacuees wait for this rather than make plans for indefinite leave. The old problem of relocation for families in which the husband or son, who normally would act as head of the family, is in the army, keeps coming up. Its importance was emphasized by one of the evacuees who was inducted into the army and who recently returned to the center and reported that he had been given a furlough by his commanding officer to talk to the evacuees here in an attempt to discover how serious this problem really is. A typical example is a Nisei who was discussing his particular situation with the Co-ordinator a few days ago. He is 30 years of age and owns a good farm in California. His family, which includes a mother and father and wife and son, is still in the center. He has been deferred because of employment in a war plant in Illinois. The whole family wishes to return to California, but if the husband leaves his job for a month or two to settle his family in California his deferment will be cancelled and he will be taken into the army before his family can be reestablished on the west coast. If Selective Service would establish a policy of postponement in cases of this kind it would be of great assistance to the relocation program and would also make the evacuees feel that a sincere attempt was being made to assist them in solving their particular problems.

The Army Interviewing Team is still here but it now seems that they will leave by the end of next week. They are still holding a few scattered interviews but most of their work now concerns records and handing out exclusion notices. These notices appear to be coming back from the west coast with reasonable promptness. We have no information as to how many people received these or the segregation notices and the only way project officials can tell who is free to leave the center is by the cleared list provided by the army. However, there seems to be quite a few errors in this list, since we know of several cases where people have not been called in for interviews but are still on the cleared list.

The Personnel Section is planning to make a wage survey in this locality within a short time in preparation for hiring outside labor if this becomes necessary in operating the project. The qualifications of all teachers are being checked to determine which ones might be best qualified to help in center administration after the schools close this spring.

A Nisei girl from this center has been selected as one of the officials of the Arkansas Club at Blue Mountain College at Blue Mountain, Mississippi.

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WEEK REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
JANUARY 20, 1945

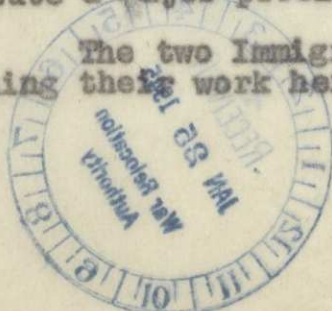
GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

At a general staff meeting of the appointed personnel the Co-ordinator urged that all WRA employees become familiar with new procedure issued after the west coast was opened. He suggested that all the appointed personnel make up an information kit on this subject. He further emphasized the fact that relocation is not a job for the Relocation Division alone but is a job in which all WRA employees must give assistance. The group was warned against speculation or guessing in answering the questions of the evacuees and the importance of sending an evacuee to the proper person to obtain information was pointed out. At the same meeting the Project Director announced that the Community Analyst had been designated to investigate and run down all rumors. The Analyst's first activity in this connection was to trace the source of widespread misinformation concerning transportation and assistance grants. He is now investigating a report that a Federal Land Bank Association in California has passed a resolution denying assistance to all persons of Japanese descent.

The Co-ordinator, the Superintendent of Education, the Chief of Community Activities and the Reports Officer held a conference with reference to the showing of educational films which might be helpful to those relocating. It was agreed that these films should be shown three or four times each week. The project will be divided into four districts and the films will be shown one night in each district. It is planned to use the mess halls for this purpose. The films are to be selected by a committee of evacuees and the Community Activities Section will be responsible for showing them.

One individual and three families returned to California during the week. The families totaled eleven persons. All of these people are farmers and all were given terminal leave. Relocation officials are of the opinion that they will be good advance representatives for the return of a larger group to the west coast. Thirteen other individuals were given terminal leave for relocation in the middle west. One hundred three initial interviews were conducted during the week and approximately ninety follow-up interviews were held. As of January 18, eighty individuals had been granted terminal leave since January 1 and thirteen of this number returned to California. All visitors who come to the center without permits from Relocation officials are sent to the Relocation Division for interviews. All of these have been admitted up to this time but some of the visits were limited to forty-eight hours. The number of people coming to the center for visits without permits is decreasing daily and it is believed that they will not constitute a major problem.

The two Immigration and Naturalization Service men are continuing their work here but it is believed that they will leave by



the end of next week. They have reported that there are nine deportees in the center, and there are ten additional doubtful cases of which at least three will probably be added to the deportee group.

It is difficult to get any definite information about the status of the work of the Army Team. It was thought that their work here would be completed by the end of the week but it now appears that it may continue for several more weeks. It is our understanding that no decisions from the west coast have been received in at least thirty of the cases interviewed by the Army Team. There also seems to be a substantial number of errors in the Army records which are now being corrected.

The Relocation Division has taken over another whole barrack building that has been remodeled to make offices. The Evacuee Property Officer has also moved into this same building. The Evacuee Relocation Planning Commission has been provided office space adjoining the Relocation Library in one of the Relocation Barracks. The Commission met during the week but the chief business conducted was a discussion of a program for the proposed all center conference on relocation and other evacuee problems.

Dr. A. Pressman, Chief Medical Officer, War Relocation Authority, Washington, D. C., visited the center and held conferences with the officials of the Hospital, Welfare Section and Relocation Division. Mr. E. H. Reed, head of Agriculture Section, War Relocation Authority, Washington, D. C., also visited the center during the week to discuss plans for the liquidation of the Agriculture Division. All agriculture equipment and supplies at the center are being cataloged and a substantial portion has already been declared surplus.

Ninety-nine high school graduates received their diplomas Friday night. The graduating address was made by Dr. R. C. Daily, head of the History Department of Ouchita College, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The Baccalaureate service was held Sunday night, January 14, and the chief address was by Dr. James Bradley, Minister of the Presbyterian Church, McGehee, Arkansas.

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WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
JANUARY 27, 1945

~~Liberman~~
~~Lynn~~
~~Butler~~
~~Bushway~~
~~C. Brown~~
~~Fogarty~~
~~Chase~~
~~McKee~~
Files (24)

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Forty-four people were granted terminal leave during the week and thirteen of these returned to California. The California group was composed of three complete families and one individual. Up to Saturday, January 27, one hundred-twenty-seven terminal leaves were granted this month and twenty-six of these people returned to California. One hundred-twenty-nine initial interviews were conducted by the Relocation Division during the week.

On January 22, five center residents reported for pre-induction examinations and on January 23, thirteen reported for induction.

Thirty-seven persons at this center are on the Army Segregation List and between sixty and sixty-five are on the Excludee List. We have received definite instructions from the Army that thirty-four of the Excludees are to be permitted to leave the center. We hope to receive instructions concerning the remainder of this group within a short time. The Army Interviewing Team and the representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service are still here. It seems that most of their work is completed and they are apparently awaiting new instructions.

There has been a decided decrease recently in the number of rumors. In fact, no new ones were reported

General Comment by Project Director (2) January 27, 1945

during the week. Information concerning the situation on the west coast has started coming in from Mr. Cozzens' office and we believe that this will be helpful in advising the people of the true situation there. Mr. Cozzens' reports on real and fictitious incidents on the west coast are given full publicity in the center paper and we are of the opinion that this has had a wholesome influence on the evacuees. Even when reports of violence are verified we are confident that the true reports help down exaggerated stories.

Several evacuees left for New Orleans this week to obtain more information about that area. We believe the New Orleans district has real relocation possibilities. It seems that some of the evacuees are also of this opinion.

The chief tract of farm land, amounting to 616 acres, which has been leased by the project for growing vegetables and other crops has been sub-leased to a nearby farm operator for \$5,050.00. The project is to pay the owner slightly more than \$4,000.00 for the use of this land. The difference between this amount and the \$5,050.00 which the WRA will receive is accounted for by improvements and growing crops. With this deal completed there remains only a small plot of a few acres to be subleased sometime in the future.

General Comment by Project Director (3) January 27, 1945

There has been considerable discussion among the evacuees in general and among members of the Community Council and the Relocation Planning Commission in particular concerning the proposed all-center conference which is tentatively scheduled to be held at Salt Lake City or Denver. The Council or the Planning Commission has received from the Topaz Center two propositions to be discussed at the conference. One of these is based on the assumption that it is impossible for the evacuees to leave the center until the war is over. The other is based on the assumption that the evacuees can relocate if they receive enough aid from the government. These suggestions were discussed in block meetings in most of the blocks. There does not seem to be a uniformity of opinion among the evacuees on these propositions and we do not believe there is any organized movement to keep the people from leaving the center. On the other hand, they seem to be more in a bargaining frame of mind.

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WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
FEBRUARY 3, 1945

van Gassel
Liberman
Super
Butler
Burroughs
Brown
Lager
Markley
Wicks
Files (74)

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

The most important event of the week was Mr. Myer's visit. He arrived late Monday night and left early Thursday morning. The following schedule was followed during his two day visit:

Tuesday

- 8:00 AM - Conference with Mr. Johnston, Project Director
- 9:30 AM - Interview with English and Japanese editors of the center paper, The Outpost
- 10:00 AM - Conference with appointed personnel members of the Co-ordinator's committee
- 2:00 PM - Interview with the editor of the McGehee paper, who also represented the Arkansas Democrat
- 3:30 PM - Addressed a joint meeting of the Block Managers and Community Council
- 7:45 PM - Addressed a staff meeting of the appointed personnel

Wednesday

- 8:30 AM - Addressed High School students
- 9:00 AM - Met with Evacuee Relocation Planning Commission
- 10:00 AM - Attended a joint conference of Welfare and Relocation Division employees
- 1:15 PM - Conference with Mr. Koh Murai on relocation

possibilities in the New Orleans area

1:30 PM - Interviewed the chairman of the Japanese Nationals Committee for dealing with the Spanish Consul, and another Issei leader concerning a cooperative colonization plan

2:15 PM - Conferred with a representative group of leading Nisei

3:30 PM - Made a short inspection trip over the project

7:30 PM - Addressed a mass meeting of more than 1200 representative evacuees in the center auditorium.

We are confident that Mr. Myer's visit was very beneficial in several respects. All reports indicate that the vast majority of the evacuees are convinced of Mr. Myer's sincerity and believe that he honestly has their interests at heart. His statements also did much to convince the evacuees that the project was really going to close at the end of the year. An effort was made to see that those who heard Mr. Myer's speech at the auditorium were representatives of families and had sufficient knowledge of English to understand his address.

The head of Community Activities, the Co-ordinator, the Superintendent of Education and the Reports Officer have worked out a plan for showing educational films four times each week at this center. The films will be selected by an evacuee committee with the idea of preparing the people for life outside

General Comment by Project Director (3) Feb. 3, 1945

the center. The first showing is scheduled for next week. The Community Activities Section is to be responsible for showing these films and is taking the lead in this matter.

The Project Director requested in a general staff meeting that all section and division heads start collecting material for the final project report.

Seventy-five display photographs 12"x14", showing outside activities of evacuees who have relocated from this center, have been posted in selected locations throughout this center. The pictures and captions were first mounted on cloth panels so that they make an attractive display and can be moved easily from place to place. Each panel is composed of four pictures.

The two representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service have completed their work here and left the latter part of the week. The Army Team is still at the center but is apparently marking time. Information has been received that a review board of higher army officers will come to the project within a short time and preparations are being made for their arrival, but no specific date for their coming has been announced.

For a time there was some difficulty over the fact that evacuees on indefinite leave who were visiting at the center were not always on the cleared list. These persons were notified by the Army Team to remain here until they had been interviewed and their status had been determined. At one time the Army Team requested that we hold these people until they could

be interviewed and a final decision made concerning them. We were unwilling to assume this responsibility and it was finally agreed that the Army Team would interview the visitors at once and if the Army representatives could not make a decision in the case ~~immediately~~ they would be permitted to leave the project and notice of their status would be mailed to them at some later date.

Thirty-four people left on terminal leave during the week. This group was made up of fourteen individuals and five families, totalling twenty members. Only one individual returned to California.

~~Kernan~~
~~Lynn~~
Cattle
Banding
~~P. B. Herr~~
~~Hankley~~
~~W. A.~~
~~C. H.~~
Felix (H)

138 initial relocation interviews were given by the Relocation Division and in addition to these there were 111 follow-up interviews. Relocation officials have pointed out that figures alone on the number of people receiving terminal leave do not give a true picture of the relocation situation because in many cases an individual leaves the center for good but his family stays here and waits until he has made the necessary arrangements in his new location. The family will inevitably follow him and there is no doubt about this. However, the records show that only one person has relocated but in reality the War Relocation Authority has practically been relieved of the responsibility for a whole family. All that remains to be done is for the remainder of the family to go through with the mechanics of leaving the

Feb. 10, 1945

project. So, where the records may show that 10 individuals relocated during a certain week, it is highly possible that 40 others, who make up the families these individuals represent, will leave the center within a short time. In short, if the head of the family accepts terminal leave it is practically the same as a whole family relocating.

The three evacuee delegates to the Salt Lake City Inter-Center Conference are scheduled to leave Monday, February 12. These delegates are all Japanese citizens and one is the chairman of both the Council and the Resettlement Planning Commission. Another is chairman of the Block Managers and the third is the secretary of the local Red Cross chapter. They were selected at a joint meeting of the Block Managers, the Community Council and the Resettlement Planning Commission. Practically all members of these groups are Issei and there is some dissatisfaction among the more progressive Nisei because their group is not represented. They complain that they had little or no choice in the selection of these delegates because there are practically no Nisei members in the selecting groups. The Center Co-op was requested to pay the expenses of delegates but it does not seem that the Co-op officials will agree to this and the present plan is for the Co-op to advance the money and then have the expense fund made up in the blocks by public subscription. Apparently in an effort to determine the attitude of the center residents concerning relocation, the Council is conducting in each block a survey on relocation. Every adult member of each family unit

Feb. 10, 1945

has been given a questionnaire which asks whether the individual is going to relocate and, if so, when. If he has no relocation plans, he is requested to check one or more of eight or nine reasons which are listed on the questionnaire. This survey is supposed to give the delegates to the Salt Lake Conference specific reasons for proposals that may be made at the meeting.

The following paragraph is taken from the minutes of the Council meeting of February 5:

"The Chair explained how to fill the questionnaire and asked to each member of the Council to make it clear to the block people that this census is taken for the purpose of securing the number of residents who can relocate under the present policy and assistance of W.R.A., and those who can not and why can not. It is very obvious that more than half of the residents can not. The commission wants to be sure of the reasons in order to negotiate further with W.R.A. or other authorities."

Except for one of the enlisted personnel, the Army interviewing team has left the center and we are now awaiting the arrival of the Army reviewing team, but no date for their coming has yet been announced. We hope that they will arrive within a short time because there are several families here who would return to California except for older sons who are excludées and several of these persons wish to appeal their cases.

Feb. 10, 1945

The speech that Mr. Myer made at a mass meeting of evacuees when he was here recently has been printed in both Japanese and English as part of the center paper and has been distributed to each family unit. There seems to be considerable interest among the evacuees in Mr. Myer's address and we believe that it will be helpful for them to have copies for study and reference.

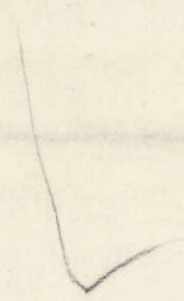
This week 33 members of the appointed personnel completed a course of job instruction that is part of a Supervision Improvement Program which is sponsored by the United States Civil Service Commission. Two additional classes of twelve each are scheduled for next week. Instructors for the course are the Personnel Director and the Personnel Technician who were called to St. Louis in December for training and were certified as the Civil Service Commission instructors. All who successfully complete this course are given a certificate to this effect and a copy of it is forwarded to Civil Service headquarters in St. Louis where it is added to the individual's record. A copy is also placed in the individual's personnel folder here. Those who took the course were interested in the work and we believe that it will be of material benefit to them.

It seems that a rather serious personnel problem is coming up with reference to the hospital. The only laboratory technician now employed has requested a transfer and one of the five nurses employed has made a similar request. Another nurse is expected to apply for transfer within a short time. The Chief Medical Officer, who is the only doctor on the appointed personnel staff, plans to

General Comment by Project Director (5)

Feb. 10, 1945

leave about the middle of March. If these people carry out their intentions of leaving, the hospital will be extremely short of workers and the situation will become critical unless others are found immediately to take their places.



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WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
FEBRUARY 17, 1945

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

During the week ending February 17, 41 terminal leaves were issued. Of this number 9 were for return to California. Initial Relocation interviews for the week totaled 126 and follow-up interviews, 131. An effort is being made by the Relocation Division to complete all initial interviews by March 15, and if the present schedule is maintained this will be done. Lack of hostels or other places of temporary residence seems to be one of the greatest handicaps to returning to the West coast.

Mr. Koh Murai and another evacuee have obtained an option to buy 1,000 acres of fertile farm land in the New Orleans area. This is part of a 7,000 acre tract, the rest of which the owner is willing to sell if additional people are interested. The price is \$100.00 per acre, with a down payment of 10% and with the remainder to be paid at the rate of 10% each year. Mr. Murai's plan is to sell from 20 to 40 acres to each evacuee family, and they in turn will be expected to make a 10% down payment. He hopes to get some 20 to 50 families to buy the land under option. The whole deal depends on the question of whether enough families can be found who have the necessary money and who wish to buy the land. We are awaiting the outcome with considerable interest and hope.

The Welfare Section has prepared and sent to other states four welfare cases for approval by local welfare offices. Only one of these went to California, and three were sent to the Middle West.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the declaration of surplus property. Most of it formerly belonged to the Agriculture Division. Mr. C. H. Powers, of the Operations Division, Washington office, spent several days here this week and expressed satisfaction with the way surplus property declarations were being handled.

Arrangements were made by the Chief of Internal Security for a veterinarian to come to the project Friday morning, so that the appointed personnel and the evacuee could have cats and dogs vaccinated for rabies. All such pets must wear a tag showing that they have been vaccinated, and it has been announced that all without tags will be picked up and destroyed after a reasonable lapse of time.

A difficult situation is developing at the hospital because of the impending transfers of appointed personnel which we mentioned last week. No information has been received concerning replacements for these people, and the situation is

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Feb. 17, 1945 -

causing considerable concern.

A representative of the Internal Revenue Department spent two days here assisting residents in making out income tax returns. The Project Attorney will continue to give advice on income tax questions until the March 15 deadline.

In spite of the fact that Mr. Myer, the Project Director, and the Superintendent of Schools have all stated definitely that the High School and the Elementary Schools would close at the end of the present term, there are still numerous indications that center residents doubt that the schools will actually close. As soon as the present school term is ended, it is planned to pick up most of the school equipment and declare it surplus. When this has been done, we believe it will finally convince most of the people that there will be no school next fall.

The educational motion pictures which are being shown by the Community Activities Section are proving to be very popular, and the nightly showings are being increased from four to five each week.

The three delegates to the Inter-Center Conference at Salt Lake City left Monday night. The survey, which was sponsored by the Resettlement Planning Commission and the Community Council in an alleged effort to determine what evacuee sentiment was toward relocation, has been completed. 4,262 people filled out the questionnaires. Of this number 412 said they planned to return to the West coast area under present WRA procedure, 288 stated that they planned to relocate outside the West coast area under the present plan, 3,194 said that they were unable to make plans for relocation at the present time, and 244 answered that they were undecided on this question. Answers of the remaining 124 persons were not clear enough to tabulate. Various reasons were checked for inability to relocate, but those indicated most frequently were: financial disabilities - 2,821, housing difficulties - 2,586, no security of life and property - 2,402, difficulty in establishing business or trade - 2,059. Those filling out the questionnaires were asked to check one or more of eight reasons, if they said they were not planning relocation at this time.

Since most of the project farm land has been sub-leased, a large reduction in farm employees is planned. All of the women workers have already terminated and many of the others will be transferred to wood cutting and ground maintenance crews.

The arrival of approximately 75 Nisei soldiers from Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, is expected the first of next week. They have been granted special seven day furloughs in order to discuss resettlement plans with their families here. The center U.S.O. is planning entertainment for these men.

FILE COPY 2

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~~Lyons~~
~~Reuther~~
~~Roberts~~
~~Logan~~
~~Winkley~~
~~Banks~~
~~Baughman~~
~~McKa~~
Files (7 H)

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
FEBRUARY 24, 1945

During the week 61 terminal leaves were issued, and 16 of these were for return to California. 13 relocation short term leaves were granted. During this period 116 initial interviews and 110 follow-up interviews were held. The Relocation Division is maintaining its interviewing schedule, and this work should be completed in approximately two more weeks. As of Saturday night, 152 terminal leaves have been issued for February as compared to 150 for January. There will be a good many more terminals during the few remaining days in February, and this month will show a substantial increase over January in spite of the fact it is of less than average length. Arrangements have been made with the Missouri Pacific Railroad for a special car for California relocatees to leave here March 23. At least 50 persons should be obtained for the special coach, but, as yet, only 19 have indicated that they wish to return to California at this time and in this manner. We still hope that enough people will be interested to justify this arrangement. On Monday approximately 70 Nisei soldiers arrived from Fort Snelling, Minnesota, to discuss relocation plans with their families. The Relocation Division set aside one day during the week on which only these men would be interviewed. Written invitations for interviews were sent to each visiting soldier or his family. The result was somewhat disappointing. Only 15 men came in to discuss relocation, and many of these did not come to make relocation plans, but merely to complain about the closing of the center or about some other new procedure of which they did not approve.

The McGehee Times, which is a weekly paper, is planning a special Service Men's Edition that will come out about the middle of March. It will carry the names, and, in many cases, pictures of Desha County residents who are serving in the armed forces. We are working with the editor of the paper and several of the leading evacuees for the inclusion of Nisei soldiers in this special issue. Good progress is being made, and we believe that two full pages will be devoted to soldiers from this center. Because of limitations on paper, only a few photographs will be used, but the full honor roll of the center will be shown.

Cross
note

The older and more progressive Nisei here are sponsoring a three day conference, to be held March 2, 3 and 4. Its purpose is to stimulate thinking and action on post-center problems that will confront the Nisei. The following persons outside the center have been invited to participate, and have accepted: Sherwood Eddy, representing the Y.M.C.A.; Bill Hosokawa, newspaper man with the Des Moines Register; and James Sugioka, field worker for the Committee on War Services of Disciples of Christ. No attempt has been made to obtain the attendance of evacuees from other centers, but the best of the Nisei here are taking part. One of the underlying motives for the conference is dissatisfaction among the progressive Nisei over the fact that many of them feel that the Issei leaders here do not consider, as they should, the opinions and the thinking of the Nisei group. For example, there was some resentment on the part of the Nisei because one of them was not selected to attend the Salt Lake City Conference. We do not believe that this movement is likely to cause conflict between the two groups here, and we think that it is a wholesome thing for the Nisei to have an opportunity to present their views and opinions.

Current information concerning ex-patriates and repatriates is being obtained with the assistance of the committee which represents Japanese nationals.

The Project Steward has been advised by the Quartermaster Market Center that they will not be able to furnish the project with meat of any kind during the month of March, and that meat supplies will be very short for several months thereafter. Hogs are being purchased to meet the shortage and a carload of fish has been ordered from the West coast. The situation was explained to the evacuee food committee and they appear to understand that we are doing all we can to obtain meat under difficult circumstances.

In the last month or two there have been two fires in evacuee quarters which started from clothing being hung too near stoves. Both fires were extinguished with small loss, but the Fire Department is making an inspection of each unit to see that clothes lines or racks have not been constructed too near stoves, and center residents have been warned several times through the center paper to discontinue this practice.

Sgt. Ted Tanouye, whose parents live at this center, has been awarded posthumously the Distinguished Service Cross,

the nation's second highest honor. The story was handled well by the local papers.

The Education Section has received an outline for its final report, and assignments for writing its different sections have already been made. The information will be brought up to date as far as possible, and the report will be completed at the close of the school year.

Center contributions to the Infantile Paralysis Fund totaled \$576.80. Outside residents of the county contributed \$1166.00, and we feel that our contribution makes a favorable comparison. The Desha County quota received credit for center contributions.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
March 3, 1945

Librarian
Banker
Mashley
Lynn
Scott
Bradley
E. Brown
Logan
Cross
Miller
Files (211)

The older Nisei of the center held a three day conference over the week end for the purpose of stimulating thinking and action on the various problems confronting them. The theme of the conference was: "Nisei Action Today and Tomorrow." Three outside speakers were invited to attend the session and to speak to and meet with the Nisei. These speakers were: Bill Hosokawa, Nisei newspaperman now on the staff of the Des Moines Register; James Sugioka, field worker for the Committee on War Services of Disciples of Christ; and Sherwood Eddy, well known traveler, author and lecturer.

The conference opened Friday afternoon with registration, at which time approximately 140 persons registered. At the opening assembly, Mr. Sugioka, who had just returned from a trip to California, spoke of his experiences gained on this trip. He expressed the opinion that the West coast was not a particularly desirable relocation area, as compared to other parts of the country, and he pointed out the advantages and disadvantages of the different sections. At the evening session, an all-Nisei symposium was presented on the topic, "We Look at Resettlement." Three center Nisei and Mr. Sugioka were the speakers. Saturday morning was devoted to discussion groups which were divided into three separate fields; namely, political action, economic action, and social action. The original intention was to have each group meet separately throughout the entire day. However, due to the fact that attendance was hindered by rain, the groups were not divided into three separate fields, but discussed each field in turn. After the general discussion group, a round table panel was held, at which time a panel of leaders composed of Mr. Hosokawa, Mr. Sugioka, and three members of the caucasian personnel discussed the subject, "The Nisei Way of Action;" and, later, the discussion was opened to questions and comment from the floor.

A banquet meeting was held in the evening, featuring Mr. Hosokawa as speaker. Mr. Hosokawa urged the people to face the relocation problem squarely, and pointed out the futility of remaining in the center.

Weekly Report

(2)

March 3, 1945

Sunday afternoon a general assembly was held and reports of discussions were presented. The chairman of the three groups presented the findings and results of their groups. In the evening a center-wide mass meeting in the auditorium was held, at which time Dr. Eddy spoke.

It is the intention of the sponsoring committee to draw up a detailed report on the conference, which will be mimeographed and distributed to the center residents.

The center delegates to the Salt Lake City Conference returned Friday, but we do not yet have any information as to what their reaction is. We understand that they plan to make a complete report to the Council the first part of next week.

The U.S.O. and the Community Council are now preparing an up-to-date list of all service men who have next of kin at this center. This list will be used by the McGeehee Times in its Special Service Men's Edition. Photographs of several outstanding Nisei soldiers have been turned over to the paper to be included in this edition.

Alert request
3/12/45
We should
have copies
of their report
as available
RA3

FILE COPY 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
MARCH 10, 1945

Liberman
Bankson
Drashley
Lynn
Butler
Bassley
E. Brown
Long
Chace
Dickie
File (24)

During the week 49 terminal leaves were issued, and 12 of these were for return to California; 15 relocation short term leaves were granted; 91 initial relocation interviews and 81 follow-up interviews were held. The rate of initial interviews is slowing up, because most of the people who came in this week had received their third invitation. Until recently, the response to the invitations had been 100%. In addition to this, most of the cases now coming up are in the problem class and it naturally takes more time for this type of interview. Relocation prospects for the New Orleans area are not quite as good as they were a short time ago. There has recently been some adverse publicity in the leading New Orleans newspaper about the evacuees settling in Louisiana. This resulted in a rumor here at the center that Louisiana had been closed to resettlement. The Relocation Officer from the New Orleans office is now in the center and is explaining the situation to the evacuees who are most interested and we believe that the misunderstanding can be cleared up. A delegation of evacuees has recently returned from an inspection trip to Texas. A formal report has not yet been received from them or the WRA office in that state, but the evacuees have reported that they were favorably impressed. There is not likely to be a great deal of resettlement there immediately, but it seems that there are reasonable prospects for success there later on.

The delegates to the Salt Lake City Conference have made an oral report on the meeting to the Community Council, the Block Managers, and the Resettlement Planning Commission. The statement of facts and the recommendations which were agreed upon at the conference have been mimeographed and three copies have been sent to each block office for the information of center residents. Either a large mass meeting, or a series of smaller meetings are being planned to give the evacuees an opportunity to ask questions concerning the conference and the conclusions reached there. We have heard few comments from the center residents concerning the recommendations.

The annual Red Cross drive is now under way at the center, and an organized campaign is being conducted among the appointed personnel and the evacuees.

We are still having difficulty with evacuee visitors who are extremely reluctant to pay board, but a more strict policy in this matter is being adopted and we believe that the situation can be improved.

The Army Reviewing Team has left the center and we are expecting the Appeal Team to arrive here within a couple of weeks, since several of the evacuees have been notified that their appeals will be heard on March 20.

A meeting of division and section heads has been called for Monday morning and definite plans for the entertainment of four Chinese officials, who will arrive here on the evening of the 15th, will be made at that time.

Mr. E. B. Moulton, Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, addressed a church group at Danville, Illinois, while he was visiting there recently. The leading newspaper of Danville carried an excellent article in which Mr. Moulton explained the operation of the center and gave other information concerning the evacuees.

FILE COPY

2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
MARCH 17, 1945

Librarian
Barlow
Wendell
John
Arthur
Samuel
Edward
James
William
Philip

The Army appeal team of five officers and four enlisted men is scheduled to arrive the night of March 17. The enlisted men are to be quartered in the Military Police barracks, but the officers will be provided rooms at the project hospital. Two private offices have been set aside for their use, and necessary office equipment has been obtained. The date of the first hearing has been advanced from March 20 to March 19. The Army reviewing team, which left a short time ago, cooperated in an excellent manner with project officials and the attitude of the members of this team toward the evacuees was good. We are confident that the same pleasant relationship will develop between the administration and the appeal team.

The delegation of four Chinese officials arrived at the project on the night of March 15. Quarters were arranged for them at the hospital, and they took most of their meals at the personnel mess. The morning after they arrived they had a brief conference with the Project Director, and then they met with the division chiefs so that the people here would know what they wished to learn, and so that the delegation could find out what kind of information was available. The previous week the division chiefs had held a special meeting to plan for the delegation's visit. After the conference was over, the visitors were taken on a tour of the center in order for them to get a general idea of what the project was like. That afternoon different members of the group had conferences with the heads of the following sections: Education, Personnel, Welfare, Mess and Supply. On March 17, the group met with the Project Director for a final scheduling of their visit. Additional conferences with the heads of Education, Welfare and Cooperative Enterprise were held. That afternoon they met with evacuee leaders; that night they attended a U.S.O. meeting; and, later on, they attended a tea which was held in their honor. They will attend church Sunday, and will leave that afternoon by automobile at 4:00 PM for the trip to Leland, Mississippi, where they will catch a train for Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Project officials are well impressed with the visitors and are glad to give them all assistance possible, and the delegation appears to be well pleased with the reception they are having here.

During the week 41 terminal leaves were issued, and three of these were for return to California, 30 short term leaves were granted. This represents an increase of nearly 100% for leaves of this type. Practically all of the initial relocation interviews have been completed, and only 29 were held during the week. Only 25 of these initial interviews now remain, and 25 others are being transferred from the Welfare quota to the Relocation Division. Follow-up interviews totaled 114. As of Saturday night, 56 persons had signed up to return to California in the special coach, which will leave here on the 28th of March. At all terminal points where the coach will stop Relocation officials will be prepared to give all possible assistance to the passengers. The returning evacuees have been provided with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of Relocation officials so that they can be reached if the necessity arises.

The manager of the R. E. Lee Wilson Company, which is a farm corporation cultivating 65,000 acres of land in Mississippi County in northeast Arkansas, came to the center this week in search of employees and croppers. The evacuees showed considerable interest in his proposition, and nine representatives will leave here within a few days to inspect the company's farm land.

A Michigan vegetable grower, who has already used several hundred of our seasonal workers, is also here recruiting additional labor.

The annual Red Cross campaign is making excellent progress. It has been completed among the appointed personnel, and in this group contributions were 100%. 156 individuals contributed \$812.00. This was a considerable improvement over last year, when 121 employees contributed \$656.58. The campaign among the evacuees is still in progress, but it now seems that contributions will average \$65.00 for each block. If this average is maintained, we will exceed by approximately \$100.00 last year's evacuee contribution of \$2053.00.

There is still very little comment from center residents on the Salt Lake City Conference and the resulting recommendations, although meetings have been held in the blocks to discuss the matter.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
MARCH 24, 1945

The Army appeal team arrived Sunday, March 18, after a delay of one day. The team was headed by Col. O. I. Holman, and the rest of the group was composed of one colonel, three lieutenant colonels, and three enlisted men. One of the enlisted men was a court reporter, another a typist, and the third was a stenographer. The team came here to hear five cases, but one man had left the center and only four interviews were actually held. The team was very friendly and cooperative with project officials, but we do not yet have any information concerning their attitude toward the evacuees. One case was heard each day, and the dockets for each case was carefully prepared. Col. Holman told officials here that their group was one of three sent out to different projects, and that the teams at the other two projects were also composed of five officers each. The present plan is for these three teams to hear a few cases and then return to the West coast and exchange experiences and work out procedure for hearing the remainder of the appeals. There will eventually be fifteen boards with each one headed by one of the officers from the three original training groups. These boards will hear appeals not only at the centers but also on the outside. We were told that when the appeal board returned to the project they would have dockets prepared for approximately ten cases and, when these were heard, the board would return to the West coast, prepare approximately ten more dockets and return to the project again and hear these cases. In other words, the board will be going back and forth from the center to the West coast from time to time, and will not sit in an unbroken session. It is our understanding that considerable time is required in the preparation of the dockets, since photostat copies must be made of all the material that makes them up.

Fifty-one terminal leaves were issued during the week, and 5 of these were for return to California; 14 relocation short term leaves were granted. Fifty-one initial, and 119 follow-up interviews were held during the week. Cases are being transferred every day from the Welfare interview quota to the Relocation quota. Eighty-three of these transfers were effected during the week, and 68 of them will require initial interviews. In this way, the Relocation Division is assuming

part of the burden of the Welfare Section. All cases transferred to Relocation are those in which welfare problems have for some reason or another ceased to exist.

The special coach for those returning to California is assured of at least 58 passengers, and it will leave the night of March 28. Since the railroad did not guarantee that it would pick up the car at the project in time to make connections at McGehee with the night train, the car will be loaded at McGehee. Arrangements are being made to give as much publicity as possible, both within and outside the center, to the return of this group.

The group of eight evacuees who investigated the R. E. Lee Wilson Company relocation offer was well impressed by the proposition. They have the opportunity of working the land on shares, renting for cash rent, or buying it in small tracts. A list of questions concerning the proposition were submitted to the plantation manager by the committee, and all were answered favorably except one which concerned selective service deferment. Questions about housing, electricity, irrigation, schools, etc. were answered satisfactorily. The fact that the R. E. Lee Wilson Company is a power politically in northeast Arkansas, and especially in Mississippi County, makes the evacuees feel more certain of a favorable public attitude. Saturday morning the Relocation office was filled with evacuees who wanted short term leave to visit the Wilson plantation. Organized inspection trips for small groups are being planned. A mass meeting has been held in one of the blocks to discuss the Wilson offer. The first inspection group was told that up to 500 families could be used by the Wilson Company. Separate farm units, large enough for eight families, would be provided and it is believed that these families would use about 20 single laborers. As might be supposed, the colony feature of the offer is attractive to many of the evacuees. Of course, a relocation deal with the Wilson Company is far from a certainty, but initial negotiations are progressing favorably.

A short time ago the Assistant Project Director in charge of Administrative Management and the Chief of

the Agriculture Division were called by Selective Service. The Assistant Project Director's place will not be filled for the time being, and most of the work normally done by him will be taken over by the Assistant Project Director in charge of Operations. The other Assistant Project Director will also assume part of the burden.

The new Chief Medical Officer has arrived from Tule Lake and has assumed his duties, and a new nurse has been transferred to the hospital staff from one of the other projects. We now have a total of six registered nurses. The Medical Social Worker has been transferred to another project and has been replaced by a employee of the Welfare Section, who has been detailed to take care of this work until her transfer can be made permanent.

The Red Cross drive among the evacuees is making good progress, and as of March 21, \$1,939.45 had been obtained from this source, and three blocks had not yet turned in their collections. It appears certain that last year's total will be exceeded during this campaign.

Nineteen more of the center residents, who are in the enlisted reserve corps, have been notified to report for active duty on April 2. A few others have also been ordered to report for induction into the reserve corps during the first week of April.

The special "Military Edition" of the McGehee Times, which was mentioned in our report of February 24, is now on sale. It is a forty-four page issue, published for the purpose of showing Desha County's contribution to the armed forces. More than two pages are devoted to men from the Rohwer Project. All Nisei soldiers who have lived at this center, or who have next of kin here, are listed, and eight photographs of outstanding soldiers from this center are shown, with two photographs of the first memorial service held here. Lack of space and paper prevented the use of more pictures. 6,500 copies of the special issue were printed, and sales in the project have already exceeded 1,200 -- and are expected to reach 1,500. The project section was sponsored by the Community Council, the center U. S. O., the center Red Cross, the Co-op, and the appointed personnel. Sales are being handled by the Community Council, and all profits are to go to the local U. S. O. Copies of the special issue have already been sent to the Chief of the Reports Division.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 1945

2 ~~Librarian~~
~~Branch~~
~~Franklin~~
~~Lyman~~
~~Beattie~~
~~Barney~~
~~E. Brown~~
~~Logan~~
~~Meta~~
Filio (TH)

This week, when 109 terminal leaves were granted, set the record for relocation from this project. The special coach which left for California with 60 passengers was largely responsible for the increase. In addition to those in this group there were several others who also returned to California. We believe that many more people will be interested in returning to the West coast area in this manner, since 80 have already indicated that they would like to return to California in a special coach that will leave here in April. If interest in this still holds, it seems now that there might be enough passengers for two of these coaches. The Relocation Division held 98 follow-up and 23 initial interviews during the week. All of the initial interviews for this period were cases that had been transferred from the Welfare Department. All cases of the original relocation quota had been disposed of by the middle of the month.

Prospects for relocation with the R. E. Lee Wilson Company in northeast Arkansas are not as good as they were last week. This week a special bus took 33 prospective relocatees to inspect the Wilson farm. They were not as well satisfied as the initial group of 8 that made the first trip. The last group complained that the Wilson officials showed them a different type of farm land that was not so well suited to growing vegetables as that inspected by the first group. The second group also appeared to think that they were not treated with the same consideration as the first visitors. Some of them thought that the amount of money advanced to each family for growing their crops was not large enough, and others expressed doubt about whether enough farm machinery could be furnished by the company. It was also pointed out that the cash advances to each family was the same as made to all other company tenants, and that it was hardly possible to provide an individual tractor for the use of each family, although the company owns 1,000 tractors at this time. Some of those in the second group complained that they were not given as courteous a reception as they should have had. This seems to have arisen from a remark of one of the company officials that he did not understand the necessity of so many people coming up for the inspection trips. The attitude of this group is typical of that which is making relocation so difficult. They have had so many good offers that they don't know which one to take, and they keep holding back, thinking that a better

offer will be coming in later. There is also a tendency, sometimes, to exaggerate their importance. For example, the first group that went to Wilson Company was shown every courtesy, and were exceptionally well pleased. When the second and larger group went, they probably were not met in such a gracious manner because the company officials were inclined to look upon them as they would any other tenants.

Cases of this kind have occurred repeatedly in the New Orleans area. An evacuee goes down to investigate a farming offer. He probably has special ability and asks the land owner to make special concessions. These are granted. The evacuee says he will return within a short time, and returns to the project, but the land owner never hears from him again. Sometimes, when the trade is nearly made the evacuee changes his mind and, instead of saying that this is the case, he asks for concessions that cannot be granted and negotiations are broken off. In cases like this, the landowner is not left in a state of uncertainty but he is left in a bad state of mind. Naturally, incidents like these are harmful to outside public opinion.

We have received no information as to when the appeal board will return to the project, and cases are still arising where evacuees have received exclusion notices, but are still not on the list which will enable them to leave the project for any part of the country except the West coast area. Of course, grants cannot be made to those who do not have permission to leave, but it is hard for these people to believe that WRA does not have something to do with keeping them here. We are making every effort to convince them that we do not have any hold on them except that grants will not be made until they are on the cleared list. Those who are now slated for segregation have received only an exclusion notice, and are not aware that they are potential segregationees. So far as they know, they are in the same position as others who have received exclusion notices, except that the others are free to leave with WRA assistance. The only thing that we can tell those who do not have army permission to leave is that we do not know what the trouble is except that they are just simply not on the army cleared list. All of this creates uncertainty, not only in the minds of these particular individuals, but it also makes other evacuees uneasy.

The Red Cross campaign among the evacuees has been completed, and contributions by center residents total \$3,036.80. This is in addition to the \$812.50 contributed by the appointed personnel.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
APRIL 7, 1945

~~Liberman~~
~~Bankson~~
~~Maxley~~
~~Lynn~~
~~Pratt~~
~~Bailey~~
~~E. Brown~~
~~Hager~~
~~Clark~~
McKee
File (DH)

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 66, and 5 of these were for return to California. Twenty-six emergency and 14 relocation short term leaves were issued. The only initial relocation interviews now being held are for cases which have been transferred from the Welfare Section quota. During the week there were 4 initial and 156 follow-up interviews. Interest among the evacuees in return to the West coast area by special coach continues to grow. The first coach left here on March 28, and since that time 118 other center residents have signed up to return to California in the same manner. Two coaches have been requested for this group, and we feel sure that there will be others who will wish to join it. It is now planned for the first coach to leave on the 20th of this month and the second to leave on the 27th. We have not yet been advised by the railroad company that the coaches will be available, but we are confident that the railroad can furnish them unless some unforeseen difficulty arises. There is still some dissatisfaction because of the fact that the people in the first coach were required by the Office of Defense Transportation to change cars in Kansas City, but most of the people apparently understand that this could not be avoided.

A third group of evacuees from this center will leave this week with the Relocation Officer from Little Rock for another inspection trip to the Wilson Plantation. The evacuee group will be composed of two members of the Relocation Planning Commission and three farmers. An effort will be made on this trip to get a specific offer from the Wilson Company, with specific information as to what the company will expect of the evacuees and what it will provide. If a satisfactory offer is made, the group will return to the center and recruiting will start at once. Two important questions are still to be answered: (1) Is there enough land suitable for vegetable growing that will accomodate a substantial number of families? (2) Will the company be satisfied if only 50% of each family tract is devoted to cotton growing? As we have previously reported, the second group who investigated the Wilson offer came back with the report that they were shown land unsuitable for growing vegetables, and that the Wilson Company insisted that too large a percentage of cotton be grown. The report of this third group will probably determine whether there will be any relocation in northeast Arkansas.

April 7, 1945

Mr. Malcolm Pitts, Assistant Director, and Mr. L. T. Main, Supply Officer from Heart Mountain, arrived here Thursday night for a visit of several days. They are particularly interested in how plans for the disposal of surplus property are progressing.

The Coordinator's Committee, composed of both evacuees and members of the appointed personnel, met Tuesday morning. Most of the discussion centered around what type of information was needed most by center residents. Evacuee members said that the people were very well informed concerning public sentiment and job opportunities, but that they needed additional information about what kind of public assistance was available on the outside. It was agreed that the Welfare Section would take the leading part in providing this information. The head of this department had previously suggested that members of her staff could address groups of center residents and give information concerning various types of public assistance, if meetings could be arranged. It was decided that the center would be divided into several districts and that meetings of this type would be held in each district. The chairman of the Relocation Planning Commission is working with the head of the Welfare Section on this plan, and the meetings will start within a short time.

A training consultant from the Regional Civil Service Office in St. Louis spent a day at the project at the invitation of the head of the Personnel Section, and gave an excellent explanation of how efficiency ratings should be made. We believe that his talk will do much to improve the quality of the ratings and will help make them more uniform.

FILE 6071

~~Librarian~~
~~Lipin~~
~~S. Brown~~
~~Peattie~~
~~Joyles~~
~~Crace~~
~~W. K. K.~~
~~Barshay~~

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING APRIL 14, 1945

Files (74)

Friday morning the schools held a brief but appropriate ceremony in memory of Mr. Roosevelt. At 8:45 a bugle sounded taps and the school flag was lowered to half mast. As the bugle sounded all pupils rose and stood with bowed heads while the teachers read Steven Vincent Benet's poem, "Prayer". After the poem was read, classes resumed their routine. The Project Director asked that a brief period of silence be observed on Saturday at 3:00 P.M. (4:00 P.M. E.W.T.). His request was announced by the Block Managers, and fire sirens were sounded so that the observance would be uniform.

During the week 47 terminal leaves were issued, and only 3 of these were for return to California. Two special coaches for return to the West coast will leave this month, and there is a good possibility that a third car will be needed. The first coach this month will leave on the 20th, and the second on the 27th. There will be between 55 and 60 passengers in each of these coaches.

Mr. Russell Bankson of the Reports Division of the Washington Office spent several days at the project. He held two conferences with project officials concerning the expansion of the information program within the center. A clear explanation was made as to what part each division was to play in this work. Plans are now being made for the publication of a relocation bulletin under the supervision of the Reports Officer. The chief difficulty in doing this, and in expanding the information program in general, is scarcity of help but we believe that this difficulty can be overcome. Mr. Bankson also had several conferences with evacuee leaders to get their opinions as to what kind of information was needed by the people and what the best methods were for dissemination of this information. He also talked with the editor of the Japanese Section concerning the nature of some of the material that had been appearing in the Japanese Section.

The Director's reply to the suggestions made at the Salt Lake City Conference was received Saturday, but we do not yet have any information concerning the reaction of the evacuees to his answer.

One man from the Washington Office, one from the San Francisco Office, and two from other centers will arrive here next week to assist in preparing the property records for the closing of the center. All vouchers for major and minor property are being posted, and these records will be reconciled with project inventories. In addition to these four men, some of the appointed employees from the Project Finance Section will be detailed to this work for part time duty.

The Project Honor Roll for Nisei soldiers has been completed, and plans are being made for the dedication ceremony which will be held April 28.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING APRIL 21, 1945

A new high in relocation was reached this week when 138 terminal leaves were issued; 65 of these were for return to California, 59 going in a special coach which departed last Friday. Another special coach will leave for the West coast on the 27th, and it now seems assured that there will be enough passengers for still another coach on the 30th. In addition to these coaches, another is scheduled to leave on May 1st for Philadelphia, which will carry a large group of evacuees who are going to Seabrook Farms in New Jersey. The third evacuee investigation group that went to the Wilson Plantation in northeast Arkansas advised against relocation there, and a majority of the Relocation Planning Commission agreed with this report. In spite of this, five families are definitely going to accept the Wilson offer, and have already selected the land that they are to farm. The company is willing to accept ten more families, and is making a very attractive offer to center residents. The rent is unusually low for the type of land that will be farmed, and the equipment and service that will be provided.

Relocation efforts in Louisiana are at last beginning to bear fruit. One center resident has purchased a 40-acre farm and will take two families to help him. Seven other families are buying land in Louisiana under the purchase plan that was promoted by Mr. Koi Murai.

Representatives of the Relocation Division and the Welfare Section of the Washington office were at the project several days working out the plan for geographical assignment of relocation planning within the center. The center has already been divided into districts for the assignment of relocation advisors. Another representative from the Washington office was also here to assist in a reorganization of the relocation library, and this work will be under way within a short time.

The four men who have been detailed here from the Washington office, the San Francisco office and two other projects, for work on property records have arrived and the Supply Officer reports that excellent progress is being made, and that the men are proving very helpful. Ad-

ditional trucks, several hand carts and the project stock of thread, binding, yarn, buttons, braid, etc., have recently been declared surplus.

A representative from the Fire Protection Office in Washington was here recently and inspected the warehouses to see if fire regulations were being observed. He seemed to be well pleased with the arrangement of goods within the warehouses, and complimented the Supply Officer on the manner in which this work has been done.

For sometime we have been receiving communications from the Western Defense Command which referred to a revised master list of evacuees showing clearance status, but we had no knowledge of such a list. Finally the Coordinator called the Western Defense Command and asked for an explanation. He was advised that a new master list had been expressed on March 20, but it was never received here. He was told that another copy would be sent to us immediately by parcel post. This new list should be of considerable assistance in clearing up several cases of doubtful status.

Newspaper reports that Nisei soldiers were spearheading an attack on Massa in Italy were followed by twelve casualty notices here during the week. Six of these notices were for soldiers who had been killed.

Final arrangements are being made for the dedication of the Honor Roll Saturday, April 28, and a ranking officer from Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Arkansas, has agreed to make the chief address.



FILE COPY

Likmanian
Ligman
Seattle
Rebecca
E. Brown
Waggon
Joe Rice
Bentley
File 104

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING 4-28-45

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 95; 59 of these were for return to California; 25 relocation short term leaves were granted, and 151 follow-up interviews were held by relocation advisors. 53 of those who returned to California occupied a special coach which left McGehee on April 27. Another coach, with approximately 54 passengers, will leave here May 1 for Philadelphia, and still another coach is scheduled to leave here for the West coast on May 3. Practically all of the passengers on the Philadelphia coach will go on to Seabrook Farms in New Jersey, where they will be employed. The Relocation Officer in St. Louis and a group of Nisei residents there have been particularly hospitable to the occupants of the first two special coaches during five-hour lay-overs in St. Louis. Both groups were taken on sight seeing tours of the city, and many of the children had their first glimpse, in three years, of life outside the center. A similar reception is planned for other coaches that may arrive. Evacuees also reported that WRA officials met the coaches in Denver and Salt Lake City to see if they might be of some service. The relocation rate has been especially high for the past three weeks, but we expect it to drop until the latter part of May or the first part of June. It seems likely that most of the people who planned to return to the West coast before school is out have already gone, or will leave the first week in May, and that relocation will fall off after that time until the children are out of school.

New difficulties have developed in connection with relocation on the Wilson Plantation in northeast Arkansas. As previously reported, five families had selected land to be rented, but now the deal is being held up because of uncertainty about how much government aid the evacuees concerned will receive. They told the Little Rock Relocation Officer that they wanted the WRA to furnish a car for them to use for a time after they first relocated and, if this was not done, they would have to abandon their plans. We do not expect them to turn down the proposition for this reason alone, but they are going to demand a great deal of public assistance.

94-534

The master list showing clearance status of all evacuees has at last been received from the Western Defense Command. As we reported last week, the first list had been shipped by express, and a later list was shipped by parcel post. The expressed list was received April 25, although it had been shipped March 30. The following day the other list arrived by parcel post, having been mailed April 18. Corrections and changes of status are now being posted, and this revision will be completed by Saturday night. At this time, 31 persons are designated as detainees. These persons have received exclusion notices and nothing else in writing. The first information they have of their unusual status is when they try to leave the center and are told by relocation workers that they are on the army stop list. In every case that comes up it is explained that the WRA does not prevent them from leaving, but that the WRA is cooperating with the army to the extent that no relocation aid will be given in their case. Unless a detainee tries to relocate, he does not know he is on the stop list, since many others have received exclusion notices and are leaving for destinations outside the exclusion zone. The army appeal board is to return here on May 8, and eight cases are scheduled to be heard.

Because of excessive rains, the dedication of the center Honor Roll, which was to have been held at 1:30 PM Saturday afternoon, has been postponed. The main address was to have been made by an officer from Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Arkansas, who had served with the 100th Battalion in North Africa and Italy. The same man has agreed to participate in the program when the new date has been determined.

Plans are being made for the 7th War Loan Drive at this center. The Project Director and one of his assistants attended a recent meeting of the County War Loan Committee. The Project was given a quota of \$25000.00, including payroll deductions. This means that we will have to raise eight or ten thousand dollars above the deductions, and we believe that this can be done without great difficulty, although a good many of the appointed personnel will be leaving before long and may reduce their purchases. In the 6th drive, approximately \$12000.00 above deductions was raised, but we do not believe that our cash purchases will equal this amount in the 7th drive.

All efficiency ratings of the appointed personnel that are reviewed at the project have been completed, and they will be sent out the first of next week.

FILE COPY 2

WEEKLY REPORT *Barbara C. Case*
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER *John H. Smith*
WEEK ENDING MAY 5, 1945 *Barbara C. Case*
Files (H)

Relocation again reached a new high this week when 146 terminal leaves were granted; 38 of these were for return to California. One special coach left for the West coast with 54 passengers; 38 of these were California returnees, 11 went to Utah and 5 to Colorado. Another special coach, with 53 passengers, went to Philadelphia -- this group was on its way to Seabrook Farms in New Jersey. All will be employed there. There is a possibility that another coach will return to California on the 24th, but this is not yet settled. It is certain, however, that another will leave on the 30th, and 64 persons have already signed up for departure on that date. It seems that the expected drop in relocation during the middle of May will materialize, since only 25 people are scheduled to leave next week. As we have previously explained, many people who have relocation plans are holding off until after the end of the month, when school will be out. Prospects for relocation of the five families on the Wilson Plantation in northeast Arkansas are still good. A new contract has been drawn up, and the leader of the group is waiting for the return of the Wilson Company manager before he makes another trip to the plantation for the final signing of the papers. The relocation officer in Little Rock has advised us that representatives of thirty Manzanar families are coming to Arkansas to investigate the Wilson Company proposition. Possibly this will have a wholesome influence on the people here if they find that the residents in another center are interested in this offer. Six families are still making definite plans for relocation in Louisiana. One or two of the family heads have already taken over a farm of 150 acres, and the other men will leave here within a short time. The women and children will follow as soon as school is out. This group is expecting resettlement assistance for the purchase of furniture and other household goods, but they are not waiting for advance approval before going to Louisiana. All information concerning their cases is being forwarded to Louisiana by the Welfare Section here.

An effort is being made to get more information to the evacuees that will encourage relocation. A four page relocation bulletin was prepared this week and distributed Saturday to every family unit. It was published only in English, but an effort is being made to

May 5, 1945

to employ a translator and stencil cutter so that a Japanese version can be added. It is very difficult to find someone who can do this work and who is willing to do the job. We believe, however, that it can eventually be done. In the meantime, we expect to publish the bulletin every two weeks, and more frequently if the occasion demands.

As we have previously reported, plans were made sometime ago for a series of meetings throughout the blocks for the purpose of giving more detailed information concerning public assistance that will be available after relocation. These discussions are being sponsored by the Welfare Section, and the first was held Tuesday night. This meeting was to include residents of five blocks, and the block managers were requested to announce in each mess hall the time and place. The size of the audience was rather disappointing, since only 45 persons were present, but they were all heads of families and seemed to have a sincere desire to obtain additional information. An evacuee employee of the Welfare Section acted as an interpreter. After the principal part of the discussion was over, questions were invited. Some of the questions asked were:

1. Will the WRA guarantee housing?
2. If eligibility for public assistance is established, how long will it be before the first check arrives?
3. Is definite assurance of eligibility possible before relocation?
4. Is public assistance available if the family is receiving an army allotment?

This series of meetings has been promoted through the Community Council and the Relocation Planning Commission, and we believe that interest may increase after another meeting or two has been held.

Three Civil Service representatives came to the center this week to make routine investigations concerning twenty evacuee girls who had passed Civil Service examinations. All job openings were in Washington, D. C. Four of the girls had relocated, five appeared for interviews, but eleven withdrew their applications. In some way, a rumor had been started that the Civil Service representatives were really with the F.B.I., and this had something to do with the high percentage of withdrawals.

Weekly Report

(3)

May 5, 1945

The dedication of the Center Honor Roll, which had been postponed, is scheduled to be held Sunday afternoon.

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING MAY 12, 1945

During the past week 46 terminal and 20 relocation short term leaves were issued; 10 of the terminal leaves were for return to California. For a time, it seemed possible that a sufficient number of passengers would register to justify a special coach for return to California on May 24, but it does not seem now that the required number will sign up. However, arrangements are being made for the departure of another coach on the 30th for return to the West coast, and 99 people have already indicated that they wish to take advantage of this opportunity. Plans for relocation on the R. E. Lee Wilson Plantation in northeast Arkansas have come to a dead end. When the leader of the group of five families that had selected land at Wilson went there to make the final arrangements and sign the contract, a disagreement developed between him and the manager of the company over what land would be available to the group for farming in 1946. A satisfactory agreement was possible as to what land would be farmed this year, but the trouble arose over what land was to be farmed next year. It is uncertain whether the prospective resettlers were really concerned about what kind of land would be available to them another year or merely looking for some excuse to break off negotiations. Relocation for the week was better than we thought it might be, since a severe mid-May slump was expected.

Two more meetings were held this week by employees of the Welfare Section to explain to center residents the different types of public assistance that will be available to them after they relocate. Special emphasis was placed on Resettlement Assistance. As we have reported before, these discussions are led by a Welfare worker, and interpreters are used. The center is divided into districts containing three to five blocks, and one meeting is planned for each district. The first meeting of this series, mentioned in our last weekly report, was attended by 45 evacuees and did not have much support from the block managers. The first meeting this week covered only three blocks and 70 people attended, most of whom were heads of families. Only a few questions were asked, and the people seemed concerned mostly with housing. Another meeting was held Friday night and 103 people attended. Many questions were asked. Most of these concerned standards of eligibility for assistance, and how much this amounted to in different sections of the country. For the first meeting

this week, the cooperation of the block managers was satisfactory; for the second meeting, it was exceptionally good. Interest in these meetings seems to be growing, and we believe that they will be of considerable benefit to the people. Some of the questions that were asked concerned things over which the WRA had no control, but these questions led to discussions that made possible a better understanding on the part of the evacuees as to what they can expect.

The center has received its first approval of a public assistance plan that was submitted to a state agency. This came from New York, and covered not only temporary resettlement assistance, but also included approval of long term Social Security aid. The file for the case was mailed from the project on May 3, and the approval was received on May 11. There have been several other cases where furniture grants from Resettlement Assistance funds have been approved.

The Army Appeal Team arrived Monday night, and conducted its first hearing the following day. Instead of bringing only eight prepared dockets with them, they brought eleven, and they have scheduled six impromptu hearings without dockets so that their full time will be occupied. Information derived from the special hearings will be sent to the Western Defense Command, and it is possible that this additional information will enable officials on the West coast to make a decision without sending the docket back to the project for a formal hearing. The policy of the Western Defense Command seems to be becoming more lenient with reference to army clearance. One of the Majors who was here with the first reviewing team has been very helpful in getting action on cases that were being held up, and which were of special interest to us because they affected relocation.

The dedication of the center "Honor Roll" was held Sunday afternoon, May 6. The chief address was made by Capt. Gerald H. Sutton, a Chaplain from Camp Robinson, Arkansas, who had served with the 100th Battalion in North Africa and Italy. The number of center residents attending the ceremony was less than we expected, and we were somewhat disappointed in this lack of response.

V-E Day was observed first by a one-minute period of silence immediately after President Truman's announcement. At 9:00 AM, a program for school children was held in the center Auditorium. The program had been previously prepared, and addresses were made by the Project Director and the Chairman of the Community Council. At 4:30 PM, a centerwide program was held in the auditorium, and this program, too, had been prepared in advance. The Project Director and the Chairman of

May 12, 1945

Community Council made brief talks at this ceremony. The chairman of this meeting was an evacuee veteran of World War I, who is head of the center U.S.O. We were again somewhat disappointed in the size of the audience. It is estimated that only 3 or 4 hundred people attended, most of them being Nisei.

The third fatal traffic accident within the center, since it opened, occurred this week. A mail truck was unloading near one of the mess halls, and, when the driver backed the truck while turning around, a 74-year old man was knocked down and run over. He died a short time later. The driver stated that he looked in the rear view mirror and through the back window of the cab before he reversed the truck, but that he did not see the victim. Internal Security officials are of the opinion that the driver was not guilty of negligence, since the body of the truck is covered with canvas, and there was a blind spot in the rear where a person could not be seen either through the window or by means of the rear view mirror.

The Block Managers' election was held this week, but there was not a great deal of change among these office holders.

Casualties among soldiers from this center for the past three or four weeks have been unusually high, due to the recent drive in Italy. Total casualties reported during this period of time total, 7 killed and 23 wounded.

FILE COPY ✓

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING MAY 19, 1945
Liberman
Lynch
E. Brown
Peattie
Moody
Boydston
Glass
Flork
McKee
Branch
Files (M.S.)

During the week 54 terminal and 12 short term leaves were issued. Only three of the terminal leaves were for return to California. At the first of the month it was thought that there would be a considerable slump in relocation during the middle weeks of May, but this has not developed to the extent it was feared. Seventy one people are scheduled to leave next week, and 140 additional re-locatees have signed up to return to the West coast on special coaches which will leave here May 30th and 31st. A Pullman, as well as a day coach, will leave on the 30th. This is the first time that a special Pullman has been used. It is estimated that 450 people will leave here during the month of May. This is somewhat better than was anticipated. Twelve relocation assistance cases involving single aged persons have been approved for boarding home maintenance by the Welfare Department in California. Homes to take these people have not yet been found, but the West coast offices believe that this can be done in time for the people to leave here by the end of the month. One tuberculosis case has already been approved for institutional care in California, but the condition of the patient is such that it is doubtful whether the offer can be accepted.

New difficulties have arisen in connection with relocation in Louisiana. Two former center residents are attempting to buy land in two different parishes, but one parish has refused to record the deed. Relocation officials still hope that the matter can be settled in a friendly way, but they are also of the opinion that the local officials can be forced by law to record the transfers of title.

The Army Appeal Team left here last Tuesday for return to the West coast, after hearing 13 cases. It is not known when they will return. As we have previously reported, all changes and corrections for the Army Master List of evacuees have been posted, but additional changes continue to come in. As of May 19, there were 31 detainees and 70 excludées at this center.

FILE COPY 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING 5/26/45

During the week 82 terminal leaves were issued; 8 of these were for return to California. There were also 22 relocation short-term leaves granted. As we have previously reported, 2 chair cars and one pullman will leave here next week with approximately 140 passengers for return to the West coast. Up to this time the railroad company has been able to tell us some time in advance what dates special coaches will be available, but we have recently been advised that departure dates cannot be set so far in advance. We do not think that this will present a serious problem, and it will mean mostly that evacuees will have less time in which to prepare for their departure.

High school graduation exercises were held this week. A minister from McGehee preached the Baccalaureate Sermon Sunday, May 20th. The graduation program was given Friday, May 25th, and 102 seniors received their diplomas.

A representative of the Immigration and Naturalization Service was here a few days this week to interview aliens who had lost their identification books, and to get additional information concerning deportees.

A plan has been worked out for better control of private automobiles that evacuees have been bringing to the center. This has not been a difficult problem up to this time because so few of the center residents have owned cars. Lately, members of the families have been going out and buying cars and then coming back here to make further relocation plans, and this makes a closer check advisable. All privately owned cars will be registered and, unless immediate relocation plans are being made by the owners, they will be required to leave the cars outside the center.

A sale of surplus equipment, which is now at the project, will be held next Monday at Fort Worth, Texas, by the Treasury Department. During the week there were several prospective buyers here inspecting the property in preparation for bidding. Most of the property to be sold consists of wagons, plows, disks, tractor parts and various types of farming equipment.

FILE COPY 7

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING JUNE 2, 1945

This week broke all records in connection with relocation, when 241 people were issued terminal leaves; 148 of these returned to California in three special coaches, one of which was a pullman. As we have previously reported, it was feared that there would be a considerable drop in relocation for the whole month of May but, to the contrary, it was the best month that the center has experienced. During this period, 541 people left the center and 209 of them went to the West coast area. 183 of the West coast returnees went in five special cars, and at least three special cars are planned for the month of June. Confirmation from the railroad company has been recieved for cars scheduled to leave June 8th and June 15.

The third centerwide memorial service in honor of Nisei soldiers killed in action was held this week. The ceremony was unusually impressive and the auditorium was filled to capacity. The Project Director made the chief address.

The people here are concerned about who will care for the center cemetery after the center closes, and the Project Attorney is checking Arkansas Statutes to see what is the most practical method of solving the problem. The formation of a non-profit organization of some type is being considered, with the possibility that title to the plot might be transferred to this organization.

Next week has been designated as clean-up week for the center, and the block area has been divided into districts and one day will be set aside for the cleaning up of each district. All male workers, except those holding key positions, will be excused from their regular duties so they can work in their respective districts. The clean-up program is sponsored by the Community Council in cooperation with the Block Managers.

Ten members of the teaching staff resigned with the closing of school. Others are still working on school records and reports, and some have been detailed to work in other sections and divisions. A few have been transferred to the Relocation Division.

FILE COPY 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING JUNE 9, 1945

~~Liberman~~
~~Lynn~~
~~E. Brown~~
~~Peattie~~
~~Logan~~
~~Barberson~~
~~Flaugh~~
~~McKee~~
~~Barshay~~
Filio (MS)

Terminal Leaves for the week total 123; 46 of these were for return to California. A special car of 55 persons left here on the 8th, and another is scheduled to leave on the 15th. A sufficient number of people have signed up to justify another coach on the 22nd, but we have not yet been notified by the railroad company that a coach will be available on that date. We are also trying to make arrangements to obtain a coach for departure on the 26th. Two new Assistant Advisors have been added to the Relocation Division staff, and four former teachers have been detailed to work with the Division temporarily.

Prospects for the relocation of five families on a farm near Little Rock seem to be good. A local meeting has been held to determine public sentiment, and no objection developed. Seed and equipment are being purchased by the families interested, and it seems certain that they will leave the center within a short time.

The Chairman of the Council, who is also Chairman of the Relocation Planning Commission, left this week on short term leave, and the Planning Commission is being re-organized. Indications are now that a progressive Nisei will be made Chairman of the group and, if this does occur, we believe that the Commission will get better results.

Monday night the Project Director and the Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, attended a meeting of Block Managers, Councilmen and Planning Commission members, for the purpose of discussing and explaining new procedure under which the WRA will be responsible for the approval of short term relocation assistance. It was carefully explained that project approval was for short term assistance only, and that funds allotted for this purpose were limited and qualifications for this aid would be very strict. A series of articles explaining temporary assistance will appear from time to time in the center paper or relocation bulletin.

FILE COPY 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING JUNE 16, 1945

Liberman
Syner
E. Brown
Deattie
Inger
Carham
Flanell
McW
Bushy
Filio (ms)

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 154; 57 were for return to the West coast area. As of June 16, 286 people had left the center during the month. There will be two more special cars leaving before the end of June, and it is estimated that relocation for the month will reach 550 or 575.

In May it was generally thought that as soon as school was out there would be a marked increase in relocation, but this has not been the case. If present trends hold, June will be slightly better than May. There are indications that changes in procedure for approval of temporary relocation assistance may have had something to do with the relocation rate not speeding up as expected. In spite of repeated explanations, the evacuees now say that it is practically impossible for a person to qualify for this assistance. Some seem to be waiting to see if the rules will be relaxed. There is also the belief on the part of some that schools of some kind will be opened this fall. Possibly they don't really think this will happen, but just hope it will. The fact that the school property has been turned over to the Supply Section and that many of the teachers are leaving still has not convinced them for certain that there will be no school. Of course, the chief thing that slows relocation is that many of the people here do not believe the centers will close. This conviction does not seem to be based on any particular thing except that they simply don't believe that the W.R.A. or the Government will go that far.

Changes in the Army Master List continue to come in. At the present time we have two residents in Step 2, 17 in Step 3, 69 in Step 4, and two in Step 8. Until a month or two ago we had 31 people in Step 3.

FILE COPY ✓
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING JUNE 23, 1945

For the first time since September 1942, the center population dropped below 5,000 when a special car left McGehee Friday night. During the week 110 terminal leaves were issued; 29 were for return to California. Two terminal leaves have been issued for relocation in this state. Both these men will farm near Little Rock, and several families plan to join them soon.

Thursday afternoon the Project Director held a conference with most of the Section and Division heads to discuss plans for closing the center. It was agreed that everyone present would submit by Monday afternoon the problems of his particular division or section, and his recommendations for solving them.

The major portion of Mr. Myer's teletype concerning the closing of the units at Gila and Poston was printed in the center paper the day after the information was received. We were surprised at the lack of comment by the evacuees about the announcement, but we are of the opinion that it will be helpful in convincing them that the projects really are going to close.

A meeting of the hospital staff was held this week to discuss relocation plans of key hospital workers, and it developed that all dentists and doctors plan to relocate before the end of July. Some of these relocation plans may not be carried out on schedule, but most of the evacuee medical staff will be gone by the end of July.

A monument which has been erected in the center cemetery by the evacuees will be dedicated Sunday, June 24. The chief address will be made by the Project Director, and the Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management will assist in the unveiling.

The father and sister of an evacuee soldier who had been killed in France and posthumously awarded the Silver Star were taken to Camp Robinson near Little Rock Friday so that the father could receive the award. The Public Relations Officer at Camp Robinson is releasing the story with pictures, and has agreed to send them to selected newspapers in this area and in California. We receive no official notice of events of this nature, but the officer in command of the Military Police here notified us of this particular case since he had been requested by the officials at Camp Robinson to locate the recipient.

The Assistant Finance Officer has been detailed to the Grenada Center for five or six weeks to assist in bringing property records up to date in preparation for the closing of the centers.

Rohwer now has only 13 detainees on the Army List.

FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING JUNE 30, 1945

During the past week 132 terminal leaves were issued; 35 of these were for return to California. One special coach of approximately 50 passengers left for the West coast area. Terminal leaves for the month of June total 528, a little less than the total for May. 167 of the people leaving in June returned to California, and most of these left on the four special coaches which were used during the month. We were rather disappointed in the number of people leaving in June, but we expect the situation to improve somewhat in July and August. We believe that several factors contributed to the failure of relocation to increase this past month. Among these are the changes in procedure for approval of resettlement grants, the belief of some that if they wait a while longer they will be given more liberal assistance, and the failure of outside welfare agencies to approve with reasonable promptness, dependency cases. However, the chief deterrent to relocation still seems to be lack of belief on the part of center residents that the centers will close at the end of the year.

As soon as Mr. Myer's teletype concerning the closing of the units at Gila and Poston was received, a copy was passed on to evacuee leaders, and representatives of the Council, the Block Managers and the Resettlement Planning Commission were invited to a conference with the Project Director which was held several days later. The date of the conference was set long enough in advance for evacuees to have an opportunity to discuss the contents of Mr. Myer's message, and a joint meeting of the Block Managers and the Councilmen was called for this purpose. At the time the evacuees were invited to the conference, the Project Director tried to make it plain to them that their recommendations and suggestions should be based on the accepted fact that the center was going to close not later than the end of the year. The meeting was disappointing in that they did not make their recommendations on this basis, but made them on the basis of what they would like to have happen instead of what was really going to happen. Three main suggestions were made: (1) That no closing date for this center be announced until WRA policy concerning those who remained in the centers was made public, (2) They requested a more liberal grant. (3) They asked that WRA establish several dispersal centers in areas where most of the center residents wish to go. They also predicted that there were 20,000 people in the centers who would not or could not leave.

This week an evacuee came to the Project Attorney's office and requested that a power of attorney be drawn up so that a Caucasian friend in California could act as agent in renting the evacuee's home. In discussing the situation, the attorney learned that the home had been left in the care of the Caucasian friend at the time of evacuation and that it had been rented until recently, but was now vacant. The friend had written the center resident that the house was vacant, that the insurance would lapse because of vacancy, and urged the evacuee to come back and live in the house since there was plenty of work available in that neighborhood. The attorney questioned the home owner as to why he did not return, since he did not seem to have an excuse for not doing so. The man finally stated that he knew he could go back to California, live in his home and get work, but that the government had brought him here and that he had a right to stay here until December 31.

Now this case is by no means typical. In fact, it is the only one of the kind of which we have heard. But this does seem to be true. The thinking of many center residents appears to be colored in varying degrees with this same kind of philosophy. There are some who probably are as attached to life in the center as this man is, and there are others who want to leave but cannot go out and make their own way without a guarantee of public assistance, which they do not yet have because of slow approval of their cases by outside welfare agencies. In between these two groups we believe there are many other families who feel in varying degrees like the man who came to the Project Attorney's office.

Along this same line, it is interesting to note the following paragraph taken from the minutes of the Council Meeting of June 25:

"3. Mr. Narita, Board of Education

The board is planning to establish some kind of school to keep the children busy during and after summer vacation. If the plan can be carried out without any inconvenience the school may be opened in the first part of August. The board wants to take a census to know about how many children will enroll. The courses under consideration are Art, English, Mathematics, Physics, Spanish, U. S. History, Beginning Shorthand, Artificial Flower Making, and Flower Arrangement."

It was announced here Saturday by the Chief Medical Officer, after a conference with the Project Director, that only emergency cases will be accepted in the hospital after July 1. It was explained that this was necessary because the evacuee staff, both doctors and dentists, with the exception of one doctor, will leave the project by July 15. The Wednesday morning "Well-Baby" clinic for inoculations will continue, as will the Friday morning venereal disease clinic. The Chief Medical Officer has found several hospitals in adjoining towns that will accept patients. The most distant of these is in Pine Bluff, which is about fifty miles from here, and the nearest is in Dermott, about thirty miles from Rohwer.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING JULY 7, 1945

~~Librarian~~
~~E. Brown~~
~~Peattie~~
~~Ingram~~
~~W. H. H. H.~~
~~Banker~~
~~Threll~~
~~W. H. H.~~
~~Barney~~
~~Ingram~~
Files (in 8)

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 64; 10 of these were for return to California. A special car had been scheduled to leave for California on Friday, but this and five other cars which were scheduled for the rest of the month, were cancelled by the railroad because of army requirements. The cancellation of Friday's car is largely responsible for the drop in relocation this week, since the 60 passengers were forced to make new plans. For sometime we have been telling center residents that transportation will become more difficult, but they were inclined to dismiss these warnings as WRA propaganda. Now that the cancellations have occurred we do not know what the final effect will be, but for the time being there is little doubt that relocation will be slowed up. After time for consideration, the people may take this as a warning of what is to come, and may advance their plans for relocation. On the other hand, they may take it as an excuse for not relocating, and sit back and wait for the WRA to do something about the situation. Although we have explained that we are under no obligation to see that more special coaches are available and have warned the people repeatedly that the schedules may be cancelled, there is a likelihood that they will say that it is our responsibility to see that the coaches are provided. It will probably be two or three weeks before we can tell for certain what their attitude is going to be.

It was recently announced that five mess halls will be closed next week, and that the residents of the blocks concerned will take their meals in adjoining mess halls. Others will probably be closed before the end of the month.

It has been decided that adult English classes and Sewing classes will be discontinued at the end of July. The sewing machines that have been in use in the blocks will be picked up and returned to the warehouse, but a few will be kept in Block 42 for the use of those who wish to sew for their families. An evacuee will be in charge of this room, but there will be a definite understanding that no sewing classes will be held.

July 7, 1945

The Resettlement Planning Commission has recently completed two surveys concerning relocation. One was to determine the area of relocation preferred by center residents. It showed that more than half the people here wish to return to California, and that a fourth of them preferred to return to the Los Angeles area. Most of those who did not wish to return to the West coast indicated that they would like to relocate in the Middle West and the East. The purpose of the other survey was to find out how many people in the center could qualify for relocation assistance under the new procedure. According to this, only 119 families could definitely qualify, and 45 others might possibly do so. The results of the second survey, in particular, are rather questionable, because those who conducted it are contending that practically no one can qualify for resettlement assistance under present regulations, and this attitude probably colored the manner in which the information was obtained.

The Community Analyst has also completed a survey with the assistance of the Block Managers, in an effort to see what the attitude of the people is toward relocation. According to this tabulation, 36% of the adults here were opposed to relocation, 37% were not opposed but had no plans, 19% expected to relocate by September 30, and 8% plan to relocate by December 31. The accuracy of this survey is also doubtful because the answers of the people were undoubtedly influenced by the Block Managers and other leaders, many of whom contend it is impossible for a large part of the people to leave the center.

Two tuberculosis cases, who were bed patients, returned this week to the West coast after being accepted by an institution in California. Local acceptance of cases of this type has been slow and we hope that this is an indication that this situation will improve.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING JULY 14, 1945

The Director's announcement of the closing of the Centers was received at approximately 4:00 p. m., July 12. Copies of the message were made immediately and sent to each Block Manager's office with the request that they be read in the mess halls at the evening meal. This was done except in a few blocks where the Manager was out of his office and did not receive the announcement that afternoon. The message was printed in full, in both Japanese and English, in Saturday's issue of the Center paper. The paper also carried a statement by the Project Director.

As of Saturday night there was very little noticeable reaction among the evacuees to the announcement of the closing dates. Little discussion of the matter has been heard. The attitude at this time seems to be one of acceptance and resignation. There probably is resentment on the part of some but no one has heard it expressed. If there is going to be any organized opposition this has not become evident. On the other hand, several evacuees have been heard to say that they had guessed our closing date would be some time in November. Business at the Relocation office Saturday was on the increase. However, much of this was probably due to the fact that it had been announced that there was a possibility that a special train to the West Coast might be available soon.

Information concerning evacuee reaction was requested from twenty or twenty-five of the appointed personnel who have the closest contact and who are on the most intimate terms with center residents. The answers from all these are practically unanimous--little reaction, no opposition or resentment, and general acceptance.

This should be kept in mind, however. People in this center have always been slow to react to good or bad news. The attitude here has not really had time to crystalize. It will be another week or two before we can be certain what stand the people will take. At this time we are inclined to be optimistic. Particularly if arrangements can be made for the special trains that we have been requesting.

It was announced Friday that a special train might be obtained for return to the West Coast area. This announcement was published in Saturday's paper. By Saturday night 350 people had signed up to leave on this train the week of July 22 if it becomes available. Center residents are apparently beginning to appreciate the advantages of special transportation.

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 141; 56 of these were for return to California. The previous week only 64 terminal leaves were issued. This was the week the special cars were cancelled.

Few complaints are being heard from the evacuees because of curtailment of hospital and medical services. One surgical and two maternity cases were sent to outside hospitals this week. The chief problems in the present arrangement are a scarcity of skilled ambulance drivers and the bad mechanical condition of some of the ambulances. Services at the outside hospitals have been satisfactory. The new Head Nurse has arrived and is now on duty.

Surplus property declarations are being made at the rate of approximately one every day.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING JULY 21, 1945

E. Brown

~~St. Martin~~
~~Lynn~~
~~Peattie~~
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~~Markley~~
~~Banks~~
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The attitude of the people here to the announcement of the closing dates of the centers is still that of acceptance. There are no indications of general resentment or organized opposition. The announcement caused little excitement and no great concern. There is little public discussion of the matter by the evacuees, that is, in the presence of the appointed staff. On the other hand, much more talk of relocation and relocation planning is heard. There has been a substantial increase in unscheduled interviews at the Relocation and Welfare offices. There is no doubt that Mr. Myer's statement has given real impetus to relocation. Remarks like these are typical:

"Everyone in our block is making plans to get out before school starts." "All the centers are going to close and everyone is making plans to leave as soon as he can."

A good example of the effect of the announcement is the change in attitude of the evacuee employees of the fire department.. This group has always been pretty much "anti-relocation." A few days after the closing dates were announced practically all of these men were talking relocation, where before it had hardly been mentioned. Two workers, who had no previous relocation plans, resigned suddenly in order to leave on the special train next week. The head of the Mess Section reports that all his office workers are talking relocation except one.

We do not believe there is any organized opposition now or in the making. This requires real leaders and we have had few if any in the center for the past year or so. This lack of leadership has been a handicap to relocation but is also has its advantages in that it makes real opposition less likely. A few remarks like these have been heard: "If we evacuees were to stick together the government could not kick us out." "What we ought to do is organize and then they could not close the centers." These remarks are not typical and were not made by people of real influence. It is interesting to note that the terms "If we stuck together," and "We ought to organize" were used and it was not said that this had been done or was going to be done.

A summary of the Council minutes for July 19 contains the following paragraphs:

"Mr. Myer has given us the date of closing this center. This center is the last to be closed. The main reasons are said to be that this center is located remotest from California, and it requires more time for the residents to return than for the people living in other centers, and that when Jerome Center was closed last year, most of the old people and the sick persons were brought here. It will require some extra time to resettle these people.

Discussions:

1. Petition to be made to Mr. Myer.

The Canal center of Gila Project has sent us a copy of petition consisting of 15 articles made by that center to Mr. Myer. Rohwer Council agreed to draw its own petition again and send it directly to Mr. Myer.

A special committee was created. The committee together with the Resettlement Planning Commission will study and formulate our petition as soon as possible.

The following five were recommended and approved by the council.

(Names)

Five more are expected from the manager group."

We believe that these statements indicate acceptance much more than opposition and that the special committee and the proposed petition are mostly a face saving gesture on the part of the council. They know that center residents expect something of this nature from them.

In considering the present situation this should always be kept in mind. There is still an inert group here composed of a substantial number of people who do not want to relocate. Pressure is the only thing that will make them leave. Some have relocation plans that will be used if they have to, some have no plans at all, but all want to stay here if they can. All of this group and many of those who already have definite plans for leaving, are watching developments at Granada. Several have been heard to say, "Let's see what happens at Granada." Many more are thinking this but not saying it. The WRA is on the spot. If there is any sign of weakening on our part in closing that center it will do great harm to relocation of all centers. When Granada is actually closed and when the residue of residents, if any, is not sent to another center, we are confident that we can have this center emptied by December 15.

E. Brown
and
A. Markley
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If many concessions are made at Granada many people will not leave here.

This week 90 terminal leaves were issued. With the departure of the special train for the West Coast area, next week should break all records for this project. The special train was obtained at a very opportune time. The center closing announcement had just been made, a week or two before that all special coaches had been cancelled and transportation difficulties had been stressed by the radio and press. Information was received late Thursday afternoon that the train would be available. A special issue of the Center paper gave some of the details Friday. As of Saturday night approximately 440 people had signed to leave on the train. Plans have been worked out for picking up baggage and freight and for loading. The departure time is 9:00 A. M., July 26. Some of those who have registered for the train are cancelling but new requests nearly equal cancellations. No mention has been made of the possibility of another special train because there would have been a strong inclination on the part of many to delay their departure. The second train in August will be announced as soon as we are sure there won't be many cancellations because of it. With the special train group, it seems now that approximately 775 people will relocate in July. About one-half of these will return to the West Coast. Seventeen indefinite leaves have been issued for relocation near Little Rock and six more family heads are now in that section on short term leave and we expect them to convert to indefinite.

FILE COPY

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WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING JULY 28, 1945

Reaction among the evacuees to the announcement of the closing dates of the centers is still favorable. There is no indication of widespread resentment or organized opposition. As far as we can tell, there are no signs that there is likely to be any kind of a "sit-down" attitude in the last days of the center. It is true that there are a few who say they are not going to leave until they are forced to do so, but they seem to speak as individuals and not as part of a definite group. It is also interesting and encouraging to note that some of those who have insisted all along that they could not or would not leave, did leave on very short notice on the special train this week. There are still scattered predictions that 2,000 or 2,500 people will be left here on the closing day. There are also people who insist that they, and many others, cannot leave but it is our opinion that most of this is just talk. Many of the so called leaders are in this group, but we believe they are still trying to bargain. The average center resident is talking relocation and is making plans to leave.

The Community Analyst reports that five or six Issei have recently told him that they think more than 50% of the people will leave but that something less than 50%, maybe 20%, 30% or 40%, do not think all the centers can or will close and that those left here will be transferred to some center that will be open for the duration. This group claims there is simply no housing for the people in the centers and that the government will not force people to leave when they have no housing. A request that one of the cooks at the hospital made of the dietician indicates how some of the people are thinking. This man asked the dietician for a letter of reference which was to be used to help him get a similar job when he transferred to another project when Rohwer closed. The Special Council Committee has been working on a new petition to the Director. The following is taken from a summary of the Council minutes of July 23:

"7. Mr. Narita, Committee for Drawing Petition to Mr. Myer.

" This Committee met on Thursday and Saturday last week and formulated 10 of 12 requests of the Rohwer Center. These requests will be published on the Outpost as soon as the committee is ready."

We do not yet know what the requests are.

July 28, 1945

The most important event of the week was the departure of a special train Thursday, July 26th, with 417 passengers for the West coast area. The train consisted of 7 day coaches, a pullman, 2 baggage cars, and a diner. One coach left the train at Lodi; 2 coaches and a baggage car at Stockton; 2 coaches at Fresno; and 2 coaches, a baggage car and the pullman went on to Los Angeles. The WRA representative on the trip is Robert A. Allison, Assistant Relocation Program Officer. The baggage cars were spotted on the project siding Wednesday morning, and the checked baggage was picked up and loaded that day. Eight trucks, each of which was accompanied by two members of the appointed personnel, picked up the baggage in the blocks, listed it, checked it, and gave the checks to the owners. It was picked up and loaded in reverse order to the unloading of the passengers. That is, Los Angeles and Stockton baggage was loaded first, and the baggage of those going to Salt Lake City, Pueblo, Lodi, etc., was loaded last so that it could be unloaded first when passengers for these points left the train. A baggage crew was organized from among the passengers to help in unloading at the different stops so that the people could receive their baggage as soon as they left the train. The train reached Rohwer about 7:30 A.M. Thursday and the trucks left the Administration Building to pick up the passengers at 8:00 o'clock. Loading started at 8:15 and was completed at 9:10, and the train pulled out immediately. The whole operation was carried out smoothly and without great difficulty. The train was scheduled to reach Los Angeles July 29. We were well pleased with the way the movement was carried out.

Notice of departure was rather short but this was offset by the fact that many people had previously signed up to return to the West coast on the special coaches that were cancelled, and they were glad to get the unexpected opportunity to leave on the special train.

The day before the train left it was announced that there was a possibility that there would be a second train about the middle of August, and the evacuees were urged to come in and sign up not later than noon, July 29, so that we could use these registrations in justifying a second train. We were afraid to mention before that time that there might be another train because of the likelihood of a great number of cancellations after it was known that there would possibly be another group movement. Even as it was, there were widespread rumors that there would be another train and there were a number of cancellations because of them. The cancellations were offset, in part, by last minute applications.

July 28, 1945

The total number of terminal leaves for the week was 465. During the month of July, it is estimated that a total of 775 terminals will be issued and that conversions will bring the figure up to approximately 800. Considerably more than 50% of these are returning to California.

We are confident that we will have enough passengers by the middle of August for another special train to the West coast. However, it is rather difficult to get the people to commit themselves very far in advance of leaving. As of Saturday at noon, 146 passengers had been processed to return on an August train if one becomes available. A special bulletin was issued Wednesday urging everyone who wished to return to the West coast area to sign up for this train at once, and the regular bulletin issued Saturday carried a statement by the Project Director explaining why it was so important for center residents to take advantage of special transportation opportunities.

Workers in the Relocation Office are going through their files and are picking out cases where families have not come in for interviews or have not come in for sometime, and are making a special effort to interview these people to find out what their plans are and to encourage them to make some kind of relocation plans or bring their plans up to date. Satisfactory progress is being made in obtaining information about where each family wishes to relocate and we believe that this data will be complete by the September 1st deadline.

The Army List shows that this project now has only 52 people in Step 4, 10 in Step 3, 2 in Step 2, and 1 in Step 8.

FILE COPY 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING AUGUST 4, 1945

The net center population is now below the 4,000 mark. As of midnight, August 3rd, the net population was 3,974. This total does not include 109 people now out on short term leave. The effect of the special train to the West coast area last month, and the announcement that another train will be available this month, can be seen in relocation figures for the week. For this period, 59 terminal leaves were issued, but only four of these were for return to California. The trains have practically eliminated individual relocation to the West coast, and they have also lowered relocation in the weeks between them. There is no doubt that the special trains will increase the percentage of returns to California in the long run, however. There has been little change here in the reaction of the evacuees toward the announcement that the center would close. If there is any difference at all in their attitude on this subject, it has been for the better. The Relocation Program Officer reports that there had been an increasing number of people relocating who formerly said that they could not or would not leave the center. Others have also left who had not made such statements as these, but who had never disclosed that they had any definite plans for leaving. It is his opinion that there had been in the last week an increase in the amount of relocation talk, and that practically everyone is now convinced that the center is going to close by December 15. This is also the opinion of most of the other appointed personnel who have close contacts with the evacuees.

At the 108th Regular Meeting of the Community Council, July 30th, it was again announced that a petition was being forwarded to Mr. Myer by the headquarters of the All-Center Conference. We are not familiar with the contents of the petition, other than the fact that it protests against certain phases of the WRA plan to close the center December 15. The Council fully agreed with the requests drawn up by the All-Center Conference and unanimously decided to support the requests wholeheartedly and to wire Topaz at once.

The former chairman of the Community Council, who has been gone for the past two months on short term leave, came back to the center this week to make plans to leave with his family within a short time. He stated that in his opinion there would be only five or six hundred people here on December 1. This means that he thought there would be that many people who would not make any kind of relocation plan and would stay here until they were forced out. When he gave this estimate, he had no knowledge of future WRA plans for moving cases of this kind, and this opinion was quite a con-

August 4, 1945

trast to those of some of the other center residents who have maintained that this group would total 2,000 or 2,500.

Plans are developing favorably for the second special train, which will leave sometime the week of August 12. The tentative date has been set for the 17th. There is an inclination on the part of some of the residents to delay preparations for leaving until the exact date of the departure has been announced, but this has not proved to be a serious handicap. The exact date would be helpful, though, in making advance freight shipments. At the close of work August 3, 322 people had registered to return to the West coast area on this train. All but twenty or thirty of these have made all necessary arrangements except for matters concerning the handling of freight and baggage. The largest group, 141, will go to the Los Angeles area; 55 will go to Stockton; 35 to Fresno; 35 to Los Angeles; 26 to San Francisco; 16 to the Denver and Pueblo area; and the remainder will be scattered in Utah, Nevada and other western sections. We do not yet have enough people registered to fill a pullman who can qualify for this privilege, but we believe there will be more cases of this type when the exact date of the departure has been announced. If only a reasonable number is lacking for the pullman, it is planned to fill the vacant berths with borderline cases.

Suggestions concerning the second train have been received from the WRA representative who went with the group in July. He reports that it is advisable for WRA to provide a representative to go with each special train, and he was also of the opinion that it was essential for a railroad representative to be present at all times. This representative should travel the whole route of his railroad system and a new man should not come on at every division point. Meals and diner service provided by the Missouri Pacific line were not at all satisfactory, but good service was given by the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific. It was also recommended that an attempt be made to get the dining car to serve dinner and lunches at approximately \$1.00 each, and breakfast for 75¢ or 80¢. An evacuee doctor who returned to California on the July train proved very helpful, and it was suggested that an attempt be made to have a doctor on the next train. Since there is only one evacuee doctor left in the center, and since there is little possibility that he will relocate in California, we do not know how this suggestion can be followed. All checked baggage for the July train was transported in two baggage coaches, and it was planned to remove the

August 4, 1945

baggage of each group when they left the train enroute. Some difficulty was encountered in handling this quantity of baggage in the time allowed for stops, so an attempt will be made to check some of the baggage for the next train in advance of departure. It was suggested that all checked baggage going to Los Angeles be put into one car, and that it be taken to a WRA warehouse on its arrival. The owners could then claim it at their convenience.

The Welfare Section has received instructions from the Washington office not to aid in the transportation of continuing Welfare cases until acceptance of these cases has been assured by the local welfare agencies at the point of relocation. This instruction, if strictly followed, would greatly retard relocation of cases of this type. Some of these cases have been leaving here before acceptance is assured, and have expressed willingness to take their chances with the local agencies after their arrival at the point of relocation. Action on these cases by the local agencies is delayed so frequently and so long that many cases will remain in the center much longer than they normally would if they must have prior approval before relocation grants can be made.

The Center Librarian, who has also been doing an excellent job lately supervising the relocation library, will leave the center for other employment sometime in the week of August 19, and it is planned to close the library a few days before her departure. The Center Co-op is also making plans to close its stores within a short time.

An Army Reviewing Team is scheduled to arrive at the center on August 7 and will start hearings the next day. Ten of these are scheduled at this time.

Although it was announced in the latter part of June that hospital and medical treatment would be confined to emergency cases, there has been a tendency on the part of the evacuees to insist that almost any case was an emergency. Some O.B. cases have deliberately become emergency cases by waiting until the last minute before going to the hospital. It was announced in the August 4th issue of the center bulletin that the term "emergency" will be strictly interpreted and a paragraph of Administrative Order No. 286 was quoted in support of this policy. Saturday afternoon a committee of evacuees met with the Acting Project Director, the Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, and the Chief Medical Officer and the question of what constituted

August 4, 1945

an emergency was discussed. The Chief Medical Officer explained in detail the problem facing the hospital and the medical staff, and it is believed that an understanding was reached as to what would constitute an emergency. In order to make certain that proper transportation of cases to outside hospitals would be available one of the ambulances has recently been completely overhauled and is kept at the motor pool and not used except for transportation of cases outside the center. In this way, it can be maintained in good condition and will always be available when needed.

FILE COPY 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11, 1945

~~L. H. H. H.~~
~~E. Brown~~
~~Reuther~~
~~Tracy~~
~~W. H. H.~~
Bantson
Flrrell
McKee
Jimbo
Baushay
Filer (ms)

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 70. Very few of these were for return to the West coast area, since practically all of the people who plan to return to that section will leave on the second special train August 17.

Satisfactory progress is being made in obtaining registrations for the train next week. 389 people have been processed and are ready to leave, and 10 or 15 more are making final arrangements. Twenty pullman cases have signed up, and we believe that there will be enough passengers who can qualify for this type of transportation to justify a pullman. By Friday at noon the destination of most of the people was as follows: Los Angeles, 154; Stockton, 64; Lodi, 57; Fresno, 44; Sacramento, 28; Salt Lake City, 17; Pueblo, 14. All in these groups are not going strictly to the cities mentioned, but will go to those cities and the surrounding areas. The remainder of the passengers who had registered by Friday will be scattered in small towns throughout the West. Additional registrations will doubtless follow this distribution.

As we reported last week, it was recommended by the WRA representative on the July train that a doctor accompany the next group. Since no evacuee doctor is available for the second train, it is now planned to send an appointed nurse who will look after the pullman cases, and also give assistance to others. This plan should work out very well, since some of the pullman cases will need a nurse anyway.

As of Saturday night, 110 people had been granted terminal leaves since the first of the month. We expect more than 400 to leave on the special train, but it is doubtful whether there will be 300 additional terminal departures for the rest of August. Consequently, we expect relocation in August to be slightly under the figure for July. However, we do not expect a serious decline in relocation, and the attitude of the people continues to be good. For example, all day Friday the Relocation office was crowded with people making future plans for final arrangements for leaving. Good progress is being made by the Relocation Division in obtaining information as to where center residents wish to go and when they plan to leave. We expect this tabulation to be completed by the September 1 deadline.

We are watching one Block here with special interest. No one left from this Block on the July train. Only one family signed up to go on the August train, and this family cancelled Saturday. Consequently, we think there may be some opposition here.

Administrative Instruction No. 289 is being reproduced in full in Japanese and in English and will be distributed Monday or Tuesday. We agree that it would have been better to have had more information on housing possibilities before this was released, and we expect some reaction from the evacuees, but do not think there will be any serious difficulty. We are also of the opinion that the shock will aid relocation. It is another good indication that the Centers are actually going to close, regardless of the attitude of some of the people, and when the residents are convinced of this it certainly will help the program.

In spite of the delapidated coaches, inadequate meals served by the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and the poor servicing of the coaches, the July train was a success. The WRA train representative especially commented upon the cooperation of Mr. Charles Miller, Area Supervisor of the San Francisco office. The train rider requested Mr. Miller to have a representative board the train in Sacramento. Consequently, a Reports Officer and District Relocation Officers from Sacramento, Stockton and Fresno got on the train at Sacramento and these men proved to be very helpful. For example, by the time two coaches and a baggage car had been dropped off at Stockton, the Relocation Officer in that town had taken charge of all the people in the two coaches and assumed responsibility for caring for them and unloading the baggage. Plans have been worked out with all Western Area offices, with the exception of the one in Los Angeles, for Relocation Officers to board the train 50 or 100 miles before their destinations are reached and by the time the train arrives and the people and their baggage have been checked by the Relocation Officers, much of the preparation for unloading will be completed. This not only helps the WRA train rider, but also gives the evacuees confidence in the assistance offered by the WRA. Our representative on the first train stated that soldiers, sailors and marines were the friendliest and most considerate groups that were encountered on the trip. This attitude also gives the returnees confidence. He also said that the account of the Hearst Press of the arrival of the train was very prejudiced and inaccurate. On the way back from the West coast, he stopped at St. Louis and talked with the Missouri Pacific officials there about the kind of service this railroad had provided, and the officials agreed to see that the situation was corrected.

The Community Council has appointed a new chairman for the Education Committee, which is attempting to organize an unaccredited school at this center. The committee is now planning to ask the assistance of outside people in obtaining school books. Among these is Dr. J. B. Hunter, former head of the Community Management Division here. The committee is also planning to request that school rooms be provided when the Project Director returns from his vacation next week.

The Community Analyst reports that the favorable war news, and especially the entry of Russia on our side, has very definitely caused general depression among the Issei population of this center. It is interesting to note that even some of the Nisei have been heard to say that the atomic bomb was just some more propaganda, but there seems to be no doubt on the part of the people here that Russia is now one of our active allies.

The Appeals Board of the Western Defense Command arrived Tuesday afternoon, August 7. Hearings will be held through August 13, and the board will depart for San Francisco the following day. Hearings are being held only for those who had advance notices.

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18, 1945

As of Saturday night the Center population was 3,443. During the week 451 terminal leaves were issued. This is slightly below the week of July 22, when terminals totaled 465. The second special train for the Western area left the Center at 10:30 AM, August 17, with 386 passengers aboard. 366 of these were terminal leaves and the remainder were short term and visitors. Most of these people returned to California, although some stopped in Colorado and Utah. The majority of the California returnees went to Stockton, Lodi and Los Angeles areas. It was thought that we could fill seven day coaches in addition to the pullman but, because of late cancellations, we were not able to do this and one of the coaches was dropped off in Little Rock. Forty-eight people cancelled their return on the train after they had been processed for departure. Some of these cancellations were justified, but some were not. The people here have been warned repeatedly that project officials obligated themselves in advance to fill a certain number of coaches, that railroad equipment is released on this basis and that it jeopardizes our chances for other special trains if we are not able to make full use of this equipment. Because of the danger of cancellations, we are reluctant to talk about special trains in the future, at least until the current train has actually left. People are still inclined to wait for the next train.

Picking up of freight belonging to passengers on this train was started the latter part of last week and loading was completed by Saturday of this week. The California freight is being handled by the Universal Carloading Company. We give each family a separate bill of lading, and we pay on the basis of an LCL shipment. The company receives a bill of lading for carload lots, and these cars are broken at San Francisco and Los Angeles and door to door delivery is then made by the company. This arrangement does not save the government any money on the freight bill but it does provide free door to door delivery for the returnees. The company has agreed to furnish this same service for Washington and Oregon if desired. Shipments to states other than those on the West Coast are made as they have been in the past. We are having some difficulty in maintaining evacuee work crews that are large enough to pick up the freight in the blocks. All checked baggage was picked up and loaded the day before the train left. As has been done in the past, two of the appointed personnel accompanied each truck and attached the checks and verified the baggage lists to see that no error was made.

The attitude of center residents toward relocation and the closing of the center is still good. In fact, it seems to be improving and the Relocation and Welfare offices are crowded with people asking for relocation, information, and making plans for leaving. The minutes of the Community Council indicate still more strongly that the center closing has been accepted as a settled fact. In discussing the departure of the second special train, one girl remarked that she did not expect very many people to come out to see the train leave because everyone would be at home packing. Of course, this was not strictly true but the remark gives some idea of the way the people are thinking. Housing is still the big problem, and any new aid on that point would be a real help to relocation. Administrative Notice 289 was reproduced in full in Japanese and English in a special edition of the Relocation Bulletin, but we have not had any repercussions from it, as we thought we might. No committees have called on the Project Director because of it. The Council Minutes remark that under these instructions "departure is almost compulsory."

The news that Japan had surrendered was received here with mixed emotions. There is no doubt that for most of the Issei it was a terrific shock. Many of them expected a negotiated peace up until the last. Even last Friday (Aug. 17) a parolee referred to the "false rumor of Tuesday". After the surrender announcement, a few told relocation advisers that they did not plan to leave the center until they saw how the war turned out. The entrance of Russia on the Allied side depressed the Issei much more than the news of the atomic bomb. Many considered the latter merely propaganda, and at least a few of the Nisei thought the same thing.

The head of Community Activities approached some of the Issei leaders on Saturday, August 11, on the subject of a peace celebration program when Japan's surrender was announced. All those contacted thought the older group would not be interested in such a ceremony, but expressed the opinion that it would be appropriate for the Nisei to take part. Consequently, a program was worked out with several Nisei Saturday night, and a bulletin announcing the event was prepared to be distributed when the surrender announcement came. Care was taken that "peace" rather than "victory" was stressed in the program. The bulletin announcement was given to the Block Managers Wednesday morning and the program, which had been announced at the Christian Church service on Sunday (of course, the exact date could not be given then), was held Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Several Nisei and one Buddhist priest, an Issei, participated.

The program was planned to fortify the Nisei against the pessimism of the Issei, and was exceptionally well done.

The trouble was, there were only a half dozen or so Issei present, and the total evacuee attendance besides those on the program was between 20 and 25. We and the evacuee participants were very much disappointed at the lack of response by center residents.

It is true that the advance publicity was not of the best. The Block Managers did not make the announcement, as far as we know. It is doubtful if many posted the announcement bulletins. However, many of the evacuees did know that the ceremony was to be held and simply ignored it. A special report is being prepared on the reaction of the people here and will be forwarded to the Director within a few days.

The Center Library will close August 31. One Co-op canteen closed August 15 and another will close September 1st. A liquidation sale will be held September 1 to September 15. The greatest problem with dead stock concerns \$4,000 worth of shoes. The Army Appeal Board left August 14, after conducting twelve hearings. One of the members indicated that many of these would be cleared.

Practically all the appointed personnel worked the two days after the Japanese surrender because of the special train that left Friday. Compensatory leave is being given those who worked during this period.

~~Seabrook~~
~~S. Brown~~
~~3-8-45~~
~~Franklin~~
~~Franklin~~
~~Flower~~
~~One tree~~
~~Jimbo~~
~~Boa chag~~
Fels (ms)

FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING AUGUST 25, 1945

Although only 61 people were issued terminal leaves during the week, it was the best period that we have had for relocation. By Saturday at noon a total of 399 persons had signed requests for departures. This does not mean, of course, that they left, but it does mean that they are going within a short time, that a definite date of departure has been set and that they are being processed in preparation for leaving. On Thursday 98 people requested terminal leave and on Friday there were 101.

It has been announced that another special train will leave here for the West coast area on September 7, and prospects for filling it are excellent. As of Friday night, 285 passengers had signed up. A recruiter from Seabrook Farms came to the project a few days ago, and his visit has resulted in a considerable increase in interest in the Seabrook offer. Thirteen individuals have already registered to accept this employment, and we hope that there will be enough interest to justify a special coach sometime during the first week in September. The second special train from this center arrived in California after a satisfactory trip, with the exception that it was 34 hours late. The WRA representative has reported that meals and service in general were better than those provided for the first train. Two or three evacuee labor recruiters have also been here, and one or two of them appear to have a good chance of taking out a substantial number of workers. These men are working for California companies. The Relocation Officer from New Orleans spent several days here, but there is still not a great deal of interest in relocation in the South. However, one of the men who is farming near Little Rock came down looking for four more families, and one other group has just about closed a deal for relocation in the Little Rock area and if they leave they will take several families with them.

Interviews by the Relocation Division to determine where people wish to relocate and what they plan to do are making good progress. 372 of these were held during the week and Relocation workers report that response to notices is nearly 100%.

Four mess halls were closed this week, making a total of 15 that have suspended operations. It is now planned to keep 9 mess halls open until the project closes, or until some of the blocks are consolidated.

August 25, 1945

Assistance was given a father who went to Little Rock to receive the Silver Star which had been posthumously awarded his son who had been killed in Germany. The newspapers gave the incident appropriate publicity.

An evacuee truck driver was slugged in McGehee by a local businessman after the driver was alleged to have crowded the attacker off the highway. The businessman has been unusually nice to the people here, and it seems probably that the boy was guilty of a flagrant violation of traffic regulations. The incident did not create a great deal of excitement, either at the center or at McGehee. Although the boy talked for a time as if he were going to bring charges against the Caucasian, we think it is doubtful that he will do this because we believe he was probably in the wrong and one charge would bring on another. We have also been informed that the attacker has already pled guilty and has paid a nominal fine.



FILE COPY

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ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 1, 1945

The net population of the Center as of Saturday night September 1, was 3263; the gross figure, which includes those out on short term was 3338. Terminal leaves for August reached 750. This is a little better than we had expected at the first of the month. This figure does not include conversions. Terminal leaves for the week totalled 122. By Saturday at noon 519 had signed up for the special train of September 7. This is the greatest number that has ever signed for one train. 37 people have registered to go to Seabrook Farms and we still hope to get enough additions to justify a special coach.

The two great deterrents to relocation are still (1) housing, and (2) the slow acceptance by local agencies of continuing welfare cases. If relief could be given on these two points we believe we could practically clear this center several weeks before the deadline. The cancellation of exclusion notices should encourage a good many families to leave. Information as to when and where the evacuees expect to relocate has been obtained and is now being compiled and will be in the Washington office by the deadline, September 10.

The Military Police were withdrawn last Saturday and we are now attempting to recruit two more appointed personnel to work at the gate and another for Internal Security. Two gatemen have already been employed and we expect to be able to get two more soon. Ten outside laborers have also been hired. Most of these will work at the warehouses and with freight shipments. Chances seem to be good for us to get several stenographers and clerk-typists from the Pine Bluff Arsenal which is making a drastic reduction in personnel.

The Center movie, which was operated by the Co-op, discontinued operations August 21. The Dry Goods Store and the remaining Canteen will close September 8 after a liquidation sale. One shoe repair shop and one barber shop will remain open for the time being. The Co-op management hopes to dispose of all its property and cash by the end of November.

For the time being, all sections and divisions will observe the 40 hours week except the hospital staff. It may be necessary for some units such as Relocation and Welfare to work longer hours later on. The 40 hour week for most of the project was recommended with this reservation in mind.

FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 8, 1945

The third special train left the Center September 7, for the West Coast Area with 497 passengers aboard. 473 of these were terminal leaves and 20 were short term people or visitors. This is the largest group that has ever left here at one time for relocation. The train consisted of two Pullman cars, one diner, three baggage cars and seven day coaches. Terminal leaves for the week totalled 547. Only one of these was a conversion. As of Saturday night, the population of the Center was down to 2715, plus 75 or 80 out on short term.

It is now planned to send out another special train some time in the last week of this month. We are confident that this can be done but registrations have not yet advanced far enough to decide this for certain.

Hospital and institutional cases are still giving us considerable concern. It would be much easier to move them by special train because they would be assured of a Pullman and would travel as a group. This would make it easier to care for them en route. We hope that every effort will be made to obtain acceptance of these cases by hospitals or other institutions as soon as possible.

It now appears that enough people will not go to Seabrook soon to justify a special car. However, 40 persons will leave for that destination within a short time. This group consists of 10 or 12 families.

Information from the recent survey to determine departure dates and destinations has been compiled and was sent to the Washington Office the latter part of the week. Only 17 families indicated no departure dates. Four of these gave Japan as their choice of destination and two gave Tule Lake. Special interviews for these cases will be conducted immediately.

Because of the scarcity of help the number of evacuee workers in the blocks is being reduced. These include block laborers, clerks and janitors. The reduction is being made only in blocks where the population is below 125.

People from Gila and Poston are showing real interest in the Wilson Plantation offer. It now seems fairly certain that some of the evacuees will settle there.

FILE COPY 2

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 15, 1945

During the week 143 terminal leaves were issued; only seven of these were for return to California since practically all California returnees are traveling by special train. As of Saturday night the gross population of the center was 2640 and there were 75 or 80 people out on short term. Since the first of the year the population loss has been 4684. This takes into consideration births, deaths, seasonal returnees and admittances of all kinds. A total of 1991 people have returned to California from Rohwer since the West Coast was opened.

By the end of the week 265 people had signed up to leave on the special train that is tentatively scheduled for September 28. Nearly 500 passengers left on the train of the 7th but we do not expect this next group to be as large. There are indications it may not exceed 400. For the past two weeks business at the Relocation office has been falling off. For example, after the train of August 17 left, the office was crowded with people making plans to relocate. This was not true after the last train and relocation for the coming week is expected to be unusually low. The reason for this slump is not known but it is possible that the people are waiting to see what happens at Granada. If the program is carried out there according to schedule we believe that there will be few people here who will be inclined to remain in this center until the last.

The personnel problem here remains difficult. The greatest need is still for clerk-typists, clerk-stenographers and firemen. Recruiting is still going on with fairly good success. However, one of the war plants where we had hoped to get workers has advised us that they will not release their employees until the first of the year. The plant that is releasing workers naturally keeps its best people as long as it can. We expect to employ additional fire protection men next week.

Two jail sentences were imposed during the week. Each man was sentenced to two weeks by the Project Director. One had been stealing property from one of the warehouses and the other was guilty of drunkenness and disturbing the peace. It was the third arrest for the latter and he had formerly been arrested for drunkenness in McGehee.

September 15, 1945

The Executive Secretary of the Council, who is also a member of the Relocation Planning Commission, left the center recently to investigate relocation opportunities especially for families who have practically no funds. Most of these people are trying to find a suitable place to farm and at this time a Georgia proposition seems to be the most promising.

The Council minutes mention the fact that one Councilman suggested that requests for additional relocation assistance be sent to Secretary Ickes rather than to Mr. Myer because there seemed to be no chance of getting any favorable action from the latter. It was finally decided to send future request both to Mr. Myer and Mr. Ickes.



FILE COPY 2

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 22, 1945

Librarian
R. Spicer 712
~~Trainer~~
~~Marketing~~
~~Baird~~
~~Edna~~
~~Mr. Lee~~
~~James~~
~~Barney~~
Files (ms)

There was a sharp decline in relocation this week when only 40 terminal leaves were issued. Eight of these were for return to California.

We believe that the chief reason for the slump in relocation is lack of housing. Most of the people remaining in the center want to return to California. Moreover, most of them wish to return to the Southern part of the state where the housing situation is the worst. They know housing is extremely hard to find and they are very reluctant to leave here without some assurance that they are going to have some place to live. In the past several weeks there has been a decided trend in favor of California relocation. This reduces relocation in the East and Middle West but since there is so little housing where they wish to go, there is an inclination to remain here for a while longer. We do not believe there is any increased resistance to relocation, but only an increase in the number of people who wish to go where it is most difficult for them to make a satisfactory adjustment.

The increase in the proportion of welfare cases to the total center population also is beginning to retard relocation. This group is going to be slow to leave as long as there is undue delay in the approval of welfare assistance by outside local agencies. For example, on September 13 dockets on 359 welfare cases were still awaiting approval. No reply has been received concerning 248 of these. Correspondence has been received concerning the remaining 111 but they have not been approved. Approval of 22 cases has been received, if housing can be found for them. As of the 13th twelve cases that had been approved were preparing to leave the center. Of course there have been other approvals besides these but these are the only approved cases that are still here. It also should be kept in mind that these figures change from day to day but they give some idea of what the situation is.

As has been previously reported there are some people here who are waiting to see what happens at Granada. A reliable evacuee has informed us that he talked with five persons recently about leaving and two of them said they were waiting until October to watch the Granada situation.

Another reason why relocation was low this week is that another special train leaves for California on September 28. Most of those going to the Western Area are waiting for it. As of Friday night, 365 people had registered for this train. It is doubtful whether the total will reach 400.

September 22, 1945

Clearance has recently been received for the relocation of 3 families in Hawaii. A group of 38 evacuees from Poston is now living on the Wilson Plantation in Northeast Arkansas. They are reported to be well pleased with the situation and the plantation manager has also expressed satisfaction with his new tenants.

During the past week an evacuee labor recruiter for Becker Farms at Decatur, Michigan, has been in the center with an exceptionally good farm labor offer. The men are wanted for seasonal work and Mr. Becker has agreed to pay transportation expenses to any part of the United States when the work season is over. He also agreed to pay expenses back to the center and board while here and then send them anywhere they wished to go. It was explained to those interested that they could return to the center as visitors for a limited time but in spite of this a misunderstanding developed and Mr. Becker got the impression that they could not return here at all. He called about the matter and the true situation was explained to him. After this had been done he said that he understood our position and his attitude about the whole thing was very reasonable. Meetings were arranged for the recruiter with the Block Managers and other evacuee leaders but only eleven men were signed up for this work although 40 were wanted. The offer was also given publicity in both Japanese and English in the relocation bulletin. We believe that the strong California trend had much to do with the rejection of this offer. Most of the recruiting was among single men and this group is more inclined to take the attitude that the government will take care of them anyway.



FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 29, 1945

Edwards
R. Spier 714
T. J. ...
W. ...
B. ...
F. ...
M. ...
J. ...
B. ...
Files (MS)

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 48 as compared to 40 for the week ending September 22. Relocation for this week would have reached the 400 mark except for the fact that the special train scheduled to leave Friday, September 28, was postponed until Sunday, September 30. Project officials were notified Wednesday at noon by railroad representatives that Army requirements made the delay necessary. Officials of the Community Council, the train monitor and the car captains were notified immediately of the change in plans and they passed the information on to the passengers. Individual notices were also mailed out the next day to each family that was scheduled to leave. In this way a minimum of confusion resulted. Between 355 and 360 people, including a few visitors, will leave on the train Sunday. This group shipped ten car loads of freight and there were three cars of checked baggage.

The relocation total for the month will be approximately 1123. This is the best month this center has experienced. The next best was July when 821 people left. The August total was 752. By September 30 the center population will be slightly over 2100.

After the train leaves Sunday the Relocation Division will be primarily responsible for 462 cases representing about 1350 people. The Welfare Section will still have approximately 500 cases. Since a substantial number of these are single cases they comprise only about 750 individuals. These figures indicate how the welfare group is growing in importance as compared to non-welfare cases. This emphasizes how desirable it is to have reasonably prompt approval of assistance for these cases by outside agencies. However, slow approval of the 390 cases still ranks second as a deterrent to relocation. Lack of housing remains the most serious problem.

The strong California trend reported last week continues. It still slows up relocation to other points where housing is more easily available. Because so many people had said they wished to return to Los Angeles in September but were not able to do so because of lack of housing, a check was made to see if they had been evacuated from that area. It was found that all but two cases were originally from that section.

Only thirteen block mess halls are now in operation and another is expected to close next week.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 6, 1945

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 355. All but 23 of these were passengers on the special train that left September 30. Loading of the train was carried out in record time. Trucks started picking up passengers at 1:05 p. m. and all were aboard an hour later. The train pulled out at 2:05 p.m.

It has been announced that two special coaches will leave for the West Coast area on October 18. As of Friday night thirty passengers had signed up. A pullman will be requested later if it is needed. Because of the slump in relocation it was not thought advisable to schedule a full train at this time.

The housing situation in California is still relocation's greatest handicap. The strong California trend continues and since the people can't find housing there, few are going any where. Until housing does become available it seems that the best thing to do to improve the situation is influence the people to make a second choice and go some where else. At the last staff meeting the appointed personnel were urged to point out to the evacuees the desirable features of relocation outside California. This is also being stressed in the relocation bulletin. Relocation and Welfare workers, in particular, have been asked to emphasize this point of view.

Plans have been made for scheduling departures. Administrative Notice No. 289 was printed in full in Japanese and English in the August 14 issue of the relocation bulletin and was distributed to every family unit. This week a committee composed of the Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, the Assistant Director in charge of Operations, three members of the Relocation staff, the Welfare head and the Reports Officer, was appointed to handle scheduling. The Community Management head was selected as chairman. The Committee met for the second time Friday and tentative plans which had been worked out by the chairman were discussed and approved with minor changes.

The first group of cases recommended for scheduling will be selected by Relocation and Welfare workers during the week beginning October 8. These cases will be passed on by the Committee the week of the 15th. The first notices will be delivered October 22 to the scheduled cases telling them to process their leave papers by October 26. If this is not done a second notice will be delivered on the 29th advising them of the specific day they will be expected to leave during the week of November 5. Actual departure of the first scheduled group will be from November 5 to the 10th.

Handwritten notes:
R. Spencer
E. Brown
J. Smith
B. Brown
H. Russell
M. K. Lee
J. Smith
B. Brown
J. Smith (ms)

October 6, 1945

Five working days will be allowed for each of the five steps in the scheduling process. Each week a new group will be recommended and processed. It is now planned to send out approximately 400 or 425 people each week between November 5 and November 30. There are now slightly more than 400 welfare people who cannot be scheduled at this time and the period December 1 - 15 should give us sufficient time to send out those in this group who are left. The number of people who will leave during the four weeks in November will, of course, depend upon the number who leave voluntarily before November 5. Our aim is to see that every one leaves in November who possibly can and then use the last two weeks to relocate the problem cases.

The Chairman of the Committee will meet with the Community Council and the Block Managers next Monday and Tuesday and will explain the procedure. It will also be explained in Japanese and English in the relocation bulletin.

Approvals of "390" cases are coming in a little faster but many of the approvals are contingent upon housing.

FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 13, 1945

~~Letman~~
~~R. Spaul~~
~~T. J. J.~~
~~Smackling~~
~~Banham~~
~~Flonell~~
~~McNee~~
~~Jenbo~~
Files (MS)

Including five conversions, terminal leaves for the week totaled 73. Except for the previous week when a special train left, this is the best week we have had in a month.

As of Friday night, 93 people had signed up to return to the western area in the two coaches that will leave here October 18. A special coach is also scheduled to leave for Chicago on October 23, and 27 people have registered for it. Approvals of "390" cases are coming in more rapidly and seven of these cases will leave on the 18th.

The recent announcement that scheduled departures will start soon has caused no noticeable reaction among Center residents. No committees of leaders have called on the Project Director to protest or discuss the matter. There was little discussion and only a few questions when the announcement was made at the Community Council and Block Manager's meetings.

It seems to be generally accepted that the people are going to have to leave here. The following paragraph was taken from a summary of the Council minutes of October 1st:

"Inquiry to Gila and Poston as to closing a part of their Centers: The Council decided to send a letter to each of these two centers asking them for the description of how Canal Center and Poston #2 and #3 Centers were closed. Our Center will also be closed within two months and a half, and it is not a bad thing to know how those centers have been closed."

As was reported last week, we are conducting a planned campaign to influence people to relocate outside California. The appointed personnel who come in contact with the evacuees are doing all they can to encourage this. The Executive Secretary of the Council, who is probably the most influential liberal leader left in the Center, returned a short time ago from a prospecting trip in the South, Middle West and East. He is particularly interested in a group of families that have little or no resources. He is convinced that it is better for most of the people remaining here to relocate outside of California and has prepared for publication an excellent statement to this effect. It will be featured next week in the relocation bulletin and will be printed in Japanese and English. In the same issue will appear a statement by the project director endorsing the secretary's views. For the next few weeks most of the other relocation information will point away from the West Coast. We have no definite indication that our efforts in this respect are getting results, but it is

still too early to tell about this. At least it seems to be worth trying.

A spot check of 500 persons showed that 50% wished to return to the Los Angeles area, 25% to North California, and 25% to points outside the state. Relocation and Welfare workers have selected 480 persons to be recommended for the first scheduled group. In this group there are 154 people who want to go back to Los Angeles County, but have no housing there. If they cannot be scheduled out there will be only 326 potential schedulees in the first recommended group. The recommendations will be reviewed by the scheduling committee next Monday, and the first scheduling notice will reach the selected families on October 22. Care will be taken so that there will be few, if any, doubtful cases in the first group scheduled. We do not believe that there will be much difficulty with this first movement. If the housing situation in California improves, we do not expect trouble with the others.

FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 1945

Terminal departures for the week totaled 156. The two west-bound coaches which left McGehee on the 18th accounted for 106 of these. Sixty-one terminal departures have signed for the special coach which will leave for Chicago on the 23rd.

The scheduling committee met Monday to consider cases recommended for scheduled departure during the week of November 4th, by Relocation Division and Welfare Section. Brief summaries of the facts in each case were attached to the folders by the interviewers. These summaries made possible rapid consideration of the cases by the committee. An effort was made to avoid borderline cases in the first group, and practically all those recommended had no particular reason for remaining in the Center. Most of them were waiting on housing or on approval of welfare assistance, and many had set departure dates in October but had not left, only because it was easier to stay than it was to leave. There were a good many cases where it was obvious that people were staying here simply because it was cheaper to do so than it was to join a son or husband on the outside. If the head of a family had not been in the Welfare or Relocation Offices fairly recently, he was called in for an interview so that all information concerning his case would be current before a recommendation was made.

About three-fourths of the people here will return to California and about one-half of the total population wants to return to the Los Angeles area. The next largest group will go to Chicago and the rest to points in the Middle West, East and South.

It is planned to furnish the executive secretary of the Community Council with a list by blocks of all those scheduled to leave the center, so that he can give this information to the Councilmen or to the Block Managers. These people will be requested to see that every scheduled family in their blocks thoroughly understands what is expected of them. Notices of the scheduling were prepared the latter part of this week and will be delivered to the families concerned next Monday. There are several parolees in the scheduled group and a special letter will be sent to them advising them how to get travel permits so that lack of such a permit cannot be used as an excuse to remain here.

In accordance with Mr. Myers recent telephone conversation with the Project Director, cases were scheduled for departure regardless of whether they had housing. The evacuees are being advised that temporary housing will be provided, but they naturally wish to have more details as to its nature and exact location. It would be very helpful and would create a better feeling on the part of those leaving if this information could be provided.

At this time it appears that approximately 560 people will leave Rohwer during the week of November 4. About 450 of these will be scheduled and the remainder will be voluntary departures. About 400 of the schedulees will leave on a special train which has been requested for departure on November 9. In addition to the scheduled group it now seems that there will be somewhere near fifty other people who will be leaving on the train of their own accord. A special coach for Chicago and points east and north has also been scheduled for November 6. Every effort will be made to have the Center clear of evacuees by December 1, with the exception of a few cases that have some special reason for remaining here.

Business is picking up at the Relocation Office. One of the most encouraging signs is the increased number of people who are coming in to have their leave papers processed before they get scheduling notices. We do not believe that we will have any cases that will require forcible removal from the Center.

Railroad equipment for additional special trains to leave here on November 16th, and 23rd will be requested, and another train for November 30th may be necessary. However, only the train of the 9th and the coach of the 6th have been announced, in order to reduce requests from evacuees to be allowed to wait for later trains.

There have been few complaints because of the scheduling program, and the people seem to be resigned to the fact that they must leave the Center. Their chief worry, still, is housing. This is shown by the following section taken from the Council minutes of October 15:

"Our Center will be closed on or before December 15, according to the program. What worries us most is how can we get houses to live after we are sent back to California. Mr. Myer has told us that he would not take us out of the center unless the social agency of the county where we are sent has assured our future, and the living quarters have been found for each one of us. But we have had many reports from those who were sent out of Poston or Gila that great many of them did not have any place, consequently they had to sleep in the tents under the bridge. At Poston a few were even imprisoned for refusing to go out because they had not been able to secure any living place.

"This may be a rumor that City Council of Los Angeles, unable to handle all those forced returnees nor to house them, had to ask Poston Director to hold shipping the people out to Los Angeles area.

"The Council decided after discussing the matter for 15 minutes that they would create a special committee who would write a letter to Mr. Myer and see whether he could provide all the forced returnees with the houses to live and not tents under the bridge. If houses are not available the forced return be postponed until the weather becomes a little warmer. The Body asked Mr. Come and Mr. Marita to be the committee of the Council. Mr. Gomi also appointed Mr. Okubo to be the third member."

FILE COPY

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 27, 1945

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 74. A special coach to Chicago on the 23rd accounted for 59 of these. Relocation for the month of October will reach 360 to 370. This will leave approximately 1810 to 1820 people in the Center on the first of November.

The scheduling program is progressing much better than we expected. Little or no difficulty is being encountered and the number of non-scheduled cases leaving the first week in November is much greater than we had hoped for. 535 people have already processed their papers for departure on the special westbound train of November 9th, and 55 have processed for the Chicago coach of November 6th. Seventy-five others have requested terminal leave for the same period.

The first scheduled list was composed of 450 individuals, but before the first letters of notification could be sent out, 60 of these had signed to leave. Consequently only 390 persons received the first scheduling notice. Of this group all but six families had come in by Friday night and had been processed. We know that at least two of these six families will request terminal leave next Monday. This leaves only four families, at the most, who will receive the second scheduling notice setting the specific departure date. We still do not think there will be any forcible removals among the first scheduled group. Neither do we expect any later on.

The cases of 317 people were considered for scheduling on Monday, October 22, but by Friday night 91 of these had been processed. This is the group that will leave the week of November 11. The first letters of notification will not be sent to them until October 30th.

We are very well pleased with the attitude of Center residents. We were surprised at the large number of people who are leaving voluntarily. Many of them are accompanying relatives or friends who are being scheduled. Others are leaving because they are at last convinced that all the Centers are to close.

A large majority of the people here plan to return to California. Of the group leaving the week of November 4th, 83% are going back to that State, as will 84% of those leaving the following week. However, there does seem to be some increase in interest in relocation outside the West, and we are still doing all we can to encourage this. Four families have signed contracts to farm in Southeast Missouri. The Chairman of the Relocation Planning Commission is having some success in his campaign for relocation in the South and East. A few people have gone to Florida and eight families who wish to settle in the East have been sent to the Relocation office by the Chairman. He expects to take out a substantial group when he leaves here the latter part of November.

The people here are still worried about where temporary housing on the West Coast will be and what it will be like. We would like to have more specific information about this as soon as possible. The lack of outside approval of so many "390 cases" is also still a source of worry. We cannot schedule these until such approval is received and these cases are becoming an increasingly larger part of our remaining population. For example, nearly 33% of the first scheduled group were welfare cases, but only about 15% of the second group were of this type. The first list included most of the approved "390 cases" and consequently the second scheduled group had to be taken almost entirely from among relocation cases. Unless approvals start coming in faster, it is going to become harder and harder to find people who can be scheduled.

~~Sign~~
~~Sp~~
~~2nd~~
~~March~~
~~Bush~~
~~Howe~~
~~Kate~~
FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 2, 1945

~~John~~
files (ms) Relocation for the week totaled 44. The population of the center as of Friday, was 1790. This included 20 on short term leave. Next week the first scheduled group will leave the center. Departures for this period will total approximately 677 people. 561 of these will leave by special West bound train and 70 will go by special coach to Chicago and other points North and East. The remainder of the relocatees will be scattered through-out the country. As previously reported, the special train will leave on November 9, and the special coach on November 6. 468 people were on the first scheduled list for next week but before the first letters of notification could be sent out, 64 of these had already come in and processed their papers for departure. Consequently, only 404 people received the first scheduling letters. Most of these began processing immediately and by Thursday morning of this week, all had made arrangements to leave. All but seven families had processed by Monday morning and three of these came in that day. Three others came in Tuesday and Wednesday and the last man was processed on Thursday. When it became evident that three or four family heads were reluctant to make their own arrangements for departure, the secretary of the council arranged for their Block Councilman or the Block Manager to talk with them and explain the situation very carefully and emphasize the importance of their cooperation with project officials. This was effective in every case except in that of the last man who insisted for a while that he would not leave until the November 16 train. The chairman of the council finally talked with him personally and the man agreed to start making arrangements to leave on the 9th as scheduled.

It was not necessary in any case to send out a second scheduling letter setting a specific date for departure and we are pleased that we were not required to do this.

The scheduling Committee has completed another list for departure the week of November 11. This list also totaled 468, and before the first letters could be sent out, 164 of these had already processed and consequently, only 304 people received the first scheduling notices. By Friday night all but seven families in the second group had been processed and we hope it will not be necessary to send out second letters to these. 303 of the second group plan to leave on a

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special train November 16, and this number will be increased by volunteer departures and by "390" cases that will doubtless be approved in time for the individuals concerned to make arrangements to leave.

Because of the slow approval of the Welfare cases it will probably not be possible to have another special train during the week of November 18, but we expect to have two or three coaches to take all of those who can return to the West Coast at that time. Present plans call for the departure of the last special train on November 30, and we hope that the center can be cleared of all evacuees by that date. It is interesting to note that although no announcement has been made that present plans call for all evacuees to be gone by December 1, this seems to be understood and accepted by center residents.

The campaign of the executive secretary of the council to encourage relocation in eastern states is having some effect. On November 14, a special coach will leave here for points east with a group of people that he has encouraged to relocate in that section. The Relocation Division has allowed him to handle these cases personally and job offers from this area are sent to him. Those interested talk with him first and then if they wish to accept one of the offers, he sends them to the Relocation office to complete their final plans. This man has also been responsible for the relocation of several families in Florida.

A group of 30 people will leave here by special bus November 29, to relocate near Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where they will do vegetable farming. The owner of the land lives at Osceola, Arkansas, and his interest in evacuee farming arises from relocation work done with the Wilson plantation which is near his home.

By the end of the week only 12 mess halls were still open and three and possibly four of these, will close next week. Satisfactory progress is being made in declaring surplus property, although the work is somewhat handicapped because of a shortage of unskilled labor and clerical help. The cotton picking season is now well under way in this section and this makes it difficult to employ unskilled workers to take the place of the evacuee crews. The receiving agencies have turned back to us for disposal certain types of surplus

11-5-45

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property where the items in one classification were worth less than \$300.00. It has been necessary to place a good many of these items in our warehouses and this has also slowed up the property work. The special crew listing and appraising fixed assets have been working here all week and are making good progress. They expect to complete this work by the end of next week.

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of evacuee employees who pick up the freight of the relocatees and center residents have formed groups of volunteers to assist in this work. Even with this help, it will probably be necessary by the second week in November for members of the appointed personnel to be detailed to this work when a considerable group of evacuees leave at one time.

During the month of October bed patients at the hospital decreased from 19 to 13. No cases were sent to outside hospitals.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 10, 1945

~~Lynn~~
~~R. Spence~~
~~Sto~~
Markby
Buckton
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Zuebo
(Jules (ms))

Terminal leaves for the week totaled 681. Of this number, 560 left Friday on the special West bound train and there were 78 on the Chicago coach that left Tuesday. As of Saturday night, the center population was down to 1,103. We expect terminal leaves for next week to reach 575. 409 of these will return to California by special train which will leave November 16. This train will consist of six day coaches and three pullman cars.

A Coach will leave November 14, for Philadelphia and Newark, N. J., with 65 passengers. Practically all of these people were relocated through the efforts of Mr. M. Narita, executive secretary of the council, who is also chairman of the Relocation Planning Commission.

We had originally planned to have at least one or two coaches leave during the week of November 19, but so many people advanced their departure dates into the first two weeks of November it will not be necessary to do this. By November 24, we expect to have less than 500 here and the last special train on the 30th should take care of these.

There are still no indications that there will be any forcible removals and we do not think it will be necessary to send out any second scheduling notices setting specific departure dates.

We have 160 old, single men in the center who have been giving us some concern because of difficulty in processing their leave papers. The trouble is not lack of cooperation on their part but the lack of English and physical strength to get from one office to the other. Most of these people live in two blocks and special notices are being sent to them advising that all necessary papers will be processed in the block mess halls on two specified days. This should eliminate any chance of the closing date arriving with several of these people not having made the necessary preparations to leave, and will also be much more convenient for them and will not cause a great deal of extra work for us.

Lynn
Reagan
2nd
Manley
Banham
Honell
Walter
Wingo
Felso/ms

FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING November 17, 1945

As of Saturday night the Center population was 504. The special train of November 16 carried 450 passengers to the West Coast areas. Of these, 439 were terminal leaves and 11 were visitors. A total of 112 Center residents left for the North and East by special coach on the 14th. Some of these went to Chicago and St. Louis, but most of them were going to New Jersey and Pennsylvania. This is the group that was recruited by the Executive Secretary of the Community Council. All inmates of the hospital and the infirmary (old men's home) left on the train of the 16th.

There will be no special train or coach next week. We expect the last train on the 30th to have approximately 425 passengers, and the last evacuee will leave with this group. On November 29th, 59 residents will relocate to Southeast Missouri. There will be a few scattered departures between the present date and November 29th.

It has not been necessary to send out any letters setting specific departure dates. We are confident that it will not be necessary to do so in the future.

As was reported last week, processing of single, old men will be carried out in the two blocks where most of them live. Relocation workers will go to the blocks on the 19th and 20th and the work will be done in the mess halls.

Termination notices for 29 of the appointed personnel were sent out November 15th. Thirty days notice was given in each case.

FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1945

~~Lynn~~
~~R. Spies~~
~~E. Brown~~
~~Logan~~
~~Drankley~~
~~Bachman~~
~~Blanch~~
~~Winter~~
~~Jumbo~~
Bells (ms)

The last evacuee left here Friday, November 30 at 6 p.m. A group of five left at that time. Four of these went to the East and Middlewest and one to Denver.

The last special train left the project the same afternoon at 4:45 p.m. with 360 passengers aboard.

No difficulties were encountered and loading of passengers was carried out in record time. All evacuee freight, checked baggage and express, were picked up before the train left.

The old, demented bachelor, mentioned in last weeks report, finally signed all leave papers and offered no resistance to boarding the train. When the train pulled out he was in a friendly frame of mind.

It was not necessary to send out any of the second scheduling letters.



Rohwer Relocation Center
McGehee, Arkansas

December 11, 1945

Mr. Dillion S. Myer
Director, War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. M. M. Tozier, Chief, Reports Division

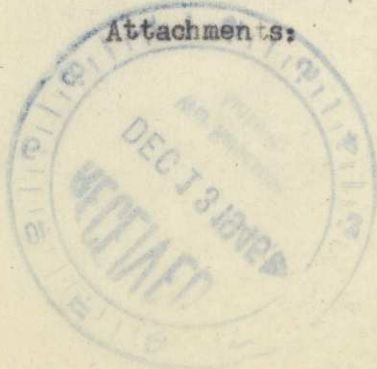
Dear Mr. Myer:

You will find attached the weekly comment by the Project Director for the week ending December 8. Since all evacuees are gone and since all Project operations are now of a routine nature, this will be the last regular weekly report unless we are advised to the contrary. However, any unusual developments will be promptly reported.

Sincerely,

Ray D. Johnston
Project Director

Attachments:



WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
DECEMBER 8, 1945

The last special train that left here on November 30, reached the West Coast in good order and unloaded with a minimum of trouble and confusion. The WRA Representative who accompanied it, had made two other such trips and reported that this last one was the most pleasant of all, in spite of the fact that there were many old and sick passengers.

The declaration and sale of property is making satisfactory progress. Hospital supplies and equipment are now being listed. Drugs and small instruments have been declared and packed and are ready for shipment to the RFC warehouse in Ft. Worth, Texas. This week 32 trucks, 4 tractors, and 1 fire engine were declared. The auto parts are being inventoried and about one-third of the parts have been listed. This work should be completed in approximately ten more days. Plumbing supplies are being listed for declaration and all laundry equipment will be declared next week. Two RFC Representatives have spent all their time here for several weeks and three more are due to arrive next week. The declaration of all project property is approximately one-half complete and we are confident that the remainder will be listed, declared and stored by February 1. This work has been somewhat delayed by the fact that for the last week or two before the evacuees left, many of the property section employees were engaged in picking up and loading freight and baggage and were not working with property.

An orderly reduction in appointed personnel is being made. 25 workers will be terminated December 15, and 25 more will leave by December 31. At that time there will be only 72 allocated employees on the project payroll. There will probably be very few administrative workers here by February 1.

January 1, is the deadline for all final reports and it is believed that this time limit will be met. Several of the reports will be completed by December 15. Lack of stenographic help is the chief handicap in this work.