

J3.88

67/14
c

EMPLOYMENT DIVISION NEWS-LETTER

Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona
June 5, 1943

Handwritten initials

Dear Mr. Cleary:

This is the first in a series of weekly news-letters from Poston. In these informal reports, our primary intent is to present a picture of Employment Division operations at the project level, with emphasis on those activities affecting resettlement. We hope that the information you find here will prove valuable and enable you to keep in closer touch with the pulse of Poston.

RESETTLEMENT SURVEY: You may be interested to know that a recent survey conducted by the Poston Opinion Research Center disclosed that 63 per cent of the people interviewed were eager to leave here. Of these, 66 per cent planned to go out within six months; 38 per cent, within two months. The results were based on the answers of 300 evacuees, representing a cross section of the English-speaking adult population in Poston.

Among the group favorably disposed toward relocation, 32 per cent gave lack of a desirable job opening as the principal reason for not having left before.

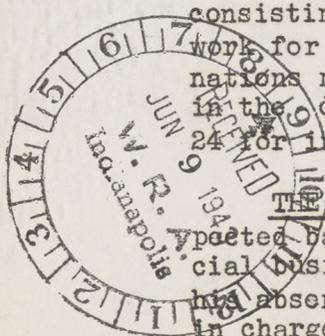
Of the people queried, 28 per cent said that they had no intention of relocating, while 9 per cent were undecided. Factors determining reluctance to leave in 67 per cent of the cases were, in order of their frequency, family obligation, unfavorable sentiment on the outside, lack of parental consent, and no job assurance.

Office consensus assigns a fair degree of accuracy to the survey. The conductors, Toshio Yatsushiro and Iwao Ishino, received special training in poll-taking at the National Opinion Research Center in Denver.

RATE OF RELOCATION: A total of 1384 evacuees have left the Center in the last four months, 580 of these going out on indefinite leaves, 804 on seasonal. These figures cover the period from Feb. 1 to June 1.

The last week of May was the high mark for indefinite leaves with 131 residents departing for resettlement. The largest single group, consisting of 23 evacuees, went to Clearfield, Utah, where they were to work for the Bamberger Railroad. Cleveland and Chicago were the destinations next in popularity, each claiming 14 residents. Also included in the departures during this period were 11 volunteers who left on May 24 for induction at Fort Douglas, Utah.

THE HERO RETURNS: Giles L. Zimmerman, Chief of Employment, is expected back next week-end after a four-week visit to the East on official business, and to attend the birth of his heir. (It's a girl.) In his absence, Edward Nossoff, Senior Administrative Assistant, has been in charge of employment operations on the project.



WASHINGTON VISITOR: Dr. Mary H. S. Hayes, employment officer from the Washington WRA office, arrived here this week to study project employment.

Dr. Hayes, formerly director of the employment division of the National Youth Administration, expects to remain in Poston for about three weeks.

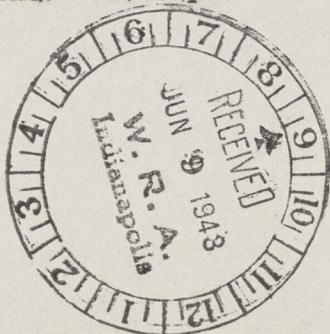
The purpose of her stay, she said, was to make a comparative analysis of the number, types, and essentiality of jobs in the relocation centers. She has already conducted similar studies in Rohwer, Granada, and Jerome.

RELOCATION PAMPHLET: To stimulate resettlement, a five-page pamphlet entitled "Relocation Suggestions" has recently been prepared and distributed by the Adult Education Department and the Employment Division. It is slanted particularly for the residents who are considering outside employment.

Emphasis has been centered on the procedure for getting a job and the subsequent problems the evacuee faces before he finally arrives at his place of work. Proper conduct while on the job is also discussed; for example, "You will be expected to maintain the standards of thoughtfulness, neatness, promptness, and attention that are required of others...Your employer has frequently gone to some trouble in waiting for you to obtain your release, and you owe it to him and to yourself to carry out your side of the bargain. This does not mean that you are expected to work under conditions that are sub-standard for the business or profession in which you are engaged...If you think you are being unfairly treated, you can try to make a better arrangement with your employer. The nearest relocation office of WRA will help you if you need it..."

The pamphlet provides answers to such questions as: What will WRA do for me? How do I get a permit to leave? How do I get to a job? How can I find a place to live? How will people treat me?

CENTRALIZATION: The project offices of the Employment Division celebrated their move into a new location with a house-warming last week. The 40x100 structure, which can probably be most accurately described as a sheet-rock barn, now houses the project leave and employment offices, the headquarters of the outside employment department, the population and census bureau, the departure station, and the fingerprint and photography studio. Placing of all these coordinating departments under one roof has resulted in improved communications and less functional overlaps.



EMPLOYMENT DIVISION NEWS-LETTER

Colorado River War Relocation Project
 Poston, Arizona
 June 12, 1943



Dear Mr. Cleary:

Incoming job offers last month totaled 419, a jump of 110 over the number in April. Poston residents responded most favorably to opportunities in the clerical field, 15 out of the 19 offers submitted in this category finding applicants.

Relatively high, also, was the percentage of response to industrial and professional offers, better than 3/4 of the former and 54.1% of the latter receiving applications.

The number of opportunities in these preferred fields showed an increase in May over the previous month. In April we received 18 clerical, 30 industrial and 21 professional offers; in May the numbers were 19, 60, and 24 respectively.

Percentage of applications to offers also showed an increase over the preceding month. This is particularly true in the clerical and industrial offers, which received 25% more applications in May than in April.

Less popular, as far as percentage in response is concerned, were offers of domestic and agricultural opportunities. An average of one out of four found applicants.

A table showing the numbers and types of job offers in May and the response to them follows:

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	NO. OF OFFERS SUBMITTED	PERCENT OF TOTAL	OFFERS APPLIED FOR	PERCENTAGE APPLICATIONS TO OFFERS	TOTAL NO. OF APPLICATIONS
AGRICULTURAL	33	7.9%	12	22.6%	25
DOMESTIC	282	67.3%	81	28.7%	123
CLERICAL	19	4.5%	15	78.9%	32
INDUSTRIAL	60	14.3%	46	76.7%	155
PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL	24	5.7%	13	54.1%	34
MISCELLANEOUS	1	.3%	1		1
TOTAL	419	100%	168		370

EMPLOYMENT DIVISION NEWS-LETTER

Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona
June 26, 1943

Dear Mr. Cleary:

DIES SUBCOMMITTEE VISITS POSTON: Chairman John M. Costello, Karl E. Mundt, and Herman P. Eberharter, members of the Dies congressional subcommittee investigating the operation of relocation centers, arrived in Poston this week accompanied by a retinue of special investigators, reporters and photographers. They came in on Friday, June 18, and left the same evening.

Apparently the primary function of their visit was to look around--not to put any members of the appointed personnel on the carpet. They toured the camp with Center officials, talking to evacuees, checking the meals served in the mess halls, and peering into cellars excavated under the barracks, where food for the invasion army was reputedly cached.

As far as Employment Division matters were concerned, the subcommittee members showed particular curiosity in an item that had appeared in the preceding day's outside job bulletin. The paragraph in question dealt with an invitation extended by Robert Dolins, relocation officer in Washington, for evacuees to come into his territory without a previous job offer, provided they had Eastern Defense Clearance.

They wanted to know more about this policy, and they asked Giles L. Zimmerman, employment chief, for clarification. They wondered whether this meant relaxation of control, whether it would result in groups of unemployed evacuees roving around vital areas. Zimmerman explained the intent of the policy, apparently to their satisfaction. The somewhat superfluous conclusion was that relocation officers should not invite more evacuees than they could handle. They also were curious about the number of people who had relocated from Poston. That was all...just a couple of informal questions. Other than that, the subcommittee demonstrated little interest in the activities of the Employment Division.

BARRETT IN CENTER: A. Clair Barrett, relocation officer in Reno, Nev., was in the Center for a few days this week to contact individuals for several seasonal work openings. Barrett felt that public sentiment made relocation a particularly tough proposition in his territory. Currently, only 38 people from relocation centers have resettled in the entire state of Nevada.

RESETTLEMENT RATE: Latest relocation statistics indicate that 2362 evacuees have left the Center on seasonal and indefinite leaves since Feb. 1. Majority of departures (1248) are on indefinite leave. Sixty of these are volunteers; 95, students. Most of the remainder have gone out to fill employment offers.

The number of residents departing on indefinite leave passed the 1000 marker on June 8, and we expect it to hit 1500 by the last week in July if the transportation bottleneck is broken.

QUOTA ON DEPARTURES: The Employment Division was faced with an emergency this week when Santa Fe officials phoned Tuesday to advise curtailment of civilian travel over the railroad's eastbound main line. They stressed that civilians would have great difficulty securing accommodations since heavy military shipments were being made over the route until June 29.

Acting on this information, we have limited eastbound travel to Chicago and points between to 10 a day and have strongly encouraged evacuees to postpone their departure until after the 29th.

Poston evacuees who left Monday and Tuesday before the establishment of the quota, as well as those departing subsequently, have found accommodations when they met the train at Cadiz. But they have been unusually fortunate because those same trains left Los Angeles with 200 to 400 civilians stranded at the depot. So far so good--but we have our fingers crossed until the 29th, and we'll probably keep them crossed until after July 4.

CIVIL SERVICE TESTS TO BE GIVEN ON PROJECT: Pursuant to instruction from the Phoenix Civil Service Commission, a three member examining board has been established on the Project to hold written examinations for evacuees desiring to qualify for Federal employment as stenographers, typists, and/or clerks.

On the board are two members of the Employment Division--Ed Nossoff, senior administrative assistant, and Miss Dorothy Stevick. Their appointments, with that of Charles H. Smith, project personnel officer, has been approved by the San Francisco regional office.

Procedure for conducting the examinations was outlined by John A. Tworek from the Phoenix commission on his visit to the Center this week, and with the ground work completed, the first tests will be conducted in the near future.

OFFER FOR BASKET-MAKERS: We want to mention the offer of the Asplin Basket Co., in Cleveland, not because it was such a sensational deal in itself, but because you may be interested in the reason for its appeal to a segment of the population here which had not responded before. Briefly, the company wanted six girls to make baskets and offered to house and feed them for the first month, in addition to paying 40 cents an hour for their work.

This offer was attractive primarily because it neutralized two great fears that most evacuees have toward relocation: fear of insecurity and fear of loneliness. It presented a chance to relocate together with their best friends; and it had the security of a domestic job, without the menial connotations.

MISCELLANY: It's rather a sedate sign that finally went up in front of our building. It reads "Relocation Office," in huge letters, and underneath in smaller print, "Employment Div." and "Leave Office." To the masterminds who racked their brains suggesting slogans, the sign was a disappointment. None of their suggestions were appended---mottoes like "See America First" and "You Have Nothing to Lose But Your Chains."

EMPLOYMENT DIVISION NEWS-LETTER

Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona
July 3, 1943

Dear Mr. Cleary:

LEAVE VIOLATORS RETURNED TO POSTON: Four Poston boys, arrested in Denver for violating leave regulations, were returned to the Project this week, in the first case of its kind since the beginning of the relocation program here. They were taken into custody in their hotel room in Denver by two detectives because they had left Weld County without written permission from the appropriate WRA officers as proscribed by the leave permits.

When arrested, they had been in town for six days, coming there to look for another job following the release from their sugar beet contract in Weld County. They were taken to jail, but were released when Ivor O. Wingren, deputy district U.S. attorney, said that no federal charges would be filed.

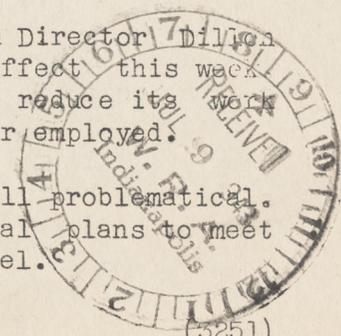
But by that time the Denver Post, with usual restraint, had pounced on the story and featured it on the front page with prominently displayed pictures of the four boys on one of the inside pages. To counteract the unfavorable publicity, Harold S. Choate, relocation supervisor in Denver, announced after a conversation with Dillon S. Myer by telephone, that the evacuees would be returned to the Center at their own expense for infraction of regulations, escorted by Arthur G. Morgan, relocation officer in the Denver area.

On the Project the incident has been used constructively. It was publicized with the names of the boys deleted, as an object lesson. Giles L. Zimmerman, chief of employment, was quoted in the Center press as follows: "This indicates the serious effect that such a violation has on the entire relocation program and on other young men interested in taking jobs...It is important that all persons departing from the Project realize that their action reflects not only upon themselves but also upon all evacuees."

Reports from the Denver and Salt Lake relocation offices indicate that the play given the incident by the Post has had, in one way at least, a salutary effect. Evacuees who had been lax in reporting changes of address have been coming into the WRA offices to get their leave permits in good shape.

PROJECT EMPLOYMENT CRACK-DOWN: Instructions from Director Dillon S. Myer tightening up project employment went into effect this week. Poston will be given from July 1 to September 30 to reduce its work corps to 5600--a 30 per cent cut from the present number employed.

So the ax is poised; where it will fall heaviest is still problematical. The Employment Division is outlining basic operational plans to meet either a 10, 20 or 30 per cent reduction in its personnel.



With the men in the field offices booting in so many relocation opportunities, WRA feels that its responsibility to provide a job for job's sake ends. The solution to unemployment on the Project is resettlement. How great an impetus this gives to relocation will be seen in the next few months.

HEGIRA FROM POSTON: With each passing day, more and more people are leaving Poston. The Center population, as of July 1, was 15,679-- still the highest of any project, but a reduction of 2542 since Feb. 1. In that period, more than half (1334) have gone out on indefinite leave.

We aren't sure where we stand now in relation to other projects, but according to the latest statistics available (June 19), we were second to Minidoka in the number of residents who had relocated. However, in percentage, Poston was about fifth.

DWINDLING PERSONNEL: Two more key workers in the Division answered the call to relocation this week. Ted Hata and Frank Kuwahara, executive aides in Leave and Employment, respectively, blew the town Tuesday, and headed East.

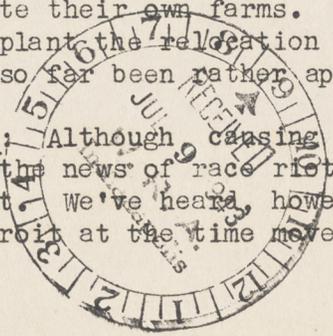
Neither had a definite job offer. Kuwahara's destination was Kansas City, where he had an invitation from Vernon R. Kennedy, relocation supervisor there. Hata intends to resettle in Cleveland, but his itinerary will take him to relocation offices in Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, and Detroit.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEAL: In the process of selection now are representative farmers from Poston, who will tour the Lower Rio Grande Valley in and around Presidio, Texas, and evaluate the land for resettling farming families. The promoters of the deal are willing to pay the expenses of the trip. Although it is not certain at present whether evacuees will be permitted to purchase land in this area, at least a long term lease is guaranteed.

The party will be accompanied on the tour of inspection by N. Harold Mundell, relocation officer in Santa Fe, N.M. After looking over the territory, they will report back to the Project and advise as to the approval or rejection of the deal.

Farmers have responded to the proposition, and many are awaiting the result of this experiment with great interest. As you're probably aware, approximately half the people in Poston were formerly engaged in agriculture; to date not many offers have come in which would enable them to lease and operate their own farms. If the Rio Grande deal turns out all right, it may plant the relocation bug in an element of the population here which has so far been rather apathetic to going out.

MISCELLANY: Although causing a great deal of apprehension among evacuees here, the news of race riots did not impel anyone to cancel his leave to Detroit. We've heard, however, that at least two Poston youths who were in Detroit at the time moved away to Chicago.



EMPLOYMENT DIVISION NEWS-LETTER

Colorado River War Relocation Project
 Poston, Arizona
 July 17, 1943

Dear Mr. Cleary:

Dearth of news compelled us to skip publication of the news-letter last week. But this week we're back at the old stand again. This, by the way, is our fifth news-letter. In each issue, we've tried to focus on the items which we hoped you would find of some value to your work. If we're off the beam on our stuff, don't hesitate to let us know.

EMPLOYMENT OFFERS FOR JUNE: Outside employment offers for June totaled 454--35 more than the preceding month--statistics compiled by the project placement office revealed this week.

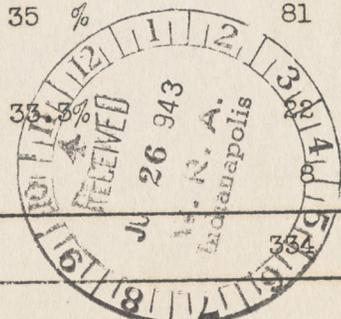
June saw an increase in the percentage of agricultural, clerical, and industrial opportunities, and a decrease in the percentage of domestic and professional-technical offers.

Greatest response was to jobs in the clerical field--48.6% of them finding applicants. Only 19.5% of the domestic offers found applicants. Average of response to offers was 30%--a decrease of 10% from the average of the preceding month.

Although the percentage of domestic job offers decreased in June as compared to May, they still constituted 63% of the total offers submitted.

A table showing the numbers and types of job offers in June and the response to them follows:

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	NO. OF OFFERS SUBMITTED	PERCENT OF TOTAL	OFFERS APPLIED FOR	PERCENTAGE APPLICATIONS TO OFFERS	TOTAL NO. OF APPLICATIONS
AGRICULTURAL	41	9.0%	8	19.5%	40
DOMESTIC	286	63.0%	38	13.3%	117
CLERICAL	31	6.8%	15	48.6%	66
INDUSTRIAL	80	17.6%	28	35 %	81
PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL	15	3.4%	5	33.3%	33
MISCELLANEOUS	1	0.2%	1		1
TOTAL	454	100 %	95		384



1500 INDEFINITE LEAVES SINCE FEB. 1: Number of departures on indefinite leave passed the 1500 mark this week and increased the total of people out of the Center to better than 2760. Of this number, more than 1100 are seasonal leaves.

Poston now leads the centers in number of departures, climbing to the top from last place in March. We're pleased with the performance, but we hope this gentle tom-tom tapping doesn't leave the impression that we consider relocation a kind of a derby, with laurels going to the center with the best-greased turnstile.

MCENTIRE LEAVES WRA: Davis McEntire arrived in Poston Monday evening, ostensibly on the first leg of a routine inspection tour of all the relocation centers. As it turned out, one of his main reasons for coming here was to find out whether Dr. Mary H. S. Hayes, who had been in the Center since late in May, would be willing to take over his job as assistant chief of the Employment Division. She accepted, and left here Thursday night to continue Mac's itinerary.

McEntire, after a farewell picnic at the Colorado River with the project employment staff, departed for San Francisco, where he will begin a study of the racial minority problem on the Coast under the sponsorship of the Commonwealth Club.

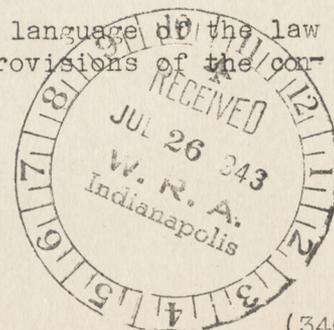
CHICAGO INCIDENT: Elmer Shirrell's teletype giving the straight dope on the July 13 clash between four evacuees and 10 Filipino sailors in Chicago nipped a lot of project rumors in the bud. The wire arrived on the morning that the Los Angeles Times carried a U. P. dispatch stating that the evacuee had been attacked because of some "slighting remarks" about the U.S. Navy.

It was a sweet set-up for an orgy of wild rumors. The situation was bad enough. But Shirrell's report, printed in the Center paper, prevented it from becoming any worse.

The Los Angeles Daily News carried the story as released by Shirrell; but the Daily News has only an infinitesimal circulation here. The papers most widely read are the L.A. Times and Hearst's L.A. Examiner--neither of them distinguished for their love of evacuees.

ARIZONA LAW DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL: The law passed recently by the Arizona legislature prohibiting business transaction with Japanese and other persons whose movements are restricted without publication of notice was held unconstitutional last week by Superior Judge M.T. Phelps.

Among other things Judge Phelps pointed out that the language of the law was ambiguous, indefinite, uncertain, and violates provisions of the constitution.



EMPLOYMENT DIVISION NEWS-LETTER

Colorado River War Relocation Project
 Poston, Arizona
 August 14, 1943

Impact of segregation was felt by all project departments this week. Great deal of current activities centered on it. The Employment Division labored overtime breaking down the names on the stop list into varying shades of negation to question 28; the job was supervised by Fred Okamoto, executive aide to Assistant Chief of Employment Ed Nossoff. Another employment staff member deep in segregation is Ralph Drennen, who is assisting Moris Burge, Unit III administrator delegated to handle the segregation program in the Center.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT: Number of outside job offers received here dropped from 454 in June to 395 in July. We expect this trend to continue at an accelerated rate for the next couple of months in view of the announcement that relocation offices have been advised to funnel all new offers to Tule Lake from Aug. 1 to Sept. 30. And since we're temporarily at the bottom of the job priority hierarchy, with Gila and Manzanar, we anticipate slim pickings during the segregation process.

The July statistical report compiled by the Outside Employment Office also suggested another trend: decreasing response to outside job opportunities. With eligible employees rapidly leaving the Center, the applicants for offers received here are becoming fewer. In May, for example, one out of every two and a half jobs submitted found applicants; in June, one out of three; in July one out of four. Breakdown of offers for July follows:

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	NO. OF OFFERS SUBMITTED	PERCENT OF TOTAL	OFFERS APPLIED FOR	PERCENTAGE APPLICATIONS TO OFFERS	TOTAL NO. OF APPLICATIONS
AGRICULTURAL	65	16.4%	11	16.9%	13
DOMESTIC	195	49.3%	36	18.4%	73
CLERICAL	18	4.6%	4	21.1%	5
INDUSTRIAL	97	24.6%	23	23.7%	51
PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL	19	4.8%	7	36.8%	8
MISCELLANEOUS	1	.3%	1		5
TOTAL	395	100 %	82		155

RELOCATION SURVEY: Results of a relocation survey conducted by the Poston Opinion Research Center among the Japanese-speaking residents here were discouraging but not unexpected. Based on interviews with 300 people representing a cross-section of the issei and kibei, the findings indicated that only about two out of ten were planning to leave Poston, while seven out of ten had no intention to relocate, and one out of ten was undecided.

You will note that this is in almost direct contrast to a similar survey on relocation taken among the English-speaking residents here about a month and a half ago, a summary of which was sent to you in our first news-letter. Among the Poston nisei, 63 per cent wanted to relocate; 28 per cent did not; and 9 per cent didn't know what they wanted to do.

In the current survey, four major obstacles accounted for 87 per cent of reasons offered by Japanese-speaking residents for their reluctance to resettle. They were namely: economic difficulties, difficulties in securing jobs, fear of outside discrimination, and family problems.

One hopeful light, though nothing sensational in the way of manpower, was the fact 33 per cent of the two out of ten who plan to resettle are intending to blow the town within six months.

SEASONAL WORK: Our biggest group of seasonal workers this year, a contingent of 116, left Thursday night for Grand Junction, Colo., on a peach-tomato harvesting deal, and boosted the total number of people out of Poston to well over 3000, of which 1240 are on seasonal leave.

At the Parker station, the departure went off without a hitch, a cause for intense relief among the boys in the seasonal leave department, particularly when they remembered that the preceding three contracts for seasonal labor had been cancelled at the last minute, after the workers had been recruited and were all set to go.

To date, Poston has filled every contract for seasonal work which has come to the Project.

Consensus of the unit supervisors of the seasonal leave department is that a pool of about 500 agricultural workers still exist, and needs only a catalyst of a good proposition to be precipitated out of the Center. There is also strong interest here in seasonal work for girls.

MISCELLANY: First civil service examination on the Project will be held next Saturday for nisei with clerical, typing, and stenographic abilities. In charge is Ed Nossoff. The local civil service board includes, besides Nossoff -- Charles Smith, personnel officer, and Miss Dorothy Stevick, formerly of the Employment Division but now secretary to the Project Director...Thomas Holland, national WRA employment chief, is expected in the Center early next week on a visit.