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YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS
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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Prepared by

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YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

I. INTRODUCTORY: EARLY BEGINNINGS OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Many and varied have been the organizations that have come into being in Poston for the purpose of providing a more wholesome and constructive environment for the youth in the center. Some, like mushrooms, came into existence overnight but were unable to withstand the de-vitalizing heat of Poston's mid-day sun. Others, with roots more deeply planted, and especially those affiliated with national and international youth organizations, survived throughout the three and one-half years of Poston's existence.

Early in the summer of 1942, when the population of Poston consisted only of a small group of volunteer evacuees in Camp I, plans were laid for a "Recreation Department". Shortly after this, a "Recreation Officer" was added to the appointed personnel staff. He immediately approved of the proposed organization to be known as the Poston Community Athletic Association (PCAA). This organization immediately set up plans for a program of sports, and the first "practice" softball game in Poston was played on May 28, 1942. Softball became the "A-1" pastime of the community during the first several months of the camp's existence. Early in the history of the recreation department, a boys' club division was provided for the 8-15 age group "to build the youth physically, mentally, and spiritually, and to assist them to adapt themselves to the changed environment". Girls' clubs were also formed and softball leagues for the older girls were organized during the first summer. Schedules of games were arranged and the games played under the supervision of the leader of women's sports.

After a few months the recreation department was merged into a Community Activities Section in the Community Management Division of the project organization. The Recreation Officer became "Director" of the section.

During those early months various clubs were organized for both girls and boys, and club leaders were recruited from the "college age" Nisei to help carry on the activities of these clubs. In each "quad" in Camp I club rooms were set up in one of the recreation halls.

A "Jamboree" was held early in July in which the following girls' clubs participated:

Entre Nous	Quad A, Junior High Age
Junior Mademoiselles	" B " " "

Juniorettes	Quad A - Junior High Age
We Misses	" G - " " "
Coyotes	" A - High School Age
Scorpions	" B - " " "
Arabettes	" D - " " "
Postonettes	" E - " " "
Poston Debutantes	" F - " " "

Songs, dances, skits, and stunts constituted the program. These clubs were of short duration, but it is likely that they served a very useful purpose in helping girls get acquainted and bolstering their morale while they were adjusting themselves to life in a relocation center.

Soon after Camp II was opened early in July and Camp III in August they too set up their own programs of activities similar to those already in operation in Camp I. A "Sport-O-Cade" sponsored by Camp II was a major feature of the 1943 New Year's Festival and attracted large numbers of sports fans from all three camps.

A very extensive boys' club organization under the Community Activities Section was begun in Camp III during the first year. A "pattern" constitution was set up with the following preamble:

We, the boys of Poston III, in order to promote a spirit of friendliness and understanding among the people of this community; to keep our faith in the democratic principles; to encourage leadership and develop our individual talents; and to prepare ourselves for an easy re-adjustment to normal life in the future; do ordain and establish this constitution for the Boys' Clubs Division.

The following clubs for boys were organized:

Aeroneers	Lancers	Royal Spartans
Bears	Little Giants	Sigma Xi
Block R's	Morgans	Spirit of 308
Cinnabars	Midgets	Trojans
Circle Thirteen	Mutineers	Twenty Square
Eagles	Poston Toppers	20 - 30 Club
Esquires	Rams	Yaboes
Green Bays	Rattlesnakes	Zephyrs
Knights	Royal Dukes	

Only the Esquires and Little Giants survived into the third year, the Green Bays survived through the second year, while all of the others died some time during their first year.

A varied program of activities was outlined for these clubs including major and minor sports, competitive contests, camping, hikes, indoor games, discussions (bull sessions), entertainments, drama and plays, socials, dances, handicrafts, exhibits, etc. Almost before some of the clubs started to function, their leaders left camp. Many of these clubs began as "block clubs" and as school brought closer together the boys from various blocks it is likely that new friendships and mutual interests caused a re-assembling of groups.

Two social clubs for girls in Camp III were organized during the first winter in Poston. These were the Debuteens and the Phylesians. The latter continued their organization on until near the close of the camp while the former survived only the first two years. Other girls' clubs, chiefly athletic, were organized but seemingly were of short duration.

Schools opened in Poston on October 5, 1942, but during the early weeks of their operation very few organizations came into existence. Several factors hindered the beginnings of such. In the first place, students were strangers to each other for the most part. Some few had come from the same communities "back home"; some acquaintances had been made during the summer through community recreational activities but not as schoolmate associates. The school staff had been assembled from various localities and types of schools. The staff members were strangers to each other with very few exceptions. The Poston school system was a new organization. There were no precedents to be preserved or discarded except as such existed in the mind-set of the school patrons, pupils, and teachers. In Camp I there were no centralized school buildings but instead classes were scattered all over the camp wherever some space in a recreation hall could be secured for use five days per week during regular school hours. Often several organizations shared this same space outside of school hours. And in the beginning it was only space. No partitions, no chairs, no blackboards, and no textbooks! A few tables were available at the beginning and others were added as the weeks went by. Camps II and III were more fortunate in having a whole centralized block of barracks set aside for school purposes, but these, too, provided only space and a crude protection from the sweltering mid-day heat and the almost daily mid-afternoon dust storms.

To students who had been accustomed to California's modern, well constructed, fully equipped school plants, the contrast in school environment could be anything but stimulating had other factors, especially those of an emotional nature, not entered

into the picture. It is likely that many of them longed for the organizations and activities in which they had participated "back home" but they saw little opportunity for such in Poston. As time went on, students became reconciled to the Poston environment, and before the end of the first school year student-body organizations, Junior Red Cross Councils, school newspaper staffs, National Honor Society organizations, Agriculture and various other clubs had come into being in each of the schools in the three camps. These organizations will be discussed in more detail in the following section of this report.

II. SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

A. STUDENT BODY AND CLASS ORGANIZATIONS

1. Student Body Council, Camp I

Early in the first school year the Poston I high school organized a Student Body Council in order "to create a student-toverned school". Quoting from the school's little annual of that year, "throughout the year, the Council worked to make the standards of this school as high as those of our former old home schools which Poston students miss so much". The Council was composed of representative members from the various core classes and nine officers. This organizations continued to function throughout the three years of the school's operation.

2. Senior Class Council, Camp I

In January 1943, a Senior Class Council was created followed by the organization of councils by each of the other two senior high classes. On account of its end-of-the-year activities centering about the graduation exercises, the Senior Class Council was by far the most active of these class organizations during the three years of Poston school history.

3. Junior High Council, Camp I

A Junior High Council similar to that in operation in the senior high school was organized early in the second year of the school's operation. One of the major activities of both senior and junior high councils was to plan and put on school assemblies. Until the completion of the elementary school assembly hall in December 1943, such assemblies had to be held at the

Block 4 stage which was more than a mile from the extreme south end of the camp.

4. Associated Students of the Poston II Senior High School

As stated in the preamble of the Constitution of this organization, its purpose was as follows: "to attain a democratic unity among ourselves, develop a competent and aggressive leadership, and to stimulate enthusiasm for the ideals and the efficiency of the school". Its membership consisted of all students in grades nine through twelve. Ten officers elected for the school year and a faculty advisor constituted its executive staff.

5. Student Council, Camp II

This Council was composed of all the officers of the Associated Students of the Poston II Senior High School, all class presidents, one representative from each class, and a faculty advisor. The purpose of the Council was to have general supervision over all students' activities.

There is no record of any junior high school organization in the Camp II Junior High School.

6. Associated Student Body Organization, Camp III

Shortly after school opened in Camp III a temporary student council was formed. It was composed of the executive officers of each high school class. Lack of experienced leaders motivated the formation of a Leadership Class late in November 1942. The purpose of this class was to train leaders in democratic procedures with their accompanying responsibilities so that a unified student body organization could be formed. On December 9, 1942, a Constitutional Convention was held with the members of the temporary student council and representatives elected by the various core classes attending. The Constitution was completed on December 21, 1942. It was not until the latter part of February, however, that officers were elected for the Associated Student Body organization as provided for by the Constitution. These officers constituted the Student Council.

7. Junior Student Body Association, Camp III

This organization was formed during the second year of

the School's operation. These two organizations continued to function with minor changes in procedures until the close of the Poston schools.

B. SCHOOL NEWSPAPER STAFFS

1. "PETRIFIED NEWS" (Camp III Senior High)

This was the first Poston school newspaper. Under the name of "Poston III High School News" this paper made its first appearance on November 16, 1942. On November 30 its name was changed to "Petrified News". It continued to appear weekly until the end of the first school year.

2. "KAMPUS KRIER" (Camp I Senior High)

The Poston I high school newspaper made its first appearance on May 7, 1943 but without a name. The following week it was christened "Kampus Krier" and retained that name throughout the school's duration with its final issue appearing in printed form (previous issues had all been mimeographed) on June 1, 1945, the closing day of all Poston Schools. The paper began as an activity of the first period journalism class, but it was soon seen that more time had to be provided. It appeared as a weekly publication. A staff of twelve members and a faculty advisor were responsible for its production.

3. "DESERT DAZE" (Camp I Junior High)

The first issue of this paper appeared on May 20, 1943 under the caption of "Whutsit", a production of the Poston I Junior High. The issue the following week bore the name of "Desert Daze" and the paper continued its weekly appearance under that name throughout the two following years of the school's operation. The paper was put out by a staff of seventeen pupils representing the various classes in the junior high school and a faculty advisor.

4. "HI TIMES" (Camp III Senior High)

This paper was the successor of "Petrified News" which began its publication early in the first school year. The new name was chosen for the Camp III senior high school paper in the beginning of the second school year, and it continued to be published weekly under this name until the school closed.

5. "JUNIOR HI SPOTLIGHT" (Camp III Junior High)

This paper began its appearance in the fall of the second year of school. The work was done by a news writing class of Junior high school students. It represented the Camp III Junior High School during the last two years of the school's operation.

6. "EL BULLADOR" (Camp II High School)

The "El Bullador" began its publication in October 1943 and continued throughout the remaining two years of the school's operation. It was published bi-monthly by the Camp II High School.

C. SCHOOL ANNUAL STAFFS

1. "EL CHAPARRAL" (Camp II)

The "El Chaparral" was produced at the close of each of the three years of the school's operation by the Camp II High School. This was the only annual that appeared in printed form the first school year in Poston.

2. "MOJAVE MEMO" (Camp I)

A staff of fifteen students of the Poston I Senior High School, under the advisorship of the Director of Guidance, produced a 50-page annual in mimeographed form at the end of the first school year in Poston. "Mojave Memo" was the name selected for this publication.

3. "POST-ANO" (Camp I)

The following year (1943-1944) the name of the school annual was changed to "Post-Ano". A staff of twenty-four students and a faculty advisor were chosen to produce the annual. Owing to the illness and resignation of the faculty advisor and other delays, the first issue of "Post-Ano" was not ready for distribution until shortly after the 1945 and final issue came out. Both issues appeared in printed form.

4. "CAMPUS ECHOES" (Camp III)

The first annual presented by the Poston III High school "Campus Echoes" appeared in the spring of 1944 and a second issue under the same title was produced the following year.

Each of the staffs responsible for the production of these annuals deserve much credit for the commendable jobs they did in spite of the many difficulties and handicaps encountered. The productions compare very favorably with those of outside high schools operating in much more stable and normal environments, and where there is presumably much less emotional disturbance.

C. JUNIOR RED CROSS

In November 1942, an inter-unit all-school Junior Red Cross Council was formed with representatives from elementary, junior, and senior high schools in all three camps. This organization was sponsored by the Junior Red Cross Representative of the Poston Red Cross Chapter and by one staff member from each of the schools represented in the Council. Monthly meetings of the Council were held alternating them among the three camps. The large number of pupils composing the Council, the variation in their ages and interests, and their lack of any background of experience in Junior Red Cross activities handicapped the work of the organization that year. In spite of these handicaps, however, considerable good came from the organization. Each individual class room contributed something along the line of service, and students were made conscious of the fact that their local organization was in reality a part of a large national organization. Membership drives enrolled the entire school population in the organization since any contribution, however small, constituted the membership fee. Exchange albums were prepared by each school unit; bazaars were held in all three camps near the close of school and the funds contributed to the American Red Cross National Children's Fund and other worthy causes; local service was rendered to the patients in the Poston hospital.

During the following two years each school had its own council and faculty advisor and operated as an independent local unit but in close cooperation with the Poston Red Cross Chapter. Practically the entire membership of each school was enrolled in the organization each year, and each council sponsored worthwhile activities emphasizing SERVICE TO OTHERS. The organization sponsored "Accident Prevention Week" each year in each of the three camps; Christmas seals were sold; essay contests sponsored; cards and letters sent to hospital and sanatorium patients. Other activities varied among the different schools.

E. NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Each of the three Poston high schools became affiliated with the National Honor Society organization early in its history. Membership in this organization is limited to those students whose grades average at least a "B-plus" and who are recognized for their character, leadership qualities, and service record. Charter ceremonies, recognition of charter members, initiation ceremonies, and raising funds for scholarships through benefit movies and other methods were among their major activities. The Camp II chapter sent copies of the school newspaper "El Bullador" to former students in the armed forces and also presented a service flag to the school. This seemed to be the most active of the three Poston chapters, and during its last year elected sixteen students to membership out of a high school enrollment of 209 students. Camp III elected seven members during the last year out of an enrollment of 189. Figures are not available for Camp I except that seventeen members constituted the membership during the last school year, but some of these had been members the previous year.

F. GIRL RESERVES

The Girl Reserves, one of the organizations of the Young Women's Christian Association, was very prominent among the organizations of the Camp I and Camp III schools. This organization appealed especially to girls of the junior high school age. These organizations did not become active until during the second year of school.

The "Luanans" and the "Hi-lights" were the two most active groups among the senior high school girls in Camp I. The "T.A.G." group was composed of younger girls which carried on the organization of the junior high school girls after school closed.

In Camp III there were three groups of Girl Reserves known as the "Senior Club", the "Junior Club" and "Little Companions". The latter was composed of junior high girls, while the other two groups were girls of the senior high age.

Further mention will be made of the Girl Reserves in the discussion of the local unit of the Young Women's Christian Association, one of the organizations included among those outside of the schools' jurisdiction.

G. GIRLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Each of the junior and senior high school units in each of the three camps had its own girls' athletic association known as the G.A.A. with an executive staff of seven or eight members and a faculty sponsor. As the name suggests, the major activities of this organization were sponsoring and arranging for competitive games. In Camp III this organization had its beginning in a "Girls' Sports Club" which was organized March 15, 1943. The following year it became known as the G.A.A. as the organization was known in the other two camps.

Some of the stated objectives of these organizations were as follows: "to foster a spirit of cooperation and sportsmanship, to promote higher physical efficiency, to create school spirit, and to have fun."

In addition to their sports program, these clubs also sponsored benefit dances, parties and socials, sold badges for "March of Dimes", raised funds in various ways for school annuals, and other such activities. In Camp III the organization added Christmas caroling to its various other activities.

H. AGRICULTURE CLUBS

These clubs, known as "Ag" clubs, were among the earliest and of longest duration of the various clubs common to all three high schools. While these clubs could not be affiliated with the F.F.A. national organization since the Poston High Schools received no aid from the Smith-Hughes fund for the operation of their agricultural programs, they were patterned from the national organization and often referred to as the F.F.A. clubs. Their major purpose was the fostering of greater interest in agriculture among high school boys.

During the first year the Camp I "Ag" club made two trips to the Parker Rice fields; one trip to see the rice growing, and the other to see the harvesting of it. This club also visited all the agriculture activities being carried on in the project's agricultural program.

The Camp II club staged a "Greenhand Initiation" early in its first year, and at mid-year sponsored a "Winter Gathering". The following year their "Harvest Ball" was one of the outstanding events of the year.

Major activities of all of these clubs included poultry and hog raising projects and truck farming.

I. COLLEGE BOUND CLUBS

These clubs were among the most active school organizations in Camps I and III during the latter part of the schools' operations. They were organized at the suggestion of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council with the full endorsement of the Superintendent of Education and the local student relocation counselors.

1. Poston III College Bound Club

The Camp III high school was the first to organize a College Bound Club. This club was organized with twenty-seven members in December 1943. The membership was confined to high school seniors and the activities the first year were confined largely to the study of college catalogues and planning for college life. They attempted to raise no funds during the first year of their organization, but during the second year they accumulated a fund of \$747.34 by sponsoring movies and concerts.

2. Poston I College Bound Club, Xi Beta Sigma

The following report prepared by the student relocation counselor, a member of the Poston I high school staff, summarizes the activities of this organization:

"The Poston I College Bound Club, officially known as Xi Beta Sigma, was organized October 12, 1944 by one of the high school teachers who was acting as assistant student relocation counselor. It met every second and fourth Thursday throughout the 1944-5 school term. Its membership totaling thirty-nine was made up of sophomores, juniors and seniors.

When the teacher who had organized the club resigned to resume his studies at the University of California on March 1, 1945, one of the junior core teachers became the club advisor. When he left Poston at the close of the school, the club asked the student relocation counselor to meet with the club in the capacity of advisor at whatever call meetings might be necessary during the summer. The first president of the club was a mid-term graduate. She was succeeded by another senior. When he left Poston

at the end of the school term to enter summer school, a sophomore who was vice-president became the presiding officer.

The principal objective of the club was to encourage members of the 1945 graduating class to attend (1) by raising a scholarship fund, and (2) by obtaining and dispensing information about colleges.

Soon after its organization, the club decided to raise a scholarship fund by receiving donations and by showing a movie once a month. The officers and the sponsor of the club, the student relocation counselor, and the superintendent of education, met with the Education Committee of the Community Council and requested the Council's approval of the planned program of movies. Approval was given on condition that the scholarship fund be open to any qualifying member of the Poston I graduating class of 1945 and that scholarships be granted by a reliable community committee.

The first movie, presented in November 1944 netted \$234. Movies were shown for eight successive months, the last being in June 1945. The average expense for a movie was about \$50. The proceeds each month gradually decreased but the net amount raised totaled \$1575.22. By the addition of donations, which continued from October 1944 until October 1945, the Poston I Scholarship Fund totaled \$2300.

At various club meetings, the basis on which scholarships would be awarded was frequently the principal subject for discussion. On April 17, the club officers and sponsor, the student relocation counselor, and the superintendent of education met with the Unit I Education Committee and Public Relations Committee to discuss the matter. It was decided that a scholarship committee (later known as the Poston I Scholarship Committee) should be established to determine the basis for the awarding of scholarships and to pass on the applications. This committee was composed of two members selected by the Unit I Council, three student members to be selected by the College Bound Club, and three representatives of the faculty, the latter to include the sponsor of the College Bound Club and the student relocation counselor.

Of the twenty-five seniors who were members of the club, fifteen applied for and received scholarships of \$125 each.

Three other seniors, non-club members, were also awarded scholarships for the same amount.

Eight club programs included guest speakers, the most helpful one, perhaps, being Mr. Tom Bodine, Field Representative of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. The club regularly contributed to the school paper articles concerning colleges and college attendance. These totaled approximately thirty articles. It was at the request of members of the club that a course in college preparatory English was made a part of the school program during the second semester. The group popularized the student relocation office, and in general, kept interest in higher education growing.

The social life of the club was vitalizing, though for the most part, modest. The most elaborate social of the season was the farewell party given for the club's first advisor at which he was presented with fifty dollars as a gift from the club. The refreshments were paid for by special donations from the faculty. One Saturday the the group joined the Poston III College Bound Club for a bicycle ride and picnic. Two parties were given for departing members of the group. After each movie showing, the group cleared the auditorium of chairs and swept the floor. At the completion of these tasks, the students enjoyed refreshments which were paid for from the petty cash fund accumulated by setting aside five dollars from the proceeds of each movie.

The last meeting of the club was held July 26, 1945, at which time only nine members were still in Poston."

The foregoing report is cited in full since it gives a rather complete picture of the activities of one of the most outstanding and successful school clubs of Poston's many such organizations. Doubtless, its influence through its members who have been sent on to college is the most far reaching of any of the Poston youth organizations.

J. VARIOUS OTHER SCHOOL CLUBS

1. Camp I

Very few school clubs were organized in the Poston I high school during its first year. Four of sufficient importance and duration to receive mention in "Mojave Memo",

the school annual, of that year represent the achievements along this line. These four clubs were as follows:

- a. Ciceronian Speech Club
- b. Latin Club
- c. Math Club
- d. Sigma Pi Sigma (Senior speech club)

The names of these clubs indicate their nature and purposes. Reports as to their activities are very sketchy but indicate that such were both social and literary in nature.

During the following year twenty clubs in addition to the organizations perviously discussed were recognized in the school's organization. Listed alphabetically, the names of these clubs were as follows:

- a. "A.C.S." (Associated Christian Society)
- b. Commercial A Club
- c. Commercial B Club
- d. Desert Study Club
- e. El Dorado (Spanish Club)
- f. Forum and Debate Club
- g. Hobby Crafts Club
- h. Home Economics Club
- i. Latin Club
- j. Lettermen's Club
- k. Model Airplane Club
- l. Penettes (a correspondence club)
- m. Pi Sigma Math Club
- n. Science Club
- o. Sigma Mu Beta (Hi-Y's)
- p. Sigma Pi Sigma (Senior speech club)
- q. Societas Latina (Poston chapter of the nation-wide Junior Classical League)
- r. Stamp Club
- s. Top-Hatters (a dramatic club)
- t. Tri-Y Club

For some reason only one of these clubs received sufficient impetus during its previous existence to carry over into the final year of the Poston Schools. A new club, Girl's League, was organized in the fall of 1944 under the sponsorship of the head home economics teacher. Its objectives were to bring the girls of high school age closer together; to become better acquainted, and to be

more sociable. Its activities included a "skirt session", picnics, hikes, and a fashion show.

2. Camp II

In addition to the organizations previously discussed, only one other club, a Spanish Club, is included in the records of the Camp II school during its first year. This club was carried on through the following two years of the school's duration.

During the second year an Art Club appears on the records, also a Quill and Scroll Club was organized. The latter received its charter as a member of the International Honorary Society for high school journalists in April of that year. Neither of these two clubs left any records of activity during the third year. No new clubs were organized that year.

3. Camp III

On March 22, 1943 a club program was initiated into the Camp III high school organization with the formation of sixteen clubs. A different period each day of the week was set aside for club activities with no classes meeting at that time.

With reference to these clubs, the following is quoted from the Associated Student Body History for 1942-3:

"Feeling that the meetings were too frequent and that the much needed education hours were being wasted, the students were at first reluctant to accept the new program. Although all the clubs are not as wholeheartedly supported as is the case with others, many of the students now feel that the activity is worthwhile. Among the clubs that came into being through this system were:

Art Club	Knitting Club
Badminton Club	Latin Society
Better Manners Club	Mathematics Club
Bird Club	Music Club
Commercial Club	Ping Pong Club
Dramatics Club	Reading Club
Girls' Athletic Club	School Gardening Club
Home Economics Club	Spanish Club

Whenever a thing is superimposed from above there is apt

to be a lack of enthusiasm on the part of those imposed upon. This year the club program might not have materialized as successfully as had been hoped, but we have established a foundation for the building of a better program for next year."

Records indicate that none of these sixteen clubs continued as such into the following school year, but that a new program of activities was set up in December 1943, including the following organizations and number of students participating in each:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
Annual Board	13
Art Club	36
Agriculture Club	16
Badminton Club:	
Senior High Group	9
Junior High Group	38
Beginners' Band (two sections)	60
Boys' Club (Junior High Boys)	18
Boys' Cooking Club	30
Boy Scouts	42
Chemistry Club (two groups)	55
College Bound Club	27
Commercial Club	16
Dramatics Club (two groups)	15
Girls' Glee Club:	
Senior High Group	32
Junior High Group	70
Girl Reserves	26
Girl Scouts	33
Hi Time Publishers	12
Junior High Girl Reserves	12
Junior High Student Council	5
Junior High G.A.A.	97
Letterman's Club	50
Mixed Chorus	10
Model Airplane Club	21
Music Appreciation	10
No Man's Club	43
Orchestra and Band (advanced)	14
Photo Tint Club (two groups)	43
Radio Club (two groups)	58
Science Club	16
Senior High G.A.A.	57
Senior High Student Council	19

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
Sewing Club	7
Social Dancing (three groups)	140
Speech Club	30
Spot Light Publishers	5

Some of these organizations have already been discussed as among those common to more than one camp and most successful in their operation, but they are also included in this list in order to give a more complete picture of the scope of the activity program as it was set up that year and the number of students enrolling as participants in each activity.

Records do not indicate how many of these organizations survived until the end of the school year, but the final year of school found very few of them in operation with the exception of those previously discussed.

Thus it would seem that the second year of school in Poston was the heyday for school organizations in both Camps I and III. As has been pointed out previously, many factors were responsible for the lack of student organizations in the beginning of the Poston schools. By the second year, schools had become recognized as such by the students, and they were more ready to respond to any attempts to make Poston schools more like those "back home".

Student organizations require leadership, and with the stronger leaders relocating in much greater numbers proportionally than the follower type, it was very hard for any organizations to keep a continuous program of activities going except in cases where an unusually strong faculty advisor continued to stimulate those remaining. These advisors too were leaving at frequent intervals, and oftentimes their going meant the discontinuance of the organization.

By the beginning of the third year, so many student leaders had relocated that most of the student organizations, especially the local clubs, whose activities were largely the creating of the group leaders, were not revived. Before the end of the first semester, the closing of the Poston schools at the end of the current school year was announced. This meant that there was little enthusiasm for creating or reviving clubs for the short duration.

K. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

Aside from the Junior Red Cross organization which has been previously discussed, very few attempts were made to organize any

clubs in the Poston Elementary schools.

At the insistence of a group of sixth grade students in Camp I early in the school year, 1943-4, a Stamp Club was organized with one of the sixth grade teachers as advisor. The club was composed of about fifteen sixth grade students, and it continued to operate throughout the remainder of that school year. Aside from collecting and exchanging stamps, much information was gained from reading "Stamp News" and other publications concerning sources through which stamps could be obtained and the various methods of organizing and arranging stamp collections. Much interest was also stimulated in geography and history through the learning of the significance of various stamps collected.

Shortly after the sixth grade stamp club began to function, another group of sixth graders decided they wanted to form a Nature Study club. As one of their teachers was very much interested in desert wild life, she quite willingly agreed to act as sponsor for the club. For a time this group was very active and made many trips to the desert for the purpose of studying desert plants and animals and collecting specimen. While this club was discontinued before the end of the school year, interest in desert life continued among its members.

Active organizations of Cub scouts for the younger boys, regular scouts for the intermediate boys, Brownies for the smaller girls, and an intermediate scout troop for the older girls provided club activities outside the jurisdiction of the school for the elementary school pupils. These organizations will be discussed further on in this report.

III. YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOLS' JURISDICTION

This section of this report deals with those youth organizations outside of the jurisdiction of the school which have survived over a long enough period and left sufficient evidence of their activities to receive further consideration. As has been indicated in the introductory section of this report, many organizations of various types had their beginnings during the early months of Poston's existence. Unfortunately, many of these have left only very sketchy, if any, records of their activities. In the constant stream of emigration from Poston after the relocation program was launched, community leaders have been most prominent among the relocatees. In spite of this constant change in leadership, however, some organizations have survived and doubtless have made very positive and constructive contributions to the life of Poston youth.

Since it is impossible to rate these organizations in terms of their relative contributions and list them accordingly, an alphabetical arrangement has been used. Often time more than one individual organization belongs in the same category, hence the arrangement is by categories instead of by specific organizations.

A. CLUBS AND MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Reference has already been made in the introductory section of this report to a large number of boys' and girls' clubs organized in all three camps during the early months of life in Poston. Since most of these faded out of the picture of Poston after only a short duration and left no record of their activities, their names will not be repeated in this section of the report.

As the more mature and experienced club leaders left camp and the organizations sponsored by them gradually died, "block clubs" with varying degrees of organization were formed in many blocks and often times without sponsors. No records exist as to the number, duration, or activities of such groups. The following accounts of two such clubs illustrate some of the more prominent among such organizations.

1. Starlites, Camp I

This club was organized in August 1943 for girls from twelve to sixteen years of age and its purpose was to associate with girls in the block. Their activities consisted of holding business meetings, swimming, hikes, and picnics. Four members of the original fifteen belonging to this club relocated during the ensuing year and, on December 9, 1944, the remaining eleven members decided to join the Girl Scouts.

2. Stardusters, Camp I

This was a club for girls eighteen years of age and older. There were eighteen members when the club was organized in October, 1943. Their activities consisted of demonstrations on good grooming, cleanliness, posture, make-up, manicuring, and clothes. This group sponsored a T.B. Benefit Dance as one of its community services. For a time the group made its presence known in the camp, but owing to relocation of its leaders, it finally faded entirely from the picture.

B. RED CROSS ORGANIZATIONS FOR POSTON YOUTH

The Poston Chapter of the Red Cross provided its share of acti-

vities for the youth of Poston in addition to its efforts in sponsoring the Junior Red Cross organization within the schools. While these outside-of-school activities were designed for adults as well as youth, the latter probably were the chief recipients.

1. First Aid Training

During Poston's first year there was an enrollment of 450 in First Aid Courses, and the next year it increased to 600. Owing to relocation the enrollment was considerably less during the last year. Figures were not available to show just what per cent of the enrollees were members of Scout Troops or of high school age, but effort was made to enlist as many of these as possible in the First Aid training program.

2. Swimming

Regular classes in swimming in all three camps and for all age groups were sponsored by the Red Cross. Large numbers of both elementary and high school pupils were enrolled. Swimming was one of the most popular pastimes during the long summer months in all three camps even though at times health authorities warned of the dangers of infections from the polluted water.

3. Water Safety training

The Life Saving training program included Beginners, Intermediate, Junior, and Senior Life Saving courses with the total enrollment reaching a peak of 338 during Poston's second year.

C. RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUTH

1. Young Buddhist Association (YBA)

Early in Poston's existence, this organization became very active and remained so until near the close of the center. The Camp I YBA was formed June 7, 1942 with 750 members; the Camp II YBA was organized the following month with 700 members; the Camp III YBA had its beginning shortly after the opening of that camp in August 1942. While each camp maintained its own local organization, All-Unit Forums sponsored by the Camp I YBA were held each year.

In January 1943, these organizations sponsored an Infantile

Paralysis Fund Dance in each of the camps. The following years the YBA led the campaign for funds during the Infantile Paralysis drive. Many social affairs, both within each camp and between camps, were sponsored by these groups. They were also active in organizing and conducting a summer vacation religious training school for children.

The Camp I YBA published a small paper called "The Bussei Bugle". A similar publication, "The Bussei Review" appearing bi-weekly, was put out by the Camp III YBA.

2. Catholic Groups

Comparatively speaking there were very few Catholics among the people of Poston, but the priest who had his headquarters in Parker closely shepherded his flocks in each of the three camps and made his influence for community betterment felt by all regardless of religious affiliations.

a. Altar Boys' Club

As its name suggests, this organization was composed of the altar boys of the Catholic church and designed for both religious training and social fellowship. The priest sponsored the club.

b. Young Ladies' Sodality

This was another organization of the Catholic church designed for the young women. Records of its activities are not available but it received frequent mention among the organizations of Poston and continued throughout most of the camp's duration.

3. Christian Organizations

A Union Christian Church organization was set up early in the operation of each of the three camps and Protestant Japanese ministers, regardless of denomination, served as pastors of these churches. Separate services were held for both Issei and Nisei, and the latter carried on an active young people's organization in addition to the regular weekly Sunday School and worship service.

a. Young People's Forum, Camp I

This was the name applied to the young people's organi-

zation in Camp I. It is described as follows by one of its leaders:

"During its existence of three years, the Young People's Forum has played a very important part in both church and community activities.

"The objectives were first to develop a well rounded Christian character, and second, to serve the Lord in every capacity for the betterment of the community.

"In the earlier stage, the Forum had four groups each meeting on Sundays in their individual parishes, but later they met in two groups at parishes Two and Four. The trend of meetings varied such as having topics for discussions, panel discussions, missionary speakers, and special guest speakers.

"The Forum sponsored socials after evening church services, sang in mass choirs for special occasions, fixed up young people's rooms for the young people of the community to relax in and have fellowship. The girls made corsages for the mothers to wear to the special Mother's Day services each year sponsored by the Forum. Also funeral sprays were made for the deceased who had some connection with the church. Last year before Christmas the combined Young People's Forum groups sponsored a Christmas Seal program presenting a radio skit.

"In the uplifting of the morale and the betterment of the community, the Young People's Forum groups have been valuable."

b. Youth Fellowship, Camps II and III

Except for the difference in name, this organization, common to both Camps II and III, was very similar to the Young People's Forum in Camp I. Since the latter has been described in some detail, it would be almost repetition to discuss the purpose and activities of these groups.

The open, frank, discussions carried on by all of these groups, occasionally led by a visitor from the outside or a staff member, but most frequently by one of their own group, were invaluable in helping these young people to make adjustments to life in Poston and in preparing them "to go outside". Relocation began early to take its toll from the leaders of these groups resulting in a constant change in leadership.

c. Young Men's Christian Association

This organization, commonly known as the Y.M.C.A. never became firmly established in Poston. Early attempts were made in both Camps I and III to form a Y.M.C.A. by groups of young men who had worked in this organization before coming to Poston, but either the draft or relocation called these leaders away before the organization became perfected.

d. Young Women's Christian Association

The history of the Y.W.C.A. in Poston begins early in the summer of 1942 under the leadership of trained Japanese "Y.W." secretaries from California cities. An Advisory Board was set up under the guidance of the wife of the Assistant Project Director. It was composed of both evacuees and members of the appointed personnel group. This early organization, however, was only local except in name, and did not become affiliated with the national organization until June 1944.

A representative of the National Y.W.C.A. organization who was later made Secretary of the Japanese Evacuee Project visited Poston in the fall of 1942 and conferred with the local Y.W.C.A. leaders and with leaders of the then existing boys' and girls' clubs. She also made other visits to Poston at later dates and kept in touch with the activities of the Poston organization.

It is impossible to state just how many and to what extent the early clubs for girls in Poston were sponsored by the Y.W.C.A. but by the spring of 1943 Girl Reserve groups definitely under the sponsorship of the Y.W.C.A. had been formed. This organization is really a division of the Young Women's Christian Association designed for girls of the junior and senior high school age. It has been discussed previously in the section dealing with school organizations. In Poston, however, groups were formed for out-of-school girls as part of the Girl Reserve organization. A report made in April 1945, showed the following groups of Girl Reserves active at that time and the number of participants in each:

- (1) Hylites - 17 members.
- (2) Luanans - 19 members.
- (3) Reenoips - 12 members.

- (4) T.A.G's - 11 members.
- (5) Junior Coeds - 6 members.
- (6) Tri-V's - 5 members.

In the spring of 1943, a Junior Business Girls' Club, another organization of the Y.W.C.A. was formed, but owing to the rapid relocation of members of this group it did not continue active.

Through relocation and changing personnel the first Advisory Board also ceased to function and finally disintegrated. A new Advisory Board was set up in May 1944. One of the early activities of this board was to get the local Y.W.C.A. recognized as a "Registered" organization. Camp III was represented in the membership of this board. No attempt was made to organize a Y.W.C.A. program in Camp II since the Girl Scout organization was operating so effectively in that camp.

One of the activities of the local Y.W.C.A. organization that perhaps was most outstanding in its contribution was sending representatives to summer camps and conferences. This activity reached its peak in the summer of 1945 when about a dozen girls were sent to a camp at Prescott, Arizona, and to the Sierra and Covina Camps in California. Representatives were chosen to go to these camps from each of the Girl Reserve organizations as well as some representatives from Camps II and III. In January 1945 Girl Reserve leaders under the chaperonage of one of the evacuee high school teachers attended a conference in Phoenix. In June 1944, two representatives from Poston attended the ten-day Girl Reserve conference at Camp Lookout near Golden, Colorado. In April of that year, two other representatives were sent to the Southern Regional Y.W.C.A. Conference at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Reports brought back to Poston by these various representatives did much to assure other members of the groups that attitudes of friendliness and goodwill did exist toward Japanese Americans on the outside. On the other hand, it is likely that these representatives, who were usually outstanding in leadership qualities, did much to assure outside groups that these Japanese Americans were worthy of their friendship.

Other activities of the Y.W.C.A. and Girl Reserves included helping to set up the U.S.O. centers, collecting donations

and sending Christmas gifts to overseas soldiers, making up Christmas packages for soldiers in camps here in the states. On one occasion a Girl Reserve quintette sang for the Parker Woman's Club.

Much emphasis was placed upon the Girl Reserve Ring Ceremonial - the concluding program being held August 12, 1945.

A committee of the W.W.C.A. Advisory Board was named to make final disposition of the equipment belonging to the local organization. It was decided to give the furniture to the Hopi Indians who had recently moved into Camp II to be used in their Community Hall. The dishes owned by the organization were to be sent to the Evergreen Hostel in Los Angeles. Office equipment and files were to be sent to the Y.W.C.A. headquarters in Los Angeles.

D. SCOUT ORGANIZATIONS

The Scout nation-wide organization offered an excellent opportunity for youth groups in the relocation centers to become affiliated with a national program typically American in its nature and one in which neither race, color, or creed are barriers to membership.

1. Boy Scouts

Early in the life of Poston contacts were made with the National Headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America for the purpose of organizing a scouting program in Poston. Late in September, 1942, the Deputy Regional Executive and Scout Executive from the district of the Arrowhead Council, San Bernadino, California, visited Poston to get a better picture of the set-up in order to outline a plan of operation.

Fortunately for the organization, the Camp II Unit Administrator was very much interested in scout work and gave invaluable help and support in getting the organization set up. In a report submitted by him to the head of Community Activities under date of February 11, 1943, the following information is found:

a. Membership

Poston I - not yet organized.

Poston II - 154 Boy Scouts, 36 scouters, 42 Cub Scouts, 14 Cub Scouters.

Poston III - 19 Boy Scouts, 5 Scouters

b. Date Established

First troupes registered November 1, 1942.

c. Main Activities

Flag raising ceremonies and pledge of allegiance at all special gatherings, washing dishes at banquets, removing hazards within the camp, keeping Cottonwood Bowl show grounds clean, assisting as ushers, entertaining at talent shows.

Later in the spring of 1943 the Camp I troop was organized.

Under date of August 23, 1943, a "Statement of Relationships between the Boy Scouts of America and War Relocation Authority" was sent out from the W.R.A. office in Washington. The stated purpose of this communication was to set down in written form the main points concerning the establishment and operation of the scouting program within the centers.

Insofar as possible the activities of the Poston troops were patterned from the regular Scout activities in outside communities. One of their major activities in Poston was the sponsoring of the waste paper drives, collecting the paper, and loading it into the freight car at Parker. Poston Scout troops received \$280 from this project.

Like all other youth organizations, especially those of boys, the lack of leadership handicapped greatly the work of the organization. With both relocation and the draft calling young men most capable of leadership, and with the constant changing in the appointed personnel staff, the number of available leaders was very small in comparison with the number of organizations and younger boys needing guidance.

In April 1945, the following Scout groups were operating:

a. Camp I

Troop 100, 29 members. Four patrols: Hawk, Eagle, Lion, Wolf.

b. Camp II

Troop 122, 7 members; troop 124, 15 members. No divisions

into patrols mentioned in report.

c. Camp III

Troop 130, 27 members. Three Patrols: Tiger, Flaming Arrow, Wolf.

While figures are not available for the preceding year, it is likely that the membership was much larger.

2. Girl Scouts

This was one of the "peppiest" organizations common to all three Poston camps. During the first year in Poston the Girl Scout organization became affiliated with the National Girl Scout Organization under the guidance of the Big Tree Regional Office at Palo Alto, California. National representatives of the organization made several visits to Poston.

The objectives of this organization are character building, education, recreation, and community service.

Activities of the Poston Girl Scouts were similar to those of outside groups.

Under date of January 20, 1944 the W.R.A. office in Washington sent out a "Statement of Relationships between the Girl Scouts and the War Relocation Authority" very similar in nature to that sent out the preceding August with reference to the Boy Scouts. While their programs had already been going for some time rather strongly, especially in Camp II, this recognition of the importance of the organization in relocation centers provided an added stimulus.

The Camp II Girl Scout organization considering the entire three-year period of the center's operation, was perhaps most active. Its activity and the large number of girls enlisted in its program in comparison with the camp's population accounts perhaps for the fact that there were fewer other organizations for girls in this camp. The first recorded minutes of the Camp II Girl Scouts are dated December 14, 1942. Twelve troops were organized in Camp II distributed with reference to age groups as follows:

Senior - Three troops
Intermediate - Four troops
Brownie - 5 troops

The Girl Scout organization was rather slow in getting started in Camp III but during the third year the following groups were active,

Senior - one group of about thirty members

Intermediate - one group of about twenty members.

Brownie - three groups of about seventy-five members in all.

These Camp III groups seemed to be more closely related to the other school organizations than in the case of the other two camps even though the teachers in the latter served in the capacity of advisors to the Girl Scout group leaders.

The peak of activity and maximum membership in the Camp I Girl Scout groups were reached in May 1945. There were eleven troops as follows:

Senior - one troop with ten members

Intermediate - five troops with sixty-eight members.

Brownie - five troops with fifty-four members.

Eighteen leaders and ten other adults who served as troop committee members sponsored the organizations. These twenty-eight persons consisted of both evacuees and appointed personnel.

E. SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

Many and varied were the sports teams organized in the three camps, especially during Poston's first year. Some mention of these has been made in the introductory section of this report. As time went on, over-all organizations began to take more definite form, and many of these earlier clubs and teams became associated with or a part of the general set-up. Throughout Poston's existence, sports played an active part in the activities of the community. The following is quoted from a seventeen-year old Nisei girl during the second year of her stay in Poston.

"The games here in camp were quite exciting the first time we were here, but now they have failed considerably to the extent that all of the good players have relocated or have been drafted. Still, the basketball games that are held in the evening are quite good and the people respond to them."

While the two over-all organizations discussed in the paragraphs

which follow headed up sports activities for all ages and could not be considered exclusively as youth organizations, they did sponsor out-of-school sports for those of school age as well as for the older men and women.

1. Poston Community Athletic Association

This organization, referred to in Camp I as the PCAA, in Camp II as the PC2AA, and in Camp III as the PC3AA, was the over-all framework for the men and boys' sports activities in the three camps. It was directly under the Community Activities section and its workers were paid evacuee employees.

Its activities included the arranging of schedules among the various sports leagues and teams and having the over-all supervision of all sports outside of the jurisdiction of the schools. Softball in summer, basketball in winter, judo, sumo, wrestling, and boxing were major sports in the camps.

During the first year this organization sponsored a number of boys' sports clubs for the ten-to-sixteen age group in Camp I. Twelve such clubs were organized under the following names: Mohawk, Incas, Black Feet, Cherokees, Kiowas, Apaches, Iroquois, Pawnees, Torres, Aztecs-Sioux, Flat Heads, Comanches. Choosing names of Indian Tribes as club names seems to have been quite the fad at the time these clubs were formed.

Nothing was reported concerning these clubs as such after the first year. Outside-of-school sports, however, were continued by school boys under varying degrees of organization and supervision.

In the spring of 1945, through a series of inter-camp elimination games, the Camp III softball and basketball teams were selected to go to Phoenix to represent Poston in a series of games arranged through the Phoenix Y.M.C.A.

2. Poston Women's Athletic Union

Before any over-all organization was set up, the young women and girls of Poston had an active program of sports in operation. "Junior", "Senior", and "Married Women's" volleyball leagues, each with many teams, bearing names ranging from the mere number of the block to such names as "Chickadees", "Tosserettes", "Hi-jinx", were active. Practically every block had its team.

In the fall of 1942 an over-all organization was formed and named the Poston Women's Athletic Union^a (P.W.A.U.) Its purpose as stated in its constitution was as follows:

"The purpose of the P.A.W.U. shall be to organize and stimulate interest in the physical, social, and recreational activities among women of Poston, and to promote a spirit of democracy and sportsmanship, also to strive for healthy and clean living.

While the staff of this organization was never as large or its activities as extensive, yet it functioned in much the same manner as the PCAA.

Similar organizations for organizing and handling women's and girls' sports were set up in Camps II and III.