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⑦ Administration

Background data on  
Appointed Personnel



Project Director: W. Wade Head.

Via Ted Spicer

9/20/42

approx. 40 years old. Born in Arkansas but moved to Oklahoma in teens. His first job was collecting bills for his father who was a successful doctor. After graduation from college served as principal of school in Oklahoma. In late 20's went to the Philippines and became director of one of the most successful agricultural schools there. Was close to Quezon. His wife also was a principal in one of the schools there. The agricultural school was located out in the hills and it was necessary for Head to learn the native dialect. Had about 2500 students.

One of the annual reports Head wrote about this time got into the hands of the Indian Service which was much impressed by it and offered him a job. Head declined since he was more interested in going into business. Got job as personnel director in a mining company in the Philippines. Meanwhile his wife who had been teaching came down with anemia and doctor advised her to seek a dry climate. <sup>about 1936</sup> Wrote to Indian Service and was offered job as superintendent of schools on the Papago Reservation. <sup>put schools on feet in 2 yrs.</sup>

Then he was transferred to the Osage Reservation.

When Ted Hall, superintendent of the Papago Reserv. was transferred to the Osage Reserv. in 1940, Collier asked the Papagos whom they wanted for their head and they requested Wade Head. From there he was transferred to Poston, his wife acting as superintendent in his absence.



Homer A. Mathiesen

admin  
Via Mathiesen's  
secretary.

Mr. H. A. Mathiesen was born and raised on a large ranch in eastern South Dakota; and graduated from the South Dakota State Agriculture College at Brookings, and completed the regular course for the bachelor degree in 1920. Immediately upon graduation, he went to Idaho where he served as Assistant Dairy Extension Specialist with the University of Idaho for one year. From that position, he was promoted to County Agricultural Agent of Ada County at Boise, Idaho, where he served until he accepted a position with the United States Bureau of Dairy Industry, with headquarters at Salt Lake City, Utah, the work in connection with dairy farming in the eleven western states. Since that time, Mr. Mathiesen was with the Holstein - Friesian Association of America for approximately over ten years. From 1936, Mr. Mathiesen has been with the Indian Service as Supervisor of Farms and Dairies, in charge of the seventy-two farms and dairies of the Indian Service schools and hospitals.



*Via J. Yamada*

BACKGROUND: Giles Zimmerman, chief Employment Division

Before accepting a job with WRA and coming to Poston, Giles Zimmerman worked for five years with the Friends, relocating refugees. Three of those five years he worked on charity.

He has been doing relocation work in one form or another since he left the University of Pennsylvania before finishing 10 years ago.

He was originally scheduled for a relocation officer's job in Detroit and had been sent to Poston for a two week's seasoning. But he liked it here and stayed. As successor to Vernon Kennedy, Zimmerman is the youngest person to head an administrative branch in Poston. He is 29 years of age.

He got into government service last January after Tom Holland convinced him that he should take the Detroit job.

"I was in a swell bargaining position," he recalls; "Holland first wanted me to take charge of the territory in the Eastern Defense Command, Pennsylvania was to be my special area. But we waited and waited and the Eastern Defense Command didn't open. I told Holland I was happy at what I was doing and wasn't particularly anxious to work for the government."

Zimmerman told Holland that he would go to work for \$5600; he was making \$2800 with the Friends. Just to be playful, Holland offered \$2400, feeling that the two would get together somewhere in the middle. But when Holland tried to ram Zimmerman through Civil Service for \$3800, the Commission screamed like a stuck pig. Zimmerman's record didn't seem to entitle him to that much dough. However, Holland had made the mistake of counting ~~two~~ two years of experience equivalent to one year of college. Actually it was just the reverse. "As Holland figured," Zimmerman said, "I had only 2½ years of college and that looked bad to the Commission. I actually had enough experience to amount up to about 10 years of college."

Last year, while still working for the Friends, Giles and his wife were planning to China on ambulance corps duty, but his wife became pregnant and the plans were cancelled. Of the 150 or so Quakers who did leave, 70 have died already, murdered by bandits or bombed ~~the~~ by the Japanese.

If, by sticking to his CO principles, he is thrown into an objectors' camp, he intends to study dietetics and perhaps German so that he would be qualified more for his future work, namely the rehabilitation of the people of Europe.

In the Midwest and in the states around Pennsylvania, his work with the refugees is quite well known. Some nisei who have relocated in these areas write back and mention that they have met a number of people who were familiar with him and his accomplishments.



BACKGROUND: Edward Nossoff, assistant chief of the Employment Div.

Ed Nossoff is 26 years of age, relatively young to be the principal contender for Giles Zimmerman's job when the latter is drafted. He is not totally unaware of this situation. "If I get to be Chief of Employment when Giles leaves," he said on one occasion, "I'll be the youngest Chief on the project."

He takes boyish delight often in the place he has won. Recently he has appeared in the office smoking a cigar, in a holder at that. He derived a great deal of satisfaction from the news that Elmer Coverly had been relieved of his post as Project Director at Tule Lake. "I got a great kick out of it," he said. "Coverly was in charge of recruiting personnel for the WRA when I first applied, and he said that I was too young."

But he is sincere and aggressive, and has accomplished a great deal in the Division since coming here in March. He has said on more than one occasion: "If I can't do any more here than just earn my pay, I might as well go ~~back~~ back to sniffing privies for the ~~Immigration and Housing~~ FSA."

Prior to coming to Poston, Nossoff worked with Carey McWilliams in the Bureau of Immigration and Housing. Before that he did a stretch with ~~the~~ FSA.

His acquaintance with Japanese dates back to his Roosevelt high school days in Los Angeles. He graduated Roosevelt in '33 and went to City College, then UCLA. (He spent his freshman year at Berkeley, but returned ~~to~~ south to finish.) While at City College, he was president of the Jewish club, chairman of the forum committee, and edited an underground Student Union newspaper. He was in the inner circle of the campus liberal group, but he escaped the dragnet which expelled his friends from the college for fomenting a strike to protest shipments to ~~France~~ Fascist Italy.

He knew Mich Kunitani at UCLA (and before that at Roosevelt) and attended YCL meeting together. While attending UCLA, Nossoff was campus correspondent at space rates for the Los Angeles Examiner. Upon graduation he expected to get a job with the Examiner, but it was no dice and he ended up in Bakersfield working on a daily at \$18 a week. Then he drifted to the editorship of a weekly in Kern County, but the job fell apart when the boss replaced him with a relative.

He got into government work through the contacts he had established while in newspaper work. He doesn't feel like going back to journalism.

He is married and has one daughter, Ladeana, age 23 months.



Director of Employment: Vernon R. Kennedy

Born in Tacoma, Washington about 46 years ago. after sojourns in Mexico and Arizona settled in Sacramento and now regards there as his home.

A Saint Mary's graduate, so is quite cognizant of "minority problems" and "inferiority complexes".  
Former deputy Labor Commissioner of California.

In Sept., 1942, he accepted post of Chief of Employment Division at Poston and remained there until May, 1943. Since then has been relocation Supervisor of the Kansas City area.



Director of Legal Department: Ted Hase

38 yrs. of age in 1942. Very liberal. Once called "communist" because he belonged to Lawyers' Guild. Was a corporation lawyer before he joined Indian Service about a year and a half before coming to Porton. Volunteered for the army but was rejected for medical reasons. He could have gotten in as a commissioned officer but preferred to go in as a rookie.

Reports Officer: Morris James

Left Porton in the beginning of May, 1943 for L.A. Claimed he was leaving the project to join Navy but in article in L.A. papers during summer it was claimed that he was arrested for impersonating a naval officer.

In middle 30's. Was ~~associated~~ <sup>connected</sup> with the Associated Press before coming to Porton.



350 West Be



Ralph Helvin : Associate Project Director

In 40's. Former Indian Service personnel.

John Evans : Assistant Project Director

In late 30's or early 40's. Son of Mabel Dodge Luethen, the writer. Apparently was a playboy before coming to Poston. Got this job thru friendship with John Collier.

Sen Nelson :

Former Indian Service man. In late 40's or 50's. Was executive assistant to the project director until latter half of April, <sup>1947</sup> when he succeeded Evans as unit administrator. Was hard working man - during shoe rationing rush took it upon himself to fill out shoe rationing cards personally.



## Chief of Community Services: Nell Findley

In her fifties. Born in California but went in her early twenties to teach school on the island. Was head of social service work in Honolulu at outbreak of the war when she became director in Honolulu. Very well liked in Hawaii.

## Nell Findley To Mainland Evacuee Post

Miss Nell Findley, director of the Hawaii United Services organizations said today she has accepted a position as community services director of a Japanese evacuation center in Parker, Ariz.

The position was offered Miss Findley by the department of interior, through John Collier, commissioner of Indian affairs.

The new post includes directing community service activities for Miss Findley 20,000 Japanese aliens and citizens who are being evacuated to the Arizona center.



Miss Findley will leave for the mainland as soon as she is able to obtain transportation. The evacuation center is on an Indian reservation on the Colorado river.

She will be responsible for directing all schools, adult education and health and social services for thousands of Japanese now being evacuated from the west coast.

In addition she will be on a staff charged with supervising the whole internal organization of the Parker center.

Frank C. Atherton, chairman of the Hawaii USO, congratulated Miss Findley upon her appointment, saying:

"We of the USO regret very much that Miss Findley is leaving her position as director of the USO in Honolulu.

"She has been a splendid director and has built up a fine organization. Besides the six agencies working here in the city through their various buildings, centers have been established at several different localities around this island and organizations formed on three of the other islands.

"Miss Findley has a splendid grasp of the whole situation. She has developed plans and policies and won the respect and hearty cooperation of army and navy authorities.

"It will be most difficult to replace her. I realize that the position she is going to fill is the most important one at this time and the offer of the position is a splendid tribute to her and a recognition of her outstanding ability."

Miss Findley said she is leaving her USO position here with "great reluctance."

"Hawaii is my real home and I feel reluctant to leave the islands in this period of need and distress," she said. "However, I will return after the war."

Steps have been taken to select a successor to Miss Findley here, but no decision has been reached.



Tailored for all sun  
and clear shades. H  
and Navy. Jacket  
Skirts, 9.95.

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Chief of Community Services: Nell Findley

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Was head of social service work in Honolulu until the  
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Director of Education: Miles E. Cary.

On May 18, 1942, John Collier invited Cary to take the position of Director of Education at Poston. This invitation was sent thru Mrs. Ruth Hampton, assistant director of Territories and Island Possessions, Dept. of Interior, and Hon. Poindexter, Terr. of Hawaii.

His background:

- 1901 - 1907 attended grammar school at Edmonds, Wash.
- 1907 - 1912 .. Edmonds High School.
- 1912 - 1917 attended somewhat irregularly, the University of Wash., Seattle. A.B. 1917
- 1930 - Received M.A. degree at U. of Hawaii.
- 1937 - Ph.D. at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.
- 1917 - 1918 Principal Morton School, Morton, Wash.
- 1918 - Served 6 months in U.S. Army.
- 1919 - 21 - Principal, Ferndale High School, Ferndale, Wash.
- 1921 - 23 - Teacher, McKinley High School, Honolulu.
- 1923 - 24 - Principal, Maui High School, Maui.
- 1924 - 42 - Principal, McKinley High School, Honolulu.  
(except 1936 - 37 when attending Ohio State University).

Cary was granted a leave of absence from his position in Hawaii to take directorship of education at Poston.



Via X

~~incapable and impotent.~~

Q. Background data on the appointed personnel.

A. I must send you whatever I find. I don't know much about these Shirombo .

John Evans -- A close friend of Collier. He came here to get materials for his novels, or books. He has two or three psychological novels to his credit. He is a son of rich family. His mother, I understand, remarried to an Indian. He is from Maine.

Moris Burge -- He is a "Community Organization Expert", whatever that is. He was introduced to the Block Managers in May of 1942 as such. He was with the Federal Government quite sometime.

A. W. Empie -- He was the Chief Accountant of the Bureau of the Indian Affairs in Washington. That's what he said.

I advise you to get in touch with Ted Haas. He should be able to give you a good dope on these Shirombo .



FORMER CHIEF STEWARD  
ARRESTED FOR FORGERY

9/21/43  
Earl Best, former Chief Steward of Poston and Heart Mountain relocation centers, who testified before the Dies Committee in Los Angeles last June stating that food was wasted in the Centers was arrested last week on a forgery warrant from Cody, Wyo. according to an UP dispatch.

PAULINE BROWN  
NEW REPORTS  
OFFICER HERE

A.P.  
Pauline Brown, formerly with the OWI office in Phoenix, arrived in Poston early Monday morning to take the post as Reports Officer of this center.

Mrs. Brown in an experienced newspaper woman, being connected with various papers before joining the OWI staff. She will fill the vacancy that was left by Norris James, who is at the present in the Navy.

A.P.

Dec. 24, 1943

DR. FRENCH HERE  
TO STUDY ADJUSTMENTS

Dr. David French, who received his doctorate in anthropology from Columbia University, arrived in the center last Friday to serve the administration in an advisory capacity as community analyst.

His main purpose will be to study "the sociology of the evacuee community, particularly in terms of the adjustments that people from various parts of California have made," Dr. French said. He will also "attempt to learn the types of adjustments which can be made in the future," after relocation and at the end of the war.

Before coming to Poston, Dr. French did a year of research work in the Indian Service with the United Pueblo Agency in Albuquerque, N.M. His master's degree was received at the Claremont Colleges' Graduate School, and his B.A. at Pomona College.

Although he is an Oregonian by birth, much of his life has been spent in California.

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