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TOPAZ H453

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

Topaz, Utah

REGIONAL HOME ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

by

Russell A. Bankson

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION

HISTORICAL SECTION

R. A. Bankson

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When the Regional Spring Conference of Home Economics Teachers for Southern Utah was held at Richfield on Saturday, March 11, 1944, representatives of the Topaz High School became emissaries of good-will, carrying to the delegates stories of Topaz and of the relocation program mixed in with discussions on clothing trends, school lunches, and other kindred subjects.

The conference was held in the Richfield High School and the attendance represented instructors from both the high school and college levels who pooled their experience and observations toward the developing of a more effective and comprehensive program of home making, with special reference to the postwar period.

The Topaz representatives were Mrs. Marguerite W. Hudson, vocational instructor in home economics, and Mrs. Louise M. Watson, home economics instructor. They learned that delegates to the conference knew very little about the relocation program and were much in the dark as to just what the relocation center at Topaz represented.

Thus the Topaz delegates were kept busy answering

numerous questions which gave the delegates a new understanding of the whole evacuation and relocation program.

With their interest thus aroused, the delegates suggested that they would like to hold their fall conference at Topaz, where they would have an opportunity to become more fully acquainted with the people of center, their activities, and especially the educational program.

The Topaz representatives extended a cordial invitation for the conference to be held in the Center, and the delegates will not be given a chance to forget that they are to gather here for their next meeting.

It was interesting to note the trend of subjects which were under discussion, and which will be continued at the next conference. Chiefly, the agenda carried such subjects as clothing, consumer education, home projects, school lunches, foods and child care, and the new fortified foods.

Mrs. Hudson was able to inject an interesting topic into the discussion when she told of the extensive use within the Center of soy beans, and the various ways in which they are made to serve the menus in the center dining halls. Some of the other kitchen and laboratory experience with food substitutes in the center were also new to the members of the group.

Many of the experiences were mirth provoking and gave the delegates a picture of the difficulties which the school kitchens in Topaz are having in developing their classroom projects.

Both Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Watson felt that their attendance at the conference was an enriching experience, both from standpoint of professional growth and good relations with people engaged in similar activities. They are looking forward with keen anticipation to the visit of this group to Topaz when these relations will be developed to a greater extent.

It is easy to anticipate that from such a visit as this, will come a much better understanding between Topaz and the communities of the southern part of the State.