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COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Poston, Arizona

FINAL HISTORY REPORTS \* CONTENTS

I. COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT (Dr. J. W. Powell's report to be added )

- ✓ A. Education Section ( copy previously sent to Washington)
- ✓ B. Health Section ( Dr. A. Pressman's report to be added)
- ✓ C. Business Enterprises
- ✓ D. Community Analysis Section
- ✓ E. Community Activities Section
- ✓ F. Internal Security Section
- ✓ G. *City Government* (Dr. Powell's report to be added)
- ✓ H. *Welfare*

- Special Report
- 1. Youth Organizations 1c
  - 2. " Problems on Poston 1c
  - ✓ 3. Program of studies 2c

II. OPERATIONS DIVISION (Volume I and II)

- ✓ Agriculture Section (includes Industries)  
Motor Transport
- ✓ Fire Protection Section

✓ III. REPORTS DIVISION ( Pauline B. Brown's report to be added)

✓ IV. LEGAL DIVISION

✓ *Relocation Division*

V. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION (No report)

- ✓ A. Finance Section (~~RFC. Getting's report to be added~~)
- ✓ B. Supply Section
- ✓ C. Evacuee Property Section
- ✓ D. Mess Operations Section
- ✓ E. Office Services Section

*not read*  
*not read*  
F. *Personnel Management*  
G. *Statistics Section*

VI. PHOTOGRAPHS (2 boxes) - includes extra copies of prints used in various reports and other sets of prints which might be used in connection with Poston History.

NOTE; See C. Lynn's photographic file for the above photographs

✓ *Project Director's Report -*

*not read* *Sociological Report Poston French*

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  - ✓ E. Community Activities Section
  - ✓ F. Internal Security Section
  - ✓ G. Welfare
- Special Report  
1. Youth Organizations 1c  
2. " Problems on Poston 1c  
3. Program of studies 2c  
4. Vocational Training

✓ VII. OPERATIONS DIVISION (Volume I and II)

- ✓ Agriculture Section (includes Industries)
- ✓ Motor Transport
- ✓ Fire Protection Section

✓ III. REPORTS DIVISION ( Pauline B. Brown's report to be added ) *Reid*

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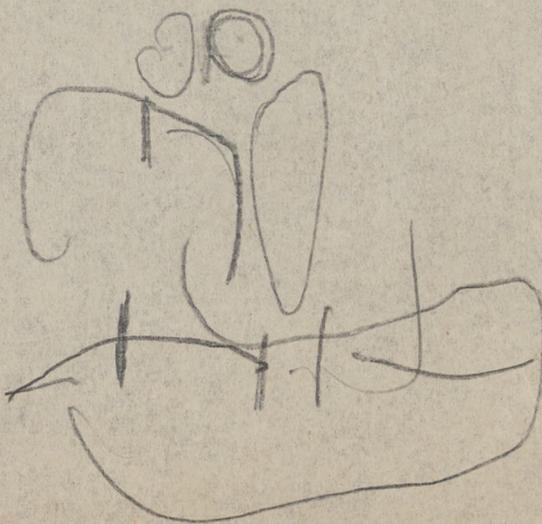
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VII ✓ *Relocation*

VIII ✓ *Project Director's narrative*

IX ✓ *Statistics*



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
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FINAL HISTORY REPORTS

C O N T E N T S

RELOCATION DIVISION

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*Special Reports*  
*1. Youth Organization*  
*2. " Problems in Poston*  
*3. Program of Study*

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at least one of the following conditions shall be satisfied:

(1) The applicant shall be a citizen of the United States.

(2) The applicant shall be a resident of the United States for a period of one year immediately preceding the date of application.

(3) The applicant shall be a resident of the United States for a period of one year immediately preceding the date of application and shall have been a resident of the United States for a period of one year immediately preceding the date of application.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Colorado River Relocation Authority  
Poston, Arizona

NARRATIVE REPORT  
BRIEF HISTORY OF THE  
POSTON BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Prepared by  
Edmond H. Runcorn  
Business Enterprises  
Auditor-Supervisor

9-5-45

I. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE POSTON BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

The Enterprises within the Colorado River Relocation Center at Poston, Arizona, began in a very simple way on May 11, 1942, and developed very rapidly as approximately 18,000 evacuees poured into the center. Several young men headed by Fred Ota soon showed a keen interest in the development and management of the Enterprises which were officially headed by Russell G. Fister, Superintendent of Community Enterprises. Almost simultaneously with the rise of the Enterprises business there was an intensively active small group studying consumer cooperation under the able leadership of the most energetic and enthusiastic Methodist minister, the Rev. M. Mitani.

Thus, within the first few weeks after the arrival of the people of Poston, both the business and educational activities of the future Poston cooperative had their beginnings. In June the project director appointed eight trustees to be responsible for the policies of the Enterprises under the direct supervision of the government. Mr. Lyle Kurisaki became the chairman of this board, Fred Ota the first general manager, and Rev. Mitani the head of educational activities.

In the smothering dust and heat of July a few cooperative experts from New York attempted to establish foundations for a cooperative association to take over the temporary Community Enterprises being operated by project-appointed trustees, but already the political factions among nissis and isseis, trust versus cooperative groups, and provincial tendencies in general greatly limited possibilities and made the task practically an impossible one. This situation was further complicated by the fact that the center, made up of people from various California communities, was divided into three different barrack towns or camps each separated by at least three miles of mesquite brush and sun-baked desert sand. Needless to say, little was accomplished by this expert delegation toward making the people understand and appreciate the bonafide cooperative technique in business.

Circumstances forced the issues before the populace was ready cooperatively. From day to day the business demands had to be met by the typically American, ambitious, individualistic trustees. Having been in private business on the west coast, these trustees established connections with their former suppliers, and little or no connections were made with cooperative wholesalers either on the west coast or elsewhere. After all, the Community Enterprises represented but one of the many sections or agencies in the center seeking to meet the needs of the center residents. Regardless,

however, of the limitations of the educational program and of the conflicts and misunderstandings between the business trustees and those who wished to form a true cooperative control, the people had elected, more or less democratically, what they chose to call a co-op congress by October 1942. Rev. Mitani, very naturally, became the chairman of this representative group.

The stage was set. The people were preparing, without adequate preparation and knowledge, to take over their Enterprises. But many other desires and demands loomed larger on the screen of public affairs at Poston. The councilmen and the block managers also had varying viewpoints and demands. Most revealing is the fact that the project-appointed trustees decided to donate \$2,000 to the Community Councils of the three different groups. Still, the people struggled on to take over and control their own business. During the strike and emotional upheaval of November, the head of the so-called co-op congress was much maligned; nevertheless, by the end of December some eight thousand residents of the three camps had signed up as members and deposited the magnificent sum of twenty-five cents each on a one-dollar membership. Some obviously thought that economic democracy could be purchased at Poston for a quarter.

At any rate, the appointed trustees resigned as of December 31, 1942, and new trustees were elected by the so-called delegates of the people. The two-bit democracy was enthroned, yet, surprising to state, the three new leaders were quite capable and earnest people. Rev. Mitani became the chairman of the new board, and aside from his ability as speaker and organizer, he had the rare ability of realizing that a co-op president should never actually boss the business. Mr. George Katow, a man with both business ability and a deep sense of responsibility to the community, was named as the general manager of the Enterprises. Roy Takawa, a zealous neophyte in cooperation, became the executive secretary. Under the circumstances, without adequate education among the board of directors, not to mention the three congresses of delegates, and several thousand members, these three men became a sort of triumvirate in conducting the Poston Community Enterprises.

In April 1943, the temporary Community Enterprises, operating under this elected board of trustees, was chartered under the District of Columbia Cooperative Act as the Poston Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., but the State of Arizona refused to issue its legal permit until seventeen months later in September 1944. This restriction prevented the issuance of proper membership certificates and caused many other aggravating situations for sincere cooperative business leaders for many months.

Early in 1943 Mr. Fister was succeeded as supervisor for the following year by Mr. Charles M. Beltt, a former cooperative manager and director of co-ops among the Finnish people of Wisconsin. Mr. Hugh Anderson, until stricken by paralysis, and later in the year Mr. Ralph Currie, a cooperater from Nova Scotia, served successively as assistants, and each struggled valiantly to build a better cooperative educational foundation for the Enterprises. Necessity, however, had caused the organization to be built before anything like an adequate educational program could be developed. Thereafter, the attention of the people was focused but little and seldom upon the cooperative technique, the cooperative philosophy, the cooperative purpose with any degree of success.

Late in the summer it became clearly evident that some goods were becoming extremely difficult to obtain, and there was likely to be a time when they could not be obtained at all unless some sort of cooperative action could be taken among all of the center Enterprises. Accordingly, a conference was called and was well attended at Chicago. The result of this conference was that Enterprises buyers were established in New York City to buy for all of the ten Enterprises in the various centers.

In October the first regular annual election took place, and a large, unwieldy board of nineteen members was elected. Mr. K. Inagaki succeeded Rev. Mitani as the chairman of the new board. Mr. S. Shirasawa of Camp III became the treasurer, but the same executive secretary and general manager carried on the work and brought this banner year to its close. The business volume reached an amazing sum just in excess of \$1,000,000 and the net savings for the year were in excess of \$120,000, or nearly twelve percent. This result compares very favorably with a net gain of less than eight percent for operations in 1942. The retail outlets for this million dollar business at its height consisted of ten canteens, three dry goods stores, and a dozen shops of various kinds, as well as offices, check cashing service windows, warehouses, and a peculiarly unique and attractive art and handicraft shop and store known as the Mojave Room. As a business the Poston Enterprises reached its zenith and the position of the second largest of the ten center business Enterprises in this year of 1943.

In January 1944, the first issues of a co-op newsheet began to appear. In February, Mr. Gerald Richardson, Head of the Business Enterprises Section in Washington, D. C., author of The ABC of Cooperatives, and a man formerly in active leadership in the

cooperative movement in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, visited the center and shared some of his experiences and advice with Enterprises officials. He was accompanied by Mr. Otto Rossman, a former Eastern Cooperative Wholesale representative, who had rendered much service to the Enterprises by an extensive auditing of the books early in 1943.

Changes in fairly rapid succession hurried the Enterprises along its limited and restricted course. The second all-center Enterprises conference which took place at the Granada Relocation Center in Colorado in April proved stimulating to delegates from a cooperative point of view, especially since the cooperators at the Granada Center had the most highly capitalized cooperative and the only one among the centers with a specially built co-op shopping center. In May the Poston Enterprises rather reluctantly established the Rainbow Mart in the administrative housing area of Camp I. With its refrigeration units for the handling of meat, including a walk-in box, and its fresh vegetable department, tobacco department maintained long after rationing began, it must be clearly stated that this neat and attractive Rainbow Mart easily led all other center Enterprises for this type of grocery store.

In spite of all of these efforts to improve cooperatively, it must be admitted that there were serious efforts on the part of politically and selfishly minded individuals in one camp, aided and abetted by the inertia and indifference of members, to bring about a secession of that camp from the Enterprises organization covering all three camps. Hope of private gain was undoubtedly a motivating factor in this unsuccessful demand. Committees were multiplied among the board members, and more and more these various committees moved in upon the daily decisions of business management with the result that in June Mr. Katow decided to resign as general manager. He was succeeded by Mr. Fred Akashi who was promoted from his position as drug buyer, but not without being hedged about with various management and operating committees from the board of directors. It is not an insignificant fact that donations to the three Community Councils for the purpose of conducting free movies and attending to other community demands were raised to the sum of \$4,800 per year at this time.

In August, Executive Secretary Roy Tazawa succeeded in having the cooperative bylaws adopted officially, and at last in September the State of Arizona gave its limited permission to operate a cooperative within the center. After seeing this long and tedious task to a conclusion, the loyal and zealous Roy Tazawa relocated and immediately sought cooperative employment in New York. He

was succeeded for a few months by Paul Takeda, an equally faithful executive secretary and sparkplug for the co-op method. In December the Poston Enterprises had a large delegation in attendance at the third all-center Enterprises conference over beyond Phoenix at the Gila River Relocation Center.

Despite the fact that a number of the smaller community canteens were closed late in the year to improve efficiency and to meet labor difficulties occasioned by the relocation process, the year 1944 had provided the Poston Cooperative Enterprises with a business volume just short of its second \$1,000,000 and its second million dollar year. Net savings, like the volume, were slightly under the top year of 1943, and averaged about ten rather than twelve percent as in the previous year. These facts all pointed to the third and last phase of the Enterprises, namely, the long-drawn-out liquidation process which took place in 1945.

Inventories had reached a sum in excess of \$150,000 late in 1944, but within a year they were destined to be liquidated entirely. The new year began with much planning of liquidation. The Mojave art store and shop was the first to be closed at the end of January 1945. Various other shops like the photo shop and watch repair shop came next. More and more rapidly the people, the members, the customers, relocated. Officers, managers, delegates, clerks by the dozens joined the outward flow. Mas Miyasaki succeeded Paul Takeda and began to do a conscientiously good job of engineering the liquidation process. Kawabe succeeded Inagaki as president, and eventually Hayakawa succeeded Akashi as general manager. Rapid turnover of both goods and personnel became the order of the day.

But there was a degree of stability, of staunchness, of faithfulness and loyalty even in this final period. Some of the board members who had served for two years or more were still on duty. Here and there were employees who had remained with the Enterprises during the entire history of the business. Chief among these in the office, for instance, the sturdy triangle of Honda, Ikano, and Sagara, chief accountant, head cashier, and refund superintendent respectively, should be mentioned with honor.

In July the Poston Enterprises again had representatives attending the fourth and final all-center Enterprises conference, this time at Salt Lake City. This last conference was chiefly concerned with the problems and details of liquidation, but it also showed some prospects of summarizing the limited cooperative experience with the Enterprises in the centers and applying it to some form of cooperative effort outside and perhaps after the closing of

the War Relocation Authority itself.

July also witnessed the disposal of the Rainbow Mart to an outside private agency; more and more stores and shops reached the point of diminishing returns and were closed. In August all of the shops and the dry goods stores of both Camps II and III were completely liquidated following large special close-out sales. Also by this time practically all certificates of indebtedness had been redeemed and patronage refunds were paid down to the end of 1944.

The decline of the population and the consequent reduction of demands on the Enterprises caused all plans for liquidating the stock, auctioning of the equipment, and the final closing of all shops and stores to be focused upon October 1, 1945, at which time practically all assets will be in cash and ready for final distribution to all of the members and past members of the Enterprises. At that time also the remaining limited canteen service will be sold out to a private individual or placed in the hands of three specially elected trustees who will also receive any undistributable surplus later and finally to be donated to another non-profit or public agency as designated by the congress of delegates.

Such is the story of the rise and decline of the Poston Enterprises within a period of three and a half years and within the peculiarly unique and difficult circumstances involved in a relocation center in wartime, and in an extremely isolated and uncomfortable part of the Arizona desert. Hedged around with wartime restrictions, project instructions, aggravating conflicts and clashes incidental to life under such difficult and often heart-breaking disillusionment and frustration, it cannot be said that the Poston business enterprises succeeded in becoming a bonafide consumer cooperative. The form was there in outline, at least, but the spirit never rose to the surface except in the faithfulness of a few of the officials and employees.

There can be no doubt, however, that the faithfulness and loyalty and appreciation and understanding of even a few was a remarkable achievement, for even in the future they will represent good seed for better social and economic organization in a confused society. Thousands of others, quite indifferent and unappreciative on the whole, except at patronage refund time perhaps, have been served more efficiently and more democratically than they could have been served by any other procedure in such circumstances. A fairly accurate proof of this is demonstrated by the fact that the Enterprises had a total business volume of approximately

\$3,000,000 from 1942 through the wind-up in 1945, and with net earnings of nearly \$300,000 duly returned to the members as patronage refunds. Obviously, the substance of a co-op was not lacking.

Of course, it must be admitted that a large part of these patronage refunds, if not all, can be attributed to the fact that employees of the Enterprises, like all other evacuee employees, were required to work for cash wages limited to sixteen and nineteen dollars per month plus clothing allowances of three dollars and a half each. The plain food and simple housing of all Enterprises employees were provided by the War Relocation Authority, as was also the case of WRA business enterprises supervisory personnel. The Enterprises did pay rental for all stores and equipment as well as the nominal wages, however.

Though there was some illegal private enterprise operating within the center, the Enterprises actually had the advantage of the sole right to operate stores and shops. Retail prices were generally aimed at outside competitive levels or below. In the case of all of the shop services, such as barber and beauty shop services, however, prices charged were often less than half as much as the prevailing rate in outside communities of similar size. Excessive freight charges and the scarcity of goods, particularly those which, with difficulty, could be secured for people of Japanese descent in wartime, are factors to be accounted for also. Under the conditions of camp life in a hot climate there tended to be an excessive number of employees at all times, and the working hours tended to be shorter than usual, approaching the six hour, stream-lined day in many instances.

Taken all in all, a mixture of positive and negative factors, this was undoubtedly the best possible procedure for supplying the needs of the people in a restricted area such as a relocation center. Private individual or corporate enterprises would have been most unfair in such a situation where thousands of persons were not able to deal with competitors. On the other hand, government operation would have been more costly in both materials and human resources. The Enterprises, however, were actually the property of all of the families in the center; they were organized and designed for democratic control; there were increasing incentives for employees to do a good job and receive proper in-service training thereby; all members were free to vote and influence their own business as rapidly as they were willing to cast aside their dismal indifference; and finally, despite inefficiencies and individualistic backgrounds, all net savings of the Enterprises were returned to the member customers on the basis of patronage as rapidly as the limited capital structure would permit

right down through June 30, 1945, the end of the third fiscal year when the final closing-out process began.

In reviewing the entire history of the Enterprises, one prominent cooperative leader quickly remarked that the story is rather clearly divided into three parts, namely, the period of organization and individualism in 1942, the period of normal operation throughout 1943 and 1944, and the period of liquidation and closing in 1945. More significantly, however, this man added that the three most essential qualities or watchwords for an institution such as the Poston Cooperative Enterprises should be service, cooperation, and courage. The greatest of these is courage, he felt, for without courage among the leaders the political knuckling in and the jockeying for position begins. Without courage no cooperative leader can successfully stand against the individual and group selfishness which tends to cancel out the spirit of service and cooperation.

Thus, it can be said finally, in conclusion, that first of all a people's institution, such as a cooperative, must be based squarely upon the character of ownership, service, and savings in the degree in which they are honest, efficient, intelligent, and courageous in disciplining their own tendencies to be selfish, prejudiced and competitive. Someone has said that it takes twenty years to build a good cooperative. If that be the case, after taking all of these factors into consideration, the Poston Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., made some noteworthy steps in that direction within the short span of three and a half years in which the business was in operation. Many people, therefore, are to be credited generously for the interestingly human, personal, practical, and character-building experiences involved in the rise and decline of this peculiarly unique economic tool of a temporarily disinherited people. May the triumphs of the Poston Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., live long in the minds of its officials, employees, and members.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Colorado River Relocation Center  
Poston, Arizona

NARRATIVE REPORT  
EVACUEE UNIT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ITS PART IN POSTON

Prepared by  
Kenji Uyene

6-11-45

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## I. EVACUEE UNIT ADMINISTRATION AND ITS PART IN POSTON

### A. ORGANIZATION

The geographical structure of Colorado River War Relocation Project is unique in itself as compared to the other centers of the War Relocation Authority. The existence of three separate camps in Poston calls upon a necessity for an organization to adapt for the best efficiency in management. The Project Office is located in Camp I which is also referred to as Unit I; consequently, a divisional administration office was necessary at each camp or unit in order to adequately carry out the business of the administration. Each camp is separated by approximately three miles.

The history of Poston will reveal that this project was supervised by the Office of Indian Affairs since its birth in the spring of 1942 until late fall of 1943. Under the system of Indian Service, responsible to the War Relocation Authority, there were appointed Caucasian personnel in position as administrator of each unit or camp. The volume of work assumed by Administrators during the initial period of camp organization was enormous. Organization of procedures had to be developed, equipments and supplies had to be fairly distributed, added by the many adverse conditions of camp facilities. The populace was tempered with feeling of bitterness as result of evacuation and consequently aggravating issues were developed from minor misunderstandings.

In late fall of 1943, the Office of Indian Affairs had formally withdrawn their control of this center and transferred the sole authority to the War Relocation Authority. The Organizational Chart of the WRA did not provide for the appointed personnel position as Unit Administrator; however, the need for the responsible position was evident. It must be noted that it was through this reorganization on the Project that this position was thrown into the hands of the evacuee.

In reviewing the psychological aspect of the community residents, such evacuee position, in serving in capacity of administration, is a position to be easily suspected by the evacuee to be "pre-administration". Such temperament reflects greatly upon the affect of indiscriminate mass evacuation from California of Japanese ancestry regardless of citizenship added by the extreme adverse conditions encountered in camp in regards to poor housing, dust, extreme heat, depressing camp location, shattering of ideals, sacrifices, and hardships. It called

upon a full cooperation by the residents as a whole in order that evacuee may fulfill the position. The project employment provided the maximum salary of \$19 for the position. One must be a fool in accepting this responsible job when it is possible to receive the equal cash advance in less responsible positions.

In recognizing the essentiality of the position in the operation of the project, the Block Managers' organization and the Council group voiced the combined support towards the appointment of evacuee to the position. This position is to much extent different than position serving on Council body representing the residents. This position required a sense of cautiousness in carrying out the administrative procedures to the residents since the misunderstanding as to the service is readily possible, resulting in non-cooperation or project disorder.

#### B. FUNCTIONS AND PROCEDURES

In interpreting the Organizational Chart of this project, the Unit Administration is directly responsible to the Project Director. The basic responsibility would be to serve the detailed functions of Project Director in observance to the War Relocation Authority's procedures and regulations; however, on occasions, the evacuee Administrators are in a "pinch" in carrying out the responsibility. Numerous WRA or Project policy is not altogether appealing to the evacuee residents; the responsibility on part of the Administrator is to proceed with the program; but, heavy pressure is reversed from the evacuee populace to the evacuee Administrator's office. The important function of Administrator's Office, as understood, is to adequately supervise the Office of Central Block Manager, and its subordinate Block Managers' Offices. It is the machinery to control the residents administratively as well as the medium to convey the policy information of the administration.

The three Unit Administrators of Poston have the same fundamental responsibility; but, the Administrators of Units II and III have a slightly added responsibility in light of the geographical location. The added burden on part of Units II and III Administrators is, however, equalized for the Administrator of Camp I since the population of Camp I is equivalent to the combined population of Camps II and III.

The writer of this report, being a resident of Camp II, will

stress the function in capacity of Unit II Administration. The units of II and III, as mentioned above, are isolated from the Project Headquarters and, therefore, implies a necessity for the Administrator to act as coordinator for all departments within the unit in order that inter-department frictions do not develop within the camp. Each department within the Unit is responsible to the department head located in Camp I, but there are many minor inter-departmental problems calling for immediate solution. The picture is slightly different in Camp I, where the appointed personnel staffed Project Offices are located in proximity of Unit Office to meet all immediate problems. The Administration Office is also a clearing house for much of the community announcements so as to alleviate false informations and also informations contrary to Project policy.

In Camp II, at the time when the evacuee first entered the Administrator's position, the population was approximately 2750. Today, the population is about 1950. With the decrease of population, extreme difference in the composition of the evacuee residents had been evident -- that is to say, that when the office was transferred to the hands of evacuee, the Block Managers, Councilmen, and other community leaders were to a greater percentage the citizen evacuee with English language as the medium of conversation. Through the continual influx towards the normal living by relocation into scattered communities throughout the vast continent, the former leaders have now departed. The major community leadership is currently in the responsibility of Issei. The Block Managers and Council body are today composed of Issei with very few exception of Nisei membership. The elderly leaders possess the wisdom of years and wealth of experiences which is invaluable advantage in the field of community leadership, but they are at the same time greatly handicapped by the fact that the majority are unable to speak the English language. This calls for the effort of Administration to guide the procedures to adapt to their situation. Today, all community meetings are held in Japanese language with the successful result. The interest that the leaders hold for the welfare of the residents is the fundamental principle that is firmly inherited since the opening of this camp to adequately serve for the community.

One of the noticeable responsibility now being assumed by the Administrator is the custody of government properties assigned to the evacuee residents. The custodial responsibility is realized to a burden because of the valuation that aggregates to approximately 30 or 40 thousand dollars while the wage

scale of the evacuee for assuming the responsibility is a big figure of \$19 per month. The integrity of the evacuee residents is relied upon in order that reconciliation of the inventory may be made on the final moment of camp liquidation without discrepancy. The cooperation by all is expected in view of the burden being assumed by the evacuee official.

The procedure in the operation of this project is adequately organized to meet the varied problems through the numerous diversified division and section. It is natural that matters be referred to the proper channel for the most factual and prompt information; however, it is very common in that the evacuee resident appears to Administration for information and consultation. Every effort is made to guide the individual to the proper office; but, in order to give the confidence and feeling of security to the evacuee, it is occasionally possible to run into affairs of other division which is a poor policy as to the proper procedural method. Due care is always made when imperative to go into some other department's affair in order to develop cooperative consideration rather than to infringe upon other departmental jurisdiction. The existence of these circumstances may greatly reflect to the fact that evacuee resident desires to secure a factual information on individual problems from responsible evacuee official prior to consultation with the office staffed with appointed personnel advisers.

In the operation of the camp activities, there are two influential and respectable leading groups serving for the welfare of the evacuee residents, they are the Block Managers and the Local Council. Each body holds its regular meeting at varied intervals. The authority and the functions of each body is known under the project organization and procedures; but there is an inclination towards one of the body overstepping the prescribed authority. Since both body have in common the basic ideal to serve for the best interest of the evacuee residents, the two bodies have agreed to work cooperatively to solve the countless community problems. It is one of the functions of this office to maintain the good relationship between the two groups by guiding the major local community problems to avoid conflicts that may result as to the question of authority and function of the group.

As to the relationship of this office, a section of Project Management Division, with other divisions, the work is not at all times a pleasant task. The unit departmental problems are referred to the office for advice whenever the internal

adjustment cannot be satisfactorily settled.

C. BENEFITS FROM OPERATION OF UNIT ADMINISTRATION

In conclusion, the merits of the activity will be briefly outlined. The evacuee official is very likely to be misunderstood by the populace if the duty is assumed with the attitude of being WRA Official; but if the duty is carried out to the satisfaction of the residents, the evacuee position will greatly enhance the atmosphere of confidence and security to the residents. The residents will carry faith and trust upon the fellow evacuee -- they will be eased to the understanding of facts relative to Project and WRA policy. It gives the residents a thought of comfort in making frank expressions of local community problems which results to the understanding and amicable solution of difficulties. The burden of responsibility for the Administrator as compared with some other positions on the project is immense, but the advantage to the residents is fruitful.

In viewing the disadvantage of the evacuee administration, in terms of project management, it is the authority of the commanding power. The evacuee administrator must always work on the basis of understanding without reflection to authority. The WRA appointed personnel, at times, are privileged to use the official authority to execute the policies and procedures; but, this is the contrary on part of the evacuee personnel. The evacuee Administrator is a fellow evacuee resident; the wage scales of the official is equivalent to countless other workers. It is unwise to lay down the iron rule to measure functions of administration with the application of authority. At times there are occasions whereby a firm command of authority will readily solve the community problem; yet, this cannot be satisfactorily accomplished by the evacuee Administrator without bringing about the misunderstanding and resentment.

As to my observation, the community has had privilege and pride in having the evacuee personnel to solve much of the community questions. The cooperation assured by the residents to the evacuee administration can well account for the smooth and harmonious operation of the Project, and through this organization the sense of cooperation was ever more strongly developed to the merit of Project operation.

*Sanitation  
Report*

1014 East Thurston Avenue  
Olympia, Washington  
August 23, 1945

Dr. John W. Powell  
Assistant Project Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Poston, Arizona

Dear Dr. Powell:

I am herewith transmitting a narrative report which is a summary of the sanitation program at the Colorado River Relocation Center up to June 15, 1945.

Unfortunately I was not informed that a final report was expected until my last week on the Project, and I was not officially requested to write a report until June 14, 1945. The official request was a telegram from Mr. Lowe, W.R.A. Sanitary engineer, in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately also a copy of Handbook Release No. 199 was not in any of the hospital offices, nor were its contents known by my immediate supervisor.

Much of this report was confined to Sanitation after I arrived in Poston, February 24, 1942; however, reports covering the period from May 27, 1942 to February 15, 1944 were read and incorporated as much as possible in the limited time.

The report contains the following items:

- I. General Organization and Policy
- II. A Review of Objectives and Accomplishments in all aspects of sanitation.
  - A. Water Supply
  - B. Milk Supply
  - C. Sewage Disposal
  - D. Garbage and Rubbish Disposal
  - E. Food Handling and Storage
  - F. Farm Sanitation
  - G. Insect and Rodent Control
  - H. General Block Sanitation
  - I. Block Mess Hall Sanitation
  - J. Block Latrine and Laundry Sanitation
  - K. Miscellaneous Items.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ora A. Dennis*

Ora A. Dennis

## I. GENERAL ORGANIZATION AND POLICY

Sanitation was organized as a division of the Public Health Department by Mr. George Kido, an entomologist. There was a bacteriologist in charge of water supply inspections and chlorination, milk supply and sewage disposal. There was a garbage crew, insect and rodent control crew and sanitary inspectors for mess halls, latrines and block sanitation. The entomologist and bacteriologist soon relocated leaving people with little scientific training in the division. When the writer arrived on the Project, February 24, 1944, the division of Sanitation had 26 employees including 6 garbage collectors who worked at Unit 3. There was a supervisor at each of the 3 camps. April 1, 1944 the staff was reduced to 11 sanitary inspectors and 3 clerk-typist. Three inspectors were assigned to Unit 2, three to Unit 3, and five to Unit 1. Another cut in September, 1944 reduced the total number of sanitary inspectors to 7 for all 3 units. Weekly inspections were made of all Project facilities. Sanitary inspectors made weekly reports which the writer used together with personal observations and inspections to make the Weekly Project Sanitation Report.

Mr. T. R. Nishimoto, supervisor of the division of sanitation for the period prior to February 24, 1944, stated that he maintained a large staff of sanitary inspectors in order that insanitary conditions could be corrected as soon as possible. He felt that there often was too much delay between recommendations and actual performance of minor corrective measures. According to the standard description for the position of sanitarian issued June 30, 1942 it was planned that the sanitarian should inform the proper division or department head of insanitary conditions and make recommendations necessary to correct such conditions. With few exceptions this became the policy in all sanitary matters after February 24, 1944. The assistant Project Director in charge of operations once expressed the opinion that he felt that annual or bi-annual inspections would be sufficient. This is the policy of some state, county and city sanitation departments, but the War Relocation Authority no doubt realized that the use of untrained evacuee personnel would cause some haphazard maintenance, operation and construction.

Minimum United States Public Health Standards and the Arizona State Sanitary Code were used as criteria.

## II. A REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### A. Water Supply

The objective was to maintain a safe water supply by inspecting water supply facilities for sources of contamination, collecting samples for bacteriological or chemical analysis and reviewing results of such tests, and making orthotolidine tests in order that proper and adequate chlorination could be maintained.

Unfortunately mains, wells and storage facilities were not sterilized prior to use and this may have contributed to the prevalence of diarrhea in the early days of the project. This lack of sterilization at least was responsible for many positive bacteriological tests. At Unit 1 results of bacteriological examinations were positive very frequently until February, 1944. At that time the mains, storage tanks and 3 of the 4 wells were sterilized using approximately 50 ppm of chlorine.

#### 1. Inspecting Water Supply Facilities.

Inspections were made constantly to eliminate any possible source of contamination. Defects found by the writer included such items as wells which were not sealed, open vent holes in well pump bases, well pumps without elevated foundations (ie. pump on pumphouse floor) uncovered storage tanks at the slaughter house and at the Unit 1 poultry farm, back siphonage from uncovered storage tank to well due to inlet pipe 4 feet below top of tank and no check valve, and submerged inlets in fish ponds.

All defects were corrected with one exception. Pumps at seven wells were not placed on elevated foundations, but since they were already installed the writer did not recommend that changes be made. Recommendations were made to prevent surface water entering these wells in case of flooding. Such contamination by surface water had occurred during heavy rains at the W.R.A. Parker Warehouse well number 1. In a few instances from 2 to 6 months elapsed between the first recommendation to correct a defect and actual performances of the work. This was especially true of wells used exclusively by the agricultural department, and was due to an underestimation of the importance of these defects by some employees of the Operations Division. Gradually the writer found that Mr. Robert Parnell, senior engineer and later acting chief of the Operations Division, was very cooperative and saw that corrections were made as soon as possible.

#### 2. Bacteriological and Chemical Examinations.

Samples were collected weekly for bacteriological examination. Between March 1, 1944 and June 2, 1945 a total of 652 samples

Were examined. Of this number 102 samples had one or more of the five 10 ml. portions confirmed for the Coli-aerogenes group of organisms. Samples were collected from each of the 12 wells once every four weeks, and at least 2 samples were collected every week from distribution system at each unit. When a positive result was reported additional samples from the same source were examined until 2 consecutive negative reports were received on samples collected on different days.

A record of bacteriological examinations of each well were made. Only samples from the well at the slaughter house were consistently reported not-potable bacteriologically. Samples collected from the Unit 1 poultry farm were potable after back siphonage from the uncovered storage tank was corrected and the well sterilized. However, samples collected from the distribution system were consistently non-potable bacteriologically. The storage tank was covered and sterilized but the mains were not sterilized as agricultural workers could not be convinced that this could be done without endangering the lives of the chickens. Water from this source was the only unchlorinated water provided by the Colorado River Relocation Authority.

Of the 652 samples examined 484 were examined at the Poston General Hospital, 140 samples were sent to the Ninth Service Command Laboratory at Precidio of Monterey, California and 18 samples were sent to the Arizona State Laboratory at Phoenix, Arizona. Examination of water, milk and sewage at the center hospital laboratory was started during April 1944. A letter from the Chief Medical Officer in the Washington office dated February 23, 1944 stated that sanitary examinations would be made in the Health Section laboratory in order to avoid duplication and that, "the center sanitarian would take necessary samples, make arrangements for the test with the laboratory, and secure the laboratory report on water, milk and sewage." The chief laboratory technician refused to perform the sanitary examinations and was opposed to the sanitary examinations being made in what she called the clinical laboratory. She frankly stated this opposition to the W.R.A. Sanitary Engineer from the Washington office on March 1, 1944, and later to the Poston Principal Medical Officer. Since this technician was not a member of the appointed staff the Principal Medical Officer felt that nothing could be done about her attitude. Although the writer did train sanitary inspectors to perform examinations in the laboratory the full cooperation of the laboratory technician was not received. The two bestworkers trained quit because it was too unpleasant working in the laboratory. One, a college graduate, stated that the laboratory Technician was drunk with power. Considerable space has been devoted to this matter because agitation by this technician was a constant source of irritation, and the writer felt that this technician could have been replaced by someone more cooperative.

Chemical analysis was made on several samples from Unit 1 wells. The water was very hard (300 to 490 ppm. total hardness) and the dissolved solids were between 1100 ppm. and 1470 ppm.

### 3. Chlorination

At Units 2 and 3 Wallace and Tiernan gas chlorinators were always used. Similar chlorinators were not installed at Unit 1 until September 27, 1943. Prior to that date liquid hypochlorinators were used. It was difficult to maintain adequate residuals with the hypo-chlorinators and break downs were frequent. The hypo-chlorinators were maintained and operated by the sanitary inspectors, but when gas chlorinators were installed the Utility-Maintenance Department took over the maintenance of all water supply facilities. The sanitary inspectors continued to make daily orthotolidine tests and notified the Maintenance Department if chlorine residuals were too high or too low. Prior to June, 1944 chlorination at Unit 1 was often inconsistent and inadequate, and there were frequent complaints of excess chlorine in the water. During June, 1944 the Maintenance Department employed a man for water and sewage who conscientiously did his best to maintain adequate and consistent chlorination and who cooperated very well with the sanitation department.

Chlorination at the slaughter house became a controversial matter when the Project Veterinarian and an Assistant Farm Superintendent stated that chlorinated water was causing the death of swine. Large numbers of swine died during December, 1944 and January and February, 1945. With one exception chlorine residuals were less than 0.5 ppm. during the afore-mentioned period and the water was not chlorinated at all for half of that period. No written material could be found to substantiate the claims of the harmful effect of chlorination on swine and it was recommended that chlorination be resumed. The Project Veterinarian stated that if chlorination were resumed the death of all swine would be attributed to the chlorinated water. Chlorination was resumed on February 13, 1945 and property loss records prepared by the aforementioned Assistant Farm Superintendent for the period February 1 to 15 attributed the death of 39 swine to an overdose of chlorine in the water. Chlorine residuals were never excessive after chlorination was resumed and were not greater than 0.1 ppm. until April, 1945. In fact, it was April, 1945 before potable bacteriological reports were received as chlorination was inadequate. This demonstrates that education regarding chlorination of water supplies is still necessary.

### B. Milk

The project was fortunate in having its milk supplied by a large Los Angeles Dairy. The milk contract provided for delivery of Type 2 pasteurized milk or in case of shortage for Type 3 pasteurized milk. Milk delivered was usually grade A, pasteurized and homogenized and in 1 quart containers. Project arrival temperatures were usually well under 50 degrees.F. After May 1, 1944 standard plate counts were made

on 2 samples per week in the Health Section Laboratory.

Plate counts were less than 10,000 colonies per cubic centimeter except for a three weeks period during December, 1944. Due to a shortage of higher quality milk Type 3 milk in plain unlabeled cartons was delivered to the Project and also sold at the Community Enterprise store. Plate counts were taken 4 or 5 times a week during this period and counts were as high as 275,000 colonies per cc. Project officials were notified immediately of the high counts and informed that the retail sale of unlabeled milk at the store violated Arizona laws. The Project Steward phoned the dairy officials in Los Angeles several times during this period.

### C. Sewage Disposal

Primary treatment of sewage was provided at each of the three units. Treatment facilities were similar in design at each unit and included bar screens, sedimentation with mechanical clarifier, two stage sludge digestion, sludge beds and lagooning of the effluent. Chlorine was added to the untreated sewage in the wet well and to the clarifier effluent for odor control purposes. Reductions were about average for primary treatment. Settlesable solids were reduced 90 to 99 per cent, suspended solids 60 to 70 percent and biochemical oxygen demand (B.O.D.) 30 to 60 percent. Reductions in B.O.D. were inconsistent due in part to laboratory technique.

Structural, design and operational defects in the plants were listed by Arnold Nesheim, Associate Sanitary Engineer of the U.S.E.D. after an inspection in March, 1943. Most structural and design defects were soon made. The last to be made was provision for sufficient ponding area for the effluent from the Unit 1 plant. Use of this new ponding area also eliminated complaints of sewage backing up from the plant wet well through block latrine floor drains during periods of power outage. Complaints of sewage backing up through the latrine drains were made to the Spanish Consul by the residents. The writer first noticed this condition during March, 1944 in blocks 27 and 54 and suggested the use of auxiliary gasoline driven pumps to keep the level of sewage down in the wet well. During such periods the wet well overflow could not handle the flow due to the height of the sewage in the ponding area.

The old ponding area was not cleared and was within one-fourth mile of the Southwest corner of Unit 1 and provided an odor and mosquito nuisance. Breaks in the dike allowed effluent to pond into roadbed ditches along the main highway between the center units during the spring of 1943. Other construction was usually considered more important than the construction of sewage ponds. However, the new ponding area was in use by the first week in September, 1944 and eliminated all ponding problems.

During the summer of 1944 small breaks in the dikes of the Unit 2 sewage plant lagoon allowed effluent to enter a near by irrigation waste water drain which continued down the valley through some Indian

grazing land. The dilution factor was probably high, but it was constantly recommended that such breaks be repaired.

Defects in operation were constantly present due to inexperienced and untrained personnel, but in general results were as satisfactory as could be expected.

#### D. Garbage and Rubbish Disposal

Poston used the separate garbage system. Food wastes were separated into edible (for hogs) and non-edible garbage cans. Metal and glass were placed together and combustible material made another separation. Problems were constantly occurring such as; strikes of the collection crews, burying of food waste by kitchen crews within the blocks or fire breaks during such strikes; refusal of collection crews to provide service for Rainbow Village, the personnel housing area, and for the Community Enterprise market near Rainbow Village; dumping unedible garbage without providing for burial; and when trenches were provided for burial failure to cover or insufficient coverage of garbage for periods up to six weeks; and failure of residents, evacuee and appointed staff, to separate metal and glass and often food from combustible material burned within the blocks.

Disposal of non-edible garbage was the biggest difficulty. Trenches were provided for this garbage but adequate covering was a problem. Use of manual labor was not successful as it was impossible to keep workers and when workers were employed only 2 or 3 inches of earth was placed over the garbage. Covering with a bulldozer was the only alternative. This was expensive and as there was a shortage of equipment and operators, the Operations Division was reluctant to use this method. During the middle of August, 1944 these trenches were a mass of fly larvae and flies. Dr. Thompson, Chief Medical Officer from the Washington office, made a routine visit at this time and while on the Project spoke to the Project Director of this condition. Thereafter, adequate covering of garbage was usually provided once each week with mechanical equipment. Offal from the Project slaughter house was also dumped in the non-edible garbage trench. By the middle of May, 1945 all Project swine had been slaughtered and a private contractor began handling all waste foods reducing the non-edible garbage to one-tenth its former volume. With the reduced volume and without slaughter house wastes the once a week coverage with mechanical equipment was sufficient.

Failure of residents to separate metal, glass and food from combustible material burned within the blocks varied with the esthetic and sanitary consciousness of the residents of each block. Some block managers stated that it was impossible to secure cooperation in this matter.

#### E. Food Handling and Storage

On the whole food handling and storage were good. The two exceptions were handling of fresh meat during delivery and refrigeration of fresh meats, especially Poston slaughtered pork. Sanitation reports prior to February, 1944 refer to a shortage of proper storage space, refrigeration and transportation facilities. Early reports also refer

to an infestation of flour and other grain products with weevils and beetles. This occurred in products which had remained in storage over 9 months.

Although the temperature was over 100 degrees F. each day for 4 or 5 months, meat was delivered in open trucks without refrigeration to each mess hall kitchen. Often this meat was handled carelessly. Carcasses were often placed directly on the uncovered floor of dirty trucks, stepped on by the delivery boys, thrown off trucks onto the mess hall loading platforms and no cover was provided while enroute between camps or between mess halls. The Project Veterinarian also complained of these conditions during October, 1944. The Stewards Department changed crews several times in obtaining better handling of meat.

Refrigeration problems were due to inability to chill meat and insufficient refrigeration storage space. It was necessary to condemn carcasses several times. Improvements were made in the chill room at the slaughterhouse, the practice of placing fresh pork in the same refrigerator with stored beef or other meat was corrected, and additional hooks were provided to discourage placing meat on refrigerator floors.

#### F. Farm Sanitation

Farm sanitation was generally good except at the piggery. Here disposal of unconsumed garbage from the feeding platforms, of dead swine and of manure was unsatisfactory the greater part of the time. Beginning early in February, 1945 satisfactory disposal of unconsumed garbage, dead animals and manure was made daily until all Project swine were slaughtered about May 15, 1945. Piggery workers stated that satisfactory disposal was made as soon as suitable mechanical equipment and suitable burial trench were provided. It was necessary to make recommendations to the chief of the Operations Division and to point out in the field unsatisfactory conditions to the chief of the Agricultural section before results were obtained.

Sewage and waste water disposal from the piggery and slaughterhouse became a problem during the spring of 1945 when tile-gravel leaching beds became clogged. The writer felt that the sanitation department should have been consulted concerning the design and construction of these facilities as defects were found.

Each unit had a poultry project, and it was recommended that dead chickens be disposed of daily by incineration, that pens be cleaned weekly, that manure be placed in fly-proof bins until disposed of and that a sanitary privy be provided at each poultry farm. At Unit 3 the project was near an inhabited block and this may have caused delay in the building of a privy. Complaints were constantly received from residents until a latrine was provided.

#### G. Insect and Rodent Control

As the first sanitarian was an entomologist insects in the region were thoroughly studied, and information was issued to the residents concerning these insects. The black widow spider was the only poisonous

insect found in Poston although one poisonous type of scorpion was claimed to have been found during 1945 by a resident. One sanitary inspector was used as a pest controller working mainly in Unit 1 mess halls to control flies and cockroaches. During the summers of 1942 and 1943 several inspectors were used to kill flies in mess halls. With the reduction in staff this service was discontinued after April 1, 1944. The mosquito control crew of 3 was discontinued at the same time. Anopheles mosquitoes were found breeding near Unit 1 by Dr. Reeves of the Hooper Foundation during 1942, but no further Anopheles were collected at any time after this one breeding place was eliminated. Pest type mosquitoes were often numerous, and residents were asked to eliminate all stagnant water or to treat such water with oil.

The common house fly was the most important insect found in the kitchen. Where kitchen workers continuously used all the means at their disposal to kill adult flies conditions were good. Unfortunately more than half the mess halls did little but complain of the flies. Food was often black with flies. The fly spray furnished was often of a poor quality. Screen doors all opened inward, and garbage stands outside the mess hall attracted flies. Inspectors constantly urged the kitchen workers to "Swat that Fly" and keep garbage stands clean.

Flies were more numerous at Unit 3 and it was here that the poliomyelitis epidemic began and where most cases occurred. Since the theory of fly transmission has not been disproved, screening of mess halls and latrines was continuously checked.

No control work was done with rodents except that a few mouse traps were issued to mess halls when complaints were received. Very few rats were reported and none in mess halls.

#### H. General Block Sanitation

Drainage, fish ponds, raising of fowl, control of dogs and cats and burning of rubbish were the main problems within the blocks.

Waste water from evaporative coolers and from faucets inside and outside the barracks caused a drainage problem as barracks were not provided with sewerage connections. The Irrigation Department provided drainage ditches where ever possible, but in a few blocks and in Rainbow Village gradients were not sufficient to entirely eliminate this condition. As of April, 1944 there were 928 fish ponds of various sizes, and more were constructed later. Many were not cared for and became mosquito breeding spots. Some were connected to the sewerage system by the residents. In such cases traps were seldom used and complaints of escaping sewer gas were received. Block managers cooperated in requesting residents to eliminate such nuisances. Project regulations should have controlled the building of fish ponds and the installation of faucets within the barracks. Waste water containing food particles was often a nuisance.

Two community council regulations sponsored by sanitarians were passed. The first, during 1943, was on ordinance controlling dogs

and cats by requiring licenses and that strays be destroyed. It was not enforced until the community had a rabies scare during September, 1944. The Project Veterinarian destroyed one dog as rabid, but the head was not examined for Negri bodies. About a week later residents suspected that another dog was rabid. This dog died and the writer sent the head to the Arizona State Laboratory for examination. The report was negative. The second ordinance prohibited the raising or keeping of fowl and rabbits within inhabited blocks and was passed during the spring of 1944. Enforcement of both ordinances was under the Internal Security Department. No one wanted the job of dog catcher, and one was employed only for about 2 weeks during the rabies scare.

### I. Mess Hall Sanitation

Early reports stated that the mess halls were not complete when the evacuees first arrived in May, 1942 and that there were several deficiencies. The sanitary deficiencies were:

1. Inadequate refrigeration
2. Poor dishwashing facilities
3. Shortage of soaps, cleaner and disinfectant.
4. No floor covering, thus admitting dust through the cracks.
5. Lack of impervious cover on kitchen work tables.
6. Not enough garbage cans, and garbage stands next to the kitchen door attracting flies to the improperly hung screen doors.

Most defects had been corrected by February 24, 1944. Dishwashing remained unsatisfactory in some mess halls even though 3 compartment basins were installed. One reason was the haste of workers to complete their task and their failure to realize the importance of their job. Only at the hospital kitchen were proper facilities provided to disinfect dishes with hot water (170 degrees F. or hotter). Some mess halls attempted to disinfect with water as cool as 110 degrees F. although some type of chlorine disinfectant was provided.

It was noticed in 1942 that there was a great deal of difference in the sanitation of mess halls. Those whose chefs had restaurant experience before evacuation were usually very clean. In November, 1942 a weekly rating system was instituted for the mess halls. Later a monthly prize was given by the stewards department to the mess hall in each camp with the highest rating. This helped sanitary standards until competition became so keen that sanitary inspectors felt unwelcome in some mess halls. Inspection of mess halls was always a difficult job, and it was necessary to employ new inspectors every 6 or 8 weeks. At a meeting representatives of mess hall chefs recommended that Issei rather than Nisei be employed as mess hall inspectors. This did eliminate friction with the Issei kitchen workers, but it did not improve the sanitary standards.

Early reports stated that one death in the spring of 1943 was due to typhoid fever. This led to physical examinations of medical history statements for all mess hall workers. There was a monthly

turnover of from 100 to 200 mess hall workers, but physical examinations or medical statements were not required of new workers until the fall of 1944. Tuberculosis in the community also made examinations desirable, but the medical staff was usually too small to care for such a program.

The educational film "Twixt the Cup and the Lip" was obtained, but few of the 1500 mess hall workers saw the film. Only about 50 attended the special showing for Unit 1 mess hall workers and inclement weather or failure of operators to show the film resulted in only a small number seeing the film on regular movie nights in each Unit. A copy of the U.S. Public Health Service ordinance and code regulating eating and drinking establishments and a copy of the pamphlet "From Hand to Mouth" were given to all mess hall inspectors; however, all Issei Inspectors could not read English.

#### J. Block Latrine and Laundry Sanitation

In general the latrines and laundries were very well kept. There were some sanitary defects when the Project first opened but these were soon corrected. Screening of latrine windows in all units was provided in August, 1942. Unit 1 latrines were provided with screen doors.

Athlete's foot became very prevalent among the residents. Daily use of chlorine disinfectant was urged for cleaning shower room floors and for foot baths, also the wearing of gettas into the shower room. Unfortunately the usual practice was to remove the gettas before entering the shower room.

#### K. Miscellaneous Items

Swimming Pool and Community Enterprise stores, barber shops and beauty parlors were reported under miscellaneous items.

##### 1. Swimming Pools

Flow-through type pools were built in an irrigation canal at both Units 1 and 2. During the summer of 1944 tests of samples of water collected from these pools consistently placed them in class C or D according to the United States Public Health standards. Portions containing 0.01 cc. of the sample were confirmed for B-coli and often a 0.001 dilution was confirmed. This B-coli was thought to be of animal origin, but the canals flowed through an inhabited Indian reservation and B-coli could have been of human origin. Ear and eye infections among swimmers lead the Division of Sanitation to post signs at all pools warning swimmers of the condition of the water. The public health nurse suggested that the Acting Principal Medical officer issue a warning in memorandum form. This was done, but signs and warnings were removed by unknown persons within 24 hours. The Red Cross, which sponsored swimming, opposed the posting of

signs and warnings. However, it was gratifying in the spring of 1945 to have the Red Cross officials request that tests of the water be made because the water appeared very dirty and they wished to avoid ear infections similar to those occurring in 1944.

During July, 1944 Unit 3 opened a large concrete fill and draw type pool which was filled with water from the unit water supply system. Several sanitary defects were present and the pool did not meet U.S. Public Health or Arizona State standards. No plans were made or submitted to State Officials as required by law. Some defects were corrected, but disinfection was not provided. The bathing load of one day often polluted the water so that samples did not meet State bacteriological requirements. Recommendations that chlorination be provided were unheeded.

## 2. Community Enterprises

### a. Stores

Only the soft drinks sold at stores were a source of complaint. A cigarette butt, a bottle cap, glass, sandpaper, newspaper, flies, mosquitoes and other foreign matter were found in several shipments. This first occurred in the fall of 1943. During April, 1944 one-fourth to one-half the bottles in 16 cases contained foreign matter. The plant in Parker was modern but bottles were not properly cleaned. It was also discovered that dark glass bottles were used to fill Poston orders only. The manager was shown some of the samples and some were sent to the Arizona State Laboratory for examination. The Laboratory reported all samples safe for human consumption, but since foreign matter indicated insanitary handling the writer recommended that Community Enterprises purchase soft drinks elsewhere if possible.

### b. Barber and Beauty Shops

Few sanitary facilities were provided when shops first opened. This was gradually changed until all sanitary facilities found in city shops were provided.