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## HISTORICAL REPORT OF KANSAS CITY DISTRICT OFFICE

It was in April, 1943, that the War Relocation Authority opened a district office at Kansas City, Missouri. This office was to serve the Western half of the state of Missouri and the entire state of Kansas. The principal Missouri cities within the district were Kansas City, St. Joseph, Springfield, Sedalia, Joplin, and Excelsior Springs. The principal cities within the state of Kansas were Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Lawrence, Manhattan, Atchison, Fort Riley, and Leavenworth. The following inclusive Missouri counties comprised this district's eastern boundary; namely, Schuyler, Adair, Mogan, Randolph, Howard, Cooper, Moniteau, Miller, Camden, Laclede, Wright, Christian, and Taney.

The communities within the district which have been most popular for resettlement are greater Kansas City; namely, Kansas City, Missouri; Kansas City, Kansas; North Kansas City and Excelsior Springs, Missouri; Topeka and Lawrence, Kansas. Greater Kansas City aspired to be cosmopolitan. In the early stages of our program several of our evacuees had worked in various capacities for former West Coast people then and now living in Kansas City and it was through this bond of friendship and proven ability plus numerous favorable though but small incidents this office was able to get its first foothold.

I should like to state at this point that according to figures given me by the Internal Security Officer of this locality there were but 25 people of Japanese origin living here at the time of the Pearl Harbor incident. For the most part these 25 were self employed as dentists, restaurant owners, and gardeners, with the exception of a few who worked for one of the large meat packing companies. With this background for a beginning the office began to sell relocation to potential employers and to relocation center residents. Early resettlers generally were well received, wages were fairly attractive (industrial employees received upward



of 65¢ per hour plus overtime) and were commensurate with the cost of living.

There is one other Missouri city in this district that at one time or another has been a permanent or semi-permanent home for resettlers; namely, Excelsior Springs. The manager of The Elms Hotel of the aforementioned city opened the entire fifth floor of the hotel for living quarters, provided meals and a variety of jobs paying a fair wage with ample opportunity for substantial tips. The manager, ever mindful of good employer-employee relationship, worked for the best interest of the resettler.

As for an analysis on other major communities in the district and why they have not been popular for resettlement, I find the reason to be multiple. In the first instance, there is unwarranted spirit of antipathy, a war hysteria, an inability to cope with a sociological problem, and a wilful desire to be non-cosmopolitan. In addition to the foregoing, there are citizens in these communities motivated by Christian principles and cognizant of the finer characteristics of the evacuees who would have been willing and eager to offer employment but the prevailing wage in these communities were not attractive for the most part to Center residents. Therefore, I believe the records will reflect the fact that our metropolitan cities were more appealing. This fact is more specifically proven by the nation as a whole shifting from a rural to an urban economy.

Within the district there was but one farm venture and in this instance two resettlers pooled their resources and leased 160 acres of land in the Missouri River Bottoms in the vicinity of Birmingham, Clay County, Missouri, approximately eleven miles Northeast of Kansas City. We also have five families working on farms for wages.

#### Community Participation

Being mindful of the adage, "In union there is strength", our first undertaking was to call on the leading citizens in the various communities such as



the various heads of local government, Church groups, civic groups, heads of clubs, business and industrial organizations, and acquaint them with the functions and objectives of the Authority. As manpower was a scarce item at the time, the fact was stressed that there were 120,000 people to be relocated and that this was a potential reservoir of manpower.

Having progressed in the manner as outlined in the preceding paragraph, the next step was to call on individuals or organizations who had indicated and who it was assumed would be interested in the program to solicit their time and efforts in serving on a resettlement committee. In greater Kansas City the committee was comprised of 49 members. The first objective of the committee was to contact their friends, associates, club members, church groups, schools, colleges, and acquaint them with the mechanics and objectives of the work of the War Relocation Authority. Meetings were held on an average of every six weeks unless there was need for a special meeting which was frequently the case in the early days of the program. After the committee had functioned for approximately 18 months there was a reorganization on December 7, 1944, at which time the committee was revitalized so to speak and divided into five different groups; namely, 1. Social Adjustment; 2. Employment; 3. Housing; 4. Public Relations; and 5. Hostel.

With the broad representation as was incorporated in the citizens committee it was found to be helpful in many ways. For example in the Fall of 1943, the Superintendent of Schools in Kansas City, Kansas, refused to admit little Toshio Sano to one of the local grammar schools. The citizens committee in turn through their friends, the daily press, ministers alliance, and Parent Teachers Association brought so much pressure to bear that the superintendent reversed his decision and all has gone well for Toshio since that date. If one were to evaluate the incident, I, for one would state that this office and the program received publicity which the office could not have bought with money.



Another incident was the circulating of a petition to evict a young married couple from their apartment. Since the apartment was in the home of a Rev. Enos of this city the Church people and the local press presented the matter to the public and the instigator was subjected to so much unpleasant comment the matter was dropped. At the same time this office received several offers of apartments. Civic officials have been mindful of the fact that they are public servants and have been helpful and considerate.

As for the various unions, the approach at the outset was not as tactful as it might have been; consequently, it was not until the latter part of 1943 that we were able to get some of our resettlers taken into the union. While the picture has improved materially in the past two years there are still some unions whose local policies are not in conformity with their National policies.

In the case of Fred Sugiura who was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad as a freight handler at Kansas City, after working for a four or five week period a company official wished to promote Mr. Sugiura. This matter was brought to the attention of a John K. Meskimen, General Chairman of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks. After several meetings, conferences, and the like neither the efforts of this office, the War Manpower Commission officials, nor representatives of the Fair Employment Practice Committee were able to convince the freight handlers of their undemocratic attitude. In the meantime, Mr. Sugiura received a much better offer of employment and the matter in controversy was no longer pursued.

As was to be expected the various Church groups have crusaded our case and their never failing response has been a tremendous help to our program. All three major Faiths have worked for the welfare of our resettlers.

Our social agencies have been most cooperative. The idea of giving 100% of need was a little new and revolutionary to them at first inasmuch as they



had been operating in Missouri on a basis of 70% of need. But realizing and understanding the history of evacuation and relocation brought about as the result of Government action, resettlement assistance has been administered with dispatch.

In the case of every undertaking of great magnitude and surely, evacuation and relocation rightfully belongs in this category, there are outstanding individuals and agencies in all localities, and it is only fitting and proper to relate and record how the Y.W.C.A. helps the district office in the field of social adjustment. The free usage of their facilities for our bi-monthly social gatherings, their stimulating effectiveness in the field of sports, and the cooperation of their housing registry have been most helpful. Then there <sup>is</sup> are Dr. Quincy R. Wright, District Methodist Superintendent; Miss Dorothy Brauninger of the Council of Churches; Mr. & Mrs. Max Reefer; Mr. & Mrs. Cloyd Gustafson; Father Richard J. Shumacher; and Mr. Francis A. Wright. The aforementioned individuals are principally responsible for our hostel. They gave generously of their time, their talents, and their efforts for the establishment of the hostel, as well as aid in the soliciting of funds.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship through its National Executive Director, Mr. Harold E. Bremer, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee, has contributed a sum in excess of three thousand dollars to renovate the interior of the hostel as well as to defray all operating expenses. The three major Faiths also contributed a sum in excess of \$500.00 for hostel purposes.

Mr. Albert Jewell of the Council of Social Agencies, Kansas City, Missouri, has been an active and outstanding figure; as well as Mr. Earl Grimsby, Director of the Jackson County Social Security Commission of Missouri, and Miss Phyllis Osborn of the Regional Federal Security Agency. These three persons have been of material assistance in the administering of welfare assistance.



Mr. Carl E. Wade of the U. S. Employment Service has done a very praiseworthy task in the field of employment and industrial relations.

In Excelsior Springs, Missouri, all evacuees residing there are under the protective wing of the Elms Hotel management. Since there is a mutual interest on the part of the employer and employee, and since all matters have been very ably handled by the hotel management, committees have not been organized. St. Joseph, Springfield, and Sedalia, Missouri, have not had job opportunities that offered an attractive wage and since the jobs offered did not attract resettlers committees were not organized.

There are a few resettlers in Lawrence and Topeka, Kansas, who, for the most part are working for a Church group or the Y.M.C.A. Their respective employers have always looked after their welfare and for this reason it was not deemed necessary for committee organization. The office did know of militant leaders who could be called on should the need arise.

#### Public Acceptance

During the early days of the program when going into communities, the pattern was to first call on the Mayor, County Court, Farm Extension Agent, and those invested with the police powers of the municipality or community. The history of evacuation, the pre-requisites for leave clearance, and other assuring factors were presented to them. For the most part this method of approach was productive. As a specific example, I shall relate what this office encountered at St. Joseph, Missouri. The Governmental heads were receptive to the program. The Dannon Milling Company of that city wished to employ evacuees. The employees of the company were assembled, the relocation supervisor presented the matter to them and they were willing to accept what was stated to them as the truth. However, they could not cope with the sociological problem of this magnitude. The spokesman for the group predicated his remarks on the



premise that it did not seem to be fair to draft their co-workers, place them in the armed forces, put guns in their hands, then bring in Japanese and put dollar bills in their hands. The subterfuge was readily discernible. The employer received threats of intimidation and while the hourly wage was not attractive and this office could not guarantee to supply the needed manpower, the matter was not further pursued. Later a few of the Church going people wanted to employ evacuees in their homes, but the prevailing wage offered no incentive. The natural trend was to relocate in larger cities that were and aspired to be cosmopolitan.

Steps were also taken to open relocation in Springfield, Missouri, from where a one time public figure had taken employment as project attorney at our Jerome Relocation Center. He frequently returned to his home in Springfield and the city and industrial leaders had heard his appeal for work opportunities. He was not a stranger to them, yet the leaders preferred to take a passive attitude. Several Nisei boys were stationed in nearby army camps such as Camp Crowder and Fort Leonard Wood. A few Church and civic leaders united to the cause, but again the prevailing wage was not attractive. Many residents of this region of the Ozarks were migrating to the larger cities in quest of a more lucrative wage in a defense plant.

To illustrate the prevalent spirit of antipathy a point further, there was a Japanese man in the city of Springfield who had been a resident of that community for a great many years. He owned and operated a fairly large dairy farm and city milk route. A war hysteria found his customers one by one refusing to do business with him and he was practically forced out of business. However, it appeared providential that the army opened a large hospital in the city known as O'Riley General Hospital. The milk contract to supply milk to this hospital went to our Japanese man and saved him from economic chaos. Last summer (1945) this



man committed suicide. Sentiment even at this late date was so bitter that a burial plot could not be purchased; consequently, his remains were brought to Kansas City, Missouri, and the body cremated.

Another incident occurred West and a little to the North in the State of Kansas and the City of Wichita. Friends University of that city, a sectarian school cooperating with the National Student Relocation Council, offered a few scholarships to qualified Nisei students. Several students availed themselves of this offer and relocated to Wichita. It was not long until the City Council proposed to introduce and to enact a city ordinance prohibiting relocation in Wichita. The area supervisor and the reports officer upon learning of this overt act hurried to Wichita, met with city officials, and those who readily saw how un-American and unconstitutional such a piece of legislation would be succeeded in defeating the proposal. Later a few good job offers were submitted by residents of that city, but Center residents never accepted the job offers.

It was gratifying to note the gradual transition as time went on. The Nisei soldier, in my judgment, caused public resentment to ease. As an illustration there was a young Nisei war bride who took a secretarial position in Kansas City. One girl refused to work with her because this particular girl's husband was a soldier overseas. When the Nisei girl related that her husband was also in the U. S. Army and overseas, the two girls immediately had something in common and became the best of friends. One could go on at great length depicting a word panorama of WRA, its obstacles and accomplishments which time and history can better evaluate.



### Employment

As stated earlier in this narrative report, jobs were first developed when an impressive appeal was made to an executive who in several instances had gone to college and had previous associations with evacuees, or had employed them before and was not baffled by derogatory remarks. If there was to be discrimination, it was on an individual basis and not racial. This was, in my judgment, the initial approach.

Since many of the early resettlers were industrious and adventuresome, they sold themselves better than anyone else could once given the opportunity. Once an employer learned at first hand of their ability, additional job offers were received. If a company was in need of a man with a particular skill or profession the management generally saw to it that he was taken in and respected.

We have evacuees working as chemists, engineers, draftsmen, dental technicians, artist, designers, metallurgist, typists, dentist, physicians, nurses, domestic and other service employees, gardeners, farmers, and other diverse occupationists. We had a resettler employed as an industrial designer at the North American Aviation Company, several draftsmen at American Designing and Engineering Company, a metallurgist at the Aluminum Company of America, and a physicist at the Wilcox Electric Company. These four companies were primarily engaged in a program solely related to the war effort and the evacuees because of their specific skills and knowledge made their contribution in this manner. In addition to the aforesaid, many were employed in essential industries though not contributing directly to the war effort but by their eagerness to get in all overtime possible coupled with practically no record of absenteeism, they made a very definite contribution by helping to keep the production lines moving. The evacuee, once employed, for the most part merited for his or herself a good employmeny and production record.



As for getting into the union, it was not so easy at first. Most unions at the outset, if at all receptive, issued a temporary work permit. As time went on, the picture changed and evacuees were able to get into various unions. However, there are still some unions that are not opened to resettlers. The C.I.O. union has been more receptive than the A. F. of L. union.

Up until the first part of 1945, the facilities of the U.S.E.S. were not used extensively by this office or the evacuees. For if there was found to be a job that required special handling in most instances the WRA alone was best qualified to handle it. This office had a working relationship with the U.S.E.S. whereby we would contact them for leads or referrals for a person with a particular trade or skill. This agency at all times was very helpful and assigned two individuals to whom we could refer evacuees and who in turn would give these cases special handling. The U.S.E.S. industrial relations division in their daily routine contact with employers would do the introductory work for the WRA and if potential employers were interested and receptive and wished additional information regarding our program this office was so advised. They also supplied this office with a list of employers who were badly in need of help.

As the labor market became stringent in 1944 and 1945, and this office began referring evacuees to the U.S.E.S. for work opportunities many resettlers were referred to jobs and plants that had labor unions and it is gratifying to note that the evacuees were taken into these unions. These jobs offered better wages. I know of one instance when the U.S.E.S. published in its local employee publication with pride under the caption, "It Can Be Done", how an evacuee was placed as a bar-tender in one of Kansas City's leading hotels and accepted by the union.

With regard to agricultural opportunities, it can be stated that the



district office had jobs for farm laborers such as orchard workers, live stock attendants, dairy workers, harvest hands, truck gardeners, chicken ranch workers, fruit trees and vineyard workers, and other farm activities typical to this section of the Mid-West. The usual method of finding such opportunities was to contact the State and County Extension Agents, acquaint them with the program and the fact that 45% of the evacuees had been engaged in this type of enterprise prior to evacuation. Since the State and County Agents were charged with the responsibility of allocating farm labor, the County Agent generally knew of someone who was in dire need of help. While there were never a great many offers, only a few were taken. This was due in part to the fact that the wage though prevailing in the community was not attractive. Many of the offers were of a seasonal nature. Full time farm offers paid from \$60.00 to \$100.00 per month, plus a house, milk cow, a garden plot, eggs, butter, a few chickens, and possibly a hog. In the spring of 1944, we were able to get a farm offer on a 60-40 basis. Two young Nisei accepted, but their venture was not very lucrative due to a very late spring and an unusual amount of rain. The following year, these two boys rented 160 acres of bottom land at \$16.00 an acre, planted 450,000 cabbage plants and 25,000 tomato plants and realized a gross profit of approximately \$6,000.00. Another worked as a farm manager at \$125.00 per month plus his keep. This office did not advocate the purchasing of farm land on the premise that it was all new and prices were going upward.

It should be noted that Missouri is an extensive live stock state with corn and other small grain constituting the other principle crop. There are but five truck garden areas within the state of any consequence. These areas being Jefferson, Buchanan, Clay, McDonald, and St. Louis counties. The land is quite fertile and productive and the natives were not disposed to sell, lease,



or share crop their land. For the most part farm land south of the Missouri River is not very productive.

While there is much wealth derived from farming in the state of Kansas, this state as a whole was never receptive to the idea of relocation. There were some evacuees working in the beet fields of western Kansas when the program of seasonal leave was in operation. In round numbers there are about 100 evacuee resettlers in the state; a fraction of whom are working on farms or working in a green house.

The old adage, "All that glitters is not gold", as in all phases of life is also true of WRA. It must be stated <sup>again</sup> that in greater Kansas City at the time of Pearl Harbor there were but 25 people of Japanese origin, practically all of whom were self-employed. The public, generally speaking, was dubious. This condition was more prevalent in the rural areas or smaller cities. Labor was fearful that the management would bring in great numbers who would be willing to work for a sub-standard wage as was done on the West Coast 30 Or 40 years ago. The management, which a little later on in the program was confronted with a tightening labor market; consequently, was governed by what the employee had to say on the matter. Frequently, if a representative of the Authority could not banish any scruples or hesitancy some member of the Citizens Committee, a War Manpower representative, a Church group, or in a few instances the Fair Employment Practice Committee was asked to intercede.

It must be remembered that there was at all times an abundance of domestic job offers. Since this type of employment was mostly offered by fairly well to do and influential people it served to open jobs in plants, etc., in many cases owned and managed by an employee of one whom the office had placed as a domestic.

Frequently, employers were advised by their home office to inquire as to the



possibility of getting evacuee help to man their plants. However, until evacuees came into the district in greater numbers and sold themselves to their employers with their fine working habits, many of the employers were hesitant in employing them.

It can also be stated that this office could not get takers for the jobs already solicited and sent to the various Centers during the early days of the program. This was probably due to the fact that Center residents would compare the wage scale in various sections of the country. Frequently, evacuees would come into this district seeking high wages as offered in the industrial Eastern cities and refuse to take jobs which paid the wage scale of this district. It then became necessary to inform and show the evacuee that as a general rule wages in most communities are commensurate with the cost of living. This type of comparison very often banished their perplexity. Another selling point was that in a smaller community one would not have to commute any great distance to and from work. Since many of the Kansas City industries are engaged in the manufacturing of consumers goods, this fact was also stressed. The fact was presented that the plants now contributing to the war effort would continue on after the war manufacturing consumers goods which in all instances would mean continued employment and job security. To many of the evacuees, the various points aforementioned had no appeal and many of them were still attracted to the higher wages offered by some of the larger industrial Eastern cities.

#### Business Establishments

Various types of business opportunities and advice were developed and made available to our resettlers. However, there were but a few who were interested or willing to make the initial investment. The daily press offered



one avenue of business that was for sale or trade. Another was a contact made early in the program with a broker who had on many occasions <sup>opened</sup> several different enterprises, store fixtures, dry cleaning, or restaurant businesses for sale.

Thus far, to the knowledge of the district office there is one evacuee in the restaurant business in Kansas City, another in the plumbing business in Lawrence, Kansas, and several doing chick-sexing work throughout the district. There are also some professional men such as physicians, dentists, and private duty nurses. Most of the financing has been done from their own funds and in some instances by a short term note or personal loan from a bank. Those who have gone into business have been successful and plan to continue.

#### Community Adjustment

Most resettlers who have relocated and found adequate housing or purchased homes and who have been joined by other family members are regarded as having made a satisfactory adjustment.

Resettlers to a limited extent have participated in civic, social, and educational activities. There still seems to be some reluctance on their part to take any outside leadership. This, I believe, is due to the effects of evacuation and the Pearl Harbor incident. Also due to the fact that most of our resettlers are working people and do not have a great deal of leisure time. This condition, I believe, will remedy itself as time goes on and the resettler becomes better acquainted with the community.

There are approximately 530 resettlers in the entire district with approximately 325 in Kansas City, Missouri. To overcome this fear, feeling or antipathy, a literary club was formed. This club meets at the hostel twice each month. The Y.W.C.A. offers the facilities of their organization for social gatherings twice a month to which all racial groups are invited to attend.



The resettlers have been asked to organize a resettler's group which thus far has been for purely social purposes. There appears to be a feeling of self sufficiency on the matter or the lack of an able leader who has the time and money to participate. Then too, once a person has been suppressed for a period of time there is a deadening or killing of the initiative. An effort to overcome this feeling has been made by reorganizing and revitalizing the committee or group. The problem will undoubtedly work itself out eventually.

I do not wish to infer that the resettlers of this district are dejected for from my observations they seek and have their own form of amusement such as golf, swimming, bowling, dancing, shows, plays, etc.

With reference to the assistance given by private and public welfare agencies it can be stated that the response was gratifying and spontaneous once the request was made. I can recall but three cases where the evacuee on being informed and referred to a public or private agency for family reunion planning availed him or herself of the facilities.

This office has had occasion to go to the public agency for emergency and term adjustment assistance in two tuberculosis cases, on suspected case; one appendectomy; two cardiac; one nausea or train sickness; and one paralytic case. In the case of public welfare, hospitalization, medical examination, and routine check ups were given by the City of Kansas City to a suspected case of tuberculosis. Hospitalization was also given by the city to an evacuee who became a mental case. The patient being a young man who was later moved by his brother against medical advice to his parents home in the state of Utah. In another case the Traveler's Aid removed an evacuee who was stricken with a heart attack while enroute from Poston to Elgin, Illinois. The patient was hospitalized by the city for a period of three weeks. As I recall, the city did not in any of the above mentioned cases where the facilities of the Kansas City General Hos-



pital were used make an effort to seek re-imbusement.

The private family agencies have given counseling service and if financial assistance was needed the matter was referred to the public agency which would be reimbursed from Federal funds.

The Traveler's Aid delivered messages, provided wheel chairs, directed the evacuee to the WRA office or where to locate the relocation officer after office hours, and assumed the responsibility of seeing that the needs of the evacuee were taken care of.

The mechanics of the City Legal Aid Society were investigated; their cooperation solicited and assured. However, up to the present and to the knowledge of the writer there has been no occasion to seek the aid of this society.

The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. have been of great assistance affording room accommodations for ~~the~~ resettlers, extending the use of all ~~the~~ <sup>their</sup> facilities to evacuees for social gatherings and recreational purposes, sponsoring integration, offering ~~the~~ <sup>their</sup> housing registry, and promoting the general welfare of the resettlers. One who has worked with these two organizations can not but speak too highly of their assistance.

The assistance given by Church groups has been numerous and varied. The Methodist Youth Fellowship has expended an amount in excess of \$3,000.00 for our hostel. Aside from this, the Independence Avenue Methodist Church turned over to our Hostel Committee their former parsonage for use as a hostel rent free. The three major Faiths; namely, Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant, contributed the sum of \$638.00. The Salvation Army gave on a loan basis items of household furnishings. The same was done by the St. Vincent De Paul Society of the Catholic Church. Ministers, Priests, and Rabbis, motivated by religious precepts crusaded, promoted and defended relocation. The same is true of that



large militant body that comprises the Church going people.

### Housing

Resettlers residing within the metropolitan area of the district as well as this office found housing to be one of the biggest problems. This condition was not encountered, however, in some of the smaller communities where resettlers were living or are presently domiciled.

The district office in its effort to cope with the problem contacted real estate agents as well as other allied or related agencies, presented the need in talks before all groups, scanned the daily papers, asked resettlers to notify the office of known or future vacancies, developed employment opportunities that included housing, and solicited the help of employers, Church groups, and civic groups.

Up until last September 15, 1945, when the local office of the housing authority ceased to be existent, this office enjoyed a very close working relationship with this authority. The man in charge of the housing authority had attended college with Japanese Americans and was also a good friend of the writer; the combination was productive. There was also a real estate broker who could be counted on to cooperate and help out in a pinch. Real estate agents who had sold homes to resettlers and learned of the care and improvements made by the evacuee on their property were always helpful.

Resettlers, with the exception of those in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, are living in and owning homes in various sections of the city. 90% of the rental housing obtained for evacuees are of the public conversion type apartment consisting of one or two bed rooms. All housing obtained either through sale or rental, with the exception of but one, are quite removed from the Colored districts of the city. The management of the Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Mis-



souri, has provided apartments for his evacuee employees and they are located within the immediate vicinity of the hotel.

Generally speaking, almost all housing obtained is adequate with a few exceptions in view of the tight housing situation as it exists today.

#### Other Problems and Activities

Throughout the existence of this District WRA Field Office it has always been the policy to obtain amicable public relations with the press, radio, and general public. The local press has given the War Relocation Authority three very lengthy feature articles in the Sunday Feature Section. Local resettlers have appeared on radio forums and round table discussions. Talks have been made throughout the district by resettlers and representatives of this office. The three films, "Japanese Relocation", "A Challenge to Democracy", and "Go For Broke", have been shown to varied groups. One, if not the major piece of public relations work was our open house at the hotel.

The district office relationship with the Centers has been adequate and amicable. There has been Center coordination with area relocation teams, displays and space has been given to the information kits sent to the Centers, and Center publications have also published news items submitted by this office in order to stimulate relocation.

#### Outstanding Community

The most unique community in the district where at one time or another more than 125 resettlers have worked during the past two and a half years is the Elms Hotel at Excelsior Springs, Missouri. The management of the hotel has done much for our resettlers and they in turn have done much for the management. The management has bought and furnished apartments for the evacuee, given parties, advanced funds, and sent recruiters to some of the Centers in order to stimulate



relocation to this community. All parties have enjoyed a very pleasant employee-employer relationship.

#### Administration

The Kansas City District Office opened on April 1, 1943. The Area and District Offices occupied adjoining offices at 1509-1510 Fidelity Building. The original staff was comprised of two associate relocation officers and a receptionist. In January, 1944, a relocation officer was appointed, one associate relocation officer, a relocation counselor, a secretary, and a receptionist. In January, 1945, the Kansas City Area Office was consolidated with the Chicago Area Office and for the first four months of the year the staff was comprised of a relocation officer, a junior relocation officer, a secretary, and a receptionist. In May, 1945, the junior relocation officer, was transferred to Chicago and in June of the same year the receptionist resigned and since that time the staff has been comprised of a relocation officer and a secretary. With a staff of three and subsequently two, a hostel was promoted and opened, an extensive educational program was initiated, and sufficient or adequate housing and employment were found for the resettlers.

The Kansas City District Office will close on January 31, 1946, having made provisions to care for the future welfare of the evacuee and with the knowledge and satisfaction that those who remain and desire to make this locality their permanent home will go on enjoying an increasing normal American way of life.

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