

E2.951

67/14
C

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

~~Bond~~
~~Ames~~
~~Spencer~~
Mrs. Lane
H. Oressman
M. Spier

May 17, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Relocation Planning Division

Monthly Report for April

Dear Mr. Myer:

Life at the Shelter during the month of April was overshadowed by the death of President Roosevelt which was a strong psychological blow to the people. It was by order of President Roosevelt that they had been brought to this country, and their fears were now heightened that his death would mean their speedy return to Europe. Now that several weeks have passed and they are still here, they feel that they can place their hopes in President Truman.

Welfare Department - Dr. Rudolph Dreikurs, psychiatrist, spent 10 days at the Shelter this month and interviewed people referred by the Welfare Department. It was possible to get psychiatric opinion on all of the people for whom this was thought necessary. With his help, test cases were worked up to send to Washington as examples of people eligible for possible release from the Shelter. In other cases his report has served as a guide for further action to be taken. It was especially valuable in helping us to obtain short periods of convalescent care for medical reasons.

Children's Shelter - On April 3 a children's shelter was opened to care for children who are motherless either permanently or through temporary hospitalization. Two of the residents were installed as house mothers with a full-time janitress for cleaning and washing. Five children have been taken care of during the month.



Mr. Dillon S. Myer 2 5/17/45

Hospital - The hospital was supplied with more standard medications. Our X-ray machine has been put in use. The supply of nurses' aides by the residents is not adequate, and the general attitude toward work in the hospital, with a few exceptions, is not too good. Improvement in that line can only be expected with the general change of attitude of the residents toward work in the Shelter as a whole.

Nutrition - Attention has been given to the problem of feeding infants. Attempts have been made to satisfy the dietary needs of patients, but so far it has been impossible to get a diet kitchen started, due mainly to the labor problem in this Shelter. Education programs will be started to impress the residents with the need of preparing a balanced diet and to supply enough workers so that those who need special diets can be taken care of.

Sanitation - Recommendations were made to mess management, as a result of inspections, to try to keep the kitchens up to standard. Mr. Lowe, Chief Sanitary Inspector, initiated rodent control measures here. This project has been very successful.

Noted
RPL.

Cultural Activities - The major endeavor during the month of April was, of course, the Arts and Crafts Exhibit which opened on the 29th. During the entire month a large committee worked very hard in arousing interest in collecting items to be exhibited, and in preparing the Exhibit Hall. About 250 people have contributed in some way to the Exhibit.

Throughout the month there prevailed an excellent feeling of co-operation and joint effort toward a common goal. The private showing of the Exhibit took place on Sunday, April 29 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. This was followed by a party in the Service Club for invited guests and for exhibitors. Several hundred people from Oswego and other cities have visited the Exhibit, and everyone seems to think the show an excellent one.

During the month there were several parties with musical programs in the various recreation halls. There was also a chamber music concert, and a weekly series of record concerts had its first session on April 17. Also a music appreciation course has been started with biweekly meetings using phonographs as the principal teaching device. A group of actors presented two one act plays in German on April 21 and 22.

Mr. Dillon S. Myer 3 5/17/45

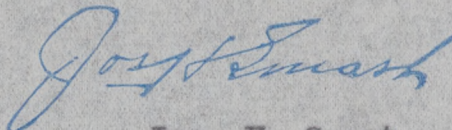
A series of gymnastics and dancing classes for girls has been started with one of the residents conducting, and there are now about 45 students participating.

Much interest has been shown by the residents in planting gardens, and the people have planted flowers both seeds and transplanted, and a group of young boys and girls have started a vegetable garden.

Personnel - Mr. Reuben Levine left the Shelter, and Miss ~~Rash~~ McKee, historian, was here from our Washington office.

Visitors - Mr. Bernard Dubin of National Refugee Service, Mr. Asofsky of HIAS, and Mr. Levy of the National Council of Jewish Women, and the members of the Coordinating Committee for Fort Ontario visited the Shelter and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jos. H. Smart".

Jos. H. Smart
Director

*Examine
Spice*

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

April 21, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Weekly Report Ending April 14, 1945
Attention: Relocation Planning Division

Dear Mr. Myer:

On Saturday, April 14, two memorial services were held for President Roosevelt, one a religious service in the Chapel and the other in the grounds of the old Fort. Both the residents and the American employees attended these very solemn and moving tributes to the passing of a man whose loss they felt very deeply. All amusement programs and parties were canceled and the residents went into an eight day strict mourning period.

On the basis of recommendations made by Dr. Dreikurs several residents are being considered for a short period of convalescent care outside of the Shelter on medical grounds. The first to be leaving this week is Mrs. Renee Buchler the widow of the man who was accidentally killed at the Shelter. In all of these cases the people are showing severe signs of breakdown, but are not considered eligible for a mental hospital. It is hoped that this short period in the convalescent home will give them an opportunity to recuperate both physically and mentally.

Sincerely,

Jos. H. Smart

Jos. H. Smart
Director



Handwritten notes at top left corner.

Emergency Refugee Division
New York

April 21, 1953

Mr. William B. Evers, Director
New York
110-1111 Avenue W.
Washington, D. C.

Weekly Report Ending April 15, 1953
Emergency Refugee Division

Dear Mr. Evers:

On Saturday, April 15, two memorial services were held for President Roosevelt, one a religious service in the chapel and the other in the gymnasium of the old town hall. The memorial service in the gymnasium was attended by a large number of persons and the religious service in the chapel was also well attended. All classes at the school were held as usual. The residents of the town hall were also present at the memorial services.

On the basis of reports made to the Emergency Refugee Division, it was determined that the residents of the town hall were in good health and were able to work. The first of the residents who were in the town hall on April 15, 1953, were the residents of the town hall who were in the town hall on April 15, 1953. The residents of the town hall who were in the town hall on April 15, 1953, were the residents of the town hall who were in the town hall on April 15, 1953.



Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

APR 13 1945
APR 12, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Reports Library

Weekly Report Ending April 6, 1945

Dear Mr. Myer:

During the past ten days the Passover holidays were observed and the Seder services held in the Kosher Mess Halls. Complete reorganization was necessary to serve the proper food at this time necessitating long hours of extra work both for the staff and the residents, but the celebration of these holidays for the first time in many years had great meaning for the people.

Dr. Dreikurs, the psychiatrist, held meetings and interviews throughout the week, and endeavored to include all groups in his discussions.

A home has been opened for children needing special care away from their parents. At present three children are housed there, and in the coming week two others are to be admitted. Even though the project is small, it presents problems in personnel and feeding since some of the children are from strictly orthodox families.

On April 6 the seventh baby was born at the Shelter, a girl Diane - Kay Breuer. Her parents were the first couple to be married soon after they arrived in the United States.

Sincerely,

Jos. H. Smart
Jos. H. Smart
Director

1997

REF ID: A11978



EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER
Fort Ontario, N. Y.

March 17, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Weekly Report for the Week Ending March 10, 1945

During the past week there have been several visits to the Shelter from reporters of several newspapers as a result of the articles which appeared in PM. They interviewed some of the residents with sons in the American Army, and reports of these interviews have subsequently appeared in the Herald Tribune and Oswego Palladium Times. Other stories will be appearing later in the Women's Home Companion and Life Story magazines.

Several situations have arisen this week to raise the question of placement of children outside the Shelter. The Bleier case became acute because of the inability to get consistent house-keeping help. Mr. Bleier, since the death of his wife, has been unable to care for the children, and is willing to have them placed outside.

The four children of the lately deceased Arpad Buchler are a problem since the mother feels incapable of caring for them and shows definite rejecting tendencies. There is another severe emergency in the situation of Mrs. Blaustein whose emotional difficulties and flare-ups have resulted in plans for her placement in a mental hospital, and it may be necessary for these children to be placed outside since the father is not capable of caring for them.

This situation raised the question of the possible solution by having a Children's Shelter on the grounds where children can be placed for constant or special emergency needs, but in the



RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

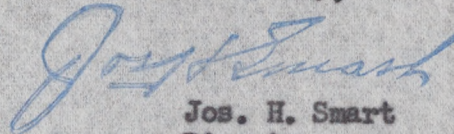
RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1945
War Relocation Authority

Mr. Dillon S. Myer - 2 March 17, 1945

case of the Buchler children their placement outside would be of a more permanent nature and probably in a religious school since Mrs. Buchler is desirous of having her two sons prepared for the ministry.

Sincerely,



Jos. H. Smart
Director

HA:hk

File Copies: Subject ✓
Chrono.
Readers



Herzels
Culono.
Elle Cobres: subject
HV:PK

Herzels
Culono.

Herzels

for the purpose of
determining when and for what purpose
of a person's name and address in a
of a person's name and address in a

2000, 1000, 500, 250, 125, 62.5, 31.25, 15.625, 7.8125, 3.90625, 1.953125, 0.9765625, 0.48828125, 0.244140625, 0.1220703125, 0.06103515625, 0.030517578125, 0.0152587890625, 0.00762939453125, 0.003814697265625, 0.0019073486328125, 0.00095367431640625, 0.000476837158203125, 0.0002384185791015625, 0.00011920928955078125, 0.000059604644775390625, 0.0000298023223876953125, 0.00001490116119384765625, 0.000007450580596923828125, 0.0000037252902984619140625, 0.00000186264514923095703125, 0.000000931322574615478515625, 0.0000004656612873077392578125, 0.00000023283064365386962890625, 0.000000116415321826934814453125, 0.0000000582076609134674072265625, 0.00000002910383045673370361328125, 0.000000014551915228366851806640625, 0.0000000072759576141834259033203125, 0.00000000363797880709171295166015625, 0.000000001818989403545856475830078125, 0.0000000009094947017729282379150390625, 0.00000000045474735088646411895751953125, 0.000000000227373675443232059478759765625, 0.0000000001136868377216160297393798828125, 0.00000000005684341886080801486968994140625, 0.000000000028421709430404007434844970703125, 0.0000000000142108547152020037174224853515625, 0.00000000000710542735760100185871124267578125, 0.000000000003552713678800500929355621337890625, 0.0000000000017763568394002504646778106689453125, 0.00000000000088817841970012523233890533447265625, 0.000000000000444089209850062616169452667236328125, 0.0000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625, 0.00000000000011102230246251565404236316680908203125, 0.000000000000055511151231257827021181583404541015625, 0.0000000000000277555756156289135105907917022705078125, 0.00000000000001387778780781445675529539585113525390625, 0.000000000000006938893903907228377647697925567626953125, 0.0000000000000034694469519536141888238489627838134765625, 0.00000000000000173472347597680709441192448139190673828125, 0.000000000000000867361737988403547205962240695953369140625, 0.0000000000000004336808689942017736029811203479766845703125, 0.00000000000000021684043449710088680149056017398834228515625, 0.000000000000000108420217248550443400745280086994171142578125, 0.0000000000000000542101086242752217003726400434970855712890625, 0.00000000000000002710505431213761085018632002174854278564453125, 0.000000000000000013552527156068805425093160010874271392822265625, 0.0000000000000000067762635780344027125465800054371356964111328125, 0.00000000000000000338813178901720135627329000271856784820556640625, 0.00000000000000000169406589450860067813664500135928392410278303125, 0.0000000000000000008470329472543003390683225006796419620513915625, 0.00000000000000000042351647362715016953416125033982098102569578125, 0.000000000000000000211758236813575084767080625169910490512847890625, 0.0000000000000000001058791184067875423835403125849552452564239453125, 0.00000000000000000005293955920339377119177015629247762262821197265625, 0.000000000000000000026469779601696885595885078146238811314105986328125, 0.0000000000000000000132348898008484427979425390731194056570529931640625, 0.00000000000000000000661744490042422139897126953655970282852649658203125, 0.000000000000000000003308722450212110699485634768279851414263248291015625, 0.0000000000000000000016543612251060553497428173841399257071316241455078125, 0.00000000000000000000082718061255302767487140869206996285356581207275390625, 0.000000000000000000000413590306276513837435704346034981426782906036376953125, 0.0000000000000000000002067951531382569187178521730174907133914530181884765625, 0.00000000000000000000010339757656912845935892608650874535669572650909423828125, 0.000000000000000000000051698788284564229679463043250437178347863254547119140625, 0.0000000000000000000000258493941422821148397315216252185891739316272735595703125, 0.00000000000000000000001292469707114105741986576081260929458696581363677978515625, 0.000000000000000000000006462348535570528709932880406304647293482906818389892578125, 0.0000000000000000000000032311742677852643549664402031523236467414534091949462890625, 0.00000000000000000000000161558713389263217748322010157616182337072670459747314453125, 0.000000000000000000000000807793566946316088741610050788080911685363352298736572265625, 0.0000000000000000000000004038967834731580443708050253940404558426816761493682861328125, 0.00000000000000000000000020194839173657902218540251269702022792134083807468414306640625, 0.000000000000000000000000100974195868289511092701256348510113960670419037342071533203125, 0.0000000000000000000000000504870979341447555463506281742550569803352095186710357666015625, 0.00000000000000000000000002524354896707237777317531408712752849016760475933551788330078125, 0.000000000000000000000000012621774483536188886587657043563764245083802379667758941650390625, 0.0000000000000000000000000063108872417680944432938285217818821225419011898338794708251953125, 0.00000000000000000000000000315544362088404722164691426089094106127095059491693973541259765625, 0.000000000000000000000000001577721810442023610823457130445470530635475297458469867706298828125, 0.0000000000000000000000000007888609052210118054117285652227352653177237787292349338531494140625, 0.00000000000000000000000000039443045261050590270586428261136763265886188936461746692657470703125, 0.000000000000000000000000000197215226305252951352932141305683816329430944682308733463287353515625, 0.0000000000000000000000000000986076131526264756764660706528419081647154723411513667316436767578125, 0.00000000000000000000000000004930380657631323783823303532642095408235773617057568336582183837890625, 0.000000000000000000000000000024651903288156618919116517663210477041178868085287841682910919189453125, 0.0000000000000000000000000000123259516440783094595582588316052385205894340426439208414545595947265625, 0.00000000000000000000000000000616297582203915472977912941580261926029471702132196042072727979736328125, 0.000000000000000000000000000003081487911019577364889564707901309630147358510660980210363639898681640625, 0.0000000000000000000000000000015407439555097886824447823539506548150736792553304901051818199493408203125, 0.00000000000000000000000000000077037197775489434122239117697503270753683962766524500259059097467041015625, 0.000000000000000000000000000000385185988877447170611195588487516353768419813832622501295295487335205078125, 0.0000000000000000000000000000001925929944387235853055977942437581768842099069163112506476477436676025390625, 0.00000000000000000000000000000009629649721936179265279889712187908844210495345815562532378238718338012890625, 0.000000000000000000000000000000048148248609680896326399448560939544221052476729077812668911935916690064453125, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000240741243048404481631997242804697721105262383645389063344559679583450322265625, 0.00000000000000000000000000000001203706215242022408159986214023488605526311918226945316722798397917251611328125, 0.000000000000000000000000000000006018531076210112040799931070117443027631559591134726583613991989586257556640625, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000030092655381050560203999655350587215138157797955673632918069959947931287783203125, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000150463276905252801019998276752936075690788989778368164590349799739656438916015625, 0.000000000000000000000000000000000752316384526264005099991383761480378453944948891840822951748998698282194580078125, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000003761581922631320025499956918807401892269724744459204114758744993491410972900390625, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000018807909613156600127499784594037009461348623722296020573793724967457054864501953125, 0.000000000000000000000000000000000094039548065783000637498922970185047306723118611480102868968624837285274322509765625, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000000470197740328915003187494614850925236533615593057400514344843124186426371612548828125, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000002350988701644575015937473074254626182668077965287002571724215620932131858062744140625, 0.000000000000000000000000000000000011754943508222875079687365371273130913340389826435012858621078104660659290313720703125, 0.000000000000000000000000000000000005877471754111437539843682685636565456670194913217506429310539052330329645156361015625, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000000029387358770557187699218413428182827283350974566087532146552695261651648225781805078125, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000000146936793852785938496092067140914136416754872830437660732763476308258241128909025390625, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000000073468396926392969248046033570457068208377436415218830366381738154129120564454511328125, 0.000000000000000000000000000000000000367341984631964846240230167852285341041887182207609151831908690770645602822272556640625, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000000001836709923159824231201150839261426705209435911038045759159543453853228014111362783203125, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000000009183549615799121156005754196307133526047179555519022875797721726926140070556813916015625, 0.000000000000000000000000000000000000045917748078995605780028770981535667630235897777595114378988608634630700352784069580078125, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000229588740394978028900143854907678338151179488887975571894943043173153501763920347900390625, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000000001147943701974890144500719274538391690755897444439877859474715215865767508819601739501953125, 0.000000000000000000000000000000000000005739718509874450722503596372691958453779487222219938957373576079328837544098008697509765625, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000028698592549372253612517981863459792268897436111099694786867880396644187720490043487548828125, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000000000143492962746861268062589909317298961344487180555498473934339401983220938602450217437744140625, 0.000000000000000000000000000000000000000717464813734306340312949546586494806722435902777492369671697009916104693012251087188720703125, 0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000003587324068671531701564747732932474033612179513887461848358485049580523465061255435943603515625, 0.00000000000000000000000000000000000000017936620343357658507823738664662370168060897569437309241792425247902617325306277179718017578125, 0.0089683101716788292539118693323311850840304487847186546208962126239513086626531385898590087890625, 0.00448415508583941462695593466616559254201522439235932731044810631197565433132656929492950439453125, 0.002242077542919707313477967333082796271007612196179663655224053155987827165663284647464752197265625, 0.0011210387714598536567389836665413981355038060980898318276120265779939135828316423237323760986328125, 0.00056051938572992682836949183327069906775190304904491591380601328899695679141582116118663804931640625, 0.000280259692864963414184745916635349533875951524522457956903006644498478395707910580593319024658203125, 0.0001401298464324817070923729583176747669379757622612289784515033222492391978539552902966595123291015625, 0.007006492321624085354618647915883738346898788113061448922575166112461959892697764514832975616455078125, 0.0035032461608120426773093239579418691734493940565307244612875830562309799463488822574164878082275390625, 0.00175162308040602133865466197897093458672469702826536223064379152811548997317444112870824390411376953125, 0.000875811540203010669327330989485467293362348514132681115321895764057744986587220564354121952056884765625, 0.0004379057701015053346636654947427336466811742570663405576609478820288724932936102821770609760284423828125, 0.00021895288505075266733183274737136682334058712853317027883047394101443624664680514108853048801422119140625, 0.00010947644252537633366591637368568341167029356426658513941523697050721812332340257054426

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

March 13, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Monthly Report - February

Dear Mr. Myer:

Many people at Fort Ontario are still in an overwrought and highly emotional state which becomes more intense as the weeks go by because of their continued confinement here. The accidental death of one of the residents while working on the coal pile resulted in widespread voicing of the basic resentments and frustrations. The publicity recently given the Shelter, resulting from remarks made by Mrs. Roosevelt at a meeting in New York and the articles in PM, has heightened their hopes that the American people will be sympathetic to their desire for freedom, and that action will be taken without any further delay whereby they will be released.

Since the death of Mr. Buchler there has been no regular rotation work, (except among women for kitchen work), but the house leaders are organizing their own barracks so that home-related work will be taken care of, in addition to which 15 men have expressed a willingness to perform the general work of the Shelter.

On the last day of February we commenced repayment of the equivalent of the lira taken from the refugees in Italy, and this should be completed within a short time. There are two or three cases which cannot be paid because persons holding the receipt have died and legal difficulties must be worked out before the money can be paid to the spouses.

Welfare--Case Histories From October to February one of the major activities carried on in the Welfare Department

Mr. Dillon S. Myer 2 3/13/45

was the interviewing of all family units in the Shelter. The interviews were focused on obtaining various types of information, correct statistical data, complete data regarding relatives and other family members who have been separated during the period of displacement, the experiences of the family during the refugee period, the present adjustment of the individual at the Shelter, and the hopes and plans of the family for the future.

It was anticipated that the information thus obtained would be of assistance to the Government and other agencies which will be responsible for planning for the future of the group. The interviews also familiarized members of the Welfare staff with special problems of the refugees. Assistance in resolving personal and family difficulties has consequently been accelerated.

Since the permanent staff of the Welfare Department was not large enough to carry on the other functions of the department in addition to the taking of histories, staff was loaned from other interested organizations to assist in completing this job. These agencies included International Migration Service, Unitarian Service Committee, National Refugee Service, and the American Friends Service Committee.

The 511 family units have all been interviewed, and this work is now completed.

Nursery School--Since it was the opinion of all interested people that the previous Nursery School at the Shelter was decidedly substandard both from the standpoint of sanitation and program, it was completely revised during February. On February 5 it was reopened in one of the brick buildings on Officers Row under the supervision of a trained American Nursery School teacher. The previous teachers were retrained as assistants, and an Advisory Committee, representing the Public Health Nurse, Mess Operations, Welfare, school teachers, and two representatives of the mothers, was established to give general guidance.

The school session is from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Special attention is paid to a pre-admission health examination at the Shelter Hospital and there is routine inspection every morning. The program is planned around an adequate variety of play material to help the Shelter develop initiative and self-assurance. There is emphasis on good habit train-

Mr. Dillon S. Myer 3 3/13/45

training. The school serves children from 2 - 5 years inclusive, and 21 are enrolled. //

At first fruit juice was served in mid-morning to all children, but since many of the children suffer from malnutrition it was decided to use this opportunity to have them accept additional food especially milk in the relaxed atmosphere of the school. On the specific recommendations of the doctors and the Public Health Nurse, the children are being fed crackers and milk in mid-morning, and given fruit juice before closing time. All the children are also given cod liver oil.

Dental Service has been continued without interruption during the month, but since practically every resident of the Shelter needed some form of dental treatment, it will still take some weeks before this work is completed.

Dining rooms--Preparations are well under way for the converting of several of the dining rooms for use for the Pass-Over holidays. It is anticipated that at least 600 refugees will require the special food and services which is provided at this time.

English Classes--With the improvement in the weather during the last two weeks, the attendance in the English Schools has risen to 67% of the pupils enrolled. ✓ //

Vocational Training--The classes continue with no great increase in attendance although the supervisors are attempting to stimulate interest in the various courses. ✓ //

Social and Cultural Activities--An extremely good circus was produced and performed by the Russian Group of the Shelter during the month to aid the Red Cross Drive. It was very gratifying to be able to turn over the proceeds of \$153.44 to the Oswego Chapter of the American Red Cross. //

Films were shown regularly during the month except for the one week period of mourning observed by the residents of the Shelter following the death of Mr. Arpad Buchler.

Personnel--Mr. Edward B. Marks of the Washington office visited the Shelter during the month, and Mrs. Fern French was here for two weeks to collect statistical data. Mrs. Friedel Reifer is still on loan from the Unitarian Service Committee, and Mr. Robert Levin is permanently assigned as Administrative Officer. Mr. Frank Harding came up to

Mr. Dillon S. Myer 4 3/13/45

Fort Ontario to make a report on Mess Operations.

Visitors to Shelter--Mrs. Marjorie Page Schauffler of the American Friends Service Committee spent a day at the Shelter at the beginning of the month. Miss Eleanor Morehead of PM came to the Shelter to obtain information following the speech made by Mrs. Roosevelt in New York, and subsequently wrote three articles on the life of the Shelter, and the reactions of the citizens of Oswego to having refugees reside in their town.

Sincerely,

Jos. H. Smart
Director

JHP

*Provenance
Spencer*

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

February 28, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

On February 19 one of our residents, Mr. Arpad Buchler, was accidentally killed by falling coal while at work at the coal pile. He was covered by the loosened coal which fell, but was quickly extricated by his fellow workers; however, death was caused by asphyxia. He is survived by a wife, four small children aged 2½ to 9 years, and a mother who has for many months been lying critically ill with a heart condition in the Shelter hospital.

Mr. Buchler's body was taken to Syracuse for burial since his family who are very orthodox did not consider the Oswego cemetery a suitable place for a man of such strong orthodox beliefs. The residents of this Shelter decided to form a procession to follow the hearse in order to pay their respects to Mr. Buchler. After a service held in the synagogue, the men walked behind the hearse as far as the center of the town and returned to the Shelter as soon as the hearse left the city.

Because of the accident the refugees decided to cease the rotation work and demanded that a special inquiry be held on the accident. Immediately following the accident, the administration started an investigation, and it was understood that a special investigator is also being sent from Washington for this purpose. For the remainder of the week no man worked on the rotation plan, but it is hoped that work will commence again on Monday.

On Saturday, February 24, a meeting was held in the Post Theatre to clarify to the residents of the Shelter the circumstances of Mr. Buchler's accident and the ensuing

Mr. Dillon S. Myer

2

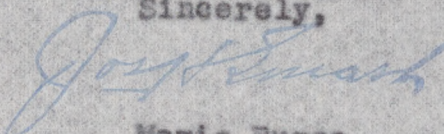
2/28/45

labor situation. After the Director had finished speaking, residents expressed their views on the situation. One of the most prevalent suggestions is that certain men able to do the harder tasks be paid higher wages through a collection made regularly among the residents of the Shelter. This was tried a month or two back, and was not entirely successful, but it is thought by the refugees that such a plan would now work. It would seem that there are men willing and able to carry out the harder work if they are paid sufficiently.

At the end of the meeting one of the residents made an inflammatory speech in which he stated that he did not think that the Director had done everything possible to help them leave the Shelter, and with regard to the labor situation. It has been pointed out to the people on many occasions that the Director has no authority to change the prevailing policies and give them greater freedom, and also that the obligatory order to work was given only after all other means had failed. The Director replying to the remarks made by the resident asked the audience how many were in sympathy with the thoughts expressed by this man, and suggested that they could freely stand up and register any disapproval against the Director or the administration.

After heated words between one or two members of the audience a complete vote of confidence was given to the Director, and since that time many residents have come to the office expressing the hope that the Director would not think that this man and his few followers had expressed the opinion of the people here.

Sincerely,



Morris Burge
Acting Director

Providence
Spencer
Kenneth

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Fort Ontario, Oswego, N.Y.

February 3, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Weekly Report January 21 - January 27, 1945

The severe weather we are experiencing continues to be the major concern of the residents. It is difficult for them to keep warm in the wooden barrack buildings, it is hard for them to get around in the deep snow and below zero temperatures and the journey they have to make to and from the Mess Halls for each meal has been impossible for the older people and young children so that the problems of keeping warm and fed has consumed their time and energy to the exclusion of any other activity.

The work situation complicated by the storms continues to be acute. While a fair number of workers have reported on rotation, there is a general slow-down and disinclination on the part of most workers to do a real day's work. Consequently we have barely kept ahead on coal deliveries and the removal of ashes and garbage continues behind schedule. Beginning next week we will be forced to double the rotation schedule calling each able bodied person to work one day each week instead of once every fourteen days.

Paul Wittenberg, 11 years, has entered the Van Hook School of Epileptics at Newfield, N. J.

The two new Trade School supervisors who took over from Mr. Schlosser have been proceeding with their plan to review every facility available so that the various courses are utilized to their maximum capacity and residents encouraged to participate in the courses. Here too, the bad weather has hampered attendance.

At the forum meeting at the English Center this week, the director spoke on "The United States Form

of Government".

Two films were shown in the Post Theater during the week and a Chamber Music Concert was given on Saturday, January 27th.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Smart
Director

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

~~Prisoner~~
~~Spicer~~
~~Ad~~
~~Kimball~~
~~Lane~~
Spicer

January 29, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Weekly Report January 14 - January 20, 1945

On Thursday, January 11, one of our residents, Miss Gisela Greif had to be transferred from the Shelter to a mental hospital for treatment. She had refused to co-operate and had to be removed from English Class to be taken to the train. Three nurses and three Internal Security men were needed for this purpose, and complaints were received from the National Committees and several residents that Miss Greif was mishandled. After a thorough investigation by the Director the attached memoranda was sent to the National Committees. They were entirely satisfied with the report given by the Director and apologized for any doubts they might have had that Miss Greif was badly treated in any way.

A meeting was held with the National Committees, house leaders, and the Women's Committee on the question of the election of a new Advisory Council. The reaction to this suggestion was very negative, and there was the opinion that unless such a Council could be given wide power and responsibility there would be no great benefit derived from a Council that could only serve in an advisory capacity. It was decided that meetings would be held between the groups to discuss the matter further and a decision and suggestions would be given to the Director within the next few days.

Following the meeting held in New York on Vocational Retraining, the services of two supervisors from

Mr. Dillon Myer

2 1/29/45

the Oswego High School have been procured by National Refugee Service, and the classes being reorganized to include handicraft and lighter work. It is felt that many more people will now want to participate in these courses.

The first party given by the Resident Women's Relief Committee was held in the Service Club on Wednesday, January 17 for the old people of 55 yrs of age and over. It has been named the Lonesome Club.

Movie performances were held this week in the Post Theatre, but the Tuesday evening Forum in the English Center was postponed due to the heavy snowstorm. The English Center continues to have an average daily attendance of three hundred people

Sincerely,

Jos. H. Smart
Director





Providence
Spencer

EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER
Fort Ontario, N. Y.

January 18, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Weekly Report January 7 - January 13, 1945

Life at the Shelter has been going on in a normal manner in spite of the very severe weather we are experiencing. Since the old or ill persons have been unable to go to the Mess Halls for their meals during the bad weather and have consequently been living on whatever food their neighbors might bring them, with sometimes nothing warm to eat for days at a time, a women's relief committee has been formed from among the residents and they will take care of these people bringing their meals to them and performing any other service they might require such as, mending, shopping, etc. They will also provide some entertainment for these older people who do not participate in the activities of the younger group.

The nursery school which has been closed for a couple of weeks is now being reopened under the supervision of Mrs. Foot, a resident of Oswego. She will organize a nursery school program and supervise the two resident women who are at present caring for the children.

There is an average daily attendance of 315 at the English classes. Dr. Sunderman spoke this week on "Music in America" and demonstrated negro and folk music on a phonograph.

Mr. Richard Johnson arrived from Washington to survey the entire vocational training program. A meeting is being held in New York next week with ORT, National Refugee Service and Mr. Johnson and Mr. Schlosser participating to discuss the whole program and determine the changes and additions which might be made. It has been felt for some time that the emphasis in several of the courses should be toward handicraft skills rather than heavy industrial work, since many of the older

Mr. Dillon S. Myer - 2 - 1/18/45

and less physically strong people find the work a little strenuous for them, and there is little future for such people in heavy industry.

Fashion drawing classes were opened this week under the direction of Alfred Thewett, a resident, who was formerly a fashion designer.

A second patient was transferred to the Long Island Home (mental institution) Amityville during the week.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Smart
Director

*Inhouse
Spide*



Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

January 12, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Weekly Report December 31 - January 6, 1945

Attached is copy of an announcement made by the Director at a meeting held in the Service Club on Wednesday, January 3 to advise the people of an addition to the official employment policy which would be effective Friday, January 5 and provide that each able-bodied person work and participate in the rotation plan organized to take care of the harder and more arduous tasks and assure that the requisite number of workers for these jobs are always available. The majority of the people seemed a little relieved that the matter had been taken out of their hands and that work would be fairly distributed and everyone would do their share. While the rotation system has so far worked well, it is too soon to judge whether each person called upon will willingly participate and it will probably take a few weeks before we can be sure that our labor problem is solved.

Another meeting was held in the Service Club on Saturday, January 6 so that the Director might answer questions and clarify the policies of the administration.

To ease the housing situation it is planned to provide living quarters in vacant rooms of the hospital. Only those persons who have some social or medical reasons will be assigned to these quarters. In addition the former Nursery School is being converted into two apartments of five rooms each and will house two large families. The Nursery School has been moved to a brick building on Officer's Row where it will be easier to keep the children warm during the severe weather.

Mr. Dillon S. Myer 2 1/12/45

Arrangements have been made whereby pregnant women will receive fruit juices, fruits or other supplemental diet upon certification by the Welfare Department. Mr. Baruch Fink, a mental patient, was committed to Long Island's Home, Amityville, Long Island, New York on 1-4-45, and was escorted by an Internal Security Officer.

In answer to a call from the University Hospital in Syracuse three of our residents accompanied by the attending physician and an interpreter went to Syracuse to give blood to Mrs. Rosa Becker, our patient, seriously ill in that hospital.

The only entertainment during the week has been the showing of four films in the Post Theatre.

Mr. Joseph Berger, the Executive Director of the Co-ordinating Committee for Fort Ontario returned to his regular employment with the National Refugee Service in New York, and Mr. Monte Kandel, loaned by the National Refugee Service, is the new Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Jos. H. Smart
Director

*Inhouse
Spicer*

EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER
Fort Ontario, N. Y.

January 5, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Weekly Report December 25 - December 30, 1944

On December 28, at 8:30 P. M. Karolina Bleier left the Shelter showing her pass in the usual manner at the gate. At 11:00 P. M., at the expiration of her pass time, it was noted she had not returned, and at midnight her husband expressed alarm at her continued absence. The Oswego hospital was contacted for possible report of injury or sickness, and the town was searched by our Internal Security staff, without success. At 8:00 A. M. the following day, our Chief of Internal Security notified the Oswego Chief of Police of the disappearance. The theatres and other public places were searched and checked with no result. At 1:10 P. M. on December 29 the Oswego Police Department advised us that this woman who was identified by her blue pass was found at River Lock No. 6 near St. Francis Home, dead.

Mrs. Bleier who was a Yugoslav, lived with her husband and two children aged 1½ and 10 months, and two children by her first husband are presumed to be living in Switzerland. Her husband, when interviewed stated that she had been in a depressed state of mind for some time, was worried about her other children and talked of saving her husband and one child by the death of herself and the other child. Mr. Bleier did not think that his wife was serious in her suicidal intentions and that she would get over her depressed state of mind. An autopsy will be held on Mrs. Bleier since there are indications that she drank something before she left home.

The questionnaires on the lira have been completed and returned by the residents, but in the majority of cases they were incorrect and arrangements have been made that each person be interviewed by the man who helped them complete their forms in Italy when the lira was handed over to the authorities so that corrections can be made to the questionnaires. Most indicated a preference for saving the money, preferably in war bonds.

Dillon S. Myer - 2 - 1/5/45

On Christmas eve, a party was held for the children in the service club and stockings distributed by Miss Ellis of the YWCA and a committee of resident women who had prepared these gifts. There was singing by our Shelter choir, as well as, by a choir of highschool students and a combined church choir from Oswego. Later in the evening a party was held for the adults, and coffee and cookies served by the same group of women who distributed the gifts.

On Christmas Day, a concert was given by the Shelter orchestra.

On December 26, Mr. Charles Hampton of the State Teachers College lectured on "Development of the Middle West" in the "Culture of America" series at the English school.

Mrs. Lenore Levin head of the Welfare Department resigned as of December 31, and Mrs. Vera McCord of the Washington staff will assume responsibility for the department temporarily.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Smart
Director

HA:hk

File Copy
Subj. File
Chrono. File

*Librarian
Provision
Spencer*

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

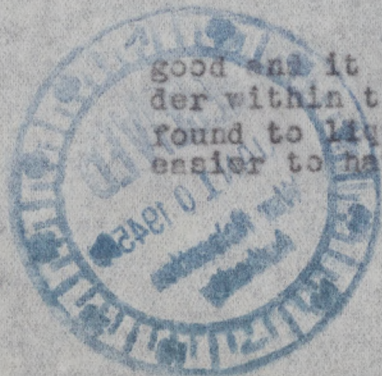
January 8, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910-17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer: Monthly Report December 1944

During the month of December every effort was made to solve the labor problem without resorting to an obligatory work order which we and the residents felt would create bad public relations. From the very beginning endeavors were made participating voluntarily. The first Advisory Council made no headway in this matter and although many felt that work at the Shelter should be done without recompense, it was decided that the installing of a wage policy would be an incentive to those to whom it was inconceivable to work without receiving payment. This was not successful because the people felt they were not receiving sufficient for their services. The second Advisory Council, as well as the first, tried to remedy the situation by some form of a bonus plan. The last Council was forced from office because of their inability to devise a workable plan, and a Labor Committee undertook to do the same thing. They did, without our approval, formulate a bonus plan and it was put into effect; but it proved to be unsatisfactory as the people wanted a considerably larger Government remuneration based on an American wage scale. This is of course impossible. It should be noted that there are a few able-bodied persons reluctant to do their share since they are either content to be without money or have their own private means usually obtained from relatives or friends on the outside.

As of December 31st the labor situation is not good and it is contemplated issuing an obligatory work order within the next few days since no other way has been found to liquidate this problem. It would have been much easier to have organized and worked out a satisfactory plan



Handwritten notes at top left corner.

Faint, mostly illegible text in the upper middle section of the page.

Section Header
Main body of the document containing several paragraphs of very faint, illegible text.

Faint text at the bottom left of the page, possibly a signature or footer.



Mr. Dillon S. Myer 2 1/8/45

had it been Spring or Summer and climatic conditions more pleasant, but with extremely heavy snowstorms practically a daily occurrence for the past six weeks, snow and ice on the ground and low temperatures, men unused to physical outdoor labor have found it hard to adjust both mentally as well as physically. For the women working in the kitchens, it has been much harder, because of frozen pipes and breakdowns in the heating system due to lack of labor to fire the stoves, so that the whole labor situation has been in an inadventagous position from the very start. However, since the work must be done and paid outside help cannot be provided, a "must work" order will have to be issued.

English Classes and Vocational Retraining Courses:

These were temporarily closed for some days during the month because of the labor situation but have been opened again with a limited number of pupils attending.

The Beauty Culture Course was started with a large number of women showing a desire to enroll. It is felt, however, that within a few weeks the number will contract and only those with a wish to utilize the training later will remain. This will, of course, fulfil the whole purpose which is to train people for future occupations.

Pupils attending Oswego Schools continue to make the honor and credit rolls.

Social and Cultural Activities:

Film Showings: The full length feature films shown during the month included Margin of Error, Abe Lincoln in Illinois, Wintertime and Birth of the Blues.

Concerts: A concert was given by the Ontario Shelter Orchestra on Christmas Day. Our Shelter Choir has given several performances during the month singing in Hebrew and Yiddish and also in Yugo-Slav and German. They sang Christmas carols in the N.B.C. program broadcast from Fort Ontario and those who heard them over the radio were amazed how well this amateur group sounded over the air.

Christmas and New Year at Fort Ontario: This holiday time was enjoyed by peoples of every nationality and faith from a religious, as well as, festival standpoint, and it





Mr. Dillon S. Myer 3 1/8/45

was the first real Christmas in many years for the folk of Fort Ontario. While we did not want to plan anything elaborate during war time it was felt that in a modest way everything should be done to bring the spirit of Christmas to Fort Ontario. There was a large lighted Christmas tree in front of the hospital and one in the Service Club. The Y.W.C.A. sent a representative from New York and she together with a committee of resident women filled 200 Christmas stockings which were distributed at a shelter party on the afternoon of Christmas eve. The resident choir sang carols and a group from Oswego came out to the Shelter and after a tour of the barrack area and the hospital, sang around the Christmas tree. Later in the evening, a party was held for the adults at which coffee and cookies were served. On Christmas day, a concert was given in the afternoon and evening by the Shelter orchestra. Most of the homes were decorated and there is no question but that the people were happy to celebrate Christmas without fear for the first time in many years.

The New Year's celebration commenced with a comedy movie in the post theatre, followed by a variety show including a one act play by the Slavian group. Later, parties were held in the Service Club and Youth Club.

Red Cross: We have received a reply from Washington that it will not be possible at this time to collect blood from the residents at Fort Ontario since no mobile unit is available that can be sent to Oswego. They assure us, however, that they are not lacking in their supply and, therefore, there is no emergency.

Some yarn has arrived at a local chapter of the Red Cross in Oswego and arrangements have been made for a group of 40 women from the Fort to knit sweaters and socks for the armed forces.

Return of the lira: It is expected that within the next week or two, all questionnaires correctly completed will be returned by the residents, and that we can then go ahead with the disposal of the funds. It is interesting to note that the great majority of the people having lira want to save the money, specially in war bonds. Few desire to draw more than \$25.00 per person in cash. In a number of instances, they do not wish to keep even this small amount but prefer to invest everything in war bonds.

Mr. Dillon S. Myer 4 1/8/45

All articles taken from the refugees when they arrived at Fort Ontario have been returned, except two cartons of cigarettes.

Welfare: With the arrival of a hospital administrator, arrangements were made to transfer to the hospital responsibility for the carrying out of all medical plans, including the private agency cases.

The largest part of the case studies have been taken and we hope that in the next few weeks the remaining ones will be completed so that we will have all essential data and statistics available.

Hospital: It has been definitely decided that we cannot transfer all bed patients to the Oswego hospital and close the Shelter Hospital. After a joint investigation by us and the Oswego Hospital authorities it was determined that the necessary reconstruction and new installations to extend their facilities were not practical. However, with the arrival of a Hospital Administrator it is hoped that the Shelter Hospital will function on a more efficient basis.

At the present time we have no contagious illness at the Shelter except 20 cases of mumps.

Personnel: Lee Prather arrived during the month to take over the administration of the Hospital. Frank Auerbach of the Inter-national Migration Service was here in our Welfare Department for a two week period. Mrs. Friedl Reifer is back on loan again from the Unitarian Service Committee and is working in our Welfare Department. Mrs. Lenore Levin resigned as Head of the Welfare Department and Mrs. Vera McCord of the Washington staff has taken over until a new person has been selected for this post. Mr. Ralph Bergel who was here on loan from the National Refugee Service has returned to New York. We also have two statistical workers, Miss Hutchinson and Mrs. Goldberg here on loan from the International Migration Service.

Visitors to the Shelter: Mr. Malcolm Pitts and John Clear were here from our Washington Office. Mr. Herbert Merzel of the Mexican newspaper "El Camino" visited the camp to make comparisons with a camp run by the Polish Government in Mexico. At the end of the month Mr. Curt

Mr. Dillon S. Myer 5 1/8/45

Bondy, a refugee from Germany and presently instructor in psychology at Williams and Mary College, was at Fort Ontario. He has written several significant articles on concentration camps and shelters in Europe, and came at our request to make an objective comparative survey of our Shelter.

Sincerely,

Jos. H. Smart
Director

*James
Spicer
Huntall*

EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER
Fort Ontario, N. Y.

December 28, 1944

Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Weekly Report December 17 - December 23, 1944

The labor committee which was selected by various groups of workers has proved to be a representative and helpful group and seems already to be a stabilizing factor in our community. At a meeting with the committee, all the various phases of the labor problem were frankly discussed and it was decided to grant the committee recognition in a carefully defined field. The committee will concern itself solely with labor problems, attempting to maintain a good morale among workers and to assist in recruiting. They will assume no responsibility for administering the employment policy and will confine themselves solely to labor activities.

In the absence of an advisory council, a meeting was held of all members of the national committees and the house managers, about 150 community leaders being present to discuss the distribution of the lira. The attached statement was read and there was a general discussion, each speaker favoring the saving of the money and expressing the hope that it could be invested in War Bonds to assist the war effort. It was agreed that questionnaires could be distributed to all lira holders who would, thus, dictate what they wanted done with the money, and that the persons at the meeting do everything possible to encourage savings by the people.

A Christmas broadcast was made over the National Broadcasting Company on December 23 from the service club of Fort Ontario. Dorothy Thompson spoke from New York, and then followed an introduction by the Director. Two of our refugees spoke briefly and three carols were sung by the Fort Ontario choir with a solo by Mrs. Lidia Finger, our soprano. Copy of the script used is attached.

Dillon S. Myer - 2 - 12/28/44

A large Christmas tree was erected in front of the hospital and one in the service club, and choral singers from Oswego sang for the community on Christmas Eve. Gifts were distributed to all the children at a party.

On December 19, Dr. Salsbury of the State Teachers College lectured on the "History of the United States" in the "Culture of America" series.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Smart
Director

Enclosures

File Copy
Subj. File
Chrono. File

*Province
Spicer
[signature]
[initials]*

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Fort Ontario, Oswego, N.Y.

December 21, 1944

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Weekly Report December 10 - December 16, 1944

The labor situation is stabilized somewhat with an average of eight men on duty on the roads and grounds crew. While this is not sufficient it has taken care of emergency needs and will be supplemented by a rotation system in the near future.

The visit of Assistant Director Malcolm Pitts and Finance Officer John Clear was very useful in assisting us to analyse some of our problems and was greatly appreciated. Mr. Pitts attended a meeting of the Labor Committee with the director and answered questions regarding official employment policy.

On December 11th Dagobert Barnass aged 63 years died and the funeral will be held as soon as weather conditions permit.

The Beauty Culture Course started this week with an enrollment of 42 women. Two classes are held daily Monday through Friday.

An exhibit of refugee art was shown at the State Teachers College and much favorable comment was received.

During the week a number of parties were held in celebration of Chanukah. On Wednesday the 13th entertainment was given by the children in the Post Theater and the audience was particularly charmed by the performance of the tiny children from the kindergarten who sang and recited in German and Yugo-Slav. Gifts were distributed to all residents. There was also a cabaret show in the Post Theater on Saturday evening followed by one act of a play by Arthur Schnitzler performed in German.

Washington, D.C.
November 15, 1941

Dear Mr. [Name]

Enclosed for you are
two copies of the
report of the
committee on the
subject of the
[Topic]

I am sure that you will find the report of interest.

The report is a summary of the work of the committee during the past year. It contains a detailed account of the progress made in the study of the [Topic] and the results of the various experiments conducted.

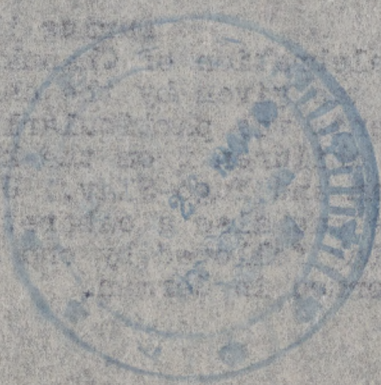
The committee has been very fortunate in securing the cooperation of the [Name] and the [Name] in the study of the [Topic]. Their contributions have been of great value to the work of the committee.

I am sure that you will find the report of interest. It contains a detailed account of the progress made in the study of the [Topic] and the results of the various experiments conducted.

The committee has been very fortunate in securing the cooperation of the [Name] and the [Name] in the study of the [Topic]. Their contributions have been of great value to the work of the committee.

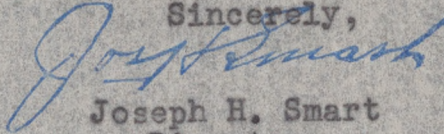
I am sure that you will find the report of interest. It contains a detailed account of the progress made in the study of the [Topic] and the results of the various experiments conducted.

The committee has been very fortunate in securing the cooperation of the [Name] and the [Name] in the study of the [Topic]. Their contributions have been of great value to the work of the committee.



On December 15, Mr. Salone Rizh of New York lectured on his travels. The lecture of the week in the "Culture of America" series was postponed because of the snow blizzard.

Sincerely,



Joseph H. Smart
Director

Adde
~~Atalby~~
~~Sp~~
Province
~~2/15~~
Ferguson

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Fort Ontario, Oswego, N. Y.

December 13, 1944

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer: Monthly Report November, 1944

Although we have tried all along to dispel any hopes the residents might have that the result of the national election would influence their status, a feeling prevailed that immediately after the re-election of President Roosevelt, their status in the United States would be legalized and they would have freedom to travel and live with their relatives. Now that the election has come and gone and no changes have taken place, the morale of the residents has greatly degenerated. When the refugees arrived their interests centered on material needs, most of which have now been met. Their thoughts now turn to the future and they are beginning to feel that the time they spend here is wasted and that they should be planning and working definitely toward rebuilding a permanent life for the future. This is a natural reaction for people whose years of fear and want are beginning to fade into the past, and is a healthy sign that their hopes have not been completely shattered.

English classes and vocational retraining courses were at first received with great enthusiasm, as was previously the attendance of the children in the Oswego schools; but even these privileges have palled under the urge to live private lives in freedom. This is the chief reason for the lack of response to the hope that a well organized community could be established with each person bearing his responsibility for the work and life of the community. The people understand the meaning of community life and have cooperated in many respects, but they are individualists and realists, and know that their life here is temporary. Many, in the absence of knowledge of their future, follow a "wait and see" policy.

At the beginning of the month the Advisory Council asked that a meeting of the Shelter residents be

called and that the director talk to them regarding their status in this country and the employment and wage policy. You have already received the text of this speech. They were also informed of the anticipated early return of all the things that had been picked up by the Customs officials here and the arrangements for the repayment of the lira which was given up in Italy.

The people have been queried in meetings, through the Shelter newspaper and in welfare interviews, to indicate their desires to return to Europe as soon as possible. Of 100 families interviewed, 8 have expressed a desire to go home, 68, practically all of whom have relatives or friends here, wish to immigrate to the United States, and 20 expressed no desire because of uncertainty over family situations, etc.

All outside employment finished early in November and it was subsequently discovered that our women who worked in a canning factory at Fulton were working in the same group with German prisoners of war. They did not report this while working at the Plant but later talked about how much they disliked having to associate with the prisoners under one roof.

Education

English Classes: English classes continue to be well attended and some of the people have made great strides in their knowledge of the language. The lectures in the "Culture of America" series were held on Tuesday of each week in addition to which a series of talks were given by members of the administrative staff on various phases of life within the Shelter.

Vocational Retraining: Courses in Auto-mechanics, Carpentry and Machine shop and Machine Operations were started on November 27, sponsored jointly by the American ORT Federation and National Refugee Service. There are 67 pupils enrolled in these courses but changes are already taking place and many who came for the first few lessons have dropped out and been replaced by those who could not earlier be admitted to classes. Many who were enthusiastic to join were disappointed with the classes and so discontinued to attend. In selecting the pupils for the courses preference was given to those working. The afternoon classes are mostly attended by those on part time jobs.

Dancing Classes were not held during the month because the teacher who came from Syracuse had injured her foot.

Pupils attending Oswego Schools: The children are making rapid progress in the schools and this month three were honor students at High School and one was elected as president of her

class. Milk is served daily and in one of the schools hot soup is served at noontime, in addition to lunches taken from the Shelter.

Social and Cultural Activities

Film Shows: Full length feature films have been shown each week plus singing films and educational films on life in America. One of the films on the subject of minorities in America showed poverty among the Negroes. This caused great amazement among the people because they could not believe that such conditions existed in this country.

Concerts: On November 29th a chamber music concert was given in the Post Theater by resident artists and was most enthusiastically received especially the pianist Mrs. Vera Levinson, a very talented musician, who gave an outstanding performance.

Only three concerts were given outside the Shelter during the month by our resident entertainment group but many Church groups have asked us to help with their entertainment during the Christmas Season.

Plans are under way for our Christmas celebrations and for the broadcast which will be given from the Service Club during the party for the children on December 23rd. Carols will be sung by the choir over the air.

Other Entertainment: On November 17th there was a Zionist Flag dedication ceremony at the Post Theater followed by a dance at the Service Club. The residents enjoy dancing very much and usually on Saturday evenings there is a dance in progress at the Service Club.

Boy Scout Troop and Girl Scouts: These groups continue their activities and the boys collect the waste paper each week from the apartments and barracks and it is taken into town and sold.

Contribution to War Effort: Groups of our residents have approached us in regard to donating blood to the Red Cross as a contribution to the war effort. We have contacted the Red Cross Chapter in Oswego but no facilities are available since a mobile unit comes from Rochester only once a year and as it was last here in August it is not contemplated that it will return for some time. We have written directly to the New York State Headquarters in New York City and are awaiting reply.

Our women residents also wish to help roll bandages etc. but this work has been discontinued in Oswego and no material is available. It is expected that a limited quantity of yarn will be received at the Red Cross Chapter and our women may be able to help knit sweaters and mittens for the Armed Forces.

Art Exhibition: One of our artists gave a one-man show here at the Shelter and exhibited her water colors and woodcuts. It is proposed to hold similar exhibits of the work of other artists in the Shelter from time to time.

Welfare: The program for the examination of eyes, the procurement of eye glasses, examination of persons suffering from foot conditions and the purchase of orthopaedic shoes or arch supports has continued throughout the month and the needs of the people are being met as quickly as possible.

There are 172 applications for dental work on file and we hope to get this program under way during December.

Several hundred additional pieces of furniture to meet basic requirements were made so that each family now has adequate cupboard space, tables and chairs.

Caseworkers loaned to the Shelter by outside agencies were assigned the responsibility of making case studies. By the end of the month 123 case studies were completed.

The residents' welfare committee completed the packing and shipping to UNRRA of 50 cartons of used clothing, an accumulation of articles received at the Shelter which could not be used here.

Mess Operations: The cost of meals during the month averaged 50 cents per day. This is high partially because of the loss of some perishables which had to be replaced and the excessive issuance of others to avoid spoilage. The Hospital Mess cost is completely out of line but the chief of mess operations is effecting reorganizations to bring down the cost.

Health Service: There have been no new cases of whooping cough and the last two are in the recuperation stage and almost ready to be sent home. There has been an increase of the mumps epidemic and as of November 30th there are twelve cases receiving medical attention.

Hospital Plans: A meeting was arranged with the Oswego Citizens Advisory Committee and members of the Hospital Board to ascertain if some arrangements could be made whereby we could use

the hospital in Oswego for the few cases we have and close down our Shelter Hospital. The Committee was not hopeful that anything would materialize since present facilities are overcrowded and the only possibility would be to renovate the adjacent nurses home; it was also doubtful whether the necessary additional medical and nursing care and facilities were available. A decision will be made at a meeting of the Hospital Board early in December. If facilities in Oswego are not available it will be necessary to obtain the services of an American doctor and also revise the entire hospital program since the large number of people employed in the hospital is a source of irritation to the residents who feel that some of these people could be used to ease the labor problem of the Shelter.

Personnel: Moris Burge, the Assistant Director, arrived on November 1st; Ben Brodinsky came from Washington for a few days to help organize our Shelter newspaper; Walter Schlosser arrived to set up our vocational retraining program; Mrs. Marie Lane of the Washington staff visited our Welfare Department and Ruth Ehrlich arrived from Heart Mountain to become a member of our welfare staff. Marc Campbell, Bruriah Szapira and A. E. Williams left Fort Ontario to take positions at other projects. Arthur Mongeon resigned and Betty Schroeder is Acting Chief of Mess Operations while John Carroll is now Acting Chief of Internal Security in place of Mr. Campbell. George Allen is Acting Administrative Officer, taking over from Mr. Williams and Sylvester Bonney is Acting Supply Officer in place of Jean Paradis who resigned.

During the month Frank Auerbach of the International Migration Service and Mrs. Friedl Reifer of the Unitarian Service Committee on loan to our Welfare Department returned to their respective agencies and Gabriele Derenberg arrived on November 29th through the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee.

Visitors to the Shelter: Dr. Ruth Gruber, Field Representative of the Department of the Interior, visited with us for a few days and was welcomed by the residents who repeatedly told her how well and happy they felt and the only complaint she received was from the women who were gaining so much weight that they were losing their figures.

Mrs. Harold G. Cohn representing Mrs. Stephen Wise came to ascertain what additional assistance could be given by Mrs. Wise. She was greatly exercised over the lack of freedom given these people in the United States insisting that

they were treated as prisoners of war instead of guests. She thought that they should have the freedom to visit their relatives and friends in any part of the country. A subsequent letter from Mrs. Wise congratulated the administration on the excellent job being done.

Mr. Walter Bieringer, a member of the board of National Refugee Service visited the Shelter and talked with the director.

The Rev. Norman Godfrey of Massena, New York came to the Shelter to visit some friends and also came to the director's office. He is attached to St. John's Episcopal Church in Massena but also has affiliations with the American Labor Party and League for Industrial Democracy.

Ephraim Gomberg and Bernard Dubin of the National Refugee Service, Alexander Holstein, Chairman and other members of the Coordinating Committee for Fort Ontario came to the Shelter to see the director.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Smart
Director





E2.95

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, New York

December 9, 1944

Mr. Dillon Myer
U.S. Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Mrs. Marie D. Lane

Dear Mr. Myer:

Attached is a statistical report covering the volume of work carried by the Welfare Section for November. We agree with you that form WRA-243 used by the Welfare Sections of the other Centers is not applicable for the Shelter. The Welfare Section accordingly developed the form sent you herewith and would appreciate your comments and suggestions for additions or changes.

You will note that wherever it was possible, the revised form endeavors to cover the points and general format of WRA-243.

You will also be interested in the attached copy of the housing report submitted by the Welfare Section covering the period of August 18, 1944 thru November 30, 1944. A monthly report will be prepared hereafter.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph H. Smart
Director

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

WELFARE

For Month Ending Nov. 1944

Emergency Refugee Shelter

I. Active Case Load

A. Continued Service Cases

No. Family Units

1. Continued from previous month	91
2. Added this month	39
3. (a) New	39
(b) Re-opened	0
3. Open during month (142)	130
4. Closed during month	52
5. Continued to next month	78

B. Special Services

No. Family Units

(Following categories not exclusive of A
or of each other)

1. Case studies completed	123
2. Reported for location of relatives	48

C. Special Medical Appliances or Special Medical Care Obtained

(Following categories not exclusive of A or B or of each other)

	Government Expenses	Co-ordinating Committee Expenses
1. Eyeglasses ordered	25	69
2. Orthopaedic shoes or arch supports ordered	0	13
3. Dental work ordered	2	0
4. Hernia belts or trusses ordered	6	6
5. Rubber stockings ordered	0	6
6. Other medical appliances ordered	0	0
7. Special medical care arranged	0	6

D. Interviews in Office and Homes

No.

1. Office interviews	629
2. Home visits	(not tabulated in November)

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

WELFARE

For Month Ending Nov. 1944

Emergency Refugee Shelter

II Summary Analysis of Grants Authorized (Other than clothing)

	<u>No. Family Units</u>
Total510
A. General assistance	429
B. Special "	1
C. Medical "	17
D. Miscellaneous assistance	63

III Resident Personnel Employed in Welfare Office

	<u>\$18.00</u> wage	<u>\$9.00</u> wage
Total	2	7
A. Receptionists		2
B. Clerical	1	2
C. Messenger		1
D. Housekeeping Aides	1	2

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Budget Bureau No: 13-R042

Approval Expires: 6/30/44

Monthly Report

For period of Aug. 18/44 thru Nov. 30/44

HOUSING~~For Month Ending XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~~~Center~~

Emergency Refugee Shelter

Size of Room	Total	8x20	12x20	14x20	16x20	20x20	24x20	28x20	32x20	36x20	40x20		
--------------	-------	------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	--	--

A. NUMBER ROOMS ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED
OR MODIFIED FOR EVACUEE HOUSING:

Total* Rooms													
-----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B. NUMBER ROOMS OCCUPIED
BY EVACUEES FOR HOUSING:

Total* Rooms													
Number	1												
Persons	2												
In Room	3												
	4												
	5												
	6												
	7												
	8												

C. NUMBER ROOMS USED FOR OTHER THAN EVACUEE HOUSING:

Total* Rooms													
Use:													
School													
Church													
Blk. Mgr. Office													
Recreation													
Business Ent.													
Medical													
Admin. Office													
AP Housing													

D. NUMBER OF ROOMS VACANT:

Total* Rooms													
-----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*The sum of B, C, and D will equal A.

(OVER)

C-0366-bu

E. SIZE OF FAMILIES* AT CENTER

<u>Persons in Family*</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>
TOTAL	_____
1 person	_____
2 persons	_____
3 "	_____
4 "	_____
5 "	_____
6 "	_____
7 "	_____
8 "	_____
"	_____
"	_____
"	_____
"	_____

F. ROOMS OCCUPIED BY MORE THAN ONE FAMILY*

<u>Number Persons in Room</u>	<u>Number of Rooms</u>
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____

*The definition of a family shall be that set forth in Administrative Instruction No. 103, and used on the basic Family Card (Form WRA-95)

NARRATIVE REPORT: (Use space below or a separate sheet to be attached to this report for comments on significant developments in the field of housing at the center during the month; explanations of apparent discrepancies in space assignment; number of persons and families living in rooms not originally constructed for evacuee housing; additional rooms made available through partitioning; reasons for increase or decrease in number of vacant rooms; suggestions and recommendations.)

The report prepared by Mrs. Fern French, statistician, under date of August 18, 1944 with corrections submitted September 21, 1944 outlines the original housing accommodations at the Emergency Refugee Shelter. This report reviews the housing situation from August 18, 1944 thru November 30, 1944.

Original housing accommodations were found inadequate to meet the needs of the residents. Additional space was required and there was a need for apartments with running water for ill persons in accordance with recommendations of the Shelter Hospital.

The following report outlines the housing changes developed for the stated period:

17 non-family men were moved from the over-crowded dormitory to Bldg. 217 which has 15 rooms measuring $12\frac{1}{2}'$ x $7'$ each or a total of 1312.5 sq. ft.

24 non-family men and 2 non-family women were moved from the dormitory and barracks to Bldg. 202 which has 38 rooms measuring $12' \times 9\frac{1}{2}'$ each, or a total of 43320 sq. ft. There are 12 vacant rooms in this building.

28 non-family men, 1 non-family woman, and 3 married couples were moved to Bldg. 203 with a similar floor plan to that of Bldg. 202. There are 3 vacant rooms in the building.

1 married couple, for social reasons, was moved to a three room apartment in the hospital annex. The apartment has 517 sq. ft.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

HOUSING

For Period of Aug. 15 thru Nov. 30 1944

Emergency Refugee Shelter

Cont'd.

14 non-family men were moved to three private rooms in the hospital annex which rooms have a total area of 524 sq. ft.

1 non-family man was moved to a private room in Bldg. 100 (which is the community laundry, the heating and cleaning for which this man is responsible) which has a total of 81 sq. ft.

During the stated period 68 family units were moved from one apartment to another in the general plan for housing adjustments.

There still remains a need for additional space and other changes in order to enable certain families to have needed space and running water in their apartments. The Housing Committee, under the direction of the Welfare Section, is actively working on this problem.



EXCERPT FROM OCTOBER MONTHLY REPORT SUBMITTED TO MR. MYER BY JOSEPH H. SMART, DIRECTOR, EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER UNDER DATE OF NOVEMBER 3, 1944

Education

English Classes: The biggest event of the month has been the starting of the English classes which are well attended and have satisfied the great interest that has been shown in learning English. We have twelve teachers but most of these give classes in the evening only, since it is then that the majority of the people are free. Five hundred residents have enrolled for these classes.

For the more advanced classes, a series of lectures under the general heading "The Culture of America" (See attached program) have been instituted for every Tuesday evening and after the lecture there is an hour devoted to open discussion. The first of the series was given on Tuesday October 24 and was a talk by Mr. Charles Goldstein, the manager of Kline's Dept. Store and member of the Citizen's Committee for Fort Ontario, who spoke on the manners and customs of America and how the people should conduct themselves when visiting the city of Oswego and its stores. On October 31, Mrs. Hanlon, President of the Business and Professional Womens Club in Oswego chose for her subject "Family and Community Life." Dr. Wells of the State Teachers College is the moderator for this series of lectures and it is planned to have a different person each week from the town who will talk on the various aspects of life in America.

The text of popular American folk and national songs have been distributed among the people attending the classes and they are learning to sing these. It is hoped in a short while to have a period of singing before each film performance at the Post Theater.

The Music School has been in operation since September 4th. under the direction of Dr. Abeles assisted by three other resident instructors with 43 students.

The Art School will shortly be opened as soon as supplies are received from the coordinated national agencies.

Our Kindergarten is now in its official quarters which have been well furnished and equipped and is open daily from 9 - 12 and 3-5. Three women residents take care of the children and are supervised by Mrs. Foot a nursery school teacher from Oswego who visits here once or twice a week.

Dancing classes are held every Thursday evening by a teacher that comes in from Syracuse and these classes draw a very large crowd of young people to one of the recreation rooms used for this purpose.

Vocational Retraining: The plans and setting up of the Vocational Retraining Program have been going steadily ahead and each applicant has been interviewed as to selection of courses and guidance is given as to personal suitability. This investigation work is being done by the National Refugee Service and the ORT Federation is busy setting up the equipment and hiring instructors for the courses. It is hoped to start these around November 10th.

The Culture of America

Tentative schedule of Forum Meetings
for Emergency Refugee Shelter
Oswego, N. Y.

1. October 24: "Manners and Customs"
2. October 31: "Family and Community Life"
3. November 7: "Political Parties and the Election"
4. November 14: "Geography of the United States"
5. November 21: "History of the United States"
6. November 28: "Minorities in America"
7. December 5: "Education: Schools and Colleges"
8. December 12: "Art in America"
9. December 19: "United States Form of Government"
10. December 26: "Business Organization"
11. January 2: "Music in America"
12. January 9: "American Literature"
13. January 16: "Sports, Recreation and Health Education"
14. January 23: "Industrial Organization"
15. January 30: "Contributions to Science"
16. February 6: "Agriculture"
17. February 13: "Clubs and Organizations"
18. February 20: "Journalism"
19. February 27: "Drama and the Theatre"
20. March 6: "Banking and Finance"

Excerpts from Emergency Refugee Shelter, Oswego, New York
Monthly Report-February, dated March 13, 1945.

Nursery School--Since it was the opinion of all interested people that the previous Nursery School at the Shelter was decidedly substandard both from the standpoint of sanitation and program, it was completely revised during February. On February 5 it was reopened in one of the brick buildings on Officers Row under the supervision of a trained American Nursery School teacher. The previous teachers were retrained as assistants, and an Advisory Committee, representing the Public Health Nurse, Mess Operations, Welfare, school teachers, and two representatives of the mothers, was established to give general guidance.

The school session is from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Special attention is paid to a pre-admission health examination at the Shelter Hospital and there is routine inspection every morning. The program is planned around an adequate variety of play material to help the Shelter develop initiative and self-assurance. There is emphasis on good habit training. The school serves children from 2 - 5 years inclusive, and 21 are enrolled.

At first fruit juice was served in mid-morning to all children, but since many of the children suffer from malnutrition it was decided to use this opportunity to have them accept additional food especially milk in the relaxed atmosphere of the school. On the specific recommendations of the doctors and the Public Health Nurse, the children are being fed crackers and milk in mid-morning, and given fruit juice before closing time. All the children are also given cod liver oil.

English classes--With the improvement in the weather during the last two weeks, the attendance in the English Schools has risen to 67% of the pupils enrolled.

Vocational Training-- The classes continue with no great increase in attendance although the supervisors are attempting to stimulate interest in the various courses.

Social and Cultural Activities-- An extremely good circus was produced and performed by the Russian Group of the Shelter during the month to aid the Red Cross Drive. It was very gratifying to be able to turn over the proceeds of \$153.44 to the Oswego Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Films were shown regularly during the month except for the one week period of mourning observed by the residents of the Shelter following the death of Mr. Arpad Buchler.

Emergency Refugee Shelter
Fort Ontario
Oswego, New York

Narrative report to accompany N.R.A. 245

The classes which are being organized at this Shelter are in a formative stage. Due in some respects to the eligibility of persons, some new types of problems have entered the picture. In due time it would seem that a schedule could be worked out which will accommodate the people who want to learn the skills connected with the courses which we are establishing. Severe weather condition, lack of some of the necessary equipment, and teachers terminating has not helped the program any.

The report on Form 245 is taken from an attendance record which was kept for the first four weeks of operation. In that period we actually had fifteen days of school. Persons who attended seven or more days during this period are counted as enrolled. In many cases that represents from one-fourth to one-half the number of persons who were scheduled for classes at the opening date. More time will be required before we can determine how deeply rooted their interests will be.

The age of the Shelter inhabitants, their physical condition, and former occupations or businesses will not permit one to be optimistic about the outcomes of these classes. It is possible for them to learn skills if they are interested enough to apply themselves.

This is the initial report and the numbers reported should prove an interesting thing to compare with later reports.

W.C. Schlosser

3. C.R.T. and H.R.S.
W.R.A. ADULT
TRADE CLASSES

	NO. HOURS WEEKLY	END OF MONTH ENROLLMENT		DATE COURSE BEGAN	COMPLETION DATE
		M	F		
Beauty Culture & Personal Hygiene	15		40	Dec. 6, 44	4 to 6 months later
Auto Mechanic	15	10		Nov. 27/44	4 to 6 months later
Carpentry	15	6	2	Nov. 27/44	4 to 6 months later
Machine Shop	15	14		Nov. 27/44	4 to 6 months later

4. HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL
TRAINING CLASSES:

VTWPW					
FPWT					

5. COURSES COMPLETED:

COURSE	PROGRAM	DATE COMPLETED	NUMBER COMPLETING TRAINING		COURSE	PROGRAM	DATE COMPLETED	NUMBER COMPLETING TRAINING	
			M	F				M	F

6. NARRATIVE REPORT: On separate sheet to be attached to this report, comment briefly on significant developments in the program during the month. This may include matters not covered in the statistical report or data supplementing it; changes in policies or procedures; problems encountered; matters relating to equipment, space and personnel; plans for new courses or apprenticeships; assistance needed on budget or technical matters; visits of vocational training officials; and anything else of note.