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TULE LAKE EVACUEE PROPERTY DIVISION

Summary Report

June 7--June 15, 1943

Evacuee Property Problems:

1. Storage and transportation of property.
Forty-three requests for storage and transportation of property were received and transmitted in accordance with Administrative Instruction No. 78.
2. Request for information.
A memorandum was forwarded to the Evacuee Property Division in Seattle, Washington, stating that we were unable to locate the requested evacuees.
3. Collection of payment.
A colonist requested assistance in the collection of \$1,075. from Mr. Utterback for selling his farm equipment.
4. Sale of automobile.
An evacuee acknowledged part payment of \$75.00 from the sale of his automobile. She also desired balance of the payment be made immediately.
5. Evacuee property.
A colonist enclosed a check for \$2.75 to the Ford and Henry Transfer Company.
6. Report on Commercial and Urban Cases.
This office forwarded a word of approval to the Evacuee Property Division in Seattle, Washington, in the matter of the handling of evacuee cases.
7. Evacuee property.
A letter in regard to baggage was forwarded to a relocated Japanese at Minneapolis, Minnesota.
8. Request for the sale of an automobile.
A colonist requested this office to sell his car to the highest bidder.
9. Request for assistance.
A colonist requested assistance in securing his birth certificate forms from the Department of Public Health in Sacramento.
10. Sale of property.
An evacuee requested assistance in the disposal of his commercial fixtures.
11. Evacuee property.
An important document was forwarded to a relocated Japanese as requested.
12. Cancellation of sale.
Since a colonist desired to relocate, he requested that the sale of his automobile be cancelled.
13. Address.
This office desired information in regard to the forwarding address of a relocated Japanese.
14. Evacuee property.
A colonist desired the transfer of his personal belongings from the private to government storage.
15. Request for assistance.
An evacuee requested assistance in locating of his personal property. He also desired to sell his refrigerator and bed for \$120.00.

16. Lease agreement.
A letter was forwarded to a lessee informing him that a lessor desired the cancellation of the lease after July 1, 1943.
17. Expiration of a lease.
A memorandum was forwarded to the Evacuee Property Division in San Francisco informing them to pick up the barber equipment after the lease expires on July 1, 1943.
18. Evacuee property.
A colonist does not wish to sell his farm equipment.
19. Collection of back rent.
An evacuee requested assistance in the matter of collection of back rent from Mr. Daniel Duff.
20. Telegram.
A telegram was forwarded to San Francisco informing them to store an evacuees property in the government warehouse.
21. Transfer of property.
A colonist desired immediate transfer of his belongings at his own expense.
22. Request for investigation.
A colonist requested an investigation in regard to the stolen properties. He also desired to transfer his personal belongings from private to ^athe government warehouse.
23. Evacuee property.
A memorandum was forwarded to the Evacuee Property Division in San Francisco in regard to the shipment of an evacuees property.
24. Duplicate forms.
Duplicate copies of WRA Form 156 were forwarded to San Francisco as requested.
25. Evacuee property.
A letter was sent to a Jeweler in Marysville, California instructing him to send back an evacuees ring immediately.
26. Information.
Information in regard to an evacuees missing suitcase was forwarded to San Francisco as requested.
27. Request for assistance.
A colonist requested assistance in obtaining a statement about the handling of his personal property.
28. Sale of property.
Two copies of Bills of Sale were forwarded to San Francisco as requested.
29. Sale of property.
Two Bills of Sale signed by the evacuees were sent to the Evacuee Property Division in San Francisco. This office also acknowledged a check and forwarded same to the evacuee as requested.
30. Court action.
A letter was forwarded to the Adjustor in Sacramento to make necessary investigation and representation in behalf of an evacuee.
31. Information.
A letter of acknowledgement in regard to information was forwarded to the New York Life Insurance Company in Sacramento.
32. Forwarding address.
A forwarding address of a relocated Japanese was sent to the Alien Property Custodian in San Francisco as requested.

33. Collection.
A colonist acknowledged the receipt of \$10.00 and also desired to secure the balances of the account immediately.
34. Request for information.
The project attorney desired information in regard to the former address of an evacuee.
35. Evacuee Property.
Two copies of WRA Forms 156 properly executed by an evacuee were sent to San Francisco instructing that office to rush the transfer of said evacuees property.
36. Information.
A colonist desired information in regard to the shipment of his personal belongings.
37. Stolen property.
Five evacuees requested investigation in the matter of their stolen properties.
38. Evacuee property.
An evacuee desired shipment of his personal property at his own expense.
39. Claim of an evacuee.
An evacuee requested assistance in the collection of \$1200 for selling his 1942 vegetable crop.
40. Sale of property.
A colonist executed a Power of Attorney in which he desired to sell his farm equipment.
41. Request for information.
A colonist requested information in regard to a school house built on his property.
42. Request for information.
An evacuee desired information in regard to the financial condition of the National Guaranty Life Insurance Company.
43. Request for investigation.
A letter was forwarded to the Best & Company, New York City, New York requesting investigation in regard to the sale of a sweater.
44. Evacuee Property.
An evacuee desired information in regard to the shipment of his personal property to this project.
45. Telegram.
A telegram stating that a check was delivered to an evacuee as requested and also a properly executed Bill of Sale were sent to the Evacuee Property Division in San Francisco.
46. Evacuee Property
A colonist desired information in regard to the shipment of his personal belongings to this project.
47. Evacuee Property
A colonist desired information in regard to the shipment of his personal property to this project.
48. Sale of Property
An evacuee requested assistance in regard to the sale of his property.
49. Whereabouts of an evacuee.
A letter was forwarded to the Project Director at Minidoka Relocation Center stating that an evacuee he had mentioned was not in this project.

50. Request for assistance.
An evacuee requested assistance in regard to the collection of \$200 from Mr. P. J. Shattuck.
51. Evacuee Property.
A supplement to the WRA Form 155, executed June 8, 1943, was forwarded to San Francisco as requested by an evacuee.
52. Request for an application.
A letter was forwarded to the Railroad Retirement Board in Sacramento, California stating that an evacuee desired to apply for ~~his~~ benefit under the Retirement Act.
53. ^aCollection of debts.
A letter was sent to a Credit Company in San Francisco stating that we could not assist them in regard to the collecting of an account since we had no power to force the parties involved to pay.
54. Cancellation.
An evacuee desired to cancel the transporting of his property at his own expense.
55. Request for assistance.
A colonist requested assistance in regard to the handling of his property.
56. Verbal Agreement.
A colonist requested assistance in regard to a verbal agreement made for a 1942 strawberry crop.
57. Evacuee Property.
A letter was forwarded to the relocated Japanese informing her to claim her baggages immediately at the express office.
58. Information.
A letter was forwarded to the White River Lumber Company in Enumclaw, Washington, requesting information in regard to the age of an colonist so that he would be able to make a claim for old age benefits. *an*
59. Claim of an evacuee.
An evacuee requested assistance in the collection of \$423.00 from Mr. Chew.
60. Whereabouts of an evacuee.
A memorandum was forwarded to the Evacuee Property Division in Seattle, Washington, in regard to the forwarding address of a relocated Japanese as requested.
61. Sale of evacuee property.
An evacuee requested assistance in regard to the sale of his personal property.
62. Sale of property.
A new Power of Attorney was forwarded to the Evacuee Property Division in Seattle so that an evacuee would be able to sell his property sooner.
63. Collection of claim.
An evacuee requested assistance in the collection of payments from the Red & White Store in Loomis, California.
64. Request for information.
A colonist desired information in regard to the handling of his personal property.
65. Evacuee properties.
Three evacuees desired to transport their personal belongings at their own expense.

Other Problems

1. Application for Social Security Benefits
The necessary forms for social security old age benefits was requested on behalf of an evacuee.
2. Selective Service Questionnaire
A letter was written requesting a selective service questionnaire to be filled out by an evacuee because the previous one had been lost.
3. Certified Copy of a Death Certificate
A letter was written for an evacuee requesting a certified copy of his father's death certificate to the Sacramento County Hospital, Sacramento, California.
4. Collection
A balance of a debt of an evacuee was requested to be forwarded to him inasmuch as the balance due is delinquent.
5. Railroad Retirement Fund
An evacuee requested this office to write to his lawyer in the matter of his railroad retirement fund and his beneficiary thereunder.
6. Change of Address
A letter was written to a registrant under the Selective Service Act furnishing him with the necessary information in order that he would be able to convey his change of address to his local board.
7. Certified Copy of Birth Certificate
A certified copy of a birth certificate was requested from the Department of Health, Sacramento, California.
8. Life Insurance Premiums
A letter was written for an evacuee in the matter of back premiums due on his insurance and reinstating same.
9. Power of Attorney
A Power of Attorney was drawn up for an evacuee.
10. Amendment to a Lease Agreement
An amendment to a lease agreement was drawn up for an evacuee.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON RECEIVING, PROCESSING
AND DELIVERY OF EVACUEE PROPERTY

Upon receipt of notification of evacuee property arriving at this Project, a copy of this communication should immediately be sent to the Property Control Section.

THE PROPERTY CONTROL SECTION WILL:

1. Make arrangements to have a truck meet the evacuees at the main gate and make a tally sheet in triplicate for checkable baggage. Hand bags will be loaded into trucks and follow evacuees to Processing Building where they will claim them for inspection. The tally sheet will be prepared in three copies; original to Property Control Section; 1 copy to evacuee; 1 copy to Police Department.
2. Interview the evacuee or the escort to see that all baggage has arrived or is accounted for.
3. In case the escort or the evacuee has baggage checks for the goods that have not arrived, the checks are to be given to the Property Control Section. The Property Control Section will locate the missing baggage and send it to the Processing station as it arrives.
4. The Property Control Section will take the articles to Army Processing station and notify the Police Department.

When checked parcels are delivered by bus at the main gate without previous notice to the Property Control Section, the Police Department will notify Property Control Section by telephone so that the articles may be checked and delivered to the Army Processing station for inspection with as little delay as possible. It is hoped that there will be very few cases where goods arrive unexpectedly.

The responsibility of the Property Control Section ends when the goods are delivered to the Army Processing station.

It will be the responsibility of the Police Department to advise incoming evacuees when to report to the Processing station for the inspection of their goods. It will be the responsibility of the evacuees themselves to take charge of their effects at the Processing station and transport them to their assigned apartments.

Harry L. Black
Harry L. Black
Acting Project Director

3/8/44

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9 PROJ. DIR.

TULS LAKE CENTER NEVELL CALIF

WASHINGTON HAS APPROVED CHANGES IN CHAPTER 100.3 OF ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SHIPMENT OF EVACUEE PROPERTY AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE. THIS NEW POLICY PERMITS SHIPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS WITHOUT WEIGHT LIMIT FOR FAMILIES LEAVING PROJECT PROVIDED FULL BAGGAGE CHECKING PRIVILEGES ARE UTILIZED. SECOND MAJOR CHANGE IS PROVISION FOR SHIPPING TOOLS AND PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT INCLUDING FARM MACHINERY UP TO FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS PROVIDED EVACUEE MAKES WRITTEN REQUEST, RELOCATION OFFICER CERTIFIES TO NEED FOR EQUIPMENT, AND PROJECT DIRECTOR APPROVES. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE IN YOUR HANDS VERY SOON. NO COMMITMENT SHOULD BE MADE TO ANY EVACUEE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE NEW MANUAL SECTION.

R B COZZENS
ASST DIR WSA SF
EVACUEE PROPERTY
PROPERTY CONTROL
ADM. MGMT.
FINANCE.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AMEP

Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

Russell T. Robinson, Chief
Evacuee Property Division
War Relocation Authority
Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco, 5, California

APR 25 1944

ATTENTION: Victor L. Furth

SUBJECT: Contraband

Dear Sir:

Contraband is still our major headache. When I was in San Francisco, I made a statement that the Army would permit no radio to enter this center that had short-wave bands or had ever had short-wave bands. I had discussed this matter on numerous occasions with the Captain and the Lieutenant who were then in charge of inspection. They both assured me that this was their policy because they had no one to tell whether or not the bands had been removed.

I now find some confusion as to what constitutes contraband radios. One evacuee informed me that the Army will disconnect short-wave bands for a nominal fee. A Corporal at the Express Station has said that he will pass any radio that does not have short-wave bands between 550 and 1750 wave length although I do not know how he determines it. Apparently no consideration is given to the size of radio or number of tubes. A number of radios were permitted from Manzanar that had short-wave bands and this has raised considerable disturbance among the evacuees who requested for their radios.

I think I explained to you that the War Relocation Authority is not responsible for the inspection for contraband here; this being under the sole jurisdiction of the Army. I believe there are many radios in the

Victor L. Furth - 2

Police Department belonging to evacuees that never had short-wave bands. As one evacuee says, "they were scared and wanted to be absolutely sure that they had complied with all Army regulations" and in many instances turned in radios of even four tubes that were no larger than 4x5x9. Some of the evacuees tell me that the radios were 10 to 12 years old; there were very few sets made then that could be considered contrabands.

Radios mean a great deal to the people of this center as it is about the only source of enjoyment that they have. I would like to do everything possible to obtain them and see that they are put to some beneficial use. I believe that our policy should be to continue questioning the evacuees when they ask for their radio and whenever it seems that the radio will pass inspection it should be forwarded. The Army will confiscate anything that does not comply with their regulations. This center, I believe, is different from all other centers in that the Evacuee Property Officer or Division or any of the WRA Personnel do not make the inspection and have no jurisdiction over it. We will continue to do all we can to eliminate unnecessary work on the part of your section and the Transportation Division in obtaining and forwarding radios that have short-wave bands that will prevent them from coming in.

Yours very truly,

J. Sheldon Lowery
Evacuee Property Officer

JSLowery:ss
chron
subj
desk
4/25/44

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

AMEP

APR 26 44

Russell T. Robinson, Chief
Evacuee Property Division
War Relocation Authority
Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco, 5, California

ATTENTION: Transportation Division
Evacuee Property Division

SUBJECT: WRA Form 155 Accompanying Request to
Sell Personal Property

Gentlemen:

When we receive request to sell personal property for an evacuee, we always have him execute WRA Form 155. We believe that there are many cases in which the sale can be handled easier by your office if the goods are placed in a WRA Warehouse. When this is true you have the necessary authorization to store the goods pending the sale. If there is no need for storing the goods and you prefer to sell them in their present location the WRA Form 155 can be voided when the sale had been completed.

Will you please let us know whether or not this procedure is an assistance to you and we should continue it.

Yours very truly,

JSLowery:ss
chron
subj
desk
4/26/44

J. Sheldon Lowery
Evacuee Property Officer

5
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

AMEP

MAY-3 44

Russell T. Robinson, Chief
Evacuee Property Division
War Relocation Authority
Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco, 5, California

ATTENTION: Victor L. Furth

SUBJECT: Contraband

Dear Sir:

I have had another discussion with the Army in regard to contraband. There is a Technical Sergeant located at this center who is competent to inspect all radios for short-wave bands. If a radio comes to this center with a short-wave band in it, he removes it for a nominal fee. As far as we can determine at this time, this sergeant will be permanently stationed here as the Army has considerable radio equipment of its own.

One detail of Military Police are stationed at the Post Office and open and inspect all incoming parcels. Another detail perform the same function at the Express and Freight Warehouse. Under the present set-up, it is my belief that we are justified in forwarding any radio to this center. At the time of filling out the 155 and the other forms we will notify the evacuee that if it does have a short-wave band it will be necessary for him to pay the fee to have it removed.

Yours very truly,

JSLowery:ss
chron
subj
desk
5/3/44

J. Sheldon Lowery
Evacuee Property Officer

3

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

451 MARKET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 5, CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, OFFICE
~~AMERICAN HOTEL BUILDING~~

May 8, 1944

In reply, please refer to:
Evacuee Property

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. R. B. Cozzens
Assistant Director

SUBJECT: Legal Review of Los Angeles
Field Office

Attached is a copy of excerpts from Kent Silverthorne's report of his visit to the Los Angeles Field Office. We are being guided by it in preparation of the Evacuee Property handbook.

Your particular attention is called to page 5 of this report regarding the Kitahatas.

Russell T. Robinson

Russell T. Robinson, Chief
Evacuee Property Office

*Myrdal
5/9/44
RAB*



This copy to RMC

(RM)

461 Market Street

April 25, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Russell T. Robinson
Chief, Evacuee Property Office

SUBJECT: Excerpts from Kent Silverthorne's reports

The following excerpts from the reports on my trip to the Los Angeles office may be of interest to you:

"Now to give you a few examples of the things that give supervisors legitimate reason to complain. The first affords another example of the need for even closer collaboration between the property men and prospect attorneys, a matter which I presume you will take up on your tour of the Centers. The property officer at Poston sent some instruments to a title company in this area for the purpose of closing a deal involving a conveyance of land. According to Earl Barton, the project officer (apparently through ignorance of the nature of the instrument) referred to a title certificate as a trust agreement. The title company, thinking he was referring to a trust agreement outstanding somewhere, demanded a copy of it before it would proceed with title insurance. According to Earl they have not yet been able to convince the title company that there isn't any trust agreement involving the property, and the deal has been held up in the meantime. Just how straight I have the story I don't know - the important thing is that it illustrates the need for making greater use of the services of the attorney on the project. One possible remedy would be to establish a general rule that all property cases involving legal documents of any kind be submitted to the project attorney. There wouldn't be a great many, and it might help to assure proper handling.

"The property officer at Rivers received, through the Los Angeles office, an offer of five cents a pound for some tons of fish net which has been rapidly rotting

Russell T. Robinson--2

in a cannery near San Pedro. The cannery had tried to sell it to get it out of the way, and the supervisors had tried to sell it, all to no avail. The offer of five cents per pound came through the Office of the Alien Property Custodian, which had found the buyer. The Alien Property Custodian was interested in selling, so that the proceeds could be applied to a debt owing to a firm that had been vested by the Custodian. The Los Angeles office forwarded the offer to Rivers, asking if the evacuee owners wished to sell at that figure. This office told of the rotting condition and the previous unsuccessful efforts to find a buyer. The Rivers office came back with a Form 153, asking 'disposal of the same (nets) at the discretion of the WRA and at the best price obtainable'. The supervisors here feel that such broad powers, so worded, put them and WRA right on the spot. They feel that the project property officers should, under such circumstances, put the burden of the decision upon the evacuee. I am inclined to agree.

"Some time ago a request came from the property office at Tule Lake, asking that this office collect \$10.00 from a person in Brentwood and \$6.00 from another in Pasadena. The amounts represented old dry cleaning accounts on which limitations had quite likely run. The letter didn't indicate their age. Brentwood and Pasadena are some distance from this office. All this wasn't too bad (although the men here can't see spending \$10.00 to collect \$10.00), but what aggravated them was the fact that no attempt had been made to collect by letter from the project. Earl Barton wrote letters and found that one of the debtors had left the address given without leaving a forwarding address. I doubt very much whether Sheldon Lowery would send in a request like that without first trying to collect by mail. Which leads me to wonder whether the property men review the mail going out over their names as carefully as they might. I have previously talked to you about the irritating letters that Arai sends over Linville's signature.

"These are rather petty matters, but they seem to have a lot to do with the polite feud carried on between the projects and the field offices, and since instructions are being drawn, I thought that I should give you even the petty details.

Russell T. Robinson--3

"Earl Barton would like to have a standardization of the procedure for receipting for checks sent to the projects. Earl thinks that the project property man should receipt for a check received for an evacuee. This is usually done, but he says they have received from Tule Lake, receipts signed by the evacuee together with the 154. He says he has no way of knowing the evacuee's signature or whether the man who signed was the proper person. He feels that his responsibility should end with a receipt from the property officer, and that the property officer should have the responsibility for determining that it was given to the proper person, etc. By the same token, he feels that the project office should retain the 154.

*Working to disapprove
dealings between evacuees
& appointed personnel.*

"Another case involves the property officer at Rivers. One Soto, wishing to sell his car, apparently took the matter up with the property officer. A project employee by the name of McCarthy offered \$1200.00 for the car. The evacuee took the matter up with Chamberlin, who is alleged to have told him he could not sell the car without going through the property office. Chamberlin then contacted Sloan, who got an offer of \$1400.00 from a dealer and sold the car for that. Mrs. McCarthy appeared at the office the other day and wanted to see the car, as she felt she should have a chance to meet the \$1400 offer. Sloan explained that the car was sold. About the only point to this story is Chamberlin's idea that sales must necessarily be made through the Evacuee Property office. It also illustrates a rather widespread practice among project personnel of buying evacuee owned automobiles. I know that at Tule Lake a couple of employees made a regular practice of buying and then reselling evacuee cars.

"A matter that might bear looking into has to do with food and other perishables stored in our warehouses. I don't know how much of this sort of thing we have, but it might pay to check up and get a rough idea. What I have in mind is the fact that ever so often food stored by us deteriorates to such an extent that we have to condemn and destroy it. Since the evacuee isn't here to see what is happening to this kind of property, and to keep the record clear, I am wondering if we shouldn't make a practice of notifying evacuee owners of stored perishables, that the goods is subject to spoilage, and advise that it be sold. Earl Barton feels quite certain

that the warehouses here do not contain any large lots of perishables, but I thought we might possibly be storing grocery store stocks in some of our other warehouses.

"The other day I saw a basement here containing several thousand dollars worth of canned goods and other groceries. Some of the cans are beginning to "blow", and rats and dampness are taking their toll of the other goods. We have not been asked to store this property, but have been asked to accept jurisdiction to the extent of providing to have an exterminator company get rid of the rats. I sort of felt that it would be wise to ask the evacuee owner if he wished to have the merchandise sold, but Earl didn't feel that we were under any obligation to do so. I not only hated to think of the possible loss to the evacuee, but disliked seeing all those cases of canned pineapple, tomatoes, etc. withheld from the public in time of need.

"Speaking of warehouses and storage, I saw my first WRA warehouse the other day. I was impressed. I certainly think that every project property officer should visit a warehouse if he hasn't had the experience. It would also be very helpful to everyone concerned if we had pictures of the long rows and immense stacks of personal property stored there. If each project property officer had a few of such pictures it would not only help him convince the evacuees that their property is well cared for, but should do much to help him discourage requests for shipment of individual items. One needs only to see the immense stacks of stuff to realize what a job it is to dig in and pull out one suitcase or a sewing machine. The evacuees are usually reasonable and cooperative if you can show them the problem you are up against. In fact they are a very patient people."

* * *

"Since my last report I have gone over a number of files of cases that Elmer Cordes felt would be of interest to me. My principal purpose in doing this was to obtain a sampling of what the records show to one otherwise unfamiliar with the cases. I felt that the files I reviewed were in very good shape for the most part. Of the dozen or so Cordes cases that I reviewed, I found only two that impelled me to attempt to make constructive suggestions. Exhibits A and B represent my efforts in this respect.

RBC note
* * *

"I sat in on the conference between the Kitahata boys and Marion Wright, who, as you will recall, was one of the purchasers of their hog ranch. I was thoroughly convinced that Mr. Wright had leaned over backward to treat the boys squarely, and as the boys looked into the matter further I think that they decided that they had been treated fairly. They admitted right off that they had no quarrel with Wright and Saltonstall over the terms of the agreement. In other words, they agreed that they had entered into the contract and expected to stick with it. However, they complained that the appraisement was too low. Wright's answer to this was that he was perfectly willing to have another appraisal made by appraisers of their choice. It appears that they didn't even feel that that was necessary after they looked over the place and talked to one of the appraisers about the hog market, etc. It also appeared that Wright and Saltonstall, instead of retaining the net profits as they had the right to do, paid something over \$10,000 to the Kitahata's on the purchase price some months before they were obligated to make any payments. My impression was that if all our evacuee deals were as clean as this one we would soon be out of business.

"As mentioned in my previous letter, I was favorably impressed with the property work being done by the Los Angeles office. The Supervisors appeared competent, and confident, and seemed to enjoy the work. They are inclined to be skeptical about the necessity for following established procedures, and are critical of delays due to channeling through the San Francisco office. They are particularly bitter over the "red tape" and "interference" in connection with transportation problems. I pointed out that the present system worked out by the San Francisco office is generally supposed to have brought order out of chaos and anyone proposing a change should be prepared to show specifically what is wrong with the present system and what can be done to improve it. Out of all the complaints I wasn't able to put my hands on anything very specific or constructive.

"There is no doubt in my mind but that Bob Walling is swamped with paper work to the detriment of his supervisory work. I think that this problem will be taken care of by the contemplated assignment of an office man to handle the paper work, leaving Walling free to take care of his other duties.

Russell T. Robinson--6

"Since writing Exhibits A and B I have heard from Elmer Cordes on both cases. From what he tells me, public relations in the Imperial Valley are extremely bad and we can probably expect little or no cooperation from the residents in connection with evacuee property problems. Elmer has arranged for Tom Nishimoto to buy in his property on the tax sale, but finds it necessary to advise him to buy through a Caucasian. Otherwise he does not think that Nishimoto would ever get his property back. He tells me that he was not able to get anywhere with the Imada case, and will write a detailed report explaining what he was up against. I think such a report will be a good thing to have in the record for possible future reference. As you know, I have been trying to sell the Supervisors on the idea of including in the files on unsatisfactory cases, a memorandum which will enable others to see what kind of a situation the Supervisor was up against. So often the file material makes it look as if the Supervisor has given up too easily, whereas when he is asked about the case he tells a long tale of woe concerning the attitudes of the people he dealt with, etc., which makes it quite plain why the case has not been satisfactorily concluded.

Kent Silverthorne
Senior Attorney

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

June 12, 1944

*Examine Prop
Reports gen*

MEMORANDUM TO: Russell T. Robinson
Chief, Evacuee Property Office

SUBJECT: Mr. Phelps' Report

I was very much interested in Mr. Phelps' report. It is possible that the trip made by him was very worthwhile. His report is objective and points out many items that can be used, not only to improve the operation of the Evacuee Property and Transportation Division, but our Relocation program as well. I have called many of these facts to the attention of the Director.

Mr. Phelps should be complimented on his able report and I trust that we will be receiving many more from other Property Officers as they return from field trips.

R. B. Cozzens
Assistant Director

RBCozzens/ml

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

AMFP

AUG 10 '44

Mr. R. B. Cozzens
Assistant Director
War Relocation Authority
Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco, 5, California

Dear Mr. Cozzens:


We have worked out the following procedure in regard to contraband to comply with the information contained in your letter of July 7, 1944.

All radios coming to this center are to be addressed as follow:

TO: R. R. Best
Project Director
ATTN: George Smith
Property & Warehouse Officer
Tule Lake Project
Newell, California (Staley, California
if shipment is via freight)
FOR: Name of Evacuee
Apartment Number ----

The above instructions will be placed on all copies of WRA 156.

Upon arrival at the center, the express or freight office will notify the Property & Warehouse Sections who will pick up the radio and take it to a special room where a Caucasian technician will remove the short-wave band and make the radio noncontraband. The Property & Warehouse Units will then see that the radio is delivered to the Army Processing Station for inspection after which it will



R. B. Cozzens - 2

be delivered to the evacuee; all parts removed from the radio will be tagged and placed in the vault in the Administrative Building and the proper receipts given to the evacuee for them.

Yours very truly,

J. Sheldon Lowery
Evacuee Property Officer

JSLowery:ss
chron
subj
desk
8/10/44

Evacuee Property

August 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: Area Supervisors
SUBJECT: Radios to Tule Lake

Attached is a copy of a letter from Mr. Cozzens to Mr. Best, director of the Tule Lake Segregation Center. This is sent to you for your information in anticipation of an early clearance of the difficulties previously encountered in shipment of radios to Tule Lake.

Please notice the statement in the fourth paragraph that it will be necessary to return all contraband requests to the Project for proper certification. This should be done at an early date.

Russell T. Robinson, Chief
Evacuee Property Division

Attachment
JWLawton/ght

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Sheldon Building
461 Market Street

5

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

JUL 7

*Copies to area Super.
with copy of any memo on subject.*

Return to R.T.P.

Mr. Ray R. Best
Project Director
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Best:

We have just received a reply to our letter of June 24 addressed to the Director with regard to the delivery of radios to evacuees at the Tule Lake Center. Mr. Myer concurs in all of the suggestions that we made and goes one step further in pointing out that we are not required to charge the evacuees for the cost of removing short-wave attachments. If it is not possible to have this work done by project appointed personnel, it is appropriate to contract to have the work done by a professional radio technician.

The procedure that we discussed when you were in San Francisco can be followed without any change in the administrative Manual and with only a slight modification of the procedure that is in effect at other centers. It is our suggestion that the Department of Justice form be used both for the evacuee's application and for your certification as required by Section 50.3.6 A of the Manual. The form WRA-260 will not be needed at all because in the return of non-contraband items there is no necessity to determine whether the applicant is a citizen or alien.

Attached is a copy of Department of Justice form on which we have indicated the two alternative statements which would be appropriate for the applicant and the form of certification that you should sign. Six executed copies of this form should be submitted in each case together with the customary form WRA-156 in duplicate and the original storage receipt issued by the Custodian of the property.

The Evacuee Property Division has received several applications from Tule Lake residents that have not been certified by you. It will be necessary, therefore, to return all of these for proper certification and, in some instances, to have the evacuee's statements changed. When these cases are resubmitted, will you see that they conform with the suggestions we have made.

R. R. Best--2

For the time being no applications should be sent in for the return of short-wave radios that are picked up by the military police and placed in storage in San Francisco. It is our intention to ask for an amendment of the existing memorandum of understanding between War Relocation Authority and the Western Defense Command and after that is accomplished we can then instruct you regarding this type of application.

Yours very truly,

R. B. Cozzens
Assistant Director

cc: Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Washington, D. C.

Russell T. Robinson-SF

VL: Furth:pme
7-7-44

SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ARTICLE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

NO. _____

DISTRICT OF _____

PLACE

DATE

194 _____

The undersigned hereby applies for the return of the following:

Article _____ Make _____ Model or Serial No. _____

For the following reasons:

(1) This radio is not contraband as it is not equipped with short-wave bands.
or, (2) I authorize the removal of short-wave bands to render the radio non-
contraband before it is delivered to me.

Certification:

Release of the radio described herein
is recommended. I will cause an inspec-
tion to be made and removal of any short-
wave bands before delivery to the applicant.

Project Director

NAME

Alien Registration Number _____

ADDRESS

To the United States Marshal - Approved for return.

Subject to following:

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the above described article from the United States Marshal, in satisfactory condition and hereby release and discharge the United States of America and its agent of all claims for damage with respect to said article.

District of _____

_____ day of _____ 194 _____

Tag or receipt No. _____

Inventory No. _____

Inventory Date _____

By _____

DULY AUTHORIZED AGENT

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

AMEP

AUG 28 '44

Russell T. Robinson, Chief
Evacuee Property Division
War Relocation Authority
Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco, 5, California

ATTENTION: John W. Lawton

SUBJECT: Lost Receipts for Contraband

Dear Sir:

I have received a number of requests to write to different Police Departments on the Pacific Coast to obtain duplicate receipts for contraband that was stored with them prior to evacuation. Many of the evacuees have lost their receipts and this is becoming quite a problem at this center and I presume the other centers are in the same situation. A number of the Police Departments have stated that they have turned the contrabands over to other agencies and are, therefore, unable to issue duplicate receipts. All of the requests that I have made to the different Police Departments have been accompanied by an affidavit stating that the original receipt is lost, etc.

It is my thought that it might be well to have all requests of this nature cleared through your office as this procedure might eliminate considerable work of the different Police Departments in answering these requests. I would be very happy to receive your comments on this and in the mean time, I will hold all requests until I hear from you.

Yours very truly,

JSL owery:ss
chron

J. Sheldon Lowery
Evacuee Property Officer

subi
8/28/44

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Project
Howell, California

ANRP

Russell T. Robinson, Chief
Evacuee Property Division
War Relocation Authority
Sheldon Building
481 Market Street
San Francisco, 5, California

SEP 27 '44

ATTENTION: John W. Lawton, Assistant

SUBJECT: Sending Files to Crystal City When One
of Our Segregees is Transferred There

Dear Sir:

I have a number of uncompleted cases for Segregees who have since been transferred to Crystal City. Crystal City is an Internment Camp and the WRA, of course, has no Evacuee Property Officer there. Occasionally I have written to the Commanding Officer in regard to property matters that I thought could be handled by him. These cases, however, have been of a simple nature, while it was necessary to obtain the Internee's signature on things of that nature.

I would like to know how I should handle more complicated cases where considerable correspondence and business judgment is required and whether or not I should send the complete files to Crystal City with the request to the Commanding Officer to handle it.

Yours very truly,

J. Sheldon Lowery
Evacuee Property Officer

JSLowery:kh
chron
subj
desk
9/27/44

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Tule Lake Project
Newell, California

AKHP

OCF-544

Mr. Malcolm F. Pitts
Assistant Director
War Relocation Authority
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Pitts:

In compliance with your request of September 9, 1944 in regard to the duties of the Evacuee Property Officer at this center we submit the following report.

My Evacuee Staff consist of six people whose duties are as follow:

One secretary for the Evacuee Property Officer.
Her duties are similar to those performed by a secretary to any of the officer; namely, she takes all urgent dictation, such as telegram, etc; answers the telephone and makes appointments for the evacuees to see the Evacuee Property Officer when it appears that it will be necessary for him to spend more than the normal amount of time discussing the evacuee's problem; supervises the other girls on the staff and see that the files are properly kept in line with the system outlined. In addition to the above, she also acts in the capacity of interpreter.

One Associate Evacuee Property Officer.
He has a desk in the Administrative Building and handles evacuee property matters, such as sale of household goods or assist the evacuees in filling out their request for transportation or storage of goods. He also has a desk in the office that is maintained in the colony and spends part of his time there when the colony office is exceptionally busy. He also calls on the evacuees in their barracks when they neglect to come to the office in response to memorandum which have been sent to them. He writes letter for the signature of the Evacuee Property Officer.

Malcom Pitts - 3

the tendency to discourage many of the evacuees from calling but we are unable to move the main office to the colony because of the large numbers of important records and documents that are in the files, which would be without protection if we moved them to the colony. In order to overcome this in some measure the Evacuee Property Officer has established an office in the colony, and while the arrangement is not entirely satisfactory it has been a big help.

The Associate Evacuee Property Officer in the colony does not have access to the files when the evacuees call on him and it is, therefore, necessary for him to call the file clerk many times each day. If the case appears to be complicated the colony office will refer it to the main office and phone the Evacuee Property Officer to arrange for a pass for the evacuee.

To overcome this serious objection we are arranging for a small building just inside the primary fence. This will enable the Evacuee Property Officer to have all of his files in the Administrative Area and yet the evacuee will be able to call on the Evacuee Property Officer between the hours of 8 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. However, it may be several months before this can be accomplished.

The Evacuee Property Officer at this center does not have a warehouse or a warehouse crew and all incoming evacuees' freight is handled through the Property Control and Warehouse Section. This system is far more efficient and satisfactory from every standpoint. If the Evacuee Property Officer handled these goods, it would be necessary to have a crew which would be inactive a large part of the time because the crew must be large enough and have sufficient trucks to unload a car promptly after which there would be nothing for them to do until the next car arrives. It would also cause confusion to other sections when they requisition trucks on short notice. The Property Control and the Warehouse Section has a standing crew which can do this work with their regular work without any inconvenience or delay to them.

The Evacuee Property Officer at this center has felt for some time that there would be a wide variation in reports from different projects and made a suggestion some six months ago that a closer correlation between them should be made as soon as possible. He felt each Evacuee Property Officer has a different idea as to how a case should be reported and

Malcolm Pitts - 4

closed and that it would be very difficult to get a comparison between the different centers on the Form WRA 241. While this is important he considers it to be comparatively minor in proportion to the importance of keeping uniform records and a satisfactory permanent filing system. At the present time there are five file cabinets of four drawers each and eighteen of the twenty drawers are now filled with records, many of which are vital and their importance will increase with time. These records should be kept in a manner so that a total stranger could review them and obtain a complete history of the case even though the case has been closed for a number of months or even years. This matter has been discussed with Mr. Russell T. Robinson and it is hoped that a uniform system will be installed as soon as it is physically possible to do so. It will not be a simple matter to do this as a man of exceptional ability and judgment will be required.

Prior to segregation the Evacuee Property Officer at this center worked very closely with the Project Attorney. The two offices adjoined and used the same receptionist and file clerk and the relation was very harmonious and beneficial to both. The condition arising after segregation and the trouble that existed in this center last fall made it advisable to separate these offices and at the present time they are in different parts of the Administration Building. This was due primarily because of the change in the functions of the Project Attorneys Office since November, 1943. The Project Attorney spends a greater portion of his time in handling cases concerned with the welfare and peace of the center. The Evacuee Property Officer's duty consists solely of helping the evacuees with their personal and business problems and if he is going to be effective he must remain entirely aloof from all matters which in any way might be construed to be the duty of the Police Force or a Prosecuting Attorney.

The Evacuee Property Officer and the Project Attorney do communicate by telephone or by memorandum or in person several times each day to discuss business and legal problems, but under no conditions has the Evacuee Property Officer discussed administrative or police problems with the attorney. All of the several Project Attorneys who have been at this center during the time that the Evacuee Property Officer has been here they cooperated with the Evacuee Property Officer in every way possible and the relations have been most cordial and effective.

Malcolm Pitts - 5

There is not a great deal of work between the Welfare Section and the Evacuee Property Office, although, the Evacuee Property Officer does meet with the staff meeting in the Welfare Section occasionally to explain how his Section can assist the Welfare Section and the Welfare Section can help him in telling the evacuees of the benefits that may be derived through handling their affairs through his office. The personnel of the Welfare Section is familiar with the operation and purpose of the Evacuee Property Section and are constantly referring cases to him. There is practically no correspondence between the Evacuee Property Officer at this center and the Relocation Division and what little exist consist of cases in regard to evacuees who relocated prior to segregation.

Yours very truly,

J. Sheldon Lowery
Evacuee Property Officer

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10/3/44

21 TL 74 SF PBA 11-14-44 206 SF WAR VIA TWX/ R R BEST NEWELL CALIF.

Because of the large number of requests for shipment and pick up of evacuee property being received daily in the west coast property offices, there is a large backlog of these requests, because of this backlog it is deemed necessary for the present and immediate future to establish a system of priorities for the handling and shipment of evacuee property now on the west coast. Priority of handling forms WRA-156 and 155 will be as follows.--

1. Shipment of property to centers in cases which would cause undue hardship.
2. Pick up and storage of goods where loss or damage would result to the property if not removed immediately from its present location.
3. Shipment of property to relocation points.
4. Shipment of property to relocation centers.
5. Pick up and storage of property.

All emergency cases should be approved by the project director and specifically indicated as such, It is suggested that all requests now pending in San Francisco be re-examined in view of the above priorities and furnish additional information to San Francisco if needed. This will apply to household effects, commercial property and contraband.

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PROP. D.S. MEER WRA WA

B,