

Box 1.7

Gila Anniversary Booklet

"A Year at Gila"

July 20, 1943

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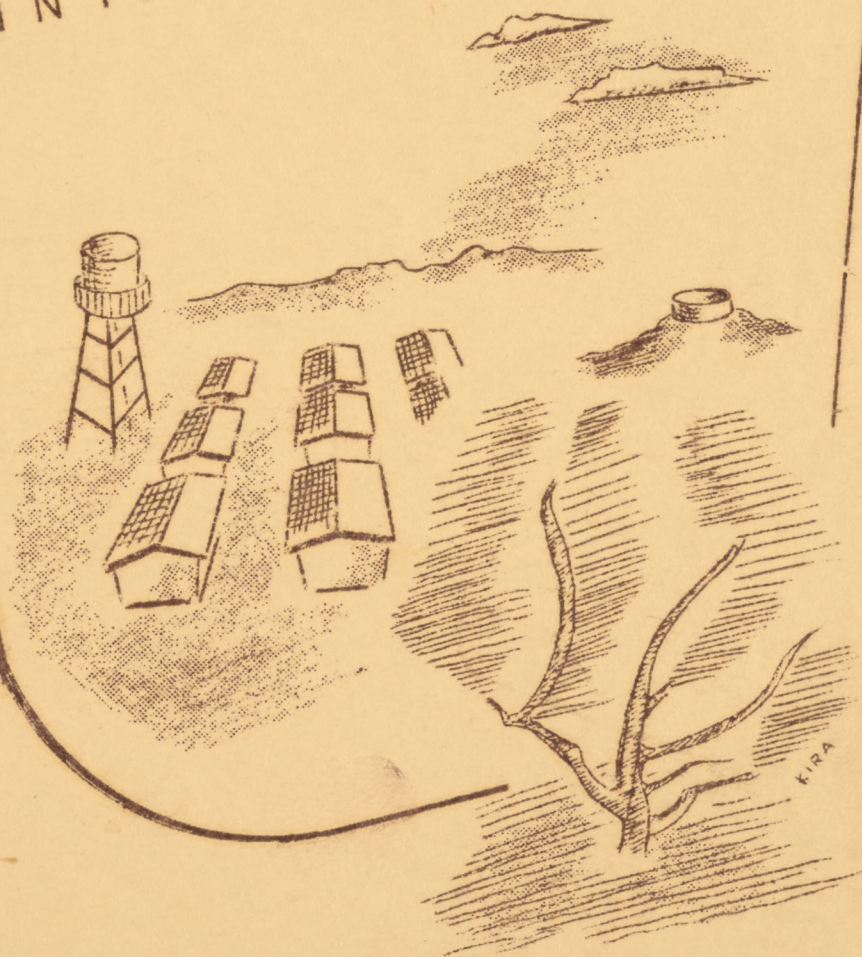


# A YEAR AT GILA

JULY 20, 1943

ANNIVERSARY

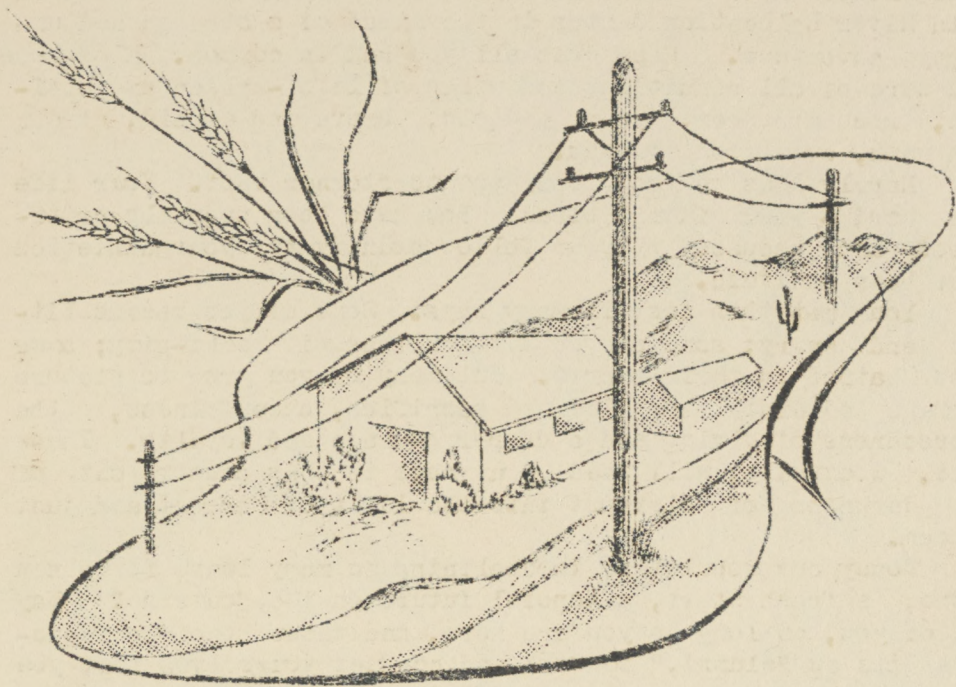
BOOKLET





*Yukiyo Hayashi*

# ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET



## A YEAR AT GILA

RIVERS, ARIZONA      JULY 20, 1943



# a message:

Scarcely more than a year ago, sage, sand, and mesquite reigned silent and alone where the fourth largest community in this State now stands. One year ago you began to arrive at Gila River Relocation Center in the midst of a strange and unhappy adventure. Race was all you had in common. Elsewhere you were of all conditions and walks of life - alien and citizen, rich and poor, young and old, brave and afraid, strong and weak, even good and bad.

Rarely has a group been put to sterner test. Your life was hard - your future bleak. You have been unjustly criticized and accused by your fellow countrymen; your anxieties have been manifold.

You met this test in many ways. Some of you became bitter and angry; some showered themselves with self-pity; some bred hatred in their hearts. But many of you grew to stature through adversity and learned sacrifice, cheerfulness, the blessedness of giving and a deeper courage and loyalty. These last, I am sure, will lead your race in this country out of the darkness of distrust into the light of respect and just esteem.

Today our population is declining as many leave for a new scene, a fresh start, a hopeful future on the "outside." May all of you, so long as you are here, and those too who represent Gila as "alumni," so work and conduct yourselves that you may be proud of your record and earn that sovereign power which self-knowledge, self-respect, and self-control so surely bring.

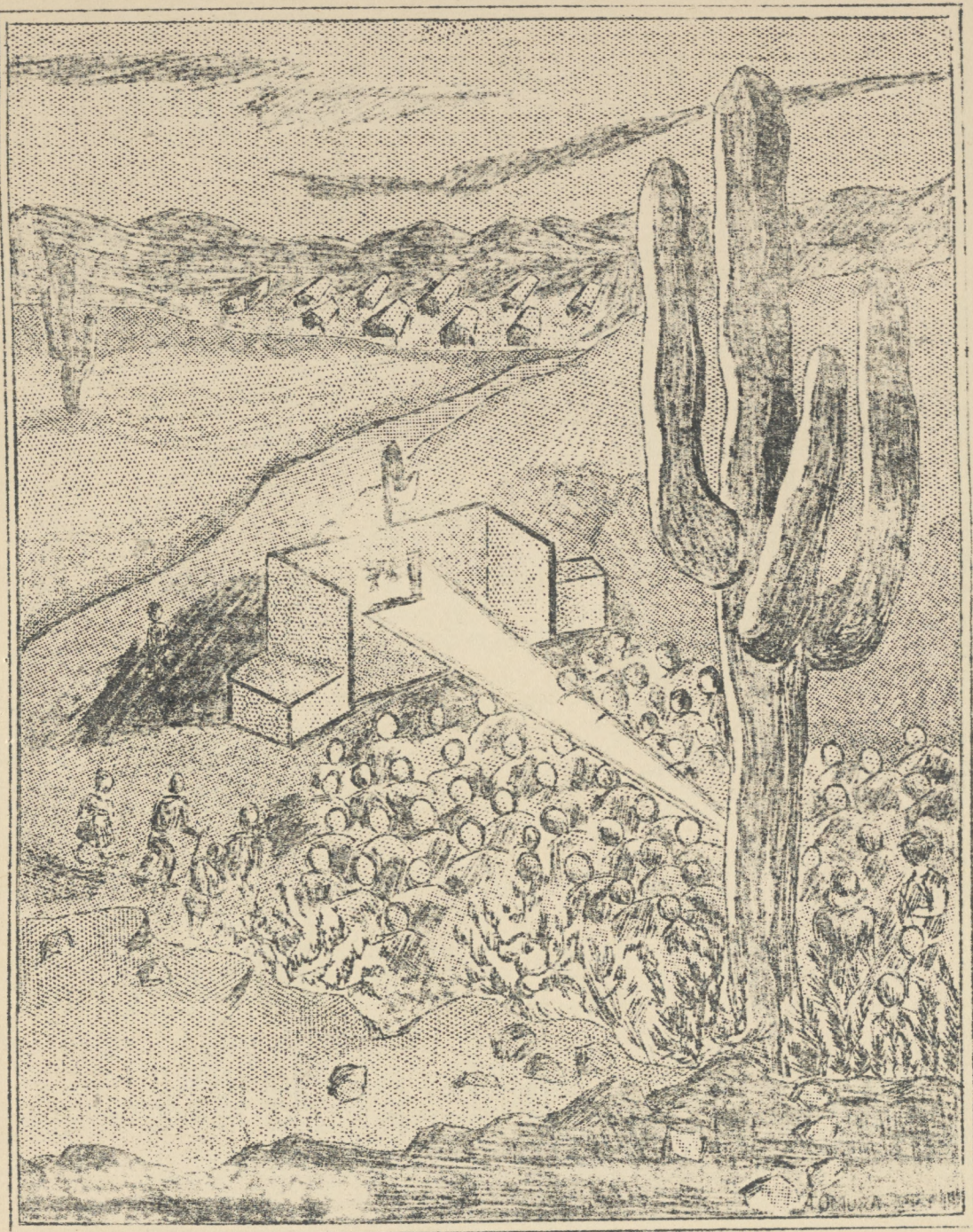
And finally I commend to you the deep and eternal satisfaction that comes to him who can truly say:

"In the full clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody but unbowed."

*L.H. Bennett*

Project Director







# LEGEND OF RIVERS

The place called "Rivers", located on the Gila River Indian Reservation (home of the Pima Indians), lies within the Casa Grande Valley in the west-central part of Pinal County, Arizona. In general, the Indian reservations which cover large areas in Arizona include many thousand acres of fertile farming land.

An unknown race, which the Pima Indians called Ho-Ho-Kam, must have lived in this vicinity along the Gila and the Salt Rivers during the early development of their tribe some two thousand years ago. Prehistoric dwellings such as the Casa Grande Ruins near the present town of Coolidge and the evidence of extensive irrigation canals along the Gila River bear mute testimony of an early and progressive settlement.

The Gila River, from which water is diverted for irrigation of the Rivers' farm lands, flows through the valley which surrounds Rivers. This valley is encircled by short mountain ranges such as the Thin, Sacaton, and Butterfly, while in the distance the Sierra Estrella and Salt River Mountains are visible, and peaks such as Hayden, San Carlos, and Five Mile stand out as landmarks against the cloudless sky.

Rivers, or in other words the Gila River War Relocation Project, occupies approximately 17,000 acres and has two separate camp sites known as Canal and Butte. As the name implies, the "Canal" camp is located beside the irrigation canal with the small Fox Butte on the west and the Gila Butte far to the north. The "Butte" camp, some four miles away, stretches out at the foot of the sizeable Sacaton Butte with its spectacular giant saguaro; Pima Butte is seen far to its north.

The origin and significance of the name Rivers were not known by the present residents when they came a year ago. Neither was that name mentioned in the official memorandum which "authorized the use of certain tribal lands on the Gila River Indian Reservation by the War Relocation Authority". The name is that of the first Pima Indian killed in action during World War I. In honor of Jim Rivers, the War Relocation Authorities gave his name to this project.



# GILA RIVER PROJECT

Greetings from Gila (HEE-LA) in the desert of south central Arizona--the land with the endless ceiling of clear blue sky and perpetual sunshine. The desert is covered with sagebrush and creosote bushes while the sparse vegetation on the buttes includes giant cacti, saguaro, and a ground variety of the cholla. To the east, south, and west, the desert stretches on in this valley of sunshine. The city of Phoenix is located about 40 miles to the north and Tucson about 60 miles to the south. The elevation is approximately 1,500 feet, and the temperature ranges from 20° to 60° in winter and 80° to 117° in the summer.

This great valley, where the Pima Indians have cultivated small fields of wheat, corn, pumpkins, melons, and other crops for generations, now is a strange city of almost 14,000 evacuees whose former homes were in the Western Defense Area. The construction of this evacuee city was started by the army on April 16, 1942. The initial construction of the camp began at Canal, or No. 1 camp, while the Butte, or No. 2 camp about 4 miles northwest, was still in the process of being graded. The intense heat of the summer weather, difficulties in the transportation of materials, and a shortage of water caused considerable hindrance and delay in the construction of the many barracks needed to provide housing for so many people. Construction was prolonged but finally the Canal camp neared completion and the transplanting of people of Japanese descent from different assembly centers began.

On July 20, 1942, exactly one year ago, the advance contingent of 520 evacuees arrived from the Turlock Assembly Center. This was a volunteer group which aided in preparations for the later contingents of about 500 each which poured in at two or three-day intervals. Meanwhile Butte camp, the larger of the two communities, was getting well underway. After a short pause during the latter part of August, further immigration began and proceeded on schedule until finally at the end of October, 1942, the Gila River Relocation Center had absorbed the whole population of the assembly centers at Turlock and Tulare, plus several contingents from Santa Anita and some



families from military area No. 2.

The gross acreage of the Gila River War Relocation Center is 16,467 acres. The actual areas of each community, No. 1 camp site and No. 2 camp site, are 209.50 acres and 789.25 acres respectively--a total of 998.75 acres. Into this less-than-two-square-mile city came almost 14,000 people.

In many ways Rivers was comparable to the average normal city. But there were differences. Many of these people previously lived in communities where the majority of their neighbors and friends were of the cross section of the American public. To them, it seemed strange to live in a strictly Japanese community. In fact, some of them do not speak Japanese. Other differences from the average, normal communities were the overcrowded living conditions, lack of privacy, insecurity and disillusion. Within themselves were the feelings and attitudes resultant from forced changes in their own lives--unrest, heartaches, and anxieties.

But days have come and gone. At last a whole year has passed. Many physical aspects of the city which could not be changed have been remarkably altered by the painstaking care of gay flowers and restful green lawns. Children are happily busy in their daily classes. Many young people are serving the needs of their community in hospitals, transportation work, schools, and offices. Other residents are cooking or serving meals, organizing recreational facilities, conducting classes, or performing civic duties. Most of the mothers, as mothers always do, are attending to the household duties, while the fathers and many others are busily working in the fertile fields to produce an adequate food supply. There are now clubs, serious study groups, movies, talent shows, ball games, and other sports, canteens, beauty parlors, barber shops, dry goods and shoe stores, fire stations, community councils, block managers, internal security forces, kindergartens, hospitals, churches and accredited schools. These are the tangible evidences of purpose and effort--one year's accomplishment to which residents can point with pride.



# POPULATION

The Turlock Assembly Center provided the first contingent of evacuees to come to the Gila River Relocation Center. Advance workers totaling 520 arrived on July 20, 1942, and proceeded in the blistering heat of midsummer to set up mess halls and other facilities and to assist in the warehousing of food and other supplies.

Arrivals were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Number</u>
August 3, 1942	Sanger, California	468 people
August 4, 1942	Sanger, California	497 people
August 5, 1942	Sanger, California	487 people
August 6, 1942	Sanger, California	480 people
August 7, 1942	Sanger, California	502 people
August 11, 1942	Sanger, California	484 people
August 12, 1942	Turlock Assembly Center	506 people
August 13, 1942	Turlock Assembly Center	502 people
August 14, 1942	Turlock Assembly Center	502 people
August 21, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	506 people
August 22, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	529 people
August 26, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	514 people
August 27, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	485 people
August 31, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	519 people
September 1, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	501 people
September 2, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	501 people
September 3, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	521 people
September 4, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	447 people
September 5, 1942	Tulare Assembly Center	400 people
October 18, 1942	Santa Anita Assembly Center	533 people
October 19, 1942	Santa Anita Assembly Center	514 people
October 27, 1942	Santa Anita Assembly Center	224 people

These constituted the major groups in Gila River Relocation Center. Small transfers from other centers followed from time to time until the total peak population of both communities totaled 13,321 on February 7, 1943.

Altogether, 1,114 persons have left the center, 250 on seasonal and 864 on indefinite leave. Of these leaving indefinitely, 69 volunteered for the army, 97 went for education, and 698 on general leave.



# HOUSING

The first groups that arrived in Gila were inconvenienced by lack of water, shower, and laundry facilities. Center pipes and the sewer system were not completed, pipe line ditches about six feet deep were still open between barracks, no hot water was available, and laundry tubs were not installed. Drinking water was provided in new garbage cans at various locations.

New arrivals forced residents to share up with other families in already crowded barracks. Block manager's offices, laundry and ironing rooms, and recreation halls were used for living quarters.

The residence barrack is a structure 20 feet by 100 feet, with a double roof and sheet rock walls. Each barrack is divided into four rectangular units, three rooms 20 by 24 feet each and one large unit 20 by 38 feet.

Since there are no ceilings or inner walls, the wooden framework and beams are exposed. Residents conveniently measure rooms by counting these ceiling beams since the beams are exactly four feet apart.

On August 21, 1942, Butte camp was opened, and on November 1, space allocation was carried out systematically.

Families of two were given a space covered by 3 beams or 12 feet; families of three, 4 beams; and families of four or five, 5 beams. Those with six members received 7 beams, and larger groups got two rooms. When special medical or welfare cases were involved, a separate unit of 2 beams was created for each individual. Two hundred seventy-five new partitions were installed and 44 partitions moved to accommodate the families.

Oil stoves were installed in December, and linoleum was laid on the rough floors beginning the first of March. With 25 workers, 32 acres of linoleum were laid within three months.

There is the continuous need for the Housing Department. Marriages, births, and deaths require continuous adjustments. With relocation progressing as a major program, many and more satisfactory adjustments are being made as rapidly as possible.



# EMPLOYMENT

From the moment they arrived in Rivers on July 20, 1942, evacuees rolled up their sleeves and set to work on jobs necessary for camp upkeep.

Mess halls had to operate immediately; transportation and supply division had to maintain and distribute supplies; the fire department, internal security, and farms were staffed at once with a reasonable number of workers. Other divisions were also prompt in outlining their programs, and the desire for work was in nearly all cases met by employment needs.

Evacuees "pitched in" wholeheartedly to get essential work done in an unfinished community. Theirs were difficult tasks of preparation for new inductees, camp maintenance, and food production for local consumption. They worked under a wage scale of \$19 a month for professionals, \$16 for skilled, and \$12 for unskilled workers. The same wage scale is still maintained except that no one is now classed as unskilled, leaving \$16 and \$19 as the monthly pay. The greatest reward for evacuee workers came in the satisfaction of experiencing, accomplishing, and contributing to the community welfare.

On September 5, the greater part of our present population was settled and there were 3154 on the employment rolls. This number increased to 6148 at the close of the year and the all time high was reached on April 24 when 6847 were employed. At the end of June this number was decreased to approximately 6000 which is in part due to the fact that camouflage manufacture was discontinued on May 24 after having been in operation since last November with employees at times numbering almost 600 workers.

An average of 900 workers have been employed on our farms. The majority of workers there are issei and this operation has fortunately offered work to many older women who prefer this type of work.

Our center has never undergone any labor unrest and this fact can be attributed to a genuine desire on the part of the evacuees to try to work out difficulties amicably and for the best interest of the community.



# MESS AND SUPPLY

All matters pertaining to subsistence supplies are handled by the Division of Mess and Supply. In all there are 56 kitchens and mess halls in operation, serving meals to approximately 13,000 people. These include hospital mess halls, a special hot lunch kitchen for school children, formula kitchens for babies on formula, special diet kitchens, and 2 administrative mess halls as well as evacuee mess halls.

The activities of the Division are divided into three units. The first is the office unit which includes the property, cost account, rationing, timekeeping, inventory, and stenographic sections. Tally-ins, receiving reports, stores records, time cards, food costs, rationing and correspondence are handled by this unit.

The second unit is the warehouse unit which handles all storehouses and cold storage plants. It is responsible for keeping storehouse inventories and records and issuing and transporting subsistence to all kitchens and mess halls.

The third is the mess hall unit which is responsible for the smooth operation of all mess halls. This unit is responsible for preparing and serving meals to the Center population. A master menu is made up in advance for all evacuee mess halls and subsistence supplies are delivered according to this menu. This method insures rigid control of food supplies and adherence to the national rationing program. This unit also includes a Service Section which handles the unit's laundry and makes aprons, cook's caps, dishtowels, etc.

The combined operations of the three units are coordinated into a single pattern with inter-locking controls so that the whole is a single, well-organized working unit.



# COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

July 23, 1942, just three days after the arrival of the first group of evacuees, the Gila River Community Enterprises opened its first store with the very incomplete stock it had to offer. This store in Canal Community was the forerunner of a consumers' cooperative organization that was to serve in excess of 13,000 residents in the two communities of Canal and Butte.

In those early days, the urgent and most difficult problem was to locate and purchase available merchandise on credit when the organization had no money, little or no net assets, and no guarantors (since the WRA at no time has guaranteed any of the enterprise's accounts nor provided any cash with which to purchase merchandise).

After some sources of credit were established, the problem became one of keeping current stocks adequate to supply the demand and need.

Credit was obtained by honestly explaining to prospective vendors the nature and extent of the problem and by promising creditors that sales would be for cash only and at a mark-up that would assure the gradual building up of a cash operating reserve which steadily would reduce the need for extensive and unsecured credit. Too much appreciation cannot be expressed to these early creditors who made merchandise available for resale.

From the modest beginning on that 23rd day of July, 1942, the enterprises expanded most rapidly. That day a little merchandise and a half dozen employees rattled around in store No. 1 in Canal Community. Within six weeks of the opening date, sales reached \$600 a day, and within six months a single day's sales exceeded \$6,000. The stores had expanded from one to seven, and a partially filled storage room in the rear of a store had expanded to four well-filled warehouses supplying most of the personal requirements of the residents.

From its inception to the present status of organization, (in which over three hundred employees operate three general stores, two dry goods stores, two shoe stores, two barber shops, two beauty shops, and a miscellaneous repair shop, to-



# COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES

(Continued)

gether with the general offices, warehouses, etc., pertinent thereto) the personnel division has functioned smoothly and with a remarkably small turnover. Almost from the beginning evacuees have had full responsibility to manage and operate the enterprises subject only to WRA instructions, regulations, operating agreements, and supervision.

The early development of the enterprises was directed by an Advisory Board consisting of the general manager and the managers of the several enterprises. In November 1942, the temporary Community Council, appointed committees to investigate the existing enterprises and to make recommendations to the residents as to the type of organization best adapted to the handling of such responsibilities in a community of this type. The outgrowth of these committees was an educational committee which instructed block leaders as to their findings. Next, some 7,000 eligible persons indicated their wish to have a consumers' cooperative properly organized and to take over the temporary enterprises, as had been recommended by WRA and approved by the investigating committee. Block delegates, elected by the subscribers, elected incorporators and directors who in turn adopted Articles of Incorporation and By Laws which conform to the model cooperative statutes of the District of Columbia. And in April, certified copies were filed in Arizona, and a license to do business in the State was received.

The management of Community Enterprises thus passed to the duly elected Board of Directors, and the patrons of this consumers' cooperative became eligible for substantial savings, in excess of required reserves which had accumulated during the life of the enterprises.



# ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Gila River Project was first carried out from offices in Canal until new buildings were completed in the Butte camp. Administration now functions from Butte in two main buildings and three barrack-sized structures on the north end of the center. Canal's administration offices are housed in one large building in Block 5.

The relationship of the various divisions, sections and units, is shown by comparison of the numbers below with those on the opposite page.

## OFFICE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR

### COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Education Section         | 5. Community Activities Section |
| 2. Internal Security Section | 6. Community Analysis Section   |
| 3. Welfare Section           | 7. Business Enterprises Section |
| 4. Health Section            | 8. Community Government Section |
| 9. Evacuee Property Section  |                                 |

### ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 10. Supply Section          | 15. Personnel Section                         |
| 11. Procurement Unit        | 16. Statistics Section                        |
| 12. Mess Management Unit    | 17. Budget and Accounts Unit                  |
| 13. Postal Service Unit     | 18. Finance Section                           |
| 14. Office Services Section | 19. Cost Accounting and Property Control Unit |

### OPERATIONS DIVISION

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 20. Industry Section                | 24. Irrigation, Drainage & Roads         |
| 21. Fire Protection Section         | 25. Motor Transport and Maintenance Unit |
| 22. Design & Drafting Unit          | 26. Engineering Section                  |
| 23. Construction & Maintenance Unit | 27. Agriculture Section                  |

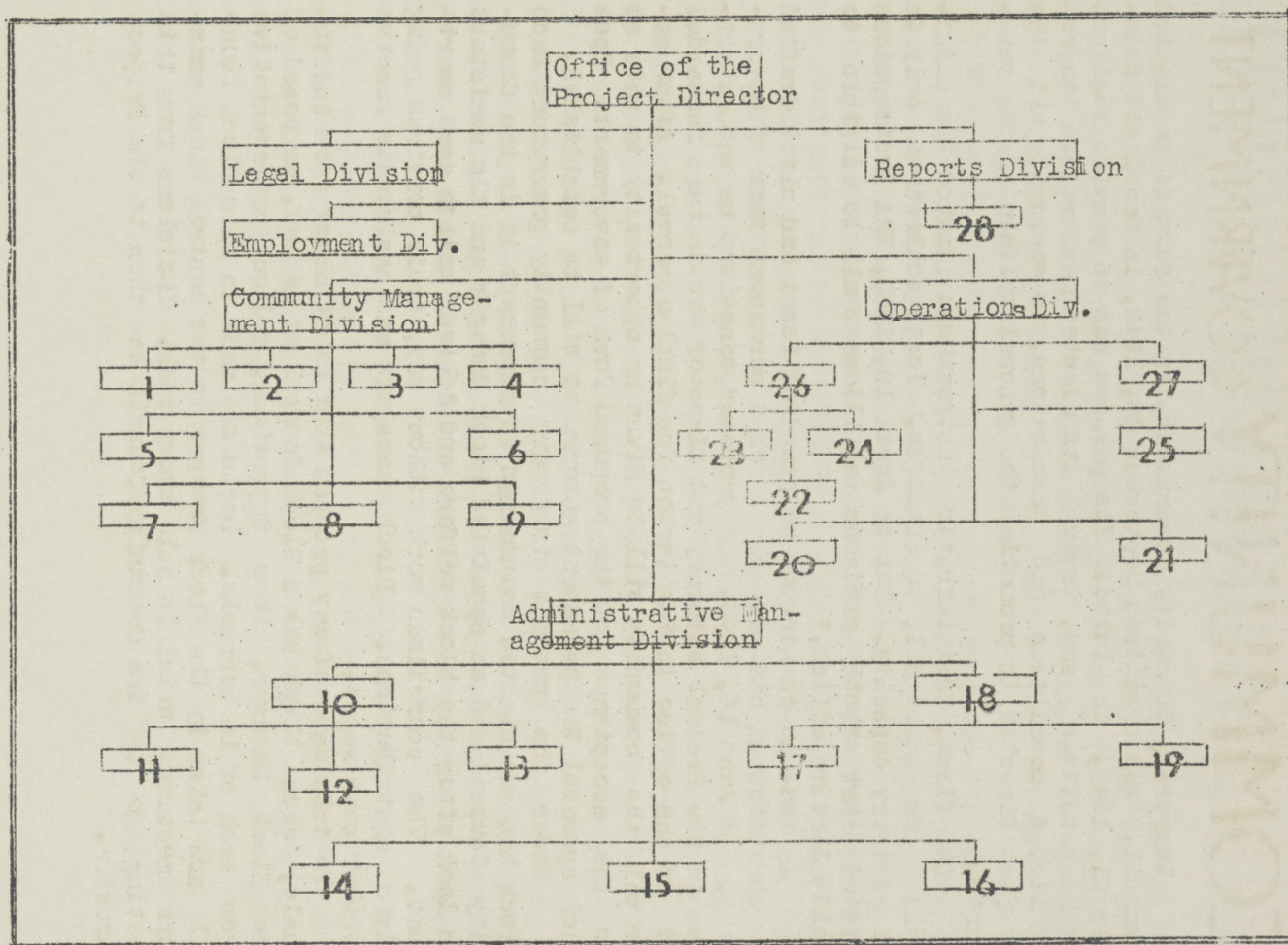
### REPORTS DIVISION

28. News-Courier

### LEGAL DIVISION

### EMPLOYMENT DIVISION







# COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

Temporary Community Government, in the form of an elected council, was organized September 28, 1942, in Canal and October 21, 1942, in Butte. Its purpose was to provide resident representatives and, through its elected members and its established committees and commissions, to cooperate with the Project Director in promoting the general welfare of the residents.

At first, administrative instructions limited the eligibility for membership to citizens. Issei could serve only in an advisory capacity. But on April 19, 1943, WRA instructions stated that "both citizens and aliens shall be eligible to hold elective office."

A ten-man commission composed of issei and nisei drafted a constitution and made plans for a permanent form of government. On June 14, 1943, the proposed constitution was submitted to the Project Attorney and Director who in turn forwarded it to the office in Washington for final approval. After approval the community will be given an opportunity to vote as to the acceptance of the proposed form of government. Upon such approval the permanent government will be established.

Under the present temporary community government each block has one elected councilman to represent it in the Community Council and an appointed Block Manager and his assistant to look after the block welfare and deliver mail to each apartment. The councilmen work without pay, their services being civic contributions. Block managers and assistants receive regular camp wages.

To take care of any problem that might arise from individuals, each block has a Block Council of 16 men, composed of the Block Manager, Mess Supervisor, and one representative from each of 14 barracks. Decisions made in this Block Council are taken by the Block Manager to the central block managers meeting, which is held every week. Decisions from this meeting go to the Community Council and then to the Project Director.







# AGRICULTURAL . . CROPS

The first plow operated by an evacuee on the Gila River Project turned under alfalfa and earth in the early part of August, 1942, to prepare for the growing of vegetables. The first plot of alfalfa land prepared for planting of vegetables consisted of 236 acres and by the end of the first season some 700 acres of the 6977 acres planted to alfalfa was converted into lush vegetable fields. At present 1,289 acres of land formerly planted to alfalfa have been cultivated for vegetable growing.

The chief crops grown in the fall and winter of 1942-1943 were lettuce, daikon (icicle radish), turnips, table beets, carrots, spinach, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, green and dry onion, squash, cucumber, and Chinese cabbage. These vegetables, particularly the root crops, grew well. Forty-three acres of exceptionally good size and quality daikon, a pickle-food loved by Japanese people, were harvested. This was the largest single plot of this delectable food ever grown in this country. One six acre field of turnips yielded  $17\frac{1}{2}$  tons of topped, first quality turnip per acre. Cucumbers, a crop which reputedly could not be grown here successfully, yielded beautiful and abundant fruit from a five acre trial planting. No fertilizers were used and although the texture of the soil is not good for intense vegetable growing, good crops were harvested because of the build-up of soil fertility brought about by the many years of alfalfa growing.

The chief crops grown this spring season are cantaloupe, honey dew, watermelon, corn, mungo bean, peanut, potato, sweet potato, strawberry, tomato, table beet, carrot, cucumber, and squash.

From September, 1942, to the end of May, 1943, 2805 tons of vegetables were harvested on the Gila farms. Of this amount 1464 tons were consumed by the people of our center and 1341 tons of vegetables (84 cars) were shipped to other relocation centers. Each of the ten relocation centers has received vegetables from our project. This accomplishment has been more the noteworthy because it was done in spite of the lack of a packing house and other facilities for proper ship-



ment of perishable products. Much of our shipments were made in large gunny sacks because of the lack of crates.

For the new fiscal period (July, 1943--June, 1944) Gila farms have been instructed by the Washington office of the WRA to plant 849 acres (7,613,000 pounds or 234 cars) of vegetables for shipment to other relocation centers, in addition to the 784 acres of food to be planted for our center consumption. The acreages of some of the major crops to be planted for out shipment are some cabbage, 125 acres; Chinese cabbage, 85 acres; daikon, 55 acres; lettuce, 77 acres; spinach, 132 acres; Swiss chard, 71 acres; and tomato, 100 acres. An interesting crop to be planted here is 50 acres of soy bean from which the popular Japanese food "tofu", is to be made.

In order to handle this out shipment of 234 cars of vegetables a packing house is to be built on the project, and a loading and storage house is to be built at the railroad at Serape.

In addition to the vegetables, war crops have been planted on our project. Approximately 40 acres of a new type of long staple cotton have been planted for seed for the Agriculture Experimental Station in Sacaton. Sixty-six acres of browned and seedladen flax are now ready for threshing. About 40 acres of castor beans have been planted near the sewage outlet where the plants are irrigated with the sewage waste water. Another war time food contribution is evident in the residents' desire to produce food for the soldiers in near-by army camps. The first consignment to be called for by the army was 20,000 pounds of watermelons picked and loaded for the soldiers' consumption on the Fourth of July. At the time of this writing construction work on a vegetable dehydration plant is taking place. Most of the dehydration here will be of root vegetables. Production plans call for a start of three and a half tons of vegetables per day on a twenty-four hour basis to be gradually increased to ten tons per day.

The 62 acre seed farm is now a scene of activity as seeds of some 34 different varieties of vegetables are about ready for threshing. To date mappa and pea seed have been threshed.



Onion, carrot, and lettuce seeds will soon be ready for threshing.

Two nurseries raise cut-flowers, vegetable plants for transplanting in our fields, shrubs, trees, and breeding plants.

From the planting made last fall, 283 acres of barley are now being threshed. Five hundred acres of maize are being planted for our project's hogs and chickens. Alfalfa hay is being baled from 280 acres and will be used for the feeding of our dairy cows and horses. For additional feed, sudan grass totaling 1,200 acres is yet to be planted. The 4,800 acres of alfalfa pasture under our care is used for the pasturing of cattle. At present 4,800 head of fattening cattle belonging to private parties are pastured here at an average pasture rental of eight cents per head per day. This at present brings a pasture revenue of \$480 a day to the W.R.A. The 716 head of the project's cattle are also pastured here.

## LIVESTOCK

On January 4, 1943, with a small group of men and with limited materials, the livestock program started with construction work in the dairy and swine units. Corrals and shelters were constructed out of tree trunks cut by the men.

On February 6, 15 grade-dairy cows, 16 young calves and five heifers were obtained from the Granada Relocation Center in Colorado. This small herd is being used primarily for the training of evacuees to handle and care for the cows properly. This dairy unit is to be built up to a herd of 300 milking cows which will supply the milk need of this center.

On February 12, 720 steers of Mexican origin were purchased and are now pastured on our project. Some of the steers will be ready for slaughter in July.

The availability of good alfalfa pastures and already existing facilities such as fences and stock water makes it possible for this project to raise beef economically. It is planned to purchase another lot of steers for our project. Sufficient pasturage for 4,000 head of steers a year is avail-



able here. Four thousand head of steers would not only supply the total beef needs of this center but would make possible the supplying of other relocation centers.

On February 28, 50 pure bred registered Poland China gilts were obtained from the Rancho del Rio Salinas, San Miguel, California.

On March 23, an additional lot of 150 head of pigs were obtained from the Rancho del Rio Salinas. Two pure bred registered Poland China boars were also purchased to carry on the breeding program. There are now over 600 hogs on our project.

The good alfalfa pasture, good quality garbage, and the land available for the production of feed grain makes favorable the production of pork here. It is planned to build up the hog farm to the production of 3,000 to 4,000 fat hogs to be slaughtered annually. In order to build up the hogs to this number, 300 brood sows are to be farrowed this fall and winter.

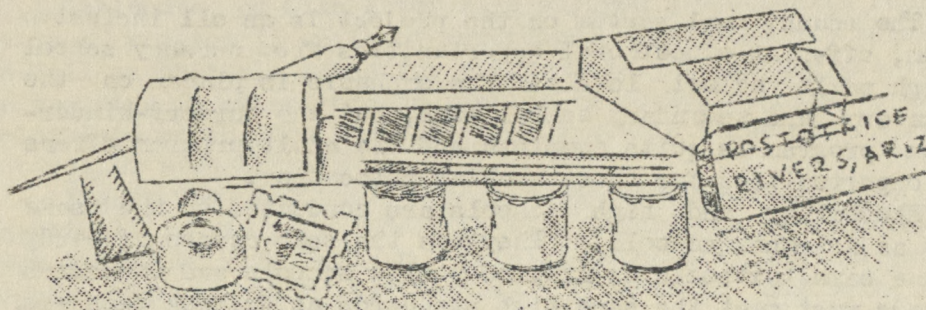
The first flock of 2,000 chicks arrived here from Hayward California, on May 22nd, followed by an additional 2,500 chicks on May 26. A poultry farm to house 12,000 laying hens is anticipated. From this farm eggs and chickens will be supplied to the people of this center.

The goal of our agriculture department is to make Gila River project self-sufficient in food needs. This is highly important today because of the great demand for the nation's food supply by the nation's great rank of civilian workers, fighting men, and by lend-lease.

The dairy, hog, and poultry farms and the raising of steers not only insure us of milk, pork and bacon, chicken, eggs, and beef, but working in one or more of these livestock units provides good vocational training for a livelihood. The Japanese have been importantly engaged in vegetable and fruit production, but have shown little interest in the past in the raising of livestock. Our livestock program provides for those interested an important means of learning and adding this specialized and important field of agriculture to their other stock of trades.



# POST OFFICE



It was not until October of 1942 that the Rivers Post Office was definitely established. As there were no adequate facilities for handling the mail previous to this time, all out-going and in-coming mail was taken care of by any member of the administrative staff who chanced to be in Sacaton.

On August 1, 1942, a temporary branch Post Office was established in Canal Camp. A month later at the completion of the Post Office building, the Post Office was moved to Butte where, as a branch of the Phoenix office, it was established in permanent headquarters as the Rivers' Post Office.

It has handled financial transactions of more than a half million dollars in stamps, money orders, and C.O.D. during the months from August, 1942, to May, 1943. During this period, 33,515 money orders for a total of \$364,271 have been issued, and 21,088 C.O.D. parcels, for a total sum of \$125,822 have been delivered. Stamp sales totaled \$22,880.79. By far the greatest volume of business transacted for a single month was during March when sales totaled \$86,214.66. The months following have shown a gradual decrease in sales, due, perhaps, to the resettlement and the consequent decrease in population.



# EDUCATION

The educational system on the project is an all inclusive system, offering educational opportunities from nursery school through adult school levels. The emphasis is placed on the elementary and secondary school work, but the nursery-kindergarten program is quite complete and the adult program offers many opportunities for those seeking relocation.

Elementary and high schools are conducted on the same basis as Arizona schools. They use the same course of study and the same textbooks as Arizona public schools and Caucasian teachers must meet the same high standards as Arizona teachers. By maintaining these standards, the work of the schools is accredited through the State University.

The enrollment and staff figures give a picture of the schools:

SCHOOL	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	CAUCASIAN TEACHERS	EVACUEE TEACHERS
Nursery-Kindergarten	150	0	33
Elementary Schools	1400	30	33
High Schools	1600	40	40
Adult Education	1500	10	35

(some of these teachers of adult classes are also on the day school staff)

Schools maintain a regular session of 36 weeks and operate a six weeks summer session. Adult classes are continuous.

The State Teachers College at Tempe has loaned a faculty member to conduct college classes in Education subjects and to supervise practice teaching of evacuee teachers who do not hold teaching certificates.

The cooperation of parents, students, and teachers has resulted in building an excellent educational system which compares very favorably with those on the outside. National tests, given in May, indicate that in most respects accomplishments are even above normal for the country as a whole.



## THE FIRST YEAR OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Residents of Gila River have enjoyed a worthwhile recreational program in spite of handicaps. Equipment was lacking as well as suitable areas for playgrounds. Staff members with no training or experience in recreation worked tirelessly with volunteers under one supervisor and within three months many activities were organized.

Fields for softball were leveled and backstops put up. Basketball courts were made, the work being done by a skeleton crew which had difficulty in obtaining materials. For the young people, sports such as football, basketball, softball, and baseball were popular throughout the year. Older men and a fair number of young men participated in judo and sumo. The girls enjoyed volleyball as well as basketball and softball. Contributions by evacuees provided equipment to supplement that furnished by W.R.A. funds.

Early in the project history, popular demand for a place to spend leisure hours in reading led to the establishment of community libraries. Since no government funds were available, donations from public libraries and from individuals were encouraged. The results were gratifying, particularly in the matter of magazines. Magazine and newspaper subscriptions as well as new books were secured with money from rental fees and fines.

Occasional movies were brought in and shown by people who were interested in evacuee entertainment. After the completion of the outdoor stage, a movie department was established and weekly bookings arranged.

Talent shows developed first as block entertainment with trucks used as makeshift stages. With the more commodious equipment of the outdoor stage, talent shows have become community-wide affairs.

Weekly dances for young people have been held in available mess halls. As young peoples clubs were organized, they took over the sponsorship of these weekly dances.

The Women's Club conducted handicraft classes which displayed creditable work at various exhibits. For the older men, the Goh, Shogi, and Mah-Jong Clubs were outstanding.



Boy Scout troops early took an active part in community life, led and inspired by former Scout members. Both junior and senior high school Girl Reserve Clubs have had excellent leadership in teachers who volunteered their time. The Y.W.C.A. Working Girls Club is active in building sociability and community spirit by such projects as fashion shows and card benefits.

The efficiency of the Community Activities Section was well demonstrated in the success of the two day Harvest Festival. Feature of the Festival which added interest and aroused civic pride and enthusiasm were the parade, coronation of a Harvest Queen, and exhibits of various kinds. The farm exhibit brought home to the residents the high quality of the produce supplied by the project farms.

Activities of Boys' and Girls' Week were constructive and stimulating. Pet shows, hobby shows, and baby shows included in the week's program. Lessons in citizenship and the rewards of devotion to duty were impressed upon high school boys and girls when they, supervised by the regular executives, conducted the business of government for one day. The climax to the week's activities was a panel discussion on relocation before the high school assembly.

One of the outstanding events of the year's work was the Fourth of July celebration. It was a three day affair which featured exceptionally fine farm exhibits, handicraft exhibits from the Women's Club, high school art classes, and the Gila Young People's Association. The celebration was opened with a Coronation Ball at which the Queen of the Fourth was suitably crowned. Altogether, this was a very successful affair and one which will be long remembered in the community.



# RED CROSS

In November two Gila Red Cross organizations were created separately in Butte and in Canal as units of the Pacific area American Red Cross with headquarters in San Francisco.

The task of organizing and carrying on has been as difficult as it is worthy. All work is entirely voluntary and without remuneration. Each unit is headed by a resident executive secretary, who acts as a liaison officer between the organization and the administration.

About 20 resident volunteers started the Butte unit on November 1, 1942. In March they conducted the first drive which netted \$1014.57.

Through the Butte unit, 375 messages by mail and 25 by cable have gone to Japan. The Red Cross also accepts inquiries from foreign chapters regarding relatives here.

During May and June the Butte unit sponsored educational movies. It sent artificial flowers and mochi, (Japanese rice cakes,) to internment and detention camps. It is now trying to conduct first-aid classes for evacuees. Equipment such as bandage scissors, forceps, icebags, and hot water bottles have been ordered to supply each block.

Canal's unit conducted a Red Cross Drive in March and received \$1130.61, one third of which the people decided to send to the national headquarters.

The remainder of the money probably will be used for services such as health and sanitation for children and garments for nisei soldiers from this camp.

Artificial flowers, made by the Women's Club, have been sent to the Lordsburg Internment camp. First-aid courses are or will be taught in both camps.

The Red Cross needs voluntary services to keep it going. It is a neutral organization internationally recognized and respected, serving as the only channel of information between warring nations. The Red Cross must and will continue.



# RELIGION

When the residents first arrived in this desert land with homes lost and the future uncertain, they felt a great need for churches and worship. Resident leaders sought places of worship and were allotted recreation hall spaces. From scrap lumber they made pulpits, chairs, and benches. They organized groups; priests and ministers offered their services. Religious ties, once uprooted by evacuation, were replanted here in the desert and are growing.

The religious life of the residents is highlighted in the chapels of both communities. Religious affiliation according to a survey was found to be approximately 55% Buddhists, 27.5% Christians and 17.5% not designated. As in the case of any normal city, there is a great variation in church attendance and religious activity among the individuals. Church services are held regularly in all of the chapels.

The following denominations are represented: Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational, Friends, Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist; Zenshu, Nichiren, Shinshu, Shingon and Jodoshu among the Buddhists; and Seicho-No-Iye, a group independent from the other faiths.

An excellent feeling of respect and fellowship exists among the various denominational groups. The Christian Church Council coordinates the work of the Christian Church and a Buddhist Council coordinates the work among the Buddhist churches. Joint meetings are held and both groups participate in the solving of community-wide problems.

Both the Christian and Buddhist groups have very active young peoples' organizations which sponsor musicals and other clubs and activities to engage the interests of their respective memberships. The Buddhist young people have organized the Y.B.A. (Young Buddhist Association) with a national affiliation, and the Jr. Y.B.A. The Christian youth groups include the Young Peoples Fellowship and the Pilgrims Fellowship.

All churches are participating to some extent in the summer activities program.



# PUBLICATION

The Gila News-Courier, a free tri-weekly publication distributed on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to all center families, first began publication on September 12, 1942. It was established by the War Relocation Authority to keep people informed. It covers news items that are of direct interest or concern the affairs of the evacuees. On October 7, 1942, a Japanese section was inaugurated for the benefit of the issei.

The Courier has an average circulation of 4,000 copies and is staffed by a personnel of about twenty-eight, which includes editor, reporters, artists, clerks, translators, circulation manager, and mimeograph operators.

Special editions were published on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, and Fourth of July, carrying out the holiday theme. The Courier staff also published the 1943 calendar, with elaborate illustrations of the Center and its activities.

Aside from the regular job of publishing the camp newspaper, the Courier does mimeographing for all divisions wishing publication in connection with their offices. However, official W.R.A. bulletins, notices, etc., are published by a separate mimeographing department in conjunction with the Office Services Section.

The Courier constantly has endeavored to improve both the form and substance of the paper. Frequent conferences are held in which all phases of newspaper work are covered and methods of improvements are studied and carried out.

In addition to the News-Courier, two high school papers, the Desert Sentinel of Butte and the Hi-Tide of Canal, were published bi-weekly by the student journalists for school distribution.

Butte and Canal students also published yearbooks, Year's Flight and Rivulet, respectively, which depicted school life in photographs, drawings, and descriptive literature. These provided good opportunities for students to present their literary talents.



# COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Most gratifying and reassuring to residents is the modern hospital with its splendid staff of doctors, technicians, nurses and aides.

The Rivers Community Hospital, a 250 bed institution, was dedicated on November 22, 1942. The seventeen unit structure was adapted from the army hospital design but with certain changes which are more suitable for a general community. The hospital is completely modern in structure and houses first class equipment throughout.

Since its opening last November, until July 2, 1943, 168 births and 44 deaths have been recorded.

In addition to hospital service rendered, a large out-patient service gives about 600 treatments a month. Emergency service is open 24 hours a day. A small hospital and clinic at Canal are operated as parts of the general hospital.

In obtaining adequate personnel, the Rivers Hospital has faced difficulties common to hospitals throughout the country in wartime. It has been fortunate, however, in maintaining a staff of ten licensed physicians and a well equipped dental department with thirteen dentists. The optometry department has served large numbers, and glasses have been prescribed and obtained for those who need them.

The nursing situation has been met by the use of nurses aides to supplement a limited number of graduate nurses of both Caucasian and Japanese nationalities. Daily instruction is given to nurses aides, and orderlies, and the response has been good in this regard.

Problems of sanitation and public health are being met by their respective departments under the direction of a very capable resident who has a Ph. D. degree. The professional work of the hospital has been good in all departments, and an active surgical service has performed a large number of necessary operations.

The success of the overall program is shown by the fact that the number of deaths in the community has been approximately 40% of the number ordinarily expected in a community of this size.



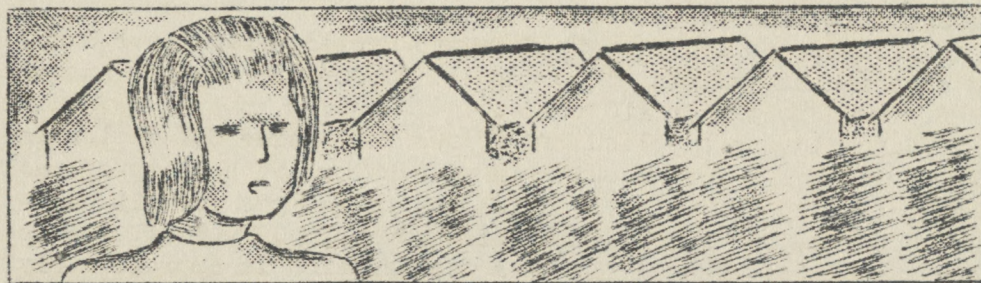
# YEAR'S GROWTH OF THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT

This past year has seen the people's Community Welfare Department grow from a staff of one person covering both Canal and Butte to a staff of seventy people covering a wide range of activities.

No funds were available until the middle of December, 1942. Thus assistance to the people of the community was restricted to counseling, student relocations, assistance in repatriation applications, and many other individual personal problems. With funds available in December, the department set up a program of public assistance under which families who are without employable members are eligible for aid. Since the opening of this program, several hundred families have been assisted.

In March, 1943, the Housing and Clothing Departments were transferred to become integral parts of the Social Service Department. This means that at one time or another a great many people with a wide variety of problems have had contact with the Social Service Section.

The function of the Social Service Section is to assist the people of the community with their personal problems including lack of sufficient financial resources. The case workers of the department lend sympathetic ears to any problem. They have accomplished much and look forward to giving more help in the coming months.





# PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Division includes Highways and Bridges, Irrigation and Drainage, Construction and Maintenance, Electrical, Grounds Maintenance and Sanitation Sections.

It has undertaken the construction of 13 miles of oil-surfaced access roads to Highway 97 and to the railroad siding at Serape, together with bridges and culverts. Seven miles of this will be finished shortly.

It has also completed a large dairy building, hog and poultry projects, ship model factory, fluorine filter reactivating plant, dehydrating plant, and about 50% of the administrative housing program; laid foundations for new high schools and gymnasiums in both camps, and built fixtures and furniture required for the Project.

The Grounds Maintenance Section has landscaped areas surrounding public buildings, hospital, and staff housing projects, and has planted several thousand trees along the streets in both camps.

To preserve drinking water, the Irrigation and Drainage Section installed a complete irrigation system in Butte and shortly will complete a similar system in Canal. The irrigation water is supplied through an open canal system from the Coolidge Dam approximately 130 mile northeast of the Project.

Drinking water for both camps is supplied from four wells --400 foot deep--equipped with large electric turbine pumps delivering approximately 950,000 gallons per day to Canal and 1,300,000 gallons to Butte.

Electric power, brought from the Coolidge Dam power house, is distributed within the camp at 12,000/7,200 volts and is transformed to 220 or 110 volts.

Natural gas supplied from the West Texas Oil fields is used principally for cooking in mess halls and heating of the hospital. The original intention was to use gas for all heating purposes, but due to limitation of supply, fuel oil stoves were installed. The daily gas consumption is approximately 42,000 cubic feet, and during the winter, 7,000 gallons of fuel oil are necessary for heating requirements.



# INTERNAL SECURITY

As there are two camps, two separate and fairly autonomous police organizations necessarily were created. The chief has associate chiefs in each camp. They in turn are assisted by a staff consisting of a captain, lieutenants, sergeants, and police officers all of whom are evacuees employed in two divisions: Patrol Crime Prevention and Traffic.

The majority of police patrolmen at Rivers are United States citizens, and the average age is thirty-two years. The majority are high school graduates, and a large number have university training. Some have had post-graduate training in law, social work, and in other professional fields. Unfortunately, none now employed had police experience prior to evacuation. However, this lack is gradually being offset by a training program. The issei members, although constituting a small minority, have proved extremely valuable, particularly in the field of public relations.

The crime rate at Rivers has been consistently low in comparison to other communities of approximately 14,000 people. In fact, the total of arrests for the entire community in almost a year is only 264. And this number includes individuals in groups of juveniles where only one or a very few of the group were found to be delinquent.

Sentences for gambling range from probation to 21 days in the Pinal County Jail at Florence. Convictions for assault have carried sentences averaging three weeks in the county jail. Arrests for introduction of liquor have been referred to outside law enforcement agencies, inasmuch as the principals involved were not evacuees. The great majority of crimes have been misdemeanors. Successful disposition of most of these cases has been placing the responsible parties on probation to certain community organizations or individuals.

Juvenile delinquency is a problem at Rivers, as elsewhere, but appointed staff members believe the rate is very small as compared to that in the average community of this size. It is hoped that construction of recreation facilities and organization of groups for profitable use of leisure time will result in a decrease in the delinquency rate.



# MODEL SHIP PROJECT

Ships are being built in the desert of Rivers. Harmless as these formidable looking men-of-war are, they are nevertheless playing an important part in the war program. They are used by the navy in training programs and for identification purposes. The third naval district also uses these models in camouflage experiments.

Having begun in the middle of March of this year, the Model Ship Project has rapidly become a successful enterprise. The manner in which the workers have adapted themselves so quickly and efficiently to this highly skilled work has justified expansion and larger contracts. Expansion of the shop is already under way. It will soon annex another warehouse and if anticipated orders are forthcoming, upwards to 100 workers will be employed.

The Ship Project is operated under a contract with the Navy. Its 25 workers build exact replicas of Axis dreadnaughts, including such ships as the Admiral Scheer and Von Tirpitz as well as other lesser vessels. The models vary from approximately 8" to 16" on a scale of 60' to 1" and 25' to 1".

Some armament is cleverly made of small nails shaped in a drill press while others are made from brass, etc. The hulls are made from poplar which has a relatively close grain and thereby lessens the chance of chipping. After the expansion of the shop, and a pending conference in Washington, it is hoped that plastics will be used for the hulls instead of wood. The plastic ship would be more durable and facilitate production.

Being a very exacting and meticulous work, two to three weeks are required to train a person. Some who have gained proficiency do special work on three or four models which are being built at one time.

Relocation as yet has not seriously impeded the progress of the project, but with the forthcoming expansion of the shop and the number of workers desired, the prospect of maintaining efficient operation with well trained craftsmen may become a real problem.



# CAMOUFLAGE

The idea that camouflage nets could be produced in the assembly and relocation centers originated with the evacuees. Certain loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry proposed such a program to the Wartime Civilian Control Authorities and to the Army Authorities. After consideration the suggestion was approved and the first operation began at the Santa Anita race-track grandstand. Army Engineers were sufficiently impressed by the work done there to proceed with the construction of net garnishing plants at Manzanar, Gila, and Colorado River Relocation Centers.

The camouflage net factory at Gila, located on the western boundary of the Butte community, commenced operation on December 15, 1942. Although the factory was operated by the Southern California Glass Company under a contract with the War Department, all facilities and utilities were furnished by the U. S. Engineers. In accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1929, aliens were not permitted to procure work in the war production industry.

As the company paid directly to the camp, it was the duty of the community council to arrange the method for remuneration. Each worker received \$16 basic pay, plus a \$10 bonus if he maintained an average of 1000 sq. ft. or over per day and 48 cents for every 100 sq. ft. over the 1000 sq. ft. The balance that he earned under this plan was put in a trust fund to be disbursed equally among all workers in the camp. This amount proved to be approximately 25 percent of each worker's gross earnings.

It was originally hoped that a normal output per day would reach 1000 sq. ft. for each worker, but in a short time the daily output per capita was over 2000 sq. ft., and some attained averages of over 3000. Money thus earned was used by many residents for relocation.

On May 25, 1943, the net factory closed. The Army contract with the Southern California Glass Company expired and was not renewed. The WRA is now negotiating for the purchase of the camouflage buildings for central warehousing and garage use.



# LEGAL ASSISTANCE

From the opening of the Center until late November the only legal office in the community was the Legal Aid Office of the Welfare Section. The evacuee attorney in charge handled a wide variety of personal legal problems for residents, largely by correspondence. Upon the arrival of a Project Attorney on November 22, the legal staff was expanded to include four lawyers, an insurance counsellor, a notary and five secretaries. Thousands of individual assignments have been handled for residents by the Legal Division including tax problems, insurance claims, estates, wills, general and special license questions, social security and unemployment claims, immigration, domestic relations and rent control matters and property problems of every character. Innumerable legal documents have been prepared, executed and acknowledged before a notary in the project law offices. Some transactions have involved large sums ranging to over a quarter of a million dollars. In addition to personal matters the Legal Division has rendered services in connection with community problems. Such services include aid in negotiating the camouflage factory contracts, in the establishment of a community trust fund, in the incorporation of the Cooperative and in the drafting of a constitution for the self-government of the community. The Legal Division has also been responsible for all legal advice and assistance to the Administration pertaining to Governmental action in the operations of the Center.

Two attorneys on the staff volunteered for Army service and are now in training. Three secretaries have departed on indefinite leave.

Although it is the smallest division of the Administration, the Legal Division has maintained high standards of service to the community and deserves the confidence of all who seek its aid.



# EVACUEE PROPERTY

When evacuees arrived here last year, they had left behind their houses, farms, cars, equipment and personal belongings--often without plans or provision for their care, maintenance or disposal. For in the rush and confusion of pre-evacuation days, many could not properly settle their property problems. They hastily sold, leased, gave, stored, or just plain left their belongings.

To the Evacuee Property Division came the big job of seeing that some belongings reached their owners; of selling those that should be sold, and of straightening out improper contracts and leases. In fact, the task was to pick up the pieces and solve a crossword puzzle that starts from the west coast and follows each evacuee eastward until he is relocated.

At the end of March, 1943, with the arrival of an Evacuee Property Officer, the various problems relating to property of the residents of the Center were coordinated in one administrative section. Almost immediately a survey of farm and automotive equipment left on the west coast was undertaken and completed, and numerous advantageous sales were negotiated on behalf of owners. Many hundreds of requests for the storage and transportation of personal and commercial property of residents have been processed by the property office, largely without cost to the owners. Numerous problems dealing with sales, leases and management of real estate, sales of personalty, collection of claims and protection of properties against loss or damage have been handled by the property office. The volume of work of this office is constantly increasing as the community learns the importance and variety of the services which it renders.



# TRANSPORTATION

Much of the convenience and the smooth operation of this center is dependent on the transportation Division. The division has charge of the inter-camp bus line, motor convoys to and from railheads, mess supply delivery, garbage disposal, ambulance service, and transportation needs for the farm, public works, etc.

Many workers such as the milk and ice deliverymen and other essential crews work overtime and irregular hours to supply the camp needs.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

With the exception of a few minor fires, this center has not had any conflagration necessitating the use of the pump wagon. The fire department is to be commended on the vigilance of the inspectors and on their educating the public to recognize and remove fire hazards.

The fire department is headed by a Caucasian fire chief and his three assistants, two in Canal and one in Butte, and staffed by a resident personnel of 66 men. Thirty-five of these are in Butte divided as follows: one resident chief, one secretary, six fire inspectors, and 27 firemen grouped into three platoons of nine men each. The remaining 31 men are stationed at Canal and divided similarly as follows: one resident chief, three fire inspectors, and 27 firemen.

The nine fire inspectors comprise the fire prevention bureau. These inspectors make the rounds of the camps inspecting the fire extinguishers on each barrack and informing the people of fire hazards.

Fire department equipment in Gila consists of two fire engines, one in Canal and the other in Butte, each equipped with a 500 gallon per minute triple combination pump.

In addition to regular firemen there are approximately 500 volunteers.



# RESETTLEMENT

Vague whisperings of a resettlement program first made the rounds among the evacuees in the assembly centers. Freshly shorn of their liberty, the evacuees at that time would have seized any possibility for resettlement. However, except for the group work-leaves and the student relocation program, the time had not yet come. Just organized was the new federal agency, the WRA. It had yet to take its first uncertain steps toward guiding the destinies of 110,000 individuals.

Months slid by, and by mid-October the assembly centers had been depopulated. The WRA had been in existence for eight months, and for over three of those eight it had been dealing with evacuees in the relocation centers. A definite statement of policy, clearly defined, was due.

It came--the first public announcement--on November 18, 1942, before a meeting of Rivers' councilmen and block managers. The director said that the WRA's whole policy and program would be aimed towards the resettlement of as many evacuees as possible during the war.

Thousands made applications. They saw the logic of resettlement, and the futility of a dead-end existence. Then they waited--a month, two months. In the midst of this discouragement, the new year rolled around.

But, despite the surface appearance, the WRA had been busy. It had first to gear its machinery to the new program and then prepare Mid-Western communities for the acceptance of new people who would appear alien to them.

Not until the latter part of March did job offers come in sufficient quantities for the program to get under way. From March 28 through June 10, 788 residents (of whom 552 went on indefinite leaves) found new homes away from the center, an average of 71 per week.

Through recent months, the problems and the necessary policies for a successful resettlement have come into clearer focus. The early estimate of the number of people that must be resettled before the end of war has been increased and policies have been readjusted to this end. Provision was made



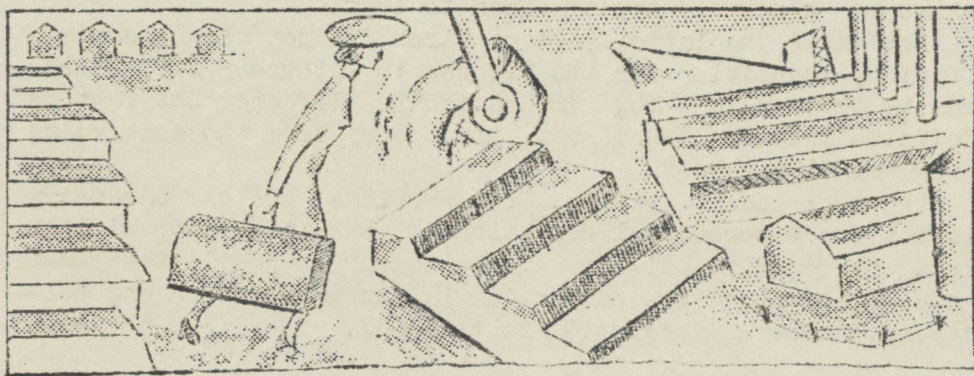
# RESETTLEMENT

for cash travel and temporary subsistence grants when it was found that most residents were not financially able to meet these initial expenses of resettlement. More emphasis has been placed on locating the right person for the right job. A leave committee has been set up and each applicant for leave is to appear before it. The purpose is to determine whether the job offer gives promise of successful relocation and whether the applicant, as a representative of his race, will increase the opportunities for people of Japanese ancestry to be welcomed in communities on the outside. Resettlement of family groups is commanding more attention. Housing is another problem which is now considered important.

In short, it has developed that successful resettlement involves more than job offers and leave clearance. Economic status, social problems and individual abilities are potential factors.

That most evacuees carefully weigh these factors and also evaluate their own capabilities reflect a sounder attitude. They have made many adjustments in the past year and no longer are subject to the rashness of emotional responses which once would have prompted them to relocate hurriedly with less chance of success and permanency.

There is some pessimism and there are some failures. But the trend of the program and the feeling of the people indicate that policies for resettlement are sound.





# GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER AT A GLANCE

Name:	Gila River Relocation Center
Location:	Pima Indian Reservation, south-central part of Pinal County, Arizona
Post Office:	Rivers, Arizona
Area:	Gross area 16,467 acres; ready for agricultural use 6,977 acres; now in vegetables, approximately 700 acres.
Climate:	Average rainfall 10 inches a year; summer long and hot, winter short and mild. Temperature range 20° to 117° above zero.
Population:	12,356 as of July 10, 1943
Education:	Nursery, Kindergarten, Elementary, High and Adult School, attendance approximately 4,000.
Religion:	Buddhists 5%, Christian 27.5%, and not designated 17.5%.
Hospital:	One at Butte and one in Canal, 274 beds combined.
Red Cross:	Canal Unit and Butte Unit
Internal Security:	Evacuee 74, Caucasian 4, as of May, 1943.
Fire Department:	66 Regulars and 499 Volunteers
Agriculture:	Fiscal year ending June 1944--to be produced and used on Center, 8,605,600 lbs; to be shipped to other centers, 7,018,000 lbs.
Housing:	Butte 39 blocks, Canal 17 blocks
Mess & Supply:	56 kitchens and mess halls.
Community Enterprises:	3 canteens, 2 dry goods stores, 2 shoe stores, 2 shoe repair, 2 beauty shops, 2 barber shops and 1 miscellaneous repair shop.
Industry:	Model ship building with 25 workers, camouflage net factory which had 600 workers, and a dehydrating plant.
U.S. Servicemen:	Butte 201, Canal 171 on July 16, 1943.



# AFTER A YEAR

In these preceding pages we may look over our life in bare factual outline as we have lived it for a year here in Gila. The booklet has pictured none of that first surge of bitterness, the frustration, the discouragement. Neither does it tell of the gradual change, spiritual and psychological to which most of us have been subject. But it is an encouraging record as it reveals that we never entirely lost faith, never completely gave up in the face of what appeared a hopeless situation. In that year as the booklet relates through its impersonal, factual data, progress has been achieved in many ways--convincing testimonial that we retained hope, found that there was much to live for, discovered interest in an unfamiliar land.

July 20, 1943 is tolerable. We have weathered the first and the most difficult year. We have wrung from a sage-covered wasteland a measure of physical satisfaction and spiritual comfort.

Out of the sage-land sprang a new community, living and breathing a spirit that is its own, built out of the past experience of over 13,000 lives, built in the ruins of evacuation, built from a strength and purpose which inexplicably infused the group. In that community we have built homes out of bare unadorned barracks, have made new friends, beautified the grounds, have made for ourselves a new life. We are rightfully proud of this achievement.

But the very nature of the community--impermanent, built to house a people dislocated by the war, away from the mad, but real, turbulence of wartime life, away from the healthy currents of a new world which are now sweeping the globe--has set limitations on its growth.

This fact gave us a feeling that this period of our lives could not give us full growth. Continued prospect of being isolated here for the duration while the world suffered its horrible pains of war would have sent many of us to depths of despair and hopelessness from which we might not have been able to regain a new perspective.

But today we are not without capacity for the second re-

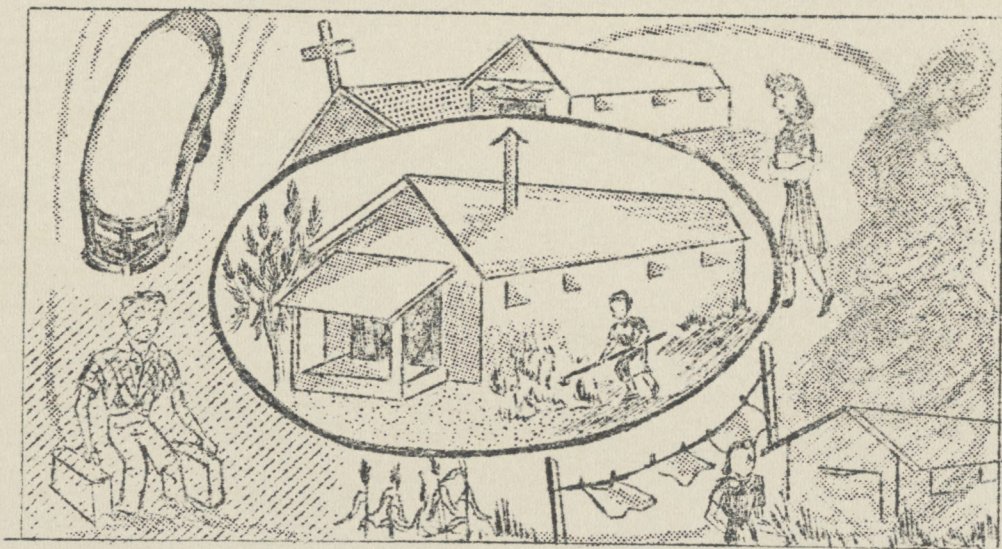


# AFTER A YEAR

establishment of our lives, because the past year has brought with it developments which have given us a new lease on life, a lease which appears more secure than any we had in our past life. The developments were: 1. Formation of the resettlement program; 2. Reacceptance of nisei into the armed forces; 3. Assurance that American leaders believe the majority of us are loyal; 4. Statements that race cannot become the main issue of the war.

Already over a thousand of us have shown our faith by re-locating. There have been a few discouraging experiences, but over 90% of those who have gone out have made successful adjustments on the outside. Thousands more are waiting for the right job and the right time to follow the lead of those who are "breaking ground" for us.

With a reawakened hope we are, then, on this July 20, a year after our advent here, looking to the time when we can find a measure of the liberty which we have so sorely missed. Like all America and the entire war-weary world, we look with even greater hunger to the time when peace will be with us.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank those who by generously giving their time and effort made the publication of this little booklet possible. The material has been gathered, compiled and printed with the hope that it may be of interest to the residents--the people who within one year have made of Rivers a community in which they rightfully may have civic pride.

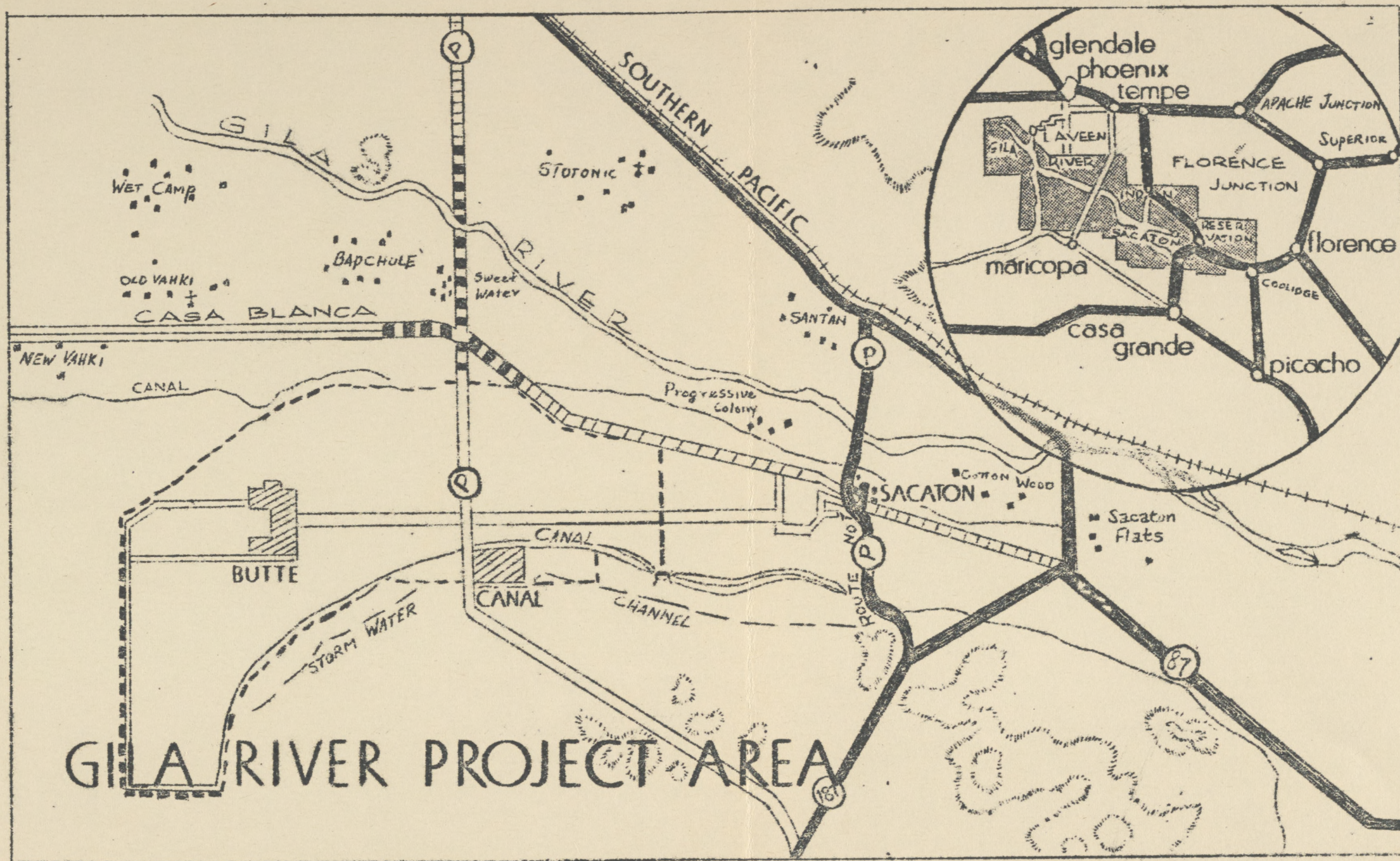
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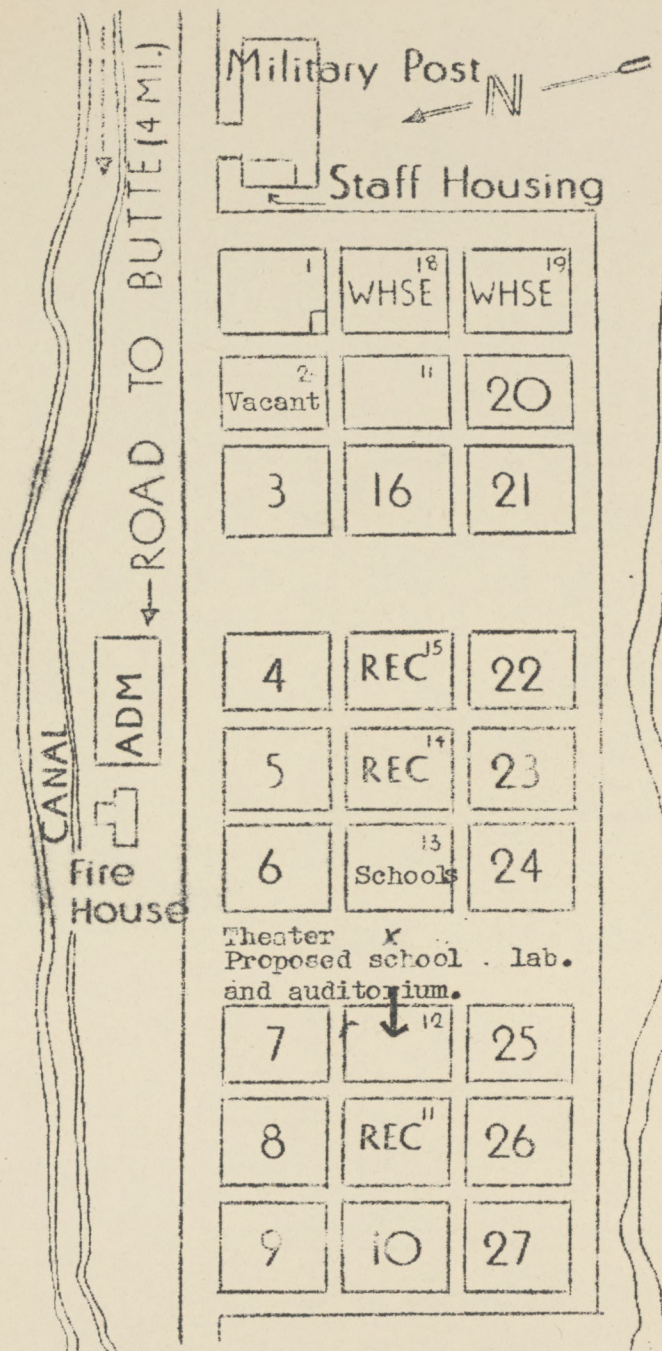
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