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COLORADO RIVER WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Poston, Arizona

November 1, 1942

TO: Regional Director
FROM: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports
SUBJECT: Project Report No. 11

FIRST ANNUAL POSTON COUNTY FAIR

October 17-18-19

The first meeting to plan the First Poston County Fair was held on August 18. At this meeting only the Agriculture and the Factories and Industries Departments were represented.

At the start this County Fair seemed to be a small affair but as the meetings continued, more and more organizations joined, such as the Art Department, Men's sports, Minor sports, Poultry, Music Department, Entertainment, Boxing Department, Crafts Department, Fashion Department, etc.

On September 7, Saburo Kido of Camp 2 was named General Director and Albert Kaniye of Camp 1 as Works Director. The dates for the Fair were agreed upon as September 19 and 20.

As the day of the Fair drew near the plans became more elaborate than it was proposed originally and also more departments join that it became evident that to accommodate the late-comers, the date of the Fair should be postponed to October 10 and 11.

On October 2 it was found that the garnishing plant buildings and grounds could be available through the approval of Mr. Wade Head, Mr. Brown of the Callowell Construction Company and the United States Army Engineer Corps, if the date of the Fair could be postponed. Hence the new date was set for October 17 and 18.

With spacious, large buildings at our disposal the participants planned further elaborate exhibits and the Fair grew rapidly into a real County Fair proportion with eleven food concessions twenty-two games concession booths that could be boasted equal to any Fun Zone. Besides these, eight bazaar booths selling hand-made lapel pins, knit goods, baby turtles, hand crafts and sandals were added.

All the money profited through this Fair was agreed to be given for recreation uses. For this purpose S. Togasaki of Camp 3 was chosen treasurer on September 28.

In the entertainment field, Japanese Shibai, Nisei talent and the boys' and girls' club show were prepared. Also dancing was planned for the nights with the aid of the three camp orchestras.

In the field of sports, inter-camp baseball games, swimming meet, boxing tournament, and Japanese wrestling (sumo) were arranged.

With the lack of transportation so acute, the United States Army Engineers were contacted to assist and we were given eight

trucks for the five days and three trucks day before the Fair to transport the exhibits. Roy Yoshida of Camp 1 was asked to be the Dispatcher.

Because of the fire and property loss insurance question of assuming responsibility, the Fair grounds site was suddenly switched back to the original site of mesquite and arrow weed shelters on the night of October 15. As a consolation, Mr. Wade Head, Project Director, proclaimed October 19 as a legal holiday in Poston for another day of the Fair.

With this sudden change to a smaller site, many exhibits were forced to be cut out and crowd their exhibit booths. In spite of all the participants having to build their own booths and aid in the construction of the walls, the walls of the Poston County Fair shelter were prepared, and exhibits, concessions and bazaars booths re-planned and ready for the opening of the Fair in one short day.

The main theme for the County Fair was Agriculture and Factories and Industry. The second day, Sunday, October 18, was designated as Mathiesen Day in honor of H. A. Mathiesen, Director of Agriculture and Industry.

STATISTICS

Claimed as the first Fair held in Yuma County in 22 years, the three days of the Poston County Fair was held amidst dust

and oozing mud, the beating sun and the crescent moon - a setting unusual as the whole affair itself.

Approximately 16,000 residents of this war evacuee community were estimated to have passed through this makeshift Fair site. Seventeen trucks were used for the transportation of residents from Camps 2 and 3 during the height of the Fair. The eight Army trucks averaged 236 miles per truck for the three days. The spectators for the Boxing tournament alone was estimated at 2,500 persons.

In the agriculture section, the individual and block displays were dominant. For the Factories and Industries section, more of the departments were prevailing as the Zoris (sandals), noodles, soaps, embroidering, tofu (Japanese soy bean cheese), manufacturing displays.

Food sold in the food concessions for the three days ran out by the final date as we had not expected an extra day. However, one-half ton of weiners, 800 pounds of buns and doughnuts, 50 gallons of coffee, 8,000 tamales, 1,000 tacos and 12,000 pounds of ice for snow balls were sold.

The treasurer's report for the Fair was a gross profit of \$7,058.62 on games and food concessions with a net profit of \$2,101.20. The dances and the entertainment shows netted a return of \$269.35.

AWARDS

Five departments and one block were given top awards of Gold Trophy: Block display, Block 19; Department displays,

Nursery and Landscape of Camp 1 and also 2, Fish Culture, Swine and Poultry of Camp 2. The judges were Norris James, Mr. Williams, Mr. Peterson of Allis Chalmers Co.; Members of Marketing Division of Poston Agricultural Department and Mr. Liefgreen of the Liefgreen Seed Company of Phoenix, Arizona.

Truck crop awards were given in the form of ribbons for cucumber, gourd, cantaloupe, nappa (Japanese spinach), spinach, and lettuce.

Radish(scarlet white tips), radish (red), daikon (Japanese turnip), Hubbard squash, and banana squash.

Casaba, honey dew, honey ball, green onion, Kentucky beans, mustard green, beets, eggplants, and pumpkin.

Cucumber (Armenian), beans (blackeye), summer white squash, Swiss chard and herb tea.

The Industry Department won ribbons for handkerchief embroidery, moyashi display, Zori (sandals), paper flower, noodle and printing.

The Art Department was awarded ribbons for oil painting and fashion arts displays.

The Hand Craft Department was given awards for lamp stands and shades, mantel displays, zoris, lapel pins, toys and models.

ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

October 16 - Friday

8 p.m.	Fire Station	Coronation Ball - Crowning of Queen.
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October 17 - Saturday

2:30 p.m.	Block 4 Stage	Opening Ceremonies. - Wade Head, Project Director; Saburo Kido, Fair General Director; Queen and Court.
7:30 p.m.	Block 21 Stage	Fashion Show. Presentation of Queen and Court
9:00 p.m.	Block 21 Stage	Boys' and Girls' Club Show.
10:30 p.m.	Fire Station	Dance. Queen and Court.

October 18 - Sunday

3:00 p.m.	Fair Grounds	Mathiesen Day Cermonies. H. A. Mathiesen, Director of Agriculture and Industry. Saburo Kido, Fair General Director. Presentation of Necklaces to Queen and Court by Albert Kaniye, Fair Works Director.
7:30 p.m.	Block 4 Stage	Japanese show (Shibai) Queen and Court.
8 - 9:00 p.m.	Block 21 Stage	Boys' and Girls' Club Show Queen and Court.
9:00 p.m.	Fair Grounds	Industrial Films by Allis- Chalmers Co. of Cleveland, Ohio.
10:30 p.m.	Fire Station	Dance.

October 19 - Monday

8, 8:45, 9:30	Block 21 Stage	Boys' and Girls' Club Show.
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SPORTS PROGRAM

October 17 - Saturday

2:00 p.m.	Block 13 Field	Baseball - Delano All-Stars vs. Poston 3 All-Stars
3:00 p.m.	Block 45 Swimming Pool	Swimming Races and Exhibitions
8:00 p.m.	Fair Grounds	Japanese Wrestling (Sumo).

October 18 - Sunday

9:00 a.m.	Block 13 Field	Baseball - Boyle Heights Indians vs. Clovis Yogores (Poston 2)
8:00 p.m.	Block 4 Stage	Boxing Tournament - 6 bouts.

WRA Library Washington

C O P Y

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Poston, Arizona

September 1, 1942

From: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports
To: Regional Director, San Francisco
Subject: Project Report No. 1

POSTON AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

Historical Background.- Development of an irrigation system for Parke Valley constituted one of the first projects of its kind undertaken by the United States government. The Colorado River Indian Reservation was established in 1865, and two years later an appropriation of \$50,000 was set up to provide construction of a canal near what is now Parker, Ariz. As the Colorado River fluctuated in elevation, tunnels were constructed and completed in 1873. This system was a failure, since adjacent ground collapsed when river water was turned into the system. In the next two years (1869-1870) further attempts also failed. Then, in 1898 a small steam pump was installed and proved successful. Larger pumps were added in the period up to 1920 when equipment was changed from steam to diesel power. In 1937, appropriation was made for Headgate Rock Dam and this was completed in 1938.

Past Cultivation.- During 1918-20, Parker Valley reached its maximum cultivation when approximately 8,000 acres were brought into production. In the past decade cultivation has not exceeded 50% of this figure.

The 1942-1943 Program. - One of the largest single items in the 1942-43 budget for the operation of the Colorado River Relocation Center is that of \$1,000,000 for irrigation construction work. This is to build the main canal from Parker to Poston, its extension six miles to the south of Relocation Center #1 and the development of laterals.

An allotment of \$400,000 has been earmarked for drainage construction and the sum of \$200,000 has been set aside for flood control. The main irrigation canal has been constructed to irrigate land on the west side of the Poston-Parker highway and by November 1, a sufficient length of the canal should have been built on the east side of the road to minimize floods having their source on the Bouse mesa. Three years ago the Colorado River overflowed its banks and flooded areas in what is now Poston III and precautions are being taken to minimize any such recurrence of floods.

Subjugation.- Included in the budget is \$600,000 for subjugation of this section of the desert. For the past 90 days, crews have been clearing land adjacent to Poston Unit # 1, using bull dozers to push over stumps, while roots are cleared by hand labor. In this connection a study is being made to ascertain whether cleared mesquite, cottonwood and willow stumps can be used for manufacturing charcoal.

According to R. E. Rupkey, chief of the Indian Irrigation Engineers, canal water should be available in Poston Unit #2 by September 30 or October 15 and in Poston Unit #3 by about the first of February, 1943. Mr. Rupkey estimates that, providing equipment is available, approximately 1200 acres should be ready for planting by that time. For subjugation his goal is 10,000 acres per year at a cost of about \$60 per acre.

Available Labor.- Of Poston Unit #1's total population, 9400, some 1868 persons are rated as either primary or secondary farm managers or laborers. (See Appendix I for "Statistics for Labor Coordination, prepared by Poston Department of Agriculture). There are approximately 383 former managers, superintendents, owners and farm lessees in this group, and 413 farm laborers who are given primary rating.

Accomplishments, May-September.- The Poston Department of Agriculture was organized May 17, 1942, by H. A. Mathiesen, Director of Agriculture for the project. In the intervening months it has rated the following accomplishments. The Fish Culture Project has cleared 40 acres of land, one mile west of Poston Unit #1. It is now waiting on the Engineering Department for the construction of ponds. Fish stock has been requisitioned. The Hog Project has subjugated 40 acres of land and now waits levelling operations. The Poultry Project has subjugated 60 acres of land and now waits building construction. The Nursery Project has constructed a 60x100 lath house immediately adjacent to Blk. 5, Poston Unit #1. Eight more lath houses are now waiting construction. Guayule and celery seedlings have been planted in the first house. The Vegetable Project has prepared the soil in Poston Unit #1's fire break areas. Cucumbers and water melons have been planted.

APPENDIX LIST

- I. Statistics for Labor Coordinator
- II. Chronological Development of Poston's
Department of Agriculture
- III. Some Essentials of a Good Agricultural
Policy in Poston, by Frank Mizusawa

CHRONOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

May 17, 1942

1. Assignment of Frank Mizusawa to Department of Agriculture by H. A. Mathiesen, Chief of Agriculture and Industry.
2. Creation of "Dust Control Crew" for Mr. Frazier.
 - (a) Transferred to Eng. Dept.
3. Formation of Bermuda grass crew
 - (a) Transplanting grass sod
4. Landscape Gardens for Administrative ground
 - (a) Harry Kikuchi in charge
 - (b) Consisting of old men between 50-65 years of age.
5. Soil Division
 - (a) E. A. Nieschmidt--Associate Soil Scientist
 - (b) Clifford Zuroski--Assistant
 - (c) George Shibata----in charge of crew
 - (d) Soil Survey
6. Formation of Subjugation Crew
 - (a) Lyle Kurisaki of Department of Agriculture aided in formation of responsible crew.
 - (b) Frank Fukuda in charge
7. Nursery Division
 - (a) H. Kikuchi in charge
 - (b) Mitsunaga--Supervising foreman
 - (c) Construction of Lath House
8. Guayule or Rubber Production Experiment
 - (a) Under Poston Agriculture Experiment Station
 - (b) Headed by Dr. William Takahashi--Director of Exp. Station
 - (c) Frank Kuwahara, Superintendent
 - (d) Dr. Robert Emerson
9. Committee on Work--Hour Control
 - (a) Frank Mizusawa--Chairman
 - (b) Consist of
 1. Agriculture Department
 2. Factory Department.
 3. Block Managers
10. Fish Culture Project
 - (a) Selection of Site

- (b) Planning
 - (c) Subjugation of land
 - (d) John Marumoto in charge
- 11. Hog Project
 - (a) Selection of site
 - (b) Planning
 - (c) Subjugation of land
 - (d) William Kobayashi--M. Nishi in charge
- 12. Poultry Project
 - (a) Selection of site
 - (b) Planning
 - (c) Subjugation of land
 - (d) Fred Kobayashi, Roy Kobayashi, Minoru Nitta
- 13. Seed & supply Division
 - (a) James Katayama and Joe Yoshimura in charge
 - 1. Field seeds
 - 2. Vegetable seeds
 - (b) Fertilizers and chemicals
 - (c) Small agriculture tools and hardware
- 14. Agriculture Equipment, Repair, and Maintenance Division and Transportation
 - (a) Headed by Henry Sakemi
 - (b) Dispatching trucks and tractors
- 15. Supervisor of Agriculture, W. C. Sharp, selected by H. A. Mathiesen, Chief of Agric. & Industry
 - (a) To help various projects
- 16. Firebreak Vegetable Production Project
 - (a) Headed by Harvey Suzuki
- 17. Entomology Division
 - (a) George Kido and George Adachi
- 18. Dr. William Takahashi--Director of Agriculture Exp. Sta.
 - (a) Rubber production Experiment under Exp. Sta.
- 19. Charles Onoye selected by Frank Mizusawa to head Agriculture Project in Camp #2.
- 20. Subjugation crew selected by Charles Onoye.
- 21. Nursery and Landscape crew of Camp #2 making plans.
- 22. Discussion and Selection of Farm Enterprise accounting system.
- 23. Formation of Agriculture Board of Directors and Selection of 6 members to Executive Committee.

Members of Executive Committee

1. Frank Mizusawa
2. Lyle Kurisaki
3. Dr. William Takahashi
4. S. Nitta
5. N. Yano
6. A. Takahashi

24. Distribution of Vegetable Seeds to Each Block

SOME ESSENTIALS
OF A GOOD AGRICULTURAL POLICY
IN POSTON

Before we consider what is desirable in Agricultural Policy, it is appropriate to define "desirable" and to glance at the source of policy. In the long run, the desires of the people here in Poston, of Camps 1, 2, and 3, themselves must be the determinant. It is they who issues the charters of policy aided by the War Relocation Authority and the Department of Interior--the Indian Service. These charters may be mutually contradictory; sometimes they may be no more than a vigorous negation of unpopular policy without the approval of a substitute. Through the process of the War Relocation Authority and the Department of Interior--the Indian Service, the policy must be hammered out into detailed form and thus becomes concrete in program.

Yet, in the last analysis these concrete details are accepted or rejected by the people, so that policy rests ultimately upon their desires as a base.

If policy is looked at as an expression of popular will, the thing to do is to try to arrive at some understanding what the people here--the farm people, in common with the fellow citizens of other groups, think it should try to achieve for them. In the effort to understand what the people here in Poston desires, we must look into the following questions:

1. What are the common denominators in all these waves of action and reactions?

2. What does the farming people here in Poston want in terms of his own life when he insists upon equality for Agriculture?

3. What, in brief, does he regard as the element that will go to make his life a good life?

The most common denominators are:

1. Proper food
2. Proper clothing
3. Proper shelter
4. Newer fundamental which came into being is Medical Care
5. Ready transportation
6. Communication
7. Intangible to be added to this tangible, people here in Poston, like everyone else, must feel at least some measure of security in the enjoyment of fundamentals of the good life, not due to strangulation, economy, or the rigidities of a society laid down in unchanging strata. It means that the average man wants to look forward to the conduct of his life, free from fear of wants over which he has no control. If this assurance can be added to the elements outlined here, then, truly the citizens will be prepared to live well and to give his hearty cooperation.
8. Prominent among these essentials are schools.
9. Proper going wage scale.

Frank S. Mizusawa
Farm Organization Administration

July 1, 1942

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Poston, Arizona

September 1, 1942

From: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports
To: Regional Director, San Francisco
Subject: Project Report No. 2

ADOBE BRICK MANUFACTURE AT POSTON

Three adobe brick factories are now in operation at the Colorado River Relocation Center. Plant No. k. in Poston Unit #1, since August 15, has developed a daily production of 1500 bricks. Plant No. 2 in Poston Unit #2, is producing about 600 bricks. Plant No. 3 at the Poston High School site in Unit 1 started production on September. Each plant is located under shelters developed from native materials--cottonwoods for posts and rafters, mesquite limbs and arrow weed for roofs.

Approximately 4000 bricks have been manufactured by members of the Press Bulletin staff, Poston I, in their off hours (evenings and Sundays) and these are now being used in the construction of a 25x30 Press Club, barber shop and soda pop stand which forms the first business building unit in the heart of Poston I.

The material list for the production of Poston adobes includes only sand, hay and water. Mechanised equipment employed at each factory includes one cement mixer and one tractor and dump cart for haulage purposes.

Use of factory personnel has been streamlined to secure

the most efficient results. From the cement mixer, adobe mud is poured upon a mizing table. On each side of this table a packer quickly packs the mud into boxes 18"x12"x4". Care is exerised to pack the mud tightly into each corner of these boxes for, if the mud is not packed tightly, the finished brick may collapse when placed in the cooling sheds to cool.

As the packer completes patting the brick, the mud-getter readies a stick soaking in a tub, then employs it to level off the surface of the brick exposed above the level of the packing box. A small amount of water is then poured over the finished surface.

Next two handlers (men) lift the filled boxes, and move them to a miniature rail line where they are transported to the drying field.

As these handlers move in to take the trays away, two girls bring in empty litters for the packers.

A complete labor shift is made every five times the mixer empties adobe mud on the mixing table.

Tray washing is an important item in the manufacture of these bricks. When trays are returned from the drying field, trays are placed in a water-filled GI can and thoroughly scrubbed.

Twice daily, at 10 a.m. and three p.m., workers in the adobe plants are given a 15 minute rest periods.

Attached is a chart of operations in Poston Adobe Factory No. 1.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

Sept 1942

From: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports
To: Regional Director
Subject: Project Report No. 3

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Background.--Under the 1942- 43 budget for the Colorado River Relocation Center, the sum of \$265,204 has been allocated to take care of teachers' salaries, books, and supplies, and maintenance. It is estimated by Miles Cary, Director of Education at Poston, that the project schools, grades from one to 12 inclusive, will have an approximate enrollment of 5,400. In Poston Unit #1 there will be an elementary school (grades one to six) with 1,050 pupils, and a secondary school (grades 7 to 12) with approximately 1,500 pupils. Poston Units #2 and #3 will each have a 12-grade school enrollment of approximately 1,400 pupils.

Chronology.--The following calendar has been prepared by Dr. Cary:

Sept. 1, 1942--arrival of the principal of the elementary school and principal of high school.

Sept. 12, 1942--arrival of approximately ten department heads to help in the organization of the curriculum.

Sept. 26, 1942--arrival of all Caucasian teachers with their families (Approximately 100 people).

Sept. 28, 1942--to Oct. 2, 1942.--Orientation conference.

Oct. 7, 1942--Official opening of Poston schools.

General school layout - Drawings of school plans have been prepared by evacuee



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architects under the direction of Charles E. Popkin, chief of construction. These call for the construction of three adobe school buildings--one in Poston Unit #1 and a 12- year school in Units #2 and #3. Teachers will be quartered in the Military Police Camp, Unit #2. Tentatively a rental charge of five dollars a month is to be assessed for unfurnished quarters and \$12 for furnished quarters. Also under consideration is the quartering of additional teachers in the Poston General Hospital's unused wing. According to Dr. Cary, between 70 to 75 classrooms will be required by October 7, and plans are now being made to temporarily use mess halls and recreation halls in all three Poston Units, pending construction of permanent adobe buildings.

Faculty.--It has been planned to organize a teaching staff of 150 persons. Since August 1, 1942, approximately 100 Japanese-American instructors have been undergoing a training course at the Valley School, 15 miles from Poston. Half of these prospective teachers hold college degrees and the remainder have had a junior college education and will be classified as assistants. In the WRA appropriation bill, as passed by Congress, provision was made for a ratio of one teacher to every forty children. Dr. Cary estimates that he is still short some 20 elementary school teachers.

Curriculum.--Policies drawn up by the regional WRA office in San Francisco on July 22, 1942, will be slightly modified for the Poston school system. They revolve around the following points:

1. Poston schools will be operated on a community basis and resources will be developed to assist this phase of the program.
2. Schools will operate on a year-round basis, and faculty members will take their vacations on a staggered plan. Civil Service regulations governing vacations will be applied.
3. Schools will meet the California State Board of Education requirements for high school graduation, since the majority of the prospective high school students are from California.



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4. School attendance will be compulsory for students between the ages of 6 and 18.
5. Students above 16 years of age may do part-time work.
5. All students are expected to take some form of vocational training before graduating from high school. Because of priority difficulties, there will be no shop.

Equipment.-According to Director Cary, it will be necessary for students to bring with them, simple chairs. It is expected that about 150 old school desks will be supplied by the Tuxton Canyon Indian Agency. Where classes are held in mess halls, chairs and tables and desks will not have to be furnished.

Administration children.-Children of administration staff members will be permitted to attend the Poston schools, according to Dr. Cary.



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Colorado River Relocation Center

Poston, Arizona

September 3, 1942

FROM: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports
TO: Regional Director
SUBJECT: Project Report No. 4

PRODUCTION PLANS OF POSTON AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

General Organization.--Agricultural development at Poston is divided into Truck and Field Farming, stock raising and landscape work, and all plans are formulated in accordance with broad policies laid down by the War Relocation Authority. Due to the hospitalization of H. A. Mathiesen, Agriculture Director, since early in July, current activities are being conducted by William C. Sharp, Agricultural Advisor. Basically, the Poston program includes these major points:

- (a) to supply the needs of the Colorado River Relocation Center with locally produced products.
- (b) to furnish other relocation centers with farm products they require but do not produce.
- (c) to furnish the United States army with fresh vegetables.

Planned Acreage.--For the next two years, the planned acreage amounts to 25,000 acres. Only a small portion of this area will be available for farming during the fall and winter of 1942, due to the equipment shortage. At the present time, Supervisor Sharp states that operations will be based on a Managed Farm plan but that individual farms or even community farming will



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be considered later. During the months of September and October, 1942, 405 acres will be available for farming and the greater part of this acreage will be devoted to truck crops. By the spring of 1943, it is hoped that between 1200 and 1500 acres can be subjugated and available for further farming, in which case, according to Mr. Sharp, some acreage will be planted to small grain and alfalfa.

"The more solid vegetables are grown best in the Parker Valley area during the fall, winter and spring months," he states. "Right now is the beginning of the planting season for these vegetables and they are now being planted for the fall and winter harvest. In the spring, the more succulent types known as summer vegetables will be planted."

Estimated Consumption of Vegetables.--Based on 20,000 population the following estimates have been prepared by the Poston Department of Agriculture and verified by the Regional Office. They cover consumption of vegetable items at the Colorado River Project over a twelve-month period:

Cabbage	1,032,000 lbs	or	516 tons
Carrots	792,000 lbs	or	392 tons
Beets	177,600 lbs	or	88 tons
Potatoes	1,296,000 lbs	or	648 tons
Onions, dry	864,000 lbs	or	432 tons

Vegetable production here is expected to give a crop yield of from four to 25 tons per acre, according to the type of vegetable raised.

Nursery Project.--In connection with vegetable gardening, a vast nursery project is now emerging from the planning stage. Seed for field planting will be raised on the project. First of these projects to get underway is a celery project.

Swine Project.--More than 100 acres have been cleared for a hog ranch. With a daily garbage disposal from Poston I, II and III amounting to between 10 and 12 tons, hog requirements have been placed at between 6,000 and 7,000 animals



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per year.

Poultry Division.--An 80 acre area has been cleared for a chicken ranch which is expected to eventually yield 20,000 eggs per day for Poston mess halls. To do this, according to Supervisor Sharp, will require the stocking of 60,000 laying hens. Plans are also being made to furnish from three to four thousand meat birds per month. Such a flock of birds will require approximately five tons of feed per day.

Other Divisions.--A Fish Culture Division is now well advanced. Acreage has been cleared and engineers are now preparing to install ponds. A Seed Division of Agriculture estimates amounts of seeds required, writes up specifications for purchase, receives and issues seeds and maintains stocks. This same group is also in charge of fertilizers and insecticides. The Soils Division is an important group of 17 evacuees who specialize in soil textures.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona
September 5, 1942

FROM: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports
TO: Regional Director
SUBJECT: Project Report No. 5

OPERATIONS OF POSTON DIVISION OF
HEALTH AND SANITATION

Organization.-With the arrival of the first evacuee groups on May 10 and 11, 1942, a department of Health and Sanitation was organized by Dr. Leo G. Schnurr, U. S. Indian Service, as a division of Community Services. Although a five-bed temporary field hospital was available for the first six weeks of the center's occupancy, Dr. Schnurr organized eight major sections in his department. These were: business administration, administration of hospital, nursing bureau, training of nurses aides, inspection of meats, supervision of latrines, handling of rodent control, and garbage inspection. Later, with the assignment of Dr. Alexander Leighton, a laboratory of sociological research was established. Dr. Schnurr continued as Director of Health and Sanitation until mid-July when he accepted a commission with the United States Army Medical Corps. His successor is Dr. Arnold Pressman, U. S. Indian Service. Supervising public health activities at Poston is Dr. Charles Snavelly.



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Poston General Hospital.--Located immediately adjacent to the main administration area of Poston Unit #1 is the 250-bed Poston General Hospital. Dr. Pressman reports that tuberculosis cases will have to be carried here and that the hospital will also have to serve as a clearing space for mental cases. Further hospitalization facilities are offered in clinics located in the administration areas of Poston Units #2 and #3. Each of these buildings cost \$2500 and provide a waiting room, space for four doctors, consultation room, three bed wards for patients waiting transfer to the General Hospital, minor surgery equipped with instruments and sterilizer, two-chair dental office, pharmacy and reference rooms for dispensary nurse and clerk. The hospital has been operating on two general plans--the closed staff and the open staff. Effective September 1, 1942, the closed staff program went into effect. Under this plan only doctors who meet certain standards and qualifications can be assigned to the hospital. The chief evacuee medical officer is Dr. Y. Wakatake, formerly of Honolulu, T. H. Only three full wards are operating at the hospital at the present time due to lack of beds and other equipment.

Medical Staff.--Caucasian executives, particularly Drs. Schmurr and Pressman, have expressed confidence in the work of evacuee physicians and surgeons. According to Dr. Pressman, five members of the staff have had experience in handling obstetric cases, in the field of internal medicine and in other medical specialties.



Nurses.--At the present there are three third and fourth year evacuee student nurses assigned to the hospital who hope to be able to finish their courses at this relocation center. Miss Elizabeth Vickers is in charge of the training school and is opening classes on September 8. Dietetic instruction is being given to some 75 students.

Board of Health.--Among Caucasian administrators the feeling prevails that all rules and regulations pertinent to public health at Poston must have legal sanction. Theodore Haas, project attorney, is now drawing up a set of laws which will be submitted to the Community Council. These will parallel similar laws and health statutes enforced in the State of Arizona.

Morgue.--A four-body morgue, located at the General Hospital, consists of an autopsy room, refrigerator room, embalming room and layout or viewing room. The morgue can take care of four bodies.

Caucasian Ward.--According to Dr. Snavely a special ward is to be set up for Caucasian employees. In the meantime the Indian Service Hospital at Parker, Ariz., is available. Dr. Pressman reports that in other departments of the Indian Service the reimbursement rate for hospital care is based on the per diem cost of operation in the previous fiscal year. The average cost in the Indian Service is \$3.26, and at Parker for 1941 it was about \$5.00. Dr. Pressman believes the rate at Poston will be not more than \$3.00.

Out-Clinic.--Chief problem at the Poston General Hospital is the operation of the small room assigned as the out-patient clinic. According to Dr. Pressman, during the period August 1-September 1, the daily average has been 250 patients.



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Colorado River Relocation Center

Poston, Arizona

October 1, 1942

TO: Regional Director

FROM: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports

SUBJECT: Project Report No. 8

HISTORY OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IN POSTON

In several memoranda and circulars issued by the War Relocation Authority in March and April, 1942, the residents of the relocation centers were promised an opportunity to govern themselves. During the month of May a Civic Planning Board was created in Poston, composed of eight representatives, one from each of eight groups of blocks called "quads". Under the chairmanship of Roy Yoshida, Kosaku Tamura, and Elmer Yamamoto, the Board considered various plans for self-government submitted by Poston residents. Utilizing the various proposals, the Board drafted a constitution, the Preamble of which is as follows: "We, the residents of Poston, Arizona, in order to secure for ourselves a just and democratic form of government, to promote through mutual co-operation the general welfare of our community, and to insure the maximum contribution of this community to our nation's welfare, do establish this constitution." The constitution provided for voting privileges and right to hold office for all residents of Poston, regardless of citizenship, and outlined a system of municipal government.

While the Civic Planning Board was still working on its plan, an order was issued by the War Relocation Authority in Washington establishing a set of regulations for self-government in the relocation

centers. This order, dated June 5, led to the disbanding of the Board. It provided for a temporary government with elected representatives forming a Community Council. Seats on the Council were restricted to American citizens, and the Council's relationship to the administration was established as advisory. During the latter part of June, plans were laid with the assistance of T. H. Haas, Project Attorney, for the establishment of the new government. On July 21st, a regular election was held in Poston 1. A heavy vote resulted in the election of thirty-one representatives, one from each occupied block. The Council members were sworn into office at the Pioneer Grove on July 22, 1942. A subsequent election on September 1 increased the number of councilmen to thirty-six.

The first meeting of the Council was held on July 23. Dr. T. G. Ishimaru was elected Chairman; Mr. Hidemi Ogawa, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Mary Tachibana, Secretary; and Mr. Frank Kuwahara, Sergeant at Arms. The Community Council has met at least once weekly since its first organization, at first in mess halls or recreation halls in various parts of the community, and more recently in the new administration building.

The Council proceeded to become active in the solution of the immediate practical problems of the community. Its first action was to set up ten committees designed to promote the welfare of the residents of Poston. The committees included the following: Law and Order, Public Relations, Social Welfare, Recreation, Community Enterprises, Education, Public Health, Food and Housing, Work Projects, Building and Landscape. The committee on Food and Housing was later reorganized as two separate committees and a finance committee was appointed.

The committee on Law and Order, working with the Chief of Police and the Poston Law Department, promptly drafted a Code of Offenses designed to regulate the behavior of the citizens of Poston and to provide a basis for authority for the Police Department. It also drew up a set of traffic regulations. Both of these codes were quickly passed by the Community Council and submitted to the Project Director for his approval. The Code of Offenses has not been approved and is being revised. For the purpose of enforcing the codes, a Judicial Commission was established, composed of three council members of the Law and Order Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Seichi Nomura. At present court hearings are held at least twice weekly and are open to the general public.

The committees of the Council have taken the position that action should be based on knowledge and have accordingly organized inquiries into various aspects of Poston life. These are regarded as preliminary to constructive action and so far have dealt with the following: hospital and medical care, food supply, community store, education, social welfare, and labor relations.

The Community Council has developed a plan for the participation of issei residents in the political life. An issei board of nine was elected on September 28. The members of the board meet with the Council and participate as members of the committees. In this manner the knowledge and experience of the issei is brought to bear on community problems.

Meanwhile the other two units of the Poston community have elected similar temporary councils. Poston 2 held an election on September 1 and established a Community Council of fourteen members. Mr. John Maeno was elected chairman; Mr. John Nakamura, Vice-Chairman; Dr. Masao

Takoshita, Executive Secretary; Mr. Hugo Kazato, Legal Clerk; and Mr. Dave Imahara, Sergeant at Arms. An election was held in Poston 3 on September 11 and ten members were elected to office. The following are the officers of the Poston 3 Council; Dr. Harvey Iwata, Chairman; Mr. Sam Rokutani, Secretary; and Mr. Ed Takahashi, Treasurer.

The Poston Community Councils have been spoken of frequently by the War Relocation Authority officials as having rapidly and efficiently laid sound foundations for self-government. Their actions have strongly influenced general War Relocation Authority policies in regard to self-government in relocation centers.

The Councils are now preparing for the next step, which is the establishment of a permanent system of self-government.

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Colorado River Relocation Center

Poston, Arizona

October 24, 1942

To: Regional Director

From: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports

Subject: Project Report No. 9

JUDICIAL COMMISSIONS

By authority of the Temporary Community Council, for the purpose of enforcing the Code of Offences, a Judicial Commission, composed of three members, was established in July with Seiichi Nomura, presiding as the chief commissioner. It will be interesting to note that the bench is composed of three magistrates. Perhaps this can be construed to reveal the guiding influence of Theodore H. Haas, project attorney.

The Judicial Commission assumes the function of a police court; it has and exercises exclusive jurisdiction over all crimes not classified as felonies. The Commission has power to impose penalties and forfeitures for any and all violations of the Code of Offenses; and for any breach or violation of the Code to fix the penalty or imprisonment, or both, should the circumstances sufficiently warrant.

Project Director, Wade W. Head, has the only check upon the actions of the Commission. At the discretion of the Project Director, the judgment of the Commission may be modified or set aside. However, the Project Director must announce the decision of his review within 24 hours after receiving the commitment, or the original ruling of the Commission is held to be final.

For the purpose of carrying out the authority vested in the Judicial Commission, the Commission is entitled to and authorized to issue and cause to be served any and all writs and processes to facilitate speedy justice. A complete record of the issuance of all writs, processes, returns, any and all action taken relative thereto, and the action of the court thereon is kept by the Clerk of the Judicial Commission, Franklyn S. Sugiyama and the deputy clerk, Lily Y. Yoshimi.

The rules of practice and the mode of procedure in the Judicial Commission follows that which commonly prevails in outside courts of limited jurisdiction.

The Judicial Commission meets in open session Mondays and Thursdays of every week at ten o'clock in the morning.

Since August 31, 1942, there has been a total of 39 cases heard; the majority of these trials were traffic cases, resulting in 31 convictions, with 2 cases pending on the docket while one has been dismissed. There has been 2 cases of assault, one which is pending; while the final disposition of the other case has been awarded to the Welfare Department. The sole theft case, because minors were involved, has also been turned over to the Welfare Department.

The single gambling trial resulted in a speedy conviction. The only case remaining on the docket is a test involving private enterprise. To sum up the decisions of the Judicial Commission, 32 convictions have been recorded, with 2 cases turned over to the Welfare Department, 4 cases held over on the calendar, with one dismissal.

In spite of the numerous convictions meted, the Commission has been very lenient with imprisonment. There have been only 2 or 3 cases of jail sentences imposed. The majority of the guilty offenders have been warned by the court, then released on probation, ranging from 14 days to 45 days, commensurate with the crime.

The attitude of the Commissioners has been toward crime prevention. However, the period of education, through publication of the ordinances in the "Press Bulletin" and through imposing light sentences, has run its course. The Commissioners now have assumed that every one is cognizant of the Code of Offenses; hence, heavier sentences have been meted. A typical example is the traffic cases. At first, the offenders were only warned; but recently the Commissioners have confiscated the drivers' licenses for a period of 10 - 15 days as the penalty.

THUMB-NAIL SKETCH OF COMMISSIONERS

Chief Commissioner Seichi Nomura has attended the University of California at Berkeley, University of Southern California, graduating from the Southwestern University with a LI. B. degree. In addition to serving on the bench, he is in charge of the Clothing Department. He is married and has 2 children. He is about 45.

Commissioner Shigeo Imamura is a graduate of Brawley Junior College. He is the Water Master of the Poston Irrigation District. His age is about 25; and he is married. Commissioner Imamura is at the present on a research tour of labor conditions in Nebraska.

Commissioner Hidemi Ogawa is taking Commissioner Imamura's seat on the bench. He is the business manager of the Department of Education. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, holding a degree of B.S. He is single; age about 28.

Commissioner George Fujii was a senior in the School of Business Administration at the University of Southern California. He lacked just a few credits to obtain a degree, which he would have completed were it not for evacuation. He is connected with the Police Department. He is single; age about 25.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY -24

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~~October 30, 1942~~ -16
November 1

to S.A.
Yuri

To: Regional Director
From: Assistant in Charge of Project Reports
Subject: Project Report No.10

EVACUEE LABOR IS EMPLOYED TO HARVEST -36
COTTON CROP IN PARKER VALLEY AT PARKER, ARIZ. -45

Foreword - Cotton is the most important crop raised in Parker Valley, both in acreage devoted to this agricultural product as well as in dollars and cents value. For the 1942-43 yield, there are 300 acres devoted to culture of the Pima, or long-staple variety, and some 3100 acres to short-staple cotton. A heavy windstorm occurring on October 21 grounded about 20 per cent of the Pima crop and caused concern among the growers since rainfall may be expected in this section of the Arizona desert in both the months of October and November. Mass meetings were held in Parker and Yuma over the Parker Valley cotton picker situation, since in past years migratory workers from the Imperial Valley and Arizona fields have harvested the crop. Public opinion, in both Parker and Yuma, was highly skeptical over whatever assistance would be rendered by evacuee labor volunteered by Poston. One of the Parker leaders, Milton E. Simms, himself a cotton grower, at a public meeting as late as October 22, expressed disappointment and resentment toward what he termed "lack of interest" on the part of the Japanese.

Evacuee attitudes - On Friday, October 23 a meeting of all evacuee leaders -- civic, labor, agricultural and press -- was held in the Administration Building No. 2 Council Room, at which time the Parker Valley cotton situation was explained ~~and~~ as well as its bearing upon the immediate development of a Trust Fund, as provided in WRA Administrative Order No. 44.

In the ensuing seven days, Poston's assistance to the cotton growers has been rendered entirely upon a volunteer basis. Up to, and including Friday, October 30, a total of 8717 pounds of Pima, or long-staple, cotton has been picked.

School Children Cooperate.- While earlier in the week, ranks of evacuee cotton pickers were filled by members of the Community Councils of Poston I, II and III, as well as Block Manager organizations and volunteers from the Press Bulletin staff, the largest contributions have come from high school boys and girls. On October 30, a group of 200 juniors and seniors from the Poston I Unit High School picked a total of 3387 pounds in a single day. All school groups have agreed to earmark their earnings in the fields for the ~~extra~~ ordinary usages that student body funds are put to, such as purchase of athletic equipment, financing a school paper etc.

Growers Change Attitudes.- Indicative of the increasingly cordial relations between the project and growers is this letter from Milton S. Simms, grower:

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Poston, Arizona, for the assistance given the farmers of this valley with the harvesting of the Long Staple Cotton crop so far. I also wish to ~~thank~~ express to them and impress upon them my appreciation for the clean and excellent manner in which the cotton was gathered from the ground as well as the plant."

"On Friday, October 30th, it was my pleasure to have the Senior Class in my field. An excellent workmanlike job was certainly performed."

"Milton E. Simms."