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MINIDOKA WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Hunt, Idaho

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Japanese Relocation Papers
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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

TO: E. R. Fryer, Regional Director
ATTENTION: Edwin Bates, Chief, Regional Information Division
SUBJECT: Report for Quarter Ended September 30, 1942.

GENERAL: There were three main phases of the Minidoka Relocation Center in the period ended September 30: construction of 600 one-story wooden buildings to form the physical shell of a city for the 10,000 evacuees; formation of an administrative body to direct and assist the evacuees in the conduct of the center; and the gradual emergence of a pattern of living as the evacuees adjusted themselves to the third part of their relocation.

Construction, under the direction of the U. S. Army Engineers, began officially June 1 although there was no large-scale activity the first month. Throughout the period of transferral of evacuees from the Puyallup and North Portland Assembly Centers to Minidoka completion of living quarters and dining halls was either barely abreast and often behind the movement of evacuees into the center.

When the advance crew of 213 from Puyallup arrived August 10 at 2:30 p.m., kitchen stoves on which they would cook their evening meal were being installed. Open ditches were being filled in. This was still the condition when regular daily arrival of evacuees began August 16. Powdery, flour-like dust was ankle deep. Heavy construction trucks rumbling through the area day and night

and strong prevailing winds kept a ~~thick~~ dust pall hanging over the entire district. Often this pall extended as high as 400 feet in the air. The hundred-foot pre-fabricated buildings would often be filled with a dusty haze and one end would be practically invisible from the other.

The confined area and haste of construction resulted in chaotic conditions. Approximately 3,000 workmen were digging, blasting, and building in and around blocks into which 500 evacuees were moving daily. Military police were scattered throughout the area. Forbidden and restricted areas, such as lumber piles and construction sectors, were not posted and the newly arrived evacuees sometimes wandered into them. Restricted areas changed overnight. Roads were open to evacuees part of the way and no farther yet there had not been time to erect signs.

It was a herculean task to bring approximately 500 evacuees daily (except for a hiatus August 22-29) into the center at around 4 p.m.; register each person; assign quarters; haul 400 cots, 1000 blankets and 3000 pieces of baggage to apartments, and provide an evening meal. Newly-laid wooden pipe lines broke so often that a water wagon had to stand by at meal times to insure kitchens of a supply. Kitchens were short of equipment. There was no hot water in the laundry rooms and few showers were installed. Outside latrines were, and still, are used pending completion of the sewerage.

Seven blocks were without lights when occupied. Two of them were filled between 7 p.m. and midnight due to the delayed arrival of the train from North Portland. Portable floodlights were borrowed

from the contractors on this section. Some of the evacuees were without lights for more than three weeks.

The hospital also began functioning without lights, heat, and sewerage. Heat remained an unfilled requirement at the end of the quarter.

Lack of warehouse space made it necessary to move supplies and equipment from one recreation building to another, as one was finished and another was required to house arriving evacuees. More than once baggage, and food and other supplies were piled in the sagebrush.

The project director and the assistant director had no desks for three weeks after the first evacuees arrived. The director's automobile was his office and it was open practically around the clock.

The bare physical essentials of construction were 97 per cent completed by the end of September, but the administration still beset by problems arising from priority problems and a labor shortage in the center the latter due to the 2,300 evacuees leaving for outside harvest employment. The last of the evacuees arrived September 14 bringing the center's total to 2,381 (7060 from Puyallup, 2321 from North Portland), yet by the end of the month only 650 of the 2780 stoves the center required were connected and coal was not available to use in the few apartment stoves which were completely installed. The area's first killing frost occurred on September 26. The hospital's heat problem was gradually being solved as the period ended, acute temporary boilers

were being replaced by a low-pressure boiler with this inturn to be replaced by a high-pressure boiler. Throughout the project services and facilities were delayed due to priority difficulties, one of the chief ones being the expansion joints for the hospital's steam system. The procurement division exercised great ingenuity and resourcefulness in obtaining substitutes for critical materials and supplies not available to the project because of its relatively low priority rating.

The lumber shortage prevented evacuees from making furniture for their apartments and delayed until some future time the building of staff housing, schools, a chapel, school furniture and other necessities. Nail picking crews and a magnet device made on the project scoured the grounds for nails dropped by construction workmen. There was only one hammer for every 10 workmen; one saw for every eight; one shovel and one pick for every 50 until late in September. Limited automobile transportation complicated administrative work and the telephone system, limited to 35 of which 15 were in the hospital, 5 for fire and emergency purposes and 7 for the military police, was of little service for on-the-project communication. With only 56 typewriters available for 137 secretaries, stenographers, clerks, and other personnel, it was necessary to use them on day and night shifts.

Such working hours were not the only adjustment the evacuees were forced to make. Doubling up of strange families in a single apartment produced numerous social problems. Coming from a wet

climate the dust affected many of the evacuees adversely, dealing a severe blow to their morale. Cooks, unused to preparing foods at 4000 feet, served beans and potatoes hard as rocks until they learned differently.

Lack of heat, sewerage and building materials continued to be major obstacles to the normal operation of the community. While the population dropped off to 3450 by September 30, this affected the community housing and other requirements only slightly since the great majority of those leaving for farm work were individuals who left their families in the center.

PROJECT PLACEMENT AND OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT: The center's population of 5041 males and 4445 females was situated as follows: number employed on project, 3033 (male, 2083, female, 950); number in private employment off project but living on project, 127 (91 males, 36 females); number away from project on group employment, 1444 (1300 males, 144 females); number registered for work but not working, 939 (120 males, 819 females); number assigned but not yet on job, 246, all males; total in labor force, 4218 (2449 males, 1769 females); number not in labor force, 3697 (1201 males, 2496 females).

Other statistics show that 65 percent of the American citizen males who registered for work were employed and 55 per cent of the citizen females; 80 per cent of non-citizen males who registered were employed and 22 per cent of the non-citizen females. Thirty-one per cent of the single males who registered were employed and

30 per cent of the married males who registered were employed; 31 per cent of the single females who registered were employed and 9 per cent of the married females.

The dining hall operations led all sections with a payroll of 1350 persons (832 males, 480 females at \$16; 38 males at \$19); project maintenance was next with 371 (369 males, one female at \$16; one female at \$19); health and sanitation, 257 (45 males, 167 females at \$16; 33 males, 12 females at \$19); transportation and supply, 235 (216 males, 10 females at \$16; 9 males at \$19); miscellaneous community activities 200 (83 males, 76 females at \$16; 39 males, 2 females at \$19); employment, placement, and housing, 169 (64 males, 95 females at \$16; 9 males, 1 female at \$19); building construction, 103 (83 males, 1 female at \$17; 9 males at \$19); land development, 77 (67 males, 3 females at \$16; 7 males at \$19); project administration, 76 (31 males, 36 females at \$16; 9 males at \$19); police department, 74 (71 males, 3 females at \$16); education, 69 (13 males, 56 females at \$16); fire department, 43 (43 males at \$16); community enterprises, 9 (2 males, 3 females at \$16; 4 males at \$19).

As the period ended the farm labor recruiting program to relieve the southern Idaho shortage was reaching proportions affecting the operation of the center. The Public Works Division was 30 per cent below requirements to meet essential service needs. The construction and building section needed 100 additional workers; irrigation needed 50; land subjugation required 100 more, and project maintenance was short 100.

Proposed improvements including school buildings and staff housing required 1200 workers who were not available. Transportation and supply were down to 75 per cent efficiency. The fire department was 50 per cent efficient. The hospital lost many trained personnel.

A serious development in workers' morale was traced to the wage rate. The evacuees desired more levels than the \$12, \$16, and \$19, to indicate a difference in training and skill. It was felt that even a 50-cent difference in the rate of pay of second cooks and that of dishwashers, for example, would make for a more normal community society in which pride and ambition would be acknowledged.

The small difference in the wage rate for highly-trained professional people and other important jobholders and those performing menial tasks (such as dishwashers) also created discontent. The variation in hours of work in jobs paying the same rate also was the cause of dissatisfaction.

Some doctors expressed the opinion that they should be placed on a different pay scale since they had been requested not to take advantage of the outside group labor employment program.

The Fair Labor Practice Board to hear and act in labor disputes was being organized as the period ended.

HOUSING: The housing section was making progress in readjusting the situations which resulted from emergency measures taken during the reception of evacuees from the assembly centers, when adequate housing was not available at certain times. This

made it necessary to put two families of two or three members each into a single large apartment. Bachelors were housed in dormitories, 120 feet long with no partitions. This proved so unsatisfactory that plans were made to partition all dormitories into rooms for groups of four, five, and six who would be formed with cultural backgrounds and common interests in mind.

A census of family groups showed 716 bachelors; 448 families of two members; 525 of three, 470 of four; 361 of five; 216 of six; 96 of seven; 52 of eight; 12 of nine; 1 of 10; 5 of 11; 4 of 12; and 1 of 13.

When the evacuees were sent to Minidoka they arrived at the Hunt siding, five miles from the project, and were transported in rented buses to the project. A head count was made as the buses were loaded at the siding and the family roster was checked during registration at the center. A cursory medical examination was given all arrivals. It usually required about two hours to receive and register a group of 500.

HEALTH AND SANITATION: By the end of the period the 200-bed project hospital was nearly completely organized, although many facilities were still lacking, including hot water, heat, laundry, x-ray, morgue equipment, delivery table, surgery tables, and adequate dishes for the hospital dining hall.

A temporary boiler supplied steam heat to two radiators in the surgery, one in the nursery, one in the delivery room, and steam to run the sterilizers. The rest of the hospital was cold. Wooden

packing cases were used as a delivery table and for surgery (not operating) tables. An examining table was used as an operating table. Dining hall equipment totalled 40 forks, 150 knives, 50 plates, no teaspoons, no tea cups, and only temporary electric stoves. Despite this 200 were being fed daily.

Upto the end of the period there were nine births and eight deaths; two of each were premature twins. Two residents were committed to the Idaho State Hospital for the insane at Blackfoot. The average number of patients in September was 77 with 11 the minimum and 135 the maximum. While there was no serious epidemic, an outbreak of intestinal disorders hospitalized 60 residents from one block, most of them staying only 24 hours. The cause was attributed to unsanitary kitchen conditions and specifically to pickling barrel where harmful bacteria were found. There was no unusual outbreak of children's diseases.

The hospital staff of 200 include the Caucasian chief medical officer, six doctors of Japanese ancestry, a third-year medical student, three Caucasian nurses, five graduate nurses of Japanese ancestry, three student nurses, 85 nurses' aides and attendants, male and female, 15 pharmacists, one three-year student pharmacist, three laboratory technicians, four assistant laboratory technicians, and ten dentists. The dentists, the eye, nose, and throat doctor and other doctors were obliged to use much of their own equipment.

An assistant dietitian was placed in each mess hall to prepare and dispense baby food to children up to two years of age. Like-

wise, she dispensed baby formula ingredients. These dietitians were under the supervision of the hospital dietitian.

Other hospital services included well-baby clinics, prenatal clinics and venereal diseases clinics. A sanitation inspection service was being organized.

The 15 wings of the hospital included six patient wings with beds for 35 in each wing. There were the usual nursery, pediatrics, maternity, isolation, and tuberculosis wards.

Mobile equipment included two ambulances which picked up women in the eighth and ninth months of pregnancy for the prenatal clinic and other pregnant women who live more than half mile from the hospital.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: These activities were organized entirely by the residents themselves with the division chief giving direction and counsel. A resident director was chosen and he selected six supervisors to head specific phases of the program--athletics, arts and handicrafts, music, clubs, entertainment, and children's activities. The project was divided into seven sections with supervisors working with leaders in each section.

Boy Scouts, Girls' Scout, and YWCA organized activities tied in with the national groups. A cooperative arrangement was working out with the YWCA in Twin Falls to provide facilities for domestic workers and farm workers near that city.

Lack of finances to promote craft and club work, furniture and equipment for recreations halls and places to hold meetings retarded

the program. A board of review was formed to assist the Community Enterprises in selecting movies.

Special work clothing--caps, mackinaws, overcoats, breeches, and gloves--was issued from a supply of surplus provided by the Army.

Two libraries were opened in recreation halls with books secured from various sources, principally from the residents themselves and from their assembly center libraries.

Lack of machinery to clear play areas in the center held up outdoor activities.

Community government was being organized near the close of the period.

An inter-faith council of Protestant, Catholic, and Buddhist ministers was organized to meet once a month to coordinate religious services for the center residents. Protestant denominations united to hold inter-denominational meetings in different parts of the center on Sundays and smaller meeting during the week. The Protestant young people held vesper services each Sunday evening and sponsored a public forum each Wednesday. The Buddhist schedule of services was much the same as the Protestant. Catholic Mass was said daily at the project by a non-resident priest, a Maryknoll missionary, who had established residence at Jerome. There were eight Protestant ministers and six Buddhist priests residents. Three non-resident Protestant workers established residence at Twin Falls and commuted daily to the project.

Lack of chairs, benches, and a chapel forced the religious groups to hold services in dining halls which were not suitable. There was no chapel.

EDUCATION: Schools were not yet open at the close of the period. Requirements for teachers, such as an A.B. degree for elementary teachers at \$1620 a year, made it difficult to fill these positions. Also, the general wartime labor shortage extended into the teaching profession. Physical equipment, such as school benches, supplies, and books, and space in which to hold classes also retarded organization of the school system.

The education program was started late in September with a ten-day workshop for orientating Caucasian and evacuee teachers. Curriculum planning was also undertaken. Thirty-six Caucasian teachers and 39 teachers of Japanese ancestry were on duty. The resident teachers included two certified teachers, 20 student teachers (holding degrees or with four years' or more experience who could qualify as teachers) and 17 teaching assistants. Since the classes will be large with 40 to 45 pupils in each, it was planned to use teaching assistants to help the regular teachers in classroom detail. In addition five nursery schools were planned with student teachers and 12 teaching assistants employed.

Enrollment at the end of the period was 766 from kindergarten through sixth grade and 1204 from seventh through twelfth grades. These figures were obtained in a pre-registration census to find

out how many children of school age there were in the center and in what groups they belonged. The elementary school pre-registration was done at certain points after announcements were made in dining halls. High school registration was done through block managers who handed out blanks to families concerned. Teachers later went door to door to be certain of contacting everyone.

COUNSELOR: The counselor was occupied with facilitating the release of students, advising residents in social problems, arranging marriages and funerals, and arranging for border passes for residents who had to go to Twin Falls, Jerome, or other cities.

Up to September 30 a total of 21 students had been released to continue their college studies. There were 10 funeral services held in the center, two of which were for persons who had died elsewhere, one an American soldier of Japanese ancestry. Four burials had been made in the center cemetery. There were five marriages in which both principals were residents of the center. None, however, was performed inside the center, the principals choosing to travel 10 miles to Jerome, the county seat of Jerome county in which the center is located, for the ceremonies. Five families were aided in preparations for repatriation at the earliest possible time. One hundred eighty applications for repatriation, made in the assembly centers prior to arrival to the Minidoka center, were filed in this office.

Social problems arising from unusual conditions in the center were brought to the counselor. A number of family disputes, both inter-family and intra family, were handled. The doubling-up of

strange families, often incompatible, in a single apartment because of the housing shortage created problems. Mental problems were fairly numerous. Two wives of non-Japanese husbands (one Chinese and one Filipino) were released from the center and other mixed marriages problems were presented. The question of parental authority created some difficulties. In one case a girls of age wished to marry a man not resident in the center to whom her parents objected. The administration ended the dispute because the girl could leave the center to get married only with permission of the administration.

The need for border passes for sunrise to sunset was found and these were issued through the counselor. These were given only for legitimate reasons, such as a visit to friends living at the F.S.A. Camp at Twin Falls, a girl shopping for her trousseau, business which could not be transacted at the center, and shopping which could not be done any other way, such as a Seattle hotel owner who had to buy a large quantity of bedding for his business.

Juvenile delinquency was not a serious problem.

LEGAL AID BUREAU: Routine legal problems, rendering of legal opinions and special cases of evacuees were handled by this section functioning under an evacuee-lawyer, Clarence Arai, formerly of Seattle.

Registered voters were aided relative to absentee voting. Those unable to read and write English were assisted in the preparation of Selective Service questionnaires. The bureau also helped claimants for old age and survivors insurance. Numerous property

problems resulting from evacuation were dealt with. Preparations of federal reserve license applications and reports was undertaken.

The bureau also offered a notary public service.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES: Organization of this division was just getting under way as the period ended, but already it had established laundry and dry cleaning pickup service (arranged with a Twin Falls firm); a watch repair shop; a mail order department to help residents in buying through catalogs; a delivery service of seven boys to deliver newspapers morning and evening; a telegraph service (via phone to Jerome); and three stores which stocked dry goods, ice cream, confections, newspapers, magazines, household supplies, and sundries.

By showing an educational film of cooperatives in the United States and Sweden and by acquainting the residents with the advantages and benefits of a cooperative, the divisions started an education campaign to form a cooperative to supply services needed by the residents and not furnished by the government. The lack of a definite understanding of this department's relationship to the rest of the administration was a hampering factor.

TRANSPORTATION AND SUPPLY: Lack of warehouse space and garage and service facilities at the Project was overcome late in the period. By September 30 these services were well organized. Until warehouses were completed, supplies and materials had to be moved as many as a dozen times from building to building. Lack of

refrigerating units created several emergencies in the food supply. Refrigeration space was rented at Twin Falls and two reefer cars, which had to be iced every other day, were held at the Hunt siding, to preserve meat and other perishables. The project steward had to limit transportation of rations practically to daily consumption.

A garage was rented at Eden until a building was available at the project about September 30.

An average of nine carloads of freight, supplies, and materials arrived daily at Eden, 12 miles from the center. In addition there was baggage of evacuees from assembly centers to the Minidoka project. Carload lots of supplies and materials were received at the Hunt siding. Less than carload lots were unloaded at Eden.

This division was responsible for transporting mails from the Twin Falls post office to the project, 20 miles. A 1½ ton truck made two round trips daily except Sunday and three round trips each Monday.

Equipment totalled 115 vehicles including 26 sedans, five coupes, two ambulances, nine pickup and 3/4-ton trucks, and 73 1½ ton trucks. All were serviced in the project's own shop.

PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION: In order to bring irrigation water to the 800-acre center area, a primary canal was constructed from the Mainer-Gooding canal to a point near the center, a distance of about six miles. About 50 residents were employed on this job which was started in mid-August and finished a month later under severe handicaps. To build the ditch, which has a capacity of 10 cubic feet per second, two patrols and two Farmall tractors were the

only heavy equipment available. Eight shovels comprised the total equipment for hnd work when work was started.

The first water was used to irrigate 12 blocks in the eastern end of the center and nine of these blocks were planted in rye to tie down the soil which hd presented a serious dust condition on windy fall dayss

The airport site about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northeast of the center was surveyed. One runway will be four thousand feet long and approximately 600 feet wide.

Desks and tables needed by all departments in view of the shortage of manufactured equipment were made in the carpenter shop largely from scrap lumber.

This division was principally occupied with numerous service and maintenance functions within the center.

PROJECT AGRICULTURE: Lack of workers and equipment and priority of other immediate works on the project retarded land subjugation up to the end of the period. The farmsuperintendent studied loal conditions and inspected numerous farms and farming systems in the area to determine suitable crops for the project. He found that the silt loam in the project farming area could become very productive under proper farming methods. The farm area ranged f om level, small areas to steep stony hills and benches. Irrigation water to be taken from the Milner-Gooding canal was presumed to be sufficient for the irrigation of the first several thousand acres of land to be cleared. However numerous ditches, laterals, and other construction will be neecessary for proper dis-

tribution of water to the different tracts.

While selection of food crops which may be planted on the first thousand acres to be cleared had not yet been made, it was believed a cover crop would be planted first on the cleared-off land and then potatoes, onions, and, perhaps, some vegetables would be planted next summer.

Because of the lateness of the season, it was believed that the 1943 farming program would be largely clearing the land of sagebrush, planting field crops, and establishing a hog farm, and a poultry plant.

INTERNAL SECURITY: The Internal Security Division faced serious problems during its period of organization. It was necessary to build up the force rapidly to take over the guarding of restricted construction areas within the center from the military police. Out-of-bound areas were in the process of being posted, lumber piles had to be watched, and the new residents needed guidance in their movements from one end of the three-mile-long area to the other. By the end of the period 70 men were on the staff, maintaining 24-hour patrol in the center. All but the Caucasian chief of the division and his assistant were residents.

A \$70 theft and a community store burglary, both solved with the apprehension of juveniles, were the only serious offenses up to September 30. The wardens aided other divisions in many ways, such as keeping residents out of unoccupied apartments, sealing fuse

boxes, and handling crowds at large gatherings. Organized gambling was broken up by the wardens.

A comprehensive training program for the wardens was planned. Uniforms for the staff were made out of Army surplus uniforms altered to make them individual in appearance.

FIRE PROTECTION: Frequent interruptions in the water supply, lack of trained personnel, inflammable character of the buildings and prevalence of wind presented grave fire hazards. Absence of stoves in apartments was a favorable factor. Lack of protection around fire hydrants resulted in more than 30 of them being knocked over and the flow of water halted for several hours during repairing.

The fire protection officer immediately trained two crews totalling 45 men and began a comprehensive program of fire education of the entire community on the proper methods of firing apartment stoves and fire prevention practices around the home. Until fuse boxes were sealed the shorting of circuits by the use of a penny and other methods was an additional hazard. Boiler crews were found to be unfamiliar with proper firing methods and they were given instructions.

There was only one fire warranting use of the apparatus and it was not inside the center. It was in the bridge at the entrance.

At the close of the period the farm labor recruiting program had seriously crippled operations. There were two pieces of apparatus on hand.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL: Payroll procedure for evacuee and W.R.A. staff members, a timekeeping system for the evacuee workers, property control, cost accounting, mails and files, and other administrative details were organized.

PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION: The reports officer issued various press releases to acquaint the surrounding communities with the new community of Hunt (post office address of the Minidoka center), the objectives of the War Relocation Authority and to promote the farm labor recruitment program. A weekly press release containing four to eight items was sent to 60 weekly newspapers in southern Idaho and was widely printed. Press releases were issued to 15 daily newspapers and press associations as warranted. These releases printed with few if any changes from the original. The press in no instance was unfair. The majority of the press releases dealt with the outside group employment program and the availability of evacuees at Hunt for outside farm work to relieve the critical labor shortage in southern Idaho.

The project director, the assistant director, superintendent of education, and other staff members made several appearances before civic clubs and other groups in surrounding communities, which did much to allay fears, reduce prejudices and acquaint the public with the facts about the project. A few small groups and individuals visited the project but no special effort was made to have writers, photographers, and such interested groups visit up to end of the

period, since it was felt the project was still in a period of organization and it would be more favorable to have such visitors later.

Letters written by evacuees doing farm work and expressions by townspeople of Twin Falls, Eden, and Jerome were to the effect that such evacuees were not discriminated against to any great extent up to September 30. Many had an opportunity to visit cities, especially Twin Falls, to shop, to go to movies, and eat at public places. While comments about persons of Japanese ancestry were numerous, and there some antagonism and discrimination shown by some store clerks and people on the street, there was generally a spirit of tolerance in view of the fact that the evacuees were helping to harvest crops which otherwise might have been lost and were spending considerable money in stores. The sheriff and the District Attorney of Twin Falls county both made public statements asking the residents of Twin Falls to remember that these people of Japanese ancestry were mostly citizens and should not be subjected to any discrimination of unfairness.

Rumors started during construction of the center about extravagant building materials and luxuries for the evacuees were spiced by factual description of the center in news releases, in public talks by the project director and by visitors to the project.

The project newspaper, The Minidoka Irrigator, was started in mid-September and issued on a twice-weekly basis; the size was

usually six pages, mimeographed. About 3,000 copies were printed and distributed to every apartment in the center through block managers. About 60 copies were mailed to other centers, federal agencies, libraries, and other interested parties.

Harry L. Stafford,
Project Director

by John Bigelow,
Reports Officer

MINIDOKA WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Hunt, Idaho

Jan. 29, 1943

Wash copy

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SUBJECT: Report for quarter Ended December 31, 1942.

INTRODUCTION: In the three-month period between October 1 and December 31 the Minidoka Relocation Center passed through new stages of development and adjustment. Instead of being of settling-down period after the movement of evacuees from Portland and Puyallup Assembly Centers, it was time filled with new emergencies and new problems to be met by the appointed personnel and evacuee residents.

No sooner had the last evacuees arrived in mid-September than they began leaving the center in groups to work in the harvest fields. After starting slowly the emergency farm work program gained momentum as desperate farmers turned to the center for labor to save their crops and as the center residents were reassured that fair treatment and good wages awaited them outside. Fluctuation of the center's population from 8311 on October 1 to a low point of 7541 on October 23 and back to 9091 on December 31 caused serious problems in the center administration, particularly in the project labor supply.

The number of workers on the project increased as activities expanded and, likewise, the appointed personnel increased from 63 on October 1 to 101 on December 31.

Minidoka's 2300 residents and 1000 from other centers

working in surrounding areas brought the evacuees to the public's attention and indicated how the relocation of evacuees into normal life would be received in such areas. It was indicated that wide-spread prejudices remained, and that people were resentful of evacuees' eating in restaurants, buying in stores, going to movies, etc. The people who employed evacuees in farm work and in other work were the more favorably disposed toward them. Farmers and businessmen forced by economic necessity to employ evacuees and to seek their patronage sought publicly greater tolerance for the evacuees.

Through the death of a 54-year old resident who became lost and died from exposure, the center learned of the treacherous nature of sagebrush-covered plains and gullies in the project area. Although the residents came from a mild coast climate, the cold weather did not seem to affect them seriously.

employment numbers

LABOR: As the project developed, employment increased from 3033 on October 1 to 4157 on December 31 including 2771 men and 1386 women. All divisions showed increases except the stewards which dropped one employee to 1349 at the end of the quarter. Public works rose from 551 to 1045; transportation and supply from 235 to 447; medical from 257 to 294; and all others from 640 to 922. In the latter group employment on December 31 was divided as follows: placement, 65; housing, 90; community enterprises, 163; internal security, 104; project reports, 20; fire department, 68; community services, 284; administrative, 108.

Departure of residents for the harvest fields created numerous problems of replacement after the normal labor supply was exhausted. In the first week in October more than 400 project workers left for the harvest, and the project's operating efficiency slipped accordingly. At the peak, 2300 were working on farm fulough, 1800 living outside and 500 commuting from the center. Until the first week in November when the farm workers began to return to the center, it was difficult to find the manpower required to maintain the essential serices on the project. Women were trained as firemen, truck drivers, warehousemen, and for other men's job. At one time 60% of the residents were working on the project or in outside farm work, as far greater percentage than in a normal community.

There was considerable evidence that the farm workers were satisfactory to their emplouers. A letter written to the director by five Twin Falls farmers included the comment: "This crew consisted of 12 men and 12 women, and over the period of harvest, picked 91 acres of potatoes which averaged about 150 sacks per acres. They also topped 99 acres of beets which averaged about approximately 22 tons per acre. The crew commuted between the relocation center and the farms in Twin Falls county, Idaho and conducted themselves in a very business like manner, and we can honestly say that they were the finest and most cooperative help that we have had in a number of years.

The crew was always on time in the morning, worked as long as it was possible regardless of weather conditions. In fact some days when weather was bad and we felt that it would not be advisable to work, the crew was there ready to go and we proceeded in getting these crops out. We feel sure in our own minds that considerable acreage of these crops would have been a loss to us that we had not been able to have obtained the help of these Japanese evacuees...They had no experience with the type of work which they were doing for us, but within a couple of days had adapted themselves so that they could be called "excellent farm hands" of this territory. This harvest season was approximately 35 working days in length and this crew received approximately \$4250."

At the end of the quarter 955 persons were unemployed of which 580 were women and 375 men. This compared with 1185--819 women and 366 men--on October 1. Many of the unemployed were people returning from harvest furlough and the placement office found it difficult to assign these people to relieve the acute labor shortage existing in certain department such as land clearance, airport constructions, coal handling, and other outside work because only 9% stated their preference for outside work.

The unpleasant jobs around the project such as coal handling and other jobs named above created serious placement problems since the WRA was unable to provide gloves and footwear,

two items which were worn out rapidly by those engaged in outside manual labor. These outside workers took the view point that they were allowed no greater clothing allowance than the office worker and yet had to provide and replace clothing on a much larger scale. An additional factor was that unemployment compensation was only 40% less than the regular wage scale.

On December 31 a total of 901 persons were registered but not employable, and 955 were registered but not employed. The first group included 476 who had not reported back from harvest fulough, 13 transferred to other centers, 45 inactive, 39 students relocated, 63 on off-project work, 61 ill, 211 under age, and two deceased. The latter group of 580 women and 375 men included 138 persons assigned pending acceptance on employment offers posted 48 hours before withdrawal.

LEAVES: Beginning with the granting of the first indefinite leave for employment on October 23, a total of 28 persons (7 men and 21 women) during the quarter were given indefinite leave, and 16 young men enlisted in the army and left the project to attend the Army language school at Camp Savage, Minnesota. Of the men who were granted indefinite leave, one went to the University of Michigan as a clerk, one went to a waiter's job, one to farm labor, two to domestic work, and two to join their families. Ten of the women took domestic

jobs, two left to join their families, two to join their husbands, five to get married, one to take a secretarial job, and one as a nurses' aide. In addition to these persons, there was one resident under 16 who left with his parents.

Residents are being advised to seek leave clearance if they plan to leave the project regardless of whether at the moment they have a job or other reason in view. When a resident applies for leave clearance, basic information is taken. Later he is sent a written notice to appear at the Leaves office for a personal interview with one of the appointed personnel. After obtaining leave clearance he is required to have a job or some other assurances of adequate income to apply for indefinite leave.

*Project
residence
for relocation
changed
now*

HOSPITAL: During the quarter the hospital received 406 in-patients, 4636 out-patients; there were 2981 dental patients; 31 births, and 12 deaths.

While there was no outbreak of serious contagious diseases, the hospital staff was kept busy. At the close of the quarter the dental clinic was making appointments two months ahead. The continued lack of development of the sewerage system was an undesirable factor in the public health situation. What was believed to be gonorrhea (later developments raised a question about it) appeared on the project in mid-October among new mothers and babies at the hospital. The occurrence coincided with the return of farm workers to the project. However, among hundreds of men examined only one was found infected.

The possibility of the outdoor latrines being sources of infection was considered. The prevalence of the disease caused wide-spread rumors about the hospital and about the outdoor latrines, and brought additional pressure to bear on the administration to get the sewage treatment plant and the inside flush toilets into operation. The placement office had trouble getting residents to take jobs in the hospital.

AGRICULTURE: Lack of equipment and also a shortage of manpower hampered the land clearance program. About 75 acres were cleared of sagebrush inside the center area adjacent to the proposed high school site, and it is planned that high-school students cultivate this as part of their agricultural training. An additional 150 acres east of the center in the project area were cleared of sagebrush.

It is planned to put this acreage and as much additional as can be cleared and irrigated by spring into a cover crop and later in the season to plant potatoes and peas as conditions warrant. The weather and also the availability of necessary equipment will govern the progress of the program. It is conceded that the acreage under cultivation this year will be small, possibly only 500 acres. The project is aiming toward a full farming program in 1944.

Lack of feed and of materials to build barns were the principal factors in eliminating the livestock program for this year.

PROJECT ATTORNEY: The project attorney noticed a growing tendency on the part of the evacuees to sell their property back home. It seemed that while many of them had decided at the time of the evacuation to hang onto their businesses and run them through managers and by mail, many had reached the conclusion now after numerous difficulties with absentee proprietorship that it would be better to sell out and start anew someday. Hotels, restaurants, farm properties, and other businesses have been sold. The absentee proprietors' troubles are exemplified by the case of a Seattle hotel owner who left the place under the management of a Caucasian. The managership changed hands five times within six months and he finally received word from a Seattle city health official that the latest manager had abandoned the hotel, that there was no clean linen for the tenants, that there was no heat, and that the hotel was rapidly being emptied.

COUNSELOR: No undue increase in social and domestic problems was noted by the counselor's staff. More single young men expressed a desire to leave their parents' homes and live in bachelor quarters. In many cases these young men had not been living with their parents prior to evacuation.

Because a number of elderly evacuees have comparatively young wives, and because the husbands are now "underfoot" more than formerly, some difficulties have arisen.

The determination of need for assistance grants for clothing, eye glasses, and special grants was a major function. About 95% of the center's residents received clothing grants on the basis of work or need.

A hospital annex was established in a barnack near the hospital for old people who were not hospital cases, but who were unable to take care of themselves.

There were 28 marriages in which one or both of the principals were residents. Fifteen ceremonies were performed outside the center and 13 inside.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: This program was hampered by a lack of materials, recreation halls, and other equipment, and by interruptions in planned program due to residents leaving the center on harvest work furlough.

Most of the outside workers returned in time to participate in the Christmas celebration which was the first community-wide affair and resulted in wide-spread cooperation and a general uplift in morale. A total of 17,000 Christmas gifts were received from outside individuals, church groups, and other groups for the children in the center. This evidence of goodwill had a noticeable effect upon the residents. A highlight of the Christmas celebration was the competition among the dining halls for the best decorations out of the limited supplies and materials at hand. The ingenuity in using sagebrush, wood shavings, tin cans, and scrap materials impressed

all who saw the decorated halls.

Since much of the leisure time of the residents is devoted to arts and handicrafts, an exhibit on these products was a big event in the center and attracted 5,000 visitors. Polishing the bitterbrush wood found in the project area to make art objects is one of the favorite leisure time diversions of the men as knitting and sewing are among the women.

Buddhist and Protestant churches and schools in Seattle whose members are now Minidoka center residents loaned to the Community Activities department 18 pianos, four organs, more than 2,000 folding chairs and miscellaneous benches and tables which went a long way toward relieving the acute shortage of those articles existing on the project. The Protestant churches formed a Federated Church Council to consolidate activities in the center.

SCHOOLS: By surmounting numerous difficulties, such as lack of classroom space, equipment, and teachers, the Minidoka schools opened during the quarter.

The two elementary schools, one located at each end of the center, opened October 19. One (block 10) opened with an enrollment of 304 and the other (block 32) with an enrollment of 428. There were nine appointed personnel teachers and the principal on duty at the opening of school, and in addition, 22 assistants from the residents. On December 31 there

were 13 appointed personnel teachers and the principal, assistant principal, and 22 resident assistants including two certified teachers. On December 31 five more personnel teachers were en route to the project, leaving the staff just two short. In the block 10 school, four barracks and a recreation hall were partially turned over to the school to make nine classrooms and a recreation hall office for the assistant principal. In the block 32 school, five barracks were partially occupied to make 12 classrooms and the principal occupied the recreational hall.

The high school opened November 16 with an enrollment of 1297. There were 17 teachers and six department heads. On December 31 there were 19 full-time teachers, five directing teachers (such as physical education, librarian, etc.) and six department heads, leaving the staff short six teachers. At the opening of school, 24 residents were assistants and on December 31 there were 23 resident assistants, none of them a certified teacher. All or part of nine barracks in block 23, the utility building, dining hall, and recreation hall, and the recreation halls in blocks 22 and 24 were turned over to the high school and remodeled into classrooms. The science laboratory was set up in the laundry room, and the dining hall was made into a study-library.

Wet weather conditions turned the areas around the schools into muddy morasses. Lack of desks, books, and other

classroom equipment and the absence of suitable recreational facilities handicapped the school program at the start. The pupils came from many different schools (high school enrollment was from 56 different schools) and it took several weeks to get acquainted. As the quarter ended, school activities such as a newspaper and mixers were underway to help create a more normal school atmosphere. The high school department launched a program to put students over 16 on a work experience schedule, one-half day in school, and one-half day in actual work on the project in the same field in which they were studying. For this they received half pay. About 200 of the 500 students over 16 were participating in such a program as the quarter ended, mainly as carpenters, mechanics, nurses' aides, waitresses, and typists.

Arrangements were made with the Idaho Vocational Education department to furnish equipment and night school teachers for a retraining program. The project furnished warehouse space. The equipment may be used for high school shop classes during the day.

ADULT EDUCATION: The adult education department program got underway in November with beginning English Americanization classes attracting 150 to 200 evacuee residents, mostly elderly people and mainly women. Three evacuee teachers conducted the afternoon and evening classes. Shorthand and typing classes

attracted about 170. A stenographers' pool of 35, who receive half pay for working from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. and two hours on Saturday afternoon, was started to train typists and, at the same time, to get voluminous project business typing done. The advanced mathematics classes drew about 32 people interested in learning or in refreshing geometry and algebra. Afternoon classes of American government and American history were well attended with about 50 residents in each class. Other classes and the approximate attendance were bookkeeping, 53; radio physics and code program, 10; office program, 35; accounting, 5; and Biology, 8.

Attendance at the adult classes depended largely on the weather. About 20 evacuees and six appointed personnel were teaching with half of the evacuee teachers working on other jobs, and, therefore, teaching the adult classes on volunteer basis.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES: With a number of experienced businessmen from Seattle and Portland among the residents, the growth of Community Enterprises was steady and rapid culminating with the filling of articles of incorporation of the Minidoka Consumers' Co-operation December 22 in Washington, D. C.

Many new services were added during the quarter as gross income climbed from \$33,558 in October to \$80,647 in December and the payroll from 76 persons on October to 168 on December 31.

The two dry good stores which did only \$86 worth of business in September had a volume of \$11,670 in December. More clothing would have been sold if it had been available. Buyers for the stores found it increasingly difficult to maintain an adequate or even close to adequate inventory as merchandise grew more restricted due to wartime conditions. They were looking ahead to further rationing, especially to the proposed point rationing program on canned goods. The stores adhered strictly to rationing requirements and even went further. When coffee was rationed, it would have been possible for the stores to stock up ahead of the start of rationing since they would be allowed to sell out their stock. However, they did not choose to do this.

Showing of motion pictures was started during the quarter under a program allowing all students free admission and charging adults 10¢. The movies are now shown twice a night alternating for several nights between a theater set up in a rec. hall in one end of the center and a similar building at the other end. The gross was \$578 in December. Other services established and their December grosses include: a flower shop, \$1020; two barber shops, \$687; two watch repair shops, \$434; beauty shop, \$767; shoe repair shop, \$528;

and general and radio repair shop, \$1126. An optical department to secure eyeglasses for residents was established in December and grossed \$192. A center bus service was started but abandoned almost immediately because of the difficulties of operation.

Services begun prior to October 1 expanded during the quarter. The four general merchandise stores which had a gross business of \$7192 in August rang up \$42,790 in December. The two mail order departments which did a \$13,662 business in September grossed \$20,273 in December. The newspaper distribution service gross gained from \$277 in September to \$534 in December. The telegraph department income increased from \$48 in October to \$171 in December. In charge of the affairs of the co-operative was a temporary department income increased from \$48 in October \$171 in December. In charge of the affairs of the co-operative was a temporary board of 14 members, all Issei except one.

EVACUEE MORALE: There were no outbreak or large scale demonstrations of evacuee sentiments during the period. The lack of indoor flush toilets, especially after they had been promised time and time again, was a particularly sore spot to the residents. Another major disturbing factor was the lack of coal for heating residences until mid-November prior to which there was cold weather which caused considerable discomfort. The first pay (for September) was not distributed until toward the middle of November, and up to that time, morale among the workers was not as good as it was later. There was sporadic grumbling by small groups until certain conditions in the center were gradually corrected. As stoves were installed in all barracks, as delivery of food occurred on schedule, as street

lights were installed, as the winter moisture ended the dust condition, and as pay days and clothing grants arrived some regularity, the residents made fewer protests.

There were a few rumors widely circulated, but none of them proved permanently harmful. One of the more disturbing ones had the center being evacuated in the near future by removal of the residents to another center, and so well founded was the rumor that many residents changed plans because of it. The relocation program was hurt by the rumor that residents who left on indefinite leave could not return to the center under any circumstances. The prevalence of gonorrhea touched off rumors about the sanitary conditions of the hospital and also made residents fearful of using the outdoor latrines. These and other rumors did not materialize from nothing, but were caused by erroneous assumptions based on half truths or misinterpretations of other occurrences. The administration followed the policy of revealing all the facts to smother the rumors.

Physical conditions had much to do with the attitude of the residents, especially the workers. The weather was very wet turning the center into a quagmire. On particularly unpleasant days, the morale of the people in general seemed to fall, and a reverse result was noted when the weather was good. During the early part of the period when the dining hall staff had not been organized, and the poor cooks weeded out, there was considerable discontent over the food.

There was little evidence of wide breaks between different age groups and political groups. While the people grouped themselves into natural divisions with common interests friction between

these groups did not approach a danger point, There seemed to be more differences of opinion between young and old than between political groups. The second generation seemed to feel that the older people were prone to restrict their entertainment and activities. The success of the Christmas celebration showed that all ages were inclined to cooperate on projects of mutual interest. Anonymous letters attacked leaders of the J. A. C. L. and also registered complaints over imagined partiality shown the second generation.

The center residents were fortunate in maintaining contacts with the outside through the 500 commuting workers and through the 1800 evacuees who lived outside during the harvest season. This helped to break down the isolated and confined feeling among the residents.

The barbed wire fence which was erected during the quarter was and remains the greatest source of displeasure to the residents. They feel it was entirely unnecessary, and to them symbolizes and accentuates their confinement.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: The public's attitude toward the evacuees was worthy of notice in areas where the two were in contact such as Twin Falls and Jerome, cities nearest the center and also accessible to farm workers, and the smaller farming towns such as Filer, Rupert, and Gooding where evacuee farm workers were located.

The trend of public opinion seemed to be easy to follow. This area was depopulated to a certain extent by the military services and war industries, and the arrival of the evacuee buying power was welcomed. As the harvest season progressed and more and more evacuees were able to visit the towns to shop, see a movie, eat in restaurants

etc., a reaction set in and as shortages became more pronounced, they were blamed on evacuee shoppers even though the shortages were part of a national condition. Also crowded conditions in stores, theaters, and restaurants were laid to the evacuees with some justification. Merchants wanted the evacuee business every day of the week except Saturday when the non-Japanese customers could keep their stores busy. At the close of the harvest season, the pendulum swung back and merchants who had stocked up on small sized became concerned about the absence of evacuee shoppers. They became so concerned in Twin Falls that the Chamber of Commerce launched a squelch-the-rumor campaign to combat antagonism toward the evacuees through the newspaper, through store clerks, through churches, and through service clubs. The first rumor spiked through the Twin Falls newspaper was that evacuee residents got Prestone antifreeze which was unavailable to the public.

Newspapers in the area were completely fair and of their own accord refrained from printing rumors and antagonistic letters to the editor which would start a public controversy over the evacuees and the W.R.A. program. The newspapers invariably used press releases from the reports officer without altering them, and were entirely cooperative in handling news from the center.

An important part of public relations was personal contact between the center and outsiders. During the three-month period, 11 groups including service clubs, church people, farmers, and youth groups and totaling 604 persons toured the center. They saw at first hand the evacuees at work and saw where they live, eat, go to church, go to school, and play. It appeared to be very valuable in promoting better understanding between the evacuees and those who had never before been around persons of Japanese ancestry.

In addition, 22 of the appointed personnel, principally the director, assistant director, and community services personnel, spoke outside at the invitation of clubs and various other groups.

COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT: The seven members of the community government planning commission continued to work on the proposed charter.

FIRE PROTECTION DEPARTMENT: Harvest furloughs made it difficult to maintain a full fire crew. The crew fluctuated from 37 members on October 1 to 12 members on October 13, and 58 back to firemen and 9 firewomen on December 31. In a recent poll to determine how many plan to go out again this year, 48 out of the 58 firemen said they would go out as soon as they had the chance. Firewomen were trained to relieve the shortage of men. No fire of any size occurred on the project during the quarter.

INTERNAL SECURITY: The Internal Security staff of 98 persons was confronted with little crime. It functioned principally as an investigating bureau for leave clearance records, as a lost and found department, on patrol duty, and to cope with minor violations of the law, such as occasional drunkenness of workers back from the beet fields, petty thefts, and minor disturbances. Seventy-four members with the force are non-citizens, and 24 are citizens. The head of the department, C. D. Lee, wrote a police training syllabus for use in the extensive training program which was just getting underway as the period ended.

Harry L. Stafford,
Project Director

by John Bigelow,
Reports Officer

MINIDOKA WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Hunt, Idaho

Apr. 29, 1943

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report for Period Ending March 31, 1943

Introduction: In the first three months of 1943, the Minidoka Relocation Center passed through the most crucial period of its existence. The WRA registration for leave clearance and the volunteering for induction into the Army were comparable to evacuation in the effects they had on the evacuee residents. Once again the memories of humiliating experiences of evacuation and deep-seated bitterness over past discriminations were brought to the surface to create a turmoil of emotions in the minds of those affected.

It seemed at first that no good would come from this reopening of old wounds. However, the volunteering of 304 evacuee residents to lead all the centers indicated that perhaps a better feeling and a more wholesome attitude did result. The endless discussions and debates on volunteering served to crystallize the residents' thoughts on relocation and to get rid of a lot of bitterness which had been harbored in their minds since evacuation.

The center itself did not progress much physically during this quarter because the registration and volunteering absorbed such a large proportion of the time and energy of the administration staff and residents.

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Japanese Relocation Papers
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Employment
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Health
Pub. Rel.
Education
Social Work

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There were fluctuations in population due to work leaves and transfers. On January 1 there were still many out on work leave and the center's population was 9091. The population reached an alltime peak of 9393 on February 26 following the transfer of 193 former residents of Bainbridge Island (Wash.) from the Manzanar center. On March 31 more than 800 had left the center on various types of leave and the population was 9138.

Registration on Army Volunteering: Secretary of War Stimson's announcement of January 28 that American citizens of Japanese ancestry could be accepted into the U. S. Army for duty in a special all-Nisei combat team started a cycle of events of far-reaching consequence. While many developments had run a complete course before the period ended, there were still many aspects of volunteering and registration still alive. As the period ended, it was just beginning to be realized that the registration for leave clearance and the volunteering were steps in the direction of segregation and that the future of relocation and of the relocation centers tied in directly with attitudes displayed during registration and volunteering.

Secretary Stimson's announcement touched off a display of enthusiasm on the part of the more vocal residents, the young evacuee citizens who saw in it a belated recognition of their citizenship.

There followed in a day or two a reaction as prospective volunteers and their families grew aware of the full signi-

ficance and far-reaching implications of the announcement. The first news was sketchy and in the absence of any explanation the fact that an all-Nisei unit would be formed was interpreted as rank segregation or "Jim Crowism".

The project administration realized from the outset that the Army volunteering could not be put across by themselves alone and that the advice of evacuee leaders be necessary to make an intelligent approach to the rest of the residents so that there would be a complete understanding of the motives and implications of the volunteering. With this purpose in mind, members of the community government planning commission and other leaders, both young and old, were called together and the entire proposal laid before them. This group of leaders raised the same questions about the volunteering that were to be raised later by other residents time and time again. These were questions involving the segregation aspect of all-Nisei combat unit, the uncertain future facing alien parents if their citizen sons were killed and they were unable to own property; the fact that they would be fighting to uphold the government and principles which had resulted in discrimination against them and caused them many hardships. After long discussion and debate this group decided that regardless of the past it was the responsibility of the Japanese people to make the volunteering program a success in order to secure a better future for generations to come in this country.

While the support of this evacuee group was invaluable, equally important was the service they performed in guiding the administration's approach to the evacuees taking into account the Oriental psychology. The Army approach was notably unaware of the difference between American and the Japanese ways of looking at things.

It remained for the administrative staff to provide the incentive and the mechanics to put over the registration and volunteering program. The administration was fully aware of the task they faced. In 30 days it had to develop a body of opinion in the community almost directly contrary to the prevailing community attitude. It had taken many normal American communities almost two years to come around to supporting the war effort and these communities did not have a background of discrimination, oppression and evacuation.

The assistant project director held preliminary meetings before the arrival of the Army team to get discussion of the program started to bring the real issues to the surface and to channel thinking into a logical stream. Mass meetings were held throughout the center to present the volunteering program officially by the Army representatives.

The resistance to the volunteering stemmed from the past and the concensus was that the government was asking too much when in the recent past they have been deprived of citizenship rights and had suffered economic reverses and humiliations of all sorts in what they believed was violation of their con-

stitutional rights.

The volunteering program started slowly. The names of the volunteers were kept secret and when a boy volunteered he did not know if he was the first and only one. In retrospect this appeared to be a mistake. Latter in the program when volunteers were wearing a sleeve insignia and the volunteers knew who had volunteered, there developed immediately a much better attitude. Almost overnight volunteering became something to be proud of. When the regular period of volunteering ended 175 had come forth. Convinced that many were still on the fence and that the success of relocation depended on a large extent upon the show of volunteers, the administration staged a final series of four meetings and sent personal invitations to every citizen male over 16. These meetings were short and dramatic with straight-from-the-shoulder talks by the project director, assistant project director and volunteers. After these meetings the volunteers total was 270 plus 11 aliens and 14 conditional volunteers, the latter being men who asked for commissions. Subsequent volunteering raised the total to 304 by the end of the period.

The volunteers became the heroes of the hour and were entertained extensively at block banquets, formal banquets, private parties and other programs. They were given special privileges enabling them to go to Twin Falls to have family photographs taken and in other ways to prepare for induction.

One bad feature of the volunteering was the lapse of time between the end of the volunteering period and the call for incursion. When the period ended nearly two months had passed since many volunteers had volunteered and the prospect was that they would have to wait another month before leaving for the training camp.

Leaves: The departure of evacuee residents on indefinite leave mostly to take outside employment was accelerated. While the advent of the farming season was one of the chief reasons for the increase in departures, most farm workers left on short term or group leaves. The affect upon project operations became increasingly apparent as important workers in various departments left. This trend at the end of March was gaining momentum.

A total of 325 indefinite leaves were granted in the period of January 1 to March 31 as follows:

<u>Type</u>		<u>Number</u>
Social		24
	1. Join husband, family, etc.	18
	2. Mixed marriage	3
	3. To be married	3
Volunteering		1
School		81
Employment		196
	Agricultural	53
	Clerical	18
	Restaurant work	13
	Instructor in Japanese	4
	YMCA work	1
	Fishery	2
	Greenhouse	3
	Poultry house	1
	Mechanic	4
	Porter	1
	Commercial artist	1
	Foreman	1
	Handy man	1

Optometrist	1	Domestic	61
Hotel	6	Gov't service	3
		Bakery work	3
		Chick-sexer	2
		Grocery	1
		Nursery school	1
		Establish business	2
		Hospital	3
		Refrigerator servicer	2
		Janitor	1
		Warehouse	1
		Chauffeur	1
		Maintenance	1
		Laboratory Technician	1
		Miscellaneous	3
Accompany parents, husbands, etc.			23
		Total	325

The totals at the end of March were: Indefinite leave, 429; short term leave, 99; group leave, 339.

The principal factor in relocating seemed to be economic. Few family groups went out. Generally the head of the family left and his family remained in the center. Despite continual spiking, the rumor persisted that once an evacuee left the center he could not, under any circumstances, return. Perhaps some grounds for the rumor were in the administrative policy of encouraging family units to accompany the wage earner when he left. Week-end visits of the wage-earner out on indefinite leave to his family remaining in center were discouraged.

The granting of financial assistance by the WRA to those with indefinite leave needing such assistance was too new to be well enough understood in general to provide incentive for

going out. Also a major factor was the actual fear on the part of evacuee residents relocating in the mid-west and far from the center were mostly young people. Many of the older residents took farm jobs in the region of the center. However, numerous young evacuees showed a preference for western locations such as Denver, Ogden and Salt Lake City. Girls displayed a desire to take domestic jobs since they were the quickest way of getting out of the center. Stenographers in the center did not hesitate to take manual jobs outside.

Agriculture: Faced with the prospect of diminishing food supplies for civilian consumption, the project farm program was aimed in the direction of providing subsistence for the center residents. Because the farm area was in sagebrush about five times more work was necessary than to cultivate ordinary ground. Additional handicaps were a shortage of farm workers and a lack of heavy equipment. To overcome the former, volunteer groups from other departments, including administrative appointed personnel, spent time in the fields breaking and burning sagebrush. At the close of the period it appeared that 350 to 400 acres of ground near the east side of the center would be planted in vegetables. If labor is available later on some acreage far out from the center may be put into field crops. A poultry farm and possibly some hogs were planned to be added to the agriculture operation.

Internal Security: The Army volunteering caused some clashes among residents of the center, especially among workers in various departments. Some members of the fire department who volunteered did not speak for several days to members who did not. The same was true among warehouse crews. A mother locked her son out of the apartment after he volunteered. Yet no violence occurred and no demonstrations were staged during this tense period. The Internal Security was occupied with promoting traffic safety, with performing watch and patrol duties, with maintaining the peace and performing investigating service in connection with leave applications.

The absence of a jail on the project was not noticed except by those who saw a good psychological effect. One case was taken to an outside court. An 18 year-old boy pleaded guilty to forgery in a Twin Falls court sentence was suspended pending his good behavior and he was placed in the custody of the Chief of the Internal Security department. There were a few cases of drunkenness and gambling.

The project's traffic safety record remained good. The most serious accident to date occurred in March when a 6-year-old school girl darted in front of an automobile and suffered a fractured skull. A schoolboy patrol was formed in the elementary schools.

Placement: The most significant development in project placement was getting underway as the period ended. When it became evident that the outside demand for labor and a

simplified leave procedure would result in a labor shortage on the project, the placement office began a study of those working and those not working.

It was found that many residents were not doing the work in which they were experienced. A total of 214 farmers were found doing other work in various departments mostly in the Stewards division and in Public Works. Steps were taken to transfer them from these jobs to the farm division. The placement office began a personal and more careful study of job requirements in order to fill placement requisitions more intelligently.

Because the payment of unemployment compensation would be illogical while an acute labor shortage existed on the project, suitability of a job to an unemployed resident was eliminated as a basis for unemployment compensation. Each of the 298 women drawing unemployment compensation was offered a job in the hospital as a nurses' aide. Fourteen accepted and the others were taken off the unemployment compensation rolls. Ten of the 23 men drawing unemployment compensation were ill and jobs offered were made to the others. Thus unemployment compensation was virtually eliminated on the project and at the same time there was removed cause for disgruntlement among the residents because an idle resident was receiving more than half as much as a working resident.

The placement office abandoned memorandum procedure in favor of personal contact in trying to get 250 and 450 women, all able-bodied and not registered for employment, into project jobs. Of the men 60 per cent were between the ages 16-19 and 55-64.

The education department pushed its training program of high school students and 286 students were employed on a half-time basis in many divisions. The typing pool to train stenographers and typist was drained all but its student members. It appeared that the high school students would be the principal source of office labor in the months to come.

As of March 31, 4652 were employed on the project compared with 4157 three months earlier. Employment by divisions was:

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Administration	48	86	134
Community Enterprise	123	89	212
Community Service	140	232	272
Employment	28	51	79
Fire Department	57	8	65
Housing	70	17	87
Information	15	10	25
Internal Security	107	3	110
Medical	164	281	445
Public Works	874	191	1065
Steward	937	737	1644
Transportation & Supply	326	34	360
War Works	52	2	54
TOTAL	2911	1741	4652

The Army volunteers who were still on the project at the close of the period nearly two months after their volunteering kept the project in an upset state. Many of them quit their jobs and spent much of their time hanging around their former working place which distracted the other workers. Many parents quit their jobs to spend the remaining time with their

volunteer sons.

Outside Employment: The start of the farming season set in motion the wholesale recruiting of labor by sugar beet companies' representatives and individual farmers. While the army program was in progress outside employment activity was in the background, but by the end of the quarter the signing up of groups and individuals for agriculture work was in full swing.

As of March 31 there were 338 working in outside group employment and 392 on indefinite work leave.

Agricultural and domestic jobs continue to be the principal work offered. Many girls who were doing office work on the project took domestic jobs on indefinite leave simply because this was the quickest way to get out of the center and relocate.

Community Government: The community government planning commission was inactive until late in the period. After the registration and army volunteering program was finished, new attention was focused on community government. The planning commission felt that some step should be taken to accomplish something in this direction. Because the project director and members of the administrative staff felt that the plan for community government set up in administrative instructions was not workable to the benefit of the community, an alternative was sought. It was decided that some sort of an ad-

visory committee would be the best organization to give the residents a voice in the administration of the community. As the quarter ended, steps were being taken in this direction.

Consumers' Enterprise: The Minidoka Consumers' Enterprise staged its membership drive during the period and as of March 31 had 2,463 members or about one for every family in the center. Total paid-in share capital was \$11,576 and in addition residents purchased \$10,050 in bonds. As of February 28, the latest report available, there was an unallocated inventory especially in general merchandise because much of the goods ordered for winter sales did not arrive until most of the cold weather was over.

The Co-op operated 17 enterprises including four general merchandise stores, two dry good stores, two laundry and dry cleaning pickup locations, two barber shops, one beauty shop, two shoe repair shops, two watch repair shops, two general and radio repair shop, one floral shop, two mail order department, a newspaper department, a ticket selling service for the commercial bus line to Twin Falls and way points, a rice sales department, a fish store, three motion picture theaters, one optical department, and a western Union desk.

The mail order business fell off after Christmas and in anticipation of the new catalogs. Rationing of canned foods, soups and other processed foods dealt a severe blow to sales

of these items since the residents formerly purchased large quantities of soups and canned fruits and fruit juices to supplement their project meals.

New enterprises included a ticket selling desk for the commercial bus service established by an outside agency between the project and Twin Falls; a fish store which was immediately successful; a rice sales department and the publishing of the project newspaper. Gross volume of all Co-op enterprises continue to run about \$70,000 a month with the net income running between 12 and 15 per cent.

The permanent board of directors was installed in March and permanent job appointments were made.

The shoe repairing situation remained one of the biggest problems. The two shops were so far behind on orders that shoe repairs were put on a ration basis with tickets available at block managers' offices. The Co-op was still trying to get equipment and personnel to set up a third shoe.

In February the Board of Directors voted to assume the responsibility of publishing the project newspaper and the first issue under Co-op sponsorship came out February 27. Although the paper has not yet paid its own way, the Co-op has willingly taken a small loss in order to provide the community with a printed newspaper with no subscription cost. The Japanese section continued to be mimeographed. Costs of this section and the wages and clothing allowances of the entire staff were paid by the WRA.

Fire Protection: The Minidoka project continued to be free from serious fires. During the period a crew inspected every dining hall and H-type sanitary building. In addition fire drills were organized in the schools and volunteer fire crews were started throughout the center. A volunteer crew of young men to fight forest and grange fires during this summer at the request of the U. S. Grazing Service and U. S. Forest Service was also set up. Facing a prospect of a manpower shortage due to the enlistment of 18 members in the army and the plans of many others to leave the center, steps were taken to utilize whatever labor remained on the project.

Evacuee Induction: A group of 193 former residents of Bainbridge Island (Wash.) were transferred to Minidoka from Manzanar late in February. This was the only large group transferred to the center. Applications for transfers to this center from other centers continued to be about 10 times more numerous than applications for transfer from this center to other centers.

Housing: The evacuee housing board assumed more responsibilities for making changes of residents' quarters to provide space for schools and offices. Because there were more large apartments than needed and not enough small apartments, the partitioning of two large-size apartments in one barrack in every block was begun. There were no doubled-up families at

the end of the period except seven by their own choice.

Religion: Catholic, Protestant and Buddhist religions activities were developed during the period. The Federated Christian Church, a consolidation of all-Protestant churches except Episcopal made many outside contacts through small groups, musical and religious, which appeared at churches in the surrounding area. The Catholic group held a joint meeting with a group of 60 men from Jerome and Wendell and a group of a younger people held a joint meeting with young people from Twin Falls.

Health and Sanitation: Hospital records showed a tendency of the project residents to seek minor medical attention although fewer residents required hospitalization. Both births and deaths showed a small increase compared with the previous quarter.

In the three months ended March 31 there were 310 in-patients compared with 406 the previous quarter; 6853 out-patients against 4636 the previous quarter; 4230 dental patients against 2981; 38 births against 31 and 14 deaths against 12. The average occupancy of the hospital was 106 patients.

The general health picture was good. Occurrence of childhood communicable disease was practically negligible. Neisserian infections which appeared in January and February were completely cleared up by March. Cultures were run at Twin Falls laboratory and the reports were all negative for

Neisserian infection. There remained considerable doubt as to the exact causative organism involved. The placing of the sewerage into operation for the entire project actually improved sanitary conditions and also had a very beneficial affect upon the morale of the residents.

The medical program was carried out with a reduced staff. Part of the time there were only two full-time physicians besides the principal medical officer. There was a constant necessity for employing and training new personnel because of the acceleration of the relocation program in the project. It was necessary to start recruiting older men and women as well as high school part-time workers for aides and attendants in the wards. About 80 volunteers for the Army were from the hospital personnel. At the start of the quarter the evacuee personnel in the hospital included six physicians, one assistant physician, six registered nurses, three student nurses, 87 full-time nurses' aides, 19 part-time nurses' aides, 30 full-time male attendants and one part-time male attendant. On March 31 the staff included five physicians, one assistant physician, and three interns; five registered nurses' aides, 13 full-time male attendants, one part-time male attendant and three public health aides.

The public health nurse made 937 visits to homes during the period. Especially during the outbreak of venereal infection in January she was instrumental in securing the evacuee

residents' cooperation in appearing for examinations and in other health and sanitation matters.

Mess Operations: The important part of the stewards division's work which was also carried out by other divisions was education of the evacuee residents in the general food situation existing throughout the nation, in particular the likelihood of diminishing supplies for civilian consumption. Different groups were contacted in this program of acquainting the residents with the facts of food rationing and the necessity for working on the project farm to raise vegetables for their own dining halls.

Procurement: The procurement division had the problem of getting the cooperation of evacuee residents and appointed personnel in complying with rationing and priority regulations. Priority restrictions affected so much construction work and planning on the project that it was necessary for the procurement division to work at length with all departments to obtain an understanding of the complex situation.

Public Relations: The Minidoka project passed through another three-month period without suffering any serious outbreak directed against the relocation center.

The fact that the Minidoka center led all the centers in the number of army volunteers and the fact that this number (more than 300 or 19 per cent of the eligibles) was considerably higher than the public response to volunteering

were publicized and did much to convince the public in this region that the great majority of the Minidoka center residents are loyal Americans.

Much credit for the harmonious relations between the residents of the center and residents of nearby communities, notably Twin Falls, Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in lining up solid support for the center. The editor and publisher of the Twin Falls daily newspaper, the general manager of the largest department store, the president of the ministerial association and others helped to influence public sentiment in favor of the evacuees.

The volunteers and members of their family were given passes from the center and large numbers of them visited Twin Falls. It was publicized who these persons were and there was no incident involving these people. In general there prevailed a satisfactory condition in this region concerning the relocation center. There remains some isolated instances of prejudices and as the period ended plans were being made to have prominent people in this group visit the center in the hope that such a visit would change their attitude.

Contacts between center residents and outsiders were numerous. The Minidoka Mass Choir sang three concerts to a total of 3500 people in Jerome, Twin Falls and Rupert. Smaller musical groups and school groups also made valuable contacts. The number of visitors to the center declined sharply indicating that curiosity of the center had been pretty

well satisfied.

Steps were taken to secure a better understanding of the evacuees who left the center to work in agricultural communities. In the interest of obtaining maximum efficiency in the use of evacuee labor for production of food in the war effort, there was cooperation from United States Department of Agriculture agencies, war boards and local labor committees and farm groups. The experience of evacuee workers from the Minidoka center in Idaho harvest fields last fall was satisfactory on the whole and as good a season or better was anticipated as the result of pre-season steps taken by the project in cooperation with other groups.

While there was no single incident of discrimination or outbreak of prejudice, some anti-Japanese sentiment was still close enough to the surface to be brought into the open by the slightest excuse. Late in the period reports were given circulation that the WRA was aiding evacuees in the acquisition of farm land and at least two state and city groups were ready to take drastic steps on the basis of such reports without first investigating them.

Community Activity: Community activity centered around the Army volunteers. After the volunteering program succeeded, the community threw itself into a month-long period of banquets and programs honoring those who volunteered. In mid-March four formal banquets were held in different sections of

the center. The volunteers and parents, Japanese-American soldiers already in the Army and their parents were invited to these affairs. Leaders of the community, both young and old, some of the volunteers, the project director and the assistant project director were the speakers. These were impressive affairs paying tribute to the spirit of sacrifice displayed by the volunteers to be torchbearers along the road to a better understanding of the Japanese-American people.

As soon as good weather arrived, construction of play fields, ball diamonds and other outdoor recreational facilities was started. Since heavy machinery was not available to any extent, most of this work had to be done by hand by volunteer crews. This program like many others on the project suffered from the lack of manpower and from the lack of enthusiasm unwillingness of many residents since relocation was just around the corner for them.

The evacuee residents participated wholeheartedly in fund-raising drives for worthy causes. These were spontaneous and not inspired by administrative sources. At four regular Saturday night dances on January 30 collections were taken for the president's infantile paralysis fund and \$45.50 was raised. A total of \$2595 was collected in the Red Cross war drive.

Contacts with national organizations were kept alive.

The Boy Scouts participated in a National Boy Scout Week celebration at Twin Falls. A one-day conference of YMCA leaders and Girls Reserves attracted nearly 100 visitors from nearby towns. A volunteer group was organized by the Fire Protection department to help the U. S. Grazing Service and U. S. Forest Service fight brush and forest fires this summer.

Community recreation was hampered by lack of sufficient recreation halls (many halls were used for other purposes such as offices, schools, stores, etc.) and the absence of a community building larger than a dining hall.

Education: The Minidoka center schools made notable progress during the quarter in the accomplishment of matters which had been in planning for several months. Training courses and adult education were expanded; state and federal vocational training departments provided teachers and equipment for classes in farm machinery, auto mechanics, carpentry, electricity and the production, conservation and use of food. Recognition was secured for evacuee resident teachers to gain three credits a semester from the University of Idaho for this work and for other professional courses. Evacuee with a least sophomore rating in college were eligible.

The training courses assumed added importance as the project labor supply diminished. The high school students, working now part-time and later to work full-time, will be one of the chief sources of workers to relieve the project shortage.

The fact that school started late and will not be out until mid-July was an unfavorable factor. The elementary schools brought out their first student growth reports which were developed after considerable thought and study. They were individual reports of attitude and progress and contained enough of the old familiar comparative gradings to satisfy the parents that Hunt school were regular schools.

School teaching vacancies totaled five in the elementary school where 18 appointed and 22 evacuee taught; and eight in junior-senior high school where 26 appointed and 26 evacuee teachers taught.

On leave from the project to attend college were 86 men and 46 women.

Welfare: Public assistant grants increased month by month; 35 in January, 50 in February and 82 in March. The counselor believed this was due to diminishing cash reserves of evacuee residents. The majority of those receiving assistance were elderly single persons.

Declinations of former applications for repatriation increased. It appeared from the reasons put forth that many who applied for repatriation during assembly center residence did so in their bewilderment at evacuation and in their bitterness toward the government. Now their faith is being restored and their uncertainty about their future status is being dispelled.

H. L. Stafford,
Project Director

by John Bigelow, Reports Officer

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER
Hunt, Idaho

July 23, 1943

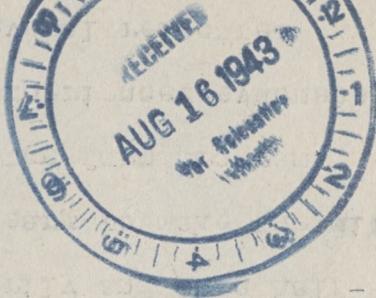
To: D. S. Myer, Director
Attention: John C. Baker, Chief, Office of Reports
Subject: Quarterly Report for Period Ended June 30, 1943

W-1
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

The work of making farm fields out of raw sageland to produce food crops for the center's subsistence actually got underway this quarter. It was a long up-hill struggle for three months but as the quarter ended some fields were already producing vegetables and the accomplishments were such that the program was being continued in the confidence that a year from now the center would be producing much of its own food.

Labor and machinery were the two key factors in the land development program. The labor situation was complicated by several factors including the inexperience of the evacuee residents in farming and their lack of desire to work in the hot dusty sagebrush and the relocation of many qualified farmers in permanent and seasonal agricultural jobs in the inter-mountain region. High school students were the saving factor and by contributing both voluntarily and on a half-time work basis provided the help necessary to make the difference between success and failure of the farm program.

There were not many mechanically experienced evacuees in the center in the first place and several relocated

A circular blue ink stamp is located in the upper right corner of the document. The outer ring of the stamp contains the numbers 1 through 12, representing the hours of the day. The word "RECEIVED" is printed in a curved path at the top. The date "AUG 16 1943" is printed in the center. Below the date, the text "Mr. Tolson" is written, followed by a signature.

quickly. After trying to teach a number of evacuees how to operate Fordsons, tractors, and patrols it was found necessary to employ outside persons to operate some of the heavy equipment. High school boys showed a typical enthusiasm for driving this equipment. At first this enthusiasm was satisfied by the promiscuous driving of Fordsons in the sagebrush after hours. After several were damaged by this racing around the sagebrush at night three boys were lodged in the Jerome County jail and other steps were taken to discourage this sort of thing and to divert the boys' enthusiasm into proper channels by employing them as drivers. The school department arranged its class schedule so that identical classes were held both morning and afternoon so that students could work shifts without losing schooling.

Because of the nature of the farming area which is broken by outcroppings of lava the fields had to be developed by individual units ranging from five acres to 80 acres lying under ridges along which flows the irrigation lateral and ditches. This virgin land is fertile, all it needs is water and water is available from the Milner-Gooding canal five miles north-east of the center.

Several methods of clearing fields of sagebrush were tried out before a satisfactory one was found. The first methods tried were used by the pioneers in this area around

1929-1930 when this tract was opened. These included dragging a railroad rail behind a tractor to break off the sagebrush and using a V-type cutter which sliced off the sagebrush just below the ground level. The sagebrush was then pulled out of the dirt by hand, piled and burned. Obviously this method was too slow to clear land as fast as was necessary to produce vegetables on a large scale for the center since clearing raw land for vegetable crops requires four or five times more work than clearing the same land for grain crops. In the first instance it is necessary to plow it several times to get all the sagebrush roots out of the ground; in the latter case the roots can be left to rot.

The method finally worked out, chiefly by the project director and the garage superintendent, was to use a road patrol to blade off the sagebrush followed by a "kicker" to get the sagebrush out of the dirt and a hay rake to rake the brush into piles and wind-rows for burning. The "kicker" is a gadget with six series of prongs sticking out from a shaft set at an angle off an automobile differential. The auto motor powers the "kicker" itself and the device is drawn by a Fordson-Ferguson.

Although mechanical break-downs were frequent a field of approximately 80 acres was cleared in six weeks' time from raw sagebrush to planting condition.

The main lateral off the Milner-Gooding Canal was finished by contractors in June but the center must install drops, weirs, dikes

turn-outs, etc., and it is estimated that this work will be completed at the earliest just in time for work next spring. Irrigation has been accomplished through the temporary lateral constructed mostly by hand labor last August.

After water was put on the farm land, ditches were completed to bring water into the center area giving each block a supply contingent upon the individual construction of ditches between barracks. A high percentage of the residents planted little victory gardens in front of their barracks. Nearly all utilized the water and the arrival of the water was a big event in each block.

At the end of the quarter approximately 350 acres had been cleared and plowed and about 200 acres had been planted in onions, radishes, lettuce, carrots, nappa, peas, tomatoes, pepper, egg plants, cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, string beans, celery, cucumbers, squash, corn cantaloupe and melons. Radishes were the first harvested.

Since the project will be expected to produce much of its own meat a chicken ranch and hog farm were started. About 4500 chicks for eggs and ~~mat~~ were installed on the chicken ranch, the buildings of which were made from scrap lumber. The hog ranch was started with 100 feeder pigs, 49 brood sows, and four boars.

Throughout the farm program volunteer help has been valuable in clearing and burning sagebrush, in repairing irrigation canals, in building land floats (done by the adult education

department) and in planting. It is anticipated that volunteer help will also be necessary to harvest some of the crops. Some of this is already arranged since school groups have assumed complete responsibility for part of the farm development from first to last.

RELOCATION:

The relocation program moved forward but progress slackened toward the end of the period as the more relocateable persons were drained off leaving those hard to place.

The population of the center declined steadily throughout the period from a peak of 9121 on April 4 to 7666 on June 30.

Eight hundred and eighty indefinite leaves were issued during the quarter. As was the case in the past most of the evacuees leaving to take jobs found work in agriculture and in domestic service. A break-down of the types of jobs and of first destinations by states follows:

Agricultural	183
Auto spray painter	1
Accountant	1
Box maker	4
Busboy	5
Bakery work	2
Book-binding	4
Bowling alley	2
Beauty operator	2
Bar tender	1
Buyer	1
Clerical	15
Comptometer operator	3
Cook	16
Country club work	2
Clothing work	1
Cannery	3
Caretaker	2
Domestic	123

Dye work or cleaner	6
Dispatcher	1
Dishwasher	7
Defense work	1
Deliverer	1
Driver	5
Dairy work	6
Driller	1
Electric welder	2
Engineer	2
Equipment operator	1
Food checker	2
Fur company	2
Floor worker	1
Furniture repair	1
Glove factory	4
Government service	3
Greenhouse	1
Grocery clerk	1
Gardener	1
Hotel work	6
Hospital work	6
Handy man	1
Interpreter	1
Instructor in home nursing	1
Instructor in Japanese	6
Instructor in Jujitsu	1
Irrigation work	1
Janitor and janitress	8
Kitchen help	22
Laboratory technician	1
Laborer	3
Laundry work	2
Labor recruiter	1
Locker attendant	1
Lumber work	3
Mining	10
Meat packer	6
Mechanic	20
Metal work	2
Maritime service	1
Merchant marine	1
Map service	1
Maintenance	2
Machinist	4
Nursing	2
Newspaper work	3
Nursemaid	1
Porter	1
Pressman	1
Powermachine operator	1
Pharmacist	1
Produce	1

Photography work	2
Railroad	9
Rock wool company	2
Radio repair	1
Refrigerator service	1
Receiver	1
Shipping clerk	4
Seamstress	2
Steward	1
Student	2
Seaman	1
Salesclerk	1
Shoe repair	1
Stockroom	1
Social work	1
Store work	1
Teaching	1
Tire shop	3
Utility man	1
Waitress	7
Warehouse work	6
Watchmaker and repair	2
To marry	7
Seek employment	51
Hostel	40
NYA	18
YMCA	1
Mixed marriages	9
Accompany parents, husband	96
Join parents, husbands, etc.	42
Miscellaneous	23
Colorado	26
Idaho	227
Illinois	167
Indiana	2
Iowa	5
Michigan	35
Minnesota	33
Missouri	6
Mississippi	1
Montana	18
Nevada	3
New York	3
Nebraska	3
Ohio	51
Oregon	35
South Dakota	1
Tennessee	1
Texas	2
Utah	148
Washington	103
Washington, D.C.	3

Wisconsin	6
Wyoming	1

A total of 1027 seasonal leaves were issued and the majority went to persons to work in food production and conservation in Idaho as the following tabulation shows:

FIRST DESTINATION: (by county and state)

Colorado	
Araphee	3
Laramier	1
Idaho	
Ada	7
Adams	89
Bannock	13
Bingham	4
Blaine	14
Bonneville	1
Canyon	27
Caribou	4
Cassia	13
Elmore	53
Franklin	6
Gooding	6
Jerome	47
Lincoln	4
Madison	10
Owyhee	5
Payette	27
Twin Falls	161
Washington	42
Fremont	1
Minnesota	
Hennepin	1
Montana	
Flathead	34
Ravalli	1
Oregon	
Malheur	54
Portland Railroad workers	67
Utah	
Carbon	2
Davis	48
Deuchesne	6
Elder	66
Salt Lake	52
Weber	48
Washington	
Spokane	6
Walla Walla	50

Washington (cont'd)	
Columbia	46
Franklin	3
Adams	4
Wyoming	
Laramie	1

Three hundred and forty-one short term leaves were issued principally to enable evacuees to investigate employment opportunities. Twenty-six student leaves were issued for youths to attend 19 colleges, and universities, five business colleges and NYA schools. A list of these schools follows:

NYA, Denver Colorado
 University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
 Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio
 Washington State College, Pullman, Wn.
 American University, Washington, D.C.
 Denver Business College, Denver, Colorado
 Otsego School, Emeston, New York
 Boston University, Boston, Mass.
 National College of Education, Evanston, Ill.
 Colorado State College, Ft. Collins, Colo.
 University of Syracuse, Syracuse, New York
 Central Commercial School, Denver, Colo.
 Du Bose Memorial, Monteagle, Tenn.
 Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas
 MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Ill.
 Ogden Business College, Ogden, Utah
 Henager Business College, Salt Lake City, Utah
 University of Missouri, Rollo, Mo.
 Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
 New York Institute of Photo, New York, N.Y.
 Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, Penn.
 St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.
 Bradley Tech., Peoria, Ill.
 Seton School of Nursing, Colorado Springs, Colo (2)

VOLUNTEERS:

The long wait of the young men who volunteered early in

March for induction into the Army to serve in a Nisei combat team came to an end early in April when a medical examining team from Butte, Montana visited the project and screened 289 volunteers. A total of 211 or 73.3 percent were qualified for active service, 28 or 9.3 percent for limited service and 50 or 17.4 percent were rejected and disqualified. A total of 337 volunteered from the Minidoka Center and the discrepancy between the 289 examined and the 337 total was due to the absence of a number of volunteers on short-term leave at the time of the medical examination.

On the evening of April 30 a crowd of 3500 center residents saw the first contingent of 39 volunteers leave for Fort Douglas, Utah, for final medical examinations and induction. Through a misunderstanding, three limited service volunteers were sent and were rejected since those in this classification had not been accepted. Twelve of the first group of volunteers made a radio transcription at KSL, Salt Lake radio station, at the request of the OWI for overseas broadcast to the Orient. These volunteers, all but one giving his name, recorded strong and unqualified statements condemning the militaristic government of Japan and pledging their loyalty to and their desire to fight for the United States.

Other groups of volunteers went by special bus to Fort Douglas at intervals of a week or ten days until by the end

period 169 had been inducted. The majority of the new soldiers returned to the center on their immediate furlough and their presence stimulated the other volunteers and created favorable impressions on the other residents.

Other government and military agencies recruited persons in the center for instruction and study in the Japanese language. These included the Army Language school at Camp Savage, Minnesota, The Navy Language School at Boulder, Colorado, Office of Strategic Services of the Army, and the British Political Warfare Mission. Since most of these people had relocated it was difficult to find persons for this work but about 20 are now engaged in this field from this center.

The Parent-Soldier Association was formed to function as a USO unit in the center. The first meeting was held June 22.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT:

A feeling of insecurity because of the anti-Japanese sentiment expressed by certain groups and individuals in public life and an unwillingness of evacuees to accept jobs available were the principal factors in the decline in the rate of relocation for employment.

The most troublesome problem of the outside employment office was filling job offers from farmers and farm communities in the area of the camp. It was harmful to public relations

when farmers in the area offered good wages and went out of their way to invite evacuee workers from the center, but could not interest them in the jobs.

Following the Washington conference of Project Directors around June 1 new emphasis was placed on relocation and steps were taken to acquaint the residents with the single attitude of the WRA. It was evident that many of the residents perfectly capable of relocation would have to be urged to take the initial step. As the quarter closed this program was just getting underway with the Project Director telling and retelling, emphasizing over and over again, that the objective of the WRA is relocation because relocation is the best answer to the Japanese-American problem in keeping with the principles of our government and with the welfare and responsibilities of this minority group. Little by little the idea was being put across that this relocation center was not a place where evacuees could return without good reason and enjoy board and room at public expense. The inauguration of lodging and meal charges was a step in this direction and it was planned to follow up with other restrictions and controls, such as the re-induction board.

PROJECT EMPLOYMENT:

Project employment decreased from approximately 4500 at the start of the period to around 4,000 at the close of the quarter. Overshadowing all previous activities in this field during the quarter was Mr. Myer's telegram of June 26 setting a project quota of 2900 persons which meant a reduction of approximately 30 per cent and eight-hour efficiency to get the work

done with a smaller staff.

As the period drew to a close workers in non-essential jobs and workers to be affected by reduction of staffs on July 15 were growing concerned about this and meetings were being held in boiler rooms and dining halls, and groups started calling on the Project Director. Prior to Mr. Myer's telegram the project had already started reducing the payroll and on June 30 fair labor board representatives from nearly every working group on the project called on the Project Director and presented recommendations to him for increasing wages to \$45 maximum and \$25 minimum and establishing four or five wage scales instead of the three in effect. They said that this was necessary to make the labor reserve supply workable. This reserve was in process of being established and was to consist of workers in the motor pool, transportation, and maintenance sections and mechanical operators. This was being established to give the project a flexible labor force to be assigned to non-routine jobs and other work of seasonal or temporary nature. Instead of assigning motor equipment and laborers to a certain division and having this equipment and manpower tied up full time whether or not it was utilized full time it was planned to have both labor and equipment furnished by the central reserve to accomplish any job. It was believed that this would also provide a tighter control on the operation and maintenance of motor

cars, trucks and heavy equipment and on working hours. (Another step taken in the conservation of project motor equipment was the licensing after examination of drivers who had to resume some responsibility for the proper operation of this equipment.) This group was unaware at the time of this meeting of the telegram from Mr. Myer and they were surprised to hear that instead of more money and other project working betterments, the trend was the opposite.

Certain types of workers became increasingly scarce as relocation absorbed more of them. Secretaries, typists, and other office workers, machinery operators, mechanics and others were hard to replace. High school students worked part-time doing all sorts of jobs including nursing, typing, waiting on tables, working on the farm, and reporting on the newspaper.

APPOINTED STAFF:

As more experienced evacuees relocated during the quarter it became necessary to add appointed people to the administrative staff. The appointed staff increased from 117 on April 1 to 137 on June 30. The additions were principally carpenters for staff housing, operators of tractors and other farm equipment and, fiscal clerks.

STAFF HOUSING:

Difference between material lists and plans slowed up construction of 13 four family units, three dormitories and a laundry

building for staff housing. But when the quarter ended these units were nearing completion. Until late in the period window glass, wiring, and sinks were chief sources of delay.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION:

The organization commission drafted a charter calling for a community advisory council of seven members to be elected by the voters of the center. This council was designed to fill the gap in community government which had existed at the center since the beginning. On June 19 the residents voted on ratification of the charter and rejected it 2375 to 1566. A total of 74 percent of the 5330 eligible voters cast their ballots.

Several reasons were advanced for the rejection of the charter. The principal reason seemed to be a failure to allow sufficient time for the residents of the center to become familiar with the code of organization and the charter. The code of organization was translated into Japanese but the charter itself was not. The block managers in general opposed the advisory council because they felt it would take away some of their prestige and authority. Some block managers openly campaigned against the charter and others simply failed to inform adequately the residents of their blocks about the election, the charter, and the code of organization. Some of the residents seemed to think that the organization commission was functioning satisfactorily as an advisory group representing the residents with the administration.

Following the election the planning commission resigned

but their resignation was rejected by the Project Director pending election of a formal advisory group. Some minor changes were made in the charter in accordance with suggestions from Mr. Myer and it was decided to resubmit this charter to the residents. An election was called to choose a new congress of representatives, one from each block, to explain the charter fully to the residents and to urge its adoption. This election was to be held early in July.

HOUSING:

The declining population necessitated moving remaining residents to keep occupancy of barracks on an equitable basis. Other barracks had to be vacated to make room for schools and offices. The large rooms in one barrack in each block were altered into smaller size apartments of which the center had a deficiency. More big family apartments were provided when the center was built than were needed.

Getting residents to move was a difficult and delicate matter and called for intelligent action by the housing board. The board tried to emphasize to all residents that their stay here is a temporary one and that no living quarters should be considered permanent. It was especially difficult to secure the ready cooperation of the residents in moving when they had planted victory gardens and had put up shelves and other fixtures in their rooms. With the prospect of the center being filled to capacity before winter the housing board sought to adjust its

occupancy to a proper basis.

Bachelor women developed into the biggest problem in occupancy. While bachelor men with the same cultural interests live together harmoniously in groups of five, the situation has been different with single women. Numerous adjustments had to be made and in many cases it was necessary to put one woman in a small 20 by 12 apartment by herself because she could not get along with any roommate.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

The community carried on many community activities found in normal American towns: A Red Cross drive raised \$2,604; the Boy Scout troop participated in many project programs of a patriotic nature and also took part in a court of honor at Twin Falls; a sumo tourney, the only one to date, was held April 3 and 4 in honor of the volunteers; basketball, baseball, and other sports were played outside after good weather arrived; a six-hole golf course was laid out by enthusiastic devotees of the sport and it was a problem to keep them off the seeded farm area; Funtasia, an outdoor pageant revue, attracted 3,000 spectators on May 8 despite unpleasant weather; the center's flag pole was dedicated April 30 in a brief, impressive ceremony attended by 500 residents and prominent visitors, including representatives of the Twin Falls American Legion Post, military police escort guard company, mayors of Twin Falls and Jerome, president of the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce and president of

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OUTSIDE CONTACTS:

The center residents continued to have numerous contacts with the outside public. With the cooperation of the United States grazing service and the United States forest service, volunteers were organized in the center to respond to calls from the grazing and forest services to help fight range fires. The center decided to contribute this service to the area for public relations. The center's fire department decided in view of the absence of CCC crews and other fire fighters to render this service to the area. These agencies agreed to furnish the Minidoka Center volunteers transportation, food and sleeping bags and pay them 70 cents an hour. Three calls were answered in June--to fight an 80 acre brush fire five miles from the center, to fight a grass fire across the canal from the center and to assist in final stages of controlling a range fire near the town of Minidoka, 60 miles from the center. On the latter fire a crew of 43 men and a cook were out 24 hours and camped overnight.

Fire Station #2 was closed May 26 because of a shortage

of personnel.

A semi-pro baseball team was organized and up to July 1 had played four games in the center and at nearby towns with town teams and had won them all.

On April 23, three soloists from Hunt High School participated in the Southern Idaho music contest at Blackfoot and all three won first places.

Forty-six evacuee student teachers and two appointed teachers spent a day of observation at Burley High School and Albion State Normal School on April 9. They were cordially received.

Twenty-three members of the Issei community choir, an activity of the Federated Christian Church, sang at a Methodist Church Women's group program in Twin Falls April 8. This was the first public contact by an Issei group. A bitter brush and handicraft exhibit was held June 24, 25, 26, in the basement of the Twin Falls Public Library under the auspices of the Union Church Association of Twin Falls. A total of 562 persons visited the exhibit. The Kimberly High School band played a concert at the center April 18.

The Twin Falls Kiwanis Club on May 27 adopted a resolution condemning the use of foreign languages on the streets and in the stores. Although the Japanese evacuees were not mentioned by name there was no doubt at whom the resolution was aimed and furthermore the group sent the original copy of the resolution to the Project Director.

The administration has long been aware of the bad public relations arising from the speaking of Japanese in public places and other matters of conduct and this action by the Kiwanis Club only served to prompt greater efforts toward correcting this situation. A committee was appointed and this committee met with representatives from all groups on the project. These representatives unanimously agreed that it was a bad situation and that the evacuees should be more careful and considerate in their use of the Japanese language, in congregating on sidewalks, and in otherwise antagonizing the public. It was felt by the administrative committee that a certain amount of Japanese speaking was unavoidable and that the center residents would only be antagonized by a bombastic "Speak English" campaign. Steps were taken to urge discretion in the use of Japanese, the use of English whenever possible, consideration of the public and other matters.

DIES COMMITTEE:

Two special representatives of the Dies committee, Thomas L. Cavatt and Gene Hagberg, visited the center for about five hours on May 27. They made a routine trip through the center and in one of the libraries picked up a book "Democratic Philosophy" by Wendell Thomas which contains an essay on Karl Marx. They raised several questions about this book. They interviewed the assistant project director, the chief of community service, superintendent of education, project engineer, and two Buddhist priests.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PROJECT INFORMATION:

There were some indications that the numerous and sensational Dies Committee stories, many of which were printed in newspapers in this area, had some effect upon the public's attitude toward the evacuees of the Minidoka Center. The Sunday broadcast of Larry Smith over NBC, San Francisco, also probably affected public relations. These same things were detrimental to good evacuee morale in the center.

The American Legion in the state took a more active stand against the WRA during this period. The state commander, B.P. Moe, toured the southern part of the state criticizing the WRA and urging that the centers be placed under Army control. The Boise Post commander, Dan. F. Banks, criticized the lack of WRA supervision over relocated evacuees. The Jerome Chamber of Commerce criticized the WRA for failing to keep promises to repair the Milner-Gooding irrigation canal, subjugate sageland and for failing to keep a close supervision of relocated evacuees. The Kimberly Grange adopted a resolution opposing ownership of land by any one of Japanese ancestry. This attitude was expressed by other groups in farming communities although some did not take formal action.

The project newspaper, The Irrigator, continued to be the principal source of project news for the evacuees. The editors showed a tendency to emphasize bad news instead of the constructive work being done for the evacuees. The staff of the newspaper was hard hit by relocation and at the end of the period

only one person, the circulation clerk, remained of the original staff of the previous fall. Two girls with high school and one with some college experience were editing the paper at the close of the quarter. Eight of the editorial staff were students working part time. The printed newspaper was eight pages in size except on May 1 when it was 10 pages and on May 8 when a 12 page issue was put out in honor of the volunteers. In June the co-op board of directors approved the printing of the Japanese section with equipment brought to the Minidoka Project by an evacuee who transferred from Tule Lake.

A rumor that the center would be closed immediately circulated in the center following the appearance of newspaper stories misinterpreting statements by Mr. Myer on the ultimate goal of the WRA relocation program. This rumor was widely accepted and affected the center's work program especially on the farm where crews said, "What's the use of raising crops if we aren't going to be here to eat them?"

EVACUEE PROPERTY:

A good market for real property, especially residences, prompted more evacuees to dispose of such property back home. There was also an increase in the liquidation of lease rights because of the expiration of such leases. In most cases, especially in the Seattle area, these leases were on hotels, and the owners refused to renew the leases to the evacuees. The equity of the evacuee, therefore, was limited to furniture and

fixtures and the sales market, generally was limited to the owner of the building. Evacuee property officer found it difficult to get the evacuees to understand that while they bought a lease as well as furniture and fixtures, they now only have furniture and fixtures to sell.

In the same vein evacuees were very reluctant to believe that former friends of many years standing were ready to take advantage of their awkward position and get the better of them in business deals. This appeared to be the case from experiences of the evacuee property officer on the project and in Seattle and Portland. The evacuees protested they have known "so-and-so" for many years and refused to believe that he would take unfair advantage of them now.

This was further demonstrated by the inability of the evacuee property officer to secure power of attorney from former Bainbridge Island residents who transferred to Minidoka from Manzanar last February. These people had already given power of attorney to the FSA which then assigned it to the WRA and it was felt that the WRA should secure new and direct assignment of power, but only two of three did this and those only after they received concrete evidence that they were likely to lose their lease money if the WRA did not look after their affairs. The others seemed willing to deal directly with individual lessees, usually Filipinos.

Movement of personal property from private storage to

center storage and from center storage to the project and to points of relocation continued during the quarter. The evacuee property officer estimated that more than 50 per cent of the evacuee's personal property is still in private storage. They were advised that they can have shipped to the project only such property that they can put into their individual apartments and this property as a result consisted of clothing, trunks, food and an occasional washing machine. No project storage is available. The evacuee property officer reported no reluctance on the part of evacuees to arrange for having their property shipped to a relocation point.

The new USDA requisition order prompted a few sales of farm machinery, but generally evacuees plan to use such machinery when they relocate. The amount of so called idle machinery has been greatly exaggerated and it is believed that not more than a dozen lots are actually idle in Oregon and Washington. In many cases the person who took over an evacuee's land also secured the right to use his machinery.

A number of trunks and cars were sold probably for the same reason as houses, a good market.

HOSPITAL:

During the quarter there were 4469 dental patients, 7453 out patients, 320 patients admitted to the hospital, 358, discharged, 50 births (21 boys and 29 girls) 3 still births, and 15 deaths (7 men, 4 women, 4 children under 18.)

Health conditions generally were satisfactory. The

hospital service was hampered by a lack of nurse's aides and the medical dispensary located approximately in the center of the community was closed due to lack of personnel to operate it. More appointed personnel were added to the staff to compensate for the shortage of evacuee employees. Continuous efforts were made to interest older women in hospital work. One ward of the hospital was not in use during most of the period not because of insufficient personnel but because there was no need for it.

There were two accidental deaths during the period, both in June. An eleven-year-old boy drowned in the irrigation canal bordering the project on June 22 and on June 23 a 63-year old bachelor died from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever contracted through the bite of a wood tick about 15 days earlier. It was believed he was bitten while picking flowers in the sagebrush.

COOPERATIVES:

Rationing restrictions and manpower problems complicated the operations of the Minidoka Consumers' Co-operative. A total of 27 units were in operation including four general merchandise departments, two dry goods departments, two laundry and dry cleaning pick-up locations, two barber shops, a beauty shop, two shoe repair shops, two watch repair shops, two radio and general repair shops, a flower shop, two mail order departments, a newspaper distribution service, two movie theaters, an

optometry department for ordering eye glasses, a telegraph desk, a bus ticket service, and a fish store. The monthly gross averaged around \$60,000. The repairing of shoes continued to be a problem and it was necessary to issue shoe ration tickets to each block for shoe repair. As the quarter ended there was considerable discussion about what services would fall into the non-essential classification and therefore would be eliminated in keeping with the new policy announced by Mr. Myer. It appeared that the fish market, flower shop, and the newspaper distribution service would be eliminated and the movies stopped at least temporarily.

Relocation affected both the business and the operating personnel of the co-op. A decrease of 1800 in population was reflected in less business in many departments. Inventories in dry goods were unusually large because wholesalers substituted large sizes when small could not be supplied and because of the unexpected filling of back orders. A large shipment of winter underwear which had been ordered last fall arrived in April. Cashing of government checks by the co-op tied up about approximately \$10,000 which could not be used in its operation. These facts made it difficult for the co-op to maintain a good position in available cash, but in June plans were pushed to pay a patronage refund of 10 per cent. It is planned to pay 5 per cent in cash in July and 5 per cent at some later time.

The co-op office personnel were among the first to relocate since they possess business experience and were used to meeting the public. The co-op found it extremely difficult to find accountants and other trained business people among the center workman.

H. L. Stafford
Project Director

by John Bigelow
Reports Officer

Province - For your
files

Minidoka Quarterly Report
April - June, 1943

Previous COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION:

The organization commission drafted a charter calling for a community advisory council of seven members to be elected by the voters of the center. This council was designed to fill the gap in community government which had existed at the center since the beginning. On June 19 the residents voted on ratification of the charter and rejected it 2375 to 1568. A total of 74 percent of the 5330 eligible voters cast their ballots.

Several reasons were advanced for the rejection of the charter. The principal reason seemed to be a failure to allow sufficient time for the residents of the center to become familiar with the code of organization and the charter. The code of organization was translated into Japanese but the charter itself was not. The block managers in general opposed the advisory council because they felt it would take away some of their prestige and authority. Some block managers openly campaigned against the charter and others imply failed to inform adequately the residents of their blocks about the election, the charter, and the code of organization. Some of the residents seemed to think that the organization commission was functioning satisfactorily as an advisory group representing the residents with the administration.

Following the election the planning commission resigned but their

resignation was rejected by the Project Director pending election of a formal advisory group. Some minor changes were made in the charter in accordance with suggestions from Mr. Myer and it was decided to resubmit this charter to the residents. An election was called to choose a new congress of representatives, one from each block, to explain the charter fully to the residents and to urge its adoption. This election was to be held early in July.

HOUSING:

The declining population necessitated moving remaining residents to keep occupancy of barracks on an equitable basis. Other barracks had to be vacated to make room for schools and offices. The large rooms in one barrack in each block were altered into smaller size apartments of which the center had a deficiency. More big family apartments were provided when the center was built than were needed.

Getting residents to move was a difficult and delicate matter and called for intelligent action by the housing board. The board tried to emphasize to all residents that their stay here is a temporary one and that no living quarters should be considered permanent. It was especially difficult to secure the ready cooperation of the residents in moving when they had planted victory gardens and had put up shelves and other fixtures in their rooms. With the prospect of the center being filled to capacity before winter the housing board sought to adjust its occupancy to a proper basis.

Bachelor women developed into the biggest problem in occupancy. While bachelor men with the same cultural interests live together harmoniously in groups of five, the situation has been different with single women. Numerous adjustments had to be made and in many cases

it was necessary to put one woman in a small 20 by 12 apartment by herself because she could not get along with any roommate.

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