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## WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

*File Press*

HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING

Aug. 3, 1943

Dear Visitor:

We are anxious that your brief visit at Heart Mountain be pleasant and informative. We are not putting on a "show" for your benefit. We want you to see the center as it continues its daily routine.

It will be your privilege to visit any part of the project at any time. If you desire a guide, one of the Block Managers will be happy to accompany you.

Before you leave Heart Mountain you will be supplied with the following:

- 1.)--A pamphlet outlining basic information covering construction of the camp, living facilities, general operations from the standpoint of the administration and the evacuees, agricultural work, religious pursuits, education and related subjects.
- 2.)--Photographic service. A regular staff photographer will be glad to photograph any phase of project activities, (excepting functions directly under the Military Police, over which WRA has no control.)
- 3.)--A back file of The Heart Mountain Sentinel covering the last two months which will present a well-rounded picture of community activities.
- 4.)--A schedule of community activities in the various blocks where you may visit with or without a guide.

The Administration wishes to be helpful and does not intend to interfere with your plans. Please feel at liberty to make your desires known. Information which may not be contained in the pamphlet can be obtained either from the Project Director or the Reports Division before you leave.

We sincerely hope that your visit will be enjoyable.

Cordially,

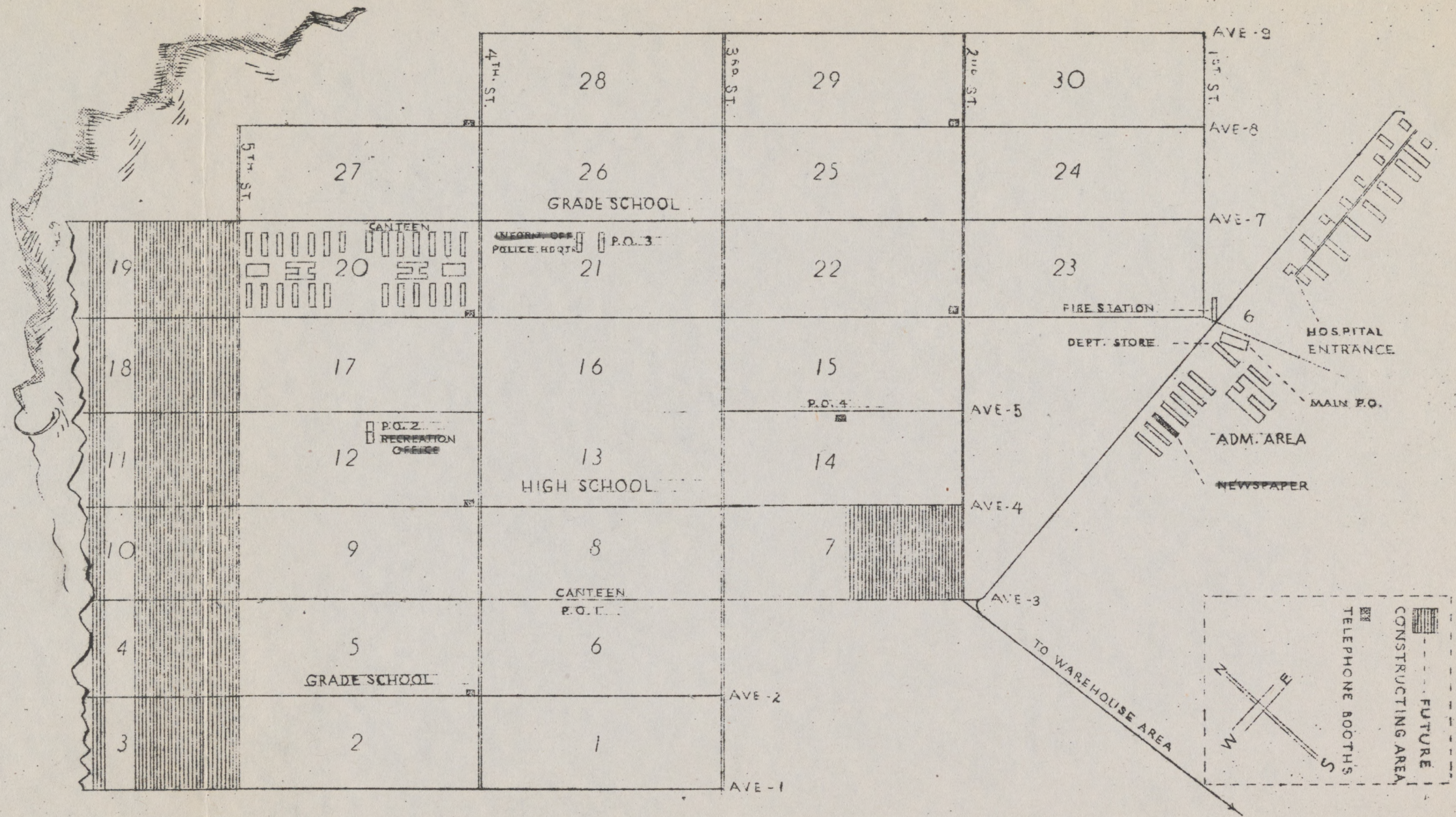
*Guy Robertson*

Guy Robertson  
Project Director





# HEARI MOUNTAIN BLOCK PLAN





# FFYI

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Heart Mountain War Relocation Center is located almost midway between Powell and Cody, Wyoming, just off Wyoming State Highway 14, and on a portion of the Shoshone Irrigation Project. Work on the project proper was started June 1, 1942, when Colonel Lewis A. Pick of Omaha, Neb., Army division engineer, received orders to construct the center in 60 days. The first nail was driven one week later as 2500 workmen began work.

The first group of evacuees arrived on August 12, 1942, from the Pomona Assembly Center in California. Numbering 292, this group was made up from specially picked workers selected to help prepare the center for those following. The first regular induction group arrived six days later, and were followed almost daily for a month by trainloads of evacuees in groups of four and five hundred.

By February 1, 1943, a total of 11,147 persons were inducted to the project. These evacuees list as their pre-evacuation residences Yakima and the surrounding valley in Washington, San Francisco, Los Angeles and the Santa Clara County area surrounding San Jose in California.

The population as of August 1, 1943, was 9,189.

The population breakdown, as of February 1, 1943 is:

	U.S. Born	Japan Born	Total
Males	3375	2396	5771
Females	3440	1636	5076
TOTALS	6815	4132	10847

Approximately 13,000,000 board feet of #3 grade wood, primarily pine and spruce, were used to construct the original buildings on the project. The center is divided into 19½ blocks, totalling 456 barrack-type residence buildings, 39 recreation halls, 39 laundry-latrineshower units, and 39 mess halls. There are also 17 hospital buildings connected by an enclosed walk 821 feet long, 21 warehouses, and various military police, administration and administration residence buildings. The original number of buildings has been augmented by CCC buildings dismantled from abandoned camps and rebuilt here.

The barracks are 20' x 120', of wood structure sheathed with tarpaper. Inner wall linings and ceilings, of celotex, were installed by crews of evacuees after their arrival.

The original 19 blocks of barracks each have six units. Units A and F are 20' x 16', units B and E are 20' x 24', and units C and D are 20' x 20'. Some of these units have been reconstructed to provide a larger number of smaller rooms for occupancy by couples. All units are heated individually by coal stoves.

Each block contains 24 residence barracks. Capacity is approximately 550 persons per block. In general the smallest size units are occupied from two to three persons, the medium size units by from four to five, and the largest size by from five to seven persons. A combination of units is assigned families of larger numbers.

Two laundry-latrineshower units serve each block. The laundry section contains 18 double washing trays, ironing boards and a sewing room. The latrine section, serving about 250 persons, have the following facilities:

Women: 8 showers, 14 lavatories, 14 wash basins, 3 bathtubs.  
Men: 12 showers, 10 lavatories, 4 urinals, 12 wash basins, 1 bathtub.

Some of the Caucasian appointed personnel live in Powell and Cody, due to lack of facilities here. Two women's, one men's, and one married couples' dormitories are now in use on the project. Each dormitory contains 10 rooms, and have shower and lavatory facilities.

Evacuees are fed in mess halls, 43 of which were in operation last week. More than 30,000 meals are served daily, each mess hall taking care of about 275 persons.



All staple foodstuffs are requisitioned from Army Quartermaster stations, primarily from Kansas City. Army meals cost 61 cents per day, but a limit of 45 cents has been placed on meals served in the center. Actual cost of this center has been 36.8 cents per day, or an average of 12.3 cents per meal. This cost will be still lower in the future due to use of vegetables, meat and eggs produced in this and other WRA centers under the food production program.

Caucasian personnel are fed at their own mess hall. Administrative workers are assessed a fee of 36 cents per meal, and their food comes from the same source as evacuee supplies. Consequently, no drain is experienced by local markets.

All rationing regulations are observed, and voluntary restrictions were imposed prior to nation-wide rationing. Two meatless days per week are observed.

Some 400 infants under two years of age are provided milk formulas, juices and other prepared foods. Children above this age must eat the food prepared in the mess halls which is the same as that provided adults.

Approximately 4,000 evacuees, or slightly more than 40 per cent of the population, and some 150 Caucasians are employed on the project. Caucasian employees are civil service appointees. Evacuees are given a cash compensation of \$12, \$16 and \$19 per month on a basis of skill and training required. Workers are required to put in a 44-hour week, and there is no special compensation for overtime. All employment is voluntary.

An occupational breakdown of the residents indicates a relatively large number of students due to the unusual age groupings. Because of factors which can be laid to the periods of immigration of Japanese, the average age of the alien-born older group, or issei, is 60, and that of their American-born children, or nisei, is 20. An occupational breakdown follows:

Total Occupations.....	4758
Agricultural.....	1267
Wholesale and Retail Trade.....	1809
Industrial.....	261
Personal Service.....	1223
Professional.....	142
Others.....	56
Pre-School.....	937
Students.....	2938
Housewives.....	1881
Invalids.....	26
Retired.....	242
Unclassified.....	90

Fire and police services are provided by the evacuees under Caucasian supervision. Due to the flimsy construction of the barracks, high winds, and nature of heating systems, fire is a constant hazard. Despite the rapid turnover of personnel due to relocation, the fire department has maintained a high standard of efficiency, both in fire prevention and in fire-fighting.

A Military Police company of approximately 150 men is stationed at the center. During daylight hours they patrol the outer perimeter of the entire project, and at night guards are stationed in the towers immediately surrounding the center. Residents are not permitted off the project at any time without written permit, and are not permitted off the center proper after dark without special permit.

First church services were held here August 16, 1942, the first Sunday after the evacuees arrived, in make-shift churches set up in the recreation halls. Ten Christian denominations--Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Independent, Catholic and Seventh Day Adventists--hold services. There are six Buddhist sects: Nishi Hongwanji, Higashi Hongwanji, Nichiren, Zen-shu, Daishi Mission and Hodoshu. All are served by evacuee pastors and priests, although there are frequent visits by Christian ministers from Cody and Powell. The Christian churches have an average Sunday attendance of 1700, the Buddhists 1400. Religious activity includes week-day meetings, prayer meetings and home calls.

The hospital was first opened on August 27, 1942. Original plans called for a 150-bed hospital, but lack of equipment has limited the size to 125. The general health and physical welfare of the entire center is in the charge of the health section. Dental, clinical, optometric, limited X-ray and laboratory facilities are provided.



At present there are 10 appointee registered nurses, 5 evacuee doctors, 75 evacuee nurses' aides, 5 orderlies, and 8 dentists.

The sanitation department, operating under the hospital, inspects mess halls, milk distribution stations, latrines, laundry rooms, barber shops, makes medical examinations of food handlers, and bacteriological and chemical analysis of water, milk and sewage specimens.

Schools here were a sudden emergency which required both federal and state support to help meet local standards. Due to lack of space, evacuee families had to be moved out of certain barracks and crowded into others to make room for the five elementary schools last September. Meanwhile the Junior-Senior high school was set up in a quarter block of newly-constructed barracks, and classes were started in over-crowded, noisy, drafty rooms where in many cases pupils sat on floors and wrote on benches during the earliest stages.

Since then a new high school building has been constructed, although the proposed grade school buildings have not materialized. On June 10, 249 seniors in the first graduating class of Heart Mountain High School were graduated in commencement exercises held at the new school building. Teachers include some 60 Caucasians, plus a number of qualified evacuees.

At the end of the school term in June there were 910 enrolled in the lower six grades and 1145 in the upper six. Adult education classes are also sponsored, with special interest being shown by the non-citizen group in English, while others have enrolled in social studies and commercial subjects.

One of this community's greatest needs, recreation, was not provided for under the WRA budget. Under the direction of Caucasian personnel, but largely through the efforts of evacuee leaders themselves, a comprehensive program of sports, indoor activities, and adult recreation has been instituted. Youthful energies have been directed to constructive club activities and the juvenile delinquency problem for a city of 10,000 has been almost negligible. Evacuee leaders have provided guidance and instruction for groups in sewing, dress design, pattern making, flower arrangement, drama, music, games and sports. Clubs hold public dances, and community entertainments drawing on local talent have been a feature of center life, especially during the winter. Movies are shown almost nightly in two halls, a 10-cent fee being charged to pay for film rental and purchase of better equipment.

Material needs other than that provided by the WRA are made available through the non-profit Community Enterprises stores. These stores started without capital, stocking their shelves at first with merchandise obtained on credit. There are now two general stores selling toilet goods, tobacco, fruits and vegetables, newspapers, and magazines, stationery, and other necessities; a dry goods store meeting the community's clothing needs; a radio repair shop, shoe repair shop, two dry cleaning agencies, and one fire insurance agency. None of the merchandise is secured through government channels, Community Enterprises competing with other distributors on the open market. Profits are held in trust for patrons, and distributed on a patronage basis. The balance sheet for the quarterly period ending June 30, shows total assets (from nothing last August) of \$160,225.46, and gross sales during June of \$68,005.21.

As part of the War Works program, approximately 1200 acres of virgin land have been cleared and planted. This involved stripping sagebrush off the land, discing, harrowing, plowing and leveling, or as many as 12 different operations before the land was ready for seeding. A wide variety of garden and forage crops have been planted, to supply the needs of this and other WRA centers. There are now more than 9000 chickens, both fryers and layers, in the poultry project, and 400 feeder hogs which will help meet the center's meat needs.

Before the farm project could be started work had to be finished on the Heart Mountain branch of the Shoshone irrigation project. This involved thousands of man-hours lining parts of the canal with bentonite, cleaning out ditches which were first dug years ago, and laying routes for other ditches. A crew of evacuees was assigned to this work last fall, and continued their operations through the winter whenever weather permitted. The short growing season of slightly over 100 days necessitated double-shift operations to get the land ready for seeding this spring, with both administration and evacuees pitching in to get the work done. The temperature here ranges from 100 degrees above to 40 degrees below zero. A measure of self-government has been practiced since last September when the various blocks elected block chairmen who in turn made up the Temporary Community Council. Ratification of the Heart Mountain charter was voted in July, and election of community councilmen under the charter is scheduled for August 11. The block chairmen are considered representatives of the residents and their function is to represent the people to the administrative officials. The people of each block hold meetings



weekly when they hear the reports of their chairmen and make their wishes known. The system works both ways: from the people to the administration, and from the administration through the chairmen to the people.

The chairmen are aided in their work by block managers who serve as representatives of the WRA staff in checking on the function and efficiency of the various administrative services for the people.

The Judicial Commission, made up of an elected panel of seven evacuee commissioners, is another function of the self-government system. The commission hears cases of misdemeanors and breaches of the peace, and is empowered to impose a fine or pass sentence. Felonies under Wyoming law are taken from the center to an outside court. Most of the commissioners are men without formal legal training, and depend on common sense to administer justice. The commission has returned decisions on 17 cases since its inception.

The commission works in conjunction with the preliminary hearing board which is made up of one member of the judicial commission, one block chairman, one block manager, the chief of police, the local welfare head, chief of community services and the project attorney. This board, as the name indicates, conducts preliminary hearings, and commits criminal cases to the proper authorities. Juvenile cases are heard by the judicial commission under the supervision of the coordinating council whose main purpose is the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Decisions of the commissioners are not final and may be appealed to the Project Director. Trials are conducted in English, and interpreters are provided for those without a fluent knowledge of the language.

As an almost self-contained community, the WRA center has its procurement, construction and maintenance divisions. WRA has a low priority, rated A-10 under P-100, and the procurement section's efforts to get necessary supplies and materials are regulated by all federal restrictions. The public works division supervises all new construction, irrigation works and highway maintenance.

The center also maintains its own motor pool where vehicles are stored, serviced and repaired. As of August 1 there were 98 trucks, 28 pickups, 18 passenger cars and 43 vehicles of miscellaneous types in operation. Gasoline consumption and tire use are regulated by federal restrictions.

The center post office, a branch of the Cody station, has provided complete mail service since the first day of the project. Full service is available only at the central station in the administration area, but five sub-stations distribute incoming mail. Since the opening of the center to July 1, 1943, \$26,199.61 in stamps have been sold. During the same period a total of 49,334 money orders have been issued to a total value of \$144,655.99.

Despite the limited income of residents, the post office has sold \$7,518.75 in war savings bonds up to July 1, and 18,000 ten cent war stamps, 1,100 twenty-five cent stamps, 100 fifty cent stamps, and 50 one dollar stamps.

The War Relocation Authority's underlying philosophy is that loyal American citizens of Japanese descent, as well as law-abiding non-citizens, should not be confined in the centers any longer than necessary to re-establish them in normal communities outside of critical war zones. A comprehensive system of checking on individual backgrounds, associations and loyalty has been devised with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the military intelligence organizations, and evacuees who have a clean record, and who can find means of support outside the centers, are permitted to leave either for permanent or temporary employment. It is the WRA's belief that fundamental American principles of democracy are involved in the mass evacuation of an American minority, and it is doing everything possible to return loyal Americans to normal life. It must be emphasized that there is no implication of disloyalty in residence in a WRA center. The known disloyal are in internment camps operated by the Department of Justice, and are not to be confused with WRA centers. Those with known pro-Japanese sympathies now in the centers are being segregated by a comprehensive process, and will be placed in the Tule Lake center in northern California beginning about September 1. Every effort is being made, meanwhile, to relocate the known loyal in various parts of the country where they will be acceptable.

As of August 1, 1943, 842 residents were away from the center on seasonal leave, meaning they had accepted temporary work on farms, railroads and in other places where their services were required for a limited time. On the same date 1076 residents had been granted indefinite leave, or permission to leave the center to take jobs and re-establish themselves as loyal Americans. A total of 352 individuals left the center in either of the two categories during July.



Last fall, in response to a call for harvest hands, approximately 1200 residents left the center to help with beet-topping, bean thrashing and other farm work in various parts of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and Idaho, helping to save a valuable crop. In Montana alone, evacuee labor harvested \$2,000,000 worth of sugar beets, according to J. P. Brennan, United States Employment Service officer in Helena.

Yet it must be remembered that the residents of the center are not all farmers. Instead of the concept held by many that there are 10,000 potential farm hands here, the figures show only 1267 adults with an agricultural background. The others, including large numbers of old people, women and children, represent a wide cross section of occupational skills as in any community. In addition, agricultural workers have been among the first to leave the center as farm hands and share croppers, resulting in a relatively small reserve of potential farm workers here.

Of special interest is the fact that more than 200 service stars are flown in this center by wives and parents of Americans with Japanese faces in the U. S. Army. At least four evacuees from this center are commissioned U. S. Army officers. Approximately 150, a large percentage of them volunteers, were in the Army before Pearl Harbor. Another 60 volunteered for the special Japanese American combat team now in training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. A number of men with relatives in Heart Mountain have seen combat service overseas. One of the brightest spots in the center is the USO lounge in Block 23, where visiting servicemen are entertained.