

Statement

Narrative Report of M & O
November 1942-August 1944

by (Mrs.) Minoru Iyeki
(Co-ordinator of M & O)

Having been asked to write a narrative report of M & O in the midst of my preparation for relocation, I will try to tell what I know in my own way.

My work with M & O started in November 1942 when Mr. G. Yoshioka, then named general foreman of M & O came to our apartment and asked me to come and help at the Maintenance Office. Someone was needed who understood both languages to interpret and to co-ordinate things at the office.

I had been ill for over a month since I came into camp and I was not eager to work then, but my family thought the change would do me good so I was urged to take the job. I went to work with the understanding that I was to have "taxi" service everyday I worked.

Mr. Yoshioka said my work would consist first of talking to the block managers who came to M & O angry about everything and have them go out in a good mood. It was not as easy as it sounded, but I was lucky in that all the block managers liked me and treated me courteously whenever they came to my office (temporary), in block 33. This block was selected because the block managers' headquarters was there also. In this office, I listened to the block managers complaints and the requests and complaints of 5 janitor foremen.

Soon stove-firemen were needed to fire all the stoves in the public places in camp. We recruited 51 men to do the work 24 hours a day. Out of them 9 foremen were chosen with Mr. Harry Tsugawa as head foreman. Mr. Tsugawa, later did excellent work as foreman on the pipelines.

In December of 1942, I was asked to close the block 33 office and help M & O office in Warehouse 103. Much to my surprise, at Warehouse 103 inside and outside were all kinds of men - hundreds milling around and talking

in loud voices. I thought I couldn't stand the noise at first but finally as the days went by, got used to it.

I met our superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Mr. W. L. Law at 103 where I was taken to attend a foremen's meeting. There I was introduced to all the foremen and my work began right then and there for I was asked to take down notes as the meeting progressed. Mr. Law was a most understanding man and it was a pleasure to help him.

I was swamped with work, the minute the older men found I was to work in their office. They all turned to me for everything. Mr. Law came to have complete confidence in me and I tried my best to help him so that he was able at all times to leave the office for inspection duty or to attend meetings. He would be gone nearly 1/2 day after having given me instructions on certain things. The rest, he left for me to run as I saw fit.

All orders and criticisms from Mr. Law had to go through me as most of the men did not or would not understand English enough. If he said anything too bluntly, I tried to soften it, and the men were satisfied as well as Mr. Law who got the work done. Time came when they thought I was the Japanese head at M. & O. but I told them it was not so, I was there only to help them and WIRA to a smoother understanding.

Maintenance took care of all the following groups up to the fall of 1943, and it was my duty to talk to the different foreman about their work every morning.

Carpenters	Painters
Sign Painters	Chimney Cleaners
Plumbers	Janitors
Glaziers	Tinsmith
Cabinet Shop workers	Stove Men
Groundsmen	Boilermen
Electrician	Laborers
Garbage Men	Grease Trap Men
Salvage Men	Laundry Tray Repairmen

Stove
Can Washmen
Stove Repair Men

Ash Men

Although I was swamped with work, I enjoyed it and realized that I was able to do it only because everyone was so co-operative. With the exception of the cabinet shop workers, they all came to my desk to talk about their work.

Cabinet Shop, Painters, Sign Painters, and M & O Carpenters

These men were under the direct supervision of Mr. E. Jensen, senior carpenter foreman, who was very popular with all his men. In January of 1943 he had 46 men under him. He was out most of the time supervising cabinet shop etc., naturally his other workers came to me to make known their needs.

When Mr. Jensen took Mr. Law's place in July of 1943, the carpenter crews were placed under the supervision of Mr. H. Takayama, a young man who had an honorable discharge from the U. S. Army. He was made general foreman of carpentry in July. He was a very conscientious foreman and gave excellent co-operation to the W.R.A. and accomplished much for M & O and for the whole camp. Under his directions were also the cabinet shop, sign painters and the painters from July 1943. I don't think he could have worked any harder, anywhere. The continual repairs required by the barracks, the building of garbage racks which needed repairing all the time, the alterations in office buildings - all were tended to by his crews.

Sign Painters Personnel number varied 10 to 2

Under Mr. Uyama, foreman, they made all the signs used on the project, finished all articles made in cabinet shop and put together and varnished furniture that came here from Tule.

Painters Personnel number 30 to 7

They have had 2 foremen during this camp life. The first was Mr. Nakao who was foreman till the fall of 1943. He was such a good worker we all regretted to see him go when he left for outside work.

After Tule transfer, Mr. Matsumoto came to work as a painter and was promoted to foremanship when Mr. Nakao went out. These men painted the staff housing, the auditorium, re-painted all men's latrine and shower rooms in 1943, in fact did all the painting jobs on the project.

Plumbers

They were under M & O while Mr. Law was in charge. They had a hard working man named Frank Iga for a foreman who knew how to handle men well.

As early as December 1942, leaks began in the pipelines until at the end of August of 1943. I kept a list of 107 leaks for the last week of that month. I used to keep a list of all the leaks reported by block managers for the whole year but not knowing that it would be of value later on threw it away when Mr. Iga quit.

It was extremely difficult for maintenance to obtain evacuee help on the pipeline repairs, for they all blamed Mr. Sutton and W.R.A. for having O.K. ed those pipelines when they received them from the army. Having such poor quality pipes installed meant that W.R.A. was making fools of the Japanese people in camp. "They said," Kampu ni iru Nihonjiu wo baka ni shi te iru."

No sooner was camp opened, then shower heads were broken, toilet flush handles were broken off, toilets out of order, and everything else pertaining to latrine and shower rooms furnished plenty of work for Mr. Iga's crews.

When we first came into camp there was hardly any block latrine that contained a toilet seat, and in most of the blocks water had not been turned on in those places. The incoming people pouring in to camp blamed all this on the plumbers at first.

The leaks and wearing out of plumbing parts became so bad as time went on that the plumbers could not cope with the situation. They were called upon day

and night. Thereupon we pressed the janitor foremen into service who were given tools and asked to make minor plumbing repairs. After this only serious trouble caused the plumbers to touch those places.

Plumbing parts ordered by Mr. Iga through Mr. L. Taylor were never received by the plumbers, or were very slow in coming. Mr. Iga said he would ask Mr. Taylor to order such and such because it would be needed in one or two months' time, such as the trench digger, but Mr. Taylor would never try to get it so that by August of 1943 the plumbers were desperate, discouraged and angry. The foreman wanted to produce good work but without proper tools and supplies this was an impossibility. I cannot write how many times he came and told me his troubles and his anger at the inefficiency and stupidity of those above him.

In August of 1943 Mr. L. Taylor and Mr. H. Watson told Mr. Iga and his crew that beginning October, plumbing would be under Mr. Sutton whom the plumbers did not like for the reason stated before. So the plumbing crews said they would quit if they were put under Mr. Sutton's supervision.

Now the Engineering section had figured that when in September the transfer of evacuees took place between Topaz and Tule, enough evacuee plumbers would come to work to replace those quitting. With this in mind, they told Mr. Iga and crew to quit if they wanted to.

Before resigning Mr. Iga found new work for all his men with us helping him all we could. After this Mr. Iga left camp.

Now when Tule transfer took place in September, it was found that only about 2 or 3 men would work as plumbers. The situation became acute so that Mr. H. Watson was obliged to offer \$19 to each man who came to work on the pipelines. He got quite a response then and everything was going smoothly until March, when

Mr. Watson reduced the pipeline pay to \$16 again excepting those of the foremen. Of course such action resulted in a break-up again. Again camp was so flooded by leaking pipes that it was hard to find a dry walk. Of course after Mr. Sutton took over the plumbers in October of 1943 they were no longer under maintenance but the men used to come and tell me all about it.

School vacation had started by now so it was deemed advisable to hire high school boys with all the pipeline pay to be \$19 again with the inducement of snacks between meals. This issuance of sandwiches, fruits and hot coffee had never been done before except for the night crew of the boilermen.

By the unwise action of cutting the pay of a handful of men, and becoming defeated, raising pay again and furnishing snacks besides that, in the eyes of most of the camp people WRA has "lost face" again. Everytime the people saw the workers resting and eating, they laughed; not at the people eating, but at W.R.A. It seems queer to me that there was no one in the Engineering section to advise the caucasian staff and warn them of the consequences. They should have offered all the inducements first.

By this time Mr. Mills, from another camp had taken charge as Mr. Sutton suddenly left camp.

The Glaziers

Personnel 1 to 4

They were only one in number when the camp started and never increased to more than 4 in number. When Mr. Taylor was promoted to assistant superintendent of construction, naturally construction was his first interest, so he tried to make our M & O glazier do all construction glazing by making him construction worker. But it did not work for the man wanted to stay as an M & O man.

Maintenance was flooded with requests for replacement of broken windows especially after the frequent storms. It seemed that it was at such times, especially, that Mr. Taylor wanted our glazier to work at construction windows, such as putting in glasses for Staff Housing. After a heated argument with Mr. Taylor it was decided to let him (glazier) devote one whole day out of the week to construction glazing. The rest of the week was to be devoted to maintenance, because since the evacuee barracks were already occupied the sudden dust storms necessitated immediate replacing of window panes. The caucasian group was housed in block 2 so it did not matter to them whether Staff Housing was a day or two late in being finished.

For a short time at the beginning a Mr. Nishiyama was the glazier foreman but after he relocated Mr. Yanagi has been the foreman continuously. The glaziers have been busy all the time since camp opened, more so as time went on for new construction such as the auditorium etc. took up their time.

Tinsmith Personnel 2

Mr. Yamanashi has been the foreman since the first foreman went to Tule. Before leaving for Tule the former foreman made and left all patterns for his successor. I thought it was very good of him for he had been very embittered about the treatment west coast Japanese had received. He said he had lived here over 40 years and had intended to die in the U. S. but he lost all faith after evacuation of only Japanese so he said he wanted to go to Japan.

The tinsmiths have been busy repairing kitchen sinks, making roof jacks etc.

Cabinet Shop

At first they were under direct supervision of Mr. Eldon Jensen, senior carpenter foremen. On his promotion, they came under Mr. H. Takayama's supervision. When Mr. Jensen parted with W.R.A. in January of 1944 Mr. Greaves was responsible for the shop, as Mr. E. Gardner who took Mr. Jensen's place did not

know cabinet shop work.

Under Mr. Jensen and Mr. Takayama they made fine furnitures and all office equipments. Many things were made there for the hospital and the schools. The fall of 1942 and year of 1943 we always had to make excuses to the block managers and the numerous supervisors for the cabinet shops being unable to fill the orders. Every department wanted their orders filled first and complained when it was not filled immediately not knowing how flooded with work cabinet shop was.

Stove Men Personnel 49

These men 49 in number started their work in November of 1942 as the weather got colder. It was their duty to fire all space heaters used in public places such as the laundry rooms, dining halls, latrine and shower rooms, the administration offices, the Post Office building and in #2 Block housing the caucasian staff. They worked in shifts and kept the fires up 24 hours a day.

The camp was divided into 9 sections with a foreman over them. Mr. H. Tsugawa took care of the stovemen in his section and was also made the head foreman. I was afraid when I suggested he be made head foreman that some of the other foremen might get jealous, but they all agreed with me. Mr. Tsugawa later became a foreman on the pipelines and co-operated well with W.R.A. until he relocated to California in 1945. None of the elderly men on the crew had ever fired a space heater before so we had all sorts of trouble at first until finally Mr. Tsugawa through his own experimentation was able to instruct the men under him. He had told me about his experimentation, so I requested him to give a talk before a meeting of the stovemens. The very next day a meeting was held and in most instances all was well after that.

Instead of regular school buildings, we used the evacuee barracks for school rooms. These rooms had to be furnished with a sand box for each space heater installed. I asked the firemen to keep watch over them and to report immediately when they were in need of repair or replacement. Mr. Tsugawa would gather all the information from the other foremen and bring them to me where upon I would make a chart for the repair crew.

1. Sand needed for sandbox
2. Sand box missing
3. Sand box repair necessary

I think it was in February of 1943 that Mr. Taylor came into our office and told me that he wanted me instruct all firemen to quit firing space heaters from the next day, which was a Saturday. We argued but I lost that time so I told the foremen to instruct the firemen about it.

The next day complaints came in from block 2 manager, Mrs. Ernst, wife of the project director, that there was no heat. Informed by me that we were only following Mr. Taylor's orders, she had Mr. Hughes assistant director talk to Mr. Taylor about it. He tried to get a fireman again for them but none of them wanted to work there as fireman when the evacuee blocks were not allowed to have firemen. Eventually the janitor there kept it up for a while. The firemen were on duty only during the extreme winter months.

We had one fireman 81 years of age. He died during that winter of pneumonia. The former stovemen were in most cases disgruntled at losing their jobs, just when they got used to it, but finally took other M & O assignments.

About this time or little before, M & O experienced hardship in trying to keep her men for such projects as hog-raising and chicken-raising were started and people found those work easier and food better at the hog-farm. So many complained of M & O hard work and tried to transfer to hog-farm that Mr. Law

got very angry at the heads of the agriculture section and accused them of trying to take away workers from M & O. Finally only those not yet working were allowed to register for new jobs.

Groundsmen 1 to a block

They were required to keep each individual block grounds clean. There were also 1 to each block, 2 to caucasian block, 3 to hospital ground, and 2 around administration area.

When in 1943 they were told to seek new work, they stormed my office. They talked as if we were taking away the only job left for them on this earth. Of course they were all men between 50 and 70 years of age so perhaps it was natural for them to feel so at that time. I think only 2 quit work permanently. The rest became reconciled to the various new work we found for them. Some even came back to thank me for the new jobs I found them.

Boilermen Personnel 49 usually

They were with the exception of the foremen all isseis or Japan born and raised. Eddie Iwasaki, a nisei born in Hawaii was the foreman. He was formerly a boilerman on the merchant marine ship. If a boiler broke he fixed it himself. In fact no one in camp knew more about boilers than he did. He was a good worker but lost his temper too easily, and always gave me much trouble - like a spoilt child.

There were at most times 49 in number including the foreman. 2 men took care of 2 blocks, 8 hours each with a relief man in each section which consisted of about 4 blocks. 1943 brought forth the troublesome reduction in manpower program at which time they threatened to strike when they were told by Mr. Watson that the boilermen would have to do part janitor work. They considered themselves above janitors so they were very angry. This plan did not go through either so they remained as before.

After Eddie Iwasaki left camp, Mr. Itakura took over the foremanship till he relocated in 1945.

Electricians Personnel 15 to 4

They were under Mr. Law for a short time in 1942 but Mr. Davies and Mr. Harmon took charge of them so I do not know much about them. Only that they worked faithfully in storms and in good weather.

Laborers Personnel 30 to 3

They were, it seemed to me, required to do nearly all dirty and disagreeable jobs at M & O and for the project. It taxed the Japanese foremen's skill a great deal to have the crews attack the different jobs as they came up. The sewer system would get clogged up, then our laborers, under Shiro Higuchi, foreman, would tackle it. This foreman never shirked his duty and always tackled the dirty jobs himself first. Under him, the laborers did countless work which helped to run the camp smoothly. If lumber for camp came they would have to load it onto the trucks at Delta and if it came into camp it fell to them to unload it. Usually it would be on a scorching, breathless day and I used to feel so sorry for them.

There was another foreman named Cliff Ikeda. He handled laborers in the lumber yard and had them stack up all the lumber according to size in the yards 1 and 2 up till then, the yard had been a terrible mess but he finally got all of the lumber stacked up neatly. It was he who undertook to keep occupied the unruly Hawaiian Concentration Camp group. They worked mostly in the lumber yard. It was he also who was directed to distribute boxes, paper and rope to the Tule Transferees. He also delivered, at first, all the boxes and nails requested by the relocatees.

Garbage Men

When camp was opened no one wanted to become a garbage man. Finally about 16 men and boys volunteered and did the dirty work. My son, a senior in high school, volunteered to work there and did so until December 10 when he received a 3rd degree burn on the calf of his left leg while working. This resulted in his being bedridden for nearly 10 months. At that time hospital facilities were such that they could not take care of him there, Dr. Yamauchi said, and I had to take care of him at home. Infection set in and 7 months later he had to have skin graft. I blamed everything on this accursed evacuation then, thinking if only it had not taken place, my son would not have received his burns etc. Fortunately he recovered and having been reclassified as 4-F is now in Rochester, New York with his father.

I have digressed but I must tell things as they happened and how it affected M & O. As a result of Kennie getting burned and other children receiving burns too, it was decided after a M & O meeting with the fire chief, that it would be best to dump all hot ashes into a deep hole which would be surrounded by a fence. It was to be dug in the same location in each block.

The boys who volunteered (14 to 17 years of age) and men of garbage crew, volunteered also to go to Nephi a town 75 miles away to bring in coal. They would come back all black but did not complain too much about the hard work of loading coal there.

Only the foremen were \$19 men but in 1944 all were reclassified to \$19 class with 2 crews of 5 men each.. All were elderly men by 1944 for young men do not take kindly to this kind of a job.

Sometimes they got in terrible fights with the different kitchens but I always managed to have them straightened out without it ever coming to the caucasian supervisors ears. I tried to keep all such things from him as much as

possible.

We lost nearly all garbage men to Tule at time of transfer when only 3 remained out of about 15. There was trouble and complaints then over the curtailed route but it was unavoidable till replacements could be found.

These men also collected edible garbage for the hog ranch. At first we had much difficulty in having the kitchens separate edible and non-edible garbage. Finally, working through the stewards' office, we designated 1 garbage can for refuse and 4 for edible in all blocks. It took a long time to train the people and the kitchen crews, but everything was working smoothly in August of 1944 when I became ill and quit work.

Grease Men Personnel 5

Their job was to haul out grease from each block kitchen grease trap. 5 men have been on the job since the beginning. Each man took 1/5 of the camp kitchens and took care of it. All went smoothly till Tule transfer when some of the men left for Tule Lake. Mr. Taylor tried to make them take care of the whole camp with only 3 men. They were getting only \$16 a piece then, and one of the men became so angry at Mr. Taylor that he forced Mr. Taylor to do the work at one grease trap. Mr. Taylor had to do it, the man was so angry. Result: the crew was raised to 5 members again and in 1944 all raised to \$19 rating. This man came later and told me what happened at the grease trap when he took Mr. Taylor there.

We had 2 men hauling grease cans away every 2 days. It was a routine job but very unpleasant.

Salvage

In 1943 we began salvaging various things from the kitchens. They began with 3 men but finally increased to 5 men for it was quite an important work. No direction was given us as to how to commence. As Mr. Law asked me to run it as

I saw fit. I made a schedule, after having seen what the salvage men collected on their first trip to the kitchens. I made a schedule of things to be collected from evacuee kitchens, hospital kitchens and caucasian kitchen. They collected salvage 5 days a week; the 6th was devoted to the collection of grease from the kitchen. Many barrels of grease were collected for the war effort. 3,600 lbs. were collected in March.

The schedule was mimeographed and with the help of the Stewards' office passed out to each kitchen where it was filled out by the kitchen crew. It was brought into our office every Friday by a member of the Stewards' office whereupon our stenographer typed out three copies which were distributed every Monday as follows:

1. Mr. Roy Potter - Supply Officer
2. Stewards' office
3. M & O File

Everyone was well pleased with the schedule and list I made and it is still being used today.

These copies also contained the information where each salvaged article was stored. I regret to say that much of the salvaged cardboard box went to waste as they were left out in the yards at the mercy of the weather. One time, a fire broke out from a spark and destroyed or damaged beyond salvage, a huge pile of cans which had been smashed and boxed in cardboard boxes. The spark was from the fire in the garbage burning pit. After that can smashing was done in the kitchens.

Ash Men

They removed ashes piled in the ash pit and operated 6 days a week. They divided the camp into sections. They operated during the winter of 1943-44. Poor weather, muddy ground prevented them from giving good service but it was not

all their fault.

Laundry tray Repair

The Eagle Laundry Tray Co. of San Bruno, California furnished nearly all of the laundry trays used in camp. Many of these were cracked before we even used them. Some cracked from misuse but they were on the whole of very poor quality, and gave M & O trouble all the time.

Mr. Law had a labor crew experiment to affect repair. He wrote to the Eagle Laundry Tray Co. but received no helpful answer. We continued experimentation but none was permanent. Finally things got so bad we continually had to have 2 men go around repairing them in rotation.

The trays from the Chicago Granite Mfg. Co. have no cracks even now.

Can Wash 4 to 2

At first they had no hot water to wash out the cans with. Soon a little shelter was made for them and hot water furnished. Finally a can wash rack was built for them in 1943, near the coal yards.

Here at first worked 2 couples every day except Sunday. A truckful of dirty cans was delivered by the garbage men and a truckful of clean ones taken up and distributed to the garbage racks of the blocks.

End of 1943 they were reduced to 2 men who are still on the job. During labor shortage, no coal would be delivered to them which resulted in no hot water. This made it impossible for them to clean the cans. Then a chain of complaints would come to me.

Stove Repair 4 to 0

This crew of 4 went around, as requests for repairs came to me, and made the repairs in all the kitchens; replaced burned out grates of monkey stoves, all parts of the army range and repaired chimney too. They were constantly hampered by lack of stove parts etc.

Mr. Myoraku was the foreman.

Chimney Cleaners 8 to 0

There were two crews of 4 men each when winter of 1942 came. They were both under the leadership of a young man named Nishiyama. By the way, all those on the chimney crew were young men for they had to clumb on the slippery roofs. First winter they were swamped with work.

Fall of 1943, the crews were given definite places to clean; 1 crew took care of the evacuee blocks. The other the administration office stoves and the school and block 2 stoves. What with seasonal work etc. the force was gradually cut down till there was no worker in May 1944.

After this each block was given simple equipment to be used in chimney cleaning and each apartment was cleaned by its occupants. It was always a dirty job but the crew under Mr. Sakamoto worked faithfully until he went out on seasonal.

Janitorial

The camp was opened with no service in operation but as the blocks were filled janitorial service was established. At first it was haphazard with supplies delivered any old time with hardly any record kept. This is not strange for no one gave the supply man any direction or the janitors either.

When I went to Warehouse 103 to work under Mr. Law he asked me to organize and take charge of things in general. I had never had such experience but I told him I would try anyway. Janitorial service occupied much of my time for too many complaints were coming in about it.

Five isseis who had volunteered for janitorial service first were made foremen. I divided the camp up into 5 sections with a foreman in charge. 1 foreman, Mr. Isono, had charge of a section but at the same time I made him a head foreman because even the foremen seemed unsatisfied unless they had someone else above

them to be responsible for them. Mr. Isono seemed that way the least so I selected him. It was a happy choice for he has worked ably ever since. The 5 foremen had the janitors of 7 or 8 blocks under their charge.

Since there were no inspectors of latrines then, I asked them to

1. Inspect all latrines and showers under their supervision
2. Order all supplies (janitorial)
3. Request replacement of janitors
4. Report repairs needed in latrines, shower rooms and laundries

By May of 1943, I had 164 janitors and their foreman under my supervision and they were divided into:

Evacuee block janitors	91 including 5 foremen
Block 2 caucasian dwelling	24 including 1 foreman
School	38 including 2 foremen
Administration area	<u>14</u> including 1 foreman
	167 janitors in all

Total M & O workers numbered about 490 about that time.

In August the school janitors were placed under Education with a reduction in crew affected at that time. WRA was trying to cut down manpower so the janitors were cut down too.

At this time Mr. Korekiyo the school head janitor foreman was seriously hurt when he was stabbed by a love-crazed janitor. Mr. Korekiyo had been one of our most faithful worker from the beginning - reliable and resourceful. After he recovered he resigned from M & O, is still working at the hospital as foreman of ambulance drivers. He has been a foreman ever since he entered camp here.

Mr. Harry Mayeda was foreman of block 2 caucasian. Under him he had:

- 1 coal and ash man
- 12 janitors for each of the 12 barracks
- 2 latrine and shower room janitors
- 4 window cleaners
- 1 oil man to fill the oil cooking stoves
- 2 relief men
- 1 kindling man
- 24 total

In fall of 1943 the service given to block 2 was reduced to a foreman and 2 janitors 1944. It was increased again as each barrack became offices and the caucasians moved or had moved into the Staff Housing and the 4 dormitories.

Administration Janitors

Until August of 1943 were under the foremanship of an able woman janitor foreman named Mrs. Nakai. They took care of the following:

- 4 janitors cleaning the 4 dorms
- 2 janitors cleaning the Adm. buildings
- 1 janitor cleaning the Post Office Building
- 1 janitor cleaning the mimeograph room
- 1 janitor cleaning the Engineering Building
- 1 janitor cleaning the Financial Building
- 1 janitor cleaning the Agricultural Building
- 1 boilerman for the dorms
- 1 yardmen for Adm. area
- 14 total

The offices were dusted thoroughly in the morning after having been cleaned thoroughly the night before.

The warehouse janitors came later after there was a general cut in manpower.

Everything was going smoothly until Tule Transfer in September of 1943. So many janitors went to Tule that many blocks and offices were left without janitorial service until the health of the evacuees were threatened. 17 blocks had no janitors. In October J. A. Simpson the chief medical officer at the hospital sent us a formal complaint that the latrines and shower rooms of those janitorless blocks were filthy and dangerous to health, and wanted us to take steps to remedy it immediately. But Mr. Taylor refused to sign for anymore workers even though we had many applicants, for he wanted to cut the manpower down anyway.

In block 1 a man had to be hospitalized when he fell onto the dirt slimy shower room floor. Next in the same block a child slipped and hurt himself in the same manner. In another block a man hurt his hip. His block was janitorless too. Block 1 residents became so angry at Mr. Taylor they came to me, about 30 of them, and told me if janitors were not placed in block 1 immediately, they would do bodily harm to Mr. Taylor. I immediately notified Mr. Jensen who relayed the message to Mr. Taylor. He promptly signed on 2 janitors for block 1. I couldn't see why it was so necessary for him to cut down on the janitors when there were so many other crews he could cut down on.

After this Mr. Taylor lost all favor of the Japanese in this camp. It took a long time to get everything settled again with Mr. Taylor reluctantly signing on the new janitors. I felt sorry for him too because he was trying to follow W.R.A. policy. I suppose quarrels between block managers and janitors became more frequent. I thought it best if we could put in all janitors who got along with the block managers.

In October of 1943 the block janitors were placed under each block manager's supervision with the block manager sending us requests for supplies.

About that time Mr. Taylor made a remark that he wished there was a record kept of the supplies that went out (janitorial). I took it on myself to begin a record book for each month of the janitorial supplies that went to the different blocks. I began it in December of 1943 and the form is being still used by Mr. E. E. Gardner of Maintenance. From this form we were able to estimate a 3 or 6 months' supply and to keep a check on those blocks which ordered more than what we thought was necessary. Mr. Taylor liked the form very much and thanked me for making it up.

After the block janitors were transferred, the 5 janitor foreman with the exception of 1 foreman, became \$16 men again. Mr. Isono was kept on as foreman and became the head of the administration area janitors and still is to this day. He has shown much co-operation. His initiative has helped us over many troubles. He invented a clever paper towel holder which after being made in the cabinet shop is used to this day in the office rest rooms.

Janitorial Supply Man

Mn Harry Ogi has been the janitorial supply man since the opening of camp. He also helped M & O distribute brooms, mops, buckets, clothespins, ironing boards, wash boards etc. to the blocks for evacuee use.

Before the Tule transfer he had a helper and the two of them used to load and unload the big boxes of toilet tissue etc. and deliver them to the janitors. He lost his helper and he was left alone to do the work of 2. Mr. Taylor would not sign on any helper although there were many applicants, so I talked it over with Mr. Taylor and had Mr. Ogi put into \$19 class and he rearranged his work so that it would be more systematic. Mr. Ogi would make the deliveries of janitorial supplies requested by the block managers. The request paper first

came to me where I would glance through them, and if I noted any order which I thought Mr. Ogi could not fill or was out of order, I would put a mark there.

Mr. Ogi being handed these requests on a certain day of the week would check over them and proceed to deliver the goods. At first these request papers came in any day of the week, but in the winter of 1943 we planned with the block managers to have them sent in all at once from every block on a certain day. I cut out all sorts of funny requests. It was then I made the janitorial supply chart which is still used today. This made it easier for Mr. Ogi and I had something to fall back on when a certain block complained that it did not receive what was due them on a certain date.

The block managers never doubted my word once, so if they ever came to the office to complain, all I had to do was to show them the chart I had made month by month. It was always open for their information.

Mr. Taylor got together with Mr. Ogi and did the ordering of the janitorial supplies.

July 24, 1945
Topaz, Utah

Personal Narrative Report
by (Mrs.) Minoru Iyeki
Co-ordinator of M & O

Mr. Crane of Engineering has asked me to put down some of my impression and anything I wanted to say, so I will try to give a woman's point of view of the camp life and things in general here.

In Oakland California my former home, I used to help my husband in his floral shop and found that people liked me, and I enjoyed the work immensely.

At Tanforan I was asked to teach English in the Adult Education section and did so till we came to Topaz, Utah.

Our group arrived in Topaz on September 18, 1942 after a frightful (to me) journey, during which I was ill all the way.

On arrival here we were welcomed by my aged father, who although, the supper bell had rung, was still patiently waiting for our bus to arrive. He was the only one left to welcome us and the whole bus full of people into this, then, miserable desert. He was covered from head to foot with the gray powdery dust that was over everything and which made him look like a ghost.

The sight of him waiting for us in all that dust and cold wind, made me burst into tears which I had held back so long.

Much to his shame, father shed tears too. After a superficial medical examination we were admitted into camp, led to an un-

finished dining hall, and after a simple meal lead to an apartment 20"x20" for five people. A week later we moved into a 20" x 26" room after much argument.

We took out three buckets of dust and dirt out of the room before it was ready for occupancy. I was so exhausted by the trip and the following events that when I lay on the cot, coat and all to rest, I fell fast asleep and slept till morning, when I was awaked by the cold. By the second day in camp, hundreds of the people had diarrhea and upset stomach and the doctors were unable to take care of them all.

On the 7th day after my arrival, I became very ill. Doctors said it was dehydration, worry, fatigue and cold. I was ill for over a month.

When I started work at M & O in November of 1942 Mr. Walton De Grande Law was in charge as superintendent of Buildings and grounds, with Mr. Eldon Jensen helping him as senior carpenter foreman. At that time, there were about 511 men registered for work there and I noticed that about four-fifth of them were isseis. Later I took a census of the whole M & O workers name, age, born where, and found that 90% were isseis between the ages of 45 - 60.

Going to work for \$16, a month later I was put into the \$19 category by Mr. Law, with the approval of Mr. Hughes, assistant director of our camp. My title was co-ordinator of M & O.

A week before, I had been asked by the adult education and the high school to come and teach English in both of the sections. I had refused both, for I felt, I could be of more service

to the camp at large if I helped the older people at M & O office. I was amazed to find that so many isseis understood so little English, yet had conducted businesses of their own for years on the outside.

As it became transparent to me that here was work for me to do I began work in earnest and continued to do so until I became ill and resigned in August 7, 1944.

I got along fine with the young and old men and they turned to me for everything from their W.R.A. work to home problems.

So well-liked did I become with all the workers and the W.R.A. Staff that one Japanese became intensely jealous and tried by all sorts of devious ways to get me out of the office. This I did not know nor suspect until later on, people knew about it told me. I am glad I did not know of it sooner for that knowledge might have interfered with my work. The man even tried to shift all work away from me, so that W.R.A. would consider me useless in office.

But the caucasian heads thought otherwise for they kept in on. When I became ill from overwork, Mr. H. Watson asked me to come and work even one half day each which I would have been glad to do, only the doctor forbade it. Mr. Watson in many ways tried to help me get better and even suggested his taking me for an auto ride around the project every morning, because he thought that would help me. I refused his kind offer excepting for that one person mentioned before, to mar my peace all was well between me and the workers and W.R.A. Staff.

It saddened me to think that instead of devoting his whole thoughts for the betterment of the camp conditions for his people, he should be so petty as to be jealous of a woman and to be scheming to get her out of office. It is ironic that all this time I was trying to help him and his section all the time in every way possible., The evacuees and W.R.A. Staff were most kind to me when I became ill and I will never forget it.

Here I would like to tell of some of the troubles we had because of W.R.A. policy as written in the manual. The issuance of coveralls or work clothes was a nightmare (to me at least), for I had to request it for the workers and if the request was denied and not granted by W.R.A. I had to explain to the workman so they would understand. Every time a group got it, all the rest insisted they were entitled to it too.

A blunt refusal would make them talk about striking, but a gentle explanation and a sympathetic attitude worked wonders.

The men in M & O, especially laborers, would become very hungry with the meager breakfast served them during the first part of camp life. The men asked for sandwiches or "onigiris" (rice balls) between meals to usage their hunger, but it was turned down. "It was not in the manuals to serve such" W.R.A. said. At such times I went to the sandwich kitchen and personally got them a part of the rice balls which were being made ready for the farm workers lunch. It does not take much rice to make about three doz. rice balls, and the sandwich

people gladly gave them to me so I took it to the men with the help of the foremen. After perhaps a rice ball a piece or so, the men went to work again with renewed vigor, and I used to think how terribly in-elastic W.R.A. policy was. If every one had tried to follow W.R.A. manual strictly to its wording all the time, nothing could have been accomplished in this camp.

Recording of time worked was another subject which did not seem satisfactory to me. For instance, Mr. Iga, the plumber foreman, who worked during the hardest times, worked overtime day and night; for, I don't know how long but the time keeper had failed to put down his over time so Mr. Iga had no over time to his credit, W.R.A. Staff concerned knew about it but did not get any compensation for him, and to me that seemed unfair and unwise on their part. It meant that they did not recognize faithful and efficient workers in camp. All workers heard about it. There were many loafers who it seemed, reported for work went home, came again at closing time and was given full credit. But W.R.A. made no plan nor effort to reward its conscientious workers nor to punish or fine its loafers. If some plan had been worked out, there would have been more efficient and good workers W.R.A. by its indifference defeated its own purpose of getting a lot of work out of the evacuees in camp. As in the case of Mr. Taylor, and the greaseman who made him take up grease from the grease-trap, it caused Mr. Taylor to "lose face" among those who heard the story, and at the same time to get him intensely disliked.

He should have never tried to reduce the crew without first finding out how the crew operated. Instead, he tried to cut down on the most disagreeable job without even knowing well what they did, although we in office had told and warned him that it was impossible to reduce that crew. Mr. Taylor was overheard by me to say to his fellow worker, "Are we or the Japs running the camp." Anyone with this kind of an attitude will not get result that is 100% from the group under his supervision. In all my dealings with the different departments I always tried to tack with the head man then, if that was impossible to talk to the foreman under him. For example: if any complaint was to be made to the kitchens we never said it directly, but always through the Steward's office. Until my time complaints were made to individual workers direct, to kitchen crew sometimes, and seldom to the Stewards office. I thought this made for confusion so we changed.

As for requisitions for M & C work, coming in, they used to come in from five sources

1. Block Managers
2. Block People
3. Janitors
4. Kitchen People
5. Groundsmen

This meant a duplication of all sorts of repair requests and led only to confusion and waste of time for us, so I suggested to Mr. Jensen, that we request the Engineering section to issue a letter to the blocks managers headquarters and to the Steward's office that hereafter we would consider

requests for repairs and needs of

1. Evacuee barracks only from Block Managers
2. Public Bldgs such as latrine laundry and shower rooms only from Janitor Foremen
3. Kitchen and D.H. " " Stewards' office

This was put into practice at once.

Beginning of January 8, 1943 I began to keep record of all requests that came in for everything

1. When requested - by whom
2. When repaired or filled - by whom

This book I kept open for anyone to see. So there was no complaint. Until then, no record had been kept although Mr. W.L.Law used to write in his narrative reports how much work M & O was asked to do. I will try to tell some of the things that happened during each supervisors stay.

Mr. W.L.Law was the superintendent of Building and Grounds. He had just been promoted to it when I began work. He is to be credited for having put things in shape at M & O. It was a pleasure for us to work for him for his fair attitude pleased all workers. He got much work from the evacuees. In March of 1943 many Hawaiian internees with their families came to live in block 1. and we at M & O were rushed to get everything ready for them. The internees had been given a choice in Hawaii of either staying in a concentration camp there away from their families, or coming to Topaz with their families to live. Many were bachelors. Many of them came to work at M & O and said to me that when they found the apartments so clean and everything in readiness for them, they were so grateful, they felt like crying. They had no idea of what to expect

when they reached here and of course had feared and expected the worst.

In July of 1943, young Mr. Eldon Jensen replaced Mr. Law. We had Mr. Jensen made supervisor instead of having Mr. Sutton who was Mr. H. Watson's choice as Mr. Law's successor. All foreman turned down Mr. Sutton as supervisor as he was disliked by the M & O men for reason mentioned before. I told Mr. H. Watson it was no use to put some one whom the men disliked in a supervisory position, for he would get no co-operation from the workers. I told him Mr. Jensen would be acceptable to everyone for he was well liked. Although he seemed to know only a little about M & O work except cabinet making, carpentry, painting, and sign painting.

Mr. H. Watson agreed and Mr. Jensen became M & O supervisor in July 1943. He was so young, the old men looked on him as one of their own son, and helped him all they could, for he was never officious nor overbearing. He had many ideas, good ones, which he would phone to Mr. Taylor who would invariably turn it down, and in a few minutes time call back about a wonderful idea he wanted put in practice. He griped Mr. Jensen many a time on this account.

Mr. Jensen was in office when the Tule transfer took place. M & O had the big job of supplying boxes, rope and paper to the 14,000⁰⁰ transferees, get the apartments ready for the incoming transferees of about the same number. It was no small job and kept us busy and tired for a long time.

The Hawaiian-Japanese in Block 1 caused the W.R.A. to have many anxious moments during the last few days before the Tule, Transfer. Many of them were getting restless, and resentful of being sent there. They disfigured and destroyed many of the apartment interiors. Even when they got to Tule, they caused trouble there. Their thinking had become distorted by the treatment they received in Hawaii by concentration camp.

Mr. Jensen was given the thankless task of getting them peacefully on the bus and their onto the train awaiting them in Delta. We never breathed freely till they went, Eighty four M & O workers left for Tulalake at that time. Of them 37 were janitors.

In January of 1944 Mr. Jensen left W.R.A. employee, and Mr. H. Watson had no one in mind to take his place. M & O men wanted either Mr. Greaves or Mr. Hopkins of construction, but Mr. Watson said he couldn't spare them. He called me to his office and asked me to take charge of M & O until July 1944 when he would find someone else to take charge. I refused because I knew it would be too much for me. The M & O workers were all for it and urged me to do so, but I couldn't.

Another reason: the issai men for the most part, object to having a woman dictate to them. They have been brought up to consider themselves above women so it cannot be helped. Although I experienced no unpleasantness as I gave out orders to the older men. I felt that their attitude would change were I to assume the role of supervisor of M & O. Rather than cause ill-feeling I refused, for the men, while I worked, understood why

I was there, and even came to our apartment to thank my husband for letting me work there! Upon my refusal, and during Mr. Taylor's vacation to California. Mr. E. Gardner was selected by Mr. Watson as Mr. Jensen's successor, and has worked conscientiously since that time. When he first came to M & O, I found later that many of the workers had been told he was a "slave-driver" and everything else which was displeasing to the workers.

It was very unwise of a certain person to give out such opinions of a new man coming in. It was sure to hamper his work.

On top of this Mr. Gardner did not understand the psychology of the evacuated Japanese at the time he took over, so had to overcome many obstacles, but in a few months, time his men came to understand him. Mr. Gardner and I could not see eye to eye at first but as time went on we found we were both working towards the same end.

At times like these, men in charge should be those who understand human psychology are firm in all things, yet direct with a sympathetic understanding of the groups under their charge. It makes for a happier relationship all around.

As we go forth to relocate after nearly 3½ years of camp life we all go out with different impressions of the life in camp, and go forth either unbittered or with a pioneering spirit.

Then in the former group are to be pitied, not censured; and those in the latter, cheered, for still having the courage and the will to face a world from which they were hidden for so long.

This work in camp has revealed to me that I am capable of

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those of the administrative staff who have been so kind to me and mine during my three years stay here.

It has been only through their understanding and co-operation that I have been able to do whatever I was able to in this camp, and if I have argued too much with them at various times, please remember it was not for myself I argued, but for a smoother understanding between the evacree workers and W.R.A.