Granada Final Report Evacuee Property Section Herbert J. Vatcher
(A report with a little more color than most)

"At the time of evacuation, many had little confidence in the United States government--in its ability or inclination to take care of their property or personal effects.....losses of property...
..."In this, as in other tight spots, Mr. Lindley, like a (Second Solomon", foresaw difficulties and moved to straighten them out before they became overwhelming...

"Sinc e the evacuees were handling their own property in this section, there was never any difficulty in obtaining sufficient and capable help, as they felt they were doing something to help themselves. H wever, when relocation took its toll of all evacuee helpers, a. p. took over and worked overtime..to get the job done....

In helping to get shipments ready during the last fewmonths of the center, meetings with block managers proved to be very effective as they co-operated one hundred percent with the office & assisted in the crating and handling of freight and express

..During the latter part of September, a number of families returning to CORTEZ, LIVINGSTON, AND WALNUT GROVE, organized as a group, made boxes and crates, completed all preliminary measures themselves, and loaded several freight cars with their goods, assuming all responsibility,which was greatly appreciated at a time when the section was most busy.

(Difficulties and Problems)
"Sometimes arrangements were all completed for a shipment to the East and then the office would be notified to send it to California or elsewhere. Many times, after all procedure had been completed, even after freight had been placed in cars, a forwarding address would be changed.

"Temporary housing on the West Coast for some of the later departees caused some confusion and extra handling of property."

"Fire Damage" godds of 13 families..were totally destroyed when a fire broke out in a freight car near Canyon Diablo, Arizona. The case is now in the hands of the legal dept. of the WRA office, L. A.....fire appears to have started within the car.

Cats & dogs took up a great deal of valuable time in the process of being crated, weighed and billed out of separate GB#1.

OPERATIONS DIVISION, Wm. Fuller, Chief
...more or less success was achieved by assignment of units to individual evacuees who evidenced interest & experience in a particular field of work. This apparently resulted in a sense of proprietorship which was respected by a. p. and probably produced a consistent measure of efficiency.

the rejection of a charter proposed by them.

LEGAL DIVISION.."Unless the drafting of the charter & the work of organ. was intended as a practical demonstration of the processes of democracy, much time & effort could prob. have been saved had a uniform form of charter been estab. by WRA for the govt. of the community with suitable provision contained therein for amendments which might be proposed by the evacuees & adopted by the community, subject, of course,to the approval of such amendments by WRA.I doubt that this would have caused any more disappointment or dissatisfaction than did

1/23/45 40-4150

7706 Satow, Yone 8
3796 Yukawa, Fumiye 8
3797 Hirase, Kiyoko 8

Legal Division Final Report

Community Enterprises..."Considering the amount of work done in this matter and also in subsequent handling of tax problems, patronage refunds, rental questions, establishment of purchasing agents, etc. for such organization, it would appear again that much effort & confusion might have been avoided had an organization similar to theArmy Exchange Service been set up to furnish necessary items for sale to the evacuees, which items would be sold at a very small margin above cost, and any profits therefrom would be devoted to recreational or other purposes on behalf of the residents of the Center. However, heré again, it is possible that the morale value of allowing the evacuees to organize & operate their own organization may possibly have overbalanced the drawbacks of such a system.

Bill amending state constitution to bar aliens from owning real estate in this state was defeated in Nov., 1944. "This, while not of vital importance due to the few J who reside within the state, was an indication of the antagonism toward them, not only in this state but also inmany parts of the country.

Farm program discussion....due to the leasing of a great part of th farm land, practically none of it was allowed to lie idle.....this situation was due more to the fact that the plans in regard to leave had been changed so as to allow evacuees to accept outside employment on short term leave, thus causing a relative shortage of manpower in the Center, rather than to any error in the estimate in the amt of land which could have been farmed b the population which it was anticipated would be in this center."

difficulties in regard to property left in private storage in California (also discussed by Evacuee Property Final Report) "It appears that much of this trouble was caused by the trust which they reposed in Caucasians who were supposedly their friends & with whom they had, in many cases, left most of their possessions, only to learn later that these "supposed friends" had either sold the same, appropriated it to their own use, or negligently allowed it to become lost or stolen. In these cases negligible results were secured by this office, due in large part to the apparent lack of interest on the part of law enforcement authorities in California, who apparently made little or no effort either to recover the property or to arrest those who had stolen it. Neither have our own West Coast offices been able to show any appreciable results in recovering any of this property."

Difficulty in obtaining ins. on evac. propt.

...apprently some tendency on the part of the Wash. office to criticze the Project for handling a large part of its criminal cases in the local court in Lamar, rather than before the Judicial Commission here at the Project. However, this system apparently worked very successfully, & I think that this tendency was due perhaps to a lack of conviction on the part of the project staff in the legality of any punishment that might have been imposed by th Judicial Commission especially in the matters of imprisonment or fine.... doubt a quasi-judicial tribunal, such as the J. D., actually has such authority & whether an attempt to enforce its judgments might not subject the responsible project official to suit for false arrest, doubts extend to issuance of warrants search warrants, and subpoenas ~~issued~~ by P. Director.

1/25/44

40-4750

3706	Satow, Gone	8
3797	Hirase, Kiyo	8
3796	Yukawa, Fumi	8

Evac. Prop. July 6, 1943

JCH

MEMORANDUM TO: J. G. Lindley, Project Director
Granada Relocation Center
Amache, Colorado

SUBJECT: Return of Contraband

Under separate cover we are returning the applications of several evacuees who have asked for the release of radios now held in custody by various police departments and sheriffs' offices. In view of the provisions contained in Administrative Instruction No. 97 and Supplement 1 thereto, it will be necessary to arrange for the removal of short-wave attachments before the release of any of these radios can be obtained.

If you will review each application and have the forms amended as suggested in our memorandum of this date, we shall be glad to proceed with these requests.

The transmittal memoranda on each of these files were originally written about a month ago and then held in this office pending issuance of definite regulations regarding short-wave radios. We have merely updated the memoranda but have not rewritten them as full information is now available in the Administrative Instruction and the memorandum that we have addressed to all project directors today.

(SIGNED)

Victor L. Furth
Acting Chief
Evacuee Property Office

Smark has original
DCH

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

JUL 21 1943

Mr. J. G. Lindley
Project Director
Granada Relocation Center
Amache, Colorado

Dear Mr. Lindley:

Two project evacuee property officers have recently gone into the evacuated area to handle personally the property problems of evacuees on their projects. This is definitely contrary to instructions and must not be permitted.

The duties of the project evacuee property officer are on the project. It is not his function to undertake investigations or negotiations in the field, even though requested to do so by evacuees. This is the responsibility of the evacuee property field office. If very unusual circumstances exist, upon presentation of the case, the Evacuee Property Office in San Francisco may request the project director to authorize the project evacuee property officer to visit the field office in order to assist the field office men in the handling of the problem.

The functions of the project evacuee property officers include the following:

1. To act as counselors to evacuees concerning their property problems, and to assist them in selling, leasing, operating, transporting, and storing their property. In rendering these services, Administrative Instructions Nos. 77 and 78 are to be followed.

2. To obtain from evacuees full and accurate information regarding the property matters concerning which the evacuees request assistance, and in appropriate cases to furnish this information to the proper evacuee property field office or to the transportation section.

3. To act as liaison between the evacuees and the Evacuee Property Office in San Francisco or the evacuee property field offices. This involves securing information, documents, signatures to forms, and in general rendering every possible assistance in furthering the functions of the Evacuee Property Office.

4. To refer to the project attorney property problems of a legal nature presented by evacuees, and to consult with the project attorney on matters having legal involvements.

Sincerely yours,

E. M. Powell

Acting Director

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
San Francisco, California, Office
Whitcomb Hotel Bldg.

October 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Evacuee Property Supervisors and Project Property Officers

SUBJECT: Furnishing Information to Alien Property Custodian

We are frequently called upon for assistance in connection with property matters in which an evacuee born in Japan has an interest. It has sometimes been incorrectly assumed that the Alien Property Custodian takes over or vests the property interests of all Japanese aliens. As a matter of fact, cases concerning which the Alien Property Custodian's office ought to be notified occur very infrequently, since that office is interested only in certain restricted classes of cases.

The terms "enemy national" and "national of a designated enemy country", as those terms are used by Foreign Funds Control and by the Alien Property Custodian, do not include all Japanese aliens. The mere fact that an evacuee was born in Japan does not mean that the Alien Property Custodian wishes to be notified whenever a transaction arises concerning such an evacuee's property.

Generally speaking, there are only two types of cases in which the Alien Property Custodian is interested:

1) When the evacuee has been specifically blocked. (In most cases you will not know whether an evacuee has been specifically blocked, but there are relatively very few such evacuees, and if the evacuee with whose property you are dealing executes Form WRA-154 (Revised) you need not make further inquiry as to his status unless there are suspicious circumstances.)

2) When the interests of any person now in Japan are involved. ("Person" of course includes any group, partnership, association, corporation, etc. Applicants for repatriation should also be considered in this category.)

It is suggested that in all such cases the evacuee himself should be advised to report the facts to the APC,

and for that purpose the WRA representative who happens to be dealing with the evacuee could prepare a letter for the evacuee's signature accordingly. However, if the evacuee chooses not to make the report, WRA as a Government Agency is under obligation to do so. If the evacuee concerned is in each instance told that this is being done, there should be no misunderstanding.

Victor L Furth

Victor L. Furth
Acting Chief
Evacuee Property Office

501.01

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Granada Project

MEMORANDUM

May 1, 1944

To: Theodore Staeffler

From: James G. Lindley

Subject: Crating of Evacuee Property

Confirming our discussion concerning the crating of goods for evacuees departing from the Center, there are attached hereto requisitions from the Evacuee Property Officer for the crating of goods for Maki Hamada, T. Moriuchi, M. Yamashiro, and Shig Murakami.

You will note that there is an indication given on the requisition in most instances concerning the date when the goods must be crated. Will you please make arrangements with your carpentry shop to assure that a carpenter and materials will be available to do the necessary crating within the time limits set in each instance.

In future cases Mr. Fischer will submit requisitions directly to you, and any questions which arise should be discussed with him to the end that crating will be promptly accomplished.

Enc.

B

AIRMAIL

Mr. J. G. Lindley
Project Director
Granada Relocation Center
Amache, Colorado

JAN 5 1945

Dear Mr. Lindley:

Chapter 100 of the Administrative Manual outlines the general organization of the Evacuee Property Division and establishes the policies and procedures for its operation. Administrative Manual Release No. 158, Post Exclusion Program Sections 150.1.9 - 9C (2), outlines the policy which will govern the work of the War Relocation Authority following the lifting of the blanket exclusion orders against persons of Japanese ancestry. This letter will implement Chapter 100 and Manual Release No. 158 as specifically applying to the work of the Evacuee Property Section at the Centers.

The function of the Evacuee Property Section at the Centers is to handle all evacuee property matters that can be handled at that level. The Evacuee Property Officer acts as counselor to evacuees concerning their property problems and assist on the Center in selling, leasing, operating, transporting, or storing their property under the terms of the Manual. He acts as liaison between the evacuee and the Evacuee Property Division in San Francisco or its Area Offices. It is not the function of the Evacuee Property Officer at the Center to undertake investigation or negotiation in the field, but in appropriate cases he shall furnish information to the Evacuee Property Area Office or to the Transportation Section. In this connection, he shall obtain from the evacuee full and accurate information regarding property matters concerning which the evacuee requests assistance.

If evacuee property problems accumulate in any given Property Area Office, a detailed listing of the cases pending should be prepared periodically as a follow up, and forwarded to the Assistant Director in San Francisco.

One of the most important duties of the Evacuee Property Officer at the Center is to provide full and accurate information and publicity to evacuees concerning the policy of the WRA in respect to property matters. Information to evacuees on property matters should be a continuing thing and the Evacuee Property Officer should be on the alert to use every means at his disposal to keep evacuees fully informed and to prevent false rumors or misunderstanding concerning WRA policy. As a means for carrying out this responsibility, the Evacuee Property

Officer should work in close cooperation with the Center Report Officer in preparing press releases for the Center newspaper for publicity in both the English and Japanese sections. Special effort should be directed at this time to inform evacuees of the changes made in WRA policy since the lifting of the blanket exclusion orders.

The Evacuee Property Officer should be a regular attendant at all staff meetings of the personnel. He should keep the staff fully informed of evacuee property problems and enlist the support of other staff members in explaining WRA policy and services to key evacuee personnel working in other sections.

Assistance in transportation of property to point of relocation shall be available to persons whose relocation plans are approved by the WRA. (150.1.9B) Since payment of transportation cost depends upon an approved relocation plan it is extremely important that the Evacuee Property Officer and the Relocation Officer work out definite procedures for handling work of this kind. It is suggested that these two sections be housed together. A procedure should be established for interviewing every individual or head of family on property problems before the evacuee leaves the Center. In group relocation the Evacuee Property Officer should meet with the Relocation Officer and members of the group in preparing plans for shipment of whatever property is requested by the group. This conference should come early in the discussion of the group to enable the Evacuee Property Officer to make necessary arrangements for the prompt shipment of their property. For individuals or families relocating, the Evacuee Property Officer should be kept fully informed as to the date the evacuees plan to leave the Center so that arrangements can be made to ship property prior to the departure of the evacuees. Wherever possible the property should be shipped far enough in advance of the departure of the evacuee to insure delivery of property at destination upon arrival of the evacuee.

With the limitation of services in property matters now in effect, the Evacuee Property Officer should review with the Welfare Counselor and personnel of the Welfare Section the basic policy now in effect. The Welfare Counseling group should be brought up-to-date on policy and a definite procedure established for referring any property problems discovered by the Welfare Section to the Evacuee Property Office for handling. Such referral should be made upon a regular referral form and Welfare Section be kept fully advised on the outcome of the referral.

Cooperation and complete working relationships between the Evacuee Property Officer and the Project Attorney should be closer perhaps than between any other sections, due to the peculiar nature of the evacuee property work. As a means of assuring proper working relationships between these two offices the following suggestions are made:

1. That each Project Director make arrangements for housing the offices of the Project Attorney and the Evacuee Property Officer under the same roof or close together, and if possible adjacent to the Relocation Office.

2. That Project Attorney and the Evacuee Property Officer should hold joint staff meeting periodically to discuss mutual problems, filing system, procedures, etc.

3. The Project Attorney should deliver to the Evacuee Property Officer all cases in their entirety which involves no legal problem. The whole responsibility for handling and carrying through to a conclusion on such cases ought to be the responsibility of the Evacuee Property Officer. Likewise, the Evacuee Property Officer should turn over to the Project Attorney all matters of legal nature. Only in rare cases should both men retain a joint responsibility. And in those cases they should clearly define for themselves which matters are going to be the responsibility of the Evacuee Property Officer and which are to be the responsibility of the Project Attorney.

4. All legal documents should be prepared by the Project Attorney or have his written okay before they are delivered to the Evacuee or otherwise put to use.

5. The Evacuee Property Officer and the Project Attorney should cultivate the habit of conferring with each other regularly to keep informed of the work of each section. Frequent and easy exchange of information is essential to the smooth working relationships of the two offices.

6. The Evacuee Property Officer should request from the Project Attorney excerpts of letters from the Solicitor's Office and from other Projects dealing with property matters. This practice would make for a closer relationship between the two offices and in addition would serve to keep the Evacuee Property Officer posted on developments and making him aware of recurring legal problems and their solutions.

Manual 150.1.9A limits the service of the War Relocation Authority in the field of property management. This, however, does not prevent the Evacuee Property Officer from giving all assistance possible to evacuees at the Center with respect to sale, leases, debt adjustments, mortgages, negotiations, etc. Most cases of this kind should be handled at the Center, and the Evacuee Property Officer should give all assistance possible in matters of this kind. Particular emphasis should be directed toward closing as many pending cases as possible before the evacuees leave the Center. Cases which have been referred to Area Offices should be reviewed and the Area Office concerned furnished any additional information necessary to enable that office to close the case. In assisting evacuees on the Project to negotiate leases, contracts, etc., the Evacuee Property Officer will consult with the Project Attorney and follow his advise upon the legality of all documents or signed instruments. Since the time element is so important in accepting or rejecting offers received in cases referred to an Area Office, the Evacuee Property Officer will keep the Area Office advised promptly of any acceptance

or rejection of any offers by the evacuee. Ordinarily the Area Office should be advised by teletype confirmed by a letter.

Under the regulation prescribed in the Manual, Chapter 150.1.9B, the Evacuee Property Officer will assist evacuees in arranging for shipment of their property. In preparing Forms WRA-156, the Evacuee Property Officer will get all specific information possible. Indicated on the form or on a separate sheet stapled to the form if necessary should be listed the present place of storage, the name of the caretaker, terms of the agreement with the caretaker, whether property of other evacuees is stored at the same place, and if the evacuee has property at other location. Detailed information and description should be given on each item. If the property is stored in Government storage the evacuee will have in his possession an Evacuee Property Report. Form WRA-156 should be prepared in the same order as the Evacuee Property Report. Property should be listed and described in the same manner as on the EPR. The Evacuee Property Officer should personally review each 156's before signing and routing.

Storage of evacuee property in Government storage is now limited to (1) property of excludees or (2) where necessary to enable evacuees returning under the approved relocation plan to re-occupy building used for private storage. (150.9.C (2)). In executing Forms WRA-155 the same care should be taken as in preparing Forms WRA-156.

In all cases referred to an Area Office, whether transportation, storage or property management, the Evacuee Property Officer should send copies of all incoming and outgoing letters to the Area Office. Property Officers should refrain from initiating correspondence to individuals on cases which have been referred to an Area Office. In the event individuals write to the Project about such cases the letter should be acknowledged and the writer referred to the office handling the case. Regulations permit the use of telegram, telephone, teletype, airmail, etc. when speedier communication than ordinary mail is needed. The Evacuee Property Officer should use discretion and good judgment but should not hesitate to use the faster means of communication when in his opinion the urgency of the case demands it. Copies of all correspondence, communications, etc., on property matters should be sent to the Assistant Director in San Francisco.

Warehousing of the evacuee property at the Center is a proper function of the Warehouse Unit of the Property Control Section and not a function of the Evacuee Property Section. It is not anticipated that there will be occasion to provide storage on the Project for evacuee property except in rare cases. When in the judgment of the Evacuee Property Officer temporary storage is necessary, the evacuee should execute Forms WRA-223, Request for Storage. Forms should than be routed to the Warehouse Unit who should pick up the property and place it in storage. Property should be properly identified and placed in the warehouse in an orderly manner. When property is to be removed from the warehouse, the evacuee should execute Forms WRA-156 in the ordinary manner with the Evacuee Property

Officer who should route the forms to the Warehouse Unit for delivery of the property. Sufficient copies of 223 and 156 should be made for administrative use at the Project. There is no need to route them elsewhere.

The Evacuee Property Officer should review the files in his office and place them in order. All materials concerning any case handled by the Evacuee Property Officer should be arranged in a case file in chronological order wherever possible. The case file should contain copies of all correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, copies of all forms, leases, etc., should also be in the case file. It is recommended that the Evacuee Property Officer assign a capable file clerk to arrange files in proper order and keep them so. If other offices in the Center have handled evacuee property problems, files on such cases should be secured and assembled in the Evacuee Property Office. Specific instruction will be given later in the final disposition of case file of evacuee property. Meanwhile, they should be kept in the Center.

Sincerely,

D. S. Myer

Director