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Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY FOR AUGUST, 1943

During the month the segregation program was the first order of business at Poston. All divisions cooperated to the end so that the work has gone ahead on schedule and block lists of those to be moved to the Tule Lake center were made up by the end of the month. Arrangements are now being made to handle the packing of goods for shipment and other necessary preparations for the movement of the first group of people. The Army authorities have advised us of train schedules. The Health Department has practically completed its work of examining and certifying those people who will require special sleeper accommodations for the trip.

The orders to have people ready for sailing with the repatriates on the Gripsholm, added considerable work for several of the divisions, but despite the short time allowed all were sent from Poston to Gila according to the schedule. Ten of these people were returned from Gila to Poston and another ten were turned back at New York.

The outside public relations has shown a definite trend of improvement, largely because we have a Reports Officer who understands the Arizona viewpoint and has contacts with important publishing, radio and political groups within the State. With the assistance of L. L. Nelson, our Unit I Administrator, Mrs. Brown, Reports Officer, has been able to contact the Arizona delegate on the resolutions committee of the Omaha National American Legion Convention, and we feel that he will be a moderating influence when the convention considers the so-called Japanese problem. Two recent editorials in the leading Phoenix paper have shown a definitely more tolerant attitude toward WRA and the whole Japanese-American question. Another indication of better outside public relations comes from the editor of the Arizona Farmer, who is a radio commentator and writer of national note, indicating that WRA is following its policy of not resettling people on the available irrigated lands in this State.

An overload on our electric power lines which created a serious fire menace forced us to adopt a strict policy of stopping the use of electric appliances in the residence quarters.

The month saw the adoption of a penal code and a traffic code for Poston. There was one case of an attack with a knife by a resident during the month, and the guilty person has been turned over to the county authorities to determine sanity, or stand trial in the county courts on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

The Evacuee Property office has succeeded in getting the release of some farm machinery from California for shipment to other states where evacuee owners relocating may establish themselves on leased land. This was done with the cooperation and aid of the County War Boards in the section to which the relocated people were moving.

We lost two more doctors (evacuee) at the Poston General hospital during the month by relocation and while there is a definite shortage of medical men, the situation is not actually acute. Two other doctors are planning to leave for outside employment which will force us to do something to replace their services. There is also a shortage of nurses, both graduate and student.

The new pumper equipment has arrived for the Fire Department but as yet the Fire Protection Division has not been able to recruit and train a large enough staff to man the equipment.

The work on the canal and leveling of land has moved along but is generally behind schedule. It appears now that we will not be able to have all of the land ready for fall planting which had been set as our original goal.

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Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER, 1943

Highlight of November was, perhaps, the effect of the Examiner-California "investigating" committee barrage leveled at Poston, in conjunction with what seems a planned campaign against any relocation centers in California or adjacent there-to, perhaps partially in retaliation for locating a "for the duration" camp within its sacred borders. Arizona papers took little or no notice of the campaign, Arizona's governor refused to appoint a committee to "investigate" Poston, and aside from resentment at the unfairness of the attack and the dishonest handling of the stories printed, residents of the center were not greatly upset by the campaign. Results of the hundreds of inches of space used must have been disappointing to the Examiner, if it expected to have any influence outside the state of California.

The health situation in the project continues to be satisfactory although an unusually high incidence of upper respiratory infections has been reported by the public health department. Another physician, Dr. George Wada, left the project to relocate, leaving the staff at five doctors and one medical student. Rohwer Center has loaned us one of their doctors for 30 days but he will report back there December 20. Two other doctors have been obtained and are due to join the staff in December. The rest home for the custodial care of elderly or infirm and invalid cases has been completed.

No outstanding legal problems have been met this month, and a closer working arrangement between the internal security department, the judicial commission and the legal department bids fair to bring about even fewer problems in the future.

The most disastrous fire which has taken place in Poston occurred November 16, when two barracks and their contents were destroyed. Government property destroyed was estimated at \$4500. All personal effects of the five families living there were destroyed. No injuries were received.

Subjugation and land leveling went forward in good shape during the month. Nearly 800 acres will be planted to field and truck crops before the end of December if plans materialize, as they seem certain to do.

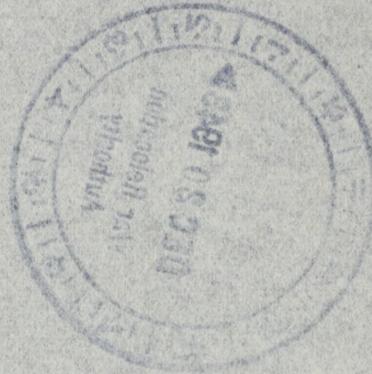
Poston schools did not receive the accreditation we had hoped would be granted with the visit of representatives of the state educational system in mid-November. The request was not summarily refused, but rather left pending until re-

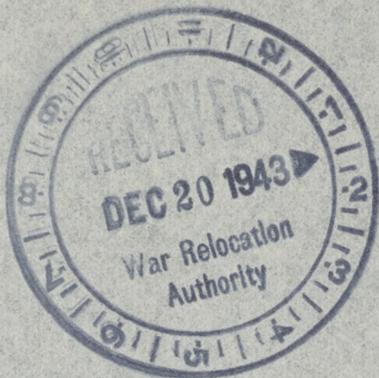
commendations of the inspectors could be met. Installation of heating stoves in most school buildings is expected to lower the absence rate of both students and teachers.

Conferences held by the evacuee property custodian and James Crawford, newly appointed relocation officer who is former administrator for Unit II, reveal that much of the hesitancy of farm families to relocate in the Midwest or East is due to the unstable condition of their property interests on the coast. Coordination of effort on the part of these two departments is expected to result in more farm families feeling free to relocate.

Sixty-four workers went from Poston to assist in the Tule Lake harvest.

Landscaping of the grounds around the administration building is going forward with renewed enthusiasm and with definite promise of a far more inviting appearance. Work on the personnel housing project is nearing completion and it is possible that some of the apartments may be occupied by Christmas.





Colorado River War Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 1943

Preparation for the complete transfer of administration from the Indian Service to the WRA claimed the attention of most appointed personnel during the month of December, inventory etc. being added to the usual year-end activities. Normal holiday cessation of business activities outside the center, the transportation "freeze" which cut down travel of evacuees going out on indefinite leave also affected the work of the project somewhat. However, with colder weather in the Midwest and East and the shutting down of seasonal work, many out on seasonal leave returned to the center. Some 30 soldiers spent holiday furloughs with home folks here.

Transition from the Indian Service to WRA has occasioned quite a bit of work for the legal division, which also assisted in drafting a school code and in the settling of juvenile delinquency problems.

An intensive planting program is under way by the agriculture department, with the residents heartily in favor of devoting even more man power to that part of project activities, since it means making the project even more self sustaining as far as food goes. A set-back was suffered by this department when a fire, originating in a barrack being used as a brooder house, destroyed 4,500 chicks of varying ages. The blaze spread to 5 other barracks destroying stored household goods belonging to evacuees and personnel and amounting to approximately \$45,000. Good work by the fire departments of all three units kept the damage from being much greater, for an extremely high wind was blowing and the fire had broken out in the second building before the department arrived, due to an inadequate fire alarm system. Part of the equipment to install a new system has been on the project for several weeks, awaiting the arrival of other parts, according to the fire chief.

Dedication of the school plant in Unit I, marking the near-completion of one of the major undertakings, was held late this month. Inspection of the auditorium revealed that several safety matters had been overlooked. Most of these have been corrected and the others are under way. Completion of the personnel housing project was accomplished and some of the apartments are now occupied. Others await the installation of cook stoves, which have not arrived, and the installation of hot water equipment. Lack of any means whereby personnel living in the apartments can buy groceries without the 36 mile round-trip to Parker has kept others from moving. Since one trip to Parker takes the full three-gallon

ration of gasoline available for one week and since gasoline is often not available in Parker, this problem is a major one to be solved.

Land leveling and subjugation, in preparation for planting, continues underway. Loss of some equipment which belonged to the Indian Service is expected to impede some operations until adjustments are accomplished. Fencing of a new motor pool yard, in order to accomplish even more effective control of the motor equipment, is under way. Fencing of the northern boundary of the project in order to keep wild horses from tramping crops and gardens also is being done.

Visit of the Spanish consul was an important happening of the month. Recommendations were made by representatives of the residents. Unit III, however, felt they had no items of sufficient importance to present. Residents, however, were somewhat aroused over unjust attacks in the Hearst press on WRA and the Colorado River War Relocation Project. In letters addressed to the project director and Dillon Myer, national director, they asked an aggressive publicity campaign designed to offset such accusations.

Report of the high school inspector for the state of Arizona on his trip to Poston included the fact that "the efficiency of the schools are quite satisfactory" but indicated his dissatisfaction with some features of the new plant, such as the lack of provision for showers and bathing facilities for physical education classes - too small home economics rooms and "weak and inadequate instructional equipment for laboratories, etc.

Despite a high incidence of influenza cases in surrounding communities, health conditions on the project continued satisfactory. School attendance was out 10 per cent by "flu" but at no time did anything like an epidemic occur. Two new members were added to the nursing staff, but the medical staff remains inadequate.

Public relations, on the whole, remain satisfactory. Talks with the governor and other influential persons indicate their confidence in the good faith of project officials and WRA.

Colorado River Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY FOR MARCH, 1944

~~W.F.~~
~~W.F.~~
~~Hogman~~
~~Quill~~
~~Provine~~
~~Barnes~~
~~Staub~~

March came to Poston like the traditional lion, with muted rumblings which bade fair to break into deep-throated roars momentarily. However, conforming again to tradition, it departed in lamb-like, not to say sheepish, manner, despite the fact that the second group of Nisei youth is due to take pre-induction physical examinations in mid-April.

Selective service for Nisei occasioned much discussion and a wave of expatriation requests can probably be attributed, in part, to it. Arrest of nine boys who refused to appear for pre-physical examination March 19, and their subsequent sentence to three years in a federal penitentiary; announcement that requests for expatriation received after January 20 would not be considered by draft boards as a reason for deferment, and the counsel of responsible community leaders, all are having their effect. A complete analysis of the situation, insofar as it concerns repatriation and expatriation requests, is contained in the Family Welfare section report, which accompanies this.

W. Miller
OK

Seventy-four persons were transferred to Tule Lake Center March 2; fifty went to Crystal City March 1.

PROJECT EMPLOYMENT:

Readjustment of employment, in order to meet the new quotas effective April 1, caused many conferences. Block Managers and the hospital taking the quota reduction most seriously. For the most part, adjustments were made without great inconvenience.

Shortage of teachers, both appointed and evacuee, is becoming increasingly acute, handicapping the educational program to great degree. This is particularly true of vocational and physical education.

In spite of the shortage Poston III high school has been recommended by a representative of the Arizona State Committee for accreditation, following a visit here March 21 and 22.

RELOCATION:

Relocation has been hindered by failure to receive decisions on leave clearance from Washington. Five hundred and twenty-two were pending in Washington at the end of March, 100 of which are considered highly important by the project. Selective service also has materially changed the relocation picture for many families.

However, relocation is continuing, with from 50 to 65 departing from the project on indefinite leave each week.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Richard F. Harless, Arizona representative in Congress, visited the center March 29, and was taken on an inspection tour. E. Oren Arnold, widely-known in the Southwest as an author who is gaining national reputation, spent two days here gathering material for a series of articles. Elsie Windsor, Orange high school librarian and free lance writer, also was a guest here. The month also saw the visit of the Parker Woman's Club, marking the first time many of its members had been to the center.

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Colorado River Relocation Project
Poston, Arizona

MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY FOR JUNE, 1944

Lynn
Farron
R. Byrd
Joyce
Mike
Files
(FH)

No summary of center activities during the month of June can well be written without placing selective service, in all its phases, well at the head of the list. Failure of 16 more Nisei to accept induction brought the total from Poston to 51, although the return to the fold of one who refused and the acceptance of a medical excuse from another reduced it to below the 50 mark. These two will be inducted July 20. Return of the evaders to the center after making bail, usually set at \$1,000, has undoubtedly been influential in causing others to refuse. The triumphant return to the center of George Fujii, released because of insufficient evidence on his sedition charge, also has had its influence.

Processing of selective service calls for pre-induction physical and induction, notification of those out on indefinite, and handling those called to active duty has been a large order for the relocation program officer who also serves as selective service representative. Legal advice to those refusing induction has added to the work of the legal division and arrest of the evaders has increased the work of internal security---to say nothing of the ultimate effect of the refusals on outside public relations.

The month has set an all-time record for indefinite leaves from this center, 402 being granted. An encouraging factor is the number of families which are going out. All-out cooperation on the part of appointed personnel, the family counseling program and individual evacuee participation stimulated by success of others who have relocated is giving impetus to the relocation program.

Public relations, on the whole, have been satisfactory. The expected pre-election barrage has failed to develop to any alarming degree. Arizona News, a tabloid which is without a great deal of standing in the state, began a campaign on the number of Japanese now working in the Salt River Valley, and blaming Governor Osborn for their continued presence. Should it continue long on that score, other newspapers can be expected to follow suit, and the draft-evasion cases will give them ammunition for their guns.

Manpower problems have abated somewhat with the release of several hundred high school students from classes. Need for harvesters has been met by drafting gardeners and others in jobs which could be left for short period of time to work in the fields. Relocation, selective service, and seasonal work however, has drained the available manpower to low ebb and with the beginning of school, the problem again will become acute.

A heavy tonnage of truck crops was harvested this month. Grain harvest, showing fair yields, went on throughout the month, hampered somewhat by mechanical breakdowns. Distance from repair parts added to the difficulty. Poultry flocks suffered severe losses from ailments caused by extremes in temperature and cannibalism.

Maintenance of canals comprised the main part of the work done in irrigation in June, work on irrigation structures being curtailed so the crews could be assigned to construction work needed by agriculture.

Summer school sessions began the Monday following close of the winter term, with attendance of the elementary students approximating the winter term. Secondary school students are either working or have relocated so that only 20% of the winter enrollment are in attendance. The Vocational Training program expanded rapidly with the closing of the winter term so that during June 83 apprentice trainees--only seven under the quota allowed--had been assigned.

Colorado River Relocation Center
Poston, Arizona

MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY FOR AUGUST, 1944

Activities at Poston assumed the tempo of a Southwestern summer during August, selective service matters providing the almost the only stimulation. One hundred and three Nisei left this center for active service during the month. All of these were sent to the Ft. Douglas Utah reception center, although some of them had been accepted for Camp Savage.

Draft evasions by refusal to appear either for physical examination or induction totaled 15, as compared to June when 34 refused. The number called was approximately the same as in June. July saw only 2 refusals and few called. It is significant that the reduction in refusals has been very noticeable since public recognition of the departing soldiers has become a custom.

War Department notification of the wounding of 13 and the death of four sons of Poston families in Italy during July were received during the month. Memorial services for two whose families live in Unit II were held August 15. Memorial for two from Unit I was held August 26.

Public sentiment, softened somewhat by the realization that the Japanese-Americans from the centers are fighting and dying alongside Caucasian boys, is making possible even better public relations than heretofore. Lt. Guy D. Mosier of the U.S. Air Force who has just returned from duty overseas addressed the residents and 79 boys who left the first week in August at a send-off celebration August 4 and extolled the work of the 442nd, which was fighting in the same sector from which he had just returned. The Mohave Indian Band, members of a tribe some of which had been highly incensed at the accidental death of Frank Homer, aged Mohave Indian, in an auto-truck accident involving a 17-year old Japanese boy July 5, played for the send-off and are anxious to play at any send-off program.

A second send-off celebration was held August 25, with Dan Garvey, secretary of State of Arizona, as principal speaker.

Stories on the send-off celebrations and the casualties have been sent Arizona newspapers and wire services, which have given them good space. Stories of boys entering the service and casualty stories have been sent home town papers of the boys concerned, approximately 90 such stories having been sent California newspapers during August.

Presence of approximately 55 draft evaders who are awaiting sentence by the grand jury is contributing to delinquency and has added to disciplinary problems.

Several appointive positions remain to be filled, slowing down the work of some divisions somewhat. Relocation and selective service continue to take their toll of efficient evacuee workers making retrenchment in some programs imperative.

Few vegetable and no grain were harvested during the month. Preparation of land for fall crops went forward with the prospect that schedules would be kept.

Dedication of Unit III high school auditorium, marking the completion of the plant, was held August 30. Work of the Unit I high school plant is progressing satisfactorily.

With the thoughts of the residents beginning to turn toward winter, indefinite leaves have slowed down to a marked degree.

Health in the center, despite hot weather, and the dangers attendant upon swimming, continues good. Family members of the owner of a rabid dog killed in Unit I have been undergoing treatment although no one is known to have been bitten. As a preventive measure, all dogs in the center have been ordered put on leash and all strays destroyed. Inoculation of all dogs against rabies will begin immediately.

Duncan Mills
Project Director

September, 1944

NARRATIVE REPORT

A correction should be made in the narrative for August. It was there stated that it was impossible to send delegates from the Poston II Christian Church to the Presbyterian Young People's Conference at Mount Lemon, Arizona. At the last minute the necessary travel permits arrived and two girls attended the conference. Their expenses were paid for by funds from Rev. G. K. Chapman. As was also mentioned in the previous report delegates from Units I and III attended two conferences of Methodist Young People held at Camp Radford, California. All the delegates to both conferences reported that they were very well received by the young people they met. Those who went to California was especially impressed by the lack of attention they attracted while on the train and while in San Bernardino. Useful contacts were made by our delegates that may result in a closer contact between Methodist Churches in southern California and our Project. As more permits for exemption from the military exclusion orders are granted, these contacts will become increasingly valuable.

The Section assisted in arranging two send-offs during the month for young men called to active duty in the army. There is a joint staff and council committee to make the arrangements for these programs, and the Activities Section assists in putting on the program so arranged. Both the send-offs were held in the early evening at the outdoor stage at Unit I. The programs have been as follows:

- Flag Salute - Lead by Boy Scouts with Color Guard.
- Star Spangled Banner
- Introduction of departing soldiers
- Farewell by Project Director or his representative
- Farewell by representative of Community Council
- Brief address to the men and audience - given one occasion by John W. Powell, Ass't Project Director, and on the other by Col Rien, British Army veteran of both wars
- To the Colors - Scout Bugler

The half hour program is followed by a period when good-bye's may be said, and the men then leave directly by bus for Fort Douglas. Families and friends of inductees from Units II and III come to the send-off, and the occasion is one of rather impressive simplicity. Each block ordinarily arranges an additional party of its own when men are called from the particular block.

Complete and active service men's associations are now functioning in each Unit. A gratifying support is now coming from Issei and they seem ready to assume responsibility in such organizations. Each Unit now has a service men's center and Pfc. Thomas Hig's visit will be under the general sponsorship of the

"USO" organizations in each Unit. An inquiry sent to the regional USO Headquarters in San Francisco asking about affiliation was answered in the negative on the ground that the Project is a specific military reservation. This matter has been referred to the Washington WRA Office for advice and assistance.

It is planned to continue the paper drive for the joint benefit of the Boy Scouts and the USO. Seven tons were added to the Parker Scout Drive in September, and more will be collected in subsequent months, we expect.

Four members of the Gila evacuee staff of Community Activities visited the Project in September. Several meetings were held with them at which in exchange of ideas took place that was very stimulating to the staff here. The visitors were shown the various parts of the Activity program in action. We believe that such visits are well worthwhile in breaking the deadly isolation that tends to discourage our own efforts.

The problem of the sewing schools referred to in the August report has not yet been solved but steps to place part of the sewing work under the vocational training program are now discussion. The swimming pools are of much decreased importance because of the opening of school and the unexpected appearance of cool weather. Certain improvements were made in the sanitary arrangements at the Unit III pool. In general there has been a race between the onset of cool weather and the relocation of the lifeguards. A minimum crew has been maintained, however, and no serious accidents have occurred.

At the very close of September, an entirely new problem arose. The Supervisor of Community Activities was asked to work full-time in the family counseling program. He will do this as a full time detail to the Welfare Section and surrender any active direction of the Activities program. For the time being, the Chief of Community Management will act as the supervisor for purposes of advice and signing necessary documents. The evacuee heads will be encouraged to carry on their program as independently as possible. It may be that as time goes on new lines of organization will be developed, but they cannot be foreseen at present.

We do not believe that this change will result in any injury to the Activities program. From the beginning of the Project the Activities Supervisor has regarded his position as advisory and has refrained from forcing the program into the mold of his own ideas.

We believe that this recognition of complete resident responsibility has always been implicit in the WRA program and is particularly applicable to the Community Activities Section. It is also our conviction that such a devolution of responsibility is a desirable and necessary step in preparation of individuals and the group as a whole for the eventual liquidation of the Authority.

The Supervisor takes up his new responsibilities with a considerable feeling of regret. He will inevitably lose the association with the Section personnel that has been close, and

for him at least, very profitable. It is characteristic of the Project, however, that long identification with a particular part of project life is almost impossible to forget or have forgotten, and the Supervisor and the staff of the section alike will probably continue to consult each other informally from time to time.