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ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
McGehee, Arkansas

Baker
McGehee
Files (MA)

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month Ending January 31, 1944

There was little enthusiasm in this center over the announcement that selective service will again be applicable to Nisei. On the other hand, there is no indication that there is any appreciable opposition to this change in policy. Most of the younger people appeared to take the announcement as a matter of course. Most of the discussion of the matter appeared to be among the older people. The special combat team is still unpopular with both the older and younger groups. Because of the rather high percentage of casualties among the Nisei troops in Italy, there appears to be some fear on the part of many center residents that Japanese-American troops will receive more than their share of combat assignments. Other questions being discussed are what branches of the service are open to Nisei, and what the rights of alien parents are with reference to Government insurance and allotments made by their sons in service. Immediately after the selective service announcement there was an increase in requests for expatriation and repatriation, and it seems likely that some of these resulted from the change in policy.

There is no doubt that the Japanese atrocity stories have affected public opinion in this section concerning Japan, and it appears likely that public opinion is more hostile than it was toward center residents. However, it is believed that the increase in feeling against center residents was not nearly as great as it was against Japan. After the stories appeared, leaves were issued as usual, but shopping in McGehee was restricted as far as possible.

There has been a decided increase in the number of people relocating this month. Including students, 134 indefinite leaves were granted. In addition to these, there were 126 short-term leaves. Experience has proved that short-term leaves usually result in indefinite leave, or if those on short-term return, they do not stay in the center long. The Japanese atrocity stories do not appear to have had much effect on relocation, but since it was announced that Nisei will be drafted, several young men have been heard to say that they were canceling their plans to leave the center until they found out whether they would be taken into the army or not.

In the last two weeks of January, the number of leave clearance hearing held and the number of dockets forwarded to Washington increased materially. It is estimated that approximately 230 more cases will be heard, and that these should be completed on the present schedule by the end of February. Hearings are now being held at the rate of about 70 to 75 each week.

The first semester of the Center High School was completed January 14, and 41 graduates received their diplomas. Because of sickness and bad weather, the attendance rate in January was lower than it has ever been. Until this month two nursery schools for children four years of age were operated, but by the end of the month, the number of these schools was increased to six, and children three and four years of age were being accepted. Apprentice and vocational training are making fair progress, but this program is being handicapped by the lack of qualified instructors.

The center Cooperative is now operating under new management. One of its chief problems is keeping sufficient funds on hand with which to cash salary and clothing allowance checks. The Cooperative has recently allotted \$600.00 of its funds for the use of the Community Council. Part of this money will be used to pay the expenses of the center delegates to the relocation meeting which will be held in Chicago.

Under the sponsorship of the Community Activities, a U.S.O. has been established at the center. A short time ago forty soldiers from Camp Shelby were entertained over a two-day period.

The influenza epidemic appears to be practically over, and health conditions are again back to normal.

The most difficult problem of the month arose over the fuel situation. Although sufficient fuel had been cut, it was very difficult to have it hauled to the blocks because of excessive rains. A plan was worked out by the Community Council and the Block Managers by which practically all male employees would assist in cutting the wood and getting it to the blocks, and the volunteer help was used for approximately two weeks with good results.

NARRATIVE REPORT
FOR
JANUARY, 1944

January presented some unusual combinations of problems in administrative and in case work service, in that the demands for services were considerably increased, and staff services were curtailed due to the absence of the counselor for a third of the month, absence of many staff members part time due to illness, and the demands of the wood-cutting crew for the services of able male members of the staff, at least one third of that time they were able to work. The program functioned without an office secretary. To offset that limitation, five of the workers who have served as typists have undertaken to apply their recently acquired knowledge of shorthand by taking assignments as stenographers. This shift in assignments has made it necessary to plan very carefully in order that we meet the needs of posting and typing for preparing Clothing Allowance Vouchers without making additions to the staff. Efforts are being made currently, however, to fill the position of office secretary. To fill the two positions recently added to the Welfare Section staff, letters were written to recruit qualified workers.

General observations made of the Welfare program during January are offered by way of discussion on the work of each unit:

1. General Counseling Unit, Supervised by the Associate Counselor

For the first time in the sixteen months of history of Rohwer Center, we were faced with the problem of planning for children born out of wedlock. Two were born in January. For a population of sixty-five hundred and over (during previous months) and in consideration of the circumstances of living, it is believed remarkable that this problem has not been presented before. In both instances it seems possible to help the family involved to carefully weigh the issues and to proceed thoughtfully in developing a plan for the care of these children, with real consideration for the children's need.

Administrative approval for extending financial help to families, which would permit the employment of housekeepers for homes while mothers are ill or in the hospital for confinement, was obtained during recent months. This provision served to relieve a number of situations, and particularly that of providing

for the continuation of the usual employment of the fathers during the incapacity of a mother. The plan permitted the family to choose the helper for the home. The problem faced is that of increasing difficulty in finding persons who are free to be employed as daytime housekeepers. Relocation has progressed to the point that there are few physically able women without family responsibilities of their own who are available as helpers. It may be necessary in the near future to encourage, rather than discourage fathers to remain from work, in order to meet the needs of the home during periods of the incapacity of the mother. There is an average of seventeen babies born a month and a substantial of the homes involved present this problem.

The increased demand for services in behalf of relocation has called for staff consultation on needed revisions of policies with regard to reception service procedures and the division of responsibility for service between the General and Relocation Counseling staff, as members of families currently served by the General Counseling staff become interested in relocation, or as members of families referred for help in relocation present problems calling for help to the family from members of the General Counseling staff. Weekly staff meetings of the counselors have been devoted to considerable discussion of this problem, and we will need to continue to devote time to developing a workable and effective planning for five of the people concerned and wisest use of staff time.

2. Housing Unit (Assistant Counselor in Charge)

As a result of the influenza epidemic and the pressure from the Block Managers to keep all able-bodied men at work as "lumber jacks", to help meet the fuel shortage, only one formal Housing Committee meeting was held during the month. There were several informal consultations with individual committee members as special problems arose. There was a decision to have formal meetings twice a month, hereafter rather than weekly, until such time as there might be genuine need for more frequent meetings.

There are some 35 units in the center presenting problems of overcrowding, that is much more than standard number of people per unit. The occupants are being encouraged to move to quarters offering more space, but they are awaiting vacancies in the block, in which they

now live, rather than move outside their block.

There are 268 vacancies according to the January report and 67 units, which though now occupied, could be vacated on short notice since they are temporarily used for recreation, for study rooms, adult education classes, storage space, etc. with the understanding that they will be vacated upon demand.

There are 534 units in the center in which the number of occupants is below the standard established as necessary by the Housing Committee. Rohwer Center is to remain in readiness to absorb a substantial number of transfers from other centers as had been indicated.

It is noteworthy that the general announcement about the shortage of fuel resulted in the voluntary adoption of the practice to use only one stove in all instances in which small family groups occupied more than one unit. Block Managers effected a willingness to use only one stove in these two instances after special consultation.

3. Relocation Unit under the Supervision of a Counselor

In January, consultation was given in behalf of 110 people relocating as compared with 41 people during December. Indications are that there will be a continuing pressure through February.

There were two periods of special consultation held with leading members of the Community Council on relocation. There has been a tendency on the Council Board to decide that the Welfare Section use as a Counseling Committee, either the Relocation Committee or the Welfare Board created by the Council where it was originally organized. The Chairman of Community Council and several of his close advisors have expressed conviction about the need for a special committee of at least five but not more than seven members who will help to organize the Relocation Counseling Program. The Chairman of the Council feels that there is a substantial majority of the 33 members of this Central Board who will understand the need fully enough to take favorable action. The chairman's purpose is to postpone action until he is sure that a vote will carry a majority for approval. Meanwhile current developments with regard to Relocation plans in the Welfare Section are being reviewed informally with a small group who are interested leaders of the Community Council. The Welfare Section is preparing

to assemble information about and to make a special study of data on existing records, data obtained with regard to the following three groups:

Group I-Family group^s in which there are no bread winners

Group II-Family group^s in which there are two or more children under 16 years of age

Group III-Family group^s in which one member at least has already relocated

Data as to size, composition, and special characteristics of the different members of the family, expressed interests in Relocation, and special needs of the family in order to make relocation possible, is being assembled for Group I and II. The information is already tabulated for Group III.

The Central Relocation Committee of the Community Council is taking responsibility for translating into Japanese the content of Handbook #16 and other instructions on provisions on Relocation which would make this material more accessible to people who read and write Japanese more readily than they do English.

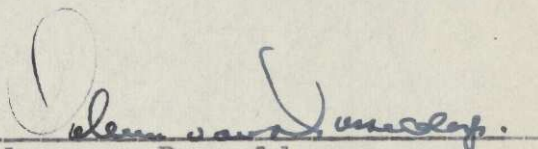
4. Clerical Service Unit Supervised by the Chief of Clerical Services

The training service plan which was just getting under way has been halted by the loss of the office secretary who left December 31. There has been a recent shift of assignments which provides for the maximum possible use of workers studying shorthand. Five former typists are taking stenographic assignments, and learning on the job.

The clerical unit staff with the counseling staff has been considering the advisability of adopting plans for staff participation in making personnel evaluations and are preparing to indicate by secret ballot whether or not they wish to adopt suggested planning and appointing a committee for the development of a self-evaluation outline adaptable to the needs of the workers of the Welfare Section.

Attached are two copies of the monthly report for the Welfare Section of January. In preparing this report the responsible staff

called attention to the fact that there was no entry under Column 2 of Paragraph E on Page 2 of the statistical report, since none of the new cases were applicants for Public Assistance Grants. This disturbed the staff, however, to leave this point without some comments since 62 of the new and reopened cases together were referrals from the Leave Section (which on the report is called Employment Section) and the majority of these cases were applications for relocation grants which were approved. Since the relocation grants are charged to relocation funds, they are not counted as financial cases in the Welfare Section.



Wilma van Dusseldorp
Counselor
Welfare Section

Attachments-2

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Report

Budget Bureau No: 13-RO42

Approval Expires: 6/30/44

HOUSING

For Month Ending January 31 1944Center Rohwer

Size of Room	Total	8x20	12x20	14x20	16x20	20x20	24x20	28x20	32x20	36x20	40x20		
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A. NUMBER ROOMS ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED
OR MODIFIED FOR EVACUEE HOUSING:

Total* Rooms													
2592					864	864	864						

B. NUMBER ROOMS OCCUPIED
BY EVACUEES FOR HOUSING:

	Total* Rooms												
Number	1				687	698	677						
Persons	2				92	40	11						
In Room	3				382	143	39						
	4				205	277	106						
	5				8	227	209						
	6					11	241						
	7						61						
	8						10						

C. NUMBER ROOMS USED FOR OTHER THAN EVACUEE HOUSING:

	Total* Rooms												
Use:	262				81	73	108						
School	152				52	48	52						
Church	0				0	0	0						
Blk.Mgr.Office	33				1	1	31						
Recreation	10				4	3	3						
Business Ent.	1				0	0	1						
Medical	0				0	0	0						
Admin. Office	20				6	7	7						
AP Housing	20				8	5	7						
Adult Ed.	3				1	0	2						
Room storage	13				4	6	3						
Study Room	5				3	1	1						
Others	5				2	2	1						

D. NUMBER OF ROOMS VACANT:

Total* Rooms													
268					96	93	79						

*The sum of B, C, and D will equal A.

(OVER)

C-0366-bu

E. SIZE OF FAMILIES* AT CENTER

<u>Persons in Family*</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>
TOTAL	<u>2227</u>
1 person	<u>769</u>
2 persons	<u>362</u>
3 "	<u>371</u>
4 "	<u>269</u>
5 "	<u>214</u>
6 "	<u>112</u>
7 "	<u>68</u>
8 "	<u>44</u>
9 "	<u>12</u>
10 "	<u>13</u>
11 "	<u>3</u>
"	

F. ROOMS OCCUPIED BY MORE THAN ONE FAMILY*

<u>Number Persons in Room</u>	<u>Number of Rooms</u>
1	<u>0</u>
2	<u>84</u>
3	<u>104</u>
4	<u>60</u>
5	<u>12</u>
6	<u>2</u>
7	<u>9</u>
8	<u>2</u>

*The definition of a family shall be that set forth in Administrative Instruction No. 103, and used on the basic Family Card (Form WRA-95)

NARRATIVE REPORT: (Use space below or a separate sheet to be attached to this report for comments on significant developments in the field of housing at the center during the month; explanations of apparent discrepancies in space assignment; number of persons and families living in rooms not originally constructed for evacuee housing; additional rooms made available through partitioning; reasons for increase or decrease in number of vacant rooms; suggestions and recommendations.)

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ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month ending Feb. 29, 1944

On Saturday, February 26, fifty-five Nisei left the center and went to Little Rock for their pre-induction examinations. This was the first group to leave here as possible inductees, and all who received notices appeared. They left early in the morning in WRA trucks for McGehee, and from there they were taken to Little Rock in a special bus. There has been quite a bit of discussion of the application of Selective Service to Nisei, both among the older and the younger groups. Several meetings were held, but there does not appear to have been any serious or organized opposition to the change in Selective Service policy. The Project Director discussed with the chairmen of the Community Council and the Block Managers the importance of all young men appearing who received notices for examination. These leaders agreed to do all they could to see that none refused to go. It now appears that most of the meetings which were held for discussion of Selective Service were for the purpose of obtaining additional information about the operation of the law. The Superintendent of Education has been handling all Selective Service matters and has been assisting the prospective selectees in filling out the necessary forms in order to get the place of examination transferred from California to Arkansas. The local Selective Service Board in McGehee has given excellent cooperation where the evacuees are concerned. They have provided all information possible and have been of great assistance, both to the center residents and the administration.

Leave clearance hearings were held regularly throughout the month of February, and averaged from 70 to 75 cases each week. The bulk of them were completed on February 28. However, a few more dockets have been received from Washington, and new applications for expatriation and repatriation will necessitate interviews from time to time. It is expected that virtually all hearings will be completed by March 15, and that all the transcripts will have been typed and the recommendations sent to Washington by that time. As of February 29, there were only 24 cases that were waiting hearings.

During the month of February, there were 62 new requests for expatriation or repatriation. This is a substantial increase over the last two or three months. It is believed that some of these requests were due to the application of Selective Service to the Nisei; but in many cases, older persons with small children were involved, and with these, it does not seem that Selective Service was an important factor.

The announcement of the transfer of the WRA to the Department of the Interior caused very little comment by center residents. It was accompanied by a statement by the Project Director that he considered the transfer a friendly move, and that he did not think that the policy of the WRA would be changed to any great extent. Neither

was there much excitement over the announcement that the Jerome Project would close. However, there was the inevitable rumor that this project might also close, but this seems to have subsided. The evacuees are naturally interested in when and how the new residents will be transferred from Jerome to this center, and there is also considerable speculation as to when the next segregation movement will take place.

During the month, 110 indefinite and 35 seasonal leaves were issued. In addition to these, eight persons left the center on student leave. 185 short-term leaves were granted, and judging from past experience, a good many of these will be converted to indefinite. The Japanese atrocity stories and their supposed influence on public opinion do not appear to have slowed relocation. On the other hand, the application of the draft to the Nisei has had a definite tendency to keep people from relocating. There is also a tendency on the part of young men already on the outside to return to the center as soon as they receive their 1-A classifications. The fact that more than 650 persons are still in the stop file is probably the most serious obstruction to relocation. When these cases have been cleared up, and when the last segregation movement has been completed, it is believed that relocation will be speeded up.

Work on the high school auditorium and library, the poultry house, and the school shop building continues, although it has been greatly handicapped by an unusual amount of wet weather. Alteration of the Fire Department headquarters is also under way.

The Transportation Division has received 21 pieces of additional motor equipment from different army camps. Among these are seven pieces of passenger equipment; and the rest are trucks of various kinds. 17 or 18 pieces of equipment now on hand will be declared surplus within a short time.

The schools continued to operate in a routine manner during the month. The Superintendent has been busy giving advice and assistance with reference to the draft, and other members of the school staff have also been giving assistance in this respect. Arrangements are being made to give tests for the Army Specialized Training Corps Program on March 15. These will be given by the Vocational Advisor.

The operations of several divisions and sections are seriously handicapped by the scarcity of efficient evacuee employees. Two more members of the appointed personnel left for induction into the armed forces during the month, and several others are expected to leave within a short time.

All preparations have been made for 1944 farming operations, but unusually heavy rains during the past three weeks have made it impossible to start planting in a normal manner. There was rain

23 of the 29 days of the month. Plants for 4 acres each of cabbage and onions were received on the 20th, but continued rain prevented planting. There will be some loss of cabbage plants because of this delay. Early plantings of tomatoes, peppers, egg plant, and cabbage have been made in hot beds and coldframes, and are doing well. The number of feeder hogs is getting low, but replacements will not be made until the weather permits additional work on feeding lots. Hogs now on hand are kept out of the mud on a feeding floor, and are under sheds. 4,000 chicks were received on February 17, and a warehouse was converted into a temporary brooder house. When the chicks arrived it was estimated that 10% of them were in such condition that they could not survive, and these were culled out and isolated. There has been very little loss among the remainder. Because of water in the woods, land development made little progress.

The Japanese atrocity stories did not seem to alter local public opinion greatly with reference to the project. Information concerning relocation is being distributed through the block managers' offices, the center library, and the relocation room. Photographs of persons who have relocated from this center which have been recently received have proved to be of unusual interest to the evacuees, and it is thought that they will be an aid to relocation. A former member of the evacuee relocation committee was so well impressed with Mr. Myer's speech made at the American Legion convention in Indianapolis that he has translated it into Japanese, and several copies have been distributed to each block manager's office.

A USO has recently been organized in this center, and the building has been remodeled for its activities. One contingent of soldiers from Shelby has already been entertained over the weekend, and a dance has been held for soldiers already in the center. An increase in USO activities is expected as more Nisei go into the army.

The Infantile Paralysis Drive at this center netted \$480.66. \$109.44 of this was contributed by the appointed personnel, and the remainder by the evacuees. In the last bond drive at the center, 162% of the goal was subscribed. The project quota was \$12,721.51, including payroll deductions. Not counting these deductions, \$10,474.75 worth of extra bonds were purchased.

ROHNER RELOCATION CENTER

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DIVISION OF COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

A N A L Y S I S O F C L O S E D C A S E S

February, 1944

<u>Type of services:</u>	Total	217
	Financial Assistance	26
	Service only	181
 Basis for discontinuing:	Total	217
	Obtained employment	12
	Other resources	5
	Not at center	0
	Transfer between Center	3
	Interned member paroled	3
	Relocated	75
	Others	119
	Referral	27
	Minor Service	10
	Temporary assistance	7
	Deceased	1
	Left on Seasonal Leave ..	1
	Out of town inquiry	3
	Correction of figures ...	70

Rohwer

Narrative Report for February 1944.

General Situation: Volume of work and staff.

Several factors are serving to press upon us a growing awareness of the need for an extension of staff and office facilities, if the services of the Welfare Section are to meet the needs of the residents constructively.

There was an increase in the number of requests for service in behalf of people relocating. Interviewing service, and space with necessary facilities for privacy for interviewing have long been inadequate to meet the need. That inadequacy is becoming more marked as the number of people referred for service increases.

There were increased requests from people who have signed for repatriation or expatriation, for information about the approximate time of the next movement, and preparations that should be made.

The return of several parolees from the Internment Camp, and the announcement that several families have been approved for admission to Crystal City, added to the volume of service, both in the office and in the homes of residents.

The announcement that the Jerome Center was to be closed in June, and that at least two thousand of the present residents of Jerome would be accommodated at Rohwer Center stimulated many inquiries about the possibility of transfer of relatives of Rohwer residents and the possibility of making housing reservations. Whereas no answers satisfactory to inquiring people could be given, staff service was called for.

There have been increased requests for information about the eligibility of families of men entering the service for Servicemen's Allowance and Allotments; the possibility of "for the duration" residence in Centers for the wives of servicemen having small children and who have no prospects of being able to live with relatives relocated, or planning to relocate. Also questions were raised by several people about the possibility of affecting transfers at War Relocation Authority expense for wives of servicemen, with children who wish to go to other Centers "for the duration" where they can be with relatives, after their husbands go into service. The Community Council has asked the Counselor to discuss this question and related ones at a special Executive Board meeting on March 3.

The Counselor has been sworn in as the Medical Field Agent for the Desha County Selective Service Board, to assume responsibilities for making investigations and reports in behalf of Rohwer Center inductees into selective service, for the Desha County Board.

Whereas the number of requests for public assistance remains about the same, the staff's increased familiarity with individual and family situations, as a result of increasingly more thorough home visiting and interviewing of recent months, has served to increase the staff's responsibility for helping families who seek consultation about their personal problems, and sharpened the staff's appreciation of the range of responsibility.

An accumulative effect of the supervision of counseling and clerical staff has resulted in a gradual increase in efficiency on the part of all staff members generally, but some departures for relocation have already taken place which imposes new limits on the volume of service that can be given. One of the experienced counselors terminated as of February 29th. One clerical worker left during February. There has not yet been a replacement of the Office Secretary. No additions have been made to the appointive staff.

We have prospects of obtaining a qualified Office Secretary in the near future, as the candidate takes the appropriate examination. There are negotiations with two qualified case workers who may or may not prove to be available. Additions to the clerical staff will be sought through the assignment of apprenticeship students (at the \$12.00 a month rate, under special supervision of the Adult Education Section of the Schools). Effort will be made to add one counselor to replace the one terminated, and to add another for the Relocation Unit in anticipation of reductions in the present relocation counseling staff.

The General Counseling Unit.

The Counseling Aide who has been making a block by block study of people sixty-five years of age or older, and those disabled, finished the study this month. A social history was developed in behalf of all 506 individuals interviewed in the course of the study, for future reference. In many instances the people sixty-five years of age or older are employed and independent people, as are some of the people presenting "handicaps" of one kind or another, like "crippledness due to amputation of arms or legs" but who have made adjustments to Center work. Consequently, not all of the physically handicapped cases constitute "active cases under care" currently. The data obtained will serve as valuable resource material in planning for the relocation of those persons in position to seek opportunity to relocate, and as a source of guidance in studying and meeting the needs of people able to respond to rehabilitative service.

The Counseling Aide who made the study will now carry a regular case load, and serve as an interpreter for the Associate

Counselor making special studies of handicapped children.

Evidence of fruitful results of months of effort to develop complete social studies in behalf of all recipients of public assistance is increasing, as case records are reviewed. Case entries indicate both a growing appreciation on the part of the Counseling aides and an acceptance of responsibility to look for and develop the potentialities of people, both social and economic. Interest on the part of residents in talking about plans for the future is more in evidence in all case histories, especially those of family groups.

The Housing Unit.

The Counselor in charge of Housing called the Block Manager's Committee on Housing together immediately after the announcement about the need to prepare for an increased population. The Committee met several times to concentrate upon a review of the current situation, to establish revised standards which would need to be enforced in order to be prepared to accommodate an increased population and prepared an agenda for presenting their recommendations to the Project Director on March 3rd.

The Relocation Unit.

The greater part of the counseling service given by the workers in this unit, to date has been limited to interviews with the people who have decided to relocate and who have applied for their indefinite leave. Applicants for leaves are referred to the Welfare Section by the Leave Section.* The Counseling Aides review each applicant's plan for relocation. If the "head" of a family group is preparing to leave, plans for the members of the family remaining in the center are discussed. If the relocating member of the family is not the head, inquiry is made about the extent to which his or her leaving effects the family situation. The instruction covering the policies with regard to relocation grants are carefully reviewed and discussed to be sure each person understands how they apply to his or her particular situation. In those instances in which there is an active social history on file, the Counseling Aide contributes an entry (or entries as appropriate) giving the facts about the relocation of the departing member. If there is a closed case, it is opened, and kept open until plans for relocation are completed, or referred to another worker if the situation calls for case work service which the counseling aides in the relocation unit are not prepared to give. If there is neither an open nor a closed case record, the case is

*See Report of Relocation Program Officer and Welfare Statistical Report. Leave refers to Welfare rather than Welfare referring to Leave Office.

registered and a record opened to record services as appropriate, in order that there will be recorded information about each person relocating, and service given as needed.

As all minors apply for Seasonal, Short Term or Indefinite Leave, at the Leave Office, they are referred to the Welfare Section before issuing a "route slip" for clearances necessary incident to issuing permits. Most such situations call for interviews with the family of the minor, they often call for interviews with the School authorities, and occasionally with the Medical Authority. If the minor seeks to join an older member of the family on the outside, clearance is made through the Relocation Officer in the city to which the minor wishes to go to learn about the acceptability of the plan to the older member of that family already relocated. In a few instances these services result in some postponement of plans to relocate for the young person until reasonable evidence is established that the minor will be likely to make a satisfactory adjustment as he or she relocates. These services are not necessarily given by the relocation counseling aides. They are given often by appointed staff members. They may be given with the help of the visiting counseling aides already serving the family with regard to other problems or related issues.

All staff members, evacuee and appointed, who give counseling service, have occasion to help with relocation counseling service as relocation plans involved health, training needs, parentless children, complicated family relationships, marriages, transfers, separations, placements of children, etc., as residents indicate an interest in talking about services desired to facilitate their plans for relocation.

There have been a few planned interviews with people who have asked for help in seeking special opportunities for relocation which call for social studies and the special assistance of Relocation Officers in the field. The social studies for these people are in the process of preparation, in close cooperation with the members of the families involved, and upon completion, be referred to the Relocation Program Officer's office.

A file has been developed for dependent individuals and family groups having no employable member; two other files are in the process of development for (1) families having five or more children, two or more of which children are under eighteen years of age and (2) families one member of which has relocated. If the "head" of a family of five children happens to have relocated already, the family is included in the group one member of which has relocated. If one of the children in a large family group has relocated, the family is included among those of the "large family" groups. These files are being set up as a

step in the process of developing the counseling service.

The Community Council has voted to establish a Counseling Committee to work with the Welfare Section, but all the members of this committee have not been appointed. The Community Council has assumed responsibility for translating the official instructions on relocation and is working on that job.

The Clerical Unit.

A person presenting qualifications in education and experience for the opening on the staff for an office secretary has been located and the personnel management office is in negotiation with this candidate about completing arrangements for employment.

As indicated above, additions to the clerical staff, to be made in the immediate future will be made by the assignment of apprenticeship workers, selected with the help of the Adult Education Unit of the Schools.

Rohwer

FILE COPY₂

ROHWER

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month ending Mar. 31, 1944

When the first group of Nisei was called up for pre-induction examinations in the latter part of February, there were few serious objections or complaints. However, there were no expatriates among these. When the second group was called for examination on March 24, ten expatriates were included, and these immediately began to protest. They claimed that since they had asked for expatriation they had forfeited their American citizenship and were no longer eligible for army service. Three of these boys did not appear for their examinations. Up to this time, no steps have been taken with reference to their refusal. The matter is being left up to the Selective Service and the Department of Justice. It is believed that prompt action on their part is advisable.

The announcement that Nisei would be placed in the Enlisted Reserve Corps caused many inquiries. Center residents wanted to know why this was being done, and whether the same procedure was being followed with inductees on the outside. After this announcement was made, there was a rumor throughout the center that it was not necessary for those called to appear for pre-induction examinations or for induction. The true situation was explained to evacuee leaders and to the Community Council, and a general explanation was made in the project paper, and it now appears that this rumor has subsided.

There were 47 requests for expatriation or repatriation during the month as compared to 63 such requests in the month of February.

Only a few leave clearance hearings were held in March. Most of these were for people who have recently applied for repatriation or expatriation or have withdrawn their requests. Some of them are also for young people who have just reached the age of 17 and have just become subject to registration.

The request for a census of the center was received on the afternoon of March 29. The project staff immediately began to make plans for complying with this request. The following day a special meeting of the block managers was called, and the Project Director explained to this group the purpose of the census and the proposed plan for conducting it. A letter of explanation was also mimeographed for distribution to each family unit in the center. A census staff was organized in each block. It was composed of the block manager, the block councilman, two evacuee assistants, two of the appointed personnel, and one member of the Internal Security. Residents were requested to remain in their homes from 6:00 P.M., March 31, until the count was completed. Lists of families and their members had been prepared by the block managers and their staffs. Those who took the census merely identified the persons and checked their names. On the average, the census was completed in less than 30 minutes for each block. In some cases, only ten minutes was required. The cooperation and the attitude of the people were excellent, and the work of the

block managers and their staffs was largely responsible for the success of the undertaking.

The center Red Cross Drive was completed during the month. \$2,683.60 was raised. \$2,133.10 was contributed by the evacuees, and \$550.50 by the appointed personnel.

Five of the appointed personnel will leave for the armed forces within a short time. This group includes the Superintendent of Schools, the assistant high school principal, the assistant equipment supervisor, the supervisor of the Motor Pool, and the assistant project steward. All vacancies are being held open until the closing of the Jerome project.

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ROHNER RELOCATION CENTER

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month ending April 30, 1944

J.C. Baker
Fischer
Levine
(Budget)
McKee
Filer
(MP)

In the month of April, 21 Center residents were inducted into the Enlisted Reserve Corps. 4 of those inducted the previous month have been called from the Reserve Corps for active duty. 88 evacuees were called for pre-induction examinations. 31 of these were rejected, 55 were accepted and the cases of 2 are still pending. No one refused to respond to his call either for induction or pre-induction examination but 2 of the group who were examined professed loyalty for Japan when they were at the examining center. These were reported to the F. B. I. and are now being investigated. Both of these boys are expatriates. The 3 expatriates who refused to appear for pre-induction examinations in March were picked up early in April by the F. B. I. and were given a hearing before a United States Commissioner. They were placed in jail at Little Rock to await action of the Federal Grand Jury. If they are indicted, and it is supposed that they will be, they will be tried in the June term of the Federal Court. The group of 88 which was called up this month for examination was large enough to be fairly representative of the Center population and it is believed that there will not be many others who will refuse to comply with the Selective Service regulations. Many boys who have left the Center have been negligent about notifying their local board of changes of address. This has caused considerable confusion and the county Selective Service board here has had difficulty with some individuals because they have not stayed in one place long enough to be examined or inducted. The board here has been very cooperative in dealing with Center residents and in several cases it has ignored Selective Service regulations in order to make things more convenient for the evacuees.

Plans for the third segregation movement on May 9 and 17 are in the final stage. The program was explained in detail at a staff meeting of the appointed personnel. The Assistant Project Director in charge of Administrative Management has been given the responsibility of seeing that freight, baggage and the segregants themselves are properly entrained. Detail plans have already been made for picking up the baggage and freight. As of April 29, 698 persons were on the segregant list. Among these, however, were 45 persons (plus additional family members) for whom denial of leave had been recommended by the project for reasons other than expatriation or repatriation. These recommendations have not been approved by Washington but in order to make up the list, it was necessary to include them among the segregants. The segregation committee is scheduled to have the train list prepared by coaches not later than May 2.

The housing representative from Tule Lake completed his housing

assignments, Saturday, April 29. The segregants appeared to be well pleased with the housing arrangements. The Welfare Department has completed its interviewing except for a few scattering cases. Families were not interviewed unless they requested it or unless there was some family member who was undecided about going to Tule Lake. The medical social worker has also completed her examinations to determine who will be designated as pullman cases.

The army processing team came to this Center from Jerome on the night of April 28. The following Saturday was spent in preliminary preparations and the processing was completed on May 1 and 2. Notices of the time and place of both housing and processing appointments were sent to each family head going to Tule Lake. They were also furnished with a list of information that would be needed at the time of processing and this did much to expedite this operation.

The relocation program suffered a set-back when public sentiment flared up against the employment of evacuees in New Jersey. An offer from Sea Brook Farms had been made to the residents of the Center which was considered the best that has yet been received from the standpoint of relocating families. There was considerable enthusiasm about this proposition and 42 men had signed up to go. After the trouble in the other section of New Jersey, project officials were instructed by the WRA Field office to hold these people here until more information could be obtained about public sentiment in the Sea Brook area. At this time, most of the men who were interested in this employment have changed their minds.

There were 39 requests for expatriation or repatriation in April. Most of these were Issei or children. There were 17 withdrawals during the month. In March, there were 47 requests for expatriation or repatriation and in February, there were 63.

Heavy rains continued through the month and have seriously handicapped farming operations. A severe wind storm struck the Center in the first part of April and blew down more than 100 trees within the barrack area. Some of the buildings were struck by falling trees but no great damage was done and no one was injured.

The Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management made two addresses at Memphis, Tennessee before leaders of the Episcopal Church. He also addressed a young people's church conference at Gould, Arkansas which is near the Center. The evacuee secretary of the YMCA attended a conference of church and social workers at Fayetteville, Arkansas and was given a very favorable reception. 2 evacuees also attended a YMCA conference in Little Rock.

The project was visited by Mr. and Mrs. John Gould Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher is a former Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry and his wife is the author of several of children's books. Mr. Fletcher is planning an article on evacuation and relocation program and there is no doubt that he will treat the subject in a sympathetic manner.

There was very little publicity concerning the arrest of the 3 evacuees for violating the Selective Service regulations. The state's leading paper carried only a few lines on an inside page telling of their arrest and stating that they were to be given a hearing before a United States Commissioner.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
MONTHLY REPORT -- CENTER RELOCATION DIVISION

Interviews for Relocation During Month of April, 1944

a. Initial interviews (first contact of Basic Family Unit with Relocation Division)

(1) Individuals interviewed (include one person per Basic Family Unit; total of (a) and (b) below

0

(a) Referred from Welfare Section

0

(b) Other

0

(2) Additional family members included in relocation plans discussed with these individuals

0

b. Follow-up interviews (second and subsequent contacts with Relocation Division)

(1) Individual interviews (give total including additional interviews with same individuals

5

(2) Total number of individuals interviewed

2

c. Total interviews (sum of a.(1) and b.(1)

5
Number

Families ready for relocation for whom Relocation Summaries have been referred to District Relocation Officers

1

Applications for leave assistance grants received

88

Individuals included

114

Applications approved

88

Average amount approved

48.00

Leave clearance dockets

(a) Awaiting clearance in Washington

239

(b) Pending action at Center

10

Meetings of Relocation Planning Commission

1

Meetings of Staff Relocation Committee

0

Meetings of Relocation Executive Board

0

Narrative statement on progress of center organization for relocation planning

A. Evacuee participation

No changes have been made in the organization of the Subcommittee of the Community Council on Relocation.

MAY 13 1944

B. Coordination of Administrative staff

The Education Section continues to work on the integration of relocation education into the general school program.

The Reports Officer lends all possible assistance in the preparation of material for the Center newspaper and in the distribution of printed material and films.

The Welfare Section is making slow but steady progress toward an extensive counseling program.

C. Coordination of evacuee and staff activities

The Project Director works directly with the Community Council and the Association of Block Managers in explaining relocation problems.

The Sub-Committee of the Community Council on Relocation confers on all matters with the Staff of the Relocation Division.

The Evacuee School Board works with the Staff of the Education Section on the relocation program in the regular school program.

Narrative statement of program for presenting relocation information to evacuees (Include use made of Facts about America Series and other materials, and development of Relocation Library)

Copies of informational material are distributed to the Community Library in Block 19, the Vocational Adviser, the Curriculum Adviser, and the Night School Director. Where the number of copies is sufficient, one or two are distributed to all occupied blocks through the Block Managers. The balance of the material is held for use and distribution at the Relocation Office.

Special progress made, or problems incurred on relocation

Plans have been completed for larger quarters in Barrack 2 of Block 42.

It is felt that the special problems are:

1. The draft and particularly the induction into the Enlisted Reserve Corps has practically eliminated relocation where one or more members of a family are likely to be inducted.
2. Through their shortsightedness and lack of information, too many of the young men of draft age are returning to the Center from indefinite leave.

Recommendations for improvements in relocation program at this Center.

1. Utilization of the more commodious quarters.
2. Utilization of the Relocation Interviewers and cooperation with the Welfare Section in the Counseling Program.
3. Development of a better Relocation Library in the same building with the office of the Relocation Division.
4. Appointment and use of the Staff Relocation Committee.
5. Frequent meetings of the Relocation Planning Commission.
6. Expansion of the Adult Education Program on relocation.

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ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month ending May 31, 1944

The most important event of the month was the departure of the two segregation trains for Tule Lake. The first of these left on May 9 with 498 passengers and the second on May 17 with 145 people from this Center. Residents of Jerome and Granada made up the rest of the second train. Both trips were made without any undue difficulty. Most of the trouble experienced was caused by faulty railroad equipment. This resulted in many delays and the passengers were inconvenienced from time to time because of a shortage of water for drinking and washing. Because of the stops for repairs, the first train was nearly 24 hours late in arriving at Tule Lake. On both trips, the behavior of the segregants was good and the attitude and the cooperation of the military personnel was excellent. Since this segregation movement was completed, 25 or 30 hearings have been held for those who either made or withdrew requests for application at the last minute or in cases which had been returned to the Center for additional information.

As of May 31, 117 residents of the Center had passed pre-induction physical examinations and 68 had been rejected. 69 had been inducted into the Enlisted Reserve Corps and 30 of these had been called for active duty. The 3 boys, who were arrested for failure to report for examination, are still held in jail awaiting action by the Federal Grand Jury. 2 others, who reported for examinations and were accepted but made pro-Japanese statements at the induction

station, will be called for induction within a short time. The application of Selective Service to the evacuees is still complicated by the fact that a large majority are transfer cases and the situation is aggravated still further because additional transfers are frequently requested by those who have left the Center. It is customary for many of the people who have relocated to return to the Center as soon as they receive their notice to report for examination or induction. This increases the number of transfer requests and makes the whole Selective Service procedure more complicated. A good many of those subject to Selective Service are still negligent about reporting changes of address. Up to this time, the local Selective Service Board has been rather lenient with these cases and has been very cooperative in assisting project officials in solving the Selective Service problems of the evacuees. It now appears that there will not likely be many more refusals to comply with the Selective Service law.

There are many inquiries concerning deferment for those over 26 years of age, and the fact that some who are in this class and are in essential war work have been deferred, has caused many to leave the Center to seek such employment. Frequently these people do not leave until they have received a notice for pre-induction examination and sometimes for induction and this makes more difficult the problem of Selective Service transfers.

The first Jerome transfers will arrive at this Center on June 6. Plans for receiving them have been completed. Providing proper housing facilities for these people is a rather difficult problem since it involves some shifting of people here but this is being worked out satisfactorily.

The Community Council is sponsoring a Center-wide clean up week, beginning June 1 and in connection with this the malaria control program is being enlarged. A campaign for salvaging waste paper is being carried on both by the appointed personnel and the Center residents. The Boy Scouts are collecting the paper and will receive the funds derived from its sale.

The number of people relocating or accepting outside employment increased materially during this month when the following leaves were granted: 130 indefinite, 78 seasonal and 110 trial indefinite. 22 of the indefinite leaves were for active army service.

The Summer Activities Program is now in full swing under the supervision of the head of the Community Activities. Included in this program are classes in adult education and in arts and crafts for the older people and various types of recreational activities for the younger group. The high school auditorium is practically complete and graduation exercises for 154 Seniors were held on May 19. The Summer School is carried on principally for those who failed to make a passing grade during the last year but some high school classes are being of-

ferred students to make up credits for other reasons. Special effort is being made to promote adult English classes. The Center schools were again given the "A" rating by the State Department of Education.

The Project Attorney has recently been notified that he has been granted a commission by the Navy and will leave sometime during the first of June.

The position of the Assistant Fire Chief is now vacant because of the death of Mr. R. R. Llewellyn.

FILE COPY

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month ending June 30, 1944

2489 people transferred from Jerome to this center during the month. A few special cases came here early before the mass movement started on June 6. It was first planned for approximately 250 persons to be brought here each day but it was found that transportation facilities were inadequate to carry the people and their property at this rate. Consequently, it was necessary to charter special buses. These were used mostly for transporting women and children and most of the men and all the property were brought by truck. On some days two and on others three buses were used and three trips were made each day by each bus. Except for the post-contingent group the movement was completed by June 23. The latter group of approximately 300 persons was brought to the center on June 30. The most serious difficulty encountered in the transfer concerned housing. There was an unusual number of small families which needed separate living quarters and it was necessary for partitions to be put in some of the larger rooms so that these could be provided. As people left this center the original residents had occupied the vacant rooms and there was some complaining on their part because they were required to occupy less space. Except for some trouble with housing and with transportation, the induction of the Jerome people was accomplished without undue difficulty.

The regular quarterly census was taken at 6:30 p.m. on June 30. An explanation of its purpose and the procedure to be followed was made to the block managers at their regular meeting and a similar explanation was made to the project residents through the center paper. The block managers and their workers prepared in advance lists of all block residents in numerical order by barracks and apartments. Additional information concerning age, identification numbers, marital status, addresses, etc. was requested and this was also included in these lists. This additional information was especially important in view of the fact that complete records on the Jerome transfers have not yet been received by this project. A general staff meeting was called and the plan for conducting the census was explained in detail. Two of the appointed personnel were assigned to each block. Each of these checked one side of the block, that is, barracks 1 to 6 and 6 to 12. All people were requested to be at their homes at the appointed time with the exception of a few special workers. The cooperation of the block managers and their workers was excellent and the attitude of the people was good. Much credit is due to block managers and the residents for the ease with which the count was made.

Relocation maintained its high level during the month when 155 indefinite, 145 trial indefinite, and 52 seasonal leaves were issued. This compares to 180 indefinite, 110 trial indefinite, and 78 seasonal leaves for the previous month of May. As of July 1, 2406 persons were out on indefinite leave, 1501 on seasonal, and 284 on short term. During the last week of the month, relocation was exceptionally good. In that period 86 indefinite or trial indefinite leaves were granted and 3 others were converted to indefinite. There were only 7 readmissions to the center from indefinite leave during this time.

In the month of June, 20 residents were called by Selective Service for pre-induction examinations, thirty for induction, and 28 who were in the Listed Reserve Corps. were ordered to report for active service. There were no "hold outs", but two of those who were called for induction had left the center, had not given a change of address and did not appear. The local board reported them as delinquent to their board of origin in California. The three men who had refused to report for examination on a previous call were sentenced to three years in the penitentiary by the Federal Court at Little Rock. The induction of 2 boys who made pro-Japanese statements at the time of their pre-induction examinations was postponed for the time being. It is believed that there will be few, if any, additional cases involving refusal to comply with Selective Service regulations. Considerable difficulty is still being experienced with reference to Selective Service because many of the center residents are very careless about sending their change of address to their draft boards. The situation is complicated still further by the fact that many of them wish to leave the center after they have received their pre-induction examinations and before they have been inducted.

Some of the California boards have been very negligent in answering not only letters, but also telegrams from evacuee registrants concerning their Selective Service status. In one case that was called to our attention a man 37 years of age whose deferment was practically a matter of form, had written several letters to his draft board and had sent two telegrams but no answer was received until his employer sent a second wire. Because of the delay, this man was forced to return to this center for induction although a 30 day postponement in his case was finally granted at the last minute. Naturally this situation leads the evacuees to believe that they are not receiving fair treatment under the Selective Service Act. It has a harmful effect on their attitude towards Selective Service and military service

in general. It is possible that this situation could be corrected if it were taken up with Selective Service Headquarters in Washington.

A new system of gate passes has been worked out and will be effective July 1. Farm workers and workers off the project will be given pass cards which will be exchanged for buttons when they leave the project area. The buttons will be checked in and the cards returned when the workers re-enter the project. Different colored buttons will be given to on-project and off-office project workers. Two of the appointed personnel will act as gate clerks from 6:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night.

A liberalized pass system for those wishing to leave the project on personal business will be put into effect Monday July 3. A maximum of 25 passes will be issued for each 24 hour period. These passes will be good for 24 hours or less. Reservations can be made only 24 hours in advance and must be made in person. Under this system it will be possible for evacuees to make brief trips both to Little Rock and Memphis. The Project Director discussed this arrangement with the businessmen of McGehee and bus line officials and it has their approval. All those leaving on these passes will be required to furnish their own transportation.

The center high school again received an "A" rating from the State Department of Education. Summer classes are being conducted in high school for those who wish to make up a deficiency in their work or gain extra credit. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining summer teachers for the grade school work.

The center wide clean up campaign which was sponsored by the community council was effective and resulted in considerable improvement to the appearance of the center. The campaign for the salvage of waste paper is progressing satisfactorily. Practically all the freight of the Tule Lake segregants has been sent to that center. Six carloads were shipped.

Irving S. Connor, evacuee property officer, died at the center hospital June 4, after a brief illness. The Supply Officer is handling evacuee property matters on a part time basis. Jack S. Curtiss project attorney resigned to accept a commission in the Navy and has been replaced by L. S. Forrest.

Small groups of evacuees have attended church or young peoples conferences at Gulfport, Mississippi, Hollister, Missouri, Monroe, Louisiana, and Lakeside, Ohio. Local papers carried brief items about the indictment and conviction of the three Rohwer residents on Draft evasion charges but no attempt was made to play this up. It is believed that local sentiment in McGehee is sufficiently favorable to permit a more liberal policy of issuing passes for shopping and a new pass system will be effective July 3.

ROHMER RELOCATION CENTER

FILE COPY 2

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month Ending July 31, 1944

The first fatal traffic accident within the center occurred this month when an 8-year old boy was run over by a truck. The truck was unloading produce at one of the mess halls, and when the driver started forward to back into a new position, the boy was caught beneath the wheels. The child was evidently playing beneath the truck, and it is not believed that the truck driver was at fault.

The Summer Activities program is being successfully carried out under the direction of the head of Community Activities. Special emphasis is being placed on adult English classes and other types of adult instruction. The Community Activities section has taken the lead in the work among the younger groups. It sponsored a Festival Week which was in the nature of a carnival, and also a 3-day exhibit of arts and crafts in the high school auditorium. The day camping program for younger children has been especially popular.

In the summer school, classes in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades are being taught for those who have failed and those who are especially weak in some particular subject. Classes in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades are open to those who have failed, and also exceptionally good students are permitted to attend these classes for advance credit. Some irregular students also attended these classes, and these are mostly boys who wish to obtain extra credit before they are inducted into the army. A complete audit and check of the permanent records was made by the office staff and by teachers assigned for this work.

The farm program made satisfactory progress during the month although a great deal of irrigation was necessary during the first three weeks. However, a general rain in the latter part of July improved the situation considerably. Tomatoes, egg plant, and cucumbers are being harvested in sufficient quantities for center use, and surplus cucumbers have been sold to Camp Robinson at Little Rock. Arrangements have also been made to sell excess egg plant. Crops to be harvested in August include sweet corn, bell pepper, watermelon, beans, and okra. Approximately 130 acres of fall and winter vegetables will be planted next month.

The Center's most serious fire occurred in July when one of the wash buildings in the blocks suffered a damage of approximately \$685.00. This damage is more than the total fire loss which has previously been sustained since the center was established.

A problem in public relations arose over the arrest of two truck drivers by a deputy sheriff because of reckless driving and

speeding. In making the arrest, the deputy was reported to have used unnecessary force and abusive language. The Community Council took the matter up and wanted to press charges against the deputy, but it is believed that the matter will be dropped since it was explained to the Council that this was the first incident of the kind that had occurred since the project was established and that up to this time the local law enforcement officers have been cooperative with the project officials and center residents.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
Community Welfare Section

July 1944

NARRATIVE REPORT

I. Staff Situation.

A. Evacuee.

There continues to be a rapid turnover in evacuee staff and increasing difficulty in getting qualified people to help in counseling service. There have been two vacancies on the counseling staff for two weeks for which we have been searching for qualified evacuees. The worker serving as supervisor of the clerical unit is planning to take a short term leave to explore relocation opportunities. For two months we have been trying to find someone who can qualify as an under study and it seems that we will have to draft a worker already employed elsewhere, or make some reassignment of duties to an appointed staff member which would bring the supervision of the clerical staff under the direct supervision of the counselor.

B. Appointed Staff.

There are five vacancies on the Counseling Staff: one C A F-9 and four C A F-7's and also, a position for a stenographer. We have the applications for two people who are recommended as C A F-9. Miss Burnstein, whose recommendations are not too encouraging. We have offered Miss Burnstein a position as C A F-7. If replies to all inquiries for references for Miss Robinson are positive, we are offering her a position as an Assistant Counselor.

We are seeking a Japanese speaking Caucasian on a C A F-5 classification, who might serve as office manager, supervising the clerical program and housing services. We are in communication with a person whose interest in this job we do not know. She is a B A Degree person who applied for a position as teacher of Mathematics for which there is no opening. She has had sixteen years of experience with Japanese both on the coast and in Japan.

*discussed over
phone 8/10*

We are also seeking a person who can fill the stenographic position. May we ask what, if anything, has been done to learn whether or not it is possible to transfer people who are now working in Washington, D. C., and who have made a request for transfers to their home areas as openings occur? When I was in Washington, I heard that in a number of instances, clerical workers had made requests for such transfers and for which no action was taken, many times. We're doing "War Work" out here, too!

II. Counseling Program.

Our services in this field have been limited to help in behalf of people who have already decided to relocate. Some 667 people relocated from Rohwer during July and the requests for assistance as referrals from the Relocation Division were so numerous that we were unable to meet the requirements with our present staff, satisfactorily.

Since the Relocation Division has a more complete staff now, they are being able to assume more responsibility for counseling services in behalf of people wanting to leave and it is anticipated, as a result, that it will be possible in the near future to reach more of the residents whose future plans have not become known.

The division of responsibility between the Relocation Division and the Welfare Section will be worked out through joint staff meetings. The guide in the Manual is not quite applicable. The Welfare Section has case histories from eighty to ninety percent of the population and it would be both inadvisable and impossible for the Welfare Section to assume responsibility for the counseling service for all or a large portion of the people who have been counseled here.

III. Relocation.

The Welfare Section continues to carry responsibility for processing all requests for relocation grants in addition to interviewing people asking for special service needed as a result of plans to relocate.

Since staff for the Relocation Division

has been increasing, the question has been raised about the possibility of transferring to that division the responsibility of processing grants. They have agreed to do this as soon as their new staff have been able to set up more adequate office policies and procedures. They are handicapped at the immediate present because five clerical workers have relocated within a few days, and their interviewing evacuee staff has not been recruited.

It appears likely that the Relocation Division will continue to refer to the Welfare Section the majority of minors applying for leave with the intention of going to localities in which there is no older member of their own family or any other responsible adult of whom their parents approve, who can serve as a personal supervisor. A special study will be made of such situations for the Relocation Office in order that summaries may be presented by letter to the WRA Office in the city to which the minors wish to go. Minors falling in this group are not permitted to leave the Center until an approved plan has been agreed upon with the Relocation Officer.

IV. Housing.


In view of the large number of departures of people intending to relocate, the crowded condition that prevailed just following the Jerome movement has been relieved considerably. Adjustments are being made in behalf of families who are still housed according to maximum standards. As a result of a re-evaluation of program needs, a change in plans regarding use of staff, will result in giving a minimum of services to housing in the future. The counselor who has been supervising housing is being transferred to counseling service. The interviewing responsibilities to cases coming to the office will be done by the Intake Interviewer. The general counseling aides serving under the supervision of the Associate Counselor will make block visits as necessary in behalf of housing. Using the weekly reports of the Block Managers as a basis for maintaining files and giving attention only to more serious housing problems, it is expected that there will be some sacrifice in both accuracy and completeness of housing service and records, but we take this step deliberately as an effort to make a maximum of service available to the

the development of the Counseling Program.

VI. Questions about records of High School Graduates.

I have been informed by the educational authorities that their attention has been called to provision of the Manual Section 30.3.15-D (3), which "indicates that cumulative pupil records are to be transferred to Washington when a center is closed. Since this was written, plans have been developed so that the cumulative pupil records of all pupils who have left your schools through relocation or high school graduation can be checked and filed in the Washington Office".

The records of both the Jerome transferees and Rohwer pupils are of great value to the Welfare Section Staff in developing both the reports called for by the Selective Service Board and in preparing as nearly adequate relocation summaries as may be possible. It is our understanding that it is possible for Washington to grant permission to Rohwer Center to keep these records. It would be our recommendation in support of what we understand education authorities in our center will submit as a request, that these records are to be kept in the center of a period of from six to eight months if not until the center closes. May we have your help with this?



FILE COPY 2

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month ending August 31, 1944

~~Lynch~~
~~P. Byrd~~
~~Sevier~~
~~Brudinsky~~
~~McKee~~
Files (F.H.)

The employment situation at the center grows increasingly serious. For several months practically every division and section has not had a sufficient number of workers. This has been true although standards have been drastically lowered. The situation is now at a critical stage and it is very difficult for some sections and divisions to turn out only the work that is absolutely essential. A good example of this is the Statistical Section where the authorized quota of evacuee workers is 14. There were never more than 10 of these employed. At the present time there are only two evacuees employed in this section, and one of these is leaving within a few days. This leaves only the one appointed personnel in charge of this section and one evacuee worker. The person in charge has no difficulty with her workers. With one exception, all who have left have relocated. To make the situation more grave, it seems there is very little chance of any improvement since there is not even one clerk or clerk-typist now registered as unemployed. Unless there is some unexpected change in this situation, it will be necessary either for the Statistical Section to abandon some of the work it is attempting or some appointed personnel must be added to the staff.

Relocation during the month of August made excellent progress when 429 persons were granted indefinite leave. In July, slightly more than 500 such leaves were granted. As winter approaches, the number of persons relocating will doubtless decrease, but it is believed there will be a substantial number who will leave for some time.

The situation in the Relocation Division has improved greatly since new quarters and more equipment were provided and since the staff of the appointed personnel was increased by transfers of several good workers from the Jerome project. Plans are now being made for greater emphasis on evacuee participation in relocation planning, and the selection of the members for the relocation planning commission is now under way.

As of August 31, 369 evacuees have been called or have volunteered for military service from this center and 244 have been accepted. 49 are now in the Enlisted Reserve Corps, 113 are in active service, and 82 have passed their physical examinations and are awaiting induction. 120 have been rejected by the army, most of these for physical reasons. Only 3 have refused to report when called, one died after passing his examination and before he was inducted, and one has been released from the army. The Relocation Division is now handling Selective Service matters. The relationship between the project and the local Draft Board continues to be excellent.

At this time 27 leave clearance dockets from this project are awaiting action in the Washington office and there are only 11 pending at this center. Hearings have been held for all in the latter group and they will be transmitted to Washington within a short time as soon as the transcripts and recommendations are written and approved by the Project Director.

The Fire and Police Departments performed only routine duties. There were two grass fires which did no damage, and no arrests. The police made an investigation of the death of a 4-year old boy who was run over by a truck within the center. The driver was absolved of all blame.

The Construction Division is engaged principally in remodeling part of the barracks in one of the blocks and some of the barracks in the M.P. quarters to be used for the new members of the appointed personnel who have come to the center recently. Evacuees have never lived in the block that is being remodeled within the center and many of the appointed personnel lived here before any apartments were built. A shower bath is being installed between every two rooms, closets are being built in each room, and space for a refrigerator is being provided for every two rooms. Sufficient supplies are on hand to complete this work but it is believed that the chief difficulty will be encountered in obtaining plumbers to install the baths since there are practically no workers of this type among the evacuees.

The employment of domestic workers through the center Co-op was in effect for the first time during the month. Under the present system those who wish to employ evacuees in their homes find those who wish to work, and the worker then registers with the Co-op and becomes a Co-op employee. The employer signs a simple agreement with the Co-op to employ the worker for a certain number of hours each month and pays the wages to the Co-op. The Co-op, in turn, pays the worker \$16.00 a month plus the regular clothing allowance and retains a small amount over this sum as a service charge. Up to this time the arrangement seems to be working fairly satisfactorily.

The chairman of the Community Council, who is also one of the key workers in the Relocation Division, expressed his intention of resigning the chairmanship. His attitude arose partly from the fact that he had very little time to devote to the work of chairman, and he also appeared to think that his work was not appreciated as it should be by the administration. The matter was discussed at some length with the Project Director and the final result was that he did not resign. Part of the difficulty also arose over the fact that the Community Council had passed several ordinances which were of an impractical nature and virtually impossible to enforce, and then the Council requested that the administration see that these regulations were observed. It was pointed out by the Project Director that these

were rules passed by the Council and that they were also to be enforced by the Council.

The Community Activities Section carried out its usual activities during the month, and in addition to these, gave a great deal of assistance in the Summer Activities program. The chief event of the month was a joint Boy Scout camp which was attended by approximately 50 Scouts from this center and a troop from Arkansas City. The camp was held at the regular camping ground of the Arkansas City troop on the bank of the Mississippi River, and the Scouts attended at the invitation of the Arkansas City boys.

All evacuee property left in the Jerome center has been transferred to warehouses here, and all pending cases of any importance have been closed.

The new pass procedure is working smoothly. The largest group of workers to leave the center at one time numbers approximately 250 and under the present system, these are checked in or out in about ten minutes. One gate clerk is on duty from 6:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon, and the other from 3:00 in the afternoon until 10:00 at night. From 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. all passes are handled by Internal Security.

The system of issuing passes for trips to McGehee for shopping and other personal business has been revised so that these are now authorized by the block managers in their respective blocks. The center is divided into four areas, and 4 persons from each block within one area are permitted to go to McGehee one day each week. Although the block managers authorize the passes, they are still issued by the Project Director's office; and all passes to Little Rock and Memphis are both authorized and issued by this office. The change was considered desirable because young boys were monopolizing the passes because they could more easily reach the Project Director's office at an early hour. Under the present system, slightly more than 30 local passes are issued four days each week.

Mr. F. R. Mangham, the Assistant Project Director in charge of Administrative Management, will leave the project September 2 for induction into the armed forces. Mr. Mangham was a very able executive and it will be very difficult to fill his place.

There has been little change in public relations during the month. One evacuee appeared before the Arkansas chapter of the Pen Women's Club of America and exhibited his collection of Japanese prints. The reaction was excellent. The Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management spent several days in Little Rock and during this time he introduced the new Relocation Officer to influential citizens of that city and explained the aim of the relocation program.

He also conducted a forum for soldiers at the chief USO club in Little Rock and addressed the Little Rock Rotary Club. In both cases, the reaction was favorable.

During the month the project was visited by one of the officials of the Arkansas Pen Women's Club and also by Miss Bernie Babcock who is a well-known writer in this section.

There has been no unfavorable reaction to the liberalization of the policy of permitting more evacuees to shop in McGehee and nearby cities. The threat to public relations which arose when officials of the Community Council expressed the intention of bringing legal action against a local deputy sheriff for his alleged mistreatment of two evacuee truck drivers has subsided. The Project Director pointed out to the Council committee and to other evacuee leaders that this was the only incident of the kind that had occurred during the existence of the project and he advised them that this favorable condition would probably end if any type of suit were brought.

The local Selective Service Board continues to be extremely cooperative. At one time the clerk in charge of the local Board was criticized by the State Attorney for Selective Service for her liberality in handling the cases of the evacuees, and for a time it seemed that many technical violations would be reported. However, the Project Attorney and the Relocation Officer visited state Selective Service headquarters and discussed this matter with officials there, and it was finally decided that the local Board should continue to pursue its former lenient policy.

After the Summer Activities program closed on August 11, the attention of the school staff was directed to the organization of school for the next term, and recruiting of additional teachers through Civil Service was carried on. The Auto Mechanics shop was very popular among the evacuee boys and the training which was given by a temporary instructor was unusually effective. The temporary instructor is a full-time teacher of this work in the Little Rock High School. 18 of the teachers from the appointed personnel and 35 of the evacuee teachers were engaged in the Summer Activities program.

Most of the month of August was favorable for planting fall vegetable crops such as daikon, nappa, turnips, etc. There are good prospects for a satisfactory harvest of chard, broccoli, cabbage, nappa, and daikon this fall and winter. During the month 400 bushels of egg plant were sold to the Quartermaster Depot at Camp Robinson, and it is believed that several hundred baskets of bell peppers can be sold there next month. There is also a surplus of watermelons, and nearby army camps have been invited to send trucks in to take care of the

oversupply. At this time a sufficient quantity of sweet peppers, egg plant, cucumbers, watermelons, tomatoes, radishes, and nappa are being harvested to supply all mess halls; and hogs are being slaughtered in sufficient numbers to supply center needs for pork. 1520 chickens which were raised at the project were killed the last few days of the month for center use.



ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
MONTHLY REPORT -- CENTER RELOCATION DIVISION

Interviews for Relocation During Month of August, 1944.

A. Initial interviews (first contact of Basic Family Unit with Relocation Division)	
(1) Individuals interviewed (include one person per Basic Family Unit; total of (a) and (b) below	<u>212</u>
(a) Referred from Welfare Section	<u>6</u>
(b) Other	<u>206</u>
(2) Additional family members included in relocation plans discussed with these individuals	<u>71</u>
B. Follow-up interviews (second and subsequent contacts with Relocation Division)	
(1) Individual interviews (give total including additional interviews with same individuals	<u>84</u>
(2) Total number of individuals interviewed	<u>26</u>
C. Total interviews (sum of a.(1) and b.(1)	<u>296</u>
	<u>Number</u>
Families ready for relocation for whom Relocation Summaries have been referred to District Relocation Officers	<u>61</u>
Applications for leave assistance grants received	<u>106</u>
Individuals included	<u>128</u>
Applications approved	<u>106</u>
Average amount approved	<u>\$55.24</u>
Leave clearance dockets	
A. Awaiting clearance in Washington	<u>27</u>
B. Pending action at Center	<u>11</u>
Meetings of Relocation Planning Commission	<u>0</u>
Meetings of Staff Relocation Committee	<u>1</u>
Meetings of Relocation Executive Board	<u>0</u>

SEP 11 1944

8. Narrative statement on progress of center organization for relocation planning.

A. Evacuee Participation.

The selection of members for the Relocation Planning Commission has been made and it is expected that the announcement of the appointments will be made within a few days.

B. Coordination of Administrative Staff.

All sections are responding when called upon to furnish cooperative assistance in relocation program.

C. Coordination of Evacuee and Staff Activities.

No further steps have been taken to coordinate evacuee and staff activities.

9. Narrative statement of program for presenting relocation information to the evacuees.

Preliminary plans have been completed with the Reports Officer to prepare and distribute the bi-lingual relocation bulletins. With the activation of the relocation planning information, the plans will be consummated.

10. Special progress made or problems incurred in relocation.

Lack of equipment continues to be a problem. One additional typewriter has been transferred from the Welfare Section in order to handle leave assistance grant applications. It is still hoped that the requisition to purchase six typewriters will be approved.

Mr. Alton Cole reported as an Assistant Relocation Adviser on September 1st. The Advisery Section is turning out a considerable volume of summaries but is handicapped by the lack of office space. The plan to take over four rooms of barrack 3 has not gone through.

While the number of relocatees in August was less than that in July, it was sufficient to increase the manpower shortage. Additional persons are leaving this division.

11. Recommendations for improvements in the Relocation program.

It is still recommended that the relocation process be simplified.

It is also recommended that with the shortage of personnel, a secretary's position be established.

FILE COPY 2

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month ending September 30, 1944

The quarterly census was held on September 30. As before, the block managers and their staffs gave valuable assistance in this task. They prepared lists of residents by barracks and by apartments and also obtained other information concerning ages, birth dates, family numbers, and alien registration numbers. A member of the appointed personnel explained the procedure at a regular meeting of the block managers just before census was taken. Two of the appointed personnel were assigned to each block to check the names of those present and to verify the additional information. The people were asked to remain in their blocks and homes from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., and the information was obtained in all the blocks during this hour. The center residents in general, as well as the block managers, are to be commended for their excellent cooperation in this task.

The Community Council sponsored a memorial service for five Nisei soldiers killed in Italy, who have relatives at this center. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other center organizations participated; and there were addresses by the Project Director and the chairman of the Community Council. The master of ceremonies was an evacuee veteran of World War I. The ceremony was very impressive, and it is believed that it is an indication of an improvement in attitude of many of the evacuees toward the war. The fact that it was sponsored by the Community Council, which is composed almost entirely of Issei, is thought to be significant.

L. J. ...
P. Byrd
...
Brown
Mc Kee
Files
(jh)

During the month, 214 persons left the center either on trial indefinite or indefinite leave. 124 seasonal leaves were granted. During the previous month, 429 persons were granted indefinite leave. It is believed that the radical decrease in relocation is due mostly to the approaching winter season. Sixty-three persons were readmitted to the center during the month, but more than two-thirds of these were people who returned from seasonal leave.

When army officials came to the center to explain the employment offer of the Sioux Munitions plant at Sidney, Nebraska, a committee of evacuee leaders was called in to discuss the matter with them. This committee was composed of the chairman of the Community Council, the chairman of the block managers, the editor of the Japanese section of the center paper, a minister, and a few other evacuee leaders. There did not appear to be a great deal of enthusiasm over the proposition but it did seem that the committee received the offer with an open mind. It was agreed that two evacuee representatives would go to the Sioux plant to inspect conditions there, and report back to the people in the center. These men will leave early in October.

Twenty members of the Enlisted Reserve Corps were called to active service from this center during the month. As of the first of October, 133 men from this center were in active service, 53 were in the Reserve Corps, and 74 had passed physical examinations and were awaiting induction.

The center Co-op paid dividends of approximately \$8,500.00 to its members on September 30. The by-laws were amended so that these payments will be made semi-annually rather than quarterly. The motion picture shows which have been operated by the Co-op in three of the public service halls will be moved to the auditorium, and Co-op officials are debating the question of buying a 35 mm projection machine to be used there. This equipment would cost approximately \$2,000.00 and there is considerable doubt as to whether an expenditure of this kind is justified.

Fall vegetable crops of beets, daikon, lettuce, mustard, onions, spinach, and turnips were planted in September. During the month 171,578 pounds of vegetables were harvested. This harvest consisted mostly of Chinese cabbage, cucumbers, egg plant, sweet peppers, watermelons, canteloupes, Swiss chard, tomatoes, and snap beans. 6,000 pounds of egg plants and 4,000 pounds of sweet peppers were sold to the army, and six truckloads of melons averaging two tons each were given to a nearby army post.

Woodcutting is now under way, but the hauling has been delayed by heavy rains and the whole enterprise is greatly handicapped by a shortage of labor. The project officials have held repeated conferences with the Fuel Committee of the Community Council, and it was agreed that all able-bodied male employees, except those holding key positions, would be detailed two days each week to woodcutting.

Project operations were handicapped by the regulation prohibiting additional employment or any replacement of appointed personnel. In

several cases, negotiations were far advanced for the employment of some workers, and in at least one case, the worker was already at the project awaiting actual assignment. The situation is particularly serious with reference to the position of Project Steward. The former Steward received his notice for induction, and under the present system, the employment of someone to replace him is not possible. The Personnel Division is working on this problem, and it is believed that an exception will be made in this case.

A group of eighteen or twenty persons visited the project over a weekend and inspected the farm and attended a farewell program which was given by evacuees in honor of Dr. J. B. Hunter, Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, who left the center to accept another position. In this group there was a prominent minister, a feature writer, and several business men.

Ten news items were released during the month, and most of them were used by the local press. News items concerning casualties of Nisei soldiers who had relatives in this center were sent to the home town papers of the families. Local papers also used these items and gave them as much space as they did news concerning other local residents. Practically all the local papers maintain a fair attitude toward the WRA program, and it is believed that the situation is improving, principally, because of the record of the Nisei soldiers in Italy.

The Project Director made several trips to the Jerome Project for conferences with representatives of the Provost Marshal's office and

and the U. S. Engineers concerning the transfer of Jerome to the Army for its use as a prison camp.

Initial contact and follow-up interviews by the Relocation Division totalled 428 for the month. Many of these interviews were for families in which at least one member had already relocated. Many people are still interested only in relocation in California or on the West Coast. As the result of the work of the Advisory unit and the Welfare Counseling Service there seems to be a much better understanding of the reasons for restrictions on the relocation of "Teen-age", youths.

Joint meetings have been held with Welfare, Hospital and School officials to discuss the problem of relocating mental and chronic medical cases, and under privileged children. During the month 97 family relocation summaries were forwarded to District Relocation Officers.

26 leave clearance dockets are awaiting clearance in Washington and there are only 4 such cases pending at the project.

Project schools which opened September 11 are handicapped by a shortage of teachers, the Elementary schools lack 3 teachers and 4 more secondary teachers are needed. Pre-School conference, were held from September 4 - 9, and several outside visitors led discussion groups. Among the visitors was the secretary of the Arkansas Educational Association, the Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and the Vocational Guidance Director of the State Department of Education.

The local USO has been recognized by the National organization and grants from this source should stimulate the work of the local group. The Buddhist group collected and packed gifts for 200 men in foreign service.

*All points discussed
with Miss Van D. when
she was in Wash. office*

Narrative Report for September 1944

Staff:

Evacuee.

The staff is down to 15 people, and there are no prospects for additions available. Those few residents who would have the educational background and range of interest necessary for work in the Welfare Section are either working as key workers in other offices or definitely planning their relocation. The men members of the evacuee staff have to give two days a week to cutting wood for the blocks, which limits still further the services available through the evacuee staff.

Appointed.

With the acceptance of an offer from Miss Zabowski, there are still two vacancies on the appointed staff for Counselors and a vacancy for a stenographer. Since all but one evacuee stenographer has left, it is important to fill this stenographer position as early as possible, to meet current needs for case recording as well as to prepare for anticipated increases in staff.

Program situations.

Development of Outlook Studies.

The Welfare Section continues to take responsibility for Counseling for individuals and family groups presenting problems which limit immediate prospects for relocation. The histories developed in behalf of people not yet thinking in terms of relocation are being called Outlook Studies, for psychological reasons as well as to determine the number of people not yet prepared for relocation.

A common file is being developed with the Relocation Division to identify all "interviewed people" whether for the purpose of immediate assistance toward relocation or to develop Outlook Studies.

A system of daily clearance of cases is developed between the two offices to avoid duplication.

Meetings with members of the Medical Authority and School System staffs have been held for purposes of coordinating the services of these offices with those of the Relocation Division and Welfare Section.

Joint meetings of the supervising Relocation Counselor of the Relocation Division and the Supervising Counselor of the Welfare Section working on Studies, with one additional member (on rotated basis) of each of the two staffs is held twice weekly for the discussion of problem situations and to perfect the coordination of services between the two offices and to develop community resources for aiding with the program of work.

General Counseling program in behalf of Center Problems.

The Associate Counselor had now only two Counseling Aides to do all of the visiting of people receiving public assistance, and to give service in behalf of other social problems. This means that the Associate Counselor is having to give more and more direct service in behalf of families needing help with current problems of dependency and behavior. Monthly visits to recipients of public assistance is not possible and contacts are being made through the help of Block Managers.

The Associate Counselor is taking responsibility for the development of Outlook Studies for those individuals and family groups with which she has had considerable direct contact, placement services for parentless children etc.

Housing.

The Housing Counselor (new during the past month) has developed increased cooperation of the Housing Committee (Composed of five Block Managers) for services in behalf of Housing. The Chairman of the Committee does a major portion of the Block visiting necessary in the interest of adjustments and changes, and assigns some of the visiting to other members of the Committee. The Intake Interviewer does the major portion of office interviewing in behalf of Housing, and the one Counseling Aide in Housing supervises all of the record work incident to Housing.

Center situations.

Limited leadership.

It is difficult to be sure that the dearth of evacuee leadership results from a total lack of people capable of such leadership, a limited interest on the part of evacuees due to resistance to administrative policy, or undeveloped potentialities, but the staff, evacuee and appointed are inclined to agree that there is a genuine dearth of people left in the Center capable of leadership. The remaining population are largely Japanese speaking Issei, ill people and children.

There is no noticable resistance to the counseling program, in that people called for interviews participate in a review of their circumstances, but there is no organized effort on the part of the evacuees to assist with the development of the program.

Decreasing staffs.

With the decreases in evacuee staffs especially, but also among appointed member in the schools and other offices, there is necessity for crowding assignments upon the remaining staff members. This calls for review of service at frequent intervals for the purposes of eliminating all but the most essential services and streamlining those given as fully as possible.

Questions.

1. Is it possible for the Washington office to help in obtaining a stenographer? The regional offices of the Civil Service Commission are unable to refer stenographers for assignment at any salary, but the question of salary does enter into the situation as attempts are made to obtain additional staff from non-Civil Service sources. Would it be possible to increase the salary offered for the stenographic position to \$1800.00? We thought that it might be possible from a budgetary point of view since one CAF 7 position was filled by a CAF 5 worker.

7 2. Might there be simplification of the Reports called for from the Housing Service and the monthly case count?

To develop the monthly report for Housing it is necessary to maintain certain records which are time consuming. Due to the method by which Housing Services are now given, it is going to be increasingly difficult to maintain fully accurate records currently. The posting of changes, due to limited staff service, is sometimes over a week behind, and too, since the population decreases permit a relaxation of standards to a great degree, residents frequently occupy quarters without permission for considerable periods of time before it is discovered for recording purposes.

The worker responsible for Records and Statistics serving the Counseling programs is invaluable as an interpreter and home visitor. Yet, the present requirements for maintaining records incident to making the report now in use takes a disproportionate share of her time,---opening and closing records, changing the master file cards, keeping track of referrals in and out of the office, etc. It is our unanimous opinion that it would be far more practical, for the future to maintain one case file for all of the cases in the Center, and have only a "dead case file" for families and individuals who have left the Center. As a matter of fact, the report which has been submitted the last few months does in no way accurately reflect the

work done. The counselors working with the Relocation Division have not found it possible always to follow orthodox agency procedure in always opening cases in which notations were made, or closing cases on which current service is given. This has been discussed by the supervising staff, and the recommendation is that the reports for both Housing and Case recording be simplified and the case report be limited to indication of total loads, new cases, which are very few, and some indication of services given.

3. How do other Centers provide Project Employment Offices with the data called for by WRA Handbook 50-5-5 A,1, Paragraph 2, the instructions with regard to which hold the Welfare Section responsible for the data on the "number of persons between 18 and 65 who are unemployable due to physical disability" and the "number of persons between 18 and 65 who are unemployable due to family responsibilities"? We are in position to give only the numbers of people who are "receiving public assistance because unemployable due to family responsibilities." A complete figure for the entire center would call for special files on both groups, which would call for additional clerical help and supervision of that help which we do not see obtainable. The Medical Authority declares inability to provide the figure as to the number of people---currently---who are unemployable due to physical disability. The figure changes from week to week, of course, and then there is the age old problem of determining what is "physical disability to work." We see the job as "impossible under current conditions of work," and have tried only to give the figures drawn from public assistance records, but we felt obliged to share the problem with you for further suggestions.

4. Is it possible to add to the public assistance allowance the cost of cashing checks for public assistance (and for clothing allowance too for that matter) in instances in which the administration has adopted the practice, due to shortage of help, of paying public assistance by check rather than cash. Arkansas law provides for a charge of five cents for checks under \$30.00 and more for larger checks, for the service of cashing checks. There might be some more justification for the recipients of public assistance to object to having to pay the charge than for the majority of the recipients of clothing allowance who are freer to relocate than are those dependent upon public assistance.

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

FILE COPY

Rahwer
Month ending October 31, 1944

The Project Director has held several conferences with the commanding officer at the Jerome Center concerning practical problems involved in the transfer of that project to the War Department. Although the official transfer of property was effective as of October 15th, it was necessary that special arrangements be worked out whereby the Army could retain the use of fire equipment, water chlorinator and certain office and household furniture belonging to WRA until the War Department was in a position to furnish some of these items or until transfer could be handled in the regular manner. Due further to the fact that there was still some WRA property in Jerome which had to be moved, some WRA personnel remained at the project throughout the month. Arrangements have been made, however, for the transfer or removal of WRA property and personnel during the first half of November.

Fifteen boys from this center received notices for pre-induction examinations and sixteen received notices for induction. Several center residents who were in the Enlisted Reserve Corps were also called for active duty. The Community Council and the Block Managers are cooperating with the Center USO in planning for the construction of a large honor roll at the entrance of the center which will show the names of all center residents who are in military service. The community council has also been active in honoring those leaving the center to be inducted into the army. As more center residents enter military service, there is a corresponding increase in interest among the evacuees in the war.

Joe Atsumi Kamanaki, a former resident of Jerome, was sentenced to three years in a federal penitentiary because he refused to report for pre-induction examination. The defendant entered a plea of guilty and in passing sentence, the judge stated that an application for expatriation did not relieve the applicant of the duties of citizenship and that citizenship cannot be cancelled by a simple declaration. This boy was arrested several months ago, before the Jerome Center was closed, and it is not believed that there will be other cases of draft resistance. The family of the boy involved is now in Tule Lake.

Relocation dropped considerably during the month, when 59 indefinite and 71 trial indefinite leaves were granted. On the other hand, ten persons were readmitted to the center from indefinite leave, 55 from trial indefinite and 59 from seasonal. Thirty-five persons who had been out on trial indefinite, short term or seasonal leave, changed their leaves to indefinite. These are in addition to the 59 just mentioned. The position of Relocation Program Officer has been filled by Mr. C. B. Price, who was formerly with the Little Rock District Relocation Office.

There has been practically no response to the Sioux munitions plant offer of employment. An official of the relocation office and two evacuee representatives, one an Issei and one an Nisei, inspected the Sioux plant and returned with favorable reports. On the 11th of October the officer in charge of personnel at the Sioux plant, the relocation supervisor of the Denver area, and the relocation officer at Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, came to this center to recruit workers. At their request a detailed description of

conditions at the Sioux plant, in Japanese and English, was mimeographed and distributed to each family unit through-out the center. The Japanese section of this statement was the report of the Issei representative from Rohwer who had inspected the plant. The recruiting team met with a committee of evacuee leaders and later with the community council and the block managers and explained the Sioux proposition. For two weeks each issue of the center paper carried prominent stories on the subject. A special meeting of the appointed personnel was also called to acquaint them with the facts of the Sioux offer and several attempts were made to hold informational meeting in the blocks but these were not successful.

There seems to be several reasons for lack of interest in the Sioux offer. The most common objection from the Issei is that they fear their Japanese citizenship will be cancelled by Japan if they accepted such employment. Some appear to believe that the job is dangerous since it involves handling munitions and some seem to be afraid that they will be accused of sabotage if there's an explosion at the plant. The Nisei object on the grounds that trial indefinite leave is not granted for this work and they hesitate to take their families out of the center without first trying the job out. Some also object on the ground that there is little opportunity for post-war employment. Others say that they would be frozen on this job and they do not wish to be in this situation if California is opened. It is difficult to tell just how much weight all these factors really have, and there is always the additional reason that many people simply do not wish to relocate at this time. One Issei has frankly stated that he does not think the WRA should expect a Japanese citizen to commit treason to Japan by working at the plant.

The center suffered its second largest fire this month when part of the contents of a warehouse was destroyed. The total loss was \$230.50. Rohwer still has the lowest fire loss of all the centers. This is true although, there are only 30 employees in the fire department, which has a quota of 57. Fire prevention week was observed here with special notices and warnings, and drills at the center schools.

The Community Activities Section was exceptionally busy during the latter part of the month in conducting a recreational institute. The purpose of the institute was to train leaders in different young people's organizations. National leaders from the YMCA, YWCA, the Girl Scouts and other organizations, were presented and participated. Mr. Wilmer Kitchen, student YMCA secretary for the New England area, supervised the institute. The community library is being transferred to its new quarters near the center auditorium. The center U.S.O. was recently visited by the U.S.O. representative from Kansas City who has agreed to help in obtaining additional equipment. The local U.S.O. is now an official unit of the national group.

The "freeze" on employment of additional appointed personnel continues to handicap center operations. For example, two new employees are needed by the Engineering division and an increase in the project quota was requested for them. The increase was denied on the ground that the present project quota would permit the employment of these men. This was true but the vacancies which would have been filled really existed in the Education

Department. The turn-over in the education section is more rapid than in any other and, if its quota were used to fill other vacancies the teaching staff would soon be depleted until the schools could not operate. A more satisfactory system would be for each section to have its own quota or have the project quota raised as a whole. The positions of Assistant Project Director in charge of the administrative management and that of Assistant Steward were filled during the month. The personnel section is now conducting an in-service training class for office workers. Courses lasting one hour are held twice each week. Instructors are members of the appointed personnel. This section is also conducting a job audit which will list the duties performed by every worker in the center and will also show what additional duties each worker is capable of performing. It is hoped that this will result in a more efficient use of man power at the center.

Wood cutting is progressing fairly satisfactorily and every effort is being made to cut and haul a sufficient amount of fuel before wet weather sets in. Seventy regular workers are now engaged in this work. This does not include the special workers from every section or division who work at least two days each week. October was the driest month this State has experienced in 65 years and the germination of late plantings of spinach, nappa, and fall grains has been slow. Harvesting of daikon and nappa, chard, and sweet potatoes continues. Practically all land not in crops has been disced and bedded to allow earlier planting next spring.

The drainage program for the Project continues. Most of this work is being done on one of the main canal back of the barrack area but some laterals have been constructed from the barrack area to the large canal so that drainage within the blocks would be improved. A vegetable wash room is being added to the cold storage plant. Here, vegetables produced on the farm will be washed and cooled before being placed in the storage. The fire station is being remodeled so that there will be less danger of fire equipment freezing and so the sleeping quarters of the crew will be more comfortable.

During the month, the Welfare Section made grants totalling \$1460.81 to 162 family units involving 259 persons and clothing allowances were made to 1761 families involving 4747 people. The total value of the allowances for the month was \$15,363.

Except for the usual lack of nurses aides, the health section has no special problems. Only 92 persons were admitted to the hospital during the month as compared to 164 in September. As of October 31, only 41 beds were occupied as compared to 74 at the end of September and 60 at the end of August. Major medical cases during the month total 39 as compared to 47 in September. There were only 25 surgical cases in October as compared to 79 for the previous month. The usually high number of surgical cases in September was probably due to the fact that a well-known surgeon returned to the center about that time and many people wished to take advantage of his services while he was here.

The Secretary of the Alien Committee has received a letter from the

Spanish Consul in New Orleans advising the committee that the WRA is satisfactorily handling property matters for aliens. The Secretary also stated that he was of the personal opinion that the Evacuee Property Section was doing a good job. This statement is of more than ordinary weight because this individual is well known to be very critical of all project operations. Because of the shortage of workers, there is a delay of five to ten days in picking up personal property of relocated persons by the warehouse employees. This naturally causes some dissatisfaction on the part of those who have left the center. It is believed that the situation can be remedied if additional warehouse employees can be found.

An excellent editorial appeared in the Arkansas Gazette, the State's leading paper, which pointed out the contributions of the Nisei soldiers in the war and emphasized the fact that Americanism is not a matter of race. A set of pictures of the memorial service held in September was given to a representative of the U.S.O., who visited the center and they will be used in the U.S.O. public relations office. Some of the "Fighting Nisei" series of releases, which are too long to be used in their original form in the project paper are being reproduced for distribution in the blocks. It was arranged for a committee of the community council to discuss with the County Sheriff the alleged mistreatment of two evacuee truck drivers who were arrested by a Deputy Sheriff for speeding. The Sheriff agreed that traffic violations of a technical or minor nature would be referred to the Project Director for investigation and discipline.

Project schools were carried on a routine manner during the month. Three appointive and ten evacuee vacancies exist in the elementary school and there are four appointive and seven evacuee vacancies in the secondary schools. The freezing of appointed personnel has made it extremely difficult to employ new teachers and this continues to be the school's greatest problem.

Narrative Report of October 1944

Staff:

Evacuee. This situation remains the same as indicated in the September report.

Appointed. Miss Zabowski has indicated interest in coming to Rohwer Center immediately but there has been a delay in effecting her appointment due to some incompletely understood local conviction that the "freeze" cannot permit additional appointments to the Welfare Section staff. In the conference in Washington it was understood that additions to staff could be made.

At present, since Miss Zabowski has not been appointed, there are three vacancies on the Counseling staff and one vacancy for a stenographer.

Miss Muldoon has indicated that she is not now in position to accept an appointment to the Center staff.

Program situation:

The development of Outlook Studies is proceeding slowly. There is evidence of increased participation on the part of evacuees who seem interested in discussing their thoughts about their future even as they are unable at present to plan definitely for relocation.

The problem of clearance on the part of the Relocation Division staff with the Welfare Section is soon to be met more satisfactorily by the use of a common file which is near completion. This file contains a card for every family group or individual living as a single person, with indication as to which have been known to the Welfare Section, which have been interviewed, and which on the basis of facts known of those who have not been interviewed should be interviewed by the Welfare Section for the development of the Outlook Study or Relocation study.

The supervisors of the two interviewing staffs (Relocation and Welfare) with one additional interviewer from each staff on a rotated basis, hold two conferences a week for the purpose of discussing questions and problems of mutual concern.

Housing:

As a result of Block Managers election, there is to be a complete turnover in the Housing Committee personnel, including

the appointment of a new Chairman. Since the former committee took a very active part in administering the housing program, this development will call for a great deal of service from the Housing Counselor who is responsible for the Inservice Training and supervision of the clerical program, as well as considerable work as an interpreter.

Center Situations:

There is nearly a complete turnover in membership of the Block Managers in the Center and a great change due in the personnel of the Community Council as a result of elections to take place November 7.

This means an entirely new Welfare Committee in the Council and a new Housing Committee from Block Managers.

The outgoing Chairman of the Council advises us that he is recommending a consolidation of the Welfare Committee and another committee into a "Fair Play" committee which should work in close relationship with the Welfare Section. They are particularly interested in studying and participating in advising about policies affecting re-admission as well as counseling about future plans.

Questions:

1. It would be helpful if we might have a reply to question 1 presented in the September report about the availability of help in obtaining the services of a stenographer. The Rohwer Center personnel officer advises us he has exhausted local resources.

2. There continues to be some irregularity with regards to the distribution of instructions issued by the Washington office and which carry information of importance to responsibilities carried by the Welfare Section. This has been discussed repeatedly with our Office Services Section and they declare good intentions which we believe, but we are definitely handicapped when we wholly fail to get instructions.

We have need for the following, extra copies of which are not be found in the Center:

HANDBOOK

<u>Section</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>No. Sheets</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Handbook Release</u>
60.1.1-.3	Leave, Introduction	1	6/15/44	109
60.2.1-.17	Leave, Short Term	6	6/15/44	109

60.3.3B-.8A	Leave, Seasonal Work	1	2/16/44	82
60.3.13-.18B	Leave, Seasonal Work	5	2/16/44	82
60.6.9-.11	Leave Clearance	2	7/30/44	131
60.12.4B-7C	Leave, Indefinite (Trial Period)	2	3/7/44	73
60.13.8B-.10	Leave Assistance Grants	1	6/27/44	116
60.14.1-.18	Leave for Hospitalized Person	4	3/29/44	94
130.3.1-.7	Group Relocation	2	3/10/44	86
130.6.1-.12	Relocation Committee	5	4/15/44	97
130.9.1-.9	Community Acceptance	3	7/29/44	129

We are arranging to have these instructions copied from the Relocation Division Manual for distribution to the Interviewers who should have ready access to them for interviewing, but we would appreciate having copies of the original issue for the Office Manual and as a source of verification or original copies.

Would it be possible to have your help in obtaining the copies of these instructions?

3. Continued work on the development of "Outlook Studies" calls attention to the fact that there are occasions which present the need for direct communication with officials and social agencies, in the course of verifying births, deaths, marriages, divorces as well as to obtain full data about social resources of certain communities. According to Instruction 130.8.1, communications may be directed to the outside only through the Relocation Officer if they are "Concerning relocation". From general points of view, about everything we are doing now is in preparation for relocation or active relocation. However, in reviewing some need for communication with public officials for data verifying a birth, the Counselor has authorized in one instance a direct communication to the appropriate official rather than go through the Relocation Officer. This may not be considered in observance of the Instruction. It is a minor issue as compared with the complications presented by the need to have direct contact with social agencies regarding the highly confidential information about adoption homes and children's histories and also with regard to learning about the ranges of responsibility for specialized services carried by some social agencies. The agency in the first place is unlikely to respond to inquiries except as they come from other social agencies and have the full assurance that the ethical standards of a good professional leadership are observed. There may be two or three Relocation Offices in the country having staff members who have qualifications by training and experience even to understand the significance of the inquiry, much less to obtain the full cooperation of the social agencies having the standards we would want to recognize. We present these comments based upon current observations and in anticipation of future needs where cooperative services of social agencies will need to be asked for on short notice. Working through the Relocation Officer is very slow. We are still waiting for an answer to a letter sent to Chicago August 18, 1944. That is one of our best equipped Relocation Offices.

As preparation for a period in which we will increasingly have to call upon the services of social agencies, may we ask that some consideration be given to establishing a policy which permits direct communication with outside social agencies and public officials with regard to social data with the understanding, of course, that actual steps for placement would proceed through the Relocation Division as all departures from the Center?

Rohwer Relocation Center

NARRATIVE SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER, 1944

As of November 30, the center population was 6532. This represents a net gain of 175 over the end of the previous month. In November only four persons left on seasonal leave and 140 returned; 47 went out on trial indefinite but 114 in this category returned and 69 indefinite leaves were granted and 13 were re-admitted from indefinite. It is to be expected that relocation would fall off in the late fall and that returns would be heavy, but it is believed that the season and the cold weather is not the only important reason. It seems highly probable that the rumors of an early return to the west coast and that the center may close in the near future are also important factors. Some of the most influential Issei are saying that aliens cannot relocate successfully, and are advising the people to wait until California is opened and then return to that section. Not a single family has accepted the Sioux Plant offer and there are still many indications that some of the more influential Issei are largely responsible for the lack of interest here. In connection with the bond drive among the evacuees here, one of the center's most influential men frankly told an Assistant Project Director that the Issei are Japanese, that a Japanese are still a Japanese and that they are not inclined to aid this country's war effort against Japan. It is believed that this attitude did much to make the Sioux offer a failure.

In November, 11 men from the center were inducted into the ERC, 15 reported for pre-induction physicals and 30 reported for active service. At the end of the month there had been 45 casualties reported here. Sixteen were killed, 26 wounded and 3 were missing. These are cumulative totals and are not for November alone although most of them were reported in this month. The highest number of casualties reported in one week was eighteen. Rumors arising from the radical increase in casualties have been expected but up to this time they have not become a problem. Private Higa's visit here came at a very opportune time, and it is believed that he did much to reassure the relatives of Nisei soldiers. A second centerwide Memorial Service for those killed in action is planned for December 16.

In accordance with the Director's recent request, the Block Managers made a block by block survey to determine the number of men from this center who are in the army. The total was 703 men representing 608 families. It is believed that this figure is high because of unavoidable duplications in the reports from this and other center.

The War Fund contributions final total was \$702.50. The Sixth War Bond drive is being carried on with excellent results. As of November 30,

purchases in cash totalled \$5,907.50, and payroll deductions for the one month were \$6,488.73. Nearly \$5000 more in cash has been pledged. The center USO and the National Honor Society is sponsoring a late campaign among the evacuees, but it has not been underway long enough to tell just what the results will be.

The Community Activities Section sponsored a traditional Japanese Field Day. Many center residents, old and young, male and female, participated. The center library has been moved to its new building near the Auditorium, and all its workers have been transferred to the Education Section. The Teen-age Club has been revived, and good progress has been made in putting it into operation. Quarters in one of the Public Service Halls have been obtained, material for remodeling has been secured, and necessary funds have been promised. The new playground with equipment donated by the 442nd Combat Team is now in use. Mrs. Hilda Ives and Dr. Hachiro Yuasa lectured here November 5-9 under the auspices of the Rohwer Christian Mission. Dr. Yuasa was especially popular among the Issei.

Four fires occurred during the month. Two of these were in living quarters, one was a grass fire, and one was a truck. The total estimated damage was \$31.74. Internal Security arrested four boys in the act of robbing a Coop store and two others were picked up on suspicion. The latter two were released, but the four pleaded guilty.

In the past, the Council has been inclined to want to make decisions in matters of self government but has not wanted to take a corresponding responsibility. For example, when the six boys were charged with the robbery of the Coop store, the Council wanted to advise in the disposal of these cases but the Judicial Commission was reluctant to rule on the guilt or innocence of the boys and did not want to assess the penalties. Particularly since no government property was involved, the Project Director was insistent that the Commission take jurisdiction. After 30 days delay and much discussion, this group finally heard the cases, released two of the boys and placed four on probation for 30 days.

At the last general election the former Council chairman did not run for office in his block. Later he evidently changed his mind about giving up the chairmanship and an amendment was approved by the Council and by popular vote which permits a non-Council member to serve as Chairman. Then the former chairman was selected for his previous position. This indicates that the Community Council in developing some political, if not statesman like acumen.

Since much of the business of the Evacuee Property Officer concerns the property of persons who are relocating or have already done so, it is now planned to move his office into the same block with the Relocation Office. This will make it easier for these two Sections to work together.

The Arkansas Gazette, the state's leading paper, carried an excellent editorial concerning the contributions of the Nisei soldiers to the war. This was the second such editorial within a period of three weeks. Local papers continue to maintain a more favorable attitude. At least one California paper printed in full a story sent out from this center concerning the exploits of a Nisei soldier. Four evacuees attended a conference of College students at Conway, Arkansas. Twelve colleges were represented, and the delegates approved a plan to give assistance to the Teen-age Club which is being established at this center.

The Rohwer Schools were represented by 45 teachers at a meeting of the Arkansas Teachers Association at Little Rock. Five members of the teaching staff also attended a meeting of the School Master's Club at Monticello, Arkansas. The Education Section is still suffering acutely from shortage of teachers. Under the present quota system, part of this section's allotment of workers is being taken by other sections and divisions. Book Week and American Education Week were celebrated by the schools and the PTA groups have been reorganized, and an effort is being made to increase interest in this activity. Two evacuee teachers have left the vocational training section, and it has been necessary for the Supervisor to assume their duties. An effort is being made to obtain state aid for a class in auto mechanics.

The Relocation Division is planning to establish a central file that will present a total family picture. Since the Council election has been held, it now appears that an effective Relocation Planning Commission will become a reality. More equipment has been obtained by this Division and another barrack of six rooms is being remodeled for its use. Relocation is being given priority in practically every respect.

Relocation officials are working closely with the Adult Education Section in an attempt to get information to the evacuees that will be helpful to them in the event they relocate. The Advisory Section still has 213 families to be interviewed. All these families have been invited in for interviews but they have not accepted. An Assistant Relocation Interviewer has been added to the staff who has had many years experience in making various kinds of government loans, and it is believed that he will be able to give helpful advice in matters of this nature.

The Personnel Section continues its training program for evacuee office workers, and approximately 75 persons are attending. The use of evacuees as PBX operators is being considered. The Relocation Advisor has been called to the army but the position of Chief Project Steward has been filled by the man who formerly held the place at Jerome.

One of the appointed warehouse workers has returned to duty after an illness of several months.

The chief crops harvested during the month were, Daikon, 164,685 lbs., Chinese cabbage, 10,815 lbs., Turnips, 5150 lbs., Cabbage 13,985 lbs., and Sweet potatoes 5,350 lbs. The only planting was five acres of spinach. Since the middle of the month there have been heavy rains and this has seriously retarded wood hauling. Considerable progress has been made in cutting, however.

One half of the new concrete hog pens have been finished, and these will be adequate to care for the hogs on hand. The weather should permit further construction before additional hogs are purchased. The new pens should materially reduce hog losses from exposure.

The transfer of the Jerome project to the Army has been completed. All WRA property and employees are now at Rohwer except for some office equipment that has been loaned to the Army until it can be replaced by their own.

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Month ending December 31, 1944

By December 15 the Project Director had received the three confidential letters from Mr. Myer concerning the opening of the west coast. On the afternoon of that day he called in the members of the appointed personnel who were to serve on the Joint Advisory Committee and read Mr. Myer's letters and the outline of the new WRA policy. He announced that Mr. E. B. Moulton, Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, would be co-ordinator. Mr. Moulton had formerly been Relocation Officer and has the confidence and respect of both the evacuees and the appointed personnel. He is on particularly friendly terms with the chairman of the Council, who is also chairman of the Relocation Planning Commission and is one of the most influential evacuees in the center.

On December 17th, as soon as the lifting of the mass exclusion order was announced in Washington, this information was given to several of the evacuee leaders. On Monday morning, December 18, a meeting of the Joint Committee was called and Mr. Myer's letters and the outline of new WRA policy was again read for the benefit of the evacuee members. These included the chairman of the Council, the executive secretary of the Council, and the chairman and secretary of the Block Managers.

The army proclamation, Mr. Ickes' statement and Mr. Stimson's statement were immediately turned over to the translators so that they could be reproduced both in Japanese and in English. These were mimeographed in sufficient quantity for each family in the center to receive one and were distributed next day.

The Army Interviewing Team arrived Monday night, December 18, and spent most of the following day checking addresses with the aid of project employees. On Wednesday, December 20, the Army Team started interviewing. They had brought with them a statement by the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command explaining the duties of the Army Interviewing Team. This was reproduced in Japanese and English and distributed throughout the center. This statement explained that there would be no mass system of interviewing and that the great majority of people would be permitted to return to the west coast. In addition to the general statement, the officer in charge of the Interviewing Team also made a brief statement advising the people that there would be no general interviewing and that just because a person was called in for an interview it did not mean that he would be excluded from the west coast or segregated. The interviews were conducted in a courteous and tactful manner and the officers who

were in charge of this work seemed to have an understanding of the problems of center administration.

Monday afternoon the Community Council met and the chairman passed on to this group the information he had received in the meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee that morning. Tuesday afternoon a meeting of the Block Managers was called and the major in charge of the Army Interviewing Team made a brief explanation of his work here. Monday night a general staff meeting of the appointed personnel was held and Mr. Myer's letters and the new WRA policy were read to the group.

Nearly 5,000 letters of notification of clearance from the Project Director were sent out on January 2. All were distributed the same day so that they would be received at the same time and prevent some evacuees from being in doubt about their status because they had not received their notices as soon as others.

The Evacuee Property Officer and the Project Attorney will soon move their offices into the same block with the Relocation and Welfare Divisions and the Community Analyst. This will make it easier for those who are planning to leave the center to get information that they may need regarding property and legal matters while discussing relocation problems.

After the last election of the Community Council, a Relocation Planning Commission was appointed. It consists of 11 members and the chairman of the Council is also chairman of the Commission. Most of the other members are not councilmen, but among them are the chairman of the Block Managers', representatives of both Buddhist and Christian groups and other leading evacuees. It is planned for the Relocation Commission to establish an office in the same building with the Relocation Division and the project administration will provide office equipment and workers. Every effort will be made to obtain the advice and assistance of this group in matters concerning relocation problems.

There was little evidence of excitement among the evacuees over the announcement of the opening of the west coast. Most of them received the announcement calmly and there is not much indication that there will be any great rush of center residents to leave the center to return to California. Most of them have adopted a "wait and see" attitude and say that they are not going to make any definite plans until they have received more information about the conditions on the west coast. A few families plan to return to California in January but practically all of these are people who own property there.

Without exception the local papers maintained a favorable attitude concerning the opening of the west coast. The state's

leading afternoon paper, the Arkansas Democrat, ran a favorable editorial on the subject and the Memphis Commercial Appeal carried an exceptionally favorable editorial which not only approved the opening of the west coast but also praised the behavior of the residents of the Arkansas centers and remarked on the numerous casualties among Nisei soldiers from this center.

In the latter part of the month the Project Director was notified that representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service were coming here to investigate cases of illegal entry. At one time he was told that 12 investigators would be used and he was requested to furnish office space, office equipment and stenographers for these people. Later on he was advised that only 2 men were coming and plans are being made to assist them in their work here.

Up to this time the project quarterly census has been conducted by the appointed personnel but the census for the last quarter of 1944 was carried out by the Block Managers and their staffs. It is believed that this system will be satisfactory and it is more popular with the evacuees than the one previously used.

On December 16 a second centerwide memorial service was held for 16 Nisei soldiers from this center who had been killed in France. The service was again sponsored by the Community Council and practically all of the center organizations participated. The chief addresses were made by the Project Director and the chairman of the Community Council. Local newspapers were invited to send representatives but they were not able to do so. However, an Associated Press story on the ceremony was picked up and used by all the local papers.

Casualties among Nisei soldiers from this center for December were: 2 killed, 1 wounded. This is a great decrease from the number reported for November. Total figures on casualties from this center at this time are: 19 dead, 30 wounded, 4 missing.

On December 5 the Co-op elected a new Board of Directors. The Board of Directors then selected a Cabinet which will act as an Executive Committee for the group. A complete audit of Co-op records was made by an independent auditor and his report is expected within a short time. The Co-op Photographic Studio has been discontinued because of inability to obtain necessary supplies.

The Community Activities Section assisted in the Memorial Service which was held on December 16. The chief work of this section during the month was in preparing for the Christmas celebration at the center. A census of children in each block was taken and gifts were obtained and wrapped for each child. Boy scouts went into an adjoining county and obtained 50 Christmas

trees. Two hundred individuals and organizations donated more than 3,000 gifts for the children of the center. Donations in money amounted to \$226.91. The Community Activities Section assumed the responsibility for receiving, wrapping and distributing all of these gifts. Fifty soldiers from Camp Shelby came to the center December 17 and distributed nearly 5,000 packages of gum and 2,700 bars of candy to the children here.

Because of the time of year and excessive rains the Agriculture Division did very little work during the month. There was some harvesting of cabbage, nappa, carrots and spinach. Two hog feeding pens have been completed which are surfaced with concrete. In December, 162 feeder hogs were purchased and 127 fattened hogs were slaughtered which averaged 252 pounds, live weight.

The Project Director held frequent conferences with Community Council officials and Council Committees after the opening of the west coast was announced. Council leaders are expected to take an active part in relocation planning from now on and it is the policy of the Project Director to pass on to these individuals all available information concerning new WRA procedure. Because of a proposed reduction in the number of mess employees the Council has sent a formal protest to the Washington office which states why, in their opinion, this reduction should not be made.

The Evacuee Property Officer is planning to move his office into the same block with the Relocation Office so that the evacuees can more easily obtain information concerning handling of their property when they are making their relocation plans. There is considerable demand from those who relocate for some place to store their property on the project until they get established on the outside but, with a few exceptions, it has not been possible to do this. It is believed that it would be helpful if this could be done. One of the chief problems of the Property Officer arises in the handling of property of those who are leaving the center by warehouse crews. Because of the small number of workers there is sometimes considerable delay in the forwarding of property belonging to those who have relocated.

The most serious problem of the Education Section continues to be lack of appointed personnel. At least one high school class has had a different teacher nearly everyday in the week because there is no one to take this class permanently. Several teachers have indicated that they may submit resignations in January and there are only two or three prospects to fill these places. School officials are already making plans for the closing of school and it has been decided that no summer school will be operated.