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Moore
~~Markley~~
~~Fischler~~
~~Buttedahl~~
~~Utz~~
Arnold
Files (MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

Christmas and New Year passed in a very quiet way in the center, activities being held to a minimum due to the possibility of spread of the flu epidemic. The opening of schools, which was scheduled for Monday, has been temporarily postponed until Monday's inventory of active flu cases is in. We think the schools will open Tuesday if conditions improve over the weekend as they have in the past two days. Today's count of the active flu cases was 200, 24 of which are new cases, compared with the top figure of 515 on December 23.

The rainy season of South Arkansas has finally caught up with us. It has been raining off and on for the past two weeks. It is now too wet to do any type of farming work. Our construction program has been slowed down considerably and wood hauling has completely stopped. Fortunately, however, the winter's supply of fuel wood is practically in. There are three or four blocks which will probably not have enough wood with what they now have.

Selective Service is taking several of our employees. We have recently lost Mr. Mays from Agriculture, Mr. Erkkila from Community Enterprises, and Mr. Thompson from Property Control. Mr. Smith of the Engineering Section expects to go any day; Mr. Lynn, Reports Officer, reports for his physical January 5; and Mr. Hudson, Project Steward, reports for his physical January 7. Of course as time goes on we expect to lose several more employees to the Army.

It is very gratifying to us that arrangements have been made with the Army to exchange our older equipment for 1939 models. We will now concentrate all repairs on equipment which will be retained by the project after the exchange, in order that all of our equipment will be in good operating condition. We now have a Transportation and Maintenance Superintendent, and he is rapidly improving our whole transportation set-up.

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

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~~Baker~~
~~Fischer~~
~~Rutledge~~
~~Utz~~
~~Arnold~~
Files (HP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather quiet week. Activities have been mostly routine. The weather is unusually bad, raining almost constantly, temperature hovering around the freezing mark, practically no activities except those necessary to provide food and keep utilities in operation.

I believe the program has held up unusually well and that reports will show that in spite of the fact that we have had a number to return to the center the leaves have exceeded the reinductions in all weeks except one.

In accordance with plans adopted two or three months ago we are moving forward to evacuate all families from block 20 and convert that block to the use of community activities and related endeavors. This will necessitate the moving of 49 families. Of course they will object to this but it is our opinion that we can work it out in a satisfactory manner. Closing this block will also enable us to close up one mess hall. Finding evacuee personnel to run the mess halls is becoming quite a problem. It is our opinion that other blocks should eventually be closed. We may need instructions from Washington on this.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
January 9, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather quiet week. Activities have been mostly routine. The weather is unusually bad, raining almost constantly, temperature hovering around the freezing mark, practically no activities except those necessary to provide food and keep utilities in operation.

I believe the program has held up unusually well and that reports will show that in spite of the fact that we have had a number to return to the center the leaves have exceeded the relocations in all weeks except one.

In accordance with plans adopted two or three months ago we are moving forward to evacuate all families from block 50 and convert that block to the use of community activities and recreation rooms. This will necessitate the moving of 19 families. Of course they will object to this but it is our opinion that we can work it out in a satisfactory manner. Closing this block will also enable us to close up one mess hall. Finding evacuee personnel to run the mess halls is becoming quite a problem. It is our opinion that other blocks should eventually be closed. We may need instructions from Washington on this.

E. R.
Project

File Copy 2

Myer
Baker
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Utz
Arnold
Files (MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been the most severe week we have had this season, from the weather standpoint. Freezing rain has been falling for two days disrupting telephones, electric lights, and other utility services, and making the streets and walks in the center very muddy. Despite this, however, there has been no serious inconvenience.

We had 85 visiting nisei servicemen, from Camp Shelby mostly. A visit to Camp Shelby of girls from this center and Rohwer, scheduled for this weekend, had to be canceled because of the bad condition of the roads.

Mr. Uts arrived here early Wednesday and has spent three profitable days checking over the work here for which he is responsible.

All plans have been perfected for the visit of the Relocation Team, which will arrive in Jerome early Monday morning.

Evidently the flu is definitely on the decrease. Very few new cases have developed this week.

The 1944-45 budget for this center was mailed to Washington on Wednesday of this week, as per instructions.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

File Copy 2

Baker
Buttlebahl
Fischler
Arnold
Files (MP)
Lee
Hoffman
HSC

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

Major efforts of the staff this week were directed towards relocation in connection with the Relocation Team's visit to the center. I wish to state that the Relocation Team put in an unusually hard week. The program seemed to be well organized and went off in fine shape. All meetings were extremely well attended and apparently the people were very receptive to the program. The information which the Relocation Team brought to the people was well organized and well presented. All members of the team were very busy with individuals interviews when they were not conducting programs. Of course it is too early to say what the results of the week's work will be, but we are confident that the time of the members of the team was well and profitably spent. Follow-up work is now in progress and according to reports from the individuals here for that purpose it is going well.

Contrary to the past two weeks, the weather has been beautiful, unusually warm for the time of the year, and of course when we have a change in temperature we are expecting rain.

Due to the freezing weather for quite some time recently we were unable to carry on our slaughtering activities. Consequently we were getting an accumulation of hogs which needed to be slaughtered. We entered into a contract with the Pinkbeiner Packing Company of Pine Bluff to slaughter approximately 250 hogs. We will receive seventy slaughtered hogs from the company this afternoon and will start immediately to process the meat for immediate use or curing. We expect to receive all hogs back next week.

It is generally recognized by the residents of the center that about half of the blocks will need some additional fuel wood to carry them through the winter. We figure that approximately one thousand cords of additional fuel will be needed. Plans are made to get this amount of wood beginning next Monday morning.

All phases of the program at Jerome are running along about normal.

W. U. Holton
Acting Project Director

File Copy 2

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 29, 1944

~~Baker~~
~~Utz~~
Files (MP)

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been what would be considered a normal week in the Jerome Relocation Center.

The weather has been unusually warm and it has rained practically every day.

The fuel situation came back for attention this week and it was estimated that it would take another 1000 cords of wood, and as a result of this some wood has been cut between showers.

Taking all things into consideration, evacuees leaving on indefinite leave have been exceptionally good this week, as 29 indefinite leaves and 4 seasonal leaves were issued.

The announcement that draft regulations would be reinstituted for the Japanese-Americans has caused little comment except to the effect that it was unfortunate they would only be drafted for combat duty and replacement purposes.

The release of the statement in regard to Japanese treatment of prisoners has created no incident to date. As a precautionary measure we are refraining from issuing short term passes to nearby towns. No reference has been made to date in published reports of the Japanese-Americans or friendly aliens in the two camps here in Arkansas, except two commentators each of whom cautioned that there were loyal Americans in our country of Japanese ancestry and these should not be confused with the militaristic leaders of Japan.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY 2

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas

Files (MP)

WEEKLY REPORT
February 5, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

We have had a normal week at the Jerome Relocation Center.

The weather, in the main, has been ideal. We had our heaviest rain in several months Tuesday night, which gave us an opportunity to observe the benefits of our drainage system. The water moved off very rapidly. We had just completed the bridge across the drainage ditch on highway 143 from Jerome to Lake Village. We had not torn out our detour around the bridge and across the ditch, and it was necessary that we shoot this out in order to let the water pass out of the drainage ditch. This caused no inconvenience since we could put the bridge in shape for crossing in a few hours.

The evacuee farmers are taking a greater interest in preparations for starting a crop now than they did at this time last year. Most of our land is prepared and ready for planting as soon as weather conditions will permit.

The fuel situation is well in hand. We estimate that four or five more hundred cords of wood will be needed in the center. I am sure that we already have sufficient wood in if it were equally distributed between the blocks. Of course it would be an impossible operation to go into the blocks and take wood from a block and place it in another. It is much easier to cut the additional wood which we feel that some blocks will need.

We have issued no short-term leaves to nearby towns this week. Public sentiment following the atrocity stories seemed to get just a little bit unfavorable. Therefore we exercised the precaution of not issuing short-term leaves. However, conditions are such now that we plan to start issuing a few urgent short-term leaves next week and gradually get back to our past project policies regarding such leaves. Indefinite leaves have slowed up a little bit this week. We issued twelve indefinite leaves this week direct from the project and converted five short-term and seasonal leaves to indefinite.

There is still little comment regarding selective service for Japanese Americans. We are not sure whether or not the announcement regarding selective service is affecting the leave program. We are inclined to believe it is having some effect on the program. In talking with Mr. Allison yesterday I enquired whether or not the selective service policies were increasing our requests for repatriation and expatriation, and he replied by saying that he was sure that we had had two requests as a result of the announcement, and possibly one other.

Captain Farrand of the Provost Marshall's office spent the forenoon with us yesterday after having spent a full day at Rohwer. We showed him as much of the camp and the program as we could in that length of time. He seemed to be very favorably impressed with both the camp and the program of the War Relocation Authority.

W. O. Melton

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

FILE COPY 2

~~Moore~~
~~Baker~~
~~Acre~~
~~Cross~~
~~Utz~~
James
File (MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, February 12, 1944

Corrected Copy

Dear Mr. Myer:

The past week has been about normal in every respect.

Our leave program fell off a little as only 26 indefinite leaves were issued.

Number of evacuees employed at the Jerome Relocation Center at the end of January was 2745 as against 3848 employed in December, 1942.

The project consumed 14,458 pounds of pork during January which was produced on the project. This has a point value of 26,896.

We have had a tremendous lot of rain during the last seven days which has practically stopped all activities on the project except housekeeping.

EBW

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY 2

Mr. Baker
Files (HP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, February 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The past week has been about normal in every respect.

Our leave program fell off a little as only 26 indefinite leaves were issued.

Number of evacuees employed for January was 2,745 as against 3,848 for December.

The project consumed 14,458 pounds of pork which was produced on the project during the month of January. This has a point value of 26,896.

We have had a tremendous lot of rain during the last seven days which has practically stopped all activities on the project except "housekeeping".

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY 2

~~Moore~~
~~Baker~~
~~Boyer~~
~~Avery~~
~~Hoag~~
Files

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, February 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

There is nothing of particular interest to report this week. The weather continues sloppy. Little outside work is being done.

The leave program is holding up fairly well. We have granted 28 indefinite leaves this week. However, we expect resettlement to "pick up" now that spring is approaching. We continue to get a variety of splendid offers from North Central United States.

There is some dissatisfaction among the young evacuees of draft age. However, we have endeavored to get complete information from the local draft boards, and when this inforation is finally secured it is our opinion that this dissatisfaction on the part of the young men will be dispelled.

Farming is progressing as scheduled. We are setting out onions this week between showers.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY 2

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, February 26, 1944.

Files (MP)

Dear Mr. Myer:

We have had what would be considered a normal week at the Jerome Relocation Center.

There is still some discussion of Selective Service, but it is of general nature and we do not anticipate any difficulties whatsoever. Fourteen men left this morning as scheduled by the local draft board. Of course, according to information from Selective Service, we can expect an increase in the number of calls in the very near future.

We have had several requests this week for repatriation and expatriation, primarily from the older people, this being occasioned by the announcement of the closing of the center. The old people feel that they will probably want to return to Japan when the war is over and since they have to move they might as well move in that direction. However, there is a small number of nisei requesting expatriation, probably occasioned by closing of the center and by selective service. We are taking these requests and immediately holding leave clearance hearings and sending the results of the hearings to Washington.

Upon receipt of the teletype announcing the closing of the center, Mr. Whitaker called a meeting of the appointed personnel and gave them the information. Later in the day a meeting of the community council and the block managers was called and the information was given to them. Of course the residents of the center are not happy about making another move. They are discussing it a great deal and are anxious for complete details about available space in other centers and dates on which movements will start. We do not anticipate any major difficulties in vacating and closing the center. The appointed personnel of the project are taking the news regarding the closing of the center with a very good attitude. Of course they are also anxious about where they may go. They seem to feel fairly sure that they will be given an opportunity to remain with the War Relocation Authority if they desire to do so and I think that the majority of them want to continue with WRA.

There is some indication that the leave program will be stimulated some by the closing of the center. Mr. Love advises me that there is more interest in family relocation now than has been in the past. I hope this is true and that we can carry on a successful relocation program along with the closing of the center.

We are going to be faced with loss of some of our key personnel to the Army. Practically all of the employees on the appointed staff of military age have received reclassification notices. Several of them have received notices to report for their pre-induction physical examination. This means of course that they will be called into the armed services before July 1 if found physically fit. Of course we are interested in maintaining efficient necessary operations of the center and the necessary activities to successfully close out the center.

Weather conditions continue to be unfavorable for outside activities. It has rained the entire week and is raining today. It has given us an excellent

opportunity to observe the success of our drainage system. The drainage system is showing up to be very effective.

We have continued our efforts in completing the transfer of automotive equipment from the Army to WRA. The last movement of vehicles starts from ElPaso today and should reach Jerome by Wednesday of this coming week. We will give you a separate and detailed report on this transaction as soon as it is completed.

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

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Baker
Rosenfelt
Chase
Files CMP

FILE COPY 2

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, March 4, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The program at the Jerome center has progressed in a very normal way during the past week. Nothing of extreme interest has happened. I am sure that you would be interested to know that the attitude of the evacuees toward their work has not changed to any extent since the announcement that the center will be closed. They are putting as much effort into their work as ever.

The fuel wood cutting program has now come to a successful completion. We have sufficient wood in the center to carry us through the rest of the season. Therefore, we are transferring the men who have been cutting wood into other essential project operations.

During the past week we have had 52 applications for repatriation and expatriation. I do not feel that the announcement regarding the closing of this center has had any material influence upon the increased number of potential repatriates as most of those persons have been more or less considered as possibly pro-Japanese in this center for some time. Twelve of these applicants are male citizens between the ages of 17 and 38. It is very possible that the reinstitution of selective service has had some influence on the increase in requests for expatriation.

The center hospital is short about 30 nurses aides and diet aides, and we are experiencing a great deal of difficulty in recruiting evacuees for these jobs. This situation has been developing for several weeks and possibly cannot be associated in any way with closing of the center. We have been forced to close two wards of the hospital. This difficulty has been discussed with the community council and block managers, and the residents of the center are thoroughly acquainted with the difficulty we are having, and it has been explained to them that unless sufficient evacuee personnel can be maintained it will be necessary to close certain parts of the hospital and discontinue certain medical services. The community council accepted recruitment for these places in the hospital as its responsibility. Besides the fact that it is very unpleasant work the thing that seems to be against recruiting of hospital employees is the fact that in closing assembly centers the hospital personnel were frozen to their jobs and were not permitted to move with their families when they were moved to relocation centers. At least they are using this supposed fact as a reason.

The evacuee residents regret very much the closing of the Jerome center, primarily from the standpoint of the inconvenience which it is going to cause them. They are pretty much concerned, however, about several things. Primarily, they are concerned with whether or not the schools will be able to continue operation long enough for the students to complete their year's work and whether or not they will be given the opportunity of designating the center to which they want to go. Of course they are hoping that there will be some possibility of their going to centers other than Heart Mountain, Granada, and Rohwer.

Weather conditions have greatly improved this week. We had our last rain Monday afternoon, and have had beautiful sunshiny weather ever since.

We are having an abnormally large number of individuals who have been out on indefinite leave to request reinduction. I am sure that this influx has been caused by the announcement that the center is to be closed. In talking with some individuals who are visiting in the center, they have indicated that a large number of folks who are on indefinite leave feel it necessary that they return to the center and be inducted so that they can assist their family in packing and moving and move with them to the new center. I feel that there is some opportunity for discouragement of this by the relocation officers. If a great number of them do return and we reinduct them, it will throw the population figure out of balance for the centers where arrangements are being made for residents of the Jerome center.

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

FILE COPY

~~Manley~~
~~Rutledge~~
~~Fraker~~
~~Fischer~~
~~Chase~~
Files (MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, March 11, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

We have had a rather busy week at Jerome this week. The weather has been good. Outside work has progressed satisfactorily. Crop planting is under way since soil moisture is satisfactory for this operation.

The nineteen people scheduled for Crystal City left Sunday. Everything worked smoothly.

The indefinite leave program has been fairly good. A total of thirty people left for outside employment. There seems to be a greater tendency towards family relocation. Dr. Webber reported for his detail to Jerome Thursday night, March 10. I am sure that he can be of considerable help to us since we are so short-handed in the relocation office.

The residents are rather anxious regarding details of closing the center, particularly about centers to which they will be assigned and moving dates. I believe if some of the details could be announced to the residents, the morale of the people would be better.

We are rather short-handed on appointed personnel. There is quite a number of vacancies on the staff, and some of our key personnel have been detailed to other jobs.

The inventory is progressing satisfactorily. Mr. Rose, chief of the party of field examiners, expresses satisfaction with the progress being made.

We are looking forward to the visit by Mr. Barrows and the Under Secretary of Interior.

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

FILE COPY 2

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, March 18, 1944

~~Moore~~
~~Bettinger~~
~~Baker~~
~~Fischler~~
~~[illegible]~~
Files (MP)

Dear Mr. Myer:

We have been blest this week with ideal weather. Our farm planting is going along in fine shape. The program as a whole has been very normal, nothing unusual happening.

Both the residents and the appointed personnel looked forward with a great deal of anticipation to the visit of Mr. Abe Fortas and Mr. Barrows. We feel that their visit was very helpful and we hope successful from their point of view. We had in fifteen evacuee leaders for an hour's meeting with them. Both Mr. Fortas and Mr. Barrows talked briefly to them, and then the meeting was opened for informal discussion. A great many questions were asked, most of them relating to the routine procedures of closing the center. They were particularly interested in the successful closing of the community enterprises. They requested that some arrangement be made to make available retail services to the residents from March 31 to June 30 as the local co-op desires to close out effective March 31. Mr. Fortas and Mr. Barrows met with the appointed staff for about an hour in the afternoon, Mr. Fortas discussing with them primarily the relationship of the War Relocation Authority to the Department of the Interior. He did a splendid job. I am sure that each and every appointed staff member felt as I did when he had finished his talk that he was an unusually shrewd individual and that we were rather fortunate in having been placed in the Department of the Interior. Mr. Barrows did a good job of extending a feeling of security to the personnel. He expressed the hope that the majority of the Jerome staff would remain with the WRA. He assured them that every effort would be made to place those who desired to remain with the WRA and said that he felt reasonably sure that this could be done.

We are still putting a great deal of emphasis and effort on winding up leave clearance hearings. We are anxious to get this job completed, as I am sure you are from the communications which we are having from the Washington office. Of course we are not in a position to estimate accurately the amount of work which remains to be done in connection with the hearings. We hope we are getting close to the end.

Selective service is knocking at the door of several of the appointed staff members. Six or seven of them go for their pre-induction physical examinations Monday. Of course we are hoping to have the services of these men for sixty days or more after their examinations. Otherwise we will be greatly handicapped in the operation and closing of the center.

The leave program has been poor this week. A total of twenty have gone on indefinite leave to accept employment or to join other members of the family who have relocated previously.

We have had almost as many requests for reinduction this week as we have been able to get out on indefinite leave. Several of these reinductions have

been wives of soldiers who have been transferred or are ready for transfer from their stations. Several of the other inductions have been boys who have passed their pre-induction physicals for Army service. I am still somewhat fearful that we will get a great number of requests for reinduction of family members before the move takes place from Jerome to other centers. I hope this will not be true, and I am sure that relocation officers in various areas are working to prevent this.

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

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FILE COPY 2

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, March 25, 1944

Files (HP)

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather interesting week on the project, the highlight being a meeting of representative evacuees to discuss the problems incident to closing the center. Mr. Malcolm Pitts attended this meeting and contributed largely to its success. The information which he gave was rather satisfying and specific. The attitude manifested by the representative group of evacuees was cooperative. This group was made up of the community councilmen, block managers, judicial commission, relocation planning commission, representatives from the Jerome paper, and other leading evacuees. Mr. Pitts' trip to Jerome was very much worthwhile.

The total number of evacuees employed by the WRA at this center for the week ending March 25 was 2560, which is well within our ceiling of 2600.

Relocation is definitely slacked up. Closing of the center and the uncertainty as to when evacuees will be called to the Army are thought to be the distracting influences. We had our second call for pre-induction physicals this week, and all who were called reported.

The evacuees are having lots of meetings discussing the best procedure for closing the community enterprises. They have little understanding that a co-op is supposed to be interested in rendering services and not overwhelmingly interested in making money. Mr. Rossman and Mr. Elberson are working with the co-op representatives in an effort to get services continued which are needed in the center until June 30.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY 2

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~~Moore~~
~~Baker~~
~~Bettinger~~
~~Fozes~~
~~Fischler~~
~~Hall~~
Files (HP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The past week has been a rather busy one on this project.

Mr. Hoffman from the Relocation Division in Washington has held some very instructive meeting with the project personnel and evacuees. In our opinion his visit was very much worthwhile.

The auditors are well into their work and are under the impression that they will finish within the next week or ten days.

Hugh Alexander from the Washington office is manufacturing a catalogue of all serviceable property and putting into effect plans for disposition of same.

Mr. Rossman and George Ishiyama were on the project for several days this week working with the Co-op. However, they seemed to have been unable to influence the Co-op to remain open and the Co-op will definitely be closed on April 10. It is to be regretted that we in the War Relocation Authority have not been able to sell the idea of cooperation more effectively than we have done through the Co-op Enterprises. Judging from their action the co-ops are nothing more than monopolies, and the idea of rendering services rather than making money has never been put across. A true co-op would never close its enterprises ninety days before its membership ceased to need its services. I am apprehensive as to how we are going to meet the needs of the evacuees for the little items incident to living between the time of the closing of the enterprises and the closing of the center. However, we are working on this and hope to meet the situation as it arises.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY 2

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 8, 1944

~~Moore~~
~~Baker~~
~~Butterfield~~
~~Dwyer~~
~~Fischler~~
~~Gross~~
Files (MP)

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather active week on the Jerome Relocation Center.

The auditors have finished their work and are leaving the project today. In the light of information that we have it is our feeling that the audit has been well conducted and very much worthwhile. We asked Mr. Rose to talk to all division, section, and unit heads at a general meeting today outlining to them in an educational way the importance of following all procedure. Mr. Rose did an excellent job and held the attention of the entire audience for approximately an hour.

We have given the Welfare Section some study this week. We are convinced that it is very important that we get additional welfare workers. We have only two workers in that section now, Head Counselor J. Lloyd Webb and Jr. Counselor Vera Saliba. We would very much appreciate receiving referrals from Washington to fill the existing vacancies.

We are making progress in having preference sheets filled out as per plans perfected when Mr. Pitts visited the project ten days ago, and will have all these completed by the fifteenth of April. These sheets will be used as a basis for determining where the families prefer to go when the center is closed.

We now have, with Mr. Hoffman's assistance, a well-manned Relocation Division, consisting of eight people--four appointed staff members, three people detailed here from field offices, and one individual detailed from our Education Section with the expectation of transferring later. We are looking forward with considerable expectation to relocation within the next sixty days. Of thirty people who left here this week on indefinite leave, twenty-five represented six complete families. Two of the thirty went for induction into the Army and one left to attend school. When the entire family goes out, you have relocated them. When the family remains in the center, the chances are ten to one that they are not relocated.

The number of Military Police stationed here is being reduced to thirteen as of today. They are in charge of a second lieutenant. To date we have maintained four posts--one at each exit, one at the motor pool, and one at the safe--and beginning tonight we will maintain only two--one at each exit from the project. In our opinion these will be entirely sufficient.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY

~~Moore~~
~~Baker~~
~~Brittenham~~
~~Tyler~~
~~Fischer~~
~~Cross~~
Files (MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This week on the project has been rather an interesting one.

The Relocation Division is well organized and seems to be functioning quite well. We had seven complete families leave this week on indefinite leave with the total membership of twenty-four people.

The Seabrook Farms of Bridgeport, New Jersey had a representative here in the center this week. This farm maintains that they can use as many as 100 families or more. They created considerable interest, but before we let more than six families go we will clear the matter with the relocation office in Washington. The salaries these people offer are good and the housing conditions apparently are excellent.

see 1st. copy

The auditorium has been completed and the dedication services were held last night as per attached program.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Attachment

24,040

FILE COPY 2

~~Moss~~
~~Baker~~
~~Lynn~~
~~Fischler~~
~~Tajiri~~
~~Cross~~
Files (MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather busy week on the project; first, making plans for moving segregees to Tule Lake on May 8 and 17; and second, making tentative plans for closing the center on June 30. Along with this is to be added the additional interest created by having four people recently detailed to our Relocation Division and four new employees working there while out Relocation Program Officer is attending a meeting in Chicago for a week or ten days. Coming up within the next few days will be a ten days absence of the Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management attending a meeting at Denver, and the head of the Welfare Section attending a meeting of Counselors in Washington. Both of these important positions will be vacant during the days preceeding the date on which segregation will be completed. This is especially noticeable since the Welfare Section has only two Caucasian employees. The fact that a trainload and a fraction of people leave Jerome is a much larger undertaking than if two full trainloads were leaving. It will be necessary to transport 160 individuals to Rohwer to fill out a trainload there. This will be much more difficult than loading a complete train on our own siding. In spite of such comments however please rest assured that all assignments will be handled completely and in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

I am attaching to this an editorial taken from the Arkansas Gazette which is rather refreshing but at the same time abstract.

Yours very truly,

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Editorial given to P. Byrd

FILE COPY

~~Cross~~
~~Fosier~~
~~Fraeuler~~
~~Cross~~
Files (MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 29, 1944

Ack: 5-2-44 MP

Dear Mr. Myer:

The major interest of the week closing today has been planning for the movement of segregees which is scheduled to take place one week from next Monday. While this is a major operation, it now appears as though we can perfect the transfer without undue hardship. This is because plans have been well worked out and put on paper in an understandable form. The Army team has completed photographing and fingerprinting all segregees, and has moved on to Rohwer. This was accomplished without a single incident. Mr. Joe J. Thomas, Tule Lake Housing Representative, has assigned housing to all segregees here and is working at Rohwer today.

Mr. Walling of the Los Angeles Transportation Office arrived here yesterday to work between this center and Rohwer in connection with the movements out of these two centers during the next two months.

Only nine indefinite leaves were issued this week, made up of one family group of two and seven single individuals. This is the lowest week we have had in a long time. Definitely the closing of the center appears to be having an adverse influence on relocation.

As the date for closing the center approaches and as several Army teams come in, the shortage of passenger carrying vehicles becomes more acute. This situation is further aggravated by the fact that some personnel are working both at Rohwer and Jerome. It goes without saying that we are trying to meet this situation by having scheduled trips so that the few cars available can be loaded to capacity. We have thirteen passenger-carrying vehicles, and when you take from this one for the Chief of Police, one for the Doctor, one for the Fire Chief, and one for the several other people who must have transportation available constantly it can be readily seen that we don't have many left for extra trips.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY ✓

~~Mayer~~
Baker
Fischler
Lozier
Cross
Files
(MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas

WEEKLY REPORT, ~~April~~ MAY(?) 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The chief interest this week has been final preparations for first train No. 40 of the third segregation movement to leave Jerome Monday. All checkable baggage and freight has been inspected by the Military Police from Tule Lake. Freight has been placed in the warehouse. Baggage is being loaded today onto the baggage coaches which will make up a part of the train. All Army personnel are on the grounds, and conferences have been held to the end that there is a perfect understanding. All evacuees on the train leaving Monday morning are definitely classified as those to be segregated ~~are~~ volunteering to accompany members of their family who must be segregated.

We still have a number of cases pending in Washington which we hope to get clearance on before train 42 departs on May 17.

We issued 59 short-term and 20 indefinite leaves this week. Included in the indefinite leaves were three complete families.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY

~~Mr. Baker~~
~~Fiddler~~
~~Taylor~~
~~Chron~~
Files
(MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas

WEEKLY REPORT, May 13, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The highlight of this week was the moving out of Train No. 40 for Tule Lake with 497 evacuees. In accordance with well formulated plans of Washington and the careful execution of same by the project personnel, the train was ready to move exactly five minutes before the scheduled hour of departure. The Army personnel, headed by Train Commander Captain William Gugel, was very cooperative and understanding. An hour after the train departed, the project was functioning in its normal manner, in spite of the fact that considerable emotional disturbances were noted. This was the first time that I had seen grown Japanese men shed tears.

The project personnel are getting some inquiries direct from other projects as to when they can report for positions which have been tentatively offered them. However, this is causing no confusion. We are referring these inquiries and our answers to the Washington Personnel Office who is handling same in a satisfactory manner.

All interest now centers on the closing of the project. Much apprehension is being manifested by the evacuees as to which project they will eventually be assigned to. Attached is a copy of criteria which has been developed for determining which individuals will be given their first choice. This criteria was worked out in cooperation with the Community Council, the Block Managers, and other evacuee leaders.

Relocation has continued at a normal rate. Thirty-four indefinite leaves have been issued containing seven family units of 19, 14 individuals and one conversion from seasonal leave to indefinite leave. None of these people have gone to Seabrook Farms. Interest in Seabrook is great.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FOUR BASIC REASONS FOR GRANTING

FIRST CENTER OF PREFERENCE

1. HEALTH, when certified as "A" by Dr. Collier.

2. a. FAMILY MEMBER IN SERVICE, including Enlisted Reserve.

   b. FAMILY MEMBER TO ENTER SERVICE SOON, including only those with Certificates of Physical Fitness for Service (family member as defined in Administrative Manual 30.4.53) applies regardless of center of first preference--alike to any.

3. FAMILY MEMBER RELOCATED, family member as defined in Administrative Manual 30.4.53; applies regardless of center of preference and location of relocated member.

4. TO REUNITE RELATIVES

	NOT
parents	brothers
children	sisters
grandparents	in-laws (as such)
grandchildren	uncles
	aunts
	nephews
	nieces
	cousins

APPROVED:

E. B. Whitaker

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

May 12, 1944

FILE COPY

Moore
~~Baker~~
~~Fischler~~
~~Tozier~~
~~Crow~~
Files (mp)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, May 27, 1944
(submitted 5-30-44)

Dear Mr. Myer:

I am sorry that I am late in mailing you this, my report which should have gone to you Saturday.

The week closing on that date was a very active one here on the project. I am of the opinion that you would be interested in the procedures which we have used for arriving at the center of destination for evacuees when Jerome is closed. Briefly, the plan used is as follows: Each family was given a chance to express his preference on a Preference Sheet, listing supporting justifications and reasons. We have used two committees. The first Processing Committee was made up of six individuals who carefully tabulated all requests and, after reading the justifications and reasons, classified each application according to criteria which had been previously developed on suggestions from the Community Council, Block Managers, and other evacuee leaders. After this Processing Committee had finished, we appointed a Project Director's Transfer Committee who studied the preference sheets and supporting documents still further and heard further justifications. This committee made recommendations to the Project Director as to the list to go to each project, and the final decision was then made. To date we have had no incident worthy of note though numerous appeals have been filed.

We are attaching to this a copy of a letter from Captain Harvey V. Ide, who headed the Army processing team from Tule Lake.

During the week ending May 27 there were 33 indefinite leaves, 17 trial indefinite leaves, and 8 seasonal leaves, making a total of 58. In this group of 58 there were 8 families.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

copy

copy

PROCESSING DETACHMENT
752nd M.P. BN.
HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING

May 11, 1944

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: Mr. E. B. Whitaker, Project Director, Jerome Relocation Center, Denson, Arkansas.

1. On behalf of the Army Processing Team, 752d Military Police Battalion, Camp Tulelake, California, I wish to sincerely express our appreciation to you and your staff for the splendid cooperation with us in processing the Japanese Segregees to go to Tulelake.

2. We also express our gratitude for your generous and able assistance in supplying additional competent help in the Segregation at Rohwer.

3. We hope to have the pleasure and good fortune to work with you again.

(signed)
Hervey V. Ide
Capt. C.M.P.
C.O.Process.Detach.

FILE COPY

~~Mace~~
~~Baker~~
~~Fielder~~
~~Tyler~~
~~Bruce~~
File
(MP)

WEEKLY REPORT
Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
Week ending: May 20, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The second and last segregation movement left Jerome on May 17. The train moved out exactly on schedule without incident. This has brought our population down to 5,681 on May 18. In addition to the segregees included on this train, because space was available, 13 individuals who were eventually to go to Granada were sent. Three of these were hospital cases and their families and one young lady went to Granada to get married.

At the closing of the center we are scheduled to move 2,500 to Rohwer, 2,000 to Gila River, 500 to Granada and 500 to Heart Mountain, or a total of 5,500. You will see from this that we have 181 which we must relocate and I doubt seriously if we are going to be able to do this especially since we are getting quite a number back from indefinite leave, such as soldiers' wives. We would like to know now what disposition to make of those in excess of 5,500, if we should wind up with an excess.

Plans for closing the center are progressing nicely. The hardest decision is to determine which families are not to be given their first choice as to what center they will go to. In round numbers, we have 750 more requests for Granada than Granada can take care of and 500 more requests for Rohwer than Rohwer can take care of.

We would like to know whether or not the information given us by the Army Transportation Officer who had charge of segregation, which was that WRA pays regular rate on each evacuee that travels on our special trains, is correct. He made the statement to us that we could send individuals as regular passengers on regular trains just as cheap as we could send individuals on special trains. If this is true, we might send a few individuals to some other center as individuals. Another point, if this is true, we may like to hold some of our key evacuee personnel on the project until the very last day to help with the final closing. This is a point I would like to have information on.

We have had, in our opinion, a good week in relocation. We have issued a total of 32 indefinite leaves. These 32 are broken down as follows: 4 families with 3 members each; 1 family with 2 members; and 18 individuals. I am convinced that the only kind of relocation that is worthwhile is when you relocate the whole family. I do not recall a single incident where a family has come back and asked for reinduction.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 3, 1944

~~Phoenix~~
~~Baker~~
~~Fiedler~~
~~Fogel~~
~~Cross~~
files
(mp)

Dear Mr. Myer:

The week closing today has been extremely busy, with numerous objections by evacuees to the center to which they have been assigned. In each case we have given the individual the opportunity of presenting his case in person. While we have found it impossible to grant but few changes, it is our opinion that the evacuees have gone away feeling that justice had been done. We are hoping that this record can be maintained.

It is interesting to note that from May 1, 1943, until April 30, 1944, we have made slightly over fifteen tons of soap from grease saved by the kitchens.

This week we have issued 45 indefinite leaves, including trial period leaves. Nine of these were conversions from short term. On the other side, we have had a great many reinductions. After all is said and done, most of those who return cannot be denied readmission.

Yours very truly,

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 3, 1944

FILE COPY

Dear Mr. Myers:

The week closing today has been extremely busy, with numerous objections by evacuees to the center to which they have been assigned. In each case we have given the individual the opportunity of presenting his case in person. While we have found it impossible to grant his request for change, it is our opinion that the evacuees have gone away feeling that justice had been done. We are hoping that this record can be maintained.

It is interesting to note that from May 1, 1943, until April 30, 1944, we have made slightly over fifteen tons of scrap from grease saved by the kitchens.

This week we have issued 15 indefinite leaves, including trial period leaves. Five of these were conversions from short term. On the other side, we have had a great many relinquishments. After all is said and done, most of those who return cannot be denied readjustment.

Yours very truly,

R. E. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 10, 1944

~~Moore~~
~~Rankin~~
Fischler
~~Fozer~~
~~Case~~
Files
(mp)

Dear Mr. Myer:

There has been considerable activity on the project this week. We are following the general plan outlined in the closing handbook. Evacuation of people to other centers is up to schedule. As of this hour we have transported to Rohwer approximately 1,000 people.

The number of trucks planned was found to be entirely inadequate as the amount of household goods accumulated by these people is much more than estimated. We are meeting this problem by hiring Missouri Pacific busses to haul the passengers and by using all available WRA trucks from both Rohwer and Jerome to haul household furniture and baggage.

All families have been assigned to the center of destination and, though there have been numerous protests, we have managed to convince each individual that the assignment is the best that can be secured under existing conditions. We have not had a single incident worthy of note. The following is the number going to each center as of this date:

Heart Mountain	504	Gila River	2063
Granada	522	Rohwer	2540

These figures may vary just a little before the final train leaves on June 24.

Two stenographers from Heart Mountain, two from the Denver field office, and one from the Denver relocation office arrived here the first of this week. These five girls have been a tremendous amount of help.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY

~~Transfer~~
~~P. Byrd~~
~~Topics~~
~~Cross~~
files (MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 17, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

There has been "big doings" on the project this week. Two trains have been move out, consisting of 503 to Heart Mountain and 515 to Gila River, and 1836 people have been moved by truck and Missouri Pacific bus to Rohwer. This makes a total of 2854 which have been moved out. In addition to the people, we have shipped all evacuee freight going to all centers except Rohwer and we have shipped 4-1/2 carloads of government property to various centers. The hospital is being closed but it is continuing to handle out-patient cases and meet all emergencies. As of today we have only three patients in the hospital. These three will have to go to Rohwer. To date we have closed ten mess halls and kitchens. We are closing six more in the next two days, and by Sunday morning, June 25, we will only be operating one.

Two trainloads are in complete readiness to leave tomorrow and Monday, and by Saturday night, June 24, every evacuee should be out of the project except the post contingent which is made up of about 275 individuals.

The two trains have moved out exactly as scheduled and without a hitch. Project personnel have each been assigned to a definite task, and each has handled his assignment in a very satisfactory manner. The evacuees are working unusually well, and the Caucasian personnel who are putting in long hours are coming through in splendid shape. We are especially proud of the job which was done in assigning the evacuees to the four centers available. This work has been complete now for a week. In our opinion, the evacuees are convinced that they were all given every consideration.

c

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY

~~Moore~~
~~R Byrd~~
~~Ingles~~
~~Bigelow~~
~~Lyman~~
~~Cross~~
Files
(MP)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The last of the six trainloads of evacuees left this afternoon promptly at 4 o'clock. The final figures are as follows:

Heart Mountain	503
Granada	530
Gila River	2019
Rohwer	2527
Total	5609

There only remains in the camp tonight a post contingent of 307.

To date we have sent out ten carloads of government property to other centers and trucked an estimated four carloads to Rohwer. We are now organizing to push the transfer of the other property which must be transferred to the end that the surplus can be turned over to the Treasury.

The hospital is empty. All mess halls are closed except one which is being used to feed the post contingent. By midnight June 30 all evacuees will have left.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
MONTHLY REPORT, June 21, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The last of the six installments of evacuees left this afternoon promptly at 1 o'clock. The final figures are as follows:

West Mountain	309
Granada	570
Gila River	2019
Colmar	1927
Total	5825

There only remains in the camp temporarily a post contingent of 300.

To date we have sent out two carloads of government property to other centers and trucked an additional four carloads to Colmar. We are now organizing to haul the remainder of the other property which must be transferred to the end that the surplus can be turned over to the Treasury.

The hospital is empty. All mess halls are closed except one which is being used to feed the post contingent. By midnight June 30 all evacuees will have left.

E. R. Whitaker
Project Director

FILE COPY

Moore
~~R. Byrd~~
Lynn
Izier
~~Cross~~
Files
(FH)

Weekly Report
Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
July 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The last evacuees, post contingent, left yesterday and the project was as dark and still as the proverbial graveyard last night. The final transfer was as follows:

Heart Mountain	503
Granada	530
Gila River	2,049
Rohwer	2,490
Total	5,572

In closing the center, emphasis was placed on the human aspects of the program. Every effort was exerted to have the evacuees feel that every individual's preference as to the center of destination was receiving careful and equal consideration. We quote from a post card which we think is representative:

"Amache, Colorado

"It will always be with pleasure that I look back on my brief stay at Jerome. The whole transfer operation, particularly assignment of centers to different persons, was done in a most satisfactory manner. Thank you for your consideration.

(Signed) M. Itano "

This statement indicates to a certain extent that the efforts put forth by the appointed personnel bore some fruit.

As of tonight, we have shipped out 23 carloads of WRA property. We estimate that this is practically one-third of the total.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the valuable contribution made by Mr. Pitts in handling our contacts with the railroads and the Army. His intimate knowledge of these two organizations made that phase of the program all that could be desired.

We would also like to record the fact that Mr. Harold Byrd and Miss Helen Collins of the Washington office; Mr. Lane, Mr. Girardo, Mrs. Eva Keavney, Mrs. Maybelle Bennett of the Denver office; Mr. R. A. Walling of the Los Angeles; and Miss Helen B. Lerchen and Miss Betty Johnson of Heart Mountain, did outstanding work. The value of their services cannot be over estimated.

We plan to leave the major part of the remaining work of closing the center in the hands of Mr. W. O. Melton. He is thoroughly competent to handle the assignment.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Provisc (for your staff)
Spicer (for your files.)

Route

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

Christmas and New Year passed in a very quiet way in the center, activities being held to a minimum due to the possibility of spread of the flu epidemic. The opening of schools, which was scheduled for Monday, has been temporarily postponed until Monday's inventory of active flu cases is in. We think the schools will open Tuesday if conditions improve over the weekend as they have in the past two days. Today's count of the active flu cases was 200, 24 of which are new cases, compared with the top figure of 515 on December 23.

The rainy season of South Arkansas has finally caught up with us. It has been raining off and on for the past two weeks. It is now too wet to do any type of farming work. Our construction program has been slowed down considerably and wood hauling has completely stopped. Fortunately, however, the winter's supply of fuel wood is practically in. There are three or four blocks which will probably not have enough wood with what they now have.

Selective Service is taking several of our employees. We have recently lost Mr. Mays from Agriculture, Mr. Erikila from Community Enterprises, and Mr. Thompson from Property Control. Mr. Smith of the Engineering Section expects to go any day; Mr. Lynn, Reports Officer, reports for his physical January 5; and Mr. Hudson, Project Steward, reports for his physical January 7. Of course as time goes on we expect to lose several more employees to the Army.

It is very gratifying to us that arrangements have been made with the Army to exchange our older equipment for 1939 models. We will now concentrate all repairs on equipment which will be retained by the project after the exchange, in order that all of our equipment will be in good operating condition. We now have a Transportation and Maintenance Superintendent, and he is rapidly improving our whole transportation set-up.

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

Provinse (for your staff)
Spicer (for your file)

Route

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather quiet week. Activities have been mostly routine. The weather is unusually bad, raining almost constantly, temperature hovering around the freezing mark, practically no activities except those necessary to provide food and keep utilities in operation.

I believe the program has held up unusually well and that reports will show that in spite of the fact that we have had a number to return to the center the leaves have exceeded the reinductions in all weeks except one.

In accordance with plans adopted two or three months ago we are moving forward to evacuate all families from block 20 and convert that block to the use of community activities and related endeavors. This will necessitate the moving of 19 families. Of course they will object to this but it is our opinion that we can work it out in a satisfactory manner. Closing this block will also enable us to close up one mess hall. Finding evacuee personnel to run the mess halls is becoming quite a problem. It is our opinion that other blocks should eventually be closed. We may need instructions from Washington on this.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

~~Province (for your staff)~~
~~Spicer~~ (for your file)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been the most severe week we have had this season, from the weather standpoint. Freezing rain has been falling for two days disrupting telephones, electric lights, and other utility services, and making the streets and walks in the center very muddy. Despite this, however, there has been no serious inconvenience.

We had 85 visiting nisei servicemen, from Camp Shelby mostly. A visit to Camp Shelby of girls from this center and Rohwer, scheduled for this weekend, had to be canceled because of the bad condition of the roads.

Mr. Uta arrived here early Wednesday and has spent three profitable days checking over the work here for which he is responsible.

All plans have been perfected for the visit of the Relocation Team, which will arrive in Jerome early Monday morning.

Evidently the flu is definitely on the decrease. Very few new cases have developed this week.

The 1944-45 budget for this center was mailed to Washington on Wednesday of this week, as per instructions.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Provided (for your staff)
Spicer (for your file)

JRP

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

Major efforts of the staff this week were directed towards relocation in connection with the Relocation Team's visit to the center. I wish to state that the Relocation Team put in an unusually hard week. The program seemed to be well organized and went off in fine shape. All meetings were extremely well attended and apparently the people were very receptive to the program. The information which the Relocation Team brought to the people was well organized and well presented. All members of the team were very busy with individuals interviews when they were not conducting programs. Of course it is too early to say what the results of the week's work will be, but we are confident that the time of the members of the team was well and profitably spent. Follow-up work is now in progress and according to reports from the individuals here for that purpose it is going well.

Contrary to the past two weeks, the weather has been beautiful, unusually warm for the time of the year, and of course when we have a change in temperature we are expecting rain.

Due to the freezing weather for quite some time recently we were unable to carry on our slaughtering activities. Consequently we were getting an accumulation of hogs which needed to be slaughtered. We entered into a contract with the Finkbeiner Packing Company of Pine Bluff to slaughter approximately 250 hogs. We will receive seventy slaughtered hogs from the company this afternoon and will start immediately to process the meat for immediate use or curing. We expect to receive all hogs back next week.

It is generally recognized by the residents of the center that about half of the blocks will need some additional fuel wood to carry them through the winter. We figure that approximately one thousand cords of additional fuel will be needed. Plans are made to get this amount of wood beginning next Monday morning.

All phases of the program at Jerome are running along about normal.

W. U. Melton
Acting Project Director

Route

~~Provost (for your staff)~~
Spicer (for your file)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas

WEEKLY REPORT
February 5, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

We have had a normal week at the Jerome Relocation Center.

The weather, in the main, has been ideal. We had our heaviest rain in several months Tuesday night, which gave us an opportunity to observe the benefits of our drainage system. The water moved off very rapidly. We had just completed the bridge across the drainage ditch on highway 143 from Jerome to Lake Village. We had not torn out our detour around the bridge and across the ditch, and it was necessary that we shoot this out in order to let the water pass out of the drainage ditch. This caused no inconvenience since we could put the bridge in shape for crossing in a few hours.

The evacuee farmers are taking a greater interest in preparations for starting a crop now than they did at this time last year. Most of our land is prepared and ready for planting as soon as weather conditions will permit.

The fuel situation is well in hand. We estimate that four or five more hundred cords of wood will be needed in the center. I am sure that we already have sufficient wood in if it were equally distributed between the blocks. Of course it would be an impossible operation to go into the blocks and take wood from a block and place it in another. It is much easier to cut the additional wood which we feel that some blocks will need.

We have issued no short-term leaves to nearby towns this week. Public sentiment following the atrocity stories seemed to get just a little bit unfavorable. Therefore we exercised the precaution of not issuing short-term leaves. However, conditions are such now that we plan to start issuing a few urgent short-term leaves next week and gradually get back to our past project policies regarding such leaves. Indefinite leaves have slowed up a little bit this week. We issued twelve indefinite leaves this week direct from the project and converted five short-term and seasonal leaves to indefinite.

There is still little comment regarding selective service for Japanese Americans. We are not sure whether or not the announcement regarding selective service is affecting the leave program. We are inclined to believe it is having some effect on the program. In talking with Mr. Allison yesterday I enquired whether or not the selective service policies were increasing our requests for repatriation and expatriation, and he replied by saying that he was sure that we had had two requests as a result of the announcement, and possibly one other.

Captain Farrand of the Provost Marshall's office spent the forenoon with us yesterday after having spent a full day at Rohwer. We showed him as much of the camp and the program as we could in that length of time. He seemed to be very favorably impressed with both the camp and the program of the War Relocation Authority.

W. O. Melton

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

Route

Provinse (for your staff)
Spicer for your file

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, January 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been what would be considered a normal week in the Jerome Relocation Center.

The weather has been unusually warm and it has rained practically every day.

The fuel situation came back for attention this week and it was estimated that it would take another 1000 cords of wood, and as a result of this some wood has been cut between showers.

Taking all things into consideration, evacuees leaving on indefinite leave have been exceptionally good this week, as 29 indefinite leaves and 4 seasonal leaves were issued.

The announcement that draft regulations would be reinstituted for the Japanese-Americans has caused little comment except to the effect that it was unfortunate they would only be drafted for combat duty and replacement purposes.

The release of the statement in regard to Japanese treatment of prisoners has created no incident to date. As a precautionary measure we are refraining from issuing short term passes to nearby towns. No reference has been made to date in published reports of the Japanese-Americans or friendly aliens in the two camps here in Arkansas, except two commentators each of whom cautioned that there were loyal Americans in our country of Japanese ancestry and these should not be confused with the militaristic leaders of Japan.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Provinse (for your staff)
Spicer (for your file.

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, February 12, 1944

Corrected Copy

Dear Mr. Myer:

The past week has been about normal in every respect.

Our leave program fell off a little as only 26 indefinite leaves were issued.

Number of evacuees employed at the Jerome Relocation Center at the end of January was 2745 as against 3848 employed in December, 1942.

The project consumed 14,458 pounds of pork during January which was produced on the project. This has a point value of 26,896.

We have had a tremendous lot of rain during the last seven days which has practically stopped all activities on the project except housekeeping.

EBW

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Province (for your staff)
Spicer (file)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, February 12, 1944

JRP

Dear Mr. Myer:

The past week has been about normal in every respect.

Our leave program fell off a little as only 26 indefinite leaves were issued.

Number of evacuees employed for January was 2,745 as against 3,848 for December.

The project consumed 14,458 pounds of pork which was produced on the project during the month of January. This has a point value of 26,896.

We have had a tremendous lot of rain during the last seven days which has practically stopped all activities on the project except "housekeeping".

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Route JHP

Province (for your staff.)
Spicer (for your file)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, February 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

There is nothing of particular interest to report this week. The weather continues sloppy. Little outside work is being done.

The leave program is holding up fairly well. We have granted 28 indefinite leaves this week. However, we expect resettlement to "pick up" now that spring is approaching. We continue to get a variety of splendid offers from North Central United States.

There is some dissatisfaction among the young evacuees of draft age. However, we have endeavored to get complete information from the local draft boards, and when this information is finally secured it is our opinion that this dissatisfaction on the part of the young men will be dispelled.

Farming is progressing as scheduled. We are setting out onions this week between showers.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Route

Pravemen (for your staff)
Spicer (for your files)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, February 26, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

We have had what would be considered a normal week at the Jerome Relocation Center.

There is still some discussion of Selective Service, but it is of general nature and we do not anticipate any difficulties whatsoever. Fourteen men left this morning as scheduled by the local draft board. Of course, according to information from Selective Service, we can expect an increase in the number of calls in the very near future.

We have had several requests this week for repatriation and expatriation, primarily from the older people, this being occasioned by the announcement of the closing of the center. The old people feel that they will probably want to return to Japan when the war is over and since they have to move they might as well move in that direction. However, there is a small number of nisei requesting expatriation, probably occasioned by closing of the center and by selective service. We are taking these requests and immediately holding leave clearance hearings and sending the results of the hearings to Washington.

Upon receipt of the teletype announcing the closing of the center, Mr. Whitaker called a meeting of the appointed personnel and gave them the information. Later in the day a meeting of the community council and the block managers was called and the information was given to them. Of course the residents of the center are not happy about making another move. They are discussing it a great deal and are anxious for complete details about available space in other centers and dates on which movements will start. We do not anticipate any major difficulties in vacating and closing the center. The appointed personnel of the project are taking the news regarding the closing of the center with a very good attitude. Of course they are also anxious about where they may go. They seem to feel fairly sure that they will be given an opportunity to remain with the War Relocation Authority if they desire to do so and I think that the majority of them want to continue with WRA.

There is some indication that the leave program will be stimulated some by the closing of the center. Mr. Love advises me that there is more interest in family relocation now than has been in the past. I hope this is true and that we can carry on a successful relocation program along with the closing of the center.

We are going to be faced with loss of some of our key personnel to the Army. Practically all of the employees on the appointed staff of military age have received reclassification notices. Several of them have received notices to report for their pre-induction physical examination. This means of course that they will be called into the armed services before July 1 if found physically fit. Of course we are interested in maintaining efficient necessary operations of the center and the necessary activities to successfully close out the center.

Weather conditions continue to be unfavorable for outside activities. It has rained the entire week and is raining today. It has given us an excellent

opportunity to observe the success of our drainage system. The drainage system is showing up to be very effective.

We have continued our efforts in completing the transfer of automotive equipment from the Army to WRA. The last movement of vehicles starts from ElPaso today and should reach Jerome by Wednesday of this coming week. We will give you a separate and detailed report on this transaction as soon as it is completed.

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

~~Province~~ (for your staff)
Spicer (for your file)

Route

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, March 4, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The program at the Jerome center has progressed in a very normal way during the past week. Nothing of extreme interest has happened. I am sure that you would be interested to know that the attitude of the evacuees toward their work has not changed to any extent since the announcement that the center will be closed. They are putting as much effort into their work as ever.

The fuel wood cutting program has now come to a successful completion. We have sufficient wood in the center to carry us through the rest of the season. Therefore, we are transferring the men who have been cutting wood into other essential project operations.

During the past week we have had 52 applications for repatriation and expatriation. I do not feel that the announcement regarding the closing of this center has had any material influence upon the increased number of potential repatriates as most of these persons have been more or less considered as possibly pro-Japanese in this center for some time. Twelve of these applicants are male citizens between the ages of 17 and 38. It is very possible that the reinstitution of selective service has had some influence on the increase in requests for expatriation.

The center hospital is short about 30 nurses aides and diet aides, and we are experiencing a great deal of difficulty in recruiting evacuees for those jobs. This situation has been developing for several weeks and possibly cannot be associated in any way with closing of the center. We have been forced to close two wards of the hospital. This difficulty has been discussed with the community council and block managers, and the residents of the center are thoroughly acquainted with the difficulty we are having, and it has been explained to them that unless sufficient evacuee personnel can be maintained it will be necessary to close certain parts of the hospital and discontinue certain medical services. The community council accepted recruitment for these places in the hospital as its responsibility. Besides the fact that it is very unpleasant work the thing that seems to be against recruiting of hospital employees is the fact that in closing assembly centers the hospital personnel were frozen to their jobs and were not permitted to move with their families when they were moved to relocation centers. At least they are using this supposed fact as a reason.

CT

The evacuee residents regret very much the closing of the Jerome center, primarily from the standpoint of the inconvenience which it is going to cause them. They are pretty much concerned, however, about several things. Primarily, they are concerned with whether or not the schools will be able to continue operation long enough for the students to complete their year's work and whether or not they will be given the opportunity of designating the center to which they want to go. Of course they are hoping that there will be some possibility of their going to centers other than Heart Mountain, Granada, and Rohwer.

Weather conditions have greatly improved this week. We had our last rain Monday about noon, and have had beautiful sunshiny weather ever since.

We are having an abnormally large number of individuals who have been out on indefinite leave to request reinduction. I am sure that this influx has been caused by the announcement that the center is to be closed. In talking with some individuals who are visiting in the center, they have indicated that a large number of folks who are on indefinite leave feel it necessary that they return to the center and be inducted so that they can assist their family in packing and moving and move with them to the new center. I feel that there is some opportunity for discouragement of this by the relocation officers. If a great number of them do return and we reinduct them, it will throw the population figure out of balance for the centers where arrangements are being made for residents of the Jerome center.

W. O. Melton
Acting Project Director

Provence (for your staff)
Spicer (for your file)

Route, in duplicate
Mr. Pitts

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, March 11, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

We have had a rather busy week at Jerome this week. The weather has been good. Outside work has progressed satisfactorily. Crop planting is under way since soil moisture is satisfactory for this operation.

The nineteen people scheduled for Crystal City left Sunday. Everything worked smoothly.

The indefinite leave program has been fairly good. A total of thirty people left for outside employment. There seems to be a greater tendency towards family relocation. Dr. Webber reported for his detail to Jerome Thursday night, March 10. I am sure that he can be of considerable help to us since we are so short-handed in the relocation office.

The residents are rather anxious regarding details of closing the center, particularly about centers to which they will be assigned and moving dates. I believe if some of the details could be announced to the residents, the morale of the people would be better.

Pitts

We are rather short-handed on appointed personnel. There is quite a number of vacancies on the staff, and some of our key personnel have been detailed to other jobs.

The inventory is progressing satisfactorily. Mr. Rose, chief of the party of field examiners, expresses satisfaction with the progress being made.

We are looking forward to the visit by Mr. Barrows and the Under Secretary of Interior.

W. C. Melton
Acting Project Director

Province (for your staff)
Spring (for your file

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, March 25, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather interesting week on the project, the highlight being a meeting of representative evacuees to discuss the problems incident to closing the center. Mr. Malcolm Pitts attended this meeting and contributed largely to its success. The information which he gave was rather satisfying and specific. The attitude manifested by the representative group of evacuees was cooperative. This group was made up of the community councilmen, block managers, judicial commission, relocation planning commission, representatives from the Jerome paper, and other leading evacuees. Mr. Pitts' trip to Jerome was very much worthwhile.

The total number of evacuees employed by the WRA at this center for the week ending March 25 was 2560, which is well within our ceiling of 2600.

Relocation is definitely slacked up. Closing of the center and the uncertainty as to when evacuees will be called to the Army are thought to be the distracting influences. We had our second call for pre-induction physicals this week, and all who were called reported.

The evacuees are having lots of meetings discussing the best procedure for closing the community enterprises. They have little understanding that a co-op is supposed to be interested in rendering services and not overwhelmingly interested in making money. Mr. Rossman and Mr. Elberson are working with the co-op representatives in an effort to get services continued which are needed in the center until June 30.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Provisse (for your staff)
Spicer (for your file)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The past week has been a rather busy one on this project.

Mr. Hoffman from the Relocation Division in Washington has held some very instructive meeting with the project personnel and evacuees. In our opinion his visit was very much worthwhile.

The auditors are well into their work and are under the impression that they will finish within the next week or ten days.

Hugh Alexander from the Washington office is manufacturing a catalogue of all serviceable property and putting into effect plans for disposition of same.

Mr. Rossman and George Ishiyama were on the project for several days this week working with the Co-op. However, they seemed to have been unable to influence the Co-op to remain open and the Co-op will definitely be closed on April 10. It is to be regretted that we in the War Relocation Authority have not been able to sell the idea of cooperation more effectively than we have done through the Co-op Enterprises. Judging from their action the co-ops are nothing more than monopolies, and the idea of rendering services rather than making money has never been put across. A true co-op would never close its enterprises ninety days before its membership ceased to need its services. I am apprehensive as to how we are going to meet the needs of the evacuees for the little items incident to living between the time of the closing of the enterprises and the closing of the center. However, we are working on this and hope to meet the situation as it arises.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Provisner (for staff)
Spicer (for file)

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather active week on the Jerome Relocation Center.

The auditors have finished their work and are leaving the project today. In the light of information that we have it is our feeling that the audit has been well conducted and very much worthwhile. We asked Mr. Rose to talk to all division, section, and unit heads at a general meeting today outlining to them in an educational way the importance of following all procedure. Mr. Rose did an excellent job and held the attention of the entire audience for approximately an hour.

Miss Gifford
noted

We have given the Welfare Section some study this week. We are convinced that it is very important that we get additional welfare workers. We have only two workers in that section now, Head Counselor J. Lloyd Webb and Jr. Counselor Vera Saliba. We would very much appreciate receiving referrals from Washington to fill the existing vacancies.

We are making progress in having preference sheets filled out as per plans perfected when Mr. Pitts visited the project ten days ago, and will have all these completed by the fifteenth of April. These sheets will be used as a basis for determining where the families prefer to go when the center is closed.

We now have, with Mr. Hoffman's assistance, a well-manned Relocation Division, consisting of eight people--four appointed staff members, three people detailed here from field offices, and one individual detailed from our Education Section with the expectation of transferring later. We are looking forward with considerable expectation to relocation within the next sixty days. Of thirty people who left here this week on indefinite leave twenty-five represented six complete families. Two of the thirty went for induction into the Army and one left to attend school. When the entire family goes out, you have relocated them. When the family remains in the center, the chances are ten to one that they are not relocated.

The number of Military Police stationed here is being reduced to thirteen as of today. They are in charge of a second lieutenant. To date we have maintained four posts--one at each exit, one at the motor pool, and one at the safe--and beginning tonight we will maintain only two--one at each exit from the project. In our opinion these will be entirely sufficient.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Provinse
Spicer

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This week on the project has been rather an interesting one.

The Relocation Division is well organized and seems to be functioning quite well. We had seven complete families leave this week on indefinite leave with the total membership of twenty-four people.

The Seabrook Farms of Bridgeport, New Jersey had a representative here in the center this week. This farm maintains that they can use as many as 100 families or more. They created considerable interest, but before we let more than six families go we will clear the matter with the relocation office in Washington. The salaries they people offer are good and the housing conditions apparently are excellent.

see 1st. copy.

The auditorium has been completed and the dedication services were held last night as per attached program.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Attachment

Province
Spicer

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

This has been a rather busy week on the project; first, making plans for moving segregees to Tule Lake on May 8 and 17; and second, making tentative plans for closing the center on June 30. Along with this is to be added the additional interest created by having four people recently detailed to our Relocation Division and four new employees working there while out Relocation Program Officer is attending a meeting in Chicago for a week or ten days. Coming up within the next few days will be a ten days absence of the Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management attending a meeting at Denver, and the head of the Welfare Section attending a meeting of Counselors in Washington. Both of these important positions will be vacant during the days preceeding the date on which segregation will be completed. This is especially noticeable since the Welfare Section has only two Caucasian employees. The fact that a trainload and a fraction of people leave Jerome is a much larger undertaking than if two full trainloads were leaving. It will be necessary to transport 160 individuals to Rohwer to fill out a trainload there. This will be much more difficult than loading a complete train on our own siding. In spite of such comments however please rest assured that all assignments will be handled completely and in a manner satisfactory to all concerned.

I am attaching to this an editorial taken from the Arkansas Gazette which is rather refreshing but at the same time abstract.

Yours very truly,

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Spicer

~~Provine~~
Spicer

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, April 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The major interest of the week closing today has been planning for the movement of segregees which is scheduled to take place one week from next Monday. While this is a major operation, it now appears as though we can perfect the transfer without undue hardship. This is because plans have been well worked out and put on paper in an understandable form. The Army team has completed photographing and fingerprinting all segregees, and has moved on to Rohwer. This was accomplished without a single incident. Mr. Joe J. Thomas, Tule Lake Housing Representative, has assigned housing to all segregees here and is working at Rohwer today.

Mr. Walling of the Los Angeles Transportation Office arrived here yesterday to work between this center and Rohwer in connection with the movements out of these two centers during the next two months.

Only nine indefinite leaves were issued this week, made up of one family group of two and seven single individuals. This is the lowest week we have had in a long time. Definitely the closing of the center appears to be having an adverse influence on relocation.

As the date for closing the center approaches and as several Army teams come in, the shortage of passenger carrying vehicles becomes more acute. This situation is further aggravated by the fact that some personnel are working both at Rohwer and Jerome. It goes without saying that we are trying to meet this situation by having scheduled trips so that the few cars available can be loaded to capacity. We have thirteen passenger-carrying vehicles, and when you take from this one for the Chief of Police, one for the Doctor, one for the Fire Chief, and one for the several other people who must have transportation available constantly it can be readily seen that we don't have many left for extra trips.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Province
Spicer

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas

WEEKLY REPORT, ~~April~~ MAY(?) 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The chief interest this week has been final preparations for first train No. 40 of the third segregation movement to leave Jerome Monday. All checkable baggage and freight has been inspected by the Military Police from Tule Lake. Freight has been placed in the warehouse. Baggage is being loaded today onto the baggage coaches which will make up a part of the train. All Army personnel are on the grounds, and conferences have been held to the end that there is a perfect understanding. All evacuees on the train leaving Monday morning are definitely classified as those to be segregated ~~and~~ or volunteering to accompany members of their family who must be segregated.

We still have a number of cases pending in Washington which we hope to get clearance on before train 42 departs on May 17.

We issued 59 short-term and 20 indefinite leaves this week. Included in the indefinite leaves were three complete families.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Regional Office

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas

WEEKLY REPORT, May 13, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The highlight of this week was the moving out of Train No. 40 for Tule Lake with 497 evacuees. In accordance with well formulated plans of Washington and the careful execution of same by the project personnel, the train was ready to move exactly five minutes before the scheduled hour of departure. The Army personnel, headed by Train Commander Captain William Gugel, was very cooperative and understanding. An hour after the train departed, the project was functioning in its normal manner, in spite of the fact that considerable emotional disturbances were noted. This was the first time that I had seen grown Japanese men shed tears.

The project personnel are getting some inquiries direct from other projects as to when they can report for positions which have been tentatively offered them. However, this is causing no confusion. We are referring these inquiries and our answers to the Washington Personnel Office who is handling same in a satisfactory manner.

All interest now centers on the closing of the project. Much apprehension is being manifested by the evacuees as to which project they will eventually be assigned to. Attached is a copy of criteria which has been developed for determining which individuals will be given their first choice. This criteria was worked out in cooperation with the Community Council, the Block Managers, and other evacuee leaders.

Relocation has continued at a normal rate. Thirty-four indefinite leaves have been issued containing seven family units of 19, 14 individuals and one conversion from seasonal leave to indefinite leave. None of these people have gone to Seabrook Farms. Interest in Seabrook is great.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Copy

Weekly Report
Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
Week ending: May 20, 1944

~~Payne~~
Spicer
Gifford

JHP

Dear Mr. Myer:

The second and last segregation movement left Jerome on May 17. The train moved out exactly on schedule without incident. This has brought our population down to 5,681 on May 18. In addition to the segregges included on this train, because space was available, 13 individuals who were eventually to go to Granada were sent. Three of these were hospital cases and their families and one young lady went to Granada to get married.

At the closing of the center we are scheduled to move 2,500 to Rohwer, 2,000 to Gila River, 500 to Granada and 500 to Heart Mountain, or a total of 5,500. You will see from this that we have 181 which we must relocate and I doubt seriously if we are going to be able to do this especially since we are getting quite a number back from indefinite leave, such as soldiers' wives. We would like to know now what disposition to make of those in excess of 5,500, if we should wind up with an excess.

Plans for closing the center are progressing nicely. The hardest decision is to determine which families are not to be given their first choice as to what center they will go to. In round numbers, we have 750 more requests for Granada than Granada can take care of and 500 more requests for Rohwer than Rohwer can take care of.

We would like to know whether or not the information given us by the Army Transportation Officer who had charge of segregation, which was that WRA pays regular rate on each evacuee that travels on our special trains, is correct. He made the statement to us that we could send individuals as regular passengers on regular trains just as cheap as we could send individuals on special trains. If this is true, we might send a few individuals to some other center as individuals. Another point, if this is true, we may like to hold some of our key evacuee personnel on the project until the very last day to help with the final closing. This is a point I would like to have information on.

We have had, in our opinion, a good week in relocation. We have issued a total of 32 indefinite leaves. These 32 are broken down as follows: 4 families with 3 members each; 1 family with 2 members; and 18 individuals. I am convinced that the only kind of relocation that is worthwhile is when you relocate the whole family. I do not recall a single incident where a family has come back and asked for reinduction.

D. B. Whitaker
Project Director

~~Proviso~~
~~Spicer~~

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, May 27, 1944
(submitted 5-30-44)

Dear Mr. Myer:

I am sorry that I am late in mailing you this, my report which should have gone to you Saturday.

The week closing on that date was a very active one here on the project. I am of the opinion that you would be interested in the procedures which we have used for arriving at the center of destination for evacuees when Jerome is closed. Briefly, the plan used is as follows: Each family was given a chance to express his preference on a Preference Sheet, listing supporting justifications and reasons. We have used two committees. The first Processing Committee was made up of six individuals who carefully tabulated all requests and, after reading the justifications and reasons, classified each application according to criteria which had been previously developed on suggestions from the Community Council, Block Managers, and other evacuee leaders. After this Processing Committee had finished, we appointed a Project Director's Transfer Committee who studied the preference sheets ~~and~~ supporting documents still further and heard further justifications. This committee made recommendations to the Project Director as to the list to go to each project, and the final decision was then made. To date we have had no incident worthy of note though numerous appeals have been filed.

See copy #1 for attachment

We are attaching to this a copy of a letter from Captain Harvey V. Ide, who headed the Army processing team from Tule Lake.

During the week ending May 27 there were 33 indefinite leaves, 17 trial indefinite leaves, and 8 seasonal leaves, making a total of 58. In this group of 58 there were 8 families.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 3, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The week closing today has been extremely busy, with numerous objections by evacuees to the center to which they have been assigned. In each case we have given the individual the opportunity of presenting his case in person. While we have found it impossible to grant but few changes, it is our opinion that the evacuees have gone away feeling that justice had been done. We are hoping that this record can be maintained.

It is interesting to note that from May 1, 1943, until April 30, 1944, we have made slightly over fifteen tons of soap from grease saved by the kitchens.

This week we have issued 45 indefinite leaves, including trial period leaves. Nine of these were conversions from short term. On the other side, we have had a great many reinductions. After all is said and done, most of those who return cannot be denied readmission.

Yours very truly,

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

JHP

~~Provisional~~

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 10, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

There has been considerable activity on the project this week. We are following the general plan outlined in the closing handbook. Evacuation of people to other centers is up to schedule. As of this hour we have transported to Rohwer approximately 1,000 people.

The number of trucks planned was found to be entirely inadequate as the amount of household goods accumulated by these people is much more than estimated. We are meeting this problem by hiring Missouri Pacific busses to haul the passengers and by using all available WRA trucks from both Rohwer and Jerome to haul household furniture and baggage.

All families have been assigned to the center of destination and, though there have been numerous protests, we have managed to convince each individual that the assignment is the best that can be secured under existing conditions. We have not had a single incident worthy of note. The following is the number going to each center as of this date:

Heart Mountain	504	Gila River	2063
Granada	522	Rohwer	2540

These figures may vary just a little before the final train leaves on June 24.

Two stenographers from Heart Mountain, two from the Denver field office, and one from the Denver relocation office arrived here the first of this week. These five girls have been a tremendous amount of help.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

~~Provisional~~

~~DIXON~~

~~STAFF~~

File

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 17, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

There has been "big doings" on the project this week. Two trains have been move out, consisting of 503 to Heart Mountain and 515 to Gila River, and 1836 people have been moved by truck and Missouri Pacific bus to Rohwer. This makes a total of 2854 which have been moved out. In addition to the people, we have shipped all evacuee freight going to all centers except Rohwer and we have shipped 4-1/2 carloads of government property to various centers. The hospital is being closed but it is continuing to handle out-patient cases and meet all emergencies. As of today we have only three patients in the hospital. These three will have to go to Rohwer. To date we have closed ten mess halls and kitchens. We are closing six more in the next two days, and by Sunday morning, June 25, we will only be operating one.

Two trainloads are in complete readiness to leave tomorrow and Monday, and by Saturday night, June 24, every evacuee should be out of the project except the post contingent which is made up of about 275 individuals.

The two trains have moved out exactly as scheduled and without a hitch. Project personnel have each been assigned to a definite task, and each has handled his assignment in a very satisfactory manner. The evacuees are working unusually well, and the Caucasian personnel who are putting in long hours are coming through in splendid shape. We are especially proud of the job which was done in assigning the evacuees to the four centers available. This work has been complete now for a week. In our opinion, the evacuees are convinced that they were all given every consideration.

11

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

File

~~Promise~~
~~Benson~~
~~Spicer~~

JMP

Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas
WEEKLY REPORT, June 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The last of the six trainloads of evacuees left this afternoon promptly at 4 o'clock. The final figures are as follows:

Heart Mountain	503
Granada	530
Gila River	2019
Rohwer	2527
Total	5609

There only remains in the camp tonight a post contingent of 307.

To date we have sent out ten carloads of government property to other centers and trucked an estimated four carloads to Rohwer. We are now organizing to push the transfer of the other property which must be transferred to the end that the surplus can be turned over to the Treasury.

The hospital is empty. All mess halls are closed except one which is being used to feed the post contingent. By midnight June 30 all evacuees will have left.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

C O P Y

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Weekly Report
Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arknasas
July 1, 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The last evacuees, post contingent, left yesterday and the project was as dark and still as the proverbial graveyard last night. The final transfer was as follows:

Heart Mountain	503
Granada	530
Gila River	2,049
Rohwer	2,490
Total	5,572

Inclosing the center, emphasis was placed on the human aspects of the program. Every effort was exerted to have the evacuees feel that every individual's preference as to the center of destination was receiving careful and equal consideration. We quote from a post card which we think is representative:

"Amache, Colorado

"It will always be with pleasure that I look back on my brief stay at Jerome. The whole transfer operation, particularly assignment of centers to different persons, was done in a most satisfactory manner. Thank you for your consideration.

(Signed) M. Itano"

This statement indicates to a certain extent that the efforts put forth by the appointed personnel bore some fruit.

As of tonight, we have shipped out 23 carloads of WRA property. We estimate that this is practically one-third of the total.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the valuable contribution made by Mr. Pitts in handling our contacts with the railroads and the Army. His intimate knowledge of these two organizations made that phase of the program all that could be desired.

We plan to leave the major part of the remaining work of closing the center in the hands of Mr. W. O. Melton. He is thoroughly competent to handle the assignment.

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

We would also like to record the fact that Mr. Harold Byrd and Miss Helen Collins of the Washington office; Mr. Lane, Mr. Girardo, Mrs. Eva Keavney, Mrs. Maybelle Bennett of the Denver office; Mr. R. A. Walling of the Los Angeles; and Miss Helen B. Lerchen and Miss Betty Johnson of Heart Mountain, did outstanding work. The value of their services cannot be over estimated.

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/s/

E. B. Whitaker
Project Director

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B. B. Whitaker
Project Director

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14, 20,
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