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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

Topaz, Utah

SURVEY OF SEASONAL WORK
LEAVES FROM TOPAZ

by
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Oct. 9--Nov. 15, 1943

HISTORICAL SECTION
PROJECT REPORTS DIVISION
Chief, R.A. Bankson

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT
TOPAZ, UTAH

56 returned
unanswered

IMPORTANT

Oct. 9 1943

The following questions will require but five minutes of your time. You have shown initiative in leaving the center, and it is hoped that you can fill out this questionnaire so that it may serve as an aid for your fellow residents who are still in the center in the eventual relocation program.

Last year the returns were not favorable, so it is very urgent that you follow through with this request so that when this survey is completed it may be used for the welfare of everyone concerned. Please help to make this one a success.

MALE () FEMALE () CITY _____ STATE _____

1. What type of work are you doing?
2. How was the community attitude toward you? good ()
fair ()
bad ()
3. How were the housing facilities? adequate () inadequate ()
4. Did you make any profit? yes () no ()
5. Did the employer live up to his contract? yes () no ()
6. How were the conditions under which you worked? good ()
fair ()
bad ()
7. Were you experienced in your work? yes () no ()
8. Do you think that there is any possibility for permanent work in the community where you worked? yes () no ()
9. How many hours a week did you average? _____ hrs.
10. What did you do with your leisure time?
movies () church () shopping () recreation ()
11. Are you planning to leave the center on an indefinite leave?
yes () no ()

In the following space please insert any comments which you may have to give us -- it may pertain to any of the above points or to any thing related to the relocation program; in addition you may have some recommendations or various outlooks to the future that may promote better operations in regards to seasonal or indefinite leaves.

From: Historical Section of the Project Reports Division. Place in enclosed self-addressed envelope; no postage is required. Mail as soon as possible.

SURVEY OF SEASONAL WORK LEAVES

502 questionnaires were sent out from the Project Reports office to the seasonal workers in Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Montana. The returns number 152 which comprises a response of 30%. From Provo, Ogden, and Spanish Fork, (all of Utah) the abundance of questionnaire returns may present a more accurate picture of living and working conditions than the areas of Montana or Colorado from which relatively few questionnaires were received. Under these circumstances credence will be given to each item of information, even though the possibility of conflicts may be expressively involved.

The discrepancy between the total number of questionnaires returned and the figure of compilation and percentages is due to subject's declining to answer the particular question.

(120 -- male workers; 32 -- female)

HOW WAS THE COMMUNITY ATTITUDE TOWARD YOU?

PROVO

The causal factor of much of the hostility is due to the presence of transient workers, is the report from several interviews. Of course, under these conditions the unfavorable attitude against the evacuees cannot be regarded as those of the entire townspeople:

Among the thirty-seven workers who reported from Provo only one penetrated the community as far as the church; twelve participated in some form of recreation, and practically all of them attended the movies and did their shopping in the city proper.

(In such an area as Provo it is difficult to ascertain how each of the workers weighed their situation for as there is a diversity of activities there is also a mixed feeling of community acceptance.)

In tracing the six month period of one worker at Provo we find that he had encountered numerous incidents, though not violently hostile, which were enough to discourage the same venture next year. Examples in this case include: denial of service in the Woolworth and JC Penney stores, segregation in one of the movie houses, namely, the Academy Theater, refusals into restaurants, and general "street corner" impressions that were marked with unpleasantness. Experiences which were encountered by other workers included physical affronts such as stoning (while workers were riding to and from work) and "slugging" during the night on the city streets. Much of these acts were perpetrated by hoodlums and drunks.

Statistically the thirty-seven workers summed up the situation as:

8% -- Good	(workers in this bracket were directly concerned	
		with farming)
37% -- Bad	(" " " " " engaged in farming	
		and fruit picking)
54% -- Fair	(" " " " " Engaged in general	
		farm work and fruit harvesting)

OGDEN

Ogden is an example of a favorable community from which twenty-six questionnaires were received. Of this number three had ventured into some form of recreation, and only one attended

the church there. The preponderant majority indulged in movies and shopping as the only means of spending their leisure time. Fortunately, there were no reports of overt hostility. Of these twenty-six workers, seven were engaged in farming; the remainder worked in the cannery.

46% -- Good
53% -- Fair

SPANISH FORK -- There were 16 questionnaires returned. The majority of the workers did cannery work with several in farm work.

31% -- Good
56% -- Fair
12% -- Bad

SALT LAKE CITY -- 13 questionnaires were received. The type of work ranges from hospital orderly to domestic, photography, and restaurant help.

38% -- Good
61% -- Fair

IDAHO -- There were 27 questionnaires returned from the towns in Idaho: (farm work)

22% -- Good	11 -- Malad City	6 -- Nauman
74% -- Fair	5 -- Caldwell	1 -- Gooding
.04% -- Bad (one-Malad City)	3 -- Preston	1 -- St. Anthony

MONTANA

Two returns from Stevensville listed their acceptance as being 'bad'. One from Hamilton said 'fair'. (all three were on sugar beet farms)

COLORADO

A lone report from a farm worker at Fort Morgan stated that he was received with 'fair' reception into the community.

IN OTHER AREAS OF UTAH

(cases, not 70)

	GOOD	FAIR	
Grantsville -----	2	2	quarry workers
Delta -----	5	3	farm and mill workers
Murray -----	1		laborer

	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	
Drum Mt. -----	1		carpenter
Sunnyside -----	1		
Sweets -----	1		coal miner
Corrine -----	1		cannery worker
Fillmore -----	1		US Geological Survey
La Sal -----	2		gardener, farm worker
Pleasant Grove -----	1	2	farm workers
Trementon -----	3		" "
Warren -----	2		" "
Orem -----	2		" "

As the process of accommodation is susceptible to possible changes, the foregoing evaluations of the respective areas should not be regarded as wholly valid in the future. It is evident, in such an area as Provo, that there is no correlation between the degree of accommodation of the evacuees and the dearth of farm labor.

HOW WERE THE HOUSING FACILITIES?

	<u>adequate</u>	<u>inadequate</u>
Provo -----	72%	28%
Ogden -----	69%	31%
Salt Lake City -----	23%	77%
Spanish Fork -----	31%	69%

OTHER CITIES OF UTAH:

	<u>adequate</u>	<u>inadequate</u>	(cases, not %)
Grantsville -----	1	4	
Orem -----	2		
Warren -----		2	
Trementon -----	3		
Pleasant Grove -----	2	1	
La Sal -----	2		
Fillmore -----	1		
Corrine -----		1	
Sweets -----	1		
Sunnyside -----	1		
Drum Mt. -----		1	
Murray -----	1		
Delta -----	7	1	

The one worker from Fort Morgan, Colorado reported that housing was adequate. All three of the sugar beet workers from Montana stated that the housing there was adequate.

DID YOU MAKE ANY PROFITS?

11% of the workers failed to make any profits.

At Spanish Fork three workers failed to make any profits (1-shipping clerk, 2-cannery workers)

At Idaho 51% of the 27 workers failed to make any profits. Of this number all were engaged in farming. (6 failed at Nounan, 2 at Preston, 1 at Caldwell,) (and 5 at Malad City)

There were nine workers in this group, who failed to make profits, that at the same time were inexperienced in farm work.

WERE YOU EXPERIENCED IN YOUR WORK?

Figures reveal that 61 or 40% of the 152 workers were inexperienced in their particular work.

In Provo there were 22 inexperienced workers
 In Ogden " " 19 " "
 In SLC " " 20 " "

HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK DID YOU AVERAGE?

<u>UTAH</u>	<u>HOUR</u>
Provo (farm work) -----	50
(fruit picking) -----	50
Ogden (farm work) -----	43
(cannery) -----	48
Spanish Fork (cannery) -----	50
(farm work) -----	50
Salt Lake City (hospital) -----	68
(electrician) -----	44
(dishwashing) -----	46
(ice man) -----	48
(cook) -----	60
(photography) -----	48
(kitchen helper) -----	54
Warren (farm work) -----	40
Tremonton (share cropping) -----	48
Pleasant Grove (farm work) -----	45
La Sal (gardening) -----	60
(farm work) -----	65
Fillmore (US Geological) -----	48
Sweets (coal mining) -----	42

UTAHHOUR

Sunnyside (common labor)-----56
 Drum Mt. (carpenter)-----48
 Murray (general labor)-----48
 Delta (farming)-----44
 (mill work) -----47
 Grandville (quarry)-----48

COLORADO

Fort Morgan (sugar beet)-----48

IDAHO

Malad City (sugar Beet)-----55
 Caldwell (farm)-----55
 Preston (farm)-----48
 Nounan (farm)-----76
 Gooding (honey bee work)-----54
 Saint Anthony (potatoes)-----70

MONTANA

Stevensville (sugar beet)-----50

DID THE EMPLOYER LIVE UP TO HIS CONTRACT?

92% of the employer-employee relations have been favorable.
 8% of the employer-employee relations have been unfavorable...
 according to the opinions expressed by the workers.

There were five such cases at Provo, one at Grantsville, two at Malad City, two at Preston, one at Nounan, one at Gooding, and one at St. Anthony.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO LEAVE THE CENTER ON AN INDEFINITE LEAVE?

Forty-three, or 28%, have answered in the negative.
 Thirty-three, or 22% - undecided.
 Seventy-six, or 50%, favor indefinite relocation.

DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY FOR PERMANENT WORK
 IN THE COMMUNITY?

<u>UTAH</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>
Provo	29	8
Ogden	14	11
Spanish Fork	11	3
Warren		2
Tremonton		3
Pleasant Grove	2	1
La Sal		2
Fillmore	1	
Corinne	1	
Sweets		1
Sunnyside		1
Murray		1
Delta	7	
Grandville	3	

Idaho

Malad	8	1
Caldwell	2	2
Preston	2	1
Nounan	4	2
Gooding	1	
St. Anthony	1	

MONTANA

Stevensville	1	
Hamilton		1

COLORADO 1

The following are responses to the request-statement: "In the following space please insert any comments which you may have to give us-- it may pertain to any of the above points or to any thing related to the relocation program; in addition you may have some recommendations or various outlooks to the future that may promote better operations in regards to seasonal or indefinite leaves."

COMMENTS

OREM, UTAH

No comments

WARREN, UTAH

No comments

TREMONTON, UTAH

The public sentiment in this vicinity is good, therefore, I feel for those who can do farm work ought to make effort to come out on indefinite leaves and help out in this way to win this war.

I have applied for my indefinite leave last December but to date, I have yet not received my permit.

For recommendations for future relocation programs, it is best that people who are experienced in farming or any trade be relocated in their respected line. It is best, also, to discourage people to leave the centers to have a good time. Living conditions are high and leaving the centers to have just a good time is out of the picture.

Should issue indefinite leaves more quickly and that can be done by eliminating a lot of "red tape".

PLEASANT GROVE, UTAH

I have no immediate plans for leaving the center or an indefinite leave.

LA SAL, UTAH

At first the community was rather skeptical to us. In due time however, we proved ourselves worthy. The attitude of the public towards relocators depends mostly upon the showing we make. One can make himself or fail entirely by his actions.

FILLMORE, UTAH

Work was of temporary nature. Town is too small for any kind of business except farming. Attitude of people excellent.

SWEETS, UTAH

The reason for my not obtaining an indefinite is because I have a young daughter in Rivers, Arizona Center and my work is not exactly permanent. (Her address 16-4-A Rivers, Arizona) The reason I stay in the Utah Center when not on leave is because formerly I used to live in Utah and know many people thus I like to keep working in this state if possible. Would appreciate it if it is left this way as I get a chance to visit my daughter once in awhile.

SUNNYSIDE, UTAH

I don't think it is a good idea to let to many Japanese get together in one place. For example, a fellow worker said to me, "Boy, there's a lot of Japanese around Price now".

DRUM MT., UTAH

I have worked for only one month and come back since there weren't any material to work with. Now I am at my old job in Topaz, Utah, working as a carpenter foreman.

MURRAY, UTAH

No comments.

DELTA, UTAH

A community is just what you make of it yourself in most cases. One should do what he's suppose to do and should never look for troubles for he'll find it anywhere. As for an indefinite leave here and a permanent home I cannot see one. Most of the people's feeling towards Japanese weren't too good when I first came here but they're gradually changing. Many receive me as a member of their group now, but some will never change. If I just mind my own business I'll be O.K.

Comments on questions above. Question (4) Due to bad weather last summer I'm not able to show any profit

Question (8) Delta is alfalfa and sugar beets country so impossible to get a permanent job.

Question (10) One movie house here which I attend about 2 times a month. I would rather go bowling for recreation but Japanese are barred from bowling alley for some reason unknown to us.

Would like defense work or any type comparable with other self-respecting American citizens.

Mostly seasonal work

DELTA, UTAH

I would like to get a defense job. That's if I get relocated.

GRANDVILLE, UTAH

No comments.

MALAD, IDAHO

Do not let too many people go to any one certain locality cause many people are not open minded and it may cause uneasiness between both parties.

Contracts are not so important as the general character of the employer.

The Japanese (aliens or citizens) are expected to do a little more work, and better work than average caucasians.

Caucasian employers tend to use intimidations to see that the contracts are followed to the dot; vague contracts can be interpreted one way by the employer and another by the employee, they could be right in their interpretation, but the employee's don't count as a rule.

CALDWELL, IDAHO

I wish to add that there is racial discrimination in this community of Caldwell, Idaho.

Racial discrimination still exists in this community which makes it hard on us to even be offered certain jobs.

PRESTON, IDAHO

The farmers aren't up to time. Too crude in their methods of doing things, wages are to low for hour work. They don't even know what they're suppose to pay.

The seasonal contracts should be such that the farmer can't get away from the terms in the contract, Housing facilities provided by the farmer's are at the best, poor--with usually no bath facilities.

Farm work here is very "short" The people are nice--their attitude toward us is better than super--only under their physical and mental "ok" attitude. Such consequences as being sobered--they are "dangerous". Town is noisy

Sat. and Sun. nite but otherwise week nites very quiet. I have no future in this community-but to information for other residents--this town, Preston is the best of all than the better cities or town I have lived.

Such work as domestics-skilled profession-are plentiful but I cannot guarantee on farm work since weather condition is bad.

Recent transferee from Caldwell - where the place is awfully anti-Japanese. They hate even the Jap. American citizens. We are not allowed to eat in restaurants -- and barber shops-- is also--against us --. Please denote --this is the town of Caldwell -- not Preston.

NOUNAN, IDAHO

It is advisable for workers to have one day off during the week to attend church and other community activities so that we could get acquainted with and participate with the townspeople's activities. By doing these things they will understand the Japanese relocater's and our problems. Farm relocators should personally see that the land and equipment conditions are satisfactory.

Attitude in Montpelire -- closest large town not very good. What leisure time we have, facilities not such that we can make use of. Heuse morale rather low and therefore not condusive to indefinite leaves, but rather to short seasonal leaves from Center. There are possibilities for permanent work but conditions here are such that I doubt if I would like to --

Didn't make a cent here, if things are like this, indefinite leaves are going to be hard to apply for.

GOODING, IDAHO

According to Schreiber Honey Co.'s Work contract . They suppose to furnish me all year around work. But they can't get lumber to make Bee Boxes.

Bees work will be done in a few days, but I am going to work on a farm to help harvest potatoes and when all the farm work is finished. I want to come back to center and start out again for relocation.

SAINT ANTHONY, IDAHO

I have been working on potatoes farming since 15th of April and working very hard. Now we are digging the potatoes it would be take 3 more weeks yet and after that if I could get some of job in the winter time in city I hope to stay out. Please ask ~~me~~ the employment office.

FORT MORGAN, COLORADO

No comments.

SPANISH FORK, UTAH

(1) Ration book handled very poorly -- Rec'd book about week after arrival in camp-meantime suffered deficient meat and butter.

(2) Only 4 seat toilet and over 50 people in camp - toilet about 150 yards away and drainage poor.

(3) Laundry very bad.

(4) Need a good manager to arrange cookings, collection of board and rent, job adjustment, etc.

We could surely use a Public Relocation Officer.

In my own opinion I wouldn't relocate in this locality because employment is inadequate and earning is too small. Community attitude is not too favorable.

The people here are very grateful for any help they can get. The townspeople are considerate of you and treat you as an equal.

PROVO, UTAH

No comments.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

There are several farmer's around here who want some good permanent helps but they generally ask middle aged help or rather older. The young second generations not much preferred, because they will leave the job soon.

About the housing facilities all right if it is farmers help, they will get you houses or rooms.

No housing facility in this city to try and hold a permanent job right now. But possibly if a house to be had could find a job.

As to indefinite leave - wish to leave center on indefinite leave - on the condition that something more promising can be had.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

We are being exploited by the hospital. We all have certain duties to perform but when there are any extra work to be done we are the ones to be called. Never the Caucasian orderlies unless we are too busy to help. Today our foreman asked 2 of the boys to do some work outside. As it was raining the boys asked that they be allowed to wait until the rain lets up. The foreman insisted that the boys go out in the rain to work. He told the boys to work or quit. The obys quit.

Since I have been here only a few months it is difficult to state any comments. Since leaving camp I have never seen any Japanese although I have gone to town several time.

How about my indefinite card. Please get busy. Almost one year. I been out Salt Lake City.

OGDEN, UTAH

As the community is in Swampy land, there are too many mosquitoes throug out the summer and autumn.

The Housing facilities are poor compared with what we used to have in California. It requires many improvemens such as bath-room, hot water, inside-dispsel and soon.

Japanese walking in a group looks very conspicuous.

Look into the job thoroughly before you jump into it, so you will not be disappointed. Housing was inadequate at first, but it's all right now.

If a person is able to work, there is all kinds of jobs, however, for the large family it is difficult to make living due to high living cost.

Wish to come out in the vicinity next spring for similar occupation.

Better living condition and an organized kitchen that does not operate on profit basis. Also some heating system of some sort on these cold frosty day.

OGDEN, UTAH

The large numbers of Japanese to be seen in town on shopping nights and Saturdays and Sundays has made a very poor impression on the community. I believe this is unavoidable under the present system of housing seasonal workers at large work camps, but possibly some other solution can be reached. Many leave the centers with one main idea, that's to have fun in town. Among these are many whose moral standards have proven very low.

There is no shower in the house which we lived. So we tell to the house owner but, they won't make any yet. Farm labor need the shower badly, for every-day.

(8) I believe there is ample opportunity for anyone who desires domestic or work as clerk in a dress store etc. However, for domestic, the salary is very small and the work asked of you includes window washing etc.

In making any profit one really have to work hard. The employer attitude toward us is still rather indifferent.

Too many Japanese in one large group!!

STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA

There is nothing to fill these lines. The personal attitude of Caucasians toward Japanese is not so bad, but the atmosphere of this county is very high in Anti-Japanese spirit.

Therefore it is absolutely unthinkable of relocating here permanently nor having a business around here.

HAMILTON, MONTANA

No Comments.

PROVO, UTAH

Attitude of public toward the Japs very bad. Segregation within shows bad for morale of laborers.

The attitude of the people here is most discouraging!

PROVO, UTAH

so call "mislead patriots" are doing their worse to demoralize our moral -- the stonings and shoting just about sold me about this dump.

The housing also is terrible - you know tents aren't very warm in the frosty mornings.

And the work. It would be o.k. if there were work for all, all the time but as it is we loaf half of the week.

The employer gyps you of your pay.

The community attitude was good except for a few incidents.

As a whole working and living condition is fair as I see it - probably because of the happenings that we had here. I'd say too much prejudice. Others may find it well here but it so happens that we were one of the unfortunate ones.

I was planning to relocate, but as a whole people living in town and city are not very friendly. Restaurant and movies has racial prejudice. As far as relocation is concerned I am doubtful how people will treat us.

Profit was very small because some of my employers did not live up to their contracts, and on two occasions I had a difficult time collecting my pay.

If I were to leave on an indefinite it surely won't be to Provo.

Provo is becoming super staured with Japanese Americans, as a result the general sentiment is moving against us. I would not recommend more people to relocate in this area.

What I experience in Provo town and surrounding I would not wish any one to take a indefinite where defense workers be around. The Ganeva plant here sure made it hard for us to mingle with the resident due to many out of town and state defense workers. But for any other reason I do advise farm work can be fun and profitably and a ideal job to take a indefinite.

PROVO, UTAH

Only one incident occurred which could have spoiled the entire season for both farmers and workers. Reception has changed a little but cannot forget how it frightened us. Housing awfully poor and facilities discouraged many. Lack of Camp Supervision. Caucasian head did not show any interest toward us.

The community as a whole was very hostile to us and chances for relocating here or in its vicinity are none too healthy. We have had many unfortunate incidents, including stoning and shooting.

Seems as if favorable publicity for us is lacking and the attitude of the government is forcibly moving us and now practically forcing us out into a hostile society is an uncalled for act and not fair in all respects to us.

In farm work where there is a labor shortage, the attitude of the employer is good. But as soon as the crops are harvested, the "friendliness" dies down & the attitude is usually -- "To Hell with the Japs". I must admit that there are a few farmers who are sincere and respect us. I believe that the most important thing to stress is that the use of the Japanese language in public places be forbidden. It goes for majority of the Isseis & Kibeis and a few Niseis. Also, if one stays in a labor camp it is good to avoid going to town too often. In Provo, one can find many Japanese who go to town all slopped up. Neatness and to avoid going to town in large groups is an important point.

Another thing is that an educational quiz so that the ability for a person to adopt himself to the community is important. It goes mainly for Isseis, Kibeis and young high school boys.----

In addition to stoning and shooting at our quarters, there is always some small act of unfriendliness towards us; such as not serving us at particular stores, restaurants, and etc. Most of these are disregarded by us by at times annoying. I do not recommend relocating in this community.

As far as Provo is concerned, there is only a few chances of permanent work. Few may work in the city. Seasonal work is ideal -- but winter work in the farms is scarce. I think that by my experience, it is hard to find permanent work in Provo or any other part of Utah unless you do your own farming either on rent or share-crop basis. I hear quite a few are making pretty good in this way, by raising tomatoes or

sugar beets, etc. As a whole the Provo citizens including the farmers are good to the Japanese; and I've been trying to find a permanent place in the farms, where I can stay year after year, but, thus far haven't been successful. I think the only way a fellow can stay out around here is by finding an inside job in the winter, then come out to the farms for seasonal work.

Public attitude very unfavorable, would not recommend relocating in this area. Too much ill feeling & prejudice.

Bartlett F.S.A. Camp head very uncooperative, unfriendly and too economical to the point of miserliness, placing much inconvenience upon the camp residents.

There have been a few unpleasant happenings around this area, but the majority of the people are fair dealing. It depends also on the individuals. The workers should live up to the employers expectations and should try not to do otherwise, for it makes it harder for others to obtain work, altho' the jobs especially in farming are temporary.

Farm work during the winter months for women are not plentiful unless one wishes to do men's work.

It seems to me, that if a person has professional training he should be let out of W.R.A. Camp more easily, My case: could have got a job in my profession if allowed to go out for job-hunting but due to farm contract was unable to meet it (on farming leave)

Before any large number of evacuees are sent out to a locality, the fact that Japanese Americans are coming out to work and save the crop should be made known to the community and such publicity should be widely spread to create favorable sentiment people of this town are ignorant of the fact that workers here have saved this year's crops.

Provo is a good place for seasonal work, but there is not much chance for permanent work.

CONCLUSION

The time factor makes the short term leave a possible questionable criterion of community receptiveness, of employer-employee relations, of living conditions, of wage standards, etc.. for with a longer period perhaps more favorable circumstances could be effected; at least, a more adequate study could be made of the possibility of existing community conflict reverting to accommodation--which is possible in any area.

And, as stated earlier, a composite analysis cannot be concluded from such a survey as this. Perhaps the present conditions may be better or worse than pictured, and the unfavorable aspects of seasonal furloughs may become better or still worse in the immediate future.

It may be assumed that seasonal work leaves will be equally attractive next year for the worker is able to maintain his status as a resident while he makes sizeable earnings outside of the Center.