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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

*Zale*

*Keinball*  
*Spicer*

Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming  
MEMORANDUM

October 2, 1943

TO: Dillon S. Myer, Director  
FROM: Guy Robertson, Project Director  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

We were surprised and shocked to hear of Elmer's death. We seem to remember Elmer as one of those fortunate beings who was not bothered much with sickness and did not expect anything so unfortunate to happen to him. You have our sympathy in the loss of a wise counselor and a good friend.

Events at Heart Mountain are pretty routine. We are busy trying to harvest the potatoes, carrots, beets, turnips, etc. and are having some labor difficulty. It appears now as though we have the situation in hand temporarily by taking 60 high school students each day for work in the fields. In this manner we are not delaying their school program as they are afforded an opportunity to make up the time lost and we have not had to dismiss school. We have been very fortunate in having a fine fall. After our frost in early September, we have had nice weather and some growing weather. Our potato crop will be a little short because it was set back by the early frost but the quality will be good. The livestock program is also hampered by the shortage of labor but we have our hog population up now to about 600 and we shall try to maintain it at that level.

Mr. Reed was going to make some kind of an arrangement with Granada for taking care of our beef requirements and it was my understanding that he would advise us after conferring with Mr. Lindley. Up to now, we have heard nothing further from him and are wondering what we may expect.

We are keeping our construction program to essentials and it has been necessary to slow down on some of the things that we wanted to have done before now. However, our personnel barracks are coming along slowly and about the only place that we notice the delay is in the school program.

Mr. Viles has been here this week and I have just read his report. His suggestions are based upon our program that we have outlined, in the

main, but we have just not been able to accomplish it. The demand for labor for outside harvest has been so great that most of our able bodied men are outside on seasonal leave. We expect them to start returning within the next month and then should be able to go forward with our construction program a little faster.

The Tule Lake people are settled and seem to be well contented although we are somewhat crowded for apartments. We expect the situation to get worse before it is better as there will be a number of people returning from seasonal work and, in some cases, they will require apartments.

I notice that John Provinse and Philip Glick are concerned as to whether or not I am carrying the matter of institutionalizing some of our people into politics. This is probably because they do not understand the situation. The Governor of Wyoming is the Chairman of the Wyoming Board of Charities and Reforms and I think it is perfectly proper to go through that channel as they must handle the case eventually. I took the matter up with Governor Hunt when he visited Heart Mountain and told him that there had been considerable delay and I would appreciate anything he would do to speed up the matter. I believe the Governor is doing what he can but they do not seem to want to accept our people until they have permission from the California Institution to transfer them there. We are concentrating our efforts in turning the matter over to Miss Thomas to follow through on and I believe she can get something accomplished.

I expect to leave Heart Mountain the 22nd or 23rd of October and go with Mrs. Robertson to the Mayo Clinic where she will be hospitalized for an operation and it may be necessary for me to stay there for a couple weeks. If you have anything in mind that should be given special attention before that time, I would appreciate your letting me know.

I have talked to Captain Green regarding the Military Police situation at Heart Mountain and have requested him to say as little about it as possible as I believe, until plans are laid and we know what is going to be done, that the matter should not have publicity. I am having the assistant project directors write me memoranda on the letter and we are not going into discussion of the matter until after I have received their memoranda. They are being advised that it is confidential and that there should be no release or intimation of any change until definite plans are announced. I expect to be able to give you my reaction to the proposed change within the next day or two.

Guy Robertson  
Project Director

*File*

Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming  
MEMORANDUM

HM:PD:GR

October 2, 1943

TO: Dillon S. Myer, Director  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

The chief item of interest for the past two weeks at Heart Mountain has been the arrival and departure of the segregation trains. These movements went off very smoothly and we unloaded and loaded the last train in two hours and 15 minutes which included the unloading and loading of two cars of evacuee baggage. We will receive our last train tomorrow morning at 6:00 o'clock. We will have received 139 more people than we expected to have scheduled for Heart Mountain and this has cramped us considerably for housing space. It may be necessary to house a few people in recreation halls temporarily until further adjustment can be made. As we have relocated very few family groups, our housing is once more pretty crowded.

The labor situation is a little tense at Heart Mountain as we have only 2950 people on the payroll today for an estimated requirement of 3500. These extra employees are needed for the harvest and for the saw mill and park dismantling program. It is our intention to endeavor to transfer the workers from some of the less essential activities into agriculture, temporarily, and also to use some of the high school students for one or two days each week until we can get the harvesting completed.

The outside labor situation, particularly in the Park County section, is easing up somewhat and we believe we have this section pretty well satisfied. There has been quite a lot of competition between the surrounding country and the Snake River Valley in Idaho and also, some bickering between the Extension Service and the FSA as to the distribution of these workers. The bean crop is getting pretty well harvested and it is my understanding that considerable number of the employees in the Park County vicinity will be going to Idaho for potato picking the first of next week.

We are experiencing some trouble with the relocation program in that we find a number of people returning from indefinite leave for one pretext or another without securing the approval of the relocation officer. We hesitate not to admit them at the gate as,

Oct. 2, 1943

- 2 -

in most cases, they advise us that they are coming back to visit. However, it quite often develops that they have no intention of returning to their jobs, neither do they have any intention of paying subsistence while at Heart Mountain. The same is true of the seasonal leave people. Many times we admit workers and find that they have not completed their contracts and had no legitimate reason for leaving their employment. We, of course, put stop orders on these people but it does not seem to concern them very greatly as they are frank to admit that the only reason that they go out on seasonal leave is to accumulate some cash to have for spending money through the winter and that, in their opinion, WRA owes them the security of the relocation center. I have given it considerable thought and do not know the solution. However, I believe that it is going to be necessary to impress on these people that, as citizens of the United States and as aliens who desire to live under the protection of the United States government, it is expected that they go outside and do some kind of work to assist in the war effort.

Leon Goodrich resigned this week because he had not been approved by the Washington office for the Chief Engineer position which he has been filling since Mr. Lummis resigned. This leaves us without a Chief Engineer in a department that is already pretty short. While Leon had some shortcomings, he has been very diligent in trying to straighten out a bad situation that was left to him last spring and there is no doubt that he had a big program to execute within a very short period. We are endeavoring to find someone satisfactory to take his place and I doubt very much if we will get anyone who is any better than Leon, as most extraordinary engineers are already employed.

The weather has been very fine and we are going to realize considerable more from our agriculture program than we thought early in September when we had two or three very bad frosts.

We had one man, as I told you over the telephone, who refused to go to Tule Lake on the evening of the entrainment. He hid out in a friend's apartment and the Internal Security department was unable to locate him until after the train had left. He is not the kind of character I would like to keep at Heart Mountain and I have had him apprehended and am holding him in custody in jail, pending his transfer to Tule Lake.

Guy Robertson  
Project Director



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RECEIVED  
OCT 6 - 1943  
War Relocation Authority

100-111111-100  
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*Route*

*Review (for your staff)  
Spicer (for your files)*

Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming  
MEMORANDUM

October 16, 1943

TO: Billon S. Myer, Director  
FROM: Guy Robertson, Project Director  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

We had two hard freezes this week which practically winds up the green garden. One sad thing about it was we lost the thirteen acres of lettuce, or a great portion of it anyway. We hope to be able to have sufficient for our own use for sometime but will not be able to ship the two carloads that we had anticipated. Harvesting of the potato crop should be finished next week. We will start the carrots, turnips, beets and daikon next week, and have arranged to pickle the daikon crop as it is a favorite with the evacuees.

The most noticeable thing on the project was the decline in requests for agricultural or seasonal labor and a slight increase in requests for indefinite leave. It is hoped that with the pressure off for agricultural workers we will be able to accomplish more on the relocation program. The harvest in the Heart Mountain vicinity was much more satisfactory this year than last, and I believe everyone was better satisfied with the evacuee labor. We have had a favorable fall and it has permitted the surrounding communities to harvest their potatoes and beans, and they are more than fifty percent completed in their harvest of sugar beets. We of course had much better organization this year, and last year's experience helped us a great deal in carrying through the program.

We are giving attention to the new chart for the Relocation Division and the Employment Section and hope to have it well outlined pretty soon.

I have given considerable thought to the removal of the Military Police from Heart Mountain, and I think the program as you originally outlined it, is the proper way to handle it. If we could have a reduction of fifty percent in the force and still maintain the organization, I do not believe it will be necessary to make any advance preparation until such time as it becomes necessary to further reduce the Military Police. There is likely to be considerable

objection from the people in this area and perhaps from the State officials. While the educational campaign has come a long ways this summer, people are still inclined to regard the Heart Mountain camp as composed of dangerous enemy aliens. We have, unfortunately, had an adverse situation in Park County which has been made worse by Senator Robertson's attitude and his association with Senator Chandler.

It is my opinion that the evacuees will cooperate and that generally the program will be very workable. It may be necessary to increase the internal security staff in order to handle the main gate and the two road approaches on the highway. If we give twenty-four hour service for these stations, it will require a considerable number of internal security officers. The older people will be very amiable to the situation but we can expect some antagonism from the younger folks on any kind of restrictive measures.

I was surprised somewhat when Captain Green told me the first of the week that he had had a call from Omaha indicating that there would be an immediate removal of the Military Police; as I had heard nothing further from you since my call, I presumed this was a false alarm and the program, as originally outlined, will be carried through. If it is at all possible, it would be much better if we could have experienced Military Police left until such time as we do abandon the present set-up, as it takes quite a little time to work out good working conditions with new service.

Conditions generally are about the same on the Project, and we are gradually getting some of the construction work completed although the program has been very slow.

The Boy Scouts are having their birthday party with a two-day Jamboree yesterday and today, and we have some visiting scouts from Cody participating in the festivities today.

Sincerely,

Guy Robertson  
Project Director

GR:lb

~~Spencer~~  
~~Spencer~~  
Baker  
Hines

~~Spencer~~  
(for staff & Spencer's file)

CENTRAL REGION  
Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

HM:OD:APD:DNT

October 23, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Subject: Weekly Report

In the absence of Mr. Robertson, Project Director, I am submitting herewith the report of the week's activities at the Heart Mountain Project.

Primary attention was given this week to the harvesting of vital crops. Frost during the latter part of the week did considerable damage to the twenty-seven acres of lettuce. Other crops such as beets, cabbage, onions, daikon, celery and the like were not seriously affected, but the continuance of cold weather could mean serious losses. Potato harvest, which was interrupted by bad weather, has been resumed with approximately forty acres of ground yet to cover.

This center has already had its first snow storm, and with bad weather creeping on us, we feel that every effort should be concentrated on harvesting the 125 acres of vegetables yet in the ground. We have been able to augment the agricultural crews with some volunteer labor, but in order to complete the harvest in time, some 150 additional workers a day are needed in the fields. We have, therefore, asked that departments of the administration suspend such operations not immediately essential to center needs, for two afternoons each during the coming week in order that we may, barring bad weather, finish up the harvest in the next six days. We also anticipate the help of an increased number of junior and senior high school students as well as volunteers from among the center residents.

The Poster Shop at Heart Mountain has been discontinued, at least for the present. Discontinuance was caused by a difference of opinion as to policy in the operation of the shop. Some time ago a

John  
Baker

contract for posters was completed for the United States Navy. A very artistic job was done on this work and the employees were highly commended both by the Washington office and the officers of the Navy. A similar contract was submitted by the Navy a short while ago, but the poster shop workers did not feel like undertaking this under WRA regulation wages. Inasmuch as the WRA has no other way to operate such projects within the center, the only thing left to do was to close the Poster Shop.

These were the only items of major interest for the week. General conditions on the project are about the same.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Todd  
Acting Project Director

DWT/lb





TO: [Illegible]

[Illegible typed text]



CENTRAL REGION  
Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

HM:OD:APD:DNT

MEMORANDUM

October 30, 1943

AIR MAIL

TO: Dillon S. Myer, Director  
FROM: Douglas M. Todd, Acting Project Director  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

Emphasis this week has been placed on harvesting of crops. It was decided a week ago that it would be necessary to augment the regular agriculture department employees by volunteer crews in order to speed up production and save the crops from frost. The high school students have been picking potatoes and there was no change in this plan. A sufficient number responded to carry on the work which was completed Wednesday, October 27th. The Operations Division undertook to furnish 150 workers for Monday and Tuesday. Community Management furnished this number of workers for Wednesday and Thursday, and Administrative Management furnished the same number on Friday and Saturday. The Reports and Employment Division and the Project Attorney's office fitted in with the numbers they could supply as they could leave their work. All quotas were well over-filled and great numbers of people were in the fields.

The new root cellar has been completed and there has been ample space provided as needed for potatoes and other crops to be put in storage.

A bad fire occurred at 1:45 a.m. on Wednesday, October 27, in mess hall 15-30. Due to the prompt and efficient work of the Fire Department, the loss was held to a reasonable amount---about \$350 on the building and \$600 for contents, mostly food. A detailed report of this was covered in the weekly fire report.

On Wednesday, October 27th, we received the call from Mr. R. B. Cozzens in San Francisco regarding furnishing workers for the harvest at Tule Lake. The response to this has been very good and it is expected that 100 harvest workers will leave here Sunday morning, October 31st, going by two special railroad coaches through Cheyenne, Pocatello, Portland and Klamath Falls. Mr.

William B. Macfarlane and Mr. James M. Grace will accompany these crews to Tule Lake. The recruitment of these workers slowed down somewhat Friday and Saturday due to the adverse radio and newspaper publicity regarding the strike. There were some who felt that the undertaking was an effort at strike breaking. Others held back because of fear of violence. While both of these matters were groundless, and it was so explained, they did hamper our efforts to a certain extent.

Captain Green and his company of military police left the center on Wednesday evening, October 27. Many of these men had been at the center for fourteen months. They have maintained a very good record in their conduct and contacts with the evacuees. One incident marred this good record somewhat on the last day. It happened in Cody. A crew of workers were returning who had been sent out for loads of straw for the root cellar when Mess Sergeant Freeman accosted them, and as near as we can piece together the divergent stories, he used rather harsh language toward the evacuee and then precipitated a fight. The evacuee, as nearly as we can understand, and from general opinion in Cody, gave no offense, nor did he talk back to the military police during the abuse. He was beaten quite badly and is suffering now from a fractured jaw and is being taken care of at the hospital. The general sentiment in Cody has been sympathetic to the evacuee, as far as we can learn. There has been no excitement or disturbance either in Cody or at the center regarding the incident. Captain Green and his men left a few hours after this altercation took place. We have reported the facts as they have been ascertained by investigation, to Lieutenant Good and Lieutenant Kellogg who will make further investigation.

Progress on the construction of storage bins for grain and dry beans has reached a point where we are able to take care of the beans as they are harvested and carload lots of grain for feed. Fair progress is also being made on the construction of the personnel barracks and other routine jobs around the center.

Douglas M. Todd  
Acting Project Director

DWT/lb

P. S. In the case of Schiro Bepp, the evacuee involved in the above mentioned altercation, a full report is being made up submitting the findings of investigators, and will be forwarded to you as soon as we can assemble the information.

1. ~~Providence~~ (for your staff)  
2. Spicer (for your file)

CENTRAL REGION  
Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

HM:PW:APD:DNT:LB

November 15, 1943

Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Subject: Weekly Report, Nov. 13, 1943

There were no events of any major importance at Heart Mountain during the past week.

A report from the Employment Division, however, has been called to my attention. I believe it is significant because of its diverse effects upon housing, internal employment and practically every other phase of project operations. It is reported that evacuees are returning from seasonal leave in great numbers. The peak was reached on October 11, when the records indicated there were approximately 1,340 people out on seasonal leave. The number still remaining out on seasonal leave under date of November 11, one month later, is around 900, and it is anticipated that this number will decrease considerably within the next two or three weeks.

While no actual analysis was made of conversions from seasonal to indefinite leaves, it is estimated that the figure would be from twelve to fifteen, or probably less than one percent for that period. This is discouraging in view of the fact that it has been thought for some time that in the granting of seasonal leaves, in which evacuees would have opportunity to earn some money and become familiar with conditions on the outside, that they would, wherever possible, make a request for their indefinite leave.

It seems that instead of working out in this manner, individuals have gone out on their seasonal leave and earned a sufficient amount of money, which, in their opinion, will carry them over for the winter; therefore they would rather remain in the center.

We are wondering if other Projects are having the same experience.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Todd  
Acting Project Director

DNT/lb

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
CENTRAL REGION

Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

December 4, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Subject: Weekly Report

The most interesting thing at Heart Mountain this week was the different discussions carried on regarding the relocation program. The Community Council and evacuees on the Relocation Committee received the mimeographed copy of the letter of October 28th and immediately became interested in that part of it suggesting that there was a possibility of W. R. A. calling a conference of evacuees for consultation on the relocation program. It seems to have caught on like wild fire and they are expecting to present a number of problems to the W. R. A. administration if and when the conference is called. Mr Hoffman was here and attended several of these meetings. It seems as though a Sentinel reporter was present at his discussion of this program with the Community Council, and as a result we made headlines in the Sentinel this week.

I think Mr. Hoffman got the idea that Heart Mountain had a negative attitude in our present relocation program. I think this was occasioned by the fact that he happened to be here at a time when the Council was so intent upon the proposed conference. It is my opinion that the staff at Heart Mountain is earnestly and energetically trying to carry forward the relocation program and are cooperating with the Washington staff in every way possible. The ideas expressed in my letter to you last week were merely an expression of ideas that came spontaneously at a staff meeting at which Mr. Kimball was present. Whatever the Washington policy is in relocation, you may be assured that the Heart Mountain staff will be wholeheartedly behind it. I do believe that anything that will stimulate interest in evacuee participation will help any kind of a relocation program that we have, and I

COPY

~~Resource~~ - for your staff  
Spicer - for file

Dillon S. Myer

-2-

December 4, 1943

believe that we have been lame in not getting cooperation and participation for this program.

Otherwise, Heart Mountain seems to be going along in the usual channels. There have been no extraordinary occurrences. We had a snow storm and blizzard the first of the week, but it has cleared off today and looks as if we might have a few more days of nice weather.

Sincerely,

Guy Robertson  
Project Director

Route

~~Travis~~ for Staff  
Spicer - for file

HM:PM:PD:GR

CENTRAL REGION  
Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

MEMORANDUM

Attachment on  
copy 1 (Letter from  
Town of Powell)

December 11, 1943

AIR MAIL

TO: Dillon S. Myer, Director  
FROM: Guy Robertson, Project Director  
SUBJECT: Weekly Report

The only unusual happening at Heart Mountain this week was the receipt of a communication from the Mayor and three Councilmen of Powell requesting us to discontinue sending people to the town of Powell. This was instigated and signed by Mr. O. E. Bever, Mayor of Powell. As you know, we have had trouble with Mr. Bever ever since the center was located at Heart Mountain. He is irreconcilable and there is nothing that will change him as he refuses to have any consideration for the WRA program. I have delegated the task to Mr. McGowen to write a nice noncommittal letter to the Mayor.

I had hoped that I would be able to go to Cheyenne before this time and talk to the Governor regarding the removal of the Military Police, and if I can get away, I will try to go down there next week and talk to him about the Military Police and the Park County situation.

I have had a deep sympathy for you for the trial that you had with the investigating committee. We all realize that it has been difficult for you to front for our organization and appreciate and commend your very fine effort in behalf of the program.

Sincerely,

Guy Robertson  
Project Director

Enclosure No. 61678

GR/lb