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ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDUCATION SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT

October 1 to December 31, 1942

The Superintendent of Education at Rohwer entered on duty August 18, 1942. By October 1 only 5 persons had been added to the Education Personnel. These were key people added to assist in the formulation of plans for organization of the school. These 5 people and the Superintendent worked together at the Regional Office until the first trainload of Evacuees arrived. Then certain of the Personnel were moved to Rohwer to conduct a school census of each block as it was filled. This procedure continued until the last trainload of residents arrived. During this time, equipment and supply lists for a school of 2000 to 2500 students were being prepared so that this material could be requisitioned as soon as the size of the school population could be more exactly determined. Also a Pre-School Conference for teachers was planned during this time to be held the week prior to the formal opening of school.

A request was made early in October for two blocks centrally located to be reserved for school purposes. Tentative assignment of the blocks was made, but later had been <sup>to be</sup> withdrawn because construction lagged behind housing needs. Finally, during the last week of October, Blocks 31 and 35 were assigned to schools. The announcement was promptly made that schools would open November 9



and that the Pre-School Conference would be held November 3 to 7 inclusive. All teachers who had been approved for appointment were asked to report for duty November 2. The Pre-School Conference opened November 3 with 37 Appointed Personnel reporting and with selection of Evacuee Personnel still in progress.

School opened November 9 with the Elementary School enrolling 879 pupils while 1131 enrolled in the Secondary Schools. Although school equipment had been requisitioned, none had been received. A small amount of equipment which could be adapted to school use was received from Government surplus. By the end of the first week of school, the Public Works Division had constructed a few less than 500 six-foot benches which were used for seating pupils. A few weeks later these were supplemented by 1500 folding chairs, which we are now using.

Classes opened with too few teachers to meet the demand. Recruiting of both Appointed and Evacuee Personnel continued until by December 31 there was an Appointed Personnel of 25 in the Secondary Schools, 18 in the Elementary, and 4 on the General Staff; while the Evacuee Personnel consisted of 13 clerical workers, 32 Secondary teachers and assistant teachers, 25 Elementary teachers and assistant teachers, and 28 custodians. Since it was apparent that Evacuee Personnel would be constantly shifting because of relocation and job changes, it was decided to continue the recruitment of Appointed Personnel, with 10 to go on duty January 4 and others to follow as they were needed and could be secured. By



December 31 there were 18 Evacuee Night School teachers at work, with the major part of the Adult Education program to begin January 4.

The Elementary School is divided into two relatively equal groups of children, occupying the south half of each of the school blocks. The Secondary School is divided into two schools with the Senior school in one block and the Junior school in the other. Nursery schools are planned to begin sometime in January. College extension courses in Education for Evacuee teachers were begun during this quarter in order to enable these teachers to qualify for a teaching license under Arkansas standards. These courses as well as the regular teaching by the Evacuee Personnel is under the direction of a Supervisor of Student Teachers.

The administration has attempted to operate this school as any normal public school program in Arkansas would be operated, and at the same time to be cognizant of the California curricular background of these students. The school is organized in such a way as to be accredited by both State and National accrediting agencies, so that when these children are relocated, their school records and credits here will be accepted without discount wherever they may go. An attempt has been made to relate the curriculum as closely as possible to community activities with emphasis on vocational training. In the Secondary Schools, vocational courses are being offered in homemaking, industrial art, business training, art and music. Vocational agriculture will be offered when and if an instructor can be secured. The social science curriculum is



particularly strong as well as complete curricula for English, mathematics, and natural science. There is also a complete program of health and physical education for every boy and girl in school. In addition, a pupil activity program is being organized in the Secondary School to include a student council, clubs for all, and a school newspaper, the first edition of which has already appeared. The Elementary curriculum follows the regular Arkansas courses of study for those grades and is marked by activity on the part of the pupils. The entire school has already participated in such drives as the sale of Tuberculosis seals and Junior Red Cross membership. The Industrial Art Department is participating in the nation-wide project of the construction of model airplanes for the Government.

It is evident that the schools have come a long way since November 9. The school spirit of both pupils and teachers is excellent. School equipment and supplies are arriving daily, making it possible to enrich the school program gradually. Progress is being made, although we are faced with problems of appropriate space, adequate number of teachers, insufficient equipment, and general school unity. As time goes on, we expect at least a relatively satisfactory solution to these and other problems.

J. A. Trice  
Superintendent of Education



Rohwer Quarterly Report  
Jan 1 - Mar 31, 1943

Education Section

School enrollment remained stable during the last quarter. Enrollment for January was 2021 and for March 2017. School attendance has been around 95%. Much needed school equipment was received, which included desks, chairs, blackboards, textbooks, etc. The school is fairly well equipped in this respect. Housing facilities were also improved by removal of partitions in some cases, and building of partitions in others.

The turnover in school personnel has been great during this period. There have been 72 changes in approximately 120 members of the evacuee and appointed personnel. All but one of these have been evacuee resignations.

In the past quarter, a school and center library was established, and \$3,000.00 worth of books was ordered to supplement the 3,000 volumes donated by the Stockton Assembly Center. All the books on order have not yet been received.

A nursery school for 4-year olds has been established and 113 are now enrolled. An expansion of this school is planned. A special room for physically defective children has been established in elementary schools and this work will be expanded as soon as a satisfactory instructor can be obtained/. The adult education program has been very popular, with more than 1700 people participating. Emphasis is being placed on vocational education and other subjects which may assist the people after relocation. A chapter of the national honor society has been established in the high school, and several PTA groups have been organized. The first commencement exercises were held March 20 with 53 seniors who were mid-term graduates.



## ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT

January 1, 1943 to March 31, 1943

It has been the purpose of the Education Section to develop during the third quarter the organization set-up during the second quarter, when school opened. Refinement of the program has been brought about by a systematic program of teacher training, receipt of adequate number of textbooks, certain alterations in the temporary barracks-type of school building and the receipt of general equipment and supplies. Progress made in the third quarter has been interrupted from time to time by problems which did not exist in the beginning, these having to do particularly with turnover in evacuee personnel, priorities on certain equipment and supplies, and general policy changes by W.R.A.

**PERSONNEL:** The number of the Education personnel for the quarter has remained fairly constant, but there has been a large turnover within this number. Using a teaching staff of approximately 120 Appointed and Evacuee personnel, there has been 72 position changes involved during the third quarter, only one of these being an Appointed personnel addition. Evacuee personnel changes occur frequently due to relocation. This makes any kind of teacher-training program for evacuees much less effective, since the program leads to State certification and requires from one to two years to complete.

**TEXTBOOKS:** Early in the third quarter an adequate number of textbooks was received for both elementary and secondary schools. This gave great encouragement and purpose to both teachers and pupils, since we had been operating two months without any textbooks.

**LIBRARY:** The school and Center librarian reported for duty January 4. Approximately \$1500 worth of school library books were ordered and partially received during the third quarter. This collection was combined with approximately 3,000 books donated to the Center by Stockton, California, making one book collection in the Center library with stations in both blocks receiving books from the central collection. Also appropriate newspapers and magazines were added to the library. Another \$1500 worth of books is being ordered for the library for the fourth quarter. The library program was somewhat interrupted by the resignation of the librarian at the end of the quarter. Some time will be lost while her successor becomes acquainted with the work.

**LANDSCAPING:** Both school blocks have been recently landscaped with trees and shrubs. In addition many classes and homerooms have planted flowers and other shrubs for the beautification of the school grounds. During this quarter a system of gravel walks was completed for both school blocks.



**ATTENDANCE:** School enrollment has remained quite stable throughout the quarter. Enrollment for January was 2021 and for March 2017. School attendance has been fairly constant, around ninety-five per cent. This is considered exceptionally good. As expected, attendance for the secondary school is better than that of elementary school, the former averaging approximately ninety-seven per cent and the latter about ninety-three per cent.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** 1. Nursery School. The nursery school was organized in February in four sections, two in each school block. Because of limited space, only four-year olds were admitted. 113 were enrolled in the beginning. As soon as space is made available over the Center, this activity will be opened to three-year olds and placed on a whole-day basis, with possibly one complete nursery station being devoted to the children of working mothers.

2. Special Room. A special room in the elementary schools has been organized to give special attention to physical defectives, particularly those hard of hearing. It is our purpose to extend this service to the <sup>other</sup> six types of atypical children as soon as a professionally trained person can be employed in this field.

3. Room Alterations. By removing partitions between apartments B and C and C and D, we have increased the building efficiency of the barracks for elementary classrooms. There are now four classrooms to a barrack, the smallest being twenty feet by twenty-four feet.

4. Equipment. Blackboards, tables and chairs, tablet-arm chairs, and teachers desks in adequate quantities have been received during this quarter. Besides being a necessity, this equipment added much to the appearance and morale of the school.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** 1. Alterations. A public service hall was secured from an adjoining block to house the band which had been meeting in rooms adjoining other classes. Plans have been submitted for an additional 1800 square feet of floor space to supplement the 4000 square feet of space already allotted to the junior and senior high Industrial Arts program for boys. The kitchen-end of the mess halls in each school block has been divided by partitions, giving part of the space to Foods laboratory and the remaining space adjacent the study hall for school libraries. Plans are being made to convert one end of the laundry room in each block into science laboratories, with the <sup>other</sup> end being used for Physical Education classes. These changes and alterations will give us full utilization of both school blocks.

2. National Honor Society. A chapter of the National Honor society has been established and membership cards received in our Center High School. This not only gives the quality of our school national recognition, but also is a great school morale builder.

3. Commencement. Our first Commencement exercises were held March 20 for fifty-three seniors, mid-term graduates. Dr. Matt Ellis, President of Henderson State Teachers College of Arkadelphia, gave the Commencement address.

4. Curricular Offerings. Some streamlining was done to the curriculum at the beginning of the second semester. Offerings were



rather broad the first semester in order to take care of a large variety of curricular requests made by pupils coming from so many different schools. Although reduction of offerings is not a desirable goal, it does help us to better adjust teaching load since our faculty is not up to full strength.

5. Student Activities. During this quarter a constitution for the Student Body was drawn up by a committee of students with the help of the Principal and Vocational Adviser. This constitution provides for student participation in school government. Subsequently a representative Student Council has been elected and is now participating in student government.

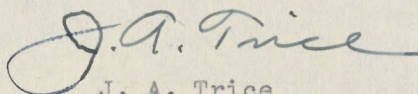
6. Equipment. The arrival of tablet-arm chairs, teachers desks, office desks, laboratory equipment, supplies and materials has transformed our Secondary School from a makeshift to a really functioning school program.

ADULT EDUCATION: The Adult Education Program continues to grow. There is now a total of over 1700 people engaging in Adult Education activities. There seems to be, however, a shift of emphasis in the Adult Education program from a stabilized, long-time program to offerings of a shorter duration and leading directly to relocation. Emphasis is being placed upon vocational education.

OPEN HOUSE: The schools declared Open House March 18. Each department from Nursery school through Adult Education displayed handwork and projects of students done in regular classroom work. The public was invited. Over 2,000 patrons visited the schools that day. After the visitation, four Parent-Teachers organizations were formed. The displayed work of students drew much favorable comment from all over the Center and was considered to be a success by parents, pupils and teachers. Another display day is being planned for the close of school, at which time school people and others interested from adjoining towns will be invited.

### CONCLUSION

The Schools have reached the point at which the Administration feels that an annual report may be submitted to the State Department of Education looking towards accreditation. Although there are many problems before us, it is felt that only two stand in the way of receiving a rating by the State Department of Education. They are: (1) Adequacy and appropriateness of school plant, and (2) Completion of Education personnel staff. Because of priorities and restrictions, it is impossible at the present time to solve either of these problems.



J. A. Trice

Superintendent of Education



SUPPLEMENT

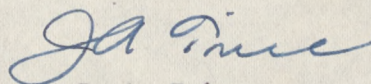
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDUCATION SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT

January 1, 1943 to March 31, 1943

Schools were dismissed the week of March 1 to 6 and the entire teaching staff assisted in registering Center residents for leave applications. The entire school plant was given over to this activity. The schools were commended by both Mr. Myers, National Director, and Mr. Johnston, Project Director for the helpfulness in this undertaking.

Dr. Lester K. Ade, W.R.A. Education Consultant from the Washington office, spent February 23, 24, and 25 at the Project consulting with school officials. His reaction to the progress of the Rohwer Center Schools was favorable.



J. A. Trice  
Superintendent of Education



## ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT

April 1, 1943 to June 30, 1943

The chief purpose of the Education Section for the final quarter of the fiscal year has been refinement of the program to the point where inspection by the State Department of Education could be made. This meant making certain changes in personnel assignments and appropriate utilization of equipment and supplies received during the second and third quarters of the fiscal year. To this end our first annual report was filed with the State Department of Education. Dr. M. R. Owens, State High School Supervisor, inspected the Secondary School June 1, 1943. As a result of his visit and inspection, the Secondary School was given Class "A" rating, the highest rating given by the Arkansas State Department of Education. Mr. W. F. Hall rated the Elementary Schools as "A" on the basis of the annual report. His visit to the Project had to be postponed until July. Both Dr. Owens and Mr. Hall were complimentary in their remarks about the education program they saw in progress here at the Center. Adequate and appropriateness of school plant is recognized as our weakest point. Ingenuity of our staff and adaptation of the school program to the child was recognized as our strongest point. It is assumed that the Rohwer Center Schools will appear in the 1942-43 list of Arkansas Accredited Schools.

At the beginning of the quarter the Superintendent of Education attended the Denver conference for superintendents. The information and material gathered there was transmitted back to the staff here through the media of staff meetings, faculty meetings, and bulletins. The associations at this conference had the tendency to give more purpose and direction to the general school program, and a better understanding of the entire WRA program.

**TEACHER TRAINING & SUPERVISION:** Four extension courses in Education for evacuee teachers have been completed during this quarter as prescribed by the State Department of Education and University of Arkansas. A total of nine evacuee teachers have qualified for and received temporary teaching certificates. In addition to the four Education courses, sixteen evacuee teachers have been working for credit in Directed Teaching. The Directed Teaching program is set up to meet the requirements of the State Board of Education and the University.

Our greatest problem in this field is the constant turnover caused by relocation. We have had to fill practically all of these vacancies with untrained people. This has resulted in complaints on the part of parents and others. From a peak of sixty-four teachers (Grades 1-12) we have dropped to forty-eight. To date, forty teachers have relocated. We have lost ten on account of poor health and about fifteen to twenty have transferred to other Center jobs. The detrimental effect of such a huge teacher-turnover is obvious.

**LIBRARY:** Soon after the beginning of this quarter a new librarian reported for duty two weeks after the resignation of our original librarian.



During the quarter this department underwent some changes and expansion which have resulted in greater service. All books received, whether for the schools or community, are placed in a central collection called the Community Library, directed by our librarian. There is a library station in each school block and books are transferred from the Community Library to these stations, both at the discretion of the librarian and requests of teachers. Library assistants administer these stations under the direction of the librarian. In this way both the schools and the community receive maximum use of all the books in the central collection. At the close of the quarter this program was operating smoothly.

**ATTENDANCE:** The fourth quarter began with a total enrollment of 2,017, Kindergarten to twelfth grade, and closed with an enrollment of 1,900. Practically all of this loss of 117 was due to relocation. School attendance has been excellent, averaging well above 95% for the quarter, with the Secondary School averaging from 2% to 3% better than the Elementary.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** 1. Stanford Achievement Tests, Battery Form, were administered to all pupils, Grades 2-6. As a whole, pupils showed greater weakness in reading than any other subject, averaging from one-half to one year below required norms. Strongest subjects seemed to be spelling and arithmetic computation, averaging quite close to normal grade levels. As a result of this testing program, intensive work in the field of remedial reading has been undertaken and is continuing. In the field of curriculum development plans are already being formulated to further correct weaknesses revealed by these tests next year.

2. Nursery School: The Nursery School has continued to operate only for four-year olds. Our plan to offer this work to three-year olds has failed so far because the schools have been unable to obtain space properly distributed over the Center. The program for three-year olds will be instituted next school year if space is obtainable.

3. Supplemental Reading Material. During this quarter four complete sets of easy-reading material for each grade were received. All elementary library and supplementary materials are housed in the several classrooms rather than a central library. These materials are shifted at intervals to insure maximum usage.

**SECONDARY SCHOOL:** 1. Commercial Department. Thirty typewriters have been added to the High School Commercial Department, thereby enabling 180 pupils to take typing. Tables were built by the High School Woodwork Shop. The addition of typing to our curriculum meets what we feel has been one of our most urgent needs since the beginning of school.

2. Band. Sufficient band instruments have been received from the Repair Shop to enable us to offer band to about 150 students. This work is progressing satisfactorily with the band having made two or three limited public appearances already.

3. Woodwork Shop. The equipping of the High School Woodwork Shop was completed during this quarter. We are now offering a creditable program



of work to the pupils in this department. A commendable piece of work is being done by this group.

4. Miscellaneous. A fairly complete chemistry laboratory has been built in the laundry room in the Sr. High School Block. We have not been able to complete our foods laboratory because our Home Economics teacher has been out for some time seriously ill. In the meantime, the Thunberg-Gibson report recommended the construction of a Home Economics building. Although we have most of the equipment necessary for the Home Economics kitchens, it seemed expedient to wait until the building was erected, and our Home Economics teacher returns to duty. We hope to have this program in operation by the beginning of the fall semester.

A more adequate supply of all instructional materials was received during this quarter, adding much to the effectiveness to the entire school program.

ADULT EDUCATION: The report for the third quarter in Adult Education indicated the shift in emphasis from Continuation Education to Training for Relocation and to morale classes for older people. These trends definitely have continued.

The total number of enrollees in educational activities changed from 1,674 on March 28th to a peak of 1,754 in May; during the excessively hot month of June to the almost exact April level, 1,673. While the total enrollees of June stood at the March figure, the number in training and retraining moved from 378 in March to 620 at the present date. This later increase in training and retraining was due largely to the excellent cooperation by the Center Administration in organizing the classes for advanced typists and stenographers. The possibility for enrollment in training classes is limited only by the lack of qualified and available teachers. The cooperation of State officials enabled us to have one class of 120 hours with twenty enrollees under War Production Training Program.

The language classes have proved interesting to both younger and older people. Sixty are enrolled in Chinese language class. Our Japanese language classes have decreased to the point of including largely those interested in the kind of work suitable for vocational use of the language. We use the materials furnished by the Army Intelligence School. Likewise, our Spanish is intended for future use.

One of our most useful activities for the older people is the news casts. For June the attendance averaged 411 at each of the 21 lectures. Weaving, sewing, and music for the women; carving for the men are other chief activities for morale among older persons. More and more of these morale activities are being done with the cooperation of the Community Activities section.

As indicative of interest among our adults during the quarter, they have bought through our department materials which cost \$350. This makes a total of something more than \$1000 worth of materials bought by our



students through us during the last two quarters.

As one would expect the number of student leaves has not been large during the past quarter, a total of 13 students have gone out to college. Of these only two were young men. Increasingly our young men feel the responsibility of doing productive work in these times, though they expect to enter school later.

**CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT:** The Curriculum Adviser gave attention to the following tasks; Promoting integration through meetings of teachers of each grade level with discussions of subject-matter and activities in each course; leading teachers to plan the work wherever practical in terms of what the pupils are doing in other courses; promoting unification of offerings in each subject-matter field through meetings of all teachers of that subject, both elementary and secondary; development of an integrated program of language arts including reading, spelling, and English; promoting a program of reading instruction throughout the twelve grades; suggesting corrective speech procedures, providing materials to be used, and arranging for demonstrations of choral reading; promoting a program of science in both elementary and secondary schools, giving much attention to local environment; collecting information which will aid in education for relocation, such as, jobs available, relocation of local evacuees, and information on life outside such as, rationing problems, cost of living, etc.; coordinating the work of various departments, such as, home economics and the nursery school, and home economics and consumer science.

Leading groups of teachers in discussion of plans for next year's work; leading the teachers to formulate the following questions to be answered in writing plans for next year's work;

1. What information can you obtain concerning the group you will teach next year?
2. What core ideas will be presented? Indicate possible approaches to the subject-matter.
3. What materials are available? What films will you want your pupils to see?
4. What are the possible activities for the pupils?
5. What opportunities will you have for stressing the American way of living?
6. What phases of Center life will your group study? What worth-while contributions can your group make to Center life?
7. How can you guide the pupils' thought toward relocation? What facts concerning relocation can you use in the course?
8. Indicate the possibilities for correlation with other subjects.
9. Indicate the tie-up with guidance program.
10. What study habits will you stress?

**VISUAL EDUCATION:** Arrangements were made during this quarter to show educational films to all school children. The Community Enterprises loaned us the use of the projector, the Community Activities furnished an operator, and the teachers under the direction of the Curriculum Adviser selected the films. Although this program has much to offer, difficulties due to our building



facilities make its administration a problem. Ways and means are being devised to make the work run more smoothly.

Building Alterations: Messrs. Gibson & Thunberg visited the Project the first week in May and made certain recommendations relative to building alterations after it had been definitely decided not to construct school buildings. Their recommendations included construction of Home Economics building, shop building, and two grade school auditoriums. It also recommended wall boarding of all classrooms and study halls, removal of certain partitions to enlarge classrooms, alteration of mess halls to increase their efficiency as auditoriums for the secondary school, additional lighting in all classrooms, twenty additional drinking fountains, ventilators, and other minor alterations. The Public Works Division prepared a P.D. 200 on the basis of these recommendations and submitted it to the Washington office. It is our hope that these improvements can be made in time for use at the beginning of fall semester, September 6th.

NYA: Dr. Joseph Samler spent May 5th at our Project and the ground work was laid to send a number of youth to the NYA Training Center. We completed these plans and were ready to fill our quota when word was received to cancel our arrangements. Although cancellation of this program was a disappointment, it was taken in proper stride at our Project.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: A class of 77 high school pupils were well received in an assembly program at the McGehee High School, May 20th. They gave an exceptional musical program. Other invitations have been received from nearby schools.

Mr. E. B. Whitaker spoke to the entire Education personnel, May 15th.

Several school officials attended the Council of Education meeting and State P. T. A. meeting at Little Rock, April 15th & 16th; also the University of Arkansas Summer School conference, June 25th & 26th.

A number of outstanding speakers, such as, E. Stanley Jones, Alexander Paul, and others have spoken to teachers and pupils during this quarter.

#### CONCLUSION

It is felt here that the schools have made satisfactory progress during this quarter. Some of the goals established at the beginning of the school year have been reached and a certain degree of stabilization attained as adequate quantities of supplies and materials were received and utilized. We feel that we can continue to show progress if anticipated plant improvements can be made and if we can maintain an adequate number of qualified teachers. School morale continues at a high level.

J. A. TRICE  
Superintendent of Education