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Welfare Section Final  
Report Evelyn Swiggum

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# HISTORY OF GILA WELFARE SECTION

TO

OCTOBER 1, 1945

*John Boyle*

This history of the Gila Relocation Center is a continuation of the Head Counselor's report from January 1, 1945 with a few additional comments, briefly, on activities, developments and organization of the Welfare Section, that occurred during the writer's presence and employment in this Center. This report is the history of the Welfare Section from April, 1944 to October 1, 1945.

In April, 1944, the writer arrived at Gila and joined the Welfare Section of War Relocation Authority. This Welfare Section's functions at that time consisted of four units, Welfare Services, Family Counseling Program, Housing and Clothing.

1. The Welfare Services included many various categories, principally the determining of eligibility of applicants for public assistance and clothing allowance. At this time the evacuee personnel handled this service and were supervised by the Head Counselor in Butte and the Assistant Counselor in the Canal Camp. Four evacuees were assigned to the duties of counseling aides in Butte Camp and four in the Canal Camp. Each one had a case load. In Butte one counseling aide handled "single men", two counseling aides handled "families", and one was kept in the office full time to take care of emergencies and act as a supervisor to all of the other workers. They continued this work mostly on their own, after being orientated and trained by the Head Counselor. In Canal the four evacuee counseling aides reported directly to the Assistant Counselor who was in charge of all services of the Welfare Section. Other services handled by the evacuee counseling aides was taking the application for repatriation or expatriation and cancellation of same. In Butte one counseling aide was assigned to this duty, it was the one assigned to the office full time. Each counseling aide was responsible to make investigations for transfer, or visits, between centers,



and give their recommendation to the Head Counselor, or Assistant Counselor, in the respective Camps for final approval. In the month of July, 1944 the Head Counselor felt there was a definite need for constant supervision of the evacuee personnel and a complete reorganization of the office in Butte. At this point, he called on the writer for the duty of Officer Manager. This consisted of supervision of all counseling aides, housing and clothing units, and clerical staff. The Welfare Unit of counseling aides's work was completely reorganized. Additional personnel was secured, making a total of six counseling aides instead of four, and the breakdown was as follows:-

- a. All evacuee welfare personnel were directly under an appointed staff member, a Junior Counselor.
- b. The Butte Camp was divided into three districts, an evacuee counseling aide in each handling a family case load.
- c. One employee had the case load for "single men" only.
- d. One acting in the capacity of Intake Worker who handled all new applications for financial assistance and clothing allowance. He was classified as a Senior Counseling Aide.

Another evacuee Counseling Aide determined eligibility on transfers to and from the Butte Camp, investigated visits between the relocation centers, and made her recommendations to the Supervisor. She handled all Red Cross investigations required by the various Field Offices - such as extension of furloughs of service men who were visiting at the Center - requests by family members of a service man for emergency furloughs, etc.

- e. Repatriation and expatriation applications and cancellations were taken by the appointed Supervisor with the assistance of the Intake Worker.



- f. The setup in the Canal Camp remained the same under the supervision of the Assistant Counselor.
- g. The Housing and Clothing Units continued as previously, in accordance to Manual regulations. However, the supervision was under the Junior Counselor instead of the Head Counselor. These Units had three and four employees, respectively, at this time - one out of each of these Units was a Supervisor, classified as a Housing Supervisor and a Clothing Supervisor. They assumed full responsibility of their units and worked directly with the appointed personnel Supervisor (Junior Counselor).
- h. Even at this time there was a tremendous turnover of clerical staff - our evacuee stenographers varied from two to three. Adjustments were made accordingly, and schedules for typing and dictation were made for the Counseling Aides. Each were given an hour a day at a specific time for dictation.

There was a drastic and emergency need for a reorganization of the files. They had been organized in a complicated manner and were cumbersome. Each type of service had a separate folder on the individual who had required the service. For example, there were folders on applicants receiving financial assistance, another on all who had applied for repatriation or a special cash grant, special services, etc. This made many duplications and extra work - as one person who had requested some welfare service had maybe six individual folders. The whole Welfare Staff had a cleaning up session, including all appointed and evacuee personnel. This occurred in October of 1944. We closed the doors for four days and combined all individual's files - making the system more simplified. All instructions and directions were given by the Junior Counselor, who was supervising. We maintained only one card file for cross reference to the files, eliminating many other card files. The job was completed in the scheduled time.



- i. The number of evacuee clerks varied as a rule. There were three evacuees working on the files in July, 1944. From then on it varied from two to four. The majority of these girls were trainees and part-time workers and in school, assigned from the Vocational Administration. There was one in charge who was a full-time worker.
- j. We had one evacuee clerk responsible for compiling reports, keeping statistics, preparing vouchers for special grants and financial assistance. Occasionally she had an assistant, which was usually a trainee from the Vocational Educational Section.

The general organization of the fore-going welfare service changed very little except for responsibility - shifting of staff to meet termination and assignments to our staff. We are attaching a report from our Assistant Counselors which gives a picture and change of supervision.

The Junior Counselors who had supervised the evacuee counseling aides were the responsibility of the Assistant Counselor, effective October, 1944. This change was recommended by the former supervisor, as it was a more efficient pattern. The Assistant Counselors would handle all social workers, including evacuees, and appointed personnel who extended welfare services. The Junior Counselor who had supervised the evacuee social workers still assumed her former duties, which in each department were becoming more intense. She was responsible to the Head Counselor for supervision, the same as the two other Assistant Counselors in the Center.

Please refer to the regular monthly welfare narratives and statistical reports for specific activities, disbursement of funds for services, and evacuee personnel employed. Also we are attaching individual reports that evacuee personnel of this Welfare Section have contributed for this History of Gila. These evacuees were all outstanding employees of this Section and had certain responsibilities. They were well versed on the subjects which they have written.



## 2. The Family Counseling Program.

This program was in operation for approximately two months when the writer joined the Welfare Staff. The Head Counselor, an Assistant Counselor, and one Junior Counselor started the program. The Junior Counselor did all the organizing with the assistance and direction of the Head Counselor. The intention was that the Junior Counselor would supervise those who took the interviews for the Family Counseling. Unfortunately, this party was never reclassified but transferred into the Relocation Department on a promotional basis in August, 1944. On September 1st another Assistant Counselor was secured in addition to the one already on the staff. She was a very capable person and assumed responsibility in Butte. The other Assistant Counselor was already assigned in Canal.

In the latter part of March and fore-part of April, three Relocation Advisors were detailed to the Welfare Section to be under the supervision of the Junior Counselor in Butte. One Advisor was placed in Canal and the other two in Butte, to conduct these discussions with the families. During the last week of April, 1944 a Junior Counselor was appointed on the Welfare Staff in Butte, working in the same capacity as the Relocation Adjustment Advisors. Then the Butte Camp was divided into three districts, the two Advisors and the Junior Counselor were each responsible for a district. In Canal the Camp had two districts - one position handled by the Advisor and the other by the Assistant Counselor. Interviews were scheduled a week in advance, three to five a day for each. A very systematic control was maintained for appointments, recording of statistics, etc., in Butte for the two Camps. All records were maintained in Butte after they were compiled and dictated. Three to four evacuee clerks assisted the Junior Counselor, then in charge, to work on the necessary appointments, files and paper work. Please refer to a monthly welfare report which was written for April, 1944 by Miss Mary McCarthy for Mr. Hugo Walter.

Changes in personnel were rapid from April to December, 1944. Additions were necessary to complete the Family Counseling Program. In July two



more Junior Counselors joined the Welfare Staff. One replaced the Junior Counselor who was assigned as Office Manager and supervisor of the evacuee Counseling Aides. In October and November three more Junior Counselors joined the staff. As additions were made to the Welfare Staff they replaced the Advisors who either had terminated or returned to the Relocation Division to continue in the family discussion interviews. This necessitated a very close coordination between Welfare and Relocation, which was accomplished satisfactorily. The Junior Counselor, who had supervised the staff detailed from Relocation and Welfare counselors between March, 1944 and September 1, 1944, then transferred to Relocation, and continued in the organization of this program. The mechanics were assumed by Relocation with Welfare clerical assistance of two evacuee employees. Each Assistant Welfare Counselor in Butte and Canal supervised their individual staff members. A control was prepared so that copies of the welfare interviews were sent to Relocation and visa versa. This appeared to be a duplication of copy work but it set a control for operation of the program so there were no duplications in the interviews.

During the latter part of November, 1944 and the fore-part of December, two major orders from Washington affected our program and called for reorganization. The Post Exclusion order, Manuel Release #158, was the direct result for these changes. First, the Family Counseling Program was discontinued. Second, with the assistance of a Field Consultant from Washington, we compiled a report in accordance to Welfare Handbook 30.4.41 to 30.4.48 by checking individual records to determine the number of dependents and non-dependent families there were in this Center. All staff members participated. Cards on dependent families were prepared (WRA Form 370), and maintained in a file for future reference and further orders from Washington. On December 17, 1944 the Post Exclusion Orders were issued with supplements following. On December 28th, 1944 our present Head Counselor was transferred to the Oakland War Relocation Authority. The Junior Counselor, who was the Office Manager, was appointed as Acting Head Counselor and later reclassified to Head Counselor of the Welfare Section, effective April, 1945.



The work of the Welfare Section, as a result of the Post Exclusion order, Manual Release #158, was primarily to prepare summaries for all dependent families who might need assistance, financial or otherwise, after they left the Center. This resulted into many staff members to prepare for this closure. Please refer to organizational setup and progress in welfare monthly reports, starting with January, 1945. In addition reports attached by Assistant Counselors. We took steps very rapidly on this order and we outlined our procedure on composition of summaries for dependents. Gila was the first Center to send in any summaries. On January 27, 1945 we received the Handbook Release No. 184 pertaining to Handbook on Welfare, Sections 30.4.43 E to 30.4.44 E and 30.4.60 to 30.4.66. We immediately adhered to the Manual regulations, the only confliction we could find was on the routing of summaries.

In February, the Acting Head Counselor made a two weeks trip to the San Francisco and Los Angeles Area Offices. This trip is fully covered in the monthly report of February, 1945.

As the Acting Head Counselor had formerly been the Office Manager, another Counselor was needed to fill this vacancy. The Acting Head Counselor was trying to carry this work along with her other duties as Head of Welfare. Another Junior Counselor was appointed as Office Manager in February, 1945.

The organization of the Welfare Junior Counselors and evacuee Counseling Aides was the same until April, 1945. At this time, through the results of two Field Consultants' visit to Gila, we setup four districts in Butte and two in Canal. The Junior Counselors handled all welfare services, including dependency and social summaries. The evacuee counseling aides assisted them, primarily as interpreters.

By June, 1945 practically all of our old welfare evacuee staff had left us. Since that time to the present, evacuees have come and gone. Finally during the summer months our average age of evacuee workers in a clerical capacity was sixteen. The progress and developments in personnel problems can be secured in our monthly reports.



During July we received orders from Washington on completion dates for dependency summaries. The Field Consultant had formerly prepared us on this order, as we had received notice in June that one of our Camps was closing October 1, 1945. The Head of Welfare in Washington asked us to try and complete the summaries by August 10th. Directives were given by the Head Counselor to cooperate, and procedures setup. Through the most loyal cooperation of all staff members, the job was completed in time on practically all of the dependency cases that we knew of, from the former survey. The flow of dependency cases can be secured from monthly reports.

In order to retract a bit, we must not lose sight of the Resettlement Assistance Program. The teletype notice issued from Washington to the Centers was received May 20th, 1945. The Administrative Notice on responsibility for temporary assistance to evacuees in re-establishing households was not received until the first week in June. This was first in rough draft, later in the month it was issued as Administrative Notice #263. The Relocation Department handled the program for two days when they became disgusted because they thought it was too complicated and actually affected Relocation. They finally decided to detail one person to Welfare, Butte Office, to assist. Thus leaving the whole program in the hands of the Welfare Section. The Canal Counselor in Welfare determined eligibility for resettlement assistance in that Camp. This Relocation employee remained on the staff until September 15th, and was transferred to the Los Angeles Area Office. Since that time another Junior Counselor joined our staff and assumed this duty, and no other person was detailed from Relocation.

In addition, on comments of personnel, the Welfare Section could not have fully completed their job unless the Educational Section had not detailed their employees to us. We had nine at one time starting with one in May, 1945 - and the remainder detailed in June. Each Junior Counselor had one assigned to them for assistance. Our evacuee personnel was practically depleted by this time, except for clerical. We had a total of six Junior Counselors in districts and the one detailed Relocation Advisor for resettlement assistance. Three detailed teachers worked part-time. They assisted in the Clothing and Housing Units and the third in files, assembling the records in accordance to Manual Handbook No. 20. By August 30th all of our detailed teachers had left except two. One was then transferred to Welfare as a SP-6, assuming the duties of a



Junior Counselor, which included a district. The other teacher is still detailed and after the summaries were completed she was placed as a receptionist. The clerical situation was critical during July, August and September. Two additional appointed personnel was secured to meet the emergency.

### 3. Housing and Clothing Units.

There were little changes in the Housing and Clothing Units other than were mentioned in the attached reports and monthly reports. The Clothing Unit was transferred to the Finance Section in July, 1945. The Housing Section was transferred in October, 1945 to an Administrative Officer.

### Relationship with other Sections and Divisions.

We do not feel we can enlarge or add much to the fore-going report submitted by the former Head Counselor. We found every section and department most cooperative. The relationship was ideal. The Block Managers and Community Council, etc., were outstanding in giving us assistance when needed. We never found anything conflicting. The Welfare Section and Relocation Division worked together most satisfactorily and with fine relationship.

### Cost of Operating the Welfare Department.

This report will not discuss operating costs. The material for this can be secured from budget reports which have been submitted to other sections, specifically Finance and Personnel.

On October 1st we find the Welfare Staff with a skeleton crew, but the work is practically finished. We have remaining, the following:-

#### Professional Workers and Appointed Personnel.

- 1 Head Counselor
- 2 Assistant Counselors
- 4 Junior Counselors

#### Clerical

- 1 Receptionist
- 1 Clerk-Stenographer
- 1 Clerk-Typist



Evacuee Personnel

2 Senior Counseling Aides - as interpreters.

The present Head Counselor will leave this Center the fore-part of October, transferring to the Area Relocation Office in San Francisco as Relocation Adjustment Advisor.

Whoever assumes responsibility of the Welfare Section will have this report to make a final summarization of the closure.

Respectfully submitted,

*Evelyn B. Swiggum*

Evelyn B. Swiggum  
Head Counselor



## SUMMARY REPORT OF WELFARE PROGRESS

### Initial Organization

At the opening of the center in 1942, such a thing as a complete Welfare Office did not exist. At the time the professional social worker had not arrived yet to set up this essential department, so I imagine that many of the problems that needed professional attention were left pending. One of the duties that we now handle, that of issuing marriage licenses was handled by John Landward. Roughly speaking between 30 to 50 couples applied under him.

When the actual counselor arrived there wasn't even a skeleton of a Welfare Office. What was organized by the counselor was located in Camp I because of the fact that the present administration building was not yet completed. When the building was ready for occupancy the first Welfare Office was located in 3 tiny rooms, that portion which is presently occupied by the Internal Security.

Whenever a client appeared at the office and requested any welfare aid or service he explained his particular problem and the secretary, or whoever on duty at the receptionist's desk, made an inquiry ticket and then an appointment was made for a case worker to call at the client's home. The reason for this was probably due to the lack of space to have booths. In fact the only available space could be utilized for clerical work. The office was headquarters, so to speak, for the case workers. It was a place where case reports were put together and cases could be discussed and advised upon by the Counselor. Bus passes were issued for those who wished to take trips to Camp I. This service was discontinued about December, 1943 when tickets were no longer required to go to Camp I. Previous to each trip a ticket had to be obtained with this information; name, and purpose of trip with the section head's name stamped which was initialed by the issuer.

Two offices were open, one for each camp and until the arrival of Miss Thunder, Mr. Tuttle divided his time between the two camps. He spent the majority of it at Butte as it was the larger. Miss Thunder began soon after segregation was completed and was in charge of the Canal office.

### Caseworkers, duties, in-service training

Caseworkers were under the supervision and instruction of the counselor. All the caseworkers were purely amateur with the exception of possibly two who have had education in this field. They were chosen with an accent on good educational background preferably with college education. The first requirement however is the ability of the caseworker to speak English and Japanese fluently. When the prospective caseworker is interviewed the counselor would note not only from the educational



standpoint but also the character of the person. I believe this is essential, for a client could not have confidence in a person who is of questionable character or who is not self confident and honorable. More trust is shown to a caseworker by a client that can more or less be looked up to. If this feeling is not kept I think that the value of the Social Service is nil. When the client looks down upon a caseworker the reputation of the Welfare Section slips a little and full confidence is not entrusted to the caseworker which is a necessity for satisfactory results. However, it would be a mistake for a caseworker to carry a superior attitude. In my opinion the Welfare Section should not be considered just as a place to receive financial assistance but also a place where a troubled client can be given consultation in solving his particular problem.

Since the caseworkers were chosen at random they naturally had to be trained to handle various problems. Under the supervision and instruction of the counselor, classes were held twice weekly. Special days or rather afternoons were set aside for classes. On Tuesdays classes were held for the new trainee and on Thursdays all caseworkers attended. Prior to segregation these sessions were held in the evening but was later changed to the previous schedule.

Special problems were presented by the counselor and these in turn were discussed by all and solutions worked out. These classes were later conducted by an assistant counselor, M. E. Thunder, who was in charge of the Canal office. At this time caseworkers from both camps met together in either camp but usually in Butte. Trainees were also required to study the administrative instructions so that they would be familiar with all the ropes in any circumstance.

The caseworkers as I knew them when I began working in the Welfare Section were:

#### Female

A. was practically the backbone of the office. Since she was acquainted with the counselor she naturally worked most dilligently. Her education went past high school to 2 years in the Social Service field at the University of California at Berkeley. She was in my opinion the most valuable and capable of the caseworkers, and so far we have not had any one to measure up to her ability. She spoke English and Japanese fluently and was respected by the Issei and Nisei alike. The reason for this I think is that she was most sincere and did her level best to help out where she could. Her family was reputable which generally helps.

Her duties consisted of short term leaves and visits to other centers which were numerous. Requests on the average numbered from 5 to 10 per week. Her other duties were the processing of special transfers to other centers. She also



answered correspondence of general nature and inquiries re. some of the residents. She held responsibility for Crystal City movements, and notified families of parolees of their expected arrival.

B. had no college special social work training or college education, however was previously employed at the Tulare Assembly Center in the Welfare Section. Her knowledge of the Japanese language and customs of the Issei was acquired during a brief stay in Japan. Due to this many Issei consulted her for her sound advise. Effective were the ways in which she applied her vocabulary when a client became unreasonable or needed a little lecture which was request. She usually handled cases of the domestic nature such as marital problems, difficulties among family members or neighbors, and also special juvenile problems. Here cases were usually long and drawn out involving frequent and lengthy interviews. Her office time seemed always to be waiting for her. Frequently people who wished to be repatriated came to her demanding priorities over others in their wish to be segregated.

C. was totally untrained in this field. Her education went beyond high school. It consisted of a few years at Oberlin and I believe was attending Chapman College at L.A. She assisted the Welfare Section during its segregation rush and the counselor seeing in her social worker possibilities hired her. Her Japanese was hesitant but as time went by she grasped the language pretty well thru trial and error and by the time she relocated was doing pretty well. She was religious and active in that circle which probably was beneficial in her point of view towards human nature. Her work consisted of issuing marriage licenses, distribution of Red Cross messages which came in by the hundreds weekly. She took replies and when the load became too great these were distributed among all the workers. As time went by she handled other problems also. Her improvement was outstanding in progress and it was obvious that her future was in Social Work.

#### Male

D. was an elderly Issei who naturally had a good Japanese education and knew enough English to get by on. He didn't specialize much but worked at general cases. Ordinarily he took over Juvenile Delinquency problems in which he had a little training.

E. had quite an extensive education in foreign languages, which consisted of Chinese, German, French, Spanish, Japanese and English. He himself went through a period of adjustment in which he was confused as to which side of the ocean he wanted to be on. However one of the caseworkers took interest and guided him to staying on the right side.

F. a Kibei looked upon by Issei and Nisei as a person



to take special personal problems and could expect good advice. His specialty was in juvenile delinquency, working together with the counselor was effective in straightening many problems of this sort. Of course these juvenile problems were first referred to the counselor and he would take into his hand and if too difficult handled it by himself usually putting in his own time or giving up his evening and helped to adjust these misguided juveniles. So what were usually routine matters were handled by this caseworker. His advice in matters pertaining to various personal problems were highly regarded and therefore many sought his helpful attention. He also took care of Soldier's Dependents applications for the parents of young boys. This however was passed on to the Red Cross unit.

G. was a later addition and another kibe I think, who came before Miss Thunder and then was taken over to Canal because he was a Canal resident. His earnestness in work raised him to the standards of the rest of caseworkers but this was shortlived as he soon relocated.

This was the caseworker staff composed entirely of Japanese but got along wonderfully together and with the counselor who highly regarded this group. This was the staff when I began working in the Welfare Department and I don't think was ever replaced with such workers.

Long after another was added to the Welfare staff after the office was moved to 69-10, but his services were soon discontinued due to his eccentricity, why he was ever employed is beyond me. His employment was definitely detrimental to the good reputation of the Welfare Department. He had no discretion in keeping confidential matters either, in other words a blabber mouth. At that was shallow mentally. His termination was given a sigh of relief by the staff.

Later additions included a steno who was raised to replace Caseworker A when she relocated. She was alright but never measured up to her work.

Another replacement was an arrested TB case who was interested in this type of work and did very well except for the fact that a little over work put him off.

General caseworkers duties consisted of making monthly p.a. home calls. This was discontinued temporarily during segregation at this time I believe p.a. payments were slightly delayed. During this time clients were asked to report to the office for interviews--but I believe that at the peak of the segregation rush everyone was given a flat amount.

Each caseworker took over special duties but each had a p.a. caseload. Various methods were used in distribution of the work. Once each was given a district and this was discontinued due to the fact that caseworkers were not familiar to all the different types of services and time was not available to learn all the processes so this system was not initiated.

The Social Service played a major part in segregation. It was the work to see that the segregates were interviewed to seek out any personal problems. Advice was given freely and to those kids who were segregating because of influential parents



were talked to and advised of their future. Altho this advice was heeded by the young people the parental hand had too much influence in changing their will so it was rather fruitless. That many have regretted this movement is well known. Any person can see that the results of such action if they think a step further of their future.

### Clerical Help

Clerical help had been scarce from time of my entrance. There was a business college graduate secretary that had been with the first Welfare counselor from the time he began. She was a graduate of the L.A. Woodbury College and therefore capable of her duties. She relocated in October or November of 1943 and thereafter we never had a secretary with her training.

After that we were in desperate need of stenographers so for a while borrowed one from the Housing Department. Later in December we moved to the next warehouse and were still short on steno help. Later we were able to get one but she was later assigned as a caseworker as one was needed to handle transfers and short terms.

At the beginning we had 2 other clerk typists to handle leave grants and the other to type p.a. grants. One typed into the p.a. folders social information and recommendations for p.a. The other girl typed up the vouchers for travel leave assistance and subsistence grants for relocatees. These were brought over daily from the Leave Office and often these were barely put through in time. This service was later turned over to the Leave Office.

The receptionist's duties consisted of taking the name of each client. The duties of the receptionist before I entered were taken by the workers alternately. It was the receptionists duties to direct the people to the right caseworker. She also kept a sort of a record for the statistical section of the monthly report which involved a lot of work.

### Location, Office space, equipment.

The office location previous to the present was in 69-9. At this time it occupied only  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the warehouse. The other was occupied by the Express. The clerical staff occupied about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the office. It was terribly crowded and a person would easily trip over any of the furniture. The walls were bare, partitions were placed to form booths but this did not insure complete privacy. It was crowded and when a client conversed too loudly could be heard throughout the whole office. Its first impression to me was that of a barn but the warehouse was not intended for an office anyway. The summers were like an oven although there were two coolers but these were placed ineffectively so it was no use.



The furniture for everyone, except that of the counselor, were project made of unfinished pine and unpainted. Nothing much has been added since except for additional partitions for the making of extra booths.

The office that we are presently located was also bare and had the same effect as that of the previous office. However, after many efforts of the counselor he succeeded in having the inner wall covered with plasterboard together with the ceiling which was brought lower. This considerably helped in keeping the office warmer in the winter and keeps it cooler in the summer. This was a great improvement which aided in turning out better work by the employees. Another improvement was that of putting in venetian blinds which gave the place an office appearance and also kept out the strong rays of the afternoon sun which is a great nuisance. For this purpose the girls for many months used newspapers and soforth to cover the windows.

Office equipment was inadequate considering the number of workers involved. For the welfare office there were only two typewriters which were forever in use and when anything of an emergency nature came up it was rather inconvenient. Especially was this so when special work such as segregation and Jerome transfers occurred, then we had to scurry about for extra typewriters borrowed from here or there. As for office supplies they were plentiful but shortages had to be met up with as elsewhere.

Around December of 1943 the Social Service Department was combined with the rest of the departments under the Welfare Section in 69-10, which consisted of Housing, Property and Clothing Allowance. The reason for this combining was that it was the desire of the head counselor to supervise more closely these other departments. The 3 others were supervised under M. E. McCarthy, who was under Mr. Tuttle. For a month or so Housing was set up in the Social Service office at 69-9 for more close supervision because of complaints regarding housing movements which were made in unauthorized ways. Housing movements and problems were transferred to the caseworker which was an additional burden on the already heavily worked caseworker. This alone occupied the majority of the caseworkers time leaving barely enough time for other duties. Consequently it was the desire of the caseworkers to be unburdened and later the Housing head relocated and this position was taken over by one of the later caseworkers who took complete charge of Housing problems.

#### Segregation, Exchange ship and Repatriation

At the time of my entrance segregation was in full swing. Interviews were just completed with every person over 16 which meant close to 2000 people. These were conducted with hardly a breathing spell for the Welfare Section. Day and night interviews were schedule in 15 minute intervals by only 6 caseworkers, 1 who was only assisting from the CAS section later became the sixth caseworker. At about the same time the Exchange ship Gripsholm that was really due the year before was scheduled to leave on August 20th, so midst all of this segregation business these people who were requested by the Japanese Government to return to Japan had to be processed. That meant interviewing everyone



to find out whether there were any special problems to be ironed out. Everyone was given an opportunity to refuse to repatriate if they wished and for this purpose special forms were available. These interviews too were conducted day and night and it was not unusual to find the lights burning around 10 p.m.

Segregation in itself was a tremendous task and the Social Service Department came in contact with the segregees more than any other office so the importance of this function came to be more fully realized. Cases were referred to the Welfare and each and every person over 16 was interviewed and given advice on packing and so forth. The caseworkers took it to themselves to refer cases that appeared to need medical aid to the hospital. They also arranged for pullman space for those who needed it.

The segregees included the "no no" and their close relations and those who applied for repatriation before July 1943.

Here again, the determining of the eligibles for segregation naturally brought about many problems. Some of the segregees were very indefinite about going. Influential people would cause many to change their minds about segregation or remaining behind. These weak minded people changed their minds several times within a week. These changes were brought about at the last minute as usual and delayed quick delivery of train lists and so forth when needed by other departments.

Particularly at this time people requested repatriation thinking that if they applied now they would be the first to be able to return on the next exchange ship. The fact that the Gripsholm sailed during segregation increased the desire of many to repatriate with hopes of sailing on this ship. Many, I believe, segregated for the change of scenery. Since many who signed after July were automatically left off the segregees list they made a great clamor to be segregated but this was to no avail and the staff did the best they could to sooth these people with promises of being able to go with the next segregation. Of course there were those who just couldn't make up their minds and would cancel and reapply and cancel again.

It was the self imposed duty of the welfare workers to warn the segregees of their future. These were almost totally unheeded by the <sup>Issei</sup>Isseis, but had some effect on the misguided nisei. The nisei naturally reported to their parents of this well intended advice but this looked upon the narrow minded as an effort of the Welfare to discourage the nisei from segregating, making the position of the caseworker rather difficult.

Every attention was given to pregnant women, elderly people, and generally those who might come up against some sort of discomfort. In the course of an interview each person was asked about their general health and if there were health problems recommendations were made for pullman accommodations for them. The caseworkers used his discretion and referred persons needing special attention to other departments. In this way many were left behind for medical reasons with promises that they would have priority on the next segregation movement.



Following segregation people on the average of 10 per day were scheduled to sign up for repatriation. The process was to have each appear personally at the office and to be interviewed for their reasons in applying. This was done to prevent anyone to act blindly and possibly regret his action later on. He was asked to fill the forms and at an appointed date had his signature witnessed by Mr. Tuttle. Here again they were interviewed by the caseworkers for their reasons to be repatriated, and health problems for future reference with any recommendations by the caseworker.

Segregation #2 was held in May, 1944 as was more difficult than Segregation #2 held in September, 1943. This was because of the fact that the number of segregees were limited to 50 but later it was increased to about 90 persons. This group had to include those who were left behind, who had family members in Tule already and those whose status was definitely considered best as segregated. Special cases had to be considered so it was a matter of elimination of a couple of hundred eligibles to not even a hundred. Priorities were given and the list was gone over by Mr. Wolter, Mr. Tuttle and Caseworker A. Thorough investigation was made on each case and a final list made up. This was an opportunity to remove the most troublesome clients who forever harped on the poor caseworkers not realizing that every effort was made for the satisfaction of everyone. And even though some were able to go with considerable effort on the part of the caseworker, when he was really not eligible (only one case known to me) who wouldn't even go as far murmuring a word of thanks for the caseworkers ceaseless efforts to help him out.

#### Family Counseling on delinquency, maladjustment, family difficulties

For the first few years delinquency, family disputes were frequent but recently these have become less and not many are referred to Welfare.

Delinquency cases were mostly of the Zoot Suit origin and referred from Internal Security. These were cases in which stealing was involved or wreckage of government property.

These cases were usually handled by the counselor with the assistance of one of the caseworkers. Many a time the counselor took time of his own and applied it to spending a few hours with the individual thus building confidence in the counselor. For example he asked them to dinner in his own apartment, or played checkers with them thus removing the feeling of uneasiness between him and the delinquent. Because of this personal attention the counselor was well liked by the delinquents and got the maximum cooperation and gradually brought very satisfactory results. If the counselor could have devoted all his time to the adjusting all the delinquents the results might have been magnanimous, I am sure but such could not be the case.

Such cases of illegitimate births were handled by Caseworker B. As far as I know all that the Welfare could accomplish in this type of a case is a thick folder of details of the past. What's done and over with can't be corrected much.

Marital problems occurred occasionally and referred to the Welfare Section but I do not know much about the results. I suppose that they worked themselves out.



### Relocation counseling

This service began before the mass transfer from Jerome. This was explained as merely a survey more or less to determine the number of people or families who had relocation plans and if there were to give some sort of assistance if there were any obstacles in expediency. The service was generally resented but as far as I can see this was thru a misunderstanding attitude that this was an investigation and a way of gradually pushing the residents from the center by force. However, families who had at least one member relocated were interested and talked freely but those with small children or large families did not exactly welcome it. Whether this stimulated relocation at all is unknown to me. The people who were hesitant about being interviewed were not forced and a later appointment was suggested and if this was refused it was postponed or cancelled entirely. It was the policy of the Welfare to be as pleasant as possible and if the service was not desired at all, to thank them politely for notifying the office of their wish and try to obtain their reasons for cancelling the appointment without sounding too nosey.

### Jerome transfer

This movement came about in June 1944. Here again the Welfare took an important role but only in the Housing. To make things simpler the empty units were counted and an accurate housing chart was made. The head counselor together with the chart went to Jerome for two weeks to assign rooms to those wishing to come to Gila. This resulted in less confusion for the transferees upon their arrival so instead of going thru the bother of registration on arrival they went directly to their respective blocks and rooms instead. There were a few errors but generally speaking it went smoothly. For those who might not have been assigned in Jerome, a Housing department was set up down at the train tracks at Casa Grande and assigned temporary rooms right there. By the time the last contingent arrived there were errors that could only be counted on your fingers.

The work involved for this transfer did not require the complete staff. The only ones involved were Housing and the clerical staff.

Work organization was initiated by Mr. Tuttle with the least amount of extra work. A few nights were spent in overtime for the typing out of family cards and the composing of a directory for the use of the various offices. Otherwise this movement did not affect the routine of the office too much but kept Mr. Tuttle busy preceding every movement as to the requests for housing changes.

### Financial Assistance

Public assistance was granted to persons needing aid, who were unable to work or had family members unable to work, old age and so forth. It would have been to a great advantage for many had they known of this program. The trouble was that



the people who really needed it were not aware of this assistance, or they did not wish to humble themselves to receiving this aid. Especially were the elderly people hesitant in coming to apply, as I understand it the people who applied would have to fear discrimination from the others or the government of birth. However this was dispelled and each is assured that there are no strings attached.

The p.a. monthly grants were standard and each month each client was interviewed for their needs and if the need exceeded the total more than the standard it was granted, with in a reasonable means tho. However during the period beginning in 1944 when appropriations for Welfare was less than anticipated the grants had to be cut down from 2/3 to 1/2 to almost 1/3 of the standard amount given monthly. This circumstance was carefully explained and the average took it as a matter of course and others said it couldn't be helped. Then there is always those few that demand their due amount and made the caseworker most uncomfortable in their demands.

There have been a few cases who were beyond reason in their demands. Naturally these requested the maximum and were not satisfied if they couldn't get it. Their tactics put the caseworker in a tough spot and as a last resort the client was then referred to the head counselor who either put them down a rung or else the client kept his stand and never gave in, even tho the administrative instructions were shown as proof to the limits of granting assistance but even then this did not quiet some of them.

There have been cases where a persons had a large family and one worker in the family who applied for assistance. These people could not really receive aid because clothing allowance was given to all eligibles under the head. But for large families this is not enough and the families would have to deplete their hard earned savings to buy shoes and other clothing that are impossible to purchase for \$3.50. If savings were available that helped but if not it is pitiful. These people are no exception however, as a general rule most everybody is digging into his savings if at all.

Special grants are as difficult to get but in my opinion its felt that some assistance could be given to special cases. For instance, a family expecting their first child even \$25.00 would have helped toward this if not fully sufficient.

#### Family reunion--Crystal City

Crystal City movements were conducted in pretty much the same way as segregation with the exception of the persons eligibility which was judged by Washington upon the persons application. These notice for movements were unexpected and had to be processed without much ado. So when a list of names were received from Washington the Welfare immediately contacted the applicants as to whether they wished to go or not. Opportunity knocks only once--either they go then or never. Many applications were sent in a year or so ahead but the delay in reunions were probably due to the Parole Boards decision. These movements were handled with more care



to travelers comfort than the segregant's movements. Of course, this was a different type of people who are not disloyal or anything to the effect.

### Red Cross

One of the service actually not assigned to Welfare was the distribution of Red Cross messages. Since a Red Cross unit had not been set up distribution these messages were handled by the Welfare Section. This was discontinued and a separate unit was setup in the Welfare office about the first part of 1944. Messages and replies only are handled here.

At first the messages came in from headquarters addressed to the Project Director and these were then routed to Welfare. Every message had to be checked for address, because usually they were addressed to the pre-evacuation address. These were then divided and distributed to the caseworkers. They in turn sent out appointment cards for the receiver to report to the office. This would frequently upset the routine of the caseworkers but these messages were taken care of as soon as possible for the people's benefit. Many a message was joyful and at times sorrowful too but nevertheless it was a means of communication that could not be otherwise expected during war time without the Red Cross.

### Short term leaves or visits

This service was discontinued from the beginning of 1945, and transferred to the Leave Office. Usually the reasons for visits were approved by teletype by both centers. It was a simple process but in the case of emergencies teletypes were a bit slow and at times if the counselor thought it necessary a telephone approval was made.

This service was most frequently used and kept us all busy. Client was referred to caseworker A who interviewed for the reason of the visit. Emergency visits in the nature of funerals and extreme illness causes for such requests but later it became more lenient and relocation planning was more often the cause.

Then a teletype would be typed, and approved by the counselor which in turn had to be approved by the Project Director. Then time passed and a teletype from the other center was awaited. This was the process used which might have been simplified by just sending a teletype notifying the arrival of such a person but I suppose that this wouldn't do for the records.

### Transfers

These required more time to process as its correspondence was by mail. This too required an interview for the purpose of such action and approval similar to that of a short term visit. The forms were filled, signed by transferee and Project Director and sent out together with an accompanying letter. Then a reply was sent by the other center with the form approved and signed by the Project Director. This usually took from 2 weeks to a month to accomplish, depending on the other centers action.



All in all the Social Service Department is a wonderful institution. It is a function that I thought would be uninteresting and boring but I found by working here that it is one of the most interesting places to work. An office involving only bookkeeping can be very monotonous but here in the Welfare Section something new always comes up. Helping other people I find, is a wonderful experience and has taught me a few lessons in tolerance.

Working as a receptionist has in turn helped me to talk to people more easily. It has improved my usage of the Japanese language but my English probably was not benefited due to the excessive use of Japanese in talking to the Issei.

It is absolutely essential for the welfare of any group of people and it is to my advantage for having worked here. Prior to working here the functions of the Welfare were unknown to me and only because of the fact that I worked here did I realize its importance. I have enjoyed my work very much and have never thought of working elsewhere because of the ability of the whole staff to cooperate in every way.

Betty Horita  
April 20, 1945



# HISTORY OF RIVERS FROM 1942 to 1943

Mr. Robert K. Yeaton: Housing Officer

On July 20, 1942, approximately 9:a.m. 520 people arrived in Canal Camp, Rivers, Arizona from the Turlock Assembly Center.

Each person was required to go through a registration process, their names, age, occupation, date of arrival, and family number were recorded on registration forms, then they were assigned to an apartment. A family of 5 or 6 were assigned to an A, B, or C room (20x24ft.), a family of 7 or 8 a D room (20x28ft.). Beds, mattresses and blankets were provided for each individual.

At the time of the first group of arrivals the water pipes and sewer system were not complete so there were no tap water, however water cans were placed at various points for drinking purposes. Ditches about 6 feet deep were dug open for the laying of pipe lines throughout the camp, between barracks, along the main road and other places. No hot water was available for showers and laundry tubs were not installed. It was about one month after arrival that the first group were able to have hot water for both showers and laundry use.

On July 22, forty people from Pinedale Assembly Center arrived, then three more groups of 500 arrived on July 27, 28, and 29 from Turlock Center. After the second group arrived from Turlock a report was received that approximately 1000 evacuees would be coming from the Free Zone, in the next week, which meant the camp had to house the added number of people in a camp that was built to house approximately 5000.

It became necessary to assign two or more families of 2, 3, & 4's to one unit as the number of apartments were limited. Although several families were assigned to one room there still weren't enough rooms to accomodate all the evacuees, consequently many had to be housed in Recreation Halls, Block Managers Office, and ironing rooms.

The evacuees arrived as follows:

August 3, 1942	From Sanger, California	463	people
" 4, "	" " "	497	"
" 5, "	" " "	487	"
" 6, "	" " "	480	"
" 7, "	" " "	502	"
" 11, "	" " "	484	"
" 12, "	" Turlock Assembly C.	506	"
" 13, "	" " "	502	"
" 14, "	" " "	502	"



Mr. John C. Henderson: Housing Officer

On August 21st the 506 evacuees arrived from Tulare Assembly Center and the same conditions existed in Butte as in Canal. They were assigned to Blocks 57 and 64. Only two blocks for each group of 500 was made ready, consequently it was necessary to crowd two or more families in one unit.

On August 23, 24, 25, blocks 55, 56, 65, 66 were occupied by the volunteers from Canal. In creating volunteers to move to Butte from Canal a great controversy arose due to the fact that the families from Turlock and Free Zone wanted to remain as one group. To induce the people to move to Butte, in order that the over-crowded conditions could be adjusted, a family of 4 or 5 were promised one unit of an A, B, or C room and family of 6 a D room.

Tulare evacuees arrived as follows:

August 22	From Tulare Assembly Center	529 people
" 26	" " " "	514 "
" 27	" " " "	485 "
" 31	" " " "	519 "
Sept. 1	" " " "	509 "
" 2	" " " "	501 "
" 3	" " " "	521 "
" 4	" " " "	447 "
" 5	" " " "	400 "

From the last group of Tulare evacuees there was a break until October 15th, when approximately 370 evacuees came from Stockton and Fresno Assembly Centers. Later Santa Anita evacuees arrived as follows:

Oct. 18	From Santa Anita Center	533 people
" 19	" " " "	514 "
" 27	" " " "	224 "

In November the first partitioning began, an urgent necessity because several families were forced to occupy one room and in order that each family could have a separate room, partitions were installed and the size of these rooms were determined according to the size of families. A family of 2 were allowed 3 beams, a family of 3 - 4 beams, a family of 4 or 5 - 6 beams and etc. (Each beam measured four feet in width). When special medical or welfare cases were involved a separate unit of 2 beams were created for each individual. Approximately 275 partitions have been installed to date.

Installation of oil stoves began on December 20th and laying of linoleum began in March.

Miss Mary McCarthy: Housing Counselor

In almost one years time great improvement has taken place throughout the camps. Showers and lavatories have been partitioned, affording individuals privacy they lacked for many months. Laundries are in excellent condition with



ample hot water. Families are no longer living in overcrowded quarters and almost all families have separate rooms. Screens were distributed in April and May which helps to eliminate insects and flies. Partitioning of rooms are still continuing because of the many marriages that are taking place. Coolers were installed in mess halls for added comfort.



## HOUSING REPORT

### History

The population of Rivers (Butte & Canal) was at its peak in March 1943 with 13,600. The most Butte had was 8,317 and Canal's highest population was 6,556. By the early part of 1944, the population had decreased greatly due to segregation and relocation and was steadily decreasing. People were well settled by now and there were hardly any change of residence save for few newly-weds and people with ill-health.

In May, 1944, Housing under the supervision of Mr. William K. Tuttle, made preparation to accommodate transferees from Jerome Relocation Center which closed in June. All move within the center was frozen. Room reservations were taken early for those who wished to do so for their friends or relatives. Evacuees who were to be transferred to Gila were assigned to quarters in Gila at Jerome. This facilitate the work of the Housing Department greatly for we were able to notify the Block Managers in advance as to how many were going into each block and distributed cots, mattresses and blankets accordingly. Many hasty and emergency requisitions were sent to the Public Works Section to have the partitions moved to make necessary units for large families. Transferees were housed strictly in accordance with the Housing policy which is as follows:

Family of 1	2 beams
" " 2	3 "
" " 3	4 "
" " 4	5 " (if available)
" " 4 & 5	6 "
" " 6	7 "

Special arrangements were made for family over six and medical cases.

Evacuees from Jerome arrived as follows:

June 15, 1944	515 people
" 21, "	513 "
" 26, "	510 "
" 27, "	511 "

The first group consisted mostly of single men and family groups followed. Even with all the adjustments Housing made for the transferees, many lived in crowded conditions either because larger rooms were not available or because they wished to stay under that condition in that certain block rather than to move elsewhere. However in due time, Housing Department was successful in giving standard size space for majority of families. Later no new partitions were installed by the Public Works Section because necessary materials were unavailable.



In winter we faced critical shortages of stoves. In order to give stoves to needy families, single men living alone in large apartments were asked to give up their stoves. They had a choice between living in large apartments without stoves or share apartments with others with stoves. Thus, we were able to provide stoves to families, but many single men lived without stoves all through the winter months.

Linoleum was requested by many, but only few had it laid for the Public Works Section was all out of it. If the laying of linoleum was made compulsory when they first laid it in 1942, we would not have had this trouble, but some former occupants refused to have it laid, consequently the later occupants suffered.

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#### Duties of Housing Department in Brief

1. Assignment of Quarters
2. Prepare population report daily
  - a. 12 copies on week days and 14 on Saturdays
3. Keep Butte and Canal directories up to date
4. Prepare Monthly Report
  - a. Number of families and people in camp
5. Prepare Quarterly Report
  - a. Number of vacancies, number of people in how many beams, etc.
  - b. Inventory of cots, mattresses and blankets
6. Make transportation request when truck is needed to move families

#### Evacuee Staff

Most of the time Housing Evacuee Staff consisted of 3 people (supervisor, clerk and typist) except in the earlier days. There were approximately 12 workers then. Their ages range from 18 to 40 years of age and none had higher education than High School. At one time only one clerk-typist was employed who took care of just the clerical work and all the assignments of quarters were done by the Social Welfare case-workers who were in charge of certain districts. At present only one employee is doing all work with the help of a part-time girl.

An employee in the Housing Department, I think, should be very cordial, understanding and have patience for he deals with all kinds of individuals. Otherwise, this department would not run smoothly. For instance, one girl who was employed from the very beginning was very "frigid" and did not show respect to the older people with whom she dealt with most. This kind of person not only ruins her own reputation but mars the name of the department as well. Another man who showed too much favoritism to some party was not too popular.



### Relationship with Other Sections and Evacuee Group

Statistical Unit is very closely connected with the Housing Department. Our daily population count is made possible from the leave, admission, birth, and death report obtained from them. Another words, our record section could not function without the Aid of the Statistical Unit.

Block Managers who are the liaison officers of the administration and also the handy men of the blocks play an important part with the Housing Department. Together with them we are able to cope with the various evacuee problems which arise from time to time. There are thirty-four block managers in Butte and seventeen in Canal. Most of them are Isseis.

Public Works Section is closely related to the Housing Department in connection to moving partitions, laying of linoleum and installation of stoves.

Mess Operation relies on our population report for the distribution of foods to blocks.

We are also closely connected with the Central Warehouse in transferring of properties, especially beddings.

### Office Space and Equipment

Housing Department was at first situated at 42-1-A. It was a room 24'x20' in dimension. Therefore, the space was not enough for the number of people employed at that time. Now Housing is located at 69-10 in the Social Welfare building. Last November, ceiling and plaster board wall was installed which improved the inside appearance of the office very much. Venetian blinds improved it more so. Space is adequate and all the necessary equipment is in use. Tables and desks are all project made. They are made of light color wood and have masonite tops. There is one swivel chair, but most of them are project made straight back chairs and are not too comfortable.

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Moving is still frozen and many vacancies of apartments are made because of relocation, but there is a continuous need for the Housing Department until the day camp is closed.

Kiyoko Teramaye



## REPORT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The Social Welfare Department was located in Administration Building and Mr. William K. Tuttle was Counselor when I first started to work as caseworker on May 1, 1943. The Welfare Department had four small rooms (each room was about 12' X 7').

Counselor's room

Caseworker's and stenographer's room

Reception room

Interview room

There were only one appointed personnel, counselor, and four evacuee case workers and two evacuee stenographers.

Nature of duties and works of evacuee workers are as follows:

1. Interview all public assistance client at his home at least once a month in order to determine his eligibility so far as assistance is concerned:
  - a. health condition
  - b. social condition
  - c. extent of employability
2. Take care of repatriation and expatriation applications or declination.
3. Interview all repatriates, expatriates and "no" "no" in order to get following informations.
  - a. health
  - b. reasons why they did
  - c. worker's remark



4. Issue bus passes from Butte to Canal (up to August, 1943.)
5. Act as delinquency probation officer under Juvenile Guidance Council.
6. To find and place appropriate evacuee as a housekeeper in the family where such service is needed.
7. Service to reuniting families in Crystal City family camp and other transfers to other Centers.
8. Preparative relocation interview.  
That is to find out how much of an income he thinks the family ought to have upon resettlement.

Early part of June, 1943 we commenced to interview all residents as we called "preparative relocation interview." The motive of this interview is to find out the following points and also inform how much an income the particular family could live on.

1. Employment history
  - a. Type of work
  - b. Salary
  - c. Dates performed
2. Financial information
  - a. Rent paid monthly
  - b. Number of dependent upon the incomes
  - c. Monthly food bill
3. Pre-evacuation Housing
  - a. Type of dwelling in which family resided prior to evacuation.



b. Number of room and number of bed room.

c. How many people resided in the house.

4. Resettlement Budget:

Budget showing this particular family could live on.

5. Family's plan:

Order and timing of resettlement.

First part of July, 1943, the Social Welfare Department together with Project Attorney and Community Analyst started to work intensively on repatriation and expatriation groups as well as "no" "no" group as the negotiation between United States and Japanese Governments in regard to exchange was progressing rapidly. All evacuees who one time or other applied for repatriation or expatriation and answered negatively on loyalty questions was interviewed within such a short time, necessitated whole staff to work until midnight for two or three days. Interview was very simple yet very orthodox. Interviewers was to swear an oath and simply state his choice at that moment. This rather sudden incident created among residents an uneasiness, uncertainty and insecurity, consequently bulk of residents applied for repatriation or expatriation, as a means of feeling the security of being sheltered for the duration as there was a widespread impression or rumor that the WRA intended to force resettlement.

Latter part of July, 1943, Juvenil Guidance Council was formed under Community Management head, and functioned very well.

Early part of August, 1943, due to bulk of work involved, the Social Welfare Department was compelled to move to 69-9 and used 1/3 of the warehouse space. The Housing Department was placed under jurisdiction of the Social Welfare Department.

On August 20, 1943, wire was received from Washington to the effect that exchange ship "Gripsholm"



must sail Jersey City not later than September 1, 1943, together with the list of names who are supposed to be exchanged. Washington wire read as follows:

"Japanese Government states no exchange possible unless sailing from Jersey City not later than September 1. Gripsholm only hope getting badly needed Red Cross supplies and medicines to Americans in Far East. Consequently all interested agencies of this government cooperative fully to accomplish exchange sailing on September 1."

Social Welfare Department, immediately upon receiving the above wire, informed the residents that they were asked to be packed and ready to leave by August 24. Social Welfare Staff both evacuee and appointed personnel were compelled to be on duty until midnight. Money, every adult Japanese is allowed to take was \$300 out of United States. All were immunized against Cholera, Typhoid, and Small Pox. Things they can carry was strictly limited, practically speaking they can only carry clothing with them. One can readily understand the hardship and emotional strain they underwent. Poston and Manzanar groups arrived here in Gila Project on August 24 in order to join Gila group. They, all together 129 evacuees both Japanese nationalities and U. S. citizens, left on August 25, 1943 to be aboard the exchange ship "Gripsholm", the final destination, "Japan".

The following are recapitulation of "Japan bound"

Poston group:	Japanese nationals	8
	U.S. Citizens	5
	Under 18 years of age--	none
	Over 18 years of age---	5
	Male-----	3
	Female-----	2



Manzanaar group:	Japanese Nationals	17
	U. S. Citizens	20
	Under 18 yrs. of age	8
	Over 18 yrs. of age	12

Male-----6

Female----6

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37

Gila group:	Japanese Nationals	34
	U. S. Citizens	45
	Under 18 yrs. of age	29
	Over 18 yrs. of age	16

Male----- 4

Female----12

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Right after repatriation was completed, we received the policy of WRA Washington to place in a separate center those who applied for repatriation or expatriation on and before July 1, 1943. And also those answered negatively on Army loyalty question. The Tule Lake Center was designated as the Segregation Center.

The Social Welfare Department received the instruction from Washington to interview all repatriates, expatriates and "no, no's". Simultaneously, the Social Welfare Department was jammed with residents who seeks more information and facts.

The following facts were obtained as a result of interview:

1. Healths
2. Reason why they applied
3. Interviewer's statement

All the persons subject to segregation were



classified into three groups.

- Group 1. All persons who have formally applied for repatriation or expatriation to Japan and have not retracted their requests prior to July 1, 1943, and numbers of the immediate family who wishes to accompany.
- Group 2. All persons who at the time of the registration for army, answered question 28 in the negative, or failed or refused to answer it.
- Group 3. All persons to whom the Director has denied leave clearance.

The confusion arising from this impending segregation program was so great that the residents, both segregees and non-segregees rushed to the Social Welfare Department to seek for clear understandings; this confusion is mainly related to uncertainty concerning Government policies of relocation.

The following explanation was given:

To Segregees:

The persons to be separated consist of people who prefer to be Japanese. The segregation Center is very definitely not a punishment Center, nor is it a place for trouble-makers.

To Non-Segregees:

They were advised that they should not use repatriation or expatriation for the purpose of being sheltered for duration, for WRA does not intend to force resettlement, and consequently centers will not be closed for the duration.

All segregees were divided into four groups, according to blocks they resided and left for Tule Lake on October 1, 2, 3, and 6, 1943, involving 1,918 evacuees.



As segregation program was over and the Social Welfare Department rather resumed its routine work, and the service training program to evacuee caseworkers was conducted by the appointed personnel, from October, 1943 on especially following topics:

1. Family relationship problems
2. Mental problems
3. Public Assistance
4. Case recording
5. Problems of children

This so called "Service Training Program" was very beneficial to all case workers.

November, 1943, the Social Welfare Department joined clothing section in 69-10, present location, as there was close contact with clothing section required in so far as issuing public assistance grants is concerned. The Social Welfare Department occupied whole warehouse.

Around March, 1944, relocation interview started. However, all the interviews was conducted by appointed personnel.

Later part of April, 1943, the public announcement was made to the effect that there will be another transfer to Tule Lake is now possible. However, it was made clear that only 50 or so can be eligible for this movement.

There were large numbers of residents who applied for repatriation or expatriation yet did not, or could not go to Tule Lake because of limited housing facilities in Tule Lake or due to evacuees' health.

The Social Welfare Department was swamped with those people who seek high priority on segregation list. But, due to housing limitation in Tule Lake only persons who were designated by Tule Lake Center were eligible for this second segrega-



tion movement, except a few special cases, which the project director in Gila approved. All together about 100 segregees left for Tule Lake later part of May, 1944.

The Social Welfare Department was obliged to make priority list on segregation for third movement, if it will materialize, as there were so much pressure placed upon the Welfare Department by prospective segregees.

The following method was used as of establishing priority on segregation list:

1. Those who stayed behind from the last segregation movement due to health or other Social problems.
2. Close relatives, limited to husband, wife, and children who are already in Tule Lake or who are planning to join interned husband who is transferring to Tule Lake.
3. Special Cases  
For example, person who threatened to suicide if not sent to Tule Lake or person who is causing friction and irritation in this center by his attitude and behavior toward WRA program.

The Public assistance was computed according to the following scale:

1. Public Assistance  
Male-----\$4.75  
Female-----\$4.50
2. Clothing Allowance  
According to their need, not necessarily limited to \$3.50 regular clothing allowance. For instance, one woman may get overcoat which will cost \$15.00 if it is necessary.

However, when the pressure on the Social Welfare Department is too great that the all case workers are used for particularly designated work,



then the amount of the clothing allowance is computed by the secretaries and will be equivalent amount as given out by the regular clothing allowance section. This was called as automatic system for public assistance.

July, 1944, new public assistance scale similar to Poston scale was adapted. Under this new scale, single man or woman will get \$2.10 as personal incidentals, \$1.40 as household supplies, and \$3.50 as clothing allowance. The Social Welfare Department also extend the allowance equivalent to regular clothing allowance to the family whose head relocated, this assistance could extend only for three months.

On December, 1944, the Western Defense Command issued public proclamation lifting ban on west coast area, effective January 2, 1945. Simultaneously, WRA announced the intention of closing all centers not later than January 2, 1946. Consequently, family counseling for resettlement became primary function of Social Welfare Department and all other functions and duties became incidental and were cut to minimum.

This new Governmental policies of relocation confirmed the impression, made at the time of segregation on October, 1943, that the WRA intends to close all centers. It became quite difficult to explain to the residents convincingly, the change of WRA policy (please refer to page 6 paragraph 9 ).

It is my opinion through experience, that if the firm, clear and complete understanding between governmental agencies and residents maintained, lots can be accomplished to alloy the difficult situation which usually arises from the uncertainty.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Kozo Fukagai

Kozo Fukagai



## REPORT ON CLOTHING ALLOWANCE SECTION, BUTTE CAMP

The Clothing Allowance program, when first originated, was under the supervision of the Housing and Employment Division. Two sections were set up at the Gila River Project--one in Butte Camp and Canal camp. This report is on the Butte Section.

The Clothing Allowance was to be issued on the form of script, redeemable at the community stores for the purchase of clothing only. Eligible evacuees were those who were employed at least 15 days of the previous monthly pay period, or those persons eligible for unemployment compensation (which became effective October 1, 1942), and their dependents. The schedule for clothing allowance is as follows:

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MONTHLY</u>	<u>ANNUALLY</u>
Infant to 7 inclusive	\$2.00	\$24.00
8 to 15           "	\$3.00	\$36.00
16 and over       "	\$3.50	\$42.00

Persons considered to be automatic dependents were the wife or mother of the head of the family (usually the father), the children, sisters, brothers, or bona fide relatives who were part of the family who were under 16 years of age and those persons (father, husbands, etc.) over 16 years of age who had a doctor's statement certifying the individual was unemployable. After September, 1942, persons who were registered for school, 16 years of age or over became dependents. In December, 1942, a memorandum was received from the Housing and Employment Division to the effect that all persons over 65 years of age would be eligible for Clothing allowance as dependents without having to produce a doctor's certificate, providing they were legitimate members of the basic family. This agreement, made with the Community Services Division, was to be retroactive to October 1, 1942.

The Block Managers were given the responsibility of maintaining and obtaining information for the clothing records for those who were employed during the first months. In addition, the Housing and Employment Division had in its employ a clothing allowance supervisor and several clerical people who processed the information prepared by the Block Managers and forwarded to the Fiscal Department. The Clothing Allowance Section worked from Basic Family Cards (WRA 95), a card listing the names of the family members, sex, relationship to head of the family, birthdate, birthplace, identification number (for project employment), and any other pertinent remarks. All the information



on this card was taken from the center census report, the Individual Record, Form 26, Rev. 1.

In October, 1942, an announcement was made to the effect that monthly allowances will be paid in cash rather than in script. There was some discussion on issuing clothing allowances to unemployed and welfare evacuees, as the policy on eligibility definitely stated a person shall be eligible "...if he has been employed or eligible for unemployment compensation during at least 15 days of the preceding month." As there was no equitable way to determine those voluntarily unemployed and those who were involuntarily unemployed, no definite policy was adopted at the time. However, as later developments show, only those employed persons or persons eligible for unemployment compensation and their dependents received clothing allowance. The others were referred to Welfare and depending on their eligibility, received assistance through that department.

The only exception to the 15 day work period was in July when the center was first opened. Those who arrived on July 20, 21, or 22, 1942 and were assigned for work on those dates were eligible for clothing allowance for that month.

The allowances for July, August, and September were paid in cash, through the Agency Cashier, and since then have been paid in check form from the Los Angeles Disbursing Office. When the allowance was paid in cash three WRA 93's were typed for each family, one to go to Audit, one for the Agent Cashier and one for the files. When checks were mailed from the Disbursing Office the copy for the Agent Cashier was omitted and only two copies were made.

The payroll was used to determine eligibility and the Basic Family card was marked designating eligible persons. Besides the Basic family card, a 3 x 5 alphabetical family file and a 3 x 5 Identification number file were made. The Identification number file included all persons who registered for work. The original list was submitted by the Employment Office and a monthly supplementary list was submitted to us. We later used the assignments slips to make up the cards. A directory of residents of Butte was also obtained from the Housing Department. All cards were kept current; that is, births, deaths, departures, inductions into the center, etc., were entered as received from the various sections. The use of the alphabetical family file, Identification number file, and directory were discontinued because it was discovered that the work could be carried on more effectively and efficiently by using one card only, the Basic Family card.

Because eligibility had to be determined from the payroll,



the allowance was usually two months behind. For example, the July payrolls were received between the tenth and fifteenth of August. Eligibility had to be taken from them and marked on the Basic Family cards, checking and typing and re-checking allowance vouchers usually took until the end of the month. These were then sent to the Fiscal Unit for auditing but the checks were not actually received until the end of September. This resulted in much confusion and misunderstanding and numerous complaints were made to the Clothing Supervisor, either directly from the person affected or through the Block Managers. As the procedures and policies of the section became more familiar to the workers there were less errors and, therefore, less complaints. Because of the delay when eligibility was taken from the payroll, a new system was arranged with the Central Timekeeping Unit during the latter part of 1943. The Timekeeping Unit was to send the Clothing Allowance Section a report on the 20th of each month, listing the evacuees who worked 15 days or more during the first 20 days of the current month. A supplementary list was made on the last day of the month. This system considerably expedited the work of the Clothing Section and the orders were ready for auditing by the tenth of the following month, and checks were usually received at the end of the month, making checks only one month behind. The payrolls were also used for another purpose. The amounts of wages earned and number of hours worked were posted from the payroll on the back of the Basic Family card, in an indirect way. The wages and hours for each individual was posted from the payroll to a work sheet, as was the amount of clothing allowance, and later posted on the Basic Family card. In the early part of 1945 the Auditors definitely discouraged this indirect manner of posting as there were too many chances of making errors in re-copying figures. They suggested that we post directly from the payrolls (which is now being done) and also post the clothing allowance from the vouchers typed at the Fiscal Unit--thus, being sure that the order for the check was sent to the Los Angeles Disbursing Office. The Auditors also doubted the use of the 20-day report as the Clothing Section was supposed to use the payroll as a basis for eligibility. However, when it was explained to them that the clothing allowance did not go out before the payroll and that the checks were out much sooner, they agreed to the system.

The only time after September, 1942 that the clothing allowances were paid in cash were when evacuees eligible for clothing were repatriated or expatriated to Japan on the exchange ship Gripsholm. The orders were sent to Audit and forwarded to the Agent Cashier, who paid the allowance in cash.

In March, 1943, the Clothing Allowance Section was transferred from the Housing and Employment Division to the Social



Service Department, under the community Management Division, and has worked closely with the public assistance unit of the Social Service Department. It was not until September, 1943, however, that the two sections were together in the same barrack.

September and October, 1943 were the months of the first segregation movement to Tule Lake Center. At that time there was some confusion on the part of evacuees who were transferred because there was some delay in delivering the checks. This was due to the fact that the Los Angeles Disbursing Office did not send the vouchers to Tule Lake. After several months all was straightened out and the Clothing Section ceased to get letters of complaint.

The matter of personnel, during the first few months of the Clothing Allowance Section was not a problem. Workers were plentiful and even if several persons left at one time, replacements could be found. As mentioned before, the Clothing Section had a Supervisor and 7 clerical persons at the start. By December there were at least 12 and in early 1943, there were 17 employees in the Section. At that time a large personnel was needed to organize and set-up the procedure to follow in making the orders for individuals and their dependents. However, due to relocation and transfer to other divisions, by August, 1943, there were only 9 employees. In July, 1944 there were only 5 employees, and the personnel problem was becoming quite serious. At the present time (June, 1945) there is only one full-time employee--the Clothing Supervisor, who has several half-time girls to help her. These half-time girls will probably work on a full-time basis after school is out. It should be noted here that the Clothing Supervisor (or Sr. Clothing Clerk) title was held by 4 different persons. The first Supervisor became ill and terminated, the second one relocated, the third one transferred to work as a stenographer in the Welfare Section, and the present one is the fourth. The present Clothing Supervisor has quite a burden because all of her half-time helpers are new and she has to check and re-check more carefully than if her workers were experienced.

The dependents of the community Enterprises workers received their allowance from the WRA, although the workers themselves receive their allowance in cash from the Community Enterprises. The Enterprise payroll was used to determine eligibility. The same 15 day work period was required before the dependents were eligible.

The Clothing Allowance Section has been housed in several different locations on the center. At the very beginning when the Employment and Housing Division was at Block 42, the Clothing



Section was also in that Block. Late in 1942 the Section was moved to the Administration Building. After occupying a large room for several months, it was decided that the Files and Mail Room would need the space the Clothing Section had. So, in April, 1943, all the paraphernalia of the Clothing Section was moved into Warehouse 69-8, with the Leave Office. However, things did not work out as well as expected and the Clothing Section moved again--back to Block 42. That arrangement did not work very well because the distance between the Administration building, where the Welfare Section and Fiscal Unit were located, and the Clothing Office in Block 42 was too great and hindered work. So, again, in August, 1943, the Clothing Allowance Section moved back to 69-10 warehouse. Since that time, the interior of the warehouse has been remodeled. Inner wall and ceilings were put in, which makes for vast improvement, not only in appearance but in the comfort of the workers in both summer and winter. The Clothing Section is under the supervision of the Welfare Section Office Manager and the employees of the Clothing Section do many odd jobs such as copy work for the Welfare Counselors. The Clothing Section also submits a report to the Head Counselor to be included in the Monthly Report of the Welfare Section.

The Public Assistance vouchers were sent in twice a month through 1944-1945 Fiscal year. First payment on the 10th and the second on the 25th. The Public Assistance grants are posted on to the Basic Family cards each month. From 1945 to 1945 fiscal year, the payments were cut down to one payment.

The Leave office sends in the Leave Assistance vouchers anytime of the month. These grants are also posted onto the Basic Family cards.

Initial, reassignments and terminations are sent in by the Employment Office. Changes are made on Basic Family cards as follows--For initial assignments check the name and type in the identification numbers and on the right side opposite the name write what section they are employed--reassignments--check name and identification number and write where they are employed, and write "T" for termination. This was done for the benefit of the counselors.

When a whole basic family leaves the center or when a single person leaves or is deceased, all fiscal Basic Family cards are attached together and sent into File Department to be filed away in their respective folders. Our 1942-1943 fiscal year Basic Family cards were sent into the warehouse in February 1944. They will not be attached with the other cards.

On June 11, 1945 Butte and Canal Clothing Allowance Sections were combined. End of the same week Clothing and Housing Sections



were moved into 69-11 away from the Social Welfare Building since the place was crowded.

It took time for the Clothing Allowance Section to get settled again since all the old timers had relocated and the new personnel took over. But on July 25, 1945 the Clothing Allowance Section was turned over to Finance Section and again was moved into the annex building.



## HISTORY OF GILA WELFARE

### BUTTE UNIT

SEPTEMBER 1, 1944 to OCTOBER 1, 1945

I joined the Gila River Welfare Section staff as Assistant Counselor on September 1, 1944. After a period of orientation and induction, I was assigned to supervise the case workers carrying the public assistance case load. Mrs. Evelyn B. Swiggum continued responsibility for inter-center transfers, visits between centers, admittance to center of persons previously relocated, office manager and other functions.

The case workers, with the exception of Esther Bryce, were entirely evacuee personnel, of whom only one person had been in the Welfare Section for a considerable time. This worker, Kozo Fukagai, was assigned to intake and also took applications for repatriation, expatriation and cancellation of repatriation. The public assistance case load was divided into the "single men" group, which was the joint responsibility of George Mori, an erratic, poorly educated, maladjusted individual and Meiji Hayashi, a cultured, superior man, who had been evacuated from Hawaii. Two women, May Suzuki and Mrs. Shiotani, intelligent but untrained persons, carried the "women and family" case load of public assistance. Mr. Hasegawa, an interpreter who showed considerable insight into the problems of youth, and Mr. Hikida, President of the P.T.A., assisted with problem situations.

In October and November the welfare staff was augmented by appointed personnel when Mary W. Christian, William May and William J. Nitschke arrived at Rivers. The Butte Community Council, to which the Assistant Counselor was invited to act as an advisor, was much concerned about juvenile delinquency among adolescent boys and expressed dissatisfaction at the way the Internal Security was dealing with the problem. With the approval of the Internal Security and the hearty endorsement of the Community Council, William A. May was assigned to work with the boy delinquents, at both Butte and Canal, and Miss Christian was assigned to do case work with girls who had problems. The schools also reported behavior problems and truancy cases. The Assistant Counselor supervised this work and was also asked to speak to the Butte



P.T.A. and the paper was later published in the Japanese section of the courier as a "serial". Dr. E. M. Andres, a psychologist from Phoenix, also spent a day at the Center discussing problems of juveniles with the Butte and Canal councils and administered several psychological examinations and gave suggestions as to guidance to the workers and parents.

As appointed personnel joined the Welfare Staff, after completing the "Relocation Outlook" interviews, they gradually assumed responsibility for the public assistance cases, particularly families who were receiving assistance. Reports to the office of Dependency Benefits were fairly numerous at this time, too.

In November, during Miss Steele's visit, all members of the staff spent a busy week reviewing every case folder in our files and making dependency cards. It was fortunate that we were well prepared in this way to proceed with our interviews for dependency summaries when plans for the return to legal residence of aged, ill and dependent persons was announced.

The case load, which had previously been divided among the workers according to type of problem presented, was now assigned on a district basis. Butte was divided into four districts, each headed by a Junior Counselor assisted by an evacuee aide. This plan made for better organization of work, ease in routing cases and made for a closer relationship with block managers.

During the first several months it was exceedingly difficult to obtain necessary information for verifying residence, since none of the "dependent" persons had apparently considered leaving the Center and clung to the belief that a center would be maintained for them indefinitely. Many, who had requested repatriation, insisted that they would remain here until sent to Japan or to Tule Lake. It was necessary to assure them that no steps would be taken to "force" their relocation even should residence be verified until the Center was actually closing.

It was not until the closing of Canal was well under way and the closing date set for Butte that the resistance to giving information for verification of residence actually showed a change. In spite of efforts of the staff to have all cases in readiness early in the year, we were just able



to submit all listed dependency cases by the deadline, August 10th. Of course, new dependency cases, previously unlisted, were referred after that date.

After June 1, 1945, the major part of our work was devoted to resettlement assistance and verification of residence. Fortunately, there were no serious staff changes until August, so that districts could be maintained and the people knew the staff well enough to have considerable confidence in them. During September and October all efforts are directed to facilitating relocation. As of October 4th there remained 73 dependency cases for which no verification of residence had yet been received from the district offices in California. However, all pending requests for additional information had been answered.

On October 1st, 1945, due to the loss of staff, the four districts had been combined into two districts, each headed by experienced junior counselors, to follow up on all dependency cases, answer all inquiries from the American Red Cross and office of Dependency Benefits, and to assist families with their plans. The resettlement and special grants are also divided into two districts to expedite interviewing and assure speedier action.

The work with the residents and the very exceptional calibre of staff has been a very rich experience. We are all indebted to Mrs. Evelyn B. Swiggum for her leadership, fairness, sympathy and understanding which has been an inspiration to her staff.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cecil F. Andres*

Cecil F. Andres  
Assistant Counselor



May 1943

The files were started for the segregation movement. Hearings were held for those who answered No to questions 27 and 28. Those who were recommended segregation had welfare interviews, and inquired as to their health. Non-segregant family members who accompanied segregants were also interviewed.

Files for both Canal and Butte Camp were controlled by the Butte office. All other project records were consolidated at this office prior to sending them to Tule Lake.

Hearings for repatriation cases were held at the Project Attorney's office. The welfare interviews were held same as the No-No segregants.

1. Cases divided into two groups.

A. Group I

- (1) Those who requested Repatriation prior to July 1, 1943 on project.
- (2) Those who repatriated at W.C.C.A. Centers, list received from Washington.

B. Group II

- (1) Repatriation applicants after July 1, 1943
- (2) No-No Segregants.

2. COUNSELING WITH INDIVIDUAL REGARDING REPATRIATION:

Repatriation forms in one instance unknown to the wife and daughter was signed by the husband. The wife denied having signed such an application for herself and daughter. The husband went to Tule Lake alone, but the wife and daughter remained on the project. She had trouble in getting clearance as she was listed as having applied for repatriation on the Washington records. The Counselor had her sign a denial of ever having asked for repatriation. Clearance was given her, and she relocated soon afterwards.

Segregation was not on the basis of disloyalty alone. Many evacuees accompanied immediate family members to Tule Lake. Not because they were disloyal, but because they wanted to stay close to the family. This more or less brought hardship and tears, as they were torn between loyalty to their family and loyalty to their country. Others went to Tule Lake as they were disappointed in the evacuation. Statements made by the evacuee to the hearing board held to determine the disloyal and loyal, and the Welfare interview held later



often did not agree. It was the uncertainty and the chaotic state of mind due to the idea that because of their ancestry that there will be no security or future in continued residence in the United States. Others were influenced by the rumor prevalent that residents of Tule Lake will receive a larger sum of indemnity due to their losses suffered by the evacuation.

Dec. 1943

Because of incidents experienced during the previous segregation movement of October 1944, Mr. Tuttle did not allow heads of families to take application forms for the whole family. He was given forms for himself and minor children 15 years of age. All other adults and children 16 years or older in the family were told to come in individually for the application.

Each person was asked by the case worker (evacuee) the reason for requesting repatriation. At that time he was given an appointment date to have Mr. Tuttle witness the application. Nisei in particular before signing were asked by the Counselor if they had given due thought to the consequences.

In one particular case two high school students when counseled prior to signing admitted their reluctance to ask for expatriation. They were told that their parents need not know of them failing to sign the request, as records were kept confidential. When they were assured of this, they were quite relieved, and left the office without signing them.

Many large family heads requested repatriation because they were reluctant to face hardship on the outside, as they believed that they could not make an adequate living. Evacuation had taken away from the family all the security built up during their lifetime.

Although she will not admit it a nisei wife of a kibel obviously coerced to sign repatriation application, as it was quite certain by her actions that she did not do so by her own free will. She stated that loyalty was not the question, but was just accompanying her husband.

May 1944

#### SECOND SEGREGATION MOVEMENT

At this time more than 600 had requested repatriation, but they all could not go to Tule Lake as a last minute long-distance call from Washington limited us to only 50 persons. This notice of 50 persons did not cover the left over from the October 1943 movement. Many were held over due to medical reasons, and births had increased the number.



As a pullman was necessary, Mr. Wolter received the consent of Washington and Tule Lake to fill one coach and the pullman, which brought the total up to 90.

The segregants were repatriates and no-no's left over from the previous movement, who had immediate family members in Tule Lake or were denied leave clearance. A repatriate family that was a problem (agitator) was included also.

#### Eligibility for Pullman.

A list was made of all requests for pullman accommodations. This was sent to the Medical Social Worker who checked through the clinic records, and sent the list to the Chief Medical Officer for final recommendation.

Those who did not have clinic records the last two months were denied pullman by the Chief Medical Officer. One youngster, who wore braces on his legs, and was discharged from an outside hospital recently was deleted from the list. Welfare contacted the physician in charge and the medical social worker who in turn gave their recommendations. In this way the youngster was given the berth he was entitled.



STATISTICS OF NUMBER OF PERSONS REQUESTING REPATRIATION AFTER THE  
ARMY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DRAFTING OF NISEIS INTO SERVICE

March 31, 1944

PERSONS REQUESTING SINCE January 20, 1944

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS APPLIED FOR REPATRIATION: 165

A. Families	34	139
B. Single	26	26
	<u>60</u>	<u>165</u>

2. A. Males	96	
B. Females	<u>69</u>	165

3. CITIZENSHIP OF APPLICANTS AND AVERAGE AGE

<u>MALE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>AVERAGE AGE</u>
U.S.	45	12 years 8 months
DUAL	13	25 years
JAPANESE	38	52 years

<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>AVERAGE AGE</u>
U.S.	40	13 years 6 months
DUAL	10	24 years
JAPANESE	19	44 years

4. REASONS FOR REQUESTING REPATRIATION

A. Those who are under 15 years of age and are to be accompanied by their parents	58
B. Those who wish to accompany their husband, parents, wife, children or other immediate family members	31
C. Those who wish to accompany their husbands	15
D. Children over 15 years of age male and female who wish to accompany their parents.	19
E. No particular reasons, but simply wish to be repatriated or expatriated	16
F. Wish to retire in Japan reason old age.	10
G. Those who sees no future in this country mainly because of discrimination and prejudice thus prefer Japan.	8



- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| H. | Those who are in poor health and wish to retire in Japan   | 3 |
| I. | Those who are financially deleted and cannot relocate even after the war because of big families | 3 |
| J. | Those who wish to go to Japan to take care of their estate                                       | 2 |

5. TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES CONTAINING DRAFT AGE MEN:

( 18 to 38 years inclusive)	18
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6. TOTAL NUMBER OF DRAFT ELIGIBLE MEN:

24

Marital status

1.	Single men	15
2.	Married men	9
		<u>24</u>

Age

Average age of men between 18 and 37	24
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Children

Total number of children for family men	12
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7. REASONS FOR REQUESTING REPATRIATION OR EXPATRIATION

- |    |   |          |
|----|---|----------|
| A. | Those who wish to accompany their parents   | 9        |
| B. | Those who feel their rights and privileges as U.S. citizens were deprived; therefore, prefer to live in Japan       | 6        |
| C. | Those who were denied WRA leave clearance, hence see no future in this country; therefore, prefer to live in Japan. | 5        |
| D. | Those who wish to join their parents or other immediate family members now residing in Japan                        | <u>5</u> |
|    |   | 24       |



REPATRIATION REQUESTS FROM July 1, 1943 to March 26, 1944

Family Group

<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>No. of Indv.</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Total</u>
204	854	143	997

Sex

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
588	409	997

Citizenship

<u>US.A.</u>	<u>DUAL</u>	<u>JAPANESE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
676	23	298	997

Compiled by Mr. Toshitaro Ishikawa



## HISTORY OF GILA WELFARE

### CANAL UNIT

#### PERSONNEL

Until September, 1944 there was only one Social Worker in Canal and the Assistant Counselor who supervised the housing and clothing departments and was responsible for the administration of public assistance which was carried on by two evacuee case workers. The Assistant Counselor also carried some families for case work. The Assistant Counselor lacked only one semester of having completed work for her Master's Degree in Social Work and left in September, 1944 to complete the semester. She was replaced by the present Assistant Counselor who had completed all academic requirements for his Master's Degree at the University of Michigan, but whose thesis was still uncompleted.

At the beginning of January, due to the expanding work of the department incidental with the initiation of the Dependency Summaries, a new Junior Counselor was added to the department. He received his Master's Degree from Boston University of Social Work. In May another Junior Counselor joined the department. She was a graduate of the University of Buffalo who has taken some graduate work. She also had considerable experience as a Medical and Psychiatric Social Worker.

Until June, 1945 when a Caucasian worker was appointed, the clerical staff was composed entirely of evacuees. We were extremely fortunate in that with one exception these workers were capable, conscientious, industrious and very pleasant to work with.

#### JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CLOSING OF THE CENTER.

The announcement at the beginning of the year that the Centers would all be closed by January 1, 1946 stunned the people of Canal. It was several weeks before any reaction was noticeable. The first reactions noted in February were fear and anger. Any discussion of re-



location brought forth stormy protestations that the evacuees did not ask to be brought to the Center, that they suffered financial losses during evacuation, that the Government had promised to let them stay till the war was over, etc. There was a feeling that they had been betrayed by the Government. A genuine fear and apprehension was also noticeable. "How can we relocate with so many children?". "Is it safe to go back to California while soldiers are being returned from the Pacific?", etc. However, many of the dependency cases expressed themselves as willing to return if housing and welfare assistance could be provided.

By the middle of March a definite underground movement against relocation was very much apparent. Dependency cases failed to keep appointments, those who came in refused to make plans and often refused to discuss information for summaries. Evacuee caseworkers planning to relocate told of active opposition from people in their block. By the middle of April, the resistance movement had lost a lot of its strength, although it never quite disappeared until the October 1st date of closing the Center was announced. Reports of shooting and arson against returning Japanese on the West Coast increased the resistance to relocation.

It was among the evacuee personnel, however, that the greatest effects of the announcement of the closing of the Center was noticed. One of the key girls quit without a moment's notice early in January to return to California. Others gave notice of a week or more of intention to relocate, but since vacation time was not paid in a lump sum at that time, most of them had to quit work one or two days after giving notice so that they could use up their vacation time before leaving the Center. Usually, however, the girls who were leaving found replacements for their jobs before they left the Camp. Nevertheless, there was a continuing turnover of evacuee personnel. This was particularly true of interpreters, the lack of which was perhaps the greatest hardship the department was under.

The transfer of a Caucasian clerical worker from the Butte to Canal Welfare Department June 5th, 1945 relieved the clerical situation considerably, insuring continuity of the work of the department while evacuee girls were quitting.



### JUNE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OCTOBER 1ST CLOSING DATE OF THE CENTER

The reaction to the June announcement of the October 1st closing date for Canal Camp was immediate. The reaction was complete acceptance of the fact that this was "it". There was an immediate decrease in the number of people seeking public assistance; applications for resettlement assistance increased and people came in to discuss their eligibility for resettlement assistance even though their plans for relocation were still somewhat nebulous. Resistance on the part of dependency cases to making plans vanished, and even those who had hitherto ignored requests for appointments came in voluntarily to have dependency summaries compiled and sent out. There was also a noticeable apprehension on the part of a number of people on whom summaries had been sent out. Many came into inquire as to what progress had been made on their cases.

From this time on there was an increased dependence on the Welfare Department. The number of interviews skyrocketed. People came in to ask for services only remotely related to case work. This at a time when the shortage of clerical personnel was seriously crippling the Canal Welfare Department.

### DEPENDENCY CASES

Verification of residence for Dependency Cases who wished to return to their county of legal residence was perhaps the most important function of the Welfare Department during the critical months preceeding the closing of Canal. From some standpoints this work cannot be considered too successful, and results were disappointing. While a tremendous amount of work was done in the Center in obtaining and sending out information, the long delay in obtaining verification, or often a rejection of verification, was extremely discouraging. Often months went past before any word was received and the work of the Welfare Department was considerably increased by the necessity of continually rechecking files and sending out tickler letters and telegrams. This is not meant as a criticism of District Relocation Officers, or County Welfare Departments, who doubtless had their own problems, but it must be mentioned because of its effect in the Center.

The first summaries were sent out early in February, 1944. After months had gone by with few acceptances, the evacuees became extremely skeptical and distrustful of the



Welfare Department. Prior to September, 1945, the last month the Camp was open, only seven persons returned to the Coast with their residence already verified, as compared to nineteen who made their own plans independent of the Welfare Department and returned to California without waiting for verification of residence because for the most part they no longer had any faith in the ability of the Welfare Department to complete plans for them. The picture improved during September when verifications began to pour in, and fifty-five persons returned with residence verified as compared with sixteen who returned without verifications. Three old men who had signed up to leave during September were persuaded to cancel, and were transferred to Butte because of the inadequacy of their plans. Even the figures for the month of September give a picture much better than the actual situation since many of the evacuees had already left the Center before the verifications came through. Wherever possible the dependency persons were urged to go back and live with friends, and make their application for County Welfare assistance in person.

A few days before the Center closed twenty-six dependency cases - including twenty-four single men and one couple - were transferred to Butte Camp. Of these, twenty-three families had not yet received verification of residence - (two of them received verification the day after transfer) - and two families had residence verified in Tulare County but the County refused to accept financial responsibility. One institutional case was also transferred and his residence was verified the last day of the month.

#### RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE

When the burden of administering the Resettlement Assistance program for furniture was placed on the Center in June, 1945, it was handled for the first few weeks by the Relocation Department, then turned over to Welfare. It was apparently a welfare function. The actual result of this action, however, was to force the Counselors to work with the non-dependency cases rather than the dependency cases since the demand for resettlement assistance was greater than the Welfare staff could handle, and still spend time interviewing dependents for additional information, contacting friends of the dependent, etc. It is the Assistant Counselor's belief that



fewer dependency cases would have had to be transferred to Butte if the handling of the resettlement assistance had not so completely taken up the time of the Counselors. This was especially so when relocation so depleted the domestics that one of the Junior Counselors and the appointed clerical worker were forced to resign to care for their own families.

On the other hand, it is difficult to know how else resettlement assistance could have been handled since it was an essential part of the process of liquidating the Center, and every other department was suffering the same increasing shortage of personnel.

#### CONCLUSION

In closing, the Assistant Counselor wishes to pay tribute to the splendid cooperation on the part of evacuees and Caucasian personnel alike; especially to the appointee personnel, however, who, during the peak load of work, worked evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sundays, often without claiming or receiving compensating time and worked themselves day after day to the point of nervous exhaustion so that the department could be kept functioning smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Bryce*

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Assistant Counselor