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56.15C

For a last few days the rice supply has failed to reach here.

Jan 2 The Project Steward reported that he had bought two carloads of rice from Sacramento, but they have not arrived to Parker yet. Several blocks have been coming to Snelson and complained about lack of rice, as there was not a single sack in the warehouse. Snelson retorted to them, "Don't make so much sake. If you didn't make sake you would have enough rice to last quite a while." The complaining Japanese had no come back to this jocular accusation.

One chef confided in me, "Lots of People talk about kicking Snelson out. But that's wrong. He knows too much about us. What

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Jan 9  
14. Food  
(Crossed - 20)

A "higher up" of the Poston Red Cross (probably Aijiro Takahashi) received an unofficial appeal from a group of Japanese at Tule Lake. The letter reached here last Saturday (January 8). It reported that some 250 Japanese, who had been segregated into the stockade, had been fasting on "hunger strike" since January 1. They were protesting the quality of food given to them.

It also reported that Nogawa (the former Funeral Director here) had gotten in a fight with the M.P.'s and had been beaten in his leg. His leg bones might be broken.

The letter expressed their helplessness - even if they appealed to the Spanish Embassy or to the Red Cross, it would not do any good.

JANUARY 9 -- (2)

It asked the Poston Red Cross to work on the matter on behalf of the Tule Japanese.

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Residents here are talking about the fact that weiners were served at Tule Lake on New Year's Day. They had no Mochi for New Year.

JANUARY 19 -- (4)

to the last year, food was gotten through the Quartermasters in Texas. Snelson believes that now he can visit the Quartermasters in Riverside and see what they have in store. He was certain than there was no danger of starvation for the Poston people.

Kushiyama of the Food Committee commented that the rule cannot be enforced too rigidly. Some months ago, as Kushiyama related, Snelson assured the chefs in a meeting that we would not suffer even if we did not get supply from the outside for fifteen days. The next day we ran out of rice, Kuchiyama ~~said~~ sarcastically.

Food  
Jan 19  
Local  
Council  
Meeting

Snelson complained, as Nomura reported, that some blocks are storing staples in their ~~stronging~~ rooms. Some of them were the goods <sup>which had been</sup> delivered to them as long as three months ago. Snelson requested those blocks to use up foods delivered to them as fast as they are delivered. According to a WRA instruction Snelson is required to go around to each block and inspect <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ food in stock. The instruction demands him to repossess those food provisions which have not been used for sometime. The Subsistence Department is supplying each kitchen always  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days in advance; therefore, no kitchen should have food in stock any more than a supply for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days. Snelson initiated a system at the beginning of this year by which each box of food is marked for the month during which it was delivered. From now he will now at a glance how long such-and-such box of <sup>a</sup> staple has been kept in the block.

Snelson also <sup>7</sup> ~~i~~ informed Nomura that the Poston orders are now going through the Quartermasters at Riverside, California. Up

7-11  
JANUARY 19 -- (14)

A letter of protest about sugar supply to Poston came to the Food Committee from one Mizoguchi of Block 11 (the chef), Kushiya reported. It was alleged that a person on the outside can buy 5 pounds of sugar with one ration ticket, while we are getting only 2 pounds a month. Kushiya investigated and found out that on the outside one ration ticket allows a person to buy 5 pounds of sugar, as alleged in the letter, but he had to make it <sup>last</sup> for two months and a half. Therefore, we are getting as much sugar as those on the outside.

Kushiya reported that he measured two pounds of sugar and was surprised to find that the amount corresponds to 50 teaspoonfuls.

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Mar. 15

A regular bi-weekly meeting of the Local Council was held from 1:30 P. M. in the Unit Administration Building. There were twenty-five representatives present, and three more appeared in the meeting tardily.

Chairman Nomura announced that the horse and cow chasing would take place tomorrow morning.

Nomura, then, read a communication from the Community Council in regard to the proposal to establish butchers here in the Subsistence Department. The meat is distributed at present in wholes to the blocks, and causing many blocks to complain as it is impossible to divide it fairly. For instance, a block with 225 residents is getting a whole piece of meat and another block with 125 persons is getting a whole piece, too; the only difference being about 5 - 10 pounds, because the smaller block is given a smaller piece. But this difference in weight is not enough to take care of the difference in the population. If the butchers are hired from evacuees, the Community Council suggested, meat will be distributed to the blocks after it was cut.

MARCH 15 -- (3)

It will also serve as a <sup>N</sup>training ground for evacuees to become but<sup>N</sup>chers.

Sano of Block 46 (the Chef) objected to the plan, because it would be impossible to serve <sup>N</sup>pork chops to <sup>the</sup> 36 blocks, and to serve stew meat at another time to <sup>the</sup> 36 blocks. In other words, the butchers would not<sup>be</sup> able to supply the same kind of meat according to the WRA menus to the 36 blocks at the same time. He also pointed out that some chefs might <sup>not</sup> like the size of stew meat supplied by the Butchers, he would prefer to have the meat cut into smaller pieces, for instance.

Okamoto then presented his point of view that the meat could be cut into three pieces out of a whole, say. This would give a fairer distribution than the present system of giving out in wholes. Sano objected that some blocks might get hind parts all the time, and other blocks might get choice parts.

Other Councilmen believed that with the butchers available the present unfair, unequitable distribution, ~~//and~~ could be eliminated, and passed the bill to recommending ~~ing~~ to the project to install the project butcher system.

APRIL 19 -- (7)

MEMO TO: All Block Managers

April 18, 1944

FROM: J. L. E. Burdick

*Food*  
Eggs are on the daily menu in some form. Nearly every day there are eggs for breakfast. There is no excuse for people complaining to the hospital that they cannot obtain eggs for babies when eggs are issued to every person in Poston.

/s/ J. L. E. Burdick

Approved by

/s/ Clifton L. Snelson  
Chief Project Steward

August 28

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Another attempt to close the Poston Noddle factory was made by the Food Committee and the Community Council. This controversy has been raging in the Community Council circle for the past one month.

*Food*

The representatives of the factory were in the office of the Community Council and were involved in heated arguments with Okamoto, Onishi, and others. They seemed as if they were ready to come to blows at any time during the conversation. The Council members were accused of "double-cross<sup>ing</sup>", "incompetent and imbeciles", etc. (This controversy will be treated in detail separately.)

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see also Employment, September 6

Food

See also Ingroup Relations, September 13, 1944  
(Noodle factory controversy)

food

October 3 John Burdick, the Assistant Project Steward in charge of  
Blk. Mgr Meeting dietetics, sent an announcement that milk supply to the project  
had been cut by the Army by 40% since the beginning of this month.  
For the months of July, August, and September, the project<sup>had</sup> received  
3,048 quarts of milk daily, but now the supply had been cut to  
1,828 quarts daily. It was contemplated, the announcement stated,  
that only the children below six years old and invalids with me-  
dical permits would be given milk hereafter.

September 26

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A regular weekly meeting of the Block Managers was held in the conference room of the Unit Administration Building from 9:30 A. M. today.

The Supervisor announced that he had received several complaints from Managers that parcel post containing fruits ~~were was~~ <sup>delivered</sup> ~~coming in~~ damaged. In the more serious case, the lug box was only half full. Nishimoto had taken the complaint to Postmaster Johnson. Johnson's explanation was as follows:

There are inspectors of the State of Arizona stationed at Parker to inspect fruits and plants coming in. In many cases, boxes come in damaged, <sup>conditions</sup> and in other cases, the contents are damaged. The inspectors are obliged to condemn these damaged fruits at the depot and throw them away. The Postmaster has been receiving complaints from evacuee postal workers that they do not wish to bring these boxes to Poston, lest they might be accused of pilfering. Johnson has admonished <sup>them</sup> that every parcel must be brought in irrespective of its condition, and the workers are abiding by the order.

SEPTEMBER 26 -- (3)

One Manager said, "I understand about fruits, but how about candies? Candies are coming in broken boxes and half of the contents are gone." Other Managers related that they, too, had had similar experiences. Supervisor promised them that he would see Postmaster Johnson about the matter.