

12/5/43  
Fire Dept.

ABOUT 10:30 o'clock last night a fire destroyed six barracks in Block 202 (Camp II). They have been used to store evacuee properties and government supplies and equipment. Residents claimed that electric refrigerators and washing machines belonging to evacuees were destroyed.

10/1/43  
Fire Dept.  
Miscellaneous

The Associate Project Director issued the following memorandum to the residents. It was mimeographed and distributed to the blocks.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Poston, Arizona  
October 6, 1943

Fire Prevention Week

Ten thousand persons are burned to death each year in the United States alone. Property valued at more than three billion dollars was destroyed by fire in the United States last year — and much of this terrific loss of life and property was the result of carelessness on the part of some one.

More than half of the fires which caused this damage occurred in homes. Some of them started in rubbish heaps. Defective chimneys and combustible roofs caused some and defective heating equipment caused others. Children playing with matches set many fires which caused a great deal of damage to life and property. Persons cleaning clothes



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with gasoline and other inflammable fluids also were responsible for many home fires. Smoking in bed caused the deaths of many persons.

Hundreds died last year when they were entrapped by fire in buildings where sufficient exits were not ~~available~~ available, and many of these fires were caused by inflammable decorations on the walls and over the lights in buildings where crowds gather.

This week, October 3 to October 9, has been set apart as National Fire Prevention Week. During this week, and throughout every week, it is the duty of every person to take every precaution to prevent fires.

All piles of rubbish, in and around the home, where fires might easily start, should be disposed of and all inflammable decorations should be removed. Extreme care should be exercised to keep matches from children and smokers should be particularly careful.

The cooperation of every resident of Poston in keeping fires from being started is urgently requested.

/s/ Ralph M. Gelvin  
Ralph M. Gelvin,  
Associate Project Director

One block amanager who received this notice said, "Oh, it's one of those notices, Forget it." Indeed, the notice was not noticed at all by the residents. Although the Poston Chronicle<sup>too,</sup> carried the following article, I have not heard any resident talking about the Fire Prevention Week.

Cooperation of all Poston residents are asked by Ralph Gelvin, Associate Project Director, in observing the National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3 to 9, by taking necessary precautions to prevent any fire that may occur due to carelessness.

Mr. Gelvin stated that 60 % of fires in the homes ~~and~~ are caused by rubbish, and so forth.



10/24/43  
Fire Dept.

As the weather is getting cold, there are numerous bonfires throughout the camp. The Fire Department have been complaining about the bonfires. They claimed that the smoke would be mistaken for fire. About a week ago Fien and Woodhouse, of the Fire Department, went to Ralph Gelvin, the Associate Project Director, and requested him to ~~issue~~ an order to Haverland, the Transportation chief, to prohibit use of the trucks for hauling woods from <sup>the</sup> outside. Nelson was at the meeting and told them that that ~~would~~ not rectify the situation; even if the use of trucks for hauling woods be prohibited, it would

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not stop the residents from getting the woods anyway. He told them that the idea of young people getting together around the bonfires and passing the evenings chatting and singing was something he would encourage himself. "I'm all for it," he told them. They, however, agreed to allow the bonfires only in the places away from the blocks and to prohibit them between barracks.

11/3/43  
Fire Dept.

M. Okamoto then made a report on the Fire Department, of which he is the chief at present. According to his figure, there are 16 Issei and 5 Nisei working in the department at present. He expects those Nisei to relocate soon. Forty one men are needed to man the two engines and at present the workers are not enough to man even one engine. He requested each councilman to send at least one fireman out from each block.

Okamoto reported that he has returned from a trip <sup>to</sup> from Gila and



NOVEMBER 3 -- (6)

had observed that the blocks are kept up much cleaner<sup>there</sup>. "I heard many people say that Poston is very dirty. Now I have realized how dirty Poston is when I returned." Okamoto stated that there are only four persons on the block manager's staff, while in Poston there are seven persons. He could not understand why Poston is not kept cleaner. Nomura commented that the last Sunday was <sup>a</sup>the "Clean-up" day but it turned out to be everything but a clean-up day. (A truck was assigned to each block which had expressed in advance its intention of cleaning the block on October 31. The residents in most of the cases piled in small loads of rubbishes<sup>as a subterfuge</sup> and went out for picnics at different locations. The clean up was a subterfuge to get a transportation for picnic. (On Monday Head commented that he had gone around the camp that morning and found more rubbishes piled up than before.)

Okamoto then reported that he had noticed in Gila that the people were warned to clean<sup>their</sup> stoves and to be careful of them to prevent fire. He wished that the fire prevention campaign should be initiated here, too. Many Poston residents are using the stoves without cleaning after they had been stored away this spring. It is a great fire hazard; an apartment in his fire block caught fire from <sup>a</sup>the stove this morning. Many people do not know or have forgotten how to take care of <sup>their</sup>the stoves. Okamoto had contacted the Fire Chief, Fien, this morning and decided to start an inspection of every apartment in camp. The Fire Department will send the inspectors to every apartment to check every stove in use and instruct the residents as to the use and care. It was suggested from the floor that it is better to request either <sup>the</sup>block manager or his assistant to accompany the instructor when he makes the round so that he would not be looked upon as a suspicious character. This suggestion was adopted.



The following order has been issued to the blocks.

COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION PROJECT  
Poston, Arizona

November 18, 1943

ORDER

TO THE RESIDENTS OF POSTON:

1. The hours for burning of combustibles shall be between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. All fires must be put out at 9:00 a.m. with water or dirt.
2. Burning at any other time requires a permit from the Fire Department.
3. No combustibles shall be burned between building or within the blocks.
4. Public assemblies of 50 people or more require a permit from the Fire Department.
5. The approval by the Fire Department and Construction Department must be secured before the construction or alteration of any structure is begun.
6. Permits shall be secured from the Fire Department.
7. No vehicle shall be parked within 20 feet of any structure or fire hydrant.
8. The Police Department will enforce these regulations.

/s/ W. Wade Head

W. Wade Head  
Project Director.

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Fire Dept.

11/23/43  
Fire Dept.

Neslon also announced that one Johnson had been appointed as the Postmaster at Poston. He also warned against putting highly inflammable material in bonfires around the blocks. The fire engines have been rushing out on these false alarms, because those materials raise big, black smokes.

Fire Dept.

11/24/43

The Administration reported as follows:

For the months of April, May, and June, there were 63 fires in the ten relocation centers and the damage amounted to \$9,080, of which Poston is highest with \$8,000

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The Poston Chronicle reported today :



POSTON, ARIZONA

NOV. 10, 1943

*Fire Dept.*

## UNIT III FIRE TRUCK OVERTURNS ALL FIREMEN INJURED

Three Firemen were injured as a result of an accident when the Unit III fire truck overturned at the corner of Blk. 308 Sunday

evening.

Yutaka Yamamoto and Bill Nishimura received slight injuries while Bill Mori suffered a fractured vertebrae and is in the General Hospital. The accident occurred when the fire Dept. answered a call to investigate the smoke coming from the northwest end of Camp III.

Investigation as to the cause of accident is being made by Fire Chief J. Fien in the absence of the Unit III Fire Chief B.H. Evans, who is away on business in Los Angeles for a few days.

For those who adhere themselves to pessimistic view that the world is full of misery and life but one long continuity of a good-for-nothing drudgery, I offer a line from the world famous agnostic, Ingersol's "Indictment of modern civilization".

"When I take into consideration the agony of civilized life---the number of failure, the poverty, the anxiety, the hunger, the crime, the humilization, the shame---I am almost forced to say that cannibalism, after all, is the most merciful form in which man has ever lived upon the fellow man." What a But the trouble is that the quite true.

Obviously, some of in a down-spirited way, Ingersol's definition of life might have quite a bit in his mind. But it appears that the agnostic has looked into the darkest phase of our civilization and come out with such a pessimistic view of the existing state of men and things. One must avoid extremity and not put out accusing fingers at the present civilization. Of course one must not look into the brighter side of life and see all his



Fire in  
Bldg. 6

11/16/43  
Fire Dept.

About 4 p.m. from <sup>an</sup> unknown cause a fire destroyed the barracks No. 6 and No. 7 in Block 6.

A resident of Block 6 later in the evening informed me that the fire started from the apartment of a family who are dispised by the block residents. This is his story: "He has been selling charcoals to other people as a private enterprise. At first, he was charging one dollar a sack. Lately as the demand increased because of cold weather and more desire to cook food in the evenings (no hot plates available), he hiked up the price to one dollar and a half a sack (about twenty pounds). Today he brought in charcoals from the field and put the sacks in his apartment. He went to the field again to get more charcoals. While he was gone, the charcoal in the sacks caught fire from the residual heat and the fire spread to the floor and the walls."

Tonight the Block Council of 6 met and voted to donate \$100 from its block fund to relieve the distressed families. About twenty-three evacuees lost everything they had; they had no time to take any property out. The people in Barrack 7 could not get back to their apartments to save some of their things while Barrack 6 was burning because of intense heat; the entrances to the both barracks are facing each other.

Tonight a special announcement was made on the Block 4 stage by Yoshikawa while a shibai was going on. He appealed to the audience to do-



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nate clothings and other necessities. The Red Cross will act as an agency to collect them.

Block 28 residents collected \$37 <sup>among</sup> from themselves and turned the money over to Block 6 to be used for relief of the distressed evacuees. Block 12 also donated \$18.

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11/17/43  
Fire Dept.

The Executive Committee of the Block Managers was called in a meeting at one o'clock this afternoon. A. Takahashi, not the chairman of the Red Cross, but a member of the ~~Distress~~ and Disaster Relief Committee, represented the Red Cross and appealed to the committee to collect donations from the residents to relieve the distress of the families burned out of their apartments <sup>c</sup> without their belongs. The committee decided to instruct the managers to collect the donations from their respective blocks. Regarding the announcement made last night from the Block 4 stage for clothings, the Red Cross believed that the families were taken care by the residents of Block 6. However, <sup>as</sup> several blocks have begun collection <sup>t</sup> of clothings, it was suggested that they be sent to the Red Cross anyway so that they may be used in future disasters.

As the result of this meeting, Yoshio Ekimoto, Assistant Supervisor of Block Managers, issued the following instruction to the managers:

If any clothing has been collected in your office, we will have the Red Cross pick them up if it has been donated with the understanding that the Red Cross will use whatever they can for the unfortunate residents of Block 6. The Red Cross truck will be around Friday afternoon to pick up the donated clothing. Please have this announced.

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Fire Dept.  
11/17/43

A regular weekly meeting of the Local Council was held at 1:30 this afternoon in the conference room.

The councilman and block manager of Block 6, M. Horita, thank<sup>ed</sup> those present for their expressions of sympathy for the distressed residents of his block and asked them to convey his thanks to their people.

Nitta and A. Takahashi of the Red Cross one after the other made appeals to the councilmen to cooperate <sup>with</sup> ~~with~~ the managers in carrying out the donation drive as it had been decided by the Executive Committee.

Yamada of Block 2 requested that the cause of the fire be investigated. Nomura stated that the Fire Chief, Fien, had filed a report that the fire had been caused by overheating of a stove. Several Caucasians<sup>if</sup> in the Administration are doubting that it was ~~not~~ caused by the stove. They also know that there have been no kerosene stoves in the barracks. They are blaming charcoal, but they cannot establish their claim. "If you start investigating this, something unfavorable might come out. I think we better keep quiet about this," the chairman warned. The councilmen did not argue further on this matter as if they had foreseen something disagreeable.

Kushiyama of Block 14 warned that charcoal is very dangerous to be put in apartments after it has been dug fresh from the ground. It must be kept away from burning material for a few days.

Kushiyama also insisted that an alarm system be installed in camp. T. Tanaka of Block 42 reported that he had talked to Fien after the fire and had been informed that telephones directly connected with the Fire Station would be installed immediately. The work is to have commenced today. "But this is the WRA. You can't tell when they will finish it," he commented. As a measure meantime, he suggested to strike the messhall gongs in some uniform manner so that the warning can be relayed to the Fire Station from a block to next. He also proposed that an auxiliary door be constructed to each apartment. The first proposal was referred to the Block Managers' meeting. The second proposal was voiced down. Many apartments already <sup>have</sup> had an extra en-



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trance on the side where the project had not installed the floors. In addition it is impossible to install standard size doors on this side unless a window be taken out from each apartment and a door be placed in its place. For this, however, the wall is to seak.

Also a plan to get some money out of the project to the relief of the families was brought. The matter was referred to the Social Welfare Committee, which was instructed to contact the Family Welfare Department in cooperation with the Red Cross.

Okamoto reported that he had heard that the fire engine was slow in getting to the fire. He informed that there was no watch on the watch tower at the time. There are not <sup>n</sup> enough men in the fire department and cannot spare any one to the tower. Onishi moved that 4 watchmen be hired immediately with the specific duty of being the watch on the tower. "If you look around for a firemen, it must be hard to get them, because you need husky men. But old men can be used as <sup>t</sup> wachers," he suggested.

The whole discussion on the fire sounded very much like "closing the barn door after the horse ran away."



## TWENTY-FIVE MADE HOMELESS AS FIRE GUTS TWO BARRACKS IN BLOCK 6

Five families, composing of 25 evacuees, were made homeless last Tuesday afternoon when barracks six and seven in Block #6 were destroyed by fire in Poston's first barrack fire. Barrack seven was burnt completely to the foundation while barrack six was partially destroyed.

The fire started at 3:05 p.m. from apartment 7-D occupied by Seihachi Sakamoto, formerly of Laguna Beach, due to a faulty heater, stated Fire Marshall Joseph Fien, who investigated the fire. The blaze was under control a few minutes after the firemen arrived at the scene after barrack six was ignited by a slight breeze blowing from the north. Three company fire departments responded to the call.

The loss of government property is estimated to be \$4500 according to J.F. Reinhardt, property custodian. The value of personal effects lost were not determined at press time. No personal effects of the barrack 7 occupants were saved as the fire was well underway when it was discovered. A few items in barrack 6 were saved with the aid of the residents although much was destroyed by smoke and water.

No injuries were reported.

Those whose families were made homeless were Mankichi Nakasaki and Seihachi Sakamoto, both formerly of Laguna Beach in barrack 7 and Mrs. Koma Nakagawa, Ryosaku Okida and Kenraku Ohta, all formerly of El Centro in barrack 6.

This was the third major fire in nine months to occur in this center, the others being mess halls 36 and 44 and barrack 14 of block 44.

## UNIT III COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO AID BLK. 6 FIRE VICTIMS

At the Nov. 17 Unit III Community Council meeting, it was decided to ask for donations from Unit III residents to aid the unfortunate families who were victims of the fire that swept Blk. 6. This donation will be turned over to the Manager of Blk. 6 this Saturday. Suggestions will be made to B. H. Evans, Fire Dept. Chief, to form a trained Blk. fire crew for emergencies; prohibit usage of the "hi-ba-chi" within the apartments.



Seasonal workers from Poston played a major part in Western Colorado agriculture, helping to harvest 245 acres of peaches and 465 acres of tomatoes for growers, a report from Harold M. Routh, relocation officer for Western Colorado, reveals.

The total number of workers from the centers for harvesting peaches, tomatoes and planting beets in this area was 433, and of this number, practically one-half, 215, were recruited from Poston. Of this figure, 116 workers did orchard work, 90 picked tomatoes and 9 helped with the sugar beets.

#### ARIZONA CASE

(cont from page 1)

broad enough to restrict everybody because of its ambiguity, they believed.

Their conclusion was that because the American court declared unconstitutional the discriminatory law against Germans during the last war, they trust that this court do the same in the present case.

Attorney Thomas Groaff, deputy to the Attorney General, argued that House Bill 187 was constitutional because it is just a regulation, and the state is entitled to regulations because of the emergency created by the coming of thousands of persons of Japanese ancestry into Arizona.

As is the usual procedure in such cases, the court took the case under advisement, Mr. Haas said.

Dr. Powell and he also visited the Phoenix Indian Sanitarium where there are about 18 persons from Poston, Mr. Haas added.

ject work day will not affect the schools, according to Dr. A.L. Harris, Director of Education. Since there will be no change made in the lunch hour, the secondary school classes in particular must run according to previous school schedules.

#### STOPLISTEES TO BE ADVISED OF STATUS

Individuals who are placed on the stop list on and after Nov. 15 will be advised of their status, Giles L. Zimmerman, chief of employment, announced Monday.

Up to now there has been no such policy and many persons have evinced surprise when called up for leave clearance hearings, Mr. Zimmerman said.

All those whose names are taken off the list will be formally notified as before, as prescribed by administrative instructions, he added.

#### EVACUEE OFFICE URGES FILING FORM WRA 155

All evacuees who had



\$ 291.86 DONATED  
FIRE VICTIMS  
BY CAMP III

A total of \$291.87  
was donated by resi-  
dents of Unit 3, ac-  
cording to the Unit III  
Community Council, to  
the Block 6 fire vic-  
tims.

The following are  
the amount by blocks:

305-\$15.55; 306-\$10;  
307-\$33.15; 308-\$15.15;  
309-\$21.25; 316-\$22.75;  
317-\$7.40; 318-\$19.50;  
310-\$4.25; 322-\$11.50;  
323-\$13.60; 325-\$15.55;  
326-\$13.75; 327-\$18.55;  
328-\$25.67; 329-\$23.50;  
and 330-\$20.75.

he needs, on the other hand, stated that the school plants in Units I and III will be quite satisfactory as soon as cabinets, sinks and other special equipment are installed. 3. the necessity to recruit fully qualified teachers up to the limit of the budget provisions was pointed out, however, in a few cases, exception will be made where the work of a teacher is rated very good, although, he does not fully meet the state preparation requirements. Transcripts of a number of teachers have not been secured from the col-



UNIT II DONATES *11/28/93*  
\$262 TO FIRE VICTIMS

Philanthropic residents of Unit II congenially contributed the following sum or \$262.75 to succor the fire victims of Unit I:

207-\$20.15;	208-\$21.75;
209-\$11.25;	211-\$10.00;
213-\$10.00;	214-\$5.05;
215-\$23.50;	216-\$9.40;
219-\$13.95;	220-\$7.25;
221-\$12.00;	222-\$21.10;
226-\$23.85;	227-\$47.75;
and 229-\$25.75.	

## AWARD

At the regular YMCA meeting last Wednesday it was decided that the YMCA Sportsmanship Award will be chosen by the following members: coaching staff(head & assistant); official; team members, press and the school press of the three Units. The YMCA award committee which will be made up from YMCA members will have the final say as to the selection of the player. Although spon-



NOVEMBER 29 -- (1)

*Fire Dept.*

The Block Manager of 6, M. Horita, and J. Omori, a block yushi, went around the blocks and organizations <sup>to thank</sup> for their donations for the distressed families of Block 6, who had lost all their belongings due to the fire. The delegates presented a mimeographed list of the names of donors and the amounts of their donations as a public acknowledgement of receipt. The donations up to November 21st totaled <sup>1,125.42</sup> ~~\$1,533.02~~. Besides this total one hundred dollars had been donated to the families from the Block 6 fund and about two hundred dollars were transmitted to them subsequently from Camp II. The donor of the largest amount was Block 11, the neighboring block, with \$63.70; the next, the Red Cross with \$50; the next, Block 22 with \$49; then, Block 14 with \$48.35, Block 42 with \$38.75, and Block 28 with \$37, <sup>and</sup> so forth. The donations from Camp III amounted to \$291.87 in aggregate.

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*12/1/43*  
*Fire Dept.*

M. Horita, the councilman from Block 6, reported the distribution of the donations to the distressed families. He reported the money aggregated to \$1638.37. Of which \$17.50 was spent to buy "omimai" present to the injured fireman.

DECEMBER 1 -- (6)

The balance, \$1,620.87, was divided among twenty-five persons as follows:

Sakamoto family (seven persons)	\$732.35
Nakasaki family (five persons)	<del>41</del> 51
Okida family (three persons)	226.53
Takeuchi family (two persons)	125.50
Ota family (two persons)	66.86
Nakagawa family (three persons)	37.32
Oku (single)	18.70
Shimichi (two persons)	2.10
	<hr/> \$1,620.87

12/4/43  
FIRE VICTIMS  
GETS DONATION  
OF \$1638

A total of \$1638.37 was donated to the recent block 6 fire victims by the residents of Units I, II and III, it was revealed.

The distribution of the money received was made according to the loss the family suffered in the fire.

The donation received was as follows: Sakamoto family, 7, \$732.35; Nakazaki family, 5, \$411.51; Okida family, 3, \$226.53; Takeuchi family, 2, \$125.50; Onta family, 2, \$66.86; Nakagawa family, 3, \$32.32; Oku, 1, \$18.70; Shiomichi family, 2, \$2.10 and \$17.50 to the injured persons aiding during the fire.



been rewarded to former scoutmaster Hardy Tsuga of Troop No. 122. Prior to evacuation he was active in scout work in Watsonville, Calif. Presently he is employed in Ogden, Utah.

It's every scout's desire to receive an Eagle Badge and Hardy Tsuga through his entire service as a scout was able to obtain his goal.

### CORRECTION

An article in the Nov 30 edition of the Chronicle stated that the Judicial Commission received \$39.98 from the Unit III Sewing Department. This amount should have read \$79.98.

LOST: Women's wrist-watch, black band, between the hours of 10 and in Blk. 31 1st



12/29/43  
Fire Dept.

The Administration issued an instruction for those who had their properties stored in the warehouses and lost them due to the fire to file itemized lists of the stored goods. It is unknown yet whether the losses might be compensated by the WRA.

The Unit Coordinator, also, announced that the washing machines belonging to the evacuees and stored in the warehouses will be released to the owners. The Administration does not wish to assume loss by fire or theft.

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A regular weekly meeting of the Block Managers was held in the conference room in Administration Building #3 ("Capitol Hill")

12/28/43  
Fire Dept.

Assistant Fire Chief Woodhouse spoke to the managers to be more stringent in enforcing the regulations for fire prevention. He deplored the condition existing here - a lack of cooperation "from the top down".

Woodhouse informed the meeting that the telephones for fire

DECEMBER 28 -- (2)

alarm will be installed as soon as possible. The difficulty in getting an exchange board is the cause of delay. He reported that the fire in Camp II was caused by unattended brooders for chicks in one of the warehouses burnt down. The nightwatchman had quit his job two days prior to the fire, and the Agriculture Department failed to find a new man.

As an example of the lack of cooperation from the community, he cited the regulation for getting a permit for a meeting of 50 persons or more from the Fire Department. For Christmas Eve only eight blocks asked for permits, while almost all blocks had some sort of parties. For Christmas night only eight such permits were issued. Other blocks failed to obey the regulation.