

Dr. Carter  
June 1, 1942

REPORT TO: Dr. Dorothy Thomas

SUBJECT: Progress and Organizational Report on Manzanar, Japanese Relocation Settlement

DATE OF TRIP: May 19, 20, 21, 22, two full days and one evening in Manzanar

# I. Physical Setting of Country

The inaccessibility of Owens Valley requires a route by way of Reno into the Valley by train and highway, or by way of Bakersfield, Mohave, and up into the Valley. About three months of the year a short cut is open for motorists. The personnel at Manzanar prefer the Reno route at this time of the year because of the freedom from traffic. Owens Valley is practically desert land at an elevation of a little over 4,000 feet. I understand the land was purchased by Los Angeles for its water supply, but that arrangements have been made now, since Los Angeles has another source of water, to reclaim large portions of the Valley. It is expected that about 3,000 acres will be put under cultivation in another year by the Japanese. The camp is situated about two miles from Lone Pine. Most of the personnel are at present living in Lone Pine at the Dow Hotel. Hotel accommodations must be made well in advance because the rooms are so crowded, and some rooms have three and four beds. The hotel faces Mt. Whitney which has an elevation of around 14,000 feet. Most of the mountains are heavily snowcapped, even at this time of the year. Lone Pine, Independence, and Bishop are conservative interior communities. The people were upset and aroused at the time the first plans were made to resettle the Japanese in this community. Vigilantes were formed and are still reported to be organized. The people have an outright fear of physical harm from the group of Japanese. Various rumors around the community flow somewhat in this vein:

From the hotel help: "They certainly are fixing up those Japanese in big style. I understand they are teaching them ballet dancing."



From a storekeeper: "They're giving those Japs swell food; they're eating better than me and my family."

From one of the workers: "There are a lot of young workers doing the construction. I guess there are about 100 workers now. But they can't keep them because it's so hot and the dust is so bad that there's no use of burying yourself out here when you can get the same money in a civilized country."

From the station agent in Mohave: "I hear the Army is sure shootin' up those Japs. We've had two corpses come through in the last two weeks."

Many rumored stories have been carried out of the camp by the construction workers. One story related to the fine food which the Japanese were supposed to have been fed -- that they were taking better care of the Japanese than they were our boys in the Army.

A service club woman from Independence made this remark: "I have been asked to come to Manzanar with an active group from this community to help establish better relations. I can't be enthusiastic about anything those Japs are doing when I have a boy in the Philippines. My whole family feel the same way."

From a banker in Lone Pine: "They act patriotic, though we all know we can't trust them further than you can throw a bull by the tail."

On the bus passing Manzanar a comment was made by the writer about the hot sun and its effect on the small children who were huddled against the barracks trying to get relief from the heat. The man across the aisle stood up in his seat and remarked in a loud, emotional voice: "Let 'em all burn up, those dam Japs!"

The people in the nearby communities well recognize the business that the Manzanar camp has brought to them. Yet it is not diplomatic to make any comments favorable to the Japanese without danger of being called "a Jap-lover." There is some indication that public relations between the community and the



camp are improving, but the amount of freedom given the Japanese, as well as the lessening of Army guard control, will necessarily proceed cautiously.

## II. History of the Camp

About March 15 the military police were sent to Manzanar, and immediately following in two or three days, contractors and the W.C.C.A. moved in. The personnel of this agency was composed largely of W.P.A. people. On March 20 the first convoy of Japanese arrived, about 60 in number. There were no finished barracks for them, nor doors, windows, or steps, and the expression that "The houses were built around the Japanese" can be taken literally. The administrative office for the W.C.C.A. personnel was not ready, and they worked for several days without a roof. The administrators say that for several days there was no division of authority, and each personnel member did anything he saw to do from assisting the carpenters to helping the Japanese move into their quarters.

The population has grown in spurts. For instance, on April 29 there were 3,899 Japanese in camp, and in three days' time the population had increased to 7,000.

At the time of my visit the War Relocation Authority had taken over the camp about three days previous. The policy of the present administrating agency is to be more liberal. Guards had been removed from the rear of the camp. As the project manager stated, "Where could an escaping Japanese go? In one direction he runs into Death Valley; in the opposite direction the Valley must lead him into Lone Pine; and in the other two directions he runs into high, impassable mountains."



### III. Setup on the Camp

All camps are patterned on the same plan. There are 12 barracks in a block and 4 blocks in a quad. Each block has a mess hall, recreational hall, men's toilets and showers, women's toilets and showers, and a laundry building. Fire banks and recreational plots give for protection. All the barracks and buildings were built of green lumber. The rumor that some of them have fallen in is true, large cracks are appearing, and the wind has whipped off much of the tar paper. Each barrack has 4 apartments. An apartment is a rough, unfinished room with 4-6 windows, a door with 2 or 3 steps. Seven to ten people live in each apartment. Families are not broken, but there are all kinds of combinations living together in the one-room apartment. Newlyweds are mixed in with a family group. One family may be moved in one week and a strange family whom they do not know placed with them the following week. Clean mattresses are filled with straw and placed on army cots. The Army furnishes blankets, and a few families have some personal bedding. There was one case in which a woman had acute arthritis and her own bed was secured for her. Sheets and quilts are frequently hung up to make partitions and give some privacy. Most of the barracks I inspected were clean and well organized for the crowded conditions and lack of closet and drawer space. The people have been very ingenious in picking up scraps of lumber which the carpenters have left and have built themselves benches, tables, and chairs. Pictures and photographs are seen around. Big pictures of Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, and several of MacArthur were seen on the walls, as well as American flags and Red Cross banners. A few have begun to plant flowers and shrubs around the barracks, and one barrack had an Hawaiian bamboo porch effect. Another barrack in vacation style had a plaque on the front of the house painted with the sign "Paradise Lost." The women's toilets were clean and well cared for, with ample toilet paper but no soap or paper towels. There was absolutely no privacy, with two rows of toilets and no



partitions between them. The ladies' shower room would accommodate about 12 people in group style. The people were requested to wear these grass sandals to prevent spread of athlete's foot.

When a convoy arrives, the administration is usually warned beforehand as to the number and approximate time. Before the incoming Japanese get out of the bus, the doctor and the public health nurse go aboard the bus, and while they are all attentive and eager to receive instructions, the public health procedure and protection is explained to them. They are warned to report for their immunizations for smallpox and typhoid immediately. Medical emergencies are cared for. One young girl was taken off the bus and was on the operating table for an emergency appendectomy fifteen minutes after she arrived at Manzanar. Reception committees are appointed to meet the incoming Japanese, help carry their baggage, help them settle in their new quarters, and to explain any questions or worries they may have.

#### IV. Administration and Organization

Veterans of the Indian service make up the major part of the personnel. The camp manager has an assistant who is concerned with the details of the organization, a Caucasian young girl for a secretary. She was the only Caucasian woman in the camp except the few who were wives of Japanese. The policy of the administration is to use Japanese personnel for every position that can possibly be filled by trained or professional Japanese. However, the Japanese have said repeatedly, "Give us as many Caucasian contacts as possible. We do not want to be made into a ghetto. The second position in rank of the camp is that of director of public service. Some of the various departments under the director of public service will be discussed.

##### A. Recreation

At this point the recreational program was beginning to shape up. There



was a very able and well-trained recreational director, whom I understand is now leaving for a much more responsible job as recreational director in Australia. This man had already organized a full recreational schedule which filters into every block in the community. Attached to this report is an organizational chart of the present recreational program at Manzanar. I visited several of the activities which were in full swing. One barrack was devoted to the direction of music under a Ph.D. from Cincinnati. There are three pianos, orchestra, and band, vocal and whatnot, all going on in one barrack with no partitions. There were several woodshops, but there are no tools to work with except the personal equipment of instructors. They were making tables and chairs of scrap lumber, partitions of plywood to put in the nursery barracks, and other shop work. At that time there had not been time or equipment for hobby crafts. The art centers were already flourishing, and there had been an art exhibit last week with an attendance of 1,500 people. One center which I visited seemed to specialize in commercial and portrait art. The walls were covered with exhibits that gave the appearance of an art center that might have been in operation for several months. A Japanese artist is now in charge of the program, but the recreational director stated that he expected to have the artist placed on a government project to make permanent murals for various administrative offices in the camp because the man was an artist rather than a teacher. The recreational leader told about inquiring about the price of a particular picture the artist had painted of twilight at Manzanar camp, expecting to pay about \$10 or \$15. The artist asked \$500 for the picture and explained that he usually received around \$2,000. The recreational program was well balanced for all ages and both sexes. There was a gho tournament (a Japanese game for adults) going on during that week. Groups of boys and girls were organized playing baseball, volley ball, and outdoor games. These groups were all led and supervised by Japanese recreational leaders.



The community library is now located in a barrack but will eventually be transferred to the new high school building. At present a Japanese librarian was in charge, with several assistants. There are only 200 or 300 books, and these were sent as discards from the Los Angeles public library and a few have been given by friends of the Japanese. There were two or three rough tables and a few chairs. Most of the reading was done by sitting on the floor against the wall or standing up leaning against the window or the tables. I visited the library at about 11 o'clock in the morning and there must have been fifty people busily occupied.

The nursery education is now placed under recreation since there is no department of education as yet. There are about 300 children now enrolled in these pre-school activities, and there is about one leader for each 25 or 30 children (this is about half the required number of leaders necessary). They have only a few trained Japanese nursery people. A nursery education specialist from Los Angeles came into camp for a few days' intensive training for girls who had had some educational work or were interested in nursery education. There is almost no equipment for the children -- a few dolls, some storybooks, crayons, and one set of clay. Yet there are evidences of functioning nurse principles as one notices the improvised shelves, coat hangers, and places for each child's personal belongings. In one corner the writer noticed a storytelling period in which the leader had the Japanese children lined up in the corner in tiers, the back row standing, the next row kneeling, and the next row sitting on the floor. They maintained these rigid positions while they heard the story of Snow White, which is obviously much above their maturity level. They were, however, keenly interested.

#### B. Health Service

The direction of the health service is under the supervision of a very capable man who has had broad experience in hospital and medical organization.



There are five Japanese doctors now in the community. A Dr. Goto, house surgeon from Los Angeles County Hospital, is chief of hospital staff. The hospital quarters are now temporary and have only 10 beds. There are 8 or 9 registered nurses, I believe, and about that many more nursing aides. The writer was asked to witness an appendectomy. The operating room is like the rest of the barracks -- bare floors and boarded walls. Homemade shelves and boxes take care of most of the operating-room equipment. I understand the doctor has up to this time done 6 or 7 major operations and about 8 minor ones. The operation I witnessed turned out to be a major one and lasted about two hours. The doctor's wife, who was an M.D., was his assisting surgeon. There was a scarcity of hospital supplies, and the same sheet used for the patient's operation had to be saved and placed on her bed after the operation. The surgeon only had three operating gowns and he had used up his last one. Several times during the operation his request to the surgical nurse had to be substituted for lack of proper supplies. Once when struggling with a substitute silk in sewing, the doctor made this remark, "This silk isn't holding -- must have been made in Japan." The hospital staff is terribly overworked, and the doctor had been up from two o'clock that morning on another major operation.

The outpatient clinic was in full operation. There was a registered nurse in charge, with a nursing aide to assist her. Most of the work seemed to be taking splinters out of children's hands and legs which had been caused by the rough board floors. There was no water in the outpatient clinic. The water was carried in in buckets and there was an improvised sterilizer. The public health doctor, a Japanese woman of wide experience and note, was exhausted from giving and supervising the immunization of 10,000 people for typhoid shots and smallpox. The line of people leading into the door of the public health office was about two blocks long. They were taken in so fast that when one man, who had already had his shot and came to bring his baby in, stood before the doctor



and turned his head, she had already put the shot in his arm before he could say, "Not me, my baby." This doctor also runs a well-baby clinic. There has been some trouble and loss of weight in the children caused both by the disturbance of change, unfamiliarity with the food, and perhaps insufficient rest and crowded quarters. The doctor said she was quite concerned about the developing restlessness of the children and the fact that there would soon be personality disorders as a result from unsatisfactory living conditions for the children. There are 67 pregnancies reported at that time and as the doctor stated, "We don't know how many there are that haven't been reported." There is no birth control clinic, no contraceptives, and no provisions for marriage counseling. The policy at present is to ignore the situation.

There are no venereal disease clinics, and it is said that there is as yet no need for any.

There were 4 dentists and a student assistant. There was no running water in the dentist's office. Water was carried in in buckets. An improvised sterilizer was provided by using a pan on top of an electric grill. One dental chair looked like a shampoo chair, and the other was an odd-looking number that the dentist had made himself -- "according to his wife's measurements" (his wife was <sup>a</sup>fat, short woman). The policy of the dental clinic at the present time was to relieve pain only.



### C. Education

The educational system will be the last institution of the community to be formed. It will be interesting to watch what happens when a school system is inaugurated after the other agencies and institutions are already functioning. The schools are usually the most intrenched and strongest of a community; in this way they can afford to be somewhat isolated and carry on more or less rivaling and parallel programs of health, recreation, clubs, etc. In this situation the schools will necessarily be closely allied to the existing community resources and integration will have to result. By initiating its program last, it will be forced to dovetail into the already functioning community agencies.

Nursery education is now under recreation, but it may be transferred to education if it can be operated under federal funds. (Nursery schools cannot be directed through the state educational set-up, and as it has been said, "Surely they are not going to give the Japanese nursery schools when we are not allowed to have any under our present educational system."

Adult education is under direction of a young married woman who is a graduate of the Theological School in Berkeley. The first week 265 adults registered; many said, "This is the first opportunity we have had to study and learn English -- we have been so busy making a living for our families." A special effort is made to draw the "Kibei" and "Issei." The first lessons plans showed an obvious effort to associate learning English with the constitution and American history, particularly with the Revolutionary War.

### D. Family Relations

This agency will need much strengthening to be able to carry the load that will be forced upon it. The director, or consultant, is a Japanese woman, Mrs. Kikuchi, who is well suited by personality and natural ability to carry the work but who has had almost no formal training in social welfare. If an older trained worker could be placed with her, her insight and knowledge of



Japanese people of all ages would be directed into more effective channels. Of all the people in Manzanar, if I were in need of information about the culture, beliefs, or attitudes of any type of Japanese, I would go to Mrs. Kikuchi for the most dependable answer. Under this agency are listed such functions as juvenile problems, intro-family and inter-family problems, the aged and disabled, budget needs and review. Mrs. Kikuchi's skill in acting as liaison officer between the struggle for power between the older generation and the Nisei is very important. She found it necessary to withdraw her trained social workers out of the field work because of their youth and inability to speak Japanese. The young workers antagonized the elders and were unable to assist families in solving their problems. She now keeps the trained workers in the office with files and routine matters and sends out as social workers older, respected Japanese men and women whose judgment is considered by families in difficulty. She says this system is working much more smoothly and is getting results. The older Japanese are not used to accepting opinions of the young folks. The young workers will not or cannot learn how to approach the older people even after she went with them personally on visits to show them how to establish rapport with older people.

Juvenile problems are not yet serious and so far have been easily stopped. (One conference to a group of single girls about young men callers put an immediate and so far permanent stop to men in the girls' barracks.) There is enough excitement in the newness of camp life now but this is not expected to last much longer.

Mrs. Kikuchi is also called on by the elders to assist them in the meetings with block leaders. Most of the group are young men and this question of power is very important. On the morning of my interview, she had been called into a meeting about the new cooperative store, where it seems that the college crowd were walking away with the store plans, backed up by their confidence and



enthusiasm gained from college courses in economics and business administration, plus their American aggressiveness in walking away with an open meeting. The older ones were so handicapped by English and American democratic methods that the meeting is practically adjourned before they know what the issue for voting is. The young still grouse around about not getting enough to say about how things are run, but in proportion to the power given the elders in their culture, the young are quite in the lead.

There are families in need but since the Japanese are unaccustomed to coming to an impersonal agency for assistance, they are sitting back silently while through a game of hide and seek the social worker finds out about their needs and offers some help.

A new building is now going up for an "orphanage." (I have repeatedly offered the name of "Childrens' Village" for the buildings.) The orphanage will house about 200 Japanese children ("dangerous aliens"). It is encouraging to note that the new director of community service, Mr. Temple, is not in accord with the orphanage system and favors foster home placement or group placement.

There is a "cooler" but I was unable to find out what, if any, type of offenses would land one in the "cooler." Family bickering, minor fights have been reported.

#### E. Religion

When the camp first opened, all 47 varieties of religious sects tried to move in and pass the hat for funds. Only churches belonging to the Affiliated Protestant and Catholic are permitted to operate. Ministers are not on the pay rolls. Services are held on Sundays in the recreation barracks. It is estimated that about 40 per cent of the population would be Protestant or Catholic, about 30 per cent Buddhist, and the remainder not claiming either. Buddhism is not yet permitted, but funeral services were allowed with the Buddhist priest. Prayer meetings are held on Wednesdays, and there are several



organized young peoples groups. The Maryknoll Mission fathers are in the camp, and there are two Japanese nuns -- good sports but very timid about the lack of privacy, especially in the ladies' rest rooms, which have the privacy of a gold fish bowl.

#### F. Public Relations

There doesn't seem to be any rigid policy about press releases and the camp public relations director. Releases to press and publications may or may not come through the camp publicity director. The camp newspaper forms the major part of this agency. It is interesting to note that Mr. Brown, the publicity director, was called into Manzanar before anyone in the valley knew the Japanese were to be sent there. He has a diary record of each day's events and happenings since a date before the Army or the construction workers were sent out. He knows the outside pulse perhaps better than anyone else connected with the project.

Only one copy of the paper is given to each apartment. Copies of the papers are on file. The policy is definitely a positive one, much as any high school paper.

#### G. Canteen

The Army operated the canteen until April 22 and at that time the camp was taking over as a cooperative project. The store takes in about \$1,000 a day; the main sales seem to be cold drinks, candy bars, cheese crackers, ice cream, and potato chips. A variety of notions and essentials are offered, but there is little in clothing or larger merchandise. A barber shop and a beauty shop will be added to the new store. Profits will be used to buy recreational equipment, for welfare work, and other such needs.

#### H. Police

The policing is now listed under community services, but this department is a parallel one rather than under direction of the administration. The police,



sent in from outside, and the Army seem to be somewhat superfluous. The impression of soldiers on constant guard is necessary for the front entrance and highway approach. The Valley people demand the security of knowing the Japanese are well guarded. There have been frequent changes in commanding officers and various rumors about the fitness of the M.P.'s on duty. At the same time, as one M.P. remarked, "I heard they were going to remove the guard from the rear of the camp. What is the use of us walking our feet off on three sides when they can get away at the back end of the camp?" It appears to me that the Army is necessary for two reasons: to create the desired impression on the Valley people and tourists who want to see heavy guards around the camp, and for the protection of the Japanese in case of vigilantes or an aroused white mob.

There must be about 90 Japanese police who were taking their duties quite seriously. Patrols were going at ten o'clock at night around the barracks making thorough checks of anyone out of place. (Mr. Nash, Project Manager, and I were sitting on the steps with a family when a young policeman came up and flashed the light on in regular F.B.I. fashion. The young teen-age girl of the family yelled out, "You can't do anything to him -- he is the big shot."

#### I. Housing and employment

This department occupies a whole barrack and keeps an accounting of all population, occupational classification, and work assignments. Mr. Frazier, department head, had just completed a population census, broken into age groups. This is now available. There has been no job analysis or code classification -- occupation was assigned according to the name of job given by each informer. He has some accountants and mathematicians and plans to set up a statistical department after some in-service training. Quarter assignment comes from this office.

#### J. Administrative Service

Cost accounting, pay rolls, property records, purchasing, and budget



come under this department.

#### K. Plant Maintenance

Power, heat, light, underground utilities, garage and car maintenance, etc. are under this department. There is ample hot and cold water at all times. Lights are not switched off at night at a central switch.

#### L. Supply and Transportation

Intra-project transportation, rail-head transportation, warehousing, refrigeration, garbage and trash, etc.

#### M. Information Service

Here a part of a barrack is set aside for tables and chairs for people to come in and write letters and secure help in carrying on business or correspondence. Translators and typists are available. Lost and found help is offered.

#### N. War Works

Mr. Harrison, chief of agriculture and industries, has already started several going projects. Two lattice-enclosed buildings carry on the guayule plant industry. They plan to put about 3,000 acres under cultivation. Irrigation work is already started on reclaiming the apple orchards at the back of the camp. Animal husbandry is started. There will be a section set off as the industrial section; seven carloads of camouflage net material was expected in any day.

#### V. General Comments and Questions

Indoctrination was interesting -- some was handed from administration to other white personnel members, from administration to Japanese, and among the Japanese themselves. The "thing to do" is to use such expressions as "our model community", "each of us is equal with equal opportunity," "following our democratic ideals," "show our American spirit," "We are Americans." Over and over were comments heard about "good morale", or a certain person has done so much to maintain "morale" in the community; such spirit and cooperation -- just



hint what you want done and these people will do it. I have never seen such resourcefulness and initiative.

The administration speaks continuously about these phrases and the people themselves use them almost as frequently. The most grouching is done by the nonprofessional and untrained Japanese youth. There seems to be an expected pattern of behavior which will exhibit patriotism, American spirit and initiative, utmost cooperation under any kind of condition, and faith that this will be a model community offering equal opportunity to all. Actually, cleavages are forming between the professionals and the others -- with all food, material, and living standards equal, there is not much else to strive for except personal prestige. There is no place of equal importance for the successful importers, florists, and business men. Dr. Goto, the chief of the hospital staff, is perhaps the number one man. As we were riding from the new hospital he took great care to wave to each person he passed, and as it grew to be quite a task, he said, "If I don't speak to everyone, they'll think I am stuck up, and when I do I get a stiff neck and arm."

What place will be found for these important <sup>persons</sup> (and in two cases millionaires) who have held such prominent positions?

Actual count of youth in leadership positions would show that the young ones are pushing out the elders. The older ones were just waiting for this chance to get the Americanized young upstarts under their thumbs again while they had them so close to supervise. What attitude will they take if they are pushed out?

What will happen when the results of the excitement and thrill have worn off, when tensions develop from the physical contacts of having eight people living in a room about 25 x 20 feet? When children are irritable from lack of proper sleeping quarters, when colds and respiratory disorders begin in the winter with paper shell houses and uneven heat? When neuroses develop



and there is no escape from being enclosed and crowded together? When clothing of the poor wear out and difficulties must be met in securing a fund for relief as well as changing attitudes of clients to accept relief, and is it a good thing to alter these attitudes?

What are our educational goals and objectives for these Japanese children?

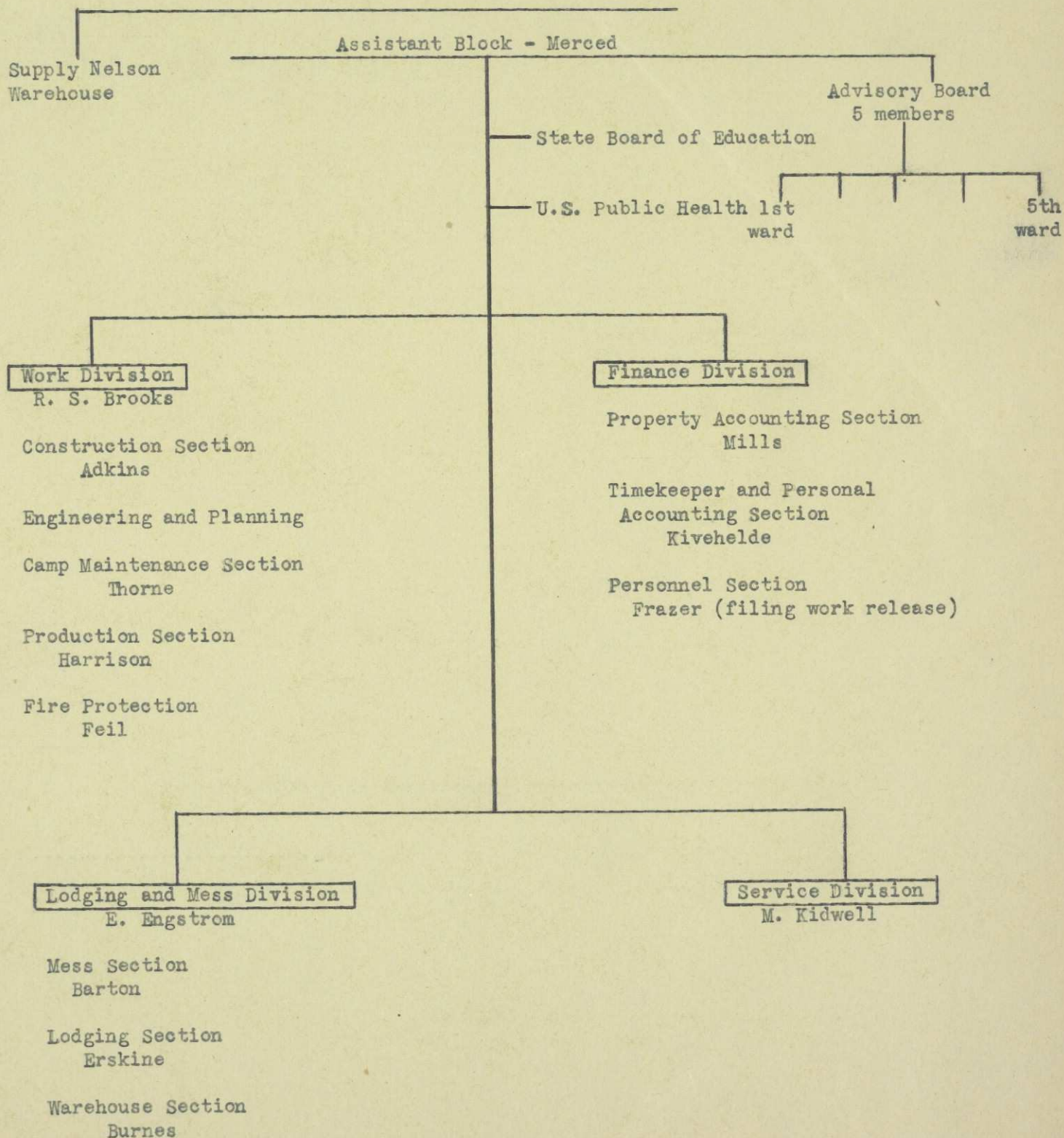


WARTIME CIVILIAN CONTROL

Western Defense Command  
R. L. De Witt

Wartime Civilian Control Administration  
R. L. Nicholson

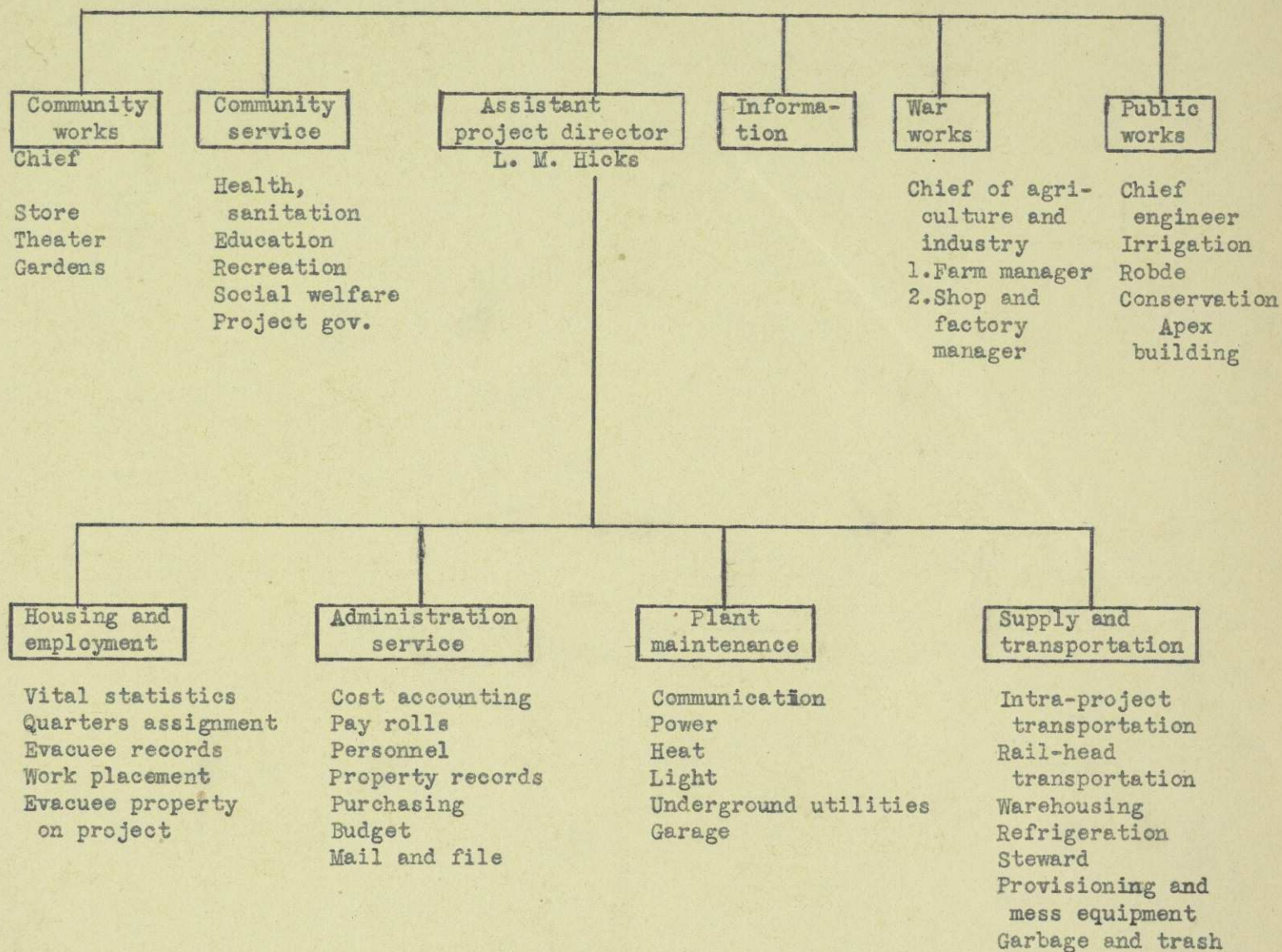
C. E. Triggs - Pomona





# WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Project Director - Community Coordinator  
Nash





SERVICE DIVISION

J. M. Kidwell

Director  
assistant

Secretary

United States  
Public Health

Dr. J. N. Bowden

Chief of  
Interior Police

Major W. Rashworth

State Board  
of Education

Center Stores

Store Managers

Men and boys' wear

Women's wear

Drugs

Sundries

Infant supplies

Confections, tobacco,  
ice cream, soft drinks

Special order

Laundry

Shoes

Barber

Beauty Shop

Medical Health

Arthur Miller, Chief

Hospital

Dr. J. M. Goto, Chief  
of staff

Public Health

Dr. Togasaki

Out-patient Clinic

Dr. Kusoyanagi

Housekeeping Aid

Arthur H. Miller  
(sickness in family,  
bed care)

Maintenance Engineer

Interior Police

Kenneth Harton, chief



Service Division  
Director

J. M. Kidwell

U. S. Public  
Health Service

Dr. John N. Bowden

Chief Medical  
Health Section

Secretary

Chief Clerk

Records

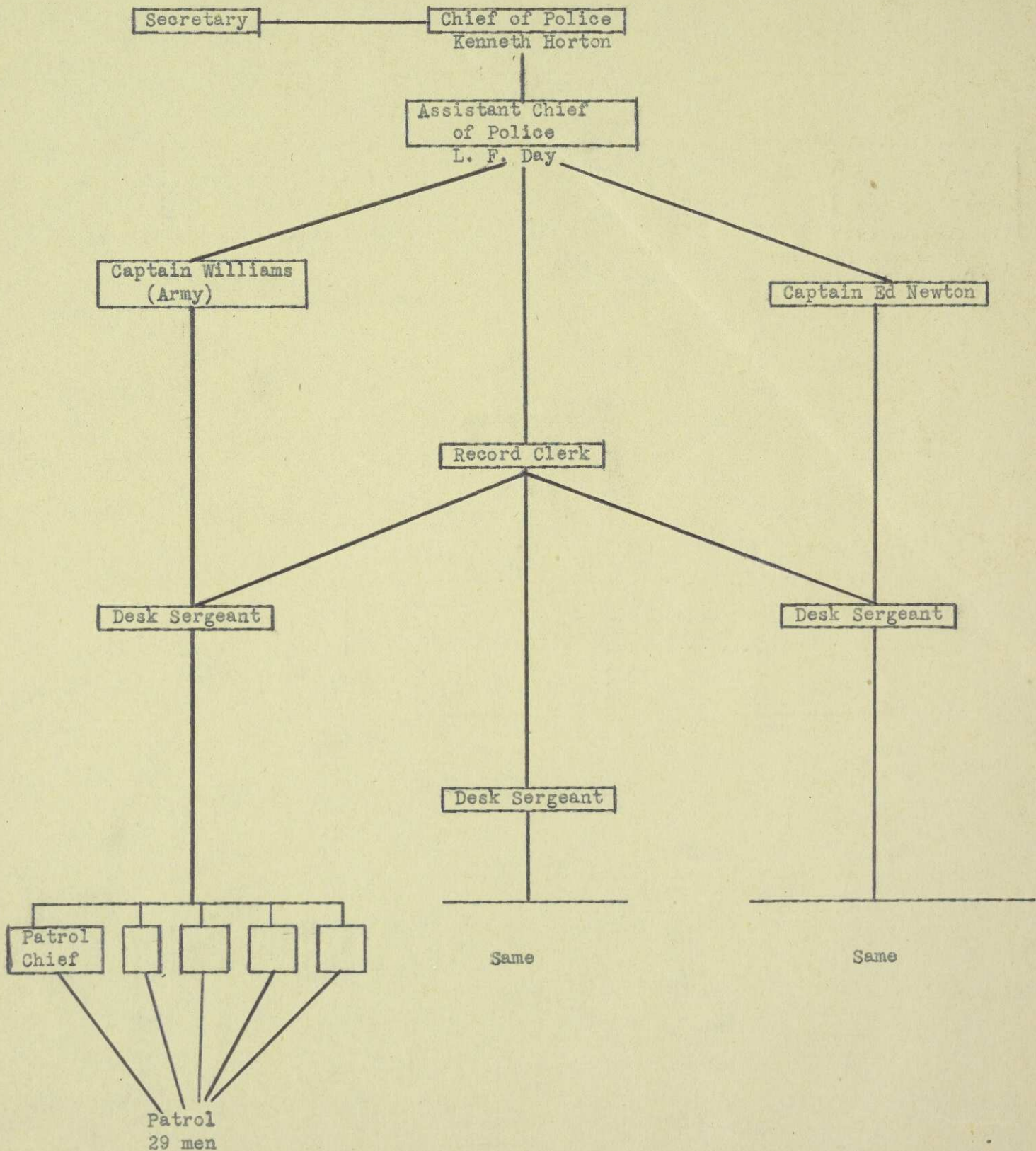
Supplies

Equipment

Employment

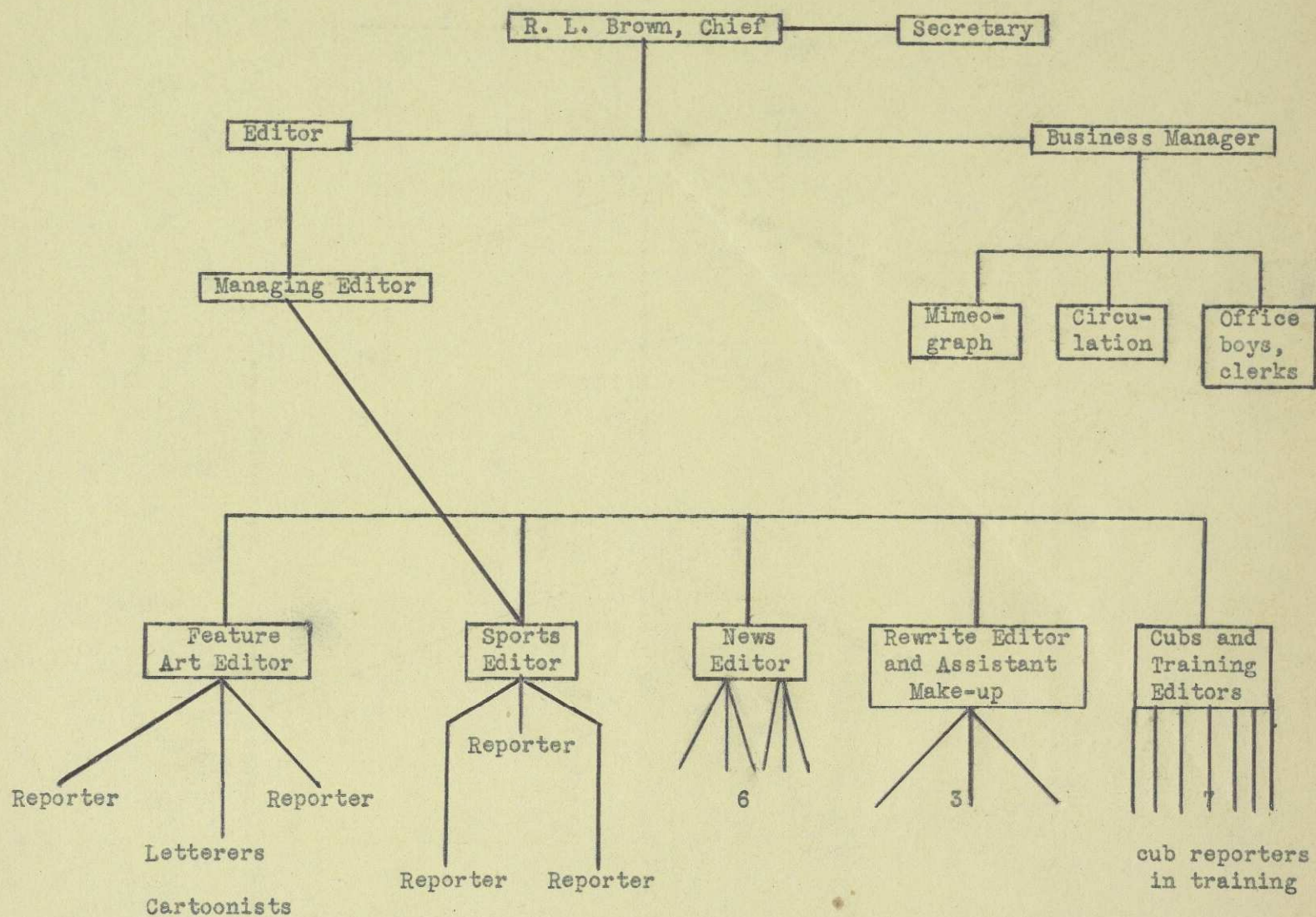


POLICE ORGANIZATION

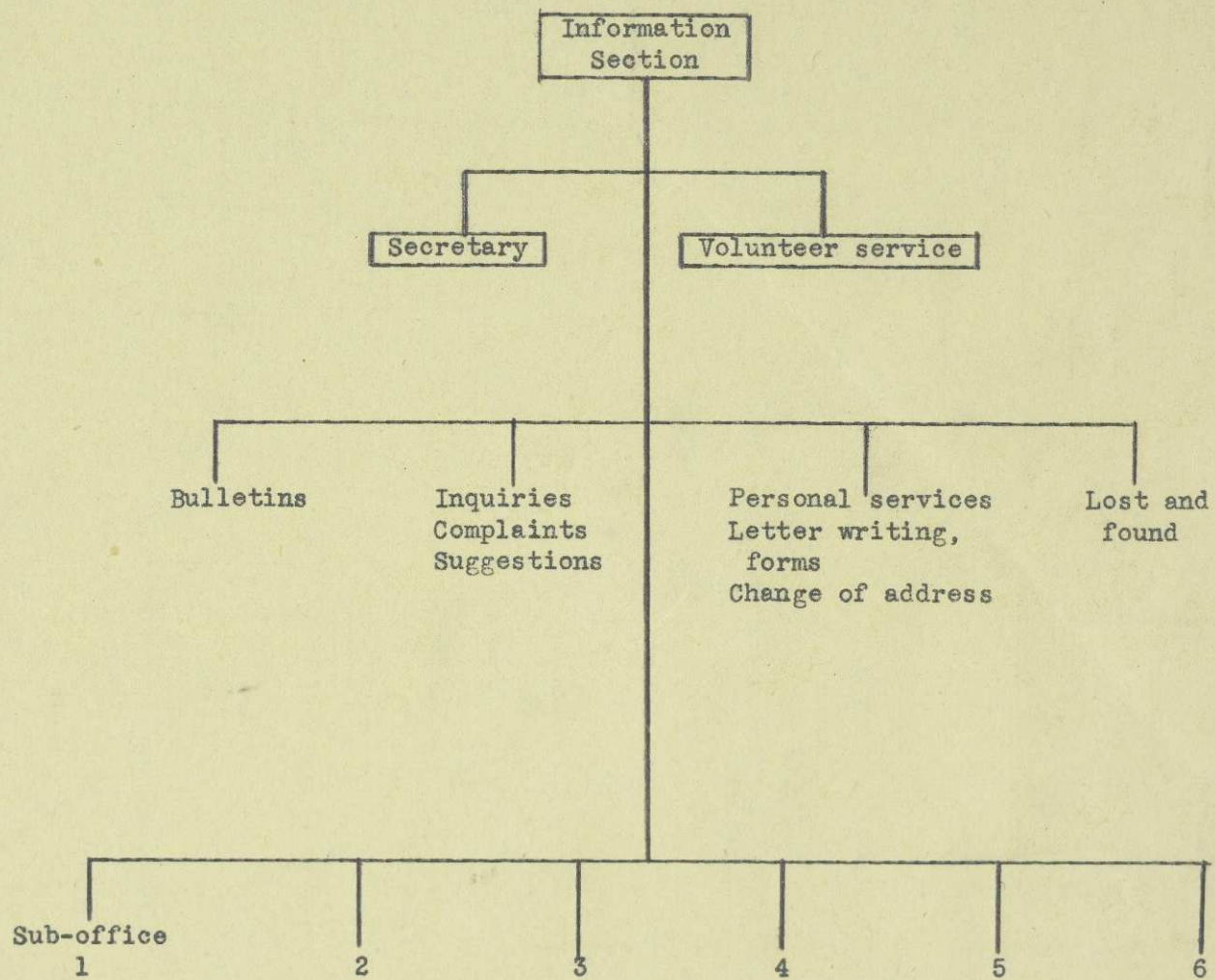




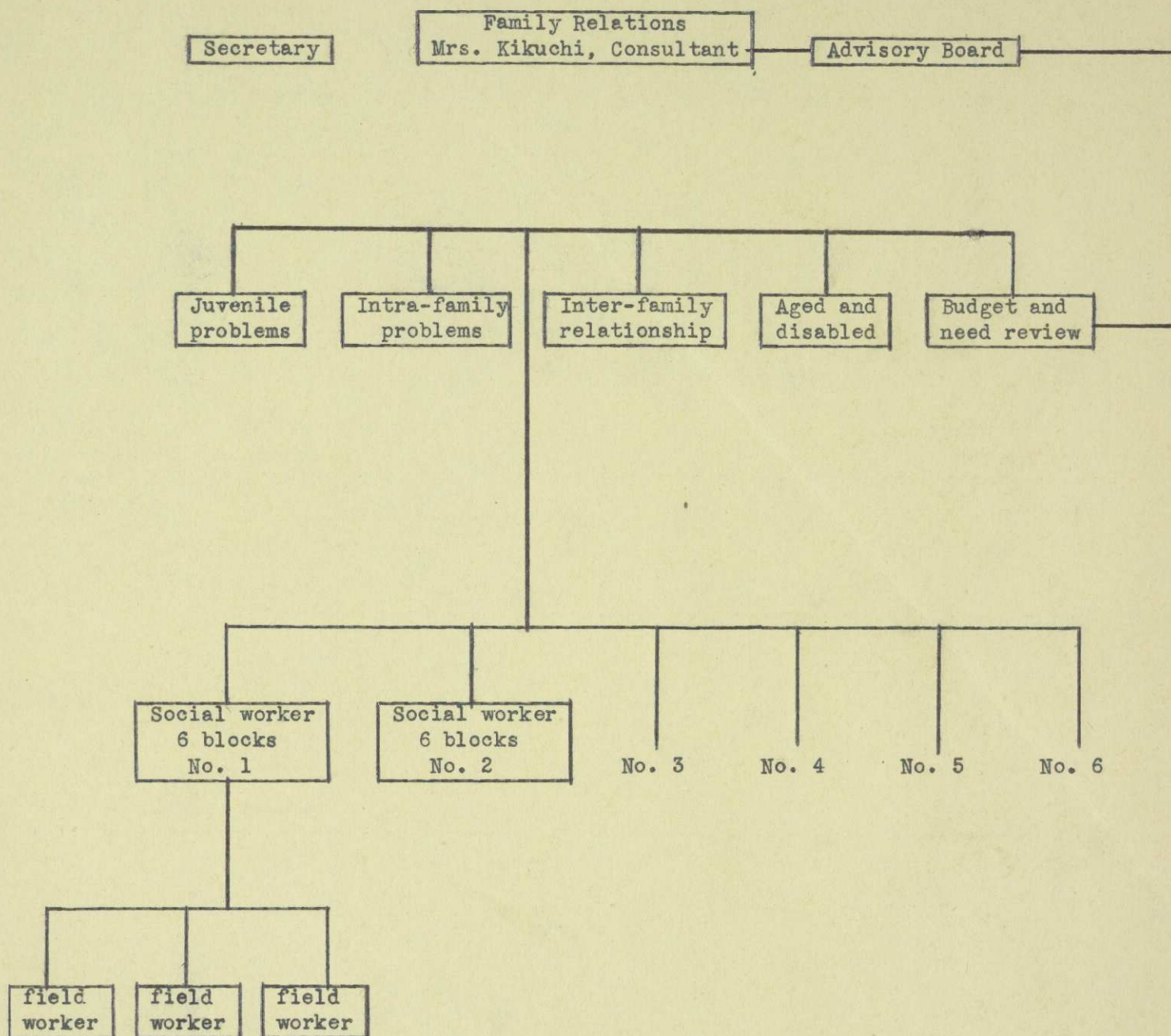
MANZANAR FREE PRESS





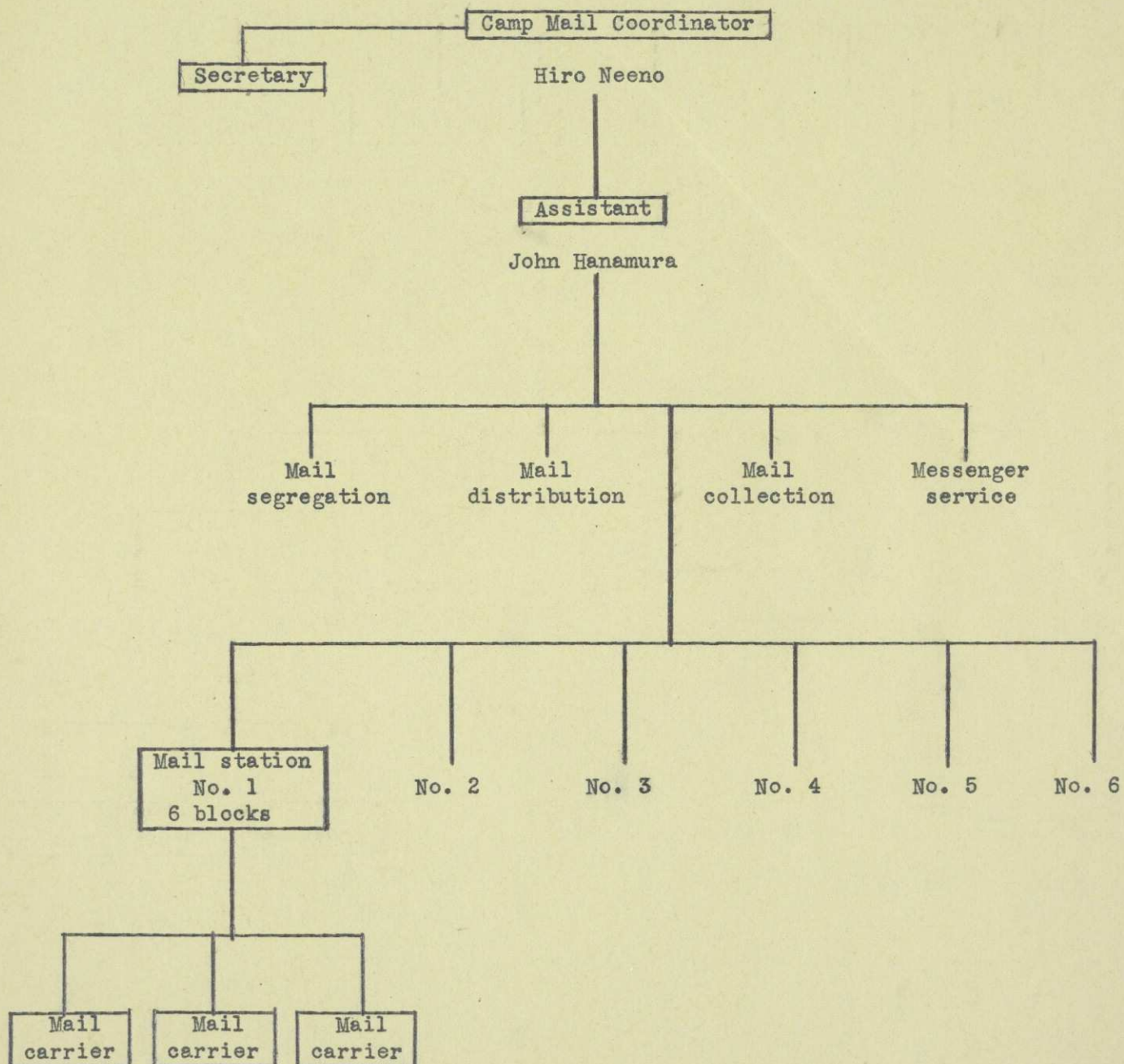




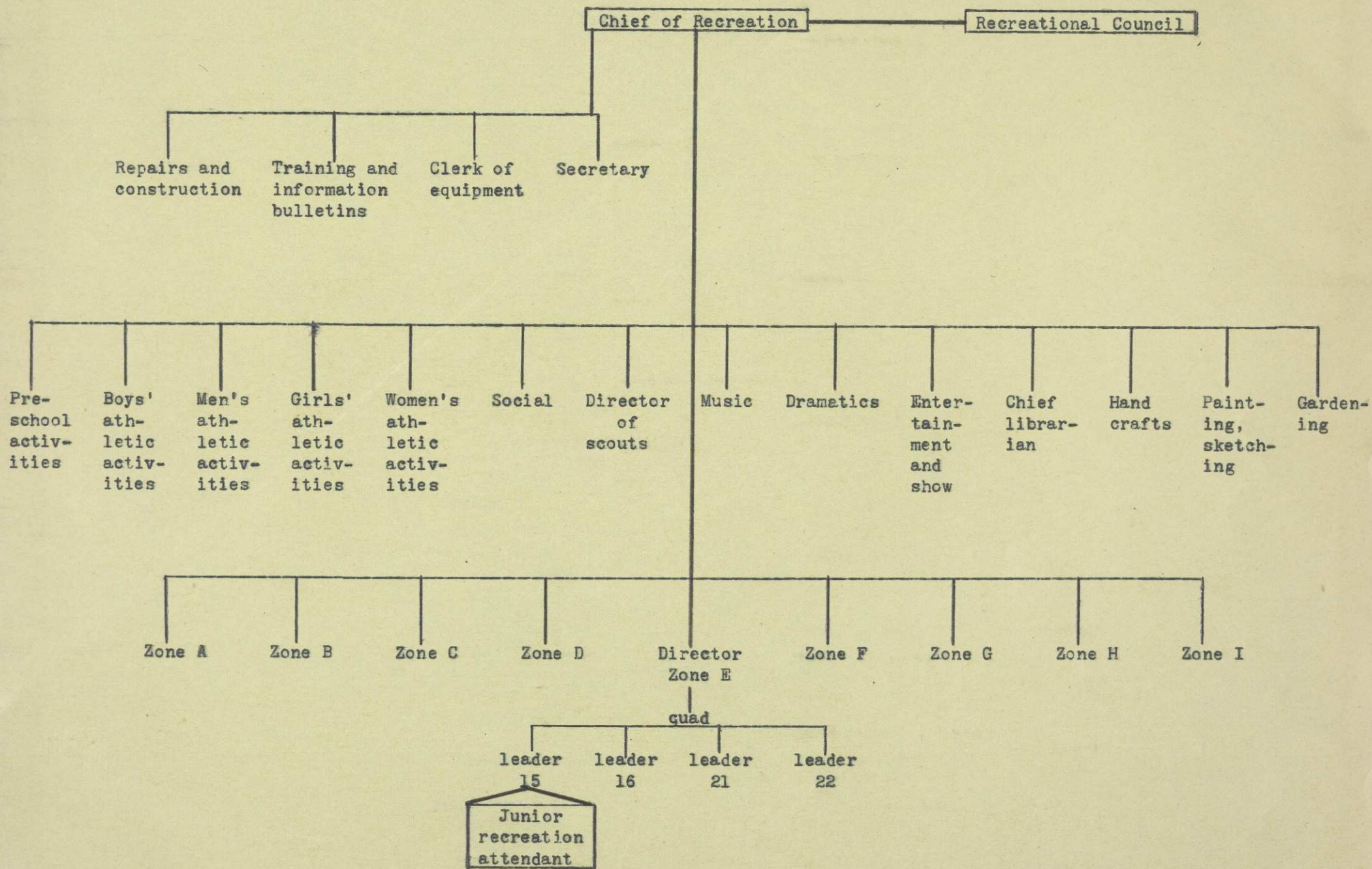




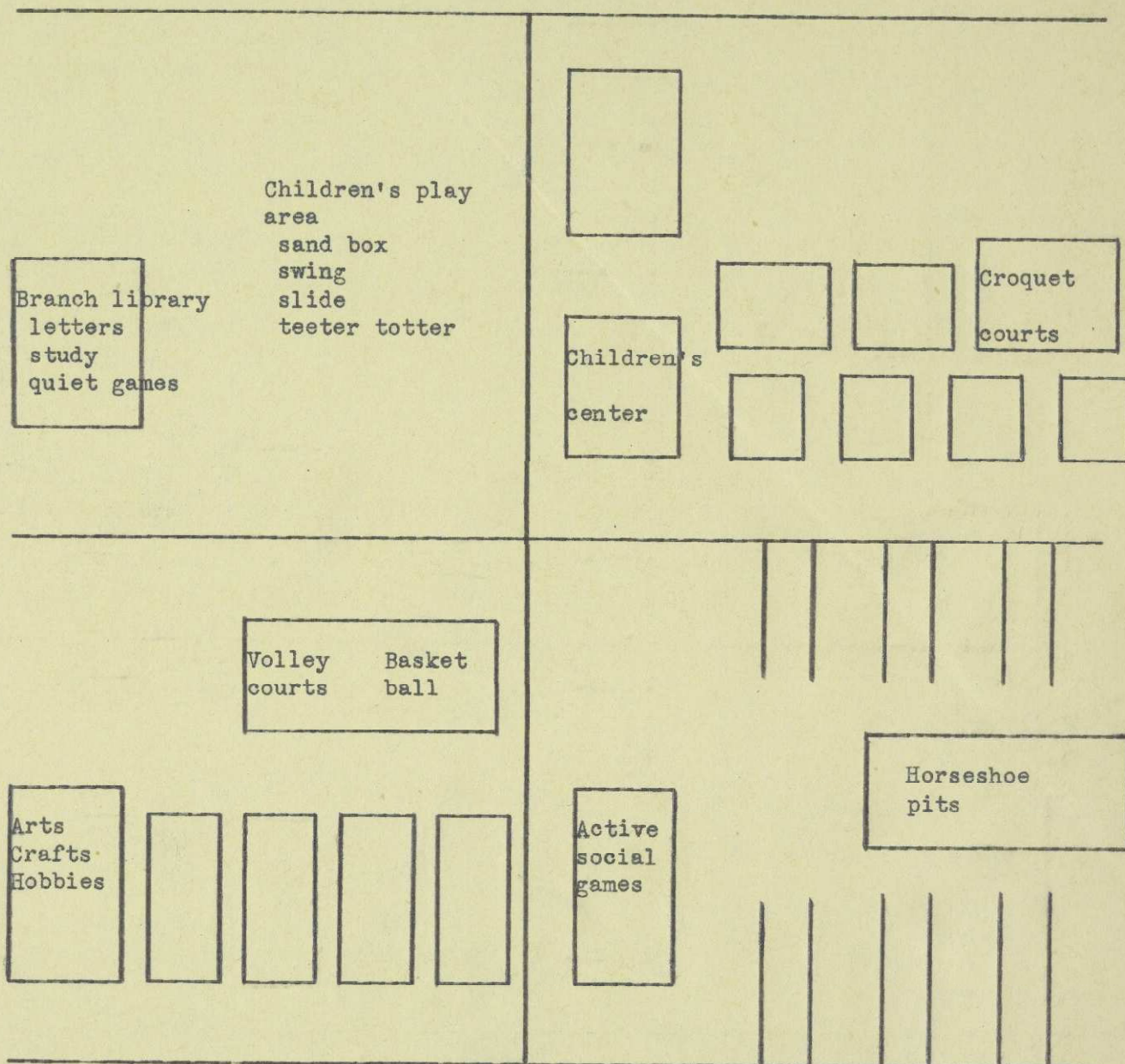
# Intra-Mail Delivery Section









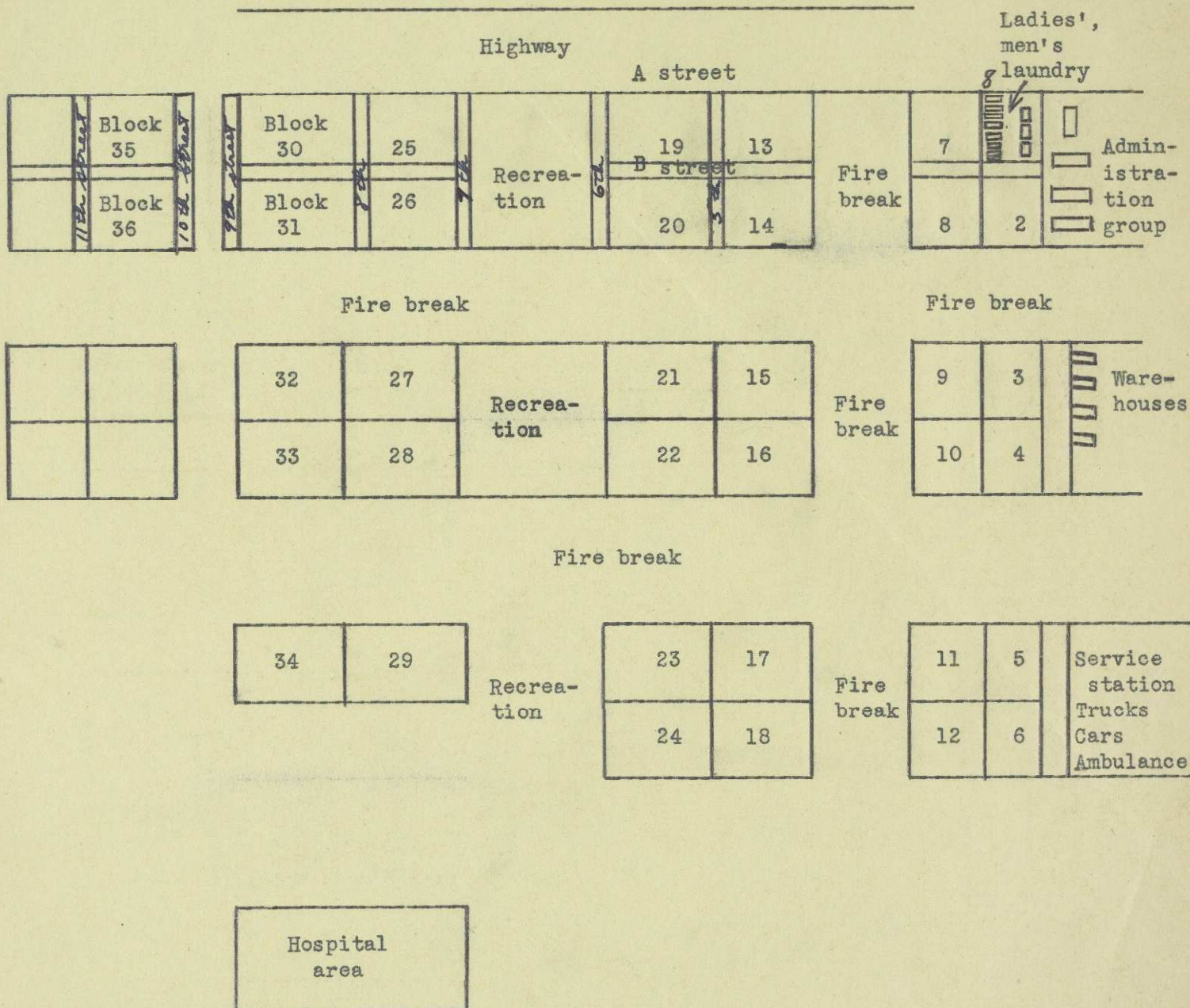


Blocks 1, 2, 7, 8

Zone A

Block 8	7
Music hall	Library
2	8
Men's center	Women's center





block - 16 barracks  
 (400 to block) 1 recreation hall  
 1 mess hall

(1 family  
 s = 10  
 one room  
 25'-20')