


ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
McGehee, Arkansas

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week Ending July 31, 1943

Upon the return of the Project Director from the Denver conference, many of the details of the segregation program were explained to key members of the appointed personnel and to the Chairman of the Block Managers and the Chairman of the Community Council. The program will be explained again at a general meeting of the appointed personnel, and in addition to this, an educational campaign with reference to segregation is planned for the appointed staff. Means for getting this information to the evacuees were also considered.

Up to the present time there does not seem to be any undue apprehension on the part of the evacuees concerning segregation. Most of them accept it as necessary, and there are very few complaints. The Welfare Department has started interviewing the families of the first group that will go to the Tule Lake Center. The center residents are naturally greatly interested in segregation but very few of them appear to have a hostile attitude toward it. The Community Council has passed a resolution requesting that those declining repatriation after July 1 not be sent to the Tule Lake Center. This request was discussed with the Director at the Denver conference.



The reduction in evacuee employees is still ahead of schedule and there has been little disturbance over it. However, many of the evacuees still consider this reduction an attempt to force them to leave the center.

Only 24 persons left the center during the week to take employment. Twenty-one of these were granted indefinite leave.

The High School held its commencement exercises last Friday night, and 152 students received their diplomas.

The drouth continues and the truck crops are being severely damaged.

WRA Library Washington

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
McGehee, Arkansas

*Battle Lake
Library*

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week Ending August 7, 1943

The segregation program is progressing smoothly and on schedule. All repatriates and expatriates and their families have been interviewed by the Welfare staff. There are approximately 600 of these cases.

All those who answered "No" to question 28 and did not change their answers before July 15 have been interviewed by the Segregation Board. Approximately 85% of these are being sent to Tule Lake. Most of them did not wish to change their answers. Few of those who had changed could not give satisfactory reasons as to why they delayed so long in changing. More than 50% of those answering "No" were Kibei or had a definite Japanese background. There are 115 persons in the "No" group. Those in this class who will go to Tule Lake will be interviewed next week by the Welfare Department.

There has recently been a sharp increase in the number of persons asking for repatriation or expatriation. More than 250 have made this request since July 1. There were approximately 100 this week. The reason for this large increase in the number of applications to return to Japan is not known. Some are relatives of others who had previously applied for repatriation, some are those who answered question 28 in the negative but had

delayed their applications. However, it is believed that many others are applying for repatriation.

The number relocating increased this week over last. 65 persons left the center to take employment. 40 of these were granted indefinite leave. Segregation does not yet seem to have hindered the relocation program but it is thought that it will cause a temporary lull before long.

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The Community Council has selected an Advisory Segregation Committee composed of repatriates and those who are not to go to Tule Lake. The people are accepting the segregation program calmly and in a reasonable manner. There are no indications that any undue difficulties will be experienced in carrying it out.

There has been little change recently in local public opinion concerning the evacuees. However, a short time ago the Arkansas State Convention of the American Legion passed an anti-Japanese resolution.

Saturday, two Arkansas congressmen, Oren Harris and W. E. Norrell, and several prominent local citizens from nearby towns visited the center. The visit was not in the nature of an investigation but was to obtain general information and to discuss the possibility of improving the highway to the center.

WRA Library Washington ✓

ROEHRER RELOCATION CENTER
MOGEHEE, ARKANSAS

*Butterfield
Library*

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week Ending August 14, 1943

The segregation program continues to make good progress. This week the Welfare Department has been interviewing the families of those in Group 2 who will go to Tule Lake. These interviews are about 25% complete. Leave clearance hearings have been resumed and will be continued next week. The Board for hearing these cases has now been divided into two sections of three persons each.

Expatriates and repatriates and their families who will go to Tule Lake number 561. In addition to these, there will be approximately another 100 and their families who will go as the result of the segregation hearings. This week there were 72 additional applications for repatriation or expatriation. Since July 1 there have been approximately 300 of these late requests.

Center residents continue to take segregation calmly. The cooperation of evacuee leaders has been good up to this time. The Evacuee Segregation Advisory Committee is having its first meeting this afternoon. The evacuees seem very well informed concerning segregation. A few announcements have been made to clear up uncertain points but alarming rumors have been few. It has been found that these are best killed by the evacuee leaders having easy access to the Project Director's office or by information which comes direct from that source.

Departures for outside employment increased considerably over last week. Approximately 100 persons left for this purpose. 80 of these were granted seasonal leave. 72 in this group left in two special coaches for Grand Junction, Colorado, to help harvest peaches and tomatoes. Transportation was provided by Federal Work Agency. This is the largest number that has left in one group to date.

Some difficulty was encountered with reference to the right-of-way for the drainage canal now under construction. This matter was cleared up and the work is progressing satisfactorily.

Crops have been severely damaged by extremely dry, hot weather and the yield has been considerably reduced. A fairly good rain fell Monday but crops are again in need of water. The harvesting of green peppers, watermelons, and canteloupes is now under way. Late vegetable crops are being planted but this work is being greatly hindered by dry weather. Irrigation on the farm is being expanded.

WRA Library Washin

ROHNER RELOCATION CENTER

~~Burtedale~~
Library

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending August 21, 1943

The segregation program has been making satisfactory progress. There seems to be very little excitement or resentment because of it. In fact, there are indications that most of the center residents approve and that the majority of those going to Tule Lake do not object.

The majority of the people still take segregation as a matter of course. Some of them who are remaining here are concerned because they are afraid that they may be crowded into smaller quarters when the new residents arrive. This concern is increased by the fact that when the families expanded into other units some of them made rather elaborate improvements and if they are now forced back into their original quarters, much of this work will be lost. However, it is believed that this problem can be worked out without undue difficulty.

As we have previously reported, all families in Group #1 have been interviewed by the Welfare Department, and all persons in Group #2 have received segregation hearings. The interviewing of families in Group #2 by the Welfare Department was also completed this week. Medical cases in Group #1 which will require special attention have been determined. Leave clearance hearings were held this week and these will be continued. As of Saturday night, 772 people were slated to go to Tule Lake. 219 of these were those who answered "no" to Question 28, and members of their immediate families who are to accompany them.

The distribution of the segregation pamphlets in English and Japanese was delayed until this week because of certain statements in them which did not check with other instructions concerning segregation. At the time the pamphlets were distributed the Project Director made a statement explaining the discrepancies. The evacuee Advisory Segregation Committee has been active in informing the people with reference to the program. Meetings in various blocks have been held, and the cooperation of this group has been helpful.

During the week there were only 33 new applications for repatriation or expatriation. This is less than half the number of the previous week. Our concern over this situation has decreased since it is becoming evident that most of the new applicants are close relatives of those who are going to Tule Lake. What at first appeared to be a rather alarming rush for repatriation and expatriation has subsided into only a normal number of requests.

Relocation continues at its customary pace. Approximately 70 persons left the center to take outside employment. Most of these were granted indefinite leave. Difficulty in finding suitable jobs and locations for men with families is still being encountered. One encouraging factor is a definite increase in interest in relocation. This has taken an upward swing in the last few weeks and it is probably influenced somewhat by segregation.

A week or so ago a story describing a baseball game between evacuees and an outside team appeared in the OUTPOST. This story contained some uncomplimentary remarks concerning the opposing team and these were criticized by the McGEHEE TIMES. In the same issue the McGehee paper carried an editorial condemning the conduct of evacuees who came to town to shop. Apparently the baseball story was the spark which set off the editorial. It is too early yet to tell what the effect of this adverse publicity will be.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending August 28, 1943

The most important event of the week was the preparation for the departure of those leaving on the Gripsholm. There are 63 in this group from this center. In spite of the short time allowed for preparation, all arrangements were made by Saturday afternoon and the people were ready to leave next day. Department of State and Customs representatives arrived Friday and that afternoon and the following day all records were cleared and the hold baggage of the departing persons was inspected by the Customs people. This baggage was kept under guard Friday and Saturday nights. The people leaving are not to be placed under guard until Sunday, the day they are to leave. There was no undue difficulty or confusion with reference to the departure except that resulting from the shortness of the time allowed for making all the necessary arrangements.

The segregation program continues to make good progress. It has been necessary to quiet a few rumors. This has been done by statements by the Project Director to individuals, committees, and by announcements printed in the OUTPOST. The Evacuee Segregation Committee has been active in keeping the people informed about segregation and has been of considerable assistance as a connecting link between the administration and the evacuees. Most of the requests and recommendations of the Committee have been fairly reasonable.

The housing survey has been completed but the data has not yet been tabulated. No interviewing of those in Group III was done during the week but this work will be resumed within a short time.

Relocation continues at the usual rate. 62 left this week to take employment. 33 of these were granted indefinite leave. Prospects for the relocation program seem brighter at this time. There is a definite increase in interest on the part of the evacuees and segregation does not seem to have yet hindered relocation. If the increased interest in relocation which became evident a week or so ago continues to grow, it is believed that the number leaving the center will take an upward swing.

The most severe drouth the State has experienced in many years continues and is doing heavy damage to crops on the project farm. However, the improvised irrigation system is proving very helpful, and with its aid it is believed that a fair amount of vegetables will be raised. The project cannery is now in operation. An effort is being made to save in this way as much of the tomato crop as possible.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending September 4, 1943

The Gripsholm people left Sunday, August 29. Except for one incident, which was immediately reported to the Director, their departure was without undue confusion.

Intergroup Summary For a few hours before the people left, they were under military guard in one of the mess halls. A large crowd had gathered on the outside and some were talking through the windows to those who were leaving. The windows were screened. One of the guards noticed a man on the outside writing a note or letter on paper held against a window. When the guard questioned the writer, he attempted to destroy the note. The M.P. interfered and took the man into the mess hall and most of the letter was recovered. When taken into the mess hall, the writer took something from his pocket and swallowed it, and it is supposed this was another note or part of the one that was recovered.

A hasty translation revealed that the letter contained:

1. greetings to the Japanese Diet
2. the opinion that the U.S. should be made to pay for the losses caused by evacuation
3. the hope that Japan would be successful in her present undertaking, and
4. a request that Japanese in the U.S. be notified what they might do to help Japan in the war.

The writer claimed that the message was of a personal nature and that he had been asked to deliver it to one of the departing families. This family claimed to know nothing of it.

The writer of the note was arrested and placed in jail at Arkansas City. The local FBI agent was notified but he had very little time to question those leaving on the train for Jersey City. The FBI is continuing its investigation. The writer of the letter is 37 years old, married, and has three children. He is an alien and answered "Yes" to question 28 but later changed his answer to "No". His wife is a citizen who answered "No" to question 28.

In spite of the fact that the time of departure of the first Tule Lake train was advanced one week to September 14, the segregation program is progressing smoothly. The segregation committee is continuing its valuable work. Other center residents are co-operating satisfactorily. Train and car lists have been made up. Preparations for the distribution of crating and packing materials have been completed. There is no unusual confusion on the part of the evacuees and there seems to be no opposition. The work of the Information Specialists is being outlined and information for their use has been collected.

Relocation during the week was normal. 55 persons left the center. 39 of these were granted indefinite leaves. Selected films to encourage relocation were shown. Attendance was around 1500 and the audience was made up largely of adults. Many of the people expected more detailed and specific information. These films are helpful in giving general information but it is doubtful whether it is advisable to advertise them too widely as relocation

films. There is a strong tendency on the part of the people to be suspicious of anything that might be construed as an attempt to high pressure them into relocating.

WRA Library Washington

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending September 11, 1943

Final preparations for the departure of the first trainload of 433 segregants were made this week. Car and block lists were prepared and mimeographed, and copies were given to the block managers and members of the segregation committee. Exhibit 13 as shown in the Manual of Operations was mimeographed, and the head of each family leaving on the first train received a copy.

The Information Specialists were organized with the Superintendent of Education heading this group. These people were given all available information concerning the program, and Saturday afternoon they went into the blocks and interviewed each family head scheduled to leave September 14. At this time practically all the freight had been prepared for shipment and the boxes and crates were checked to see that they were properly marked. Last minute instructions were given each family head concerning time and manner of collection of freight and checkable baggage, and it was also explained in detail how the segregants would be transported to the train on the day of departure. Work of collecting all files and information on each case was being done according to schedule, and it does not appear that there will be any delay in this matter.

The segregation committee continued its excellent work and the block managers also played a very important part in the

preparations being made. The cooperation of these two groups was very satisfactory, and the attitude of the segregants and the center people as a whole was good.

Applications for repatriation declined this week when only 11 persons filed these requests.

On Monday morning, 55 persons who had been scheduled to sail on the Gripsholm returned to this center. They were met in McGehee early in the morning and were brought to the center by truck and distributed in the blocks where they could be conveniently housed. Fifteen of these people were from this center and the remainder were from various other projects. Many of these people were disappointed because they were not allowed to make the journey. The baggage of several of them had already been loaded on the Gripsholm before it was determined that they would not be able to sail, and the boat sailed with all their personal effects. Some of these people had practically nothing except the clothes they wore. This caused quite a bit of criticism and resentment. The chapter of the Red Cross which operates in the center assisted these people in obtaining many of their necessities. This group is scheduled to depart on the first train.

The number of people relocating declined this week. Only 52 persons were granted leave, and approximately half of these went out to take seasonal work. Interest in relocation does not seem to be as high as it was but it is believed that as soon as

the excitement over segregation dies down it will increase.

Special relocation films were shown during the week, both in the three regular center movies and also at a special showing which was well advertised and attended. Approximately 1500 persons came to the special showing, most of whom were adults. The films had been advertised as relocation information. The people did not seem to be particularly impressed. In fact, there seems to be some evidence that they were disappointed because they did not receive more definite information concerning relocation possibilities in different sections of the country. These films were of interest to the people, but it is believed that they should not be played up too highly as relocation pictures and should be used more as part of the visual education for adults.

ROHNER RELOCATION CENTER

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending September 18, 1943

The big event of the week was the departure of 433 segregants for Tule Lake. All freight was picked up Sunday and transported to the project warehouse for shipment. Information Consultants were in each block at the time the freight was picked up. These men checked the freight against the transportation requests and gave receipts to the owners.

Monday morning two baggage cars were spotted near the project. All checkable baggage was collected. Information Consultants in each block estimated the amount of baggage allowed and checked it to see that it was properly marked, and tagged it with baggage checks. Check stubs were given to the owners as their receipts. It developed that the two cars would not hold all the baggage and another car was requested and received the latter part of the afternoon. Some difficulty was encountered because some families were inclined to send an excess amount of checkable baggage and also because they attempted to send property as baggage which really should have gone as freight.

For each coach there was a monitor and an assistant monitor from the appointed personnel, and a coach captain and assistant coach captain from among the segregants. The monitors and coach captains met at 6 o'clock at the Administration Building, and one monitor and one captain went into the blocks to pick up the people. At this time the train which was to bring the passenger coaches

had not arrived. By the time the first 4 or 5 truckloads had come in from the blocks, the project officials had been advised that the train would be at least two hours late. This halted operations, and some confusion resulted. However, there was nothing of a serious nature. Most of the trucks left their first load of people near the railroad tracks and went back and picked up their second and last load. The segregants were given identification tags showing their names and car number as they entered the trucks.

As soon as the train arrived and the cars were properly spotted, loading began. The car captains had prepared in advance the seating arrangements for each family group or individual and names were placed on the seats they were to occupy. This helped keep down confusion after the people entered the coaches. The segregation committee and the block managers assisted in loading the baggage and checking those who entered the coaches. One of the monitors checked by name every person who entered each coach. After all persons had been seated, another check was completed, and later a count by the Military Police was made, and in this way there was little or no chance for error. Files for each segregant were completed before they left and these were forwarded to Tule Lake on the special train. A large crowd was present when the train left but the departure was orderly.

The list has been completed for those leaving this center on the next trip which is scheduled for October 7. At this time

this list is composed of 153 cases which include 366 individuals. Changes in the present list will probably be made before this train leaves.

The number of people relocating dropped this week when only 35 people left the center. Seven of these went out on seasonal leave. It is thought that some of this drop in relocation is due to segregation.



WRA Library Washington ✓

ROHNER RELOCATION CENTER

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending September 25, 1943

There was little activity with reference to segregation this week. However, by Saturday afternoon, train and car lists for the second train had been prepared and forwarded to Tule Lake. This train is scheduled to leave October 7. At the present time 417 persons are to leave in this group. 41 of these will be from Jerome.

Segregation hearings were held for four days during this week. The segregation committee was divided into two panels of three persons each, and each panel averaged slightly more than four interviews each morning. It was recommended that leave clearance be denied for approximately 1/3 of the cases heard.

Farm operations continued at a normal pace. Prospects for a late crop of vegetables are good. Most of these are leaf vegetables, such as cabbage, Swiss chard, Chinese cabbage, broccoli, mustard, and turnips. Irrigation was used to obtain a stand of most of these crops. Because of the drought, germination of seed would have been practically impossible without artificial watering. It is also expected that there will be enough late tomatoes grown for table use, but it is doubtful whether production will be high enough to justify canning.

The epidemic which resulted in the loss of a substantial number of hogs has been under control for some time, and it is planned to start slaughtering within a week or two.

The project campaign in the Third War Loan Drive was very successful. Total figures have not yet been turned in, but as of September 23, bond sales totalling 46% of the project payroll had been made. This included payroll deductions. More than \$11,000.00 in bonds had been sold, in addition to payroll deductions. The total for both types of sales for the month, as of September 25, was \$16,660.86. As of that date, 142 persons were on the project payroll and 137 were buying bonds through payroll allotments, and 130 made cash purchases of bonds during the special drive.

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ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending October 2, 1943

The segregation program continued without unusual developments. Final plans for the departure of the second train from this project on October 7 have been made. The second group will be composed of 371 persons from this project and 40 from Jerome. The train will pick up the people from the Jerome project in the morning and is expected to arrive at this project by 1 o'clock in the afternoon. It is planned to have baggage cars spotted here Tuesday morning before the arrival of the rest of the train so that baggage may be loaded before the segregants board the train here. The baggage of the Jerome people will be brought over by truck. Freight will be picked up Tuesday to be carried to the warehouse for shipment, and the baggage will be picked up Wednesday.

The WRA representative from this project who accompanied the first train to Tule Lake and returned with another group of Tule Lake people to Jerome, reported an uneventful trip. When the Rohwer train arrived at Tule Lake, even the baggage checked out perfectly. Mr. James F. Rains, Assistant Project Director, is expected to accompany the train leaving on October 7.

Fifty people who recently came from Tule Lake, transferred from the Jerome project to this center. It is expected there will be more of these transfers in the future.

Leave clearance hearings have been temporarily suspended until after the departure of the second group of segregants. Up to this time, recommendations on 116 cases have been returned to Washington, and 15 have been sent to the field offices. 26 cases are being held, pending preparation of transcripts and recommendations. No hearings have yet been held on 88 cases whose dockets have been received from the Washington office. It is expected that it will be necessary to hold more than 400 additional hearings for persons in Group III. It is also estimated that approximately 450 persons who were in this group will go to Tule Lake after the mass movement has been completed.

During this week 30 people left on indefinite leave, and 5 on seasonal leave. This is about the average for the last three weeks. It is hoped that the number will increase as soon as segregation has been completed.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION ROSWELL RELOCATION CENTER

Weekly Report

Kimball
Spencer

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending October 9, 1943

The first three days were devoted to final arrangements for the departure of the second segregation train from this project. The train was spotted at 12:30 PM Thursday and loading operations began at 12:45. The segregants from Jerome arrived as per schedule and the train departed at 2:30 PM.

With the first phase of the segregation program completed, attention has again been turned to holding leave clearance hearings and a number of cases have been scheduled which will be completed next week.

The wood cutting crews have been organized and this program is getting under way to gather a winter supply of fuel for the project. This will be a rather large program as wood is used for heating all evacuee apartments.

During this week there were 19 people left on indefinite leave and 3 on seasonal leave.

C. 2

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

*Manley
Fischer
Armed
Library*

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending October 16, 1943

Project operations during the week continued in a routine manner. After the departure of the segregation train the previous week, interest in the segregation program began to subside. Leave clearance hearings are continuing but more cases are being scheduled each day and this work is being speeded up considerably. There have been no requests for expatriation or repatriation since October 1, and it is believed that there will be few of these applications in the future.

The number leaving each week for outside employment has been slowly decreasing. People are still interested in relocation but most of those left in the center do not at this time see their way clear to resettle. Efforts to stimulate interest in relocation are continuing.

Recruiting officers from the WAC have made several visits in this center but little interest has been shown by the evacuees. Most of the girls who are of the type that would be interested in enlisting have already relocated, and most of those remaining in the center are not inclined to join, or have family obligations which make it difficult for them to do so.

A killing frost which came three weeks ahead of the normal time did serious damage to late vegetable crops. 1500 or 2000 bushels of late tomatoes were ruined, 12 acres of beans were killed, and a small acreage of potatoes was lost. Leaf vegetables did not suffer greatly.

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WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
OCTOBER 25, 1943

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending October 23, 1943

Leave clearance hearings have been speeded up. Last week 63 of these were held, while previously only 32 were scheduled each week. It is expected that these hearings will continue at last week's rate until they are completed. As of October 23, 146 transcripts of hearings and recommendations had been returned to the Washington office. 131 cases were pending. In 94 of these, interviews had been held but either the transcripts or the recommendations had not been completed.

During the week, 26 persons were granted indefinite leave, and 19, seasonal leave. This is a slight increase over the last two or three weeks, and the project Leave Officer reports that interest in relocation seems to be on the increase. However, it is not known what relocation trends will be during the winter months.

Two new doctors have been added to the appointed personnel of the hospital staff. These will replace two evacuee doctors who are preparing to go out on indefinite leave. This leaves only one evacuee physician, and he is so old that it is difficult for him to render full time service. The evacuees have been somewhat disturbed over the scarcity of the doctors, and the arrival of the two new physicians should, to some degree, decrease their fears.

file copy

McKinley Pyles (to file)

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
NOVEMBER 1, 1943

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week Ending October 30, 1943

There were 42 leave clearance hearings during the week.

This was considerably less than the number planned, but all cases were heard for which dockets had been received. There were no hearings on Friday and Saturday because additional dockets had not arrived. In a few cases the Joint Board has already denied clearance but no reasons were given for the denial. If this information were provided, interviews in these cases would be much more effective. Lack of competent stenographic help is a problem in conducting these hearings.

The M. P. Company which has been stationed here since the center opened, will leave November 1 on a new assignment of duty. It will be replaced by part of the troops now stationed at the Jerome Project. Relations with the original company were exceptionally cordial and we trust that a similar spirit of friendship will develop with reference to the new troops when they arrive.

The fuel problem is again confronting the center. Conferences have been held with evacuee leaders and plans have been worked out which are expected to supply an adequate amount of wood. Workers are already being transferred from other sections to the wood cutting crews.

File Copy 2

WEEKLY REPORT
~~ROHMER~~ RELOCATION CENTER
November 6, 1943

Richardson

~~Morse~~
~~MacKley~~
~~Fletcher~~
~~Provine~~
~~Spicer - No~~
~~third copy for~~
~~your files.~~
~~Arnold~~
~~Col. Wilson~~
McKinley Fyles
(to file)

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week Ending November 6, 1943

One of the most important developments of the week was a dispute between certain center residents and the evacuee officials of the Cooperative Enterprises. There had been some friction between these two groups for some time, and the situation came to a head when a Coop. accountant and one of the store managers were dismissed. After the dismissal of the employees, anonymous notices appeared in the blocks threatening the General Manager of the Coop. unless he resigned. These notices appeared last Sunday, but the General Manager has not resigned, and the threats against his person have not been carried out. This situation is being given a thorough investigation, and as soon as the true facts are known, a special report on this subject will be forwarded to the Washington Office. It is not believed that any serious trouble will develop over this incident.

Only 17 leave clearance hearings were held during the week. The drastic reduction in the number of hearings was due to the fact that additional dockets were not received from Washington. As we reported in our last Weekly Summary, it would be very helpful if the reasons for the refusal of the Joint Board to re-

commend leave clearance were made part of the docket when it is referred to this project for investigation.

An election of Block Managers was held last Monday, and six new managers were elected. The former chairman of this group had left the center on seasonal leave, and a new man was elected for this position. It is believed he is well suited for the job, and he has the respect of both the appointed personnel and the evacuees. A Community Council election will be held next week.

The change in the military guard was effected without undue comment on the part of the evacuees, and there seems to be very little interest in this incident.

Local papers have carried several items concerning the situation at Tule Lake, but the news was not given undue emphasis. Radio reports have been somewhat more sensational than the stories appearing in the newspapers. As a whole the news concerning the Tule Lake situation has been handled with restraint.

An annual commemorating the first anniversary of the project has been prepared by the newspaper staff, and copies of this will be forwarded to the Washington Office within a short time.

File Copy. 9

~~Moore~~
~~Marbley~~
~~Fischer~~
WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
NOVEMBER 15, 1943

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending November 13, 1943

Local papers continued to carry stories of the trouble at Tule Lake. This news was not given undue prominence, but it is believed that it will have an adverse effect on local public opinion. Many people will not make the proper distinction between the Tule Lake center and the relocation centers. Local papers did not use much of the sensational material which was played up by the West Coast papers.

Mr. Frank Cross of the Washington office and Mr. Harry Weiss, Regional Reports Officer from Cleveland, spent several days at the center. Mr. Cross held two discussions concerning information for relocation and its distribution. One of these meetings was attended by the chairman of the block managers, the chairman of the community council, and the chairman of the evacuee relocation committee. It was agreed that most of the informational material would be distributed by the relocation committee with the assistance of the block managers.

Only twenty leave clearance hearings were held during the week, although the weekly quota was 62. The reduced number was due to the fact that a sufficient number of dockets were not received from the Washington office.

The dispute between certain evacuee leaders and evacuee officials of the Co-op has died down, and it is believed there

will be no serious complications from this incident. However, an investigation of the matter is continuing.

The Assistant Project Director in charge of Community Management, attended an annual meeting of the Christian World Institute which was held at Kansas City, October 31 to November 7. He made a series of nineteen addresses and led several discussions.

file copy 2

~~Markley~~
~~Fischer~~
~~Arnold~~
~~Harbo~~
~~Lee~~

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
NOVEMBER 22, 1943

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Files (M P)
Week ending November 20, 1943

Thirty leave clearance hearings were held this week. As of November 17, transcripts and recommendations on 235 cases had been forwarded to Washington. A decision by the Washington Board had been received on 84 of these. This left 151 cases on which decisions were pending. The leave clearance program is still being delayed by lack of dockets being forwarded from the Washington office.

Relocation improved somewhat this week when 35 people left to take outside employment. All but two or three of these were granted indefinite leave. The continuation of the segregation program is a serious handicap to relocation. Many of those who are interested in leaving the center are on the "stop" list and are awaiting leave clearance hearings and, consequently, they cannot make any definite plans. A few names are also being added from time to time to the "stop" list and this maintains a feeling of insecurity. At this time there are approximately 600 persons on the list. These, together with their families, constitute a fair percentage of the center population. As long as the future of this many of the center residents is so uncertain, it is difficult for the relocation program to make satisfactory progress.

The work of wood cutting is progressing satisfactorily and it is believed there will be no great difficulty with reference

to fuel this winter. Many workers have been transferred from farm work to the wood cutting project.

A 3-day leadership institute was held this week. The chief object was to develop leaders within the center and among Japanese Americans who have relocated. The following persons from outside the center participated: Mr. George Corwin of New York City who is YMCA director for relocation centers; Mr. Arno Haack of St. Louis, executive secretary of Washington University YMCA and YWCA; and Dr. J. B. Thompson of Norman, Oklahoma, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Norman. Meetings were held at the senior high school, and a special effort was made to reach leaders and officials of school organizations. Meetings were also held for ministers of the center churches, and for lay leaders such as councilmen, block managers, internal security, welfare, co-op, education, and hospital.

File Copy 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
NOVEMBER 30, 1943

~~Mess~~
~~Marking~~
~~Truck~~
Arnold
Files (MP)

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending November 27, 1943

Leave clearance hearings were completed according to schedule this week when 64 interviews were held. This schedule places a rather heavy burden on the interviewing committees and especially on the stenographic help, but it is believed that it can be maintained if a sufficient number of dockets are received from Washington.

Plans are being made to assist the Relocation Team in its work when it arrives here December 2. It is too early yet to tell what the reaction of the people will be to this campaign.

The first serious accident at this project occurred this week when the head of the Mess Section was driving from McGehee with five evacuees in a pickup truck. In attempting to stop quickly as an oncoming truck started across a bridge which it was approaching, the WRA truck skidded in loose gravel and turned across the highway and was struck by the larger truck coming from the opposite direction. Three of the passengers were thrown from the truck, and one woman suffered internal injuries from which she died within a few hours. Another woman suffered a broken shoulder, and one of the men was rather severely bruised. Up to this time there have been no indications that center residents blame the project administration or the Section head for the fatal accident.

There was a new development with reference to the dispute over the Co-op management this week. The Co-op block delegates called a special meeting by petition, as provided in the by-laws,

and at this meeting, some of the directors and the manager of the Co-op submitted their resignations. The delegates then selected a temporary Board of Directors to serve until a permanent Board could be elected. There will doubtless be some new developments with reference to this matter, and when all the facts have been determined, they will be reported to the Washington office.

File Copy 2

At Arnold
~~S. Proctor~~
~~McJory~~

Please route. — ~~Markley~~
~~2. Proctor~~
WEEKLY REPORT
ROHNER RELOCATION CENTER
DECEMBER 4, 1943
~~B. Marshall~~

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending December 4, 1943

The chief event of the week was the arrival of the advisory relocation team composed of officials from the Washington office and the relocation field offices. This group arrived early on the morning of December 2, and met with the evacuee relocation committee, the chairman of the block managers, the chairman of the community council, and some of the administrative employees. The results of the first meeting with evacuee leaders were satisfactory. A frank discussion of the relocation problem was held, and different problems were discussed from the standpoint of field offices and the center residents. That afternoon there was a brief meeting for office workers; and that night a special meeting for all members of the community council and all the block managers. Approximately 50% of the block managers and councilmen attended, and the audience seemed well impressed with the program which was presented. Files (MP)

On Friday morning, December 3, conferences with individuals interested in relocation were held, and the relocation team again met with the evacuee relocation committee. There was a meeting for high school students that afternoon; and that night a general meeting for the residents of five blocks was held in one of the mess halls.

On Saturday, individual conferences were continued, and there was another meeting primarily for teachers, which was exceptionally well attended; and that night there was another general meeting for

five more blocks. The general meetings for the combined blocks were fairly well attended. The Friday night audience was a representative group, but the Saturday night meeting was attended mostly by younger people.

Up to this time, the work of the relocation team is making satisfactory progress, and it is thought that much good will result if the campaign follows the present trend. It is believed that this work will not result in an immediate rush of people who wish to relocate, but we are of the opinion that it will be very helpful in the long run. If it were not for the time of year, close to the holiday season, there would probably be an immediate increase in the number of relocatees. The general reaction to the two films shown has been good.

There have been no new developments with reference to the Co-op controversy, but the regular annual meeting of Co-op delegates is scheduled for December 7, and more information may be obtained after that date.

There is attached an advanced schedule of the activities of the relocation team.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF RELOCATION INFORMATION GROUP COMPOSED OF
HAROLD FISTERE, ELMER SHIRRELL, DR. P. A. WEBER, PHILIP BARBER,
AND MISS GRETCHEN VAN TASSEL

DECEMBER 2 - THURSDAY

- 9 A.M. - Council Committee on Study of Relocation Problems -
Ad Bldg. #2
- 2 P.M. - Office workers - Ad Bldg. #2
- 7:30 P.M. - Community Council and Block Managers - Mess Hall 31

DECEMBER 3 - FRIDAY

- 9 A.M. - Those interested in immediate relocation - individual
conferences at Leave Conference Room in Ad Bldg. #2
- 2 P.M. - High School students - Mess Hall 35
- 7:30 P.M. - Blocks 1, 15, 16, 17, and 29 in Mess Hall 31

DECEMBER 4 - SATURDAY

- 9 A.M. - Individual conferences for persons from Blocks 1, 15,
16, 17, and 29 in P.S. Hall 15
- 2 P.M. - Teachers - Mess Hall 35
- 7:30 P.M. - Blocks 2, 3, 4, 13, and 14 in Mess Hall 31

DECEMBER 6 - MONDAY

- 9 A.M. - Individual conferences for persons from Blocks 2, 3, 4,
13, and 14 in P.S. Hall 15
- 2 P.M. - Agricultural workers - P.S. Hall 15
- 7:30 P.M. - Blocks 19, 20, 27, 28, and 32 in Mess Hall 35

DECEMBER 7 - TUESDAY

- 9 A.M. - Individual conferences for persons from Blocks 19, 20,
27, 28, and 32 in P.S. Hall 33

DECEMBER 8 - WEDNESDAY

- 9 A.M. - Those interested in immediate relocation - individual
conferences at Leave Conference Room in Ad Bldg. #2
- 2 P.M. - Agricultural workers - P.S. Hall 33
- 7:30 P.M. - Blocks 33, 34, 38, 39, 40, and 41 in Mess Hall 35

DECEMBER 9 - THURSDAY

- 9 A.M. - Individual conferences for persons from Blocks 33, 34,
38, 39, 40, and 41 in P.S. Hall 33
- 2 P.M. - Industrial workers - P.S. Hall 33
- 7:30 P.M. - Blocks 9, 10, 23, 24, 25, and 26 in Mess Hall 35

DECEMBER 10 - FRIDAY

- 9 A.M. - Individual conferences for persons from Blocks 9, 10,
23, 24, 25, and 26 in P.S. Hall 10
- 2 P.M. - Agricultural workers in P.S. Hall 10
- 7:30 P.M. - Blocks 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 in Mess Hall 35

DECEMBER 11 - SATURDAY

- 9 A.M. - Individual conferences for persons from Blocks 5, 6,
7, 8, 11, and 12 in P.S. Hall 10

File Copy 2

Baker

~~Markley~~
~~San Francisco~~
~~Franklin~~

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
DECEMBER 11, 1943

~~at~~
~~Gravel~~
Files (MA)

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Week ending December 11, 1943

The work of the relocation team continued with satisfactory results throughout the week, and its program was completed Saturday. As was stated in last week's summary, it is believed that substantial benefits will result from the effort of this group. It did not result in an immediate rush of people who wish to leave this center, but it is believed that the information that was made available will be very helpful in the long run in assisting people to make up their minds whether they want to leave the center. If it were not for the winter season and the approaching holidays, it is believed that more immediate results would be evident.

One of the most important effects of the work of the relocation team was the influence that it had on the evacuee committee. This committee had just been reorganized a few days before the team arrived, and the meetings and discussions with the relocation team did much to make it a more effective organization. By these meetings, the committee members became actively engaged in relocation work and closely identified with the program; and this, in itself, is of considerable importance.

In general, the approach of the relocation field officers was good, and the work of Dr. Weber was excellent.

The pictures and the displays which were provided by the representative of the Reports Office created considerable interest and again demonstrated the fact that these are one of the best sources of information. The attendance at most of the meetings for groups such as agricultural workers, industrial workers, etc., was rather small; and the number of people coming in for personal interviews was not as great as was expected. Some of the night meetings were well attended and some were not, and it is not known exactly why this was true. At one meeting, there were approximately 400 people; and the following night there were probably 250. Some of the nights, only fifty or sixty came. In all, it is estimated that approximately 1100 adults attended at least one of the meetings. This comprises approximately 40% of all potential adult relocatees. The cooperation of the evacuee relocation committee, the community council, and the block managers was excellent.

The Co-op block delegates held their annual meeting on December 7, and a new permanent Board of Directors was elected. The new board which had previously been elected at a meeting called by petition was only a temporary body. The new Directors met the following day and elected officers for the group, and also selected a treasurer for the Co-op. However, the positions of secretary, general manager, and

assistant general manager have not been filled since the resignation of the former officials.

Arrangements have been made for Christmas shopping by center residents for one week. A special bus will make two trips a day from McGehee to the center. This arrangement will continue from December 13 to December 20, inclusive, and will make it possible for 12 persons from each block to do Christmas shopping this year. No other passes for shopping will be issued before Christmas.

The National Honor Society of the center high school has completed its campaign for the sale of war bonds and stamps to be used in the purchase of jeeps for the armed services. Originally only one jeep was the goal, but the campaign was so successful that sufficient funds were raised for the purchase of three. A total of \$3,505.95 in war bonds and stamps were sold by the students. 34% of the high school students now own war stamp books.

File Copy 2

WEEKLY REPORT
ROEYER RELOCATION CENTER
DECEMBER 18, 1943
Maxley
Frieder
Guttedahl
Arnold
Files (MA)

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

Project operations continued in a routine manner during the week. On Sunday, December 12, Mr. Alphonso Sabadie, secretary to the Spanish Consul at New Orleans, arrived at this center. He was accompanied by a representative of the State Department. No general meeting of Japanese nationals was held, but he discussed their problems with a committee selected by them. Most of the discussion concerned the possibility of a third exchange ship and the desirability of bringing repatriation lists up to date.

The two staff members who attended the Denver conference have explained to the rest of the appointed personnel the outline for the new annual budget. Section and division heads are now occupied in preparing this estimate.

There have been numerous cases of flu, both among the appointed personnel and the other center residents. So far it has not been of a serious type and the hospital facilities have been adequate to care for all the evacuees who are ill.

The shopping arrangement which was described in last week's summary is working satisfactorily and with a minimum of confusion.

The Military Police company stationed here has been changed again. The new company is not from the Jerome Center, but it is expected that the customary friendly relations will continue with this group.

file copy

~~Markley~~
~~Fischler~~
~~Bullock~~
~~Witz~~
~~Assel~~

WEEKLY REPORT
ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER
DECEMBER 25, 1943

Files (M.P.)

GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

A recruiting party from Camp Savage spent the first two days of the week in this center. Three center residents made formal application for entrance to Camp Savage, and four others are seriously considering doing the same. This is the greatest amount of interest that has been shown lately concerning enlistment for Camp Savage.

Numerous cases of flu are still developing, but it continues to be of a mild type and the hospital and medical staff are able to give adequate care for those who are ill.

Christmas was observed in the customary manner, and numerous gifts were distributed to the children living here. All children under 17 received gifts. The large supply of gifts came from all over the United States, and they were distributed under the direction of advisors in each block.