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* National Archives Film
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C.

Miss Collins: Envelopes marked 1, 2 and 3 contain the part of each report which are checked on this copy of the table of contents. Margie Miller will give you four short reports on special subjects, as indicated by a note included with this set. She also will give you a copy of the Statistics Section Report when it is completed.

JEROME RELOCATION CENTER

FINAL REPORT

JUNE 30, 1944.

For the record, I have not given you the reports which are not checked.

Lynn

CAF

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Off. Services
taken out
for C. Lynn 4-20-45

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General report by the Director's representative

Director, Dillon S. Myer

September 2, 1944

Jerome Relocation Center Final Report

These envelopes contain the final report of the Jerome Relocation Center. It is complete with the exception of the Statistics Section Report. This report was made the responsibility of a Washington representative of the Agency during the latter part of June. It required a great deal of clerical labor which is being done at the Rohwer center. As soon as this part is available, and after certain totals have been determined, this report will be inserted in the proper place.

May I refer you to a copy of the preface and the table of contents, which are attached.

Very truly yours,

Charles R. Lynn
For the Project Director

Enclosures

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FINAL REPORT

JEROME RELOCATION CENTER

DENSON, ARKANSAS

JUNE 30, 1944

PREFACE

This report proposes to record all phases of the facilities, operations and activities of the Jerome Relocation Center from the time it was established during the summer of 1942 until its evacuee residents had left and the project had been officially closed on June 30, 1944.

An attempt was made to prepare this report according to the instructions set forth in Exhibit 26 of the War Relocation Authority Handbook on Center Closure and Transfer Operations. The result is a compromise between what was desirable and what it was possible to compile during the very busy closing period of the center's life. Its inadequacies prompted recommendations for materially changing the procedural methods presently set up for compilation of similar reports. These recommendations have been made.

This report is submitted in only one complete copy. It is comprised of individual division, section, unit and special reports, organized as nearly as practicable along the lines suggested by the manual. Several of these reports have not been adequately edited. Too many period and technical reports have been substituted where time and clerical services did not permit proper re-writing and chronologizing. Thick sheaves of carbon copied supporting material have not been re-typed. Entire chapters of valuable center history, lost with the departure of individual members of the appointive personnel, are missing.

It is intended that a summary of this report be prepared, at a later date. It will touch briefly upon all major topics considered, but will not introduce new material.

File.

SITE

The Jerome Relocation Center, which from October 6, 1942 until June 30, 1944 was operated by the War Relocation Authority as a temporary home for persons of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the West Coast, was located in Southeast Arkansas, in the Mississippi delta country. Its 9,374 acres, located in Chicot and Drew Counties, lay between U.S. Highways 165 and 65, just north of Arkansas State Highway 144. The barracks community, occupying one square mile, was situated on the west border of the area, just east of Highway 165 and the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and one mile north of the town of Jerome.

The 2400 acres lying west of Big Bayou had been lumbered over early in the 1900's by the Jerome Hardwood Lumber Company. An attempt to farm this area several years later resulted in bankruptcy. A new purchaser, a Portland, Arkansas planter, spent two years attempting to develop the land for agriculture, until the United States Farm Security Administration purchased it for a resettlement project in 1937.

On this property the government built houses and barns, and effected other elementary improvements under a program designed for long term settlement. Some 40 families lived on the farms under 99 year leases made between the individual and the Jerome Farms, Inc., a cooperative organization set up to borrow money from the FSA. Only four of the 40 farms of the Jerome Farms, Inc., were established on property leased by WRA.

The remaining 7,000 acres, located east of Big Bayou, were purchased by the United States government in 1935. It was land which had been cut over but left entirely undeveloped. The government had parcelled it out into 49 family units of 40 acres each, had built houses and put in essential primary roads. Because of injunctions held by adjacent property owners, the government had never been allowed to carry out the drainage program which had been part of the original plan to make the land useful farming country, so that by 1942, when WRA took over, only

19 families were paid their equity in the property for land clearance improvement, and moved away. WRA repaid the amount to Jerome Farms under terms of its lease to the property. (These terms are listed in the Agriculture Report).

WRA began its negotiations for leasing the land in May of 1942, and on July 9 had set up a skeleton office in an unused school building in the town of Jerome. WRA, FSA and the Board of Directors of Jerome Farms, Inc., negotiated the contract. The sub-leasing contract for the site was between Jerome Farms, Inc., and WRA, but FSA was interested by virtue of holding a first mortgage on the property.

Characteristic of delta country, the camp site was flat and without natural drainage, and the gumbo or buckshot heavy clay soil, which comprises all but about 400 acres of the site, was soggy and wet far into the summer. An area of two hundred acres of sandy soil, lying just east of the Missouri Pacific Railway lines, was selected for the location of living quarters and administration buildings. The other 200 acres of sandy soil lay along the banks of a dead bayou, and was too narrow and scattered to serve any practical purpose.

About 1000 acres of the center property were in various stages of clearance; some of the timber was deadened but still standing, and other sections were thick with stumps and underbrush. Practically none of the land had been actually farmed. The timber stand was mostly hard wood - oak, elm, gum and hickory, with a little cypress in the swamplier areas. What land had been cleared was covered with Johnson, Bermuda or crab grass. In the woods were deer, fox, rabbits and squirrels which attracted hunters in season. For several years prior to WRA occupation of the area, one low and frequently flooded section of what became the residential blocks was widely known as good duck shooting ground.

The climate of the area is not too inviting. Frost dates run from about the last week in November through the month of March, and the temperature averages in the middle thirties with occasional drops to 8-10 degrees below zero. There are very heavy rainfalls during the winter and spring, and in the summer there

are long dry spells with the temperature running between 90-103 degrees. Rainfall from June 1943 through May 1944 was 44 inches. Development of extensive drainage facilities was necessary to make the site livable or tillable.

With the Missouri Pacific Railroad line between Little Rock and New Orleans paralleling the western boundary of the center, there was no transportation problem. The railroad constructed a spur for freight loading and unloading, but the passenger stop remained at the town of Jerome. Besides the railroad, the proximity of U.S. highway 165 made possible trucking operations from Memphis and Army Quartermaster centers for the delivery of food. The center was seven miles south of the town of Dermott, 18 miles south of McGehee, 12 miles north of Portland, 19 miles northwest of Lake Village and 34 miles east of Monticello.

Although the shopping and amusement facilities were limited, they served as supplementary to center facilities for the administrative personnel, and to a certain extent, for the evacuees. Greenville, Mississippi, 35 miles away, and Pine Bluff, Arkansas, a distance of 80 miles, were considered within range for more diversified shopping and amusement.

Files

INDUCTION OF RESIDENTS

With WRA headquarters in the "little red schoolhouse" in the town of Jerome, induction of evacuees from Santa Anita and Fresno Assembly Centers into the Jerome Relocation Center began on October 6, 1942. On that date, an advance crew of 202 evacuees arrived from Fresno - good workers who, from then on, were to assist the administrative staff in keeping things rolling during the entire induction process which continued to November 3.

From October 11 to November 3, 17 trainloads of evacuees arrived, sometimes two trains arriving on the same day, carrying from 250 to 500 persons. (For schedule of arrivals, see statistical reports. At first it was planned to induct arrivals at the first building east of the main gate, the original housing office, but the plan was changed before the first inductees appeared. Instead, warehouse 12 became the induction center because of its proximity to the railroad siding. A wooden sidewalk was built from the siding through the boundary fence and into the warehouse.

Upon the arrival of a train, each car was unloaded separately, a head count was taken and checked against the Army escort train list, and the evacuees with their hand luggage followed the ramp into the warehouse. A floor plan of warehouse 12, showing the set-up for processing, is a part of this report. There each arrival had his throat examined and his general state of health checked by a medical officer. Cots were provided for temporary care of the sick. The families waited in the reception room while the family head was identified according to the center card file and given a housing assignment which had been determined in advance. By October 14, information sheets were available to provide newcomers with general center policies, and basic information concerning their immediate needs. A sample of such instruction sheets, dated October 14, is attached.

One of the appointed personnel helped the people who had been registered

on to trucks with their hand luggage to be taken to the blocks to which they had been assigned. Since all the evacuee barracks were not completed at the time of induction, new arrivals were housed together in the most nearly completed blocks, usually two blocks being sufficient to accommodate a trainload.

Once unloaded at their block, the new arrivals were greeted by others of the advance crew, who showed them to their respective quarters and explained the location of various facilities, answered questions, and in general initiated them to the block set-up. A roving mess crew, organized for the purpose, prepared the first meal for the newcomers. Beds, mattresses, blankets, brooms, basins and laundry soap were installed and ready for use. As each block was occupied, the residents were asked to elect a temporary block manager until one could be appointed.

On the day following arrival, or as soon as it was physically possible, the new inductees received their checked baggage, which had been inspected for contraband at the starting point so needed no further inspection. All the baggage from one train was deposited by truck in the newly occupied blocks, and there was a mad scramble of searching and sorting until each family could locate its belongings.

The Employment Office was operating from the day of the first induction. Its headquarters were located in block 14 the first block to be occupied, and from that time on it was moved about the center as different areas were completed and occupied. The center needed workers and had no difficulty in filling all jobs. The people were as anxious to work as the staff was glad of their enthusiasm. The main difficulty was in finding work for so many willing people. There were mess, secretarial, janitorial, maid and firetending jobs to be filled. Assignments were made beyond these basic needs to keep the people busy and satisfied.

From August until October 12, the administrative staff numbered seven persons -

the project director, four assistants and two secretaries. With the beginning of inductions, appointed personnel also began to arrive. Whatever their stated assignment or capabilities might have been, they pitched in and helped with induction. Schools did not start until January 4, 1943, so that the teachers made a very definite contribution to the induction procedure.

Since staff housing had not been contracted for, the new employees were crowded into temporary dormitories in the administration area, or were housed in evacuee blocks where there were vacancies. The lack of bathing facilities for the appointed personnel made it necessary for them to use whatever evacuee facilities were most convenient.

There was no such thing as regular working hours. Trains arrived at all hours of the day and night, some being delayed for several hours en route; some arriving ahead of schedule. Meals and sleep were interrupted; vigil for late trains had to be kept. At first an attempt was made to serve hot drinks at warehouse 12, but it was decided that the serving process slowed up the induction and the practice was discontinued.

In the first issue of the Jerome Communique; October 23, the project director took the opportunity to address an open letter to his "fellow residents", as follows:

"We now have a population of more than 4000.

"Because evacuation from West Coast assembly centers was stepped up a few days ahead of anticipated schedule, arrivals at Jerome are limited to facilities not fully completed.

"I wish to extend my appreciation to each of you for the cheerful cooperation which the management has received thus far. I know that I can count on your continued cooperation. Together, we can make the Jerome relocation center the best in the country.

"I want to assure you that when the project is completed there will be sufficient living space for each family to have an apartment, and that bath and mess facilities will be sufficient.

"The contractor has assured me that he will return to incomplete blocks to install the minimum mess, laundry and toilet facilities as soon as possible.

"Heating stoves for each apartment, mess hall, toilet room and laundry have been ordered for several months. These stoves have been shipped. The Army engineers are doing everything in their power to rush delivery.

"Soon there will be smoke from every chimney.

Paul A. Taylor
Project Director "

The headline on the open letter read "Smoke from Every Flue", which served to allay to a certain extent the general uneasiness already being noised about the fact that cold weather was in prospect and no heating facilities in sight. Even though the last stoves were not installed until the middle of December, the evacuee and appointed personnel alike displayed a remarkable attitude of patience and good sportsmanship. As the stoves arrived they were set up in the hospital, in barracks where there were children, and wherever else they were most badly needed.

By November 3rd, the major inductions into the center had been concluded, the population standing at 7662. During the month of November about 145 evacuees, who had had group leave from Assembly Centers to work in the sugar beet fields, entered Jerome to join their families.

The next large inductions were three groups of Hawaiians who arrived at Jerome about a month apart. They had come from Hawaii by boat under military escort, and were transferred to trains at Oakland for the trip to Jerome. Many of the group were wives and children of men already detained or interned in Department of Justice camps.

The procedure of inducting the Hawaiian groups followed that of the original inductions. An effort was made to house them near friends and relatives, the main concentration being in blocks 38, 39 and 40. Because of severe restrictions as to

the amounts of money and personal effects that the Hawaiians were allowed to bring to the mainland, these people were seriously handicapped. Many had no clothing adequate for Arkansas winter weather, and little or no money to purchase bare necessities.

The majority of the first group which arrived were from the city of Honolulu where they had been professional people, clerks and office workers. The second group contained residents of eight of the Hawaiian islands; Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Nihau, and Kahoolawe; people who had been engaged in business or farm work, a few Buddhist priests, a doctor, and one optometrist. The third group was comprised mostly of fisherman and their families from the Kakaako district near Honolulu, and contained a larger number of young people, as compared to the earlier groups. They were scattered into twelve different blocks, wherever there was space.

The Hawaiian newcomers had had no experience with stoves or wood chopping. They had to be instructed in how to build and keep fires going. Boilermen of block 45, at the time the first Hawaiian group arrived, prepared a special hot bath for them - the first they had had since leaving Hawaii. It was probably the most thoughtful and welcome reception that could have been arranged.

Another service set up at the time of the second group's arrival was the installation of a social service field office right in the blocks. The workers in the office gave assistance in sending telegrams, reporting changes of address, and offered general information helpful to the newcomers. Postal regulations for mail to Hawaii was published in the Communique. The Administration and residents held a reception on January 15 to welcome the group who arrived on January 5, and distributed Christmas gifts to the children who had been travelling on Christmas.

Concerned with the financial problem facing the Hawaiian group, the first

joint meeting of Council and Block representatives recommended a voluntarily contributed fund to be raised and distributed according to need to the Hawaiians. \$1350 was raised and a truck load of clothing for the Hawaiian youngsters was collected. Priorities on clothing alteration were granted the Hawaiian group by the sewing project.

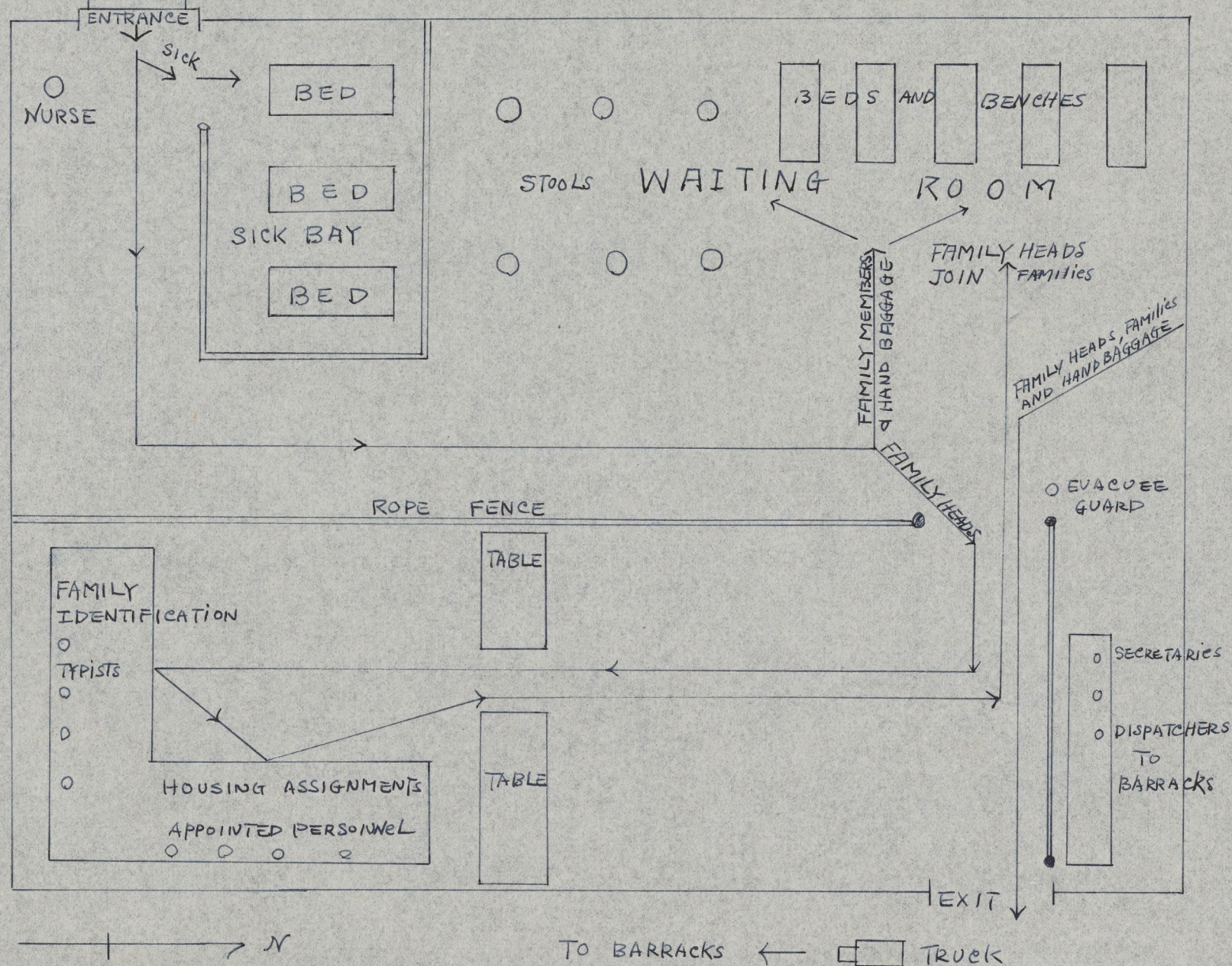
Copy of a special report concerning the Hawaiian group, dated February 28, 1943, is included with this section.

In anticipation of the arrival of two train loads of evacuees from Tule Lake, the Denson Tribune published a map of the Center showing various points of interest. New arrivals were interviewed on their impressions of Jerome and a feature story appeared September 28, summarizing their impressions. Tuleans were also informed of employment opportunities, and were formally welcomed by Project Director in a letter addressed to them and published in the Tribune. Various organizations held special welcoming programs. On the first Saturday after the Tuleans arrived the Issei department of the community activities section gave a welcoming Tulean talent program which attracted approximately 4,000 Center residents. Project Director Paul Taylor, addressed the group.

TRAIN

BOARDWALK FROM TRAIN

INDUCTION CENTER (TYPICAL PLAN)



CLOSING OPERATIONS

This report is intended only as supplemental to the attached "Report on the Closing of the Jerome Relocation Center", which was compiled by Malcolm E. Pitts, Field Assistant Director and the Director's personal representative in all matters pertaining to transfer operations. It attempts only to consider some of the intra-center problems, methods, devices and findings incident to the closing.

When preparations for closing first got under way, the Project Director addressed the Council, The Block Managers and other evacuee leaders. He told this group that the biggest and the toughest job in prospect was that of determining individual centers of destination. He stated that he would delegate authority and responsibility for that part of the job to any acceptable group or individual who cared to try it. He added that whoever started the job would have to finish it. There being no takers, (and the Project Director made the offer several times during succeeding weeks) he formally accepted the responsibility. With the responsibility he also formally reserved the right of final determination of any individual's transfer destination, regardless of any rules and regulations that might be set up. This sentiment was voiced publicly many times, and had a stabilizing effect on the entire process.

Stating that it was the administration's desire to transfer each individual to the center of his preference and still keep the total numbers within the already stated limits, the Project Director asked the group for suggestions. He made the same statements and appeal at three separate formal meetings of the group, but did not receive a suggestion. A tabulation of preference sheets, distributed according to manual procedure, indicated that too many persons wanted to transfer to Rohwer and Granada, and not enough preferred Gila River and Heart Mountain. These facts were made public, and still no suggestions were forthcoming. To break the deadlock, the Project Director released to the block managers a tentative list of transfer destinations. Beginning the following morning suggestions were legion. From that day until the center was vacated, the cooperation of the residents was unanimous, valuable and complete.

The Council felt that transfer destinations did not fall within the field of their rightful concern, but the group was cooperative and helpful in many ways. The Block Managers accepted a great part of the job as their legitimate responsibility and proved indispensable to the process. They had individual meetings and a great number of meetings with the administration. They were kept currently advised as to all particulars, in the field of transfer destination and in all the other activities incident to transfer and closing operations.

It had become obvious that family heads, in preparing their preference sheets, had not been thoroughly acquainted with the set of criteria agreed upon by evacuee leaders and the administration as the basis for granting of individual preference. Therefore, family heads were given a reasonable length of time in which to amplify their preference sheets.

Through the project newspaper, it was announced that persons who had indicated a preference for Rohwer or Granada would be permitted to voluntarily change their first preference to either Heart Mountain or Gila River. This met with a gratifying response, but created another problem which later had to be met. Too many people voluntarily offered to change to Heart Mountain, and many of those who were not added to that list felt that their obvious cooperativeness should guarantee them some special consideration.

It was while these changes were being made that the first tentative list was made. At the beginning the lists were made up by block and handed to each block manager. Later, after the determinations became final, announcement was made to the individual and the block manager became concerned only with persons who had not been advised as to their destination.

Original evaluation of the preference sheets was handled by a Processing Committee, composed of persons who by virtue of their professions were best qualified among the personnel to recognize and weigh the human values involved. In the group of four were a school man, two welfare people and a social analyst. This group de-

veloped the original set of criteria (Exhibit I) into the broader and more detailed Exhibit II, grading each preference sheet in accordance with the latter.

The determination process now faced four major difficulties:

1. In the case of each center, only a part of some one similarly graded group could be squeezed into the quota. The Processing Committee was not authorized to determine which families of a particular group would be granted their preference and which would not. They developed the technique of distinguishing between a "strong class 3" and a "weak class 3," but even with this possibility they reached a place where such a distinction was not obvious enough to take the place of direct authority.

2. The preference sheets included errors and duplications, and the individual work cards, which had been prepared from the sheets and with which the committee actually worked contained a corresponding number of inaccuracies.

3. The committee, in its process of classification, had made a few mistakes - negligible in percentages but highly important nevertheless.

4. Conditions governing the granting of preference to individual families continued to change. This difficulty, eventually and necessarily, was overcome with arbitrary deadlines after which army affiliation, relocation and induction would no longer affect the classification.

At this time, which as is indicated by Mr. Pitts, was perhaps two weeks later than what would have been preferable, final determination was undertaken by the Project Director's Transfer Committee. This group was entirely new. It included seven members of the appointive personnel who had a reputation for sound judgment, who were known to have exercised considerable authority at the center, and who could say 'no' decently but with alacrity and finality. This committee was authorized to recommend, for the project Director's approval, the final determination of each evacuee's center of destination.

It investigated the work of the Processing Committee and recommended that its classification be accepted for each center, with preparation and distribution of

of lists filling each quota within about 90 percent of the limit.

Three of these lists, (the Gila River list was withheld) prepared by blocks, were released to the interested block managers with the explanation; that they were not quite full; that the space had been left in each quota in order that mistakes might be corrected and borderline cases investigated and considered further; that later determinations were the responsibility of the Transfer Committee subject to approval of the Project Director; that practically every individual who was not included on one of the lists could take it for granted that he was going to Gila River; that any individual who felt that he had not received proper consideration could have a personal interview with the Transfer Committee.

This last condition was controlled by the following regulations. Each individual was required to request a formal appointment at a specific office, and only through his own block manager, within 24 hours following release of the list. Each individual to receive an interview had to be accompanied by his block manager.

Immediately there was a great deal of tension and resentment and jealousy manifested throughout the center. The appointments were made and the interviews held, members of the committee maintaining from one to three interviewing offices for several days on an 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. schedule.

It was the general opinion of the center staff that this process of personal interviewing was the key to successful and peaceful solution of the problem. It served two major purposes: (1) The block managers, upon whose cooperation the entire center depended, were on the spot in their individual blocks. The interviewing process enabled them to demonstrate the fact that they were working directly for their own people. (2) And the process enabled the administration to demonstrate the fact that it was launched upon a thoroughly conscientious and exhausting effort to treat every individual with complete fairness.

No decisions were reached at the interviews. When they had been completed, the files of each case were placed in a "Consideration Folder," together with the files

of other borderline cases. The committee then completed the four center lists with names of persons from this folder, but only after a great deal of joint comparison and consideration and a process of one-by-one elimination.

By now the first train was about ready to leave, and freight was being picked up for the second and third. But to eliminate last minute changes in manifests, to catch up with expected mistakes and in order to mail out individual official notices of center destination, the Transfer Committee organized a transfer office. Before an official notice was mailed this office matched the family card with the preference sheet, checked the names on each, checked against leave, induction and vital statistics information; attached the preference sheet to a copy of the official notice, together with other pertinent information; and filed this according to block. This systematic process was considered well worth the time it consumed.

The cards, on which destination had been indicated in red, were sent to a second office and filed according to center. That office made up the train lists and the various Rohwer movements from these cards, mailing to each individual his explicit instructions as to date and hour of departure, where he would be picked up for transfer to the train and identity of the car in which he would ride.

A third copy of the official notice of destination was sent to the office which directed handling of freight and baggage, which in turn advised each individual where and how to have freight and baggage ready. (Details of this operation may be found in Exhibit III of this report).

Once all the official notices had been mailed, the transfer office was reduced to one person, who handled the files and worked with the Project Director in effecting the few necessary changes which were made.

The manifest office made up its tentative train lists by pulling cards from a center's file. This list was checked in the blocks before the manifest was prepared. (Further particulars of this part of the process are considered in Mr. Pitt's report and elsewhere.)

Prior to the date of the release of final transfer lists, it had been necessary to complete organization of a final contingent of evacuee workers who would remain at the center until the closing day. An original meeting of section heads was asked to prepare a brief statement setting out; the job to be done in his section between June 15 (when transfer movements would be well under way) and June 30; the number and classification of evacuee persons required to do that job; and the names of individuals who had indicated a preference for Rohwer and whom he would recommend for that particular job. These lists were evaluated, totaled, decreased and eventually determined through individual consultation with the section heads. The persons selected were so advised by letter, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit IV. Each was allowed 48 hours leave, upon application, to accompany members of his family to Rohwer on the day they were scheduled to move. No one was allowed to remain in the center beyond his scheduled day of departure, except members of this final contingent.

EXHIBIT I

FOUR BASIC REASONS FOR GRANTING FIRST CENTER OF PREFERENCE

1. HEALTH, when certified as "A" by Dr. Collier.
2. a. FAMILY MEMBER IN SERVICE, including Enlisted Reserve.
b. FAMILY MEMBER TO ENTER SERVICE SOON, including only those with Certificates of Physical Fitness for Service (family member as defined in Administrative Manual 30.4.53) applies regardless of center of first preference -- alike to any.
3. FAMILY MEMBER RELOCATED, family member as defined in Administrative Manual 30.4.53; applies regardless of center of preference and location of relocated member.
4. TO REUNITE RELATIVES

parents	<u>NOT</u>
children	brothers
grandparents	sisters
grandchildren	in-laws (as such)
	uncles
	aunts
	nephews
	nieces
	cousins

APPROVED:

E.B. Whitaker
Project Director

May 12, 1944.

EXHIBIT II

FOUR BASIC REASONS FOR GRANTING FIRST CENTER OF PREFERENCE

1. HEALTH, when certified as "A" by Dr. Collier.
2. a. FAMILY MEMBER IN SERVICE, including Enlisted Reserve.
b. FAMILY MEMBER TO ENTER SERVICE SOON,
including only those with Certificates of Physical Fitness
for Service (family member as defined in Administrative
Manual 30.4.53) applies regardless of center of first
preference — alike to any.
3. FAMILY MEMBER RELOCATED, family member as (Head) defined in
Administrative Manual 30.4.53; applies regardless of
center of preference and location of relocated member.
- 4* KEEP TOGETHER PEOPLE IN CENTER NOW
4. TO REUNITE RELATIVES NOT

parents	brothers
children	sisters
grandparents	in-laws (as such)
grandchildren	uncles
	aunts
	nephews
	nieces
	cousins
5. A. Convincing Relocation Plan
B. Class 1-A Selective Service
C. Relatives (not 4) or close Friends, some supporting fact or facts
known or stated
D. Lived or Worked in Area before Evacuation
E. First Choice When Left Tule Lake
F. Indefinite Relocation Plan, if pertinent
G. Medical "B"
H. Group Affiliation if leader in well-organized civic or religious group

R. Relatives or Friends only indicated
S. Special, describe

EXHIBIT II

Before entering a reason in Class 4 on any individual or family, check the relatives with whom they wish to go to see that the latter have better than a 4 priority rating. In the event that the latter does not have a rating better than 4, then designate the individual or family being considered as 5 (and the letter applying), adding a -4 after the letter. In the event that such a relationship exists, enter an * after the 5 and letter for the one which has the stronger reason to indicate that if this person is given first preference that others will need to be considered with them. In this way the -4 will be added to the one who has the weaker reason.

EXHIBIT III

The Evacuee Property Office had the responsibility for moving all freight and baggage in connection with closing the center.

It was realized in the beginning that this would be a tremendous job and plans were made to enlist the assistance of the evacuees in moving their own property. The first step was a bit of promotional work. The Block Managers talked the matter over with the people and it seemed that they approved a plan, whereby their freight could be moved from the center before their train departure. This would enable them to see that their own freight was properly handled and would also insure earlier delivery at the center of destination. This procedure also would insure an adequate labor supply.

A schedule for shipping was prepared, but the first estimate of cars needed was too low. It was discovered after the movement began that we would need about twice as many cars as we had originally anticipated. Through good cooperation of Railroad Officials and the Washington office, these needs were met.

The shipping schedule provided for freight to be moved on June 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21. Baggage was to be moved on June 11, 12, 17, 18, 22, 23.

The next step was organizing for each train movement as soon as train lists were received. A study was made and the most outstanding evacuee on the train list was contacted and enlisted to supervise the general freight movement for that particular train. This evacuee supervisor was provided with a pick-up truck for transportation and was requested to name from two to six assistances to serve in the car to supervise the actual loading operation. All planning with respect to the time and manner of actual pick-up was left to the evacuee supervisor.

Prior to the date of pick-up, the office distributed forms 156 and EPR's to each family head. These were distributed through the block managers and instructions given as to their preparation and handling.

The number of families moving by each train was plotted on a center map and 8 districts laid out for the appointed personnel checkers.

The appointed personnel checker went as directed by the evacuee supervisor to the blocks in his district and checked the freight on to the trucks from the forms 156. One copy EPR was signed by the appointed personnel checker and left with the evacuee owner. All other copies were taken up by the checker. The freight, with sufficient evacuee help for the block, was then hauled to the freight car. The checker delivered the forms to the car loading supervisor, who received the freight into the car. The other forms were returned to the office for processing.

Forms were checked in the office for legibility and accuracy and forwarded to Property Control Section for the preparation of the bills of lading, one 156 being retained in the files.

The cooperation of the evacuee in handling their freight and baggage was excellent. Special mention should be made of the work of evacuee supervisors.

The following is a tabulation of car loadings forwarded between June 2 and 15.

<u>Freight</u>		<u>Baggage</u>	
Granada	9	Heart Mountain	3
Gila	26	Gila	2
Heart Mt.	6		

In addition to the car load movements, a great amount of LCL shipments were made during this period because of relocation.

*Jerome final
Envelope #1*

*Return to
Files f.h.*
Bancroft Library
N1.93 5776

SELECTIVE SERVICE

It was decided soon after the opening of the Jerome Relocation Center that the registration of men for Selective Service would be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Education. This assignment was made because schools outside the Centers rendered this service to Selective Service.

The Jerome Relocation Center was located in two counties of Arkansas--Drew and Chicot. The warehouses, administration buildings, personnel quarters, and military quarters were located in Drew County. However, only five full blocks and the smaller parts of eight blocks were in Drew County. It was decided that the entire registration should belong to the Chicot County Selective Service Board.

During the regular time for registration a committee of teachers was appointed to conduct the registration within the Center. A room in the high school block was set aside for this purpose. Publicity was given through the Center paper, then known as the Communique.

Later when the registration became a daily matter and not held on certain days, the registration was conducted in the office of the Superintendent of Education. The Superintendent personally registered the men as they came. A cumulative record was kept with the following items given: Name, date of birth, date of registration, present address, former place of residence and place of birth. This record was sent to the Chicot County Selective Service Board at the close of the Center.

Early in 1943 a list of all men from 17 through 19 was compiled from the War Relocation Authority records. Men who were over age within this group who had not registered were notified by letter to appear for registration. As boys reached the age of registration they were sent a letter, requesting them to report for registration. A memorandum giving the facts about each registrant was sent to the Project Attorney and the Chief of Internal Security. The full cooperation of

Internal Security was requested and obtained. Only a few cases failed to report, and frequently these cases were due to a misunderstanding or lack of information. There was not a single instance of a man refusing to give information to the registrar.

After the Army decided to accept men of Japanese ancestry for induction into the Armed Forces, the details of registration, preparation for induction and other such services were made the duty and responsibility of the Welfare Director. Representatives of the Center, including the Superintendent of Education, the Welfare Director, and the Reports Officer attended a district meeting in Monticello, Arkansas, held for Selective Service Boards of that area by the State Director of Selective Service for the purpose of acquainting the Boards with the new procedures of the increased induction demands.

After induction of Americans of Japanese ancestry was approved by the Army the following statement was released to the Tribune:

RELEASE TO ROHWER OUTPOST AND JEROME TRIBUNE

Acceptable Nisei in the Relocation Centers can expect to begin hearing from the Army in a short time, it was learned at Arkansas Selective Headquarters today. The procedure will follow this pattern:

Names of those passed by the authorities as acceptable for army service will be sent to the Local Board at McGehee and the Local Board at Lake Village. These boards will ask the centers for certain information--the name and location of the Local Board with which each individual registered; and the present address of each individual.

The McGehee and Lake Village boards will then send this information to the Local Boards concerned--to the board where the individual registered--Hanford, Fresno, Los Angeles or wherever it may be.

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These boards, at the time that the individual's order number is reached and in conformity with their periodic quotas, will notify the McGehee and Lake Village Boards to call that person for induction. He then will be processed in the same manner as any other American citizen.

He will be sent to the induction station at Little Rock for physical examination. He then will return to the center. There he will be advised by the Local Board if he is physically fit for service. After the usual time he will be inducted in the usual manner.

The clerk of the Chicot County board, which is located at Lake Village, and the Dermott member of the Chicot County board, came to the center on the morning of February 14. Following instructions given them in a letter from Selective Service headquarters, they requested those individuals indicated acceptable to fill out Forms 154 and 216. The latter form is one which transferred an individual by request to another board for delivery to the pre-induction physical examination. Very few individuals signed both forms for two reasons; (1) The attitude of the local board clerk was not sympathetic - she was a little concerned over the fact that the boys wanted to read what was on the form. (2) This procedure was contrary to all that the evacuees know about Selective Service. They could not understand why a man classified as 4C should request transfer for delivery when they had been educated to believe that no man could be called until he had been reclassified as 1A.

Those on the project who were handling this matter were pretty well concerned over the situation as it stood, fearing that there might develop one group which would recommend that a man sign this and another group which would recommend that a man not sign that. There was present the "who said so?" attitude when evacuees were told that they would not be allowed to appear in person before the West Coast local

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board. The Chicot County board representatives who were at the center were a little unhappy about the whole thing when they left.

That evening the center called Selective Service headquarters in Little Rock and reported to the interested officer the developments of the day. He said that he had instructed the board to have both forms filled out merely as a matter of expediting the process and that if the evacuees were not anxious to get into uniform perhaps he should have the board follow Selective Service Memorandum 179 as written. The center newspaper reported that there had been some lack of information in the first day's selective service attempts and that a conference would be held the following week with representatives of all interested parties, where it was hoped most of the questions could be answered.

The administration continued through the paper and through individual conversations to warn against anything that could be construed to mean resistance to selective service. One of the appointed personnel was designated to serve as the clearing house for questions and individual problems that arose. He was instructed to be very careful not to accept any responsibility beyond repeating what is common knowledge, and this attitude was made public through articles in the center newspaper.

A few days later the Dermott member of the Chicot Board stated that in a recent telephone conversation with State Headquarters he had been instructed to disregard former suggestions and to process people in the centers exactly in accordance with Local Board Memorandum 179, and that in line with that instruction he would send back to State Headquarters the 92 letters of advice which were in his hands. State Headquarters would forward this collection of letters back to Washington with the suggestion that they be sent to the proper local boards of origin so that the proper procedure could be instigated.

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The next issue of the center newspaper carried the statement that the previously announced meeting with Selective Service had been postponed and that more complete details would be published in the following issue of the paper. This article, in the Tribune of February 25, set out the procedure found in Memorandum 179, whereby an individual merely received an order to appear for pre-induction physical examination.

It seemed that a large part of the hesitancy which developed grew from the question and answer page, which stated that evacuees would be inducted for service only in the Army and not in Aviation or the Armored force. Some of the evacuees stated that the announcement of such limitations was more distasteful than were the restrictions themselves.

The Community Council considered the situation officially upon one occasion. At a regular meeting, held in February, an individual who was not a member of the body stated that he would like to have some consideration given to the questions which he had raised in regard to Council support of the Nisei who felt they were being discriminated against under Selective Service. A Councilman then stated that a group of young men had met in his Block the previous evening and had asked him to urge the Council to take some action. He appeared to want some protests made against the drafting of Nisei without special guarantees as to equal treatment after the war, equal treatment while in the Service and the elimination of all discrimination. The chairman then said that he wanted to make it clear that he was in full agreement with a previously stated opinion that this was not a matter for the Council; that it was a matter between each individual selectee and his government. One of the Councilmen then became rather excited. He thought the men had a right to protest and that the Council as a body should get behind them. He related how they had been de-

prived of their property and moved from their homes; how they had taken losses and suffered hardship. He stated that the government should give the men some guarantees as to the proper care of their families while they are absent and asked, "where were they to go after the war". Might the government not ship them all back to Japan? He said he had visions of men coming back wounded, without limbs, etc., and just because they were of Japanese ancestry they might be sent back to Japan. He thought the Nisei had a right to ask the government for some guarantees. Another member seemed to acquiesce in this attitude, mentioning again the hardships that the evacuees had suffered and that the Nisei residents of the community had a right to expect the Council to stand behind them. The air was tense. A Nisei Councilman then stood up. He seemed very emotional and he spoke rapidly in Japanese. Up to that time all discussion had been in English. He spoke for several minutes. He was immediately answered by another Councilman, whose first words were, "I am not afraid to speak out in English". He then went on to say he disapproved thoroughly of his predecessor's remarks. He thought the individual Nisei had a right to make any appeal he wished to his Selective Service Board, but the relationship was one between the man and his government. He was emphatic in stating that the Council had no business whatsoever supporting any move on the part of protesting Nisei. He questioned the propriety of bringing such a matter to the Council and indicated that he was shocked at the attitude some of the Nisei were taking. There was another period of silence.

An elderly Nisei arose from his seat. He asked for a copy of the Council charter. He then read the paragraph on the functions of the Council. After he finished the reading he said, "I am unable to find reference to our authority to pass on Federal matters. The Selective Service law is a Federal Law. This Council

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has no jurisdiction in Federal matters. It has no jurisdiction in State matters, it has jurisdiction only in the community of Denson. It is not the business of this Council to give any consideration whatsoever to any resolutions or suggestions with reference to Selective Service and the drafting of the Nisei". This was followed by another long period of silence. The atmosphere was tense. Then the chairman looked up and said very quietly, "Unless there is objection, I declare this meeting adjourned since there is no further point in prolonging the discussion of a matter which does not concern the Jerome Community Council."

The first group called included 11 men, all of whom reported in Little Rock for preinduction physical examination on February 26. From that point on there was very little confusion in the process, beyond the mechanical arrangements for feeding and transporting the men to Lake Village during the early hours of the mornings on which groups were called. The first nine were sworn into the Enlisted Reserve Corps about the middle of May. Reinstitution of Selective Service probably had some small effect on the volume of expatriation requests filed at the center. It also probably retarded to a certain extent the number of relocation cases processed, but evaluation of both of these probabilities was complicated by the fact that the center was in the process of closing down. Only one man failed to respond to Selective Service orders. This individual, one of the last group called, while the center was actually closing down in June, had a reputation of being a trouble maker before he was inducted at the center. A United States marshal removed him from the center the afternoon of the day on which he failed to answer his call.

FUEL

Fuel was this center's one great and continuing problem. Without Washington approval for the purchase of coal for heating purposes, with no tenable excuse for even requesting coal in an area where unlimited wood was readily accessible, and where its cutting was prerequisite to the center's agriculture program, the fuel problem quickly resolved itself to the proposition, "cut wood or freeze".

The situation became one of first importance to every man woman and child on the center, evacuee and appointive alike. The second winter was faced with a wealth of experience earned during the trying months of the year before. Although fuel for heating was again a problem which taxed ingenuity and back muscles and interfered with other center activities, the second winter did not develop a situation which was comparable to that of the first. Techniques and skill and faith had been developed from experience. Roads and adequate equipment had helped reduce the problem of merely a back-breaking administrative and mechanical process.

The attached transcript of a form on "Fuel Wood," held January 7, 1943, indicates the scope of the problem; some of the human reactions to the tension which had been built up; and a few of the mechanical and political devices which were developed. Other references to the subject may be found in the final report of the assistant project director in charge of operations, in the agriculture report and in the industries report.

From the Jerome Third Quarterly Report: "Evacuee construction, as did all other projects at the center, suffered in favor of the first winter's major problem -- cutting of firewood for heating the residences. Anyone willing to tackle that job was excused from regular duties, and from time to time center-wide 'holidays,' excluding only a few essential members of evacuee staff, were declared. On these days literally thousands of the residents voluntarily went into the woods to fight against what otherwise might have become an acute situation. They felled and cleaned indicated poles, bringing them out of the woods by truck, wagon and mud boat, and hauling them to the blocks.

"These operations were under the direction of the Agriculture Division, which held the wood cutting activities to land selected for spring planting of food and feed crops. The work, begun early in November with crews assigned for that purpose, necessitated training in the use of hand tools such as axes, cross-cut saws and cut-off saws, and in the handling of workstock and equipment. By the end of the quarter (December 31, 1942) approximately 150 acres of timber land were cleared completely of all standing timber and underbrush. An additional 150 acres had been cleared of standing timber. There remained the work of cutting and burning the brush and tops before the land may be considered ready for plowing. This work provided fuel which, beginning in November, in what was a mild fall for this locality, was consumed at the rate of approximately 100 cords per day."

From the Jerome Fourth Quarterly Report: "On January 1 this center's evacuee leaders and its appointed personnel were huddled in mutual trepidation over the problem of supplying wood to the apartment stoves. Half a dozen strategies had proved only partially successful. The weather remained cold. The woods were getting wetter. Fuel already in the blocks was approaching the zero point. Individual fear was pointing to the possibility of mass hysteria.

"..... Near the middle of January an Emergency Wood Committee took over virtual operation of the center. Within three weeks, under its well organized and ably executed plans, the critical fuel situation had been brought under control."

Briefly:

The situation developed because (1) evacuees arrived about the time the winter's fuel supply should have cut, stacked and ready for use, (2) The evacuees were not experienced in that kind of work, (3) The woods were getting wet, roads were not adequate, trucks could not negotiate the mud, and wagons and workstock were hard to procure, (4) Sufficient labor could not be recruited to work in the woods because it was a hard, dirty and generally unpleasant job, (5) The evacuees were generally fearful of power saws, (6) The center was populated by some 8,000 strangers; there had been no time for sound organization and insufficient time for the development of

strong and respected leadership, (7) There was a growing fear and distrust developing among the residents against the administration-- the government had assured them of shelter, food and fuel and was not making good in the case of fuel.

The situation was met by (1) An unwavering assurance on the part of the administration that there would be no coal for heating the apartments, (2) A sincere concern and interest on the part of the administration; repeated requests for suggestions; proof that real effort was being made to procure necessary equipment; willingness to meet and talk at any length with any of the various interested committees and groups; constant attitude of interest in fairness and of concern over the total picture rather than individual problems; the personal, public example of cutting wood (staff members, both clerical and administrative, went to the woods on Sundays for poles and cut them into stove length, using both cross-cut saws and power equipment), (3) Serious, complete cooperation between the administration and a Joint Wood Committee which included members of the Temporary Community Council and the Block Managers, (4) A fine attitude of cooperation on the part of the residents, who under the direction of their own leaders spent the long hours necessary to getting the job done, and who in spite of the many petty jealousies and inequalities which arose demanded and accomplished fairness in the distribution of both work and wood.

The price of the situation included (1) The misuse of a great deal of time -- center administrators devoted hours to clearing and cutting poles, evacuee professional men left the hospital to work in the woods, even the chairman of the Community Council was granted a two-week furlough from official responsibilities so that he could swing an axe (2) A certain amount of financial loss from the misuse of equipment on the part of inexperienced people (3) The retarding of every other program on the center, because during one particular three-week period every office which operated did so with a skeleton staff.

FINAL REPORT

LEGAL DIVISION

Section I

The legal staff of the Jerome Relocation Center at its inception was composed of Robert A. Leflar, Acting Project Attorney, whose office was in Little Rock, Arkansas, and whose title was Regional Attorney. Mr. Leflar spent about three days of each week on the Project, bringing with him his secretary, Mrs. Gertrude Williams.

Within a very short time it was evident that there should be someone in charge of the Legal Aid Office at the Project to handle routine matters and to refer to Mr. Leflar legal matters which required the attention of an attorney at the time of his visits to the Project. Mr. Leflar secured the services of Rene Miyake, who was assigned as Legal Assistant on November 6, 1942. On the following day there was secured for him a secretary, Miss Helen Kawai. Mr. Miyake, Family No. 25332, is a graduate of Hastings Law School at San Francisco, California, but was not admitted to the Bar. Miss Helen Kawai, Family No. 25301, had ten years experience in a law office in Fresno, California. This arrangement was in effect until December 15, 1942, when a reorganization was affected and Mr. Leflar was promoted to Assistant Solicitor with headquarters in Washington, D. C. Mr. Leflar did not report to Washington immediately, but maintained headquarters at Little Rock, Arkansas, acting as Project Attorney for the Jerome Relocation Center. He recruited as Project Attorney for the Center,

Ulys. A. Lovell of Springdale, Arkansas. Mr. Lovell was inducted into WRA on January 25th, 1943, and on the following day entered on his duties as Project Attorney at the Jerome Relocation Center. Miss Fujiye Jitsumyo, Family No. 29134, who had two and one-half years legal experience, was assigned as secretary to Mr. Lovell on March 9, 1943. On March 18, 1943, Matsu Mayewaki, Family No. 24800, was assigned to the Legal Division as receptionist and typist. On April 30, 1943, Miss Helen Kawai was terminated as secretary due to the fact that she had a serious illness and asked to be relieved of her duties. On May 10, 1943, Miss Eva Arakawa, Family No. H-197, became a secretary and file clerk in the office. On June 30, 1943, Rene Miyake was terminated at his own request in order that he might relocate in Salt Lake City, Utah. Miss Jitsumyo took over the work of Mr. Miyake. On August 9, 1943, Miss Mayewaki was terminated at her own request and relocated in St. Louis, Missouri. Miss Hiroko Maeda, Family No. 27222, was assigned as a secretary and assistant to Miss Jitsumyo on October 7, 1943. Miss Eva Arakawa, at this time took over the work as receptionist and file clerk.

On September 16, 1943, Mr. G. F. Castleberry was appointed Evacuee Property Officer of this center and property matters were taken out of this office and given to him for handling. Miss Jitsumyo left the center on short-term leave November 26, 1943 and was officially terminated on January 26, 1944, when she changed her short-term leave into indefinite leave and relocated in Columbus, Ohio. On January 22, 1944, Miss Eva Arakawa was terminated at her own request and relocated in Chicago, Illinois. On June 6, 1944, Miss Hiroko Maeda was

terminated at her own request and relocated in Washington, D. C.

Miss Geraldine Gay, CAF-2 in the Mess Division, was transferred to the Legal Division as Legal Secretary on June 16, 1943, with a rating of CAF-3.

On March 3, 1944, Mr. Lovell obtained a LWOP status until May 30, 1944, at which time he returned to the center and he and Miss Gay were the only two persons in the Legal Division at the time the center closed.

All Evacuee Property work from the inception of the center to September 16, 1943, was handled by the Office of the Project Attorney. At the start there were very few property problems, but as time went on and it became evident that the evacuation would not be a temporary expedient, more and more of the residents of the center came to the Legal Office to work out a disposition of their personal and real property. Mr. Miyake, up until the time of his relocation on July 1, 1943 devoted practically all of his time to property matters. From July 1, 1943 to September 16, 1943, Miss Jitsumyo handled practically all property matters of the Project Attorney's Office. Miss Mayewaki and Miss Arakawa handled routine requests for transfers and assistance in addition to doing secretarial and filing work. Ted Stevenson was assigned to the Legal Office on February 25, 1944, and was terminated on March 31, 1944. He assisted in the preparation and filing of income tax returns for the residents of the center.

Outside of the illness of Miss Kawai, which forced her termination, there has been no turnover in the staff of the Project Attorney's office other than that of relocation. I wish particularly to commend

the fine work of Mr. Miyake, Miss Jitsumyo and Miss Arakawa.

On numerous occasions when Mr. Jack Curtis found it necessary to be away from the Rohwer Relocation Center, the Project Attorney of the Jerome Center filled in at that Center and when the Project Attorney of Jerome found it necessary to be away from the Center for any length of time, Mr. Curtis acted as Project Attorney here. On January 12, 1944, Mr. Lovell was detailed to Minidoka and remained there until March 3, 1944, when he returned to the Jerome Relocation Center and was placed on a LWOP status until May 30, 1944. Mr. Curtis took care of the legal work at the Jerome Center during that time, assisted by Mr. Moxley Featherstone who spent two weeks at Jerome from May 7th to May 20th.

Section II

At the opening of the center, the Legal Aid Office was in Administration Building No. 2, having about one hundred square feet of floor space and not separated from the other offices. Early in December, 1942, Administration Building No. 2 was divided into rooms and the Legal Division was given two rooms, a reception room ten by twelve feet and a private office twelve by twenty feet. In the reception room were two of the secretaries with their desks and chairs. In the private office was the Attorney's desk, Evacuee Attorney's desk, two secretarial desks, file cases, supply cabinets, and the library.

At the inception of the center the library consisted of books brought to the center by the Acting Project Attorney, Mr. Leflar, and the Legal Assistant, Mr. Miyake. Those books were Pope's Digest of the

Arkansas Statutes, the recent Acts of the Arkansas Legislature, and a Form book. When Mr. Lovell was appointed Project Attorney he brought to the center a part of his library and purchased for the Project library, Cowdery's Forms, Arkansas Legal Forms, Pope's Digest of the Statutes of Arkansas, Lake's 1941 Penal Code, Civil Code, and Civil Procedure and Probate Code of California (three volumes), the 1943 Acts of the Arkansas Legislature, and the United States Code. This library, while not adequate for a practicing attorney in private practice, was found to be adequate for center use when it is considered that the Project Attorneys submit difficult and technical questions of law to the Washington or the San Francisco offices for final decisions.

The physical setup of the Project Attorney's Office in this Center was entirely adequate.

Section III

As stated above, the purpose of the Legal Division was to render such legal assistance to the evacuees as was, under the circumstances, possible. The Project Attorney's Office in this center has, in that regard, done an excellent job. The evacuee staff has been, for the most part, trained in legal work, and the evacuee staff has, at all times, had an accurate working knowledge of the Japanese language. Naturally, since there was not an Evacuee Property Office in the Center until September 16, 1943, the Legal Division found it necessary to handle practically all the evacuee property problems since they were, in most instances, tied up with some sort of legal problem. Thus, from that standpoint, the Legal Division tended to become an ad-

ministrative branch of the Project.

With the advent of registration in February and March of 1943 and in this center the attendant hearings of some two thousand people, the Project Attorney was called on to sit in on most of these hearings. Leave Clearance Hearings all funnelled through the Office of the Project Attorney. Under the peculiar setup in this center, the Project Attorney became Chairman of the Leave Clearance Hearing Board and all matters pertaining to leave clearance hearings were passed over his desk. All dockets were assigned for hearings by the Project Attorney and all hearings were reviewed and summaries written by him. This latter condition prevailed until the Project Attorney was detailed to the Minidoka Center on January 12, 1944, at which time another member of the staff took over the work, but handled all matters through the Project Attorney's Office. Miss Geraldine Gay, Legal Secretary, rendered valuable assistance in the work of leave clearance hearings.

After the first six or eight months of the Project's existence, with segregation a reality, and with the appointment of an Evacuee Property Officer, the strictly legal work of the Project Attorney's Office became somewhat limited and the legal staff assisted the Project Director and other Administrative Officers in doing what needed to be done.

Section IV

Early in the center's existence, typewriters were at a premium and members of the legal staff used their own typewriters and other equipment. However, within a short time adequate typewriters and other physical equipment were obtained and there were no mechanical difficulties connected with the Division.

This particular Legal Division was indeed fortunate in staff turnover and in language difficulties. The staff, for the first eight months of the Project's existence, was capable and experienced. From July 1, 1943 to June 30, 1944, the members of the staff working at various times had had adequate training under other members of the staff so that there was very little, if any, dislocation in service rendered to the administration of the evacuees when an older member of the staff relocated. With one exception, the evacuee staff members were well grounded in the Japanese language and interpretation difficulties were at a minimum.

Section V - Community Enterprises trust and corporation.

What later developed into the Jerome Cooperative Enterprises, a cooperative corporation, began originally on one hundred and fifty dollars borrowed capital put up by members of the appointed personnel. This capital was used to purchase supplies of high turnover and arrangement for purchasing supplies was made by the appointed personnel. In a short time the one hundred fifty dollars was repaid and the evacuees, with the assistance of the Legal Division, formed the Jerome Cooperative Enterprise Trust. Mr. K. Iseri and R. Murakami were members of the original trust agreement and later became influential in the cooperative corporation.

After discussing the various possibilities of the cooperative corporate structure, it was obvious to the Project Attorney, Mr. Leflar, and the Solicitor's Office in Washington, that the residents of the Center could be better served by incorporating under the District of

Columbia cooperative statute. The Legal Division of the Center assisted the trustees in drafting the proposed charter for the Jerome Cooperative. To make sure that the Jerome Cooperative in its charter operated within the framework of WRA regulations, a tentative charter was sent to the Solicitor's Office in Washington for final approval. In June, 1943, the Jerome Cooperative received its charter under the District of Columbia cooperative law.

Since the cooperative was a foreign corporation, it was necessary that it qualify for doing business under the laws of the State of Arkansas. The Rohwer Project had attempted to qualify under the cooperative statutes of the State of Arkansas but was denied permission to do so before Judge Barham of the Desha County Circuit Court. Then it became necessary for the Jerome and Rohwer cooperatives to qualify under the foreign corporation laws existing in Arkansas at that time. It was necessary under the Arkansas law that the cooperatives qualify under the so-called "Blue Sky" provision of the Arkansas statutes relative to the sale of corporation shares in Arkansas. The State Banking Department which had jurisdiction over that phase of the incorporation, ruled that the membership certificates of the cooperative were in effect, essentially sales of stock, and qualification to sell stock under the "Blue Sky" act must be met. This the cooperative did. All negotiations with the State Banking Department in this transaction were carried on by the legal division of the Project.

Early in the operation of the trust and in the ensuing cooperative, it became evident that the Federal Income Tax liability of the Cooperative was a matter to be reckoned with. The Project Attorney, cooperating with the Solicitor's Office, contacted the Collector of In-

ternal Revenue at Little Rock to obtain a ruling on the exemption of the Cooperative. The Collector, in an informal opinion, stated that he believed the Cooperative was exempt but asked that formal application for exemption be filed at the same time the income tax return was filed for the fiscal year ending October 1, 1943. The Project Attorney assisted in preparing the application for exemption and explained to the Directors of the Cooperative the basis upon which an exemption was claimed. The Internal Revenue Department finally ruled that the Cooperative was entitled to an exemption under the terms of the Revenue Act.

Since the Cooperative occupied buildings owned by the government, it was necessary that rental contracts be executed by the government and the Cooperative. The negotiations leading up to the execution of rental contracts were conducted by the Project Attorney and the chairman and general manager of the Cooperative Association. The final execution of this agreement was held up somewhat due to the fact that the first Administrative Instruction stating the rentals to be charged the co-ops was clearly out of line with the type of buildings used by the co-ops. Later instructions brought the rental charges more nearly in accord with the type of building being used by the co-ops.

The Project Attorney, Mr. Leflar, stated that the Arkansas sales tax must be collected by the Cooperative and paid to the State of Arkansas. This was questioned only one time when an auditor of the Cooperative Association asked that a test suit be filed to determine whether or not the Cooperative was liable to collect and remit this tax. This suggestion was not followed by the Project or Washington officials.

Unemployment Compensation contributions were collected from the Cooperative on employees employed by it. This unemployment compensation was paid to the State of Arkansas. Social Security taxes were deducted and paid to the Collector of Internal Revenue. Arkansas requires that any person employing over a certain number of people in a given type of business, carry Workman's Compensation insurance covering accidents and occupational diseases incurred by the employee. This Center was very fortunate in being able to secure through the Dermott Insurance Agency, H. L. Harder, Manager, adequate Workman's Compensation insurance. Mr. Harder was also able to secure for the Cooperative, fire and tornado insurance on its stock and equipment.

The Project Attorney's Office worked with the Board of Directors of the Cooperative in dissolving the Cooperative and in notifying all Federal and State officials of the article of dissolution. The Project Attorney's Office checked all steps taken by the Board of Directors in dissolving the corporation to see that the laws of the State of Arkansas and federal enactments had been met.

The Jerome Cooperative closed its doors and ceased to do business on April 15, 1944. The Rohwer Cooperative secured permission from the Treasury of the United States to operate a canteen and give certain services within the limits of the Jerome Relocation Center until June 30, 1944. The Acting Project Attorney of the Jerome Relocation Center assisted in preparing this application.

In its operations, both as a trust and as a corporation, the Jerome Cooperative has been fortunate in its evacuee personnel and the appointed personnel advisor. Problems which usually would have been

referred to the Project Attorney were worked out by the Directors of the Cooperative and the appointed personnel supervisor. The Project Attorney's Office has given a great deal of its time to problems of the Cooperative which involves strict legal interpretation. Routine legal matters were seldom, if ever, as stated above, brought to the Project Attorney's Office.

Section V - Community Activities Trust.

Early in 1943 a Community Activities Trust was set up to handle recreational and educational activities for the residents of the Center for which no funds were available and to which idea some outsiders had already made small contributions. The Project Attorney, assisted by a committee of representative evacuees and Mr. G. F. Castleberry, at that time the Community Activities Supervisor, in drafting a trust agreement. The agreement was sent to Washington for consideration and the Washington office made a suggestion as to the manner of dissolution and the part appointed personnel should have in the trust agreement. The Washington office also sent a copy of a trust agreement from the Heart Mountain Project which had been previously approved. The trustees and the Community Activities Section worked with the Project Attorney's office in re-drafting a trust agreement in line with the Heart Mountain agreement and the suggestions of Washington on the original Jerome agreement. This trust agreement was executed by the trustees and approved by Paul A. Taylor, Project Director, on July 1, 1943, and functioned very efficiently from its inception until the Center closed. When the announcement was made that the Center was to be

closed, the Cooperative Enterprises discontinued giving picture shows. Since the trustees of the Community Activities had a sizable sum of money on hand, they took over the active management of moving picture shows as well as providing other activities for the residents of the Center. The trustees were able to secure for the Center baseball games with three out of Center teams, Stuttgart and Pine Bluff Army Air Bases and a team from Little Rock. These activities were given free to the residents of the Center and the transportation expenses of the teams paid out of the trust fund. The trust fund also bore the expenses of the free picture shows for the residents of the Center the first two weeks in June before the Center closed. The small remaining fund in the trust account was, I understand, divided in accordance with the trust agreement.

Section V - Community Government

Early in November, 1942, the Project Director and the Project Attorney met with the Block Managers to work out plans to nominate a temporary Council. It was decided that a nomination meeting should be held in each of the messhalls on November 10, 1942. This was done and there was a list of one hundred and sixty-two nominees. Qualifications for candidates were that they must have American citizenship, be at least twenty-one years of age and a resident of the block which they represent. However, all residents of the block over eighteen years of age were allowed to vote. Elections were called for November 17, polling booths to be in the offices of the block managers and the voting to be secret ballot. Pursuant to that election the thirty successful

candidates met in regular session on November 25th for the first meeting of the temporary Council. Johnson Kebo of Block 14 was elected Chairman of the Council. Numerous committees were appointed and the committee appointed to draft the charter for the Council was headed by Dr. Yatabe. In the early days of the organization of the temporary Council, the Project Attorney met with the Council at almost every meeting. The Chairman or Secretary of the Council ordinarily conferred with the Project Attorney's office after each session of the Council on some point involved in the procedure. Paul A. Taylor, Project Director, decided that the Community Council should have a permanent meeting place and set aside 14-9-A as the "Town Hall". The first meeting was held there on January 15, 1943. March 29, 1943, Johnson Kebo resigned as Chairman of the Council and Frank F. Arakawa was appointed in his place.

After numerous conferences with the Council and the submitting of tentative drafts to Washington, the charter for the permanent Community Council was approved by Washington and by the organizing committee of the temporary Council and was submitted to a vote of the people on October 23rd. The charter was overwhelmingly ratified by the residents of the Center. On November 13, election of the permanent Council members from each of the blocks was held and on November 17, 1943, the first regular session of the permanent Council was held. Mr. Taylor, Project Director, Mr. Arne, head of Community Management and the Project Attorney were present. The Project Attorney administered the oath of office to the newly elected Council. In the selection of the Chairman that followed the swearing in of the Councilmen, Mr. Arakawa, who had been acting as Chairman of the temporary Council since March, 1943, was

elected Chairman of the permanent Council. Mr. William Konishi was appointed Executive Secretary and the appointment approved by the Council. The Project Attorney, at the request of the Council, drafted a number of ordinances and resolutions. Among those were ordinances having to do with traffic, sanitation, dances, and a general misdemeanor ordinance designed to promote the peace and safety of the Center. Early in 1943 the Project Director appointed a fourteen man Judicial Commission, headed by Mr. Katsuji Oyama, which Commission functioned more or less intermittently until the advent of the permanent Council. Some four or five cases were referred to the temporary Judicial Commission and in each instance the Project Attorney met with the commission to explain the function of the Judge and the penalty which the Commission might recommend to the Project Director if they found the defendant guilty. The Project Attorney also pointed out the manner of procedure in trial of cases.

With the advent of the permanent Council, Dr. Earnest Kuwahara was appointed Chairman of a ten man Council. The acting Project Attorney met with the Judicial Commission on the three cases it tried prior to the closing of the Center.

The work of the Community Council, both temporary and present, in this Center would be hard to over-emphasize. The Council acted as a balance wheel between the administration and the evacuees in carrying out the administration's program. It was the Council which organized the wood-cutting committee; it was the Council which backed the USO; it was the Council which rendered valuable service in explaining and adjusting differences of opinion when Selective Service was again made

available to the nisei. The Council sponsored clean-up days, a library, and more thorough programs of Americanization.

Section V - Legal and Property Matters.

As stated above, the Project Attorney's office handled all evacuee property matters until September 16, 1943, when Mr. G. F. Castleberry was appointed and took over as Evacuee Property Officer. Most of the routine property matters were handled by Mr. Miyake prior to the time of his leaving on July 1, 1943 and from July 1st to September 16th by Miss Jitsumyo. A study of the monthly reports of the Project Attorney's Office reveals that the legal and property problems ran pretty much the whole gamut of people's problems dislocated by thousands of miles from their normal habitat. These include guardians reports, executing powers of attorney, California Unemployment Benefits, securing birth certificates, correction of birth certificates, alien registration, repatriation requests and repatriation declinations, renewing of professional licenses, surrender of life insurance policies to obtain cash values, securing licenses to release frozen funds both in California and Hawaii, preparing income tax returns, securing property tax statements, paying property taxes, collection of notes, payment of notes, advising evacuees on the limitation of trucks and farm machinery, assisting the evacuee in dissolving corporations, assisting the evacuee in the sale of stocks and bonds, assisting the evacuee in executing papers for naturalization where citizenship was lost due to marriage to an alien, old age claims, assisted in filling out Selective Service questionnaires and Selective Service forms generally, assisted in filling out Sumitomo bank claims, assisted in absentee registration, try-

ing to get rent raised under OPA regulations, advice in foreclosure proceedings, assisting in filling in TFR-500's.

After the first four or five months almost any sort of business or legal problems confronting an evacuee ordinarily reached the Project Attorney's Office for either direct handling or re-routing for handling.

After the Evacuee Property Officer was appointed and took over on September 16th, property problems in the office began to decline. However, a number of residents of the Center still came to the office for advise on property problems. The Evacuee Property Officer and the Project Attorney conferred for about an hour each day on evacuee property problems. As the Evacuee Property Officer became better acquainted with the manner in which property had been handled in this Center, the conferences were limited to matters involving some legal detail. However, the Evacuee Property Officer continued to make a copy of each piece of correspondence going out of the Center for the Project Attorney's Office. The Project Attorney and Evacuee Property Officer have adjoining offices separated by a joint reception room. This made for continuity and rapidity of action in handling property matters.

Section VI - Operating Costs

The Cost Accounting Section of the Center sets up under Account Number 1200, expenditures for the Legal Division. They are as follows:

	<u>Legal Section Total</u>	<u>1943 Fiscal Year</u>	<u>1944 Fiscal Year</u>
1. Personal Services			
1.1 Appointed Personnel	7,771.26	2,177.84	5,593.42
1.3 Evacuee Services	697.58	327.18	370.40
2. Travel			
2.1 Administrative	155.80	59.66	96.14
3. Transportation			
3.2 Motor Pool Charges	35.85		35.85
5. Rents and Utilities			
5.2 Electricity	15.25		15.25
8. Supplies			
8.1 General	6.52		6.52
8.2 Office	171.55	110.31	61.24
17. Depreciation	65.58	19.15	46.43
18. Maintenance	3.83	3.22	.60
21. Duplicating Services Transferred	29.21	16.00	13.21
TOTALS	8,952.42	2,713.36	6,239.06

Section VII

The Project Attorney was, at this Project, as at all other projects, a member of the Senior Staff. For that reason and because of his training and experience and by virtue of his job assignment, he gave a great deal of legal services to the staff not only in interpreting administrative rules and regulations, but in the handling of ordinary business affairs of other divisions. The Project Attorney worked very closely with the Project Director and advised him as to interpretations of administrative instructions. He was also the advisor of the Project Director in all disciplinary matters of evacuees brought before him.

The Project Attorney was called upon in at least four instances to determine whether or not the death of an individual in the Center should be referred to the proper state and county official for trial. The Project Attorney's office, prior to the February, 1943 registration, handled repatriation. All applications for repatriation or declaration of declinations were handled by that office. When the registration of February, 1943, came about, the flood of repatriation applications became so great that a separate section was set up to take care of this. The Project Attorney sat as chairman of the Group II Hearing Committee. The Project Attorney was a member of the team which went to the various blocks to secure registration of all individuals in the Center in February, 1943.

The Project Attorney, as stated above, was Chairman of the Leave Clearance Hearing Committee until he was detailed to Minidoka on January 12, 1944. All files when received from Washington were sent to the Project Director's office, who assigned them to the various members for hearing. The transcripts of the hearings were sent back to the Project Attorney along with the Hearing Board member's recommendation. The Project Attorney then reviewed the entire hearing and wrote up a short synopsis of the hearing in the form of a memorandum together with a recommendation which was sent to the Project Director for final approval.

The Project Attorney of this Project was on detail from January 12th to March 3rd and Acting Project Attorney, Jack Durtis, had charge of the legal work during the time of the Army induction. However, I

might state that the fine work of the Jerome Community Council showed itself here in that only one Selective Service registrant refused to report for physical examination, induction or other Selective Service orders.

The Project Attorney assisted the twenty-one members of World War Number One in planning a program and inviting ex-servicemen to the Center in honor of the volunteers who left this Center for the 442nd Combat Unit. The Project Attorney made numerous talks to Rotary and other service clubs designed to improve public relations. He made one talk to the Arkansas Chapter of the A.A.U.W. at Fayetteville, Arkansas on January 4, 1944.

Section VIII - Center Closing.

The principal function of the Project Attorney's Office in the general Center closing program has been to assist others in the work of transferring of people and individuals, in separating and sending to the proper projects or to Washington, the files relating to the various individuals and in assisting in whatever work the Project Director designated.

Internal Security

The Project Attorney prepared for use by the Project Director and the Internal Security force, all warrants of arrest, warrants for search and seizure, informations, and conferred with the Project Director or Acting Project Director on all cases tried before the Project Director or reviewed by him. The crimes in the center were of the following varieties: rifling of mail, forgery of money orders, assault and battery, bootlegging, speeding, leaving the area without permission, possession of a short-wave radio, throwing rocks and eggs at Missouri Pacific trains, drunkenness, disturbance of the peace, and theft of property.

The cases were tried as follows: Four before the Judicial Commission, one referred to Federal authorities, and three referred to State authorities, and twenty tried before the Project Director.

Jail sentences recommended by the Commission ranged from twelve to ninety days, asking in each instance that the sentences be suspended.

The one case tried by the United States authorities resulted in Kay Koga being sentenced to four years in the Boy's Industrial School.

The three State cases for bootlegging resulted in fines of two hundred and fifty dollars for the bootleggers.

The action taken by the Project Director on all cases before him ranged from reprimand to ninety days in jail, of which latter sentence sixty days was remitted on good behavior. No person served more than thirty days in jail as a punishment, after trial by the Project Director.