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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

The Tule Lake Segregation center is one of the several centers operated by the War Relocation Authority, United States Department of the Interior, under authority of an executive order of the President of the United States. It is one of the centers to which the people of Japanese ancestry were moved when they were evacuated from the Pacific Coast military area in early 1942. Unlike other WRA centers, it is intended to house persons of Japanese ancestry whose sympathies lie with Japan, or who have been administratively adjudged potentially dangerous to the national security in wartime and family members who voluntarily chose to accompany them. Approximately 6500 of this voluntary group are children under 19 years of age. The other centers are operated for those whose sympathies are with the United States.

The Tule Lake Segregation center, however, is unlike the Internment camps which are under the direction of the United States Department of Justice. At these detention or internment camps there are aliens only, while at the Tule Lake Segregation center there are both U. S. citizens of Japanese descent and Japanese aliens.

Location of
Center

The center is located in Modoc county, northern California, on lands reclaimed from the old lake bed of Tule Lake by the Reclamation Service. The residence area occupies approximately one mile square. In addition there are some 1250 acres of farm land under cultivation. The center proper is about 8 miles southeast of the town of Tulelake, and about 38 miles southeast of Klamath Falls, Oregon. The famous Mt. Shasta is visible in the distance.

The old lake bed of Tule Lake is one of the richest areas of farm land in the United States. Since the average rainfall is only about 12 inches annually, irrigation is necessary. The elevation is approximately 4,000 feet and the growing season is short. Adjacent farms, however, are famous for production of bumper crops of potatoes, onions and grain.

WRA Segregation
Program

When the Director of the War Relocation Authority decided to segregate in one center the people of Japanese ancestry under WRA jurisdiction whose loyalties lie with Japan in the present war, this center was chosen to house the segregants. The major movements of people under

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the segregation program were carried out during the summer and fall of 1943. The movement, however, was not completed at that time because of the lack of housing facilities at the Tule Lake center and because more time was needed to study the records of individuals, hold hearings, and check with the intelligence agencies. This process of study and hearings applied not only to persons in the relocation centers to determine whether they should be moved to Tule Lake or not, but to a great many residents of the Tule Lake center, to determine whether they should be retained at Tule Lake center or transferred to one of the other WRA centers.

People of Japanese ancestry at WRA centers other than Tule Lake are (with a few exceptions) those who have been granted leave clearance by the Director of the War Relocation Authority. This means that they may leave the center, accept employment in areas not closed to persons of Japanese ancestry by military order, and resume normal living as loyal citizens or law-abiding aliens. Unlike the people who have been granted leave clearance from the relocation center, residents of the Tule Lake Segregation center are not eligible to resettle or to leave the center area.

In cases where individuals at the Tule Lake Segregation center are administratively determined to be eligible to return to normal living outside, they are transferred to a relocation center, where they may apply for indefinite leave. Such transfers out of Tule Lake are merely a continuation of the segregation program and involve only those people to whom leave clearance had not previously been denied, but who remained in or were transferred to Tule Lake for reasons not reflecting on their loyalty to the United States.

In addition, an Appeals Board has been set up to hear cases involving residents of Tule Lake center to whom leave clearance has been denied. This board meets at the Tule Lake center, when occasion requires, to hear evidence, take testimony and check records. The Board of Appeals is composed of responsible persons not otherwise employed by the War Relocation Authority.

Repatriation and Exchange

Persons who have made application for repatriation or expatriation are among those who have been segregated from the other evacuees of Japanese ancestry and have been moved to the Tule Lake center. If future exchanges of civilian nationals are arranged by the governments of

United States and Japan, it is expected that the bulk of the persons exchanged will come from the population of the Tule Lake Segregation center or the Internment camps operated by the Department of Justice. The lists for exchange are made up, however, on an individual basis and not by groups of persons.

The population of the Tule Lake Segregation center at the time this is written is made up of family groups and individuals numbering approximately 18,500. It is expected that some 1500 persons now in the relocation centers to whom leave clearance has been denied, will be transferred to the Tule Lake center in the near future.

Living Conditions At The Center

The residents of the Tule Lake center are provided by the government with basic living requirements, including housing in barracks rooms, food prepared and served at block mess halls, medical care and schools through the high school grades. Attendance at the English-language schools of the center, however, is not compulsory. Since the population of the segregation center is largely made up of persons who are fundamentally Japanese rather than American in outlook, the residents are permitted to establish Japanese language schools at their own expense and under the supervision of a board of residents selected by popular vote. Operation of the Japanese language school, however, is adjusted to attendance of pupils at the American schools, and no expense connected with the Japanese schools is paid by the Government.

A recreational program which includes organized sports, handicraft and arts is carried on within the center, but here again the War Relocation Authority provides no funds for any type of sport or activity which is intended to promote Japanese nationalism.

All of the people at the Tule Lake Segregation center live in barracks of the type usually found at Army training centers and families are kept intact as they are in the relocation centers. Meals are served in community mess halls staffed by residents assigned to mess crews. A 250-bed hospital, under the supervision of a non-Japanese chief medical officer, and an out-clinic are provided. No illness is treated in the family living quarters.

Food costs are limited to 45 cents per day per person and foodstuffs are requisitioned through the Army Supply depots. Actually the over-all costs of food have been considerably below the maximum figure. Farm

operations are carried on by the evacuee residents. Subsistence vegetables are grown and a hog farm is operated. The garbage from the mess halls is utilized in the feeding of the hogs.

Employment of Residents

Employment is provided for those who are able and willing to work. Wages are paid at the rate of \$12, \$16, or \$19 a month based upon the relative skills required in the work done. Only professional people or those charged with supervisory responsibilities are paid the highest wage scale of \$19 per month. In addition, a small cash allowance for the purchase of clothing is issued each month by the War Relocation Authority to workers and members of their families and a welfare department is maintained to provide limited financial assistance in especially needy cases.

The employment policy of the WRA is to place people in the types of work for which they are best fitted in terms of previous training and experience. Insofar as possible, employment is provided for all workers who can be used on production and worthwhile projects. In all instances, however, an equitable distribution of jobs is made to the family groups so that some one or more person in each family is employed.

No Community Government

There is no community government at the Tule Lake Segregation center, although the administration consults regularly with representatives of the residents in situations of mutual interest.

In each block there is a block manager who is paid by the WRA to act as the administration's official representative. The block manager's office is the focal point for all administrative notices or bulletins intended for the information of the residents.

Approximately 100 center residents serve on the local police force as an auxiliary to the appointed personnel police. These men maintain regular patrols and aid at all times in maintaining law and order within the residence area.

The fire department is made up almost entirely of evacuee residents, under the supervision of a Caucasian chief fire protection officer and two Caucasian assistants. Regular inspection is made constantly by the fire department because of the unusually high hazards involved in the center's construction. Special training courses are given for the evacuees both on the fire department and the police force.

External Guarding of Area

The perimeter of the center is guarded by the Army. A special detail of soldiers is also available for patrolling or other service inside the center when, in the opinion of the Project Director, such a detail is needed.

A sizable staff of appointed personnel police and investigators is employed by the War Relocation Authority. Five special patrol cars are constantly in use in the center residence area, equipped with two-way radio.

Censorship and Information

No censorship is required for incoming or outgoing mail, except that the Army inspects all packages for contraband goods. The list of contraband goods is that established by proclamation of the Western Defense Command.

The postoffice at the Tule Lake Segregation center is a branch of the postoffice of the town of Tulelake and is known as "Newell, California". It is patronized by both the residents of the center and appointed personnel and provides all of the usual post-office services.

A weekly mimeographed newspaper, the NEWELL STAR, is published by the administration for the information of the residents. This paper is printed in both English and Japanese and contains official information plus local news. It is put out by a staff of residents, working under the immediate supervision of a WRA staff member.

Rationing and Co-Operative

Residents of the colony do not have ration books because their subsistence is provided. In feeding the residents at the mess halls, however, WRA observes all rationing restrictions which apply to the civilian population of the country generally. A special arrangement to certify the need for shoe stamps has been set up and the stamps are provided through the ration board at the town of Tulelake.

Since there are many services which are not provided by the War Relocation Authority, a co-operative has been established by the residents with a membership of approximately 7,000. This co-operative rents buildings and other facilities from the administration to establish stores and service establishments, such as barber shops, beauty parlors, shoe repair shops, a fish market, a sewing factory to manufacture clothes needed by the

residents. In the stores in the colony no rationed goods are sold. One canteen or store is operated by the co-operative in the administrative area to provide service to the appointed personnel. The co-operative operates under the corporation laws of the state of California.

Newspapers and Radio

Evacuee residents of the segregation center are permitted to own and operate long-wave radio receiving sets without restriction. Radio transmission apparatus and receiving sets with short-wave bands, however, are forbidden under regulations established by the Western Defense Command.

Residents may get reading matter through magazines and newspapers which are sold at a store operated by the co-operative. A center library has been set up and is well patronized.

Information to the Public

This statement was prepared to provide interested individuals with the essential facts about the Tule Lake Segregation Center. Under established policies, the WRA is also making an effort to keep the public informed on current Tule Lake developments. Representatives of the press and other persons having an interest in the center's operations are free to make first-hand inspection trips. Permission to visit the center may be obtained by applying to the Project Director.