

THE PROGRESS REPORT OF THE INFORMATION FIELD OFFICE NO. 4

On the significant day of May 16th, the Owens Valley Reception Center was officially changed to Manzanar Reception Center. Our information field office No. 4 was opened on this great day at Block 26-1-1, with the following personnel: acting manager, Iwao Shirokawa; clerk, Shigeo Takimoto; typist, Michiko Nakamura; messengers, Hajime Nonoguchi and Minoru Takimoto, and consultant on Family Relation, Mary Ohashi.

The 800 evacuees, who arrived on this day were from Los Angeles, which made the approximate population of this Center 9108. There were three field offices, No. 2, 3, 5, and the main office besides ours. The No. 4 office was opened last. Our jurisdiction covered Blocks 19, 20, 25, and 26.

The relation of our field office to the main office is to act as an intermediary between the residents and the main office, by relaying complaints, suggestions, inquiries and many other tasks on behalf of the residents, and by taking information and instructions from the main office to the residents. From the view point of the administration, our field offices served as its "nerve system," its eyes and ears.

As the population of this Center grew, our jurisdictional areas and tasks increased enormously and many changes had occurred during this time. Seven hundred evacuees arrived from Northern California (Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stockton, and Florin) on May 29th, and in addition to this the readjustment of housing was a great problem. Many residents have moved into this territory; thus increasing our jurisdictional areas from the original four blocks to eight, covering

19, 20, 25, 26, 30, 31, 35 and 36.

Since the opening of our office, our personnel has changed on many occasions. At present, the following are the staff members: acting manager, Nori Nakai; clerk, Chuji Yamada; typist, Michiko Nakamura; messengers, Minoru Takimoto and Hajime Nonoguchi; and Family Relations, Sally Kusayanagi. Besides those mentioned above, there are four members of the mail delivery department who work in our office. They are H. Fujino (clerk), J. Miyake, F. Fuchita, and H. Yamada. The mail delivery men are working independently from us. The family relation and our office have cooperated with each other. Because of our mutual understanding it has made our work very cheerful.

The equipment of our office includes the following:

3 Tables (pine)	60" x 36" x 30"
5 Stools (pine)	12" x 18" x 18"
1 Bench (pine)	96" x 12" x 18"
1 Typewriter	L.C. Smith
1 Letter Box	12" x 10" x 3"
1 File Box	
1 Ink Bottle	
1 Padlock	
1 Mop	
1 Bucket	
1 Broom	

During the thirty-seven days we opened our No. 4 office, we have accomplished and served the residents in many ways. To be specific the activities and the number served are as follows:

Maintenance:	
Roofing	3
Electricity	67
Stove	3
Carpenter	31
Plumbing	42
Miscellaneous	46
Complaints and Suggestions	32
Inquiries	338
Family Reunion	23
Change of Address	407
Letters	29
Selective Service Form	22
Lost Articles	20
Found Articles	8
F.R.B. Baggage	20
Change of Quarter	30
Miscellaneous	314
Total	<u>1435</u>

Since our office is called the "Information Service Office," we clerks serve the residents with our utmost effort, sincerity, kindness, and fairness that we can render. As the camp's "nerve system, its eye and ears our daily tasks are varied. We have accepted all kinds of complaints, suggestions and inquiries for the main office and departments, and in turn, referred the complaints to the proper department. Besides the numerous things mentioned above, we have many miscellaneous services to perform, such as, writing letters in English and in Japanese for the elderly people; filling out various forms like, change of address, notice to Selective Service

Board, F.B.I., Immigration Service of Department of Justice and also Selective Service questionnaires; we conduct the lost and found department; we post the duplicate copies of notices in all the Mess Halls in our jurisdiction.

In my opinion these services were accomplished very satisfactorily except in few instances because we have rendered our services to the highest merit that can be accomplished by our office as well as the entire department. The people around our area have shown their appreciation directly as well as indirectly by their action.

Before concluding this progress report, I wish to express my opinion. For two months, I was employed at the Information Office. Although the lapse of time was very short, there are no words which can express my emotions. There were times when we were scolded and reviled, on the other hand, there were kind words and thanks from the people. And again there were difficult tasks and things that we did not care to do, but we always fought, faced, and sacrifice our effort toward one goal--to serve the residents of this Center

On different occasions, while other departments and workers were finished for the day, we gave our undivided hours and attention for various sorts of community services. For example, we carried blankets and baggages for the new arrivals, and at times, we worked on our off days and on holidays. These were all for the benefit of the community; therefore, our efforts were not in vain because we entered this department "to serve."

The people's joys and satisfactions are ours too. Our office has kept pace with the progress of the community. When the Center was first established, there was only one office with two clerks, but now it has been expanded to what it is today. Behind the prog

of this department there are two respected leaders whom we cannot leave out without mentioning their names. They are Dave Itami and Roy Takeno who came here with the volunteers. These two men fought their way through many trying times disregarding their personal comforts in order to organize and maintain the service of the Information Office.

Their spirits and efforts are worthwhile to appraise and respect. In having these two leaders we have accomplished our present achievements. And now when we are about ready to receive recompense for our past services because of the sudden changing of the management, our department is being completely demolished.

This means heart break to the two leaders. When we realize the position they are now in, there are no words to comfort them. But our leader, Dave Itami, bravely convinced us if this drastic change is for the benefit of the community, we will gladly sacrifice our past accomplishments and will cooperate with the new system.

In closing I wish to submit my desire to the new system. I will not recommend or suggest how the future function of the block leaders should be, but I do wish the block leaders will carry out their duties as a fair, sincere, and kind servant to the community and not use their position and office for political gains.

As a member of the Information department, I wish to thank my fellow leaders and workers who have given me their undivided attention and helped during my office days.

-- Nori Nakai