

RESUME OF INFORMATION OFFICE NO. 3

On April 18, 1942, Information Office No. 3 was opened very inconspicuously around 11:30 a.m. at Block 12 Bldg. 8 Apt. 4 under the able supervision of Mr. Yoshi Ando acting as Manager and Mr. Gunji Tonai as junior clerk. The population at the time was around 7,000.

The room was very dusty so we washed it thoroughly and was ready for business by noon. Its wonders have reached the zenith, what with snow fringed mountains, apple blossoms bursting in full glory, and the greenest green of the lofty poplars. The scenic vista is as a speechless glory.

Disregarding the wind and dust which has caused uncustomary pique, many complaints in the form of improperly worked water heaters, globes, and fuses were reported. Causing much amusement was the predicament of one, a Mr. Machida, who unfortunately arrived with nothing but what he wore. However, his case was easily remedied through the provisions of the Post Office.

An abrupt change was made in our office on April 27 when Kiyoshi Hori replaced Tonai, Gunji as a clerk, and on May 1, Mike Hori was transferred from the No. 1 office to No. 3 office as Manager. It was about this time that a need for a typist-secretary was noticed and on May 4, 1942 Ureko Takahashi was assigned to this job. Being underaged, the two messengers were released on May 6, and the two boys you have seen running around working hard for No.3 office are Tom Tokuda and Harry Nakada who was shifted from the No.1 office to our office on May 8, 1942. All in all, our personnel at No. 3 office seems to be one happy family.

We all make it our duty to sweep and mop the dust which accumulates heavily every morning from the three desks, seven stools, and typewriter in our office, starting the day bright and clean ready to serve our customers with a gay smile.

The children have been hoisted seemingly on the better nature of all evacuees. Dietitians are constantly being consulted as to baby foods, their diet and variation.

The diet that has been enjoyed by the evacuees is one that strangely enough brings in a few complaints regarding "tummy aches." There is nothing more miserable than a dull aching pain with the addition of a crescendo at intervals in the middle region. However, due regard has been made; such as a complete test of all food that is served, utensils used, as well as all other kitchen equipment.

Various mess halls have alternately basked in popularity. It has been reported that the average maximum and minimum diners usually range between 200 to 300. Nevertheless, perhaps one can blame it on the spaghetti. Mess hall No. 6 at one time held a capacity of 700 diners. There has been some doubt expressed as to the possible contamination of "eat more" soy sauce made by Koreans. However, this has been merely a matter of hearsay and as yet has not been validated.

On the humorous side, we have the various and original hair cuts that are being sported by our local Manzanar casanovas. They are being trimmed and retrimmed, mush bowl deluxe or an imitation of a Comanche Indian on the war path. Needless to say, there have been many competent barbers that are offering their services to the populars.

The women, due to the considerable amount of dust, have found it necessary to have a thorough washing made every week. The few unorthodox individuals are at present a misrepresentation of

the fancy free Zulu maidens.

There have been many notes of gratitude expressed by Manzanar residents as to the aid rendered by the Information Office concerning changes of address and writing of personal letters. Citing a specific case, a Mr. Mayeda brought a dozen oranges as a gift of gratitude, and a Mr. Idota who left a dollar and a quarter for the service we rendered him which we refused to take.

Mentally unbalanced Mrs. Anzai has been persistently annoying the family that had been occupying the same quarters. However, as always, there is a limit to all endurance. Consequently, arrangements were made to move the family to new quarters. Mrs. Anzai fared none the worse for the said removal. Due to lack of family privacy it has been arranged so that each family would occupy one apartment.

With hope filled faces the applications for family reunion were filled. High hopes have been expressed as to the understanding that the Government will make such a provision. There is no finer factor than a family united. Many applications were filled in the last couple months to unite immediate families from Santa Anita and other reception centers. Many happy faces were seen around Manzanar as fathers, relatives and in some cases mothers were returned to their respective families from Montana, New Mexico, Santa Anita and other Centers.

Home ties are necessitated at times. Violating the Curfew Law, Mr. Sangoro Hori was released on a one hundred dollar bail. Nevertheless he must make all further reports to the F. B. I. regardless of internment.

Many eager faces were seen in our office with the announcement that Government storage would be sent to Manzanar. The No. 3 office was kept busy filling out application blanks and answering

quiries concerning this matter.

Adding to the gayety of our office has been the "victory garden" which is being erected north of our office. From early in the morning to late in the evening they are seen working hard competing among their neighbors trying to grow the very best vegetables.

Around May 20, the sub-station No. 2 was opened in Information Office No. 3 for Blocks 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, and 24, under the supervision of Minoru Nakamura acting as clerk. Sub-station No. 2 is now the largest station in operation. There are four carriers now since the No. 6 office has opened which reduced the number in sub-station No. 2. The daily mail is distributed twice a day with first class mail in the morning and second class mail in the afternoon. It is the hope of all the residence that a mail box be placed in each corner of the blocks for the convenience of those wishing to mail letters, etc.

The social department under the direction of Mrs. Yaeko Nakamura has been trying hard to start a tutoring school. The registration of the grammar school students was held on June 15 at 12-15 and classes started on the next day, June 16, at 8:30 a.m. There was approximately 112 students enrolled with six tutors, one for each class. On June 16, the registration of Junior and Senior High Schools was held in Mess Halls 11 and 12. There was a very large turnout for the registration which lasted until 10:00 p.m. It was estimated that 1,000 students from all of the various schools were present. The following day six social workers sorted and alphabetized the programs made out by the students. The many tutors were volunteers who were anxious to help those students who wished to receive their credits for the semester. On the preceding day the Information Office No. 3 messengers, Tom Tokuda and Harry Nakada and typist, Ureko Takahashi was kept busy for three and one-half

days typing and arranging programs for the students to attend their classes in the various halls. Because of over-crowded classes, steps were taken to separate those who have books and those who haven't any. This step is now being worked out for the convenience of all the students.

Many suggestions, inquiries, complaints, and requests have been received by the No. 3 office which was taken and graciously answered by our clerks. The residents who have come into our office have all gone out pleased and happy with our service. Some of the suggestions we have received are if they could have goggles and masks for the camouflage work, head notices should come out when water is expected to be turned off, price list in the cooperative store should be shown on the articles so that the customers will have a knowledge of how much it costs, fights in mess halls should be demolished completely, and mail boxes should be placed by the corner of each block. Inquiries as to how shoes could be fixed, inquiries on insurance and whether the banks would allow residents of Manzanar to withdraw money from their accounts, whether friends could be called from other Centers, and whether letters could be sent to Japan. Complaints on bed bugs in block 24, a man came in to complain that his neighbor's son threw a stone at his son and cut him in the temple. He would like to have every parents with small children not to throw stones or the like at any time. A boy came in to our office stating that he had too many disappointments here about pays and he thought that the people who came as volunteers should be paid first. These were all handled systematically and all were well pleased.

We suggest that block leader should acquaint themselves with the residents of the blocks and that amusements and entertainments should be planned so that the people would be better acquainted

with their neighbors and nearer to their own block leader. They should represent the voice of the people as well as from the management. Cooperation should be the keyword among all those concerned.

Center life in Manzanar is slowly becoming bearable to all the residents. No distress should be spared, for though there are inconveniences to be done, replacements, fixtures and improvements are being made every day.

Due to the bad location of the No. 3 office we find that many people prefer to go down the hill rather than going uphill. After all it's human nature, therefore, the business is quiet here.

The room of the Information Office No. 3 is very pleasant. The hustle and bustle of crowded dusty roads to the front, a pleasant mien of calm on the office force answering all possible queries, and the afternoon sun lazily peaking through the windows from over the ridges of the near mountains. Yes, life is indeed pleasant here in the No. 3 office and everyone works harmoniously.

--Mike Hori