

WRA REVIEW

Dillon S. Myer, who succeeded Milton S. Eisenhower as Director of the War Relocation Authority on June 17, has been in the field of agricultural education and program administration for the major part of his life (from the Pacific Citizen, July 2).

Myer came to the WRA from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he served as Assistant Administrator of the Agricultural Conservation and Adjustment Administration (since December, 1941) and later as Acting Administrator (since March 16). For more than 6 years prior to joining the ACAA, he was with the Soil Conservation Service, first as Chief of the Cooperative Relations and Planning Division and later as Assistant Chief of the Service. During most of 1934 and the early months of 1935, he was with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration as Chief of the Compliance Section and as Assistant Chief of the Program Planning Division.

A native of Nebron, Ohio, Myer entered his field right after receiving his degree, in agriculture, from Ohio State University in 1914. After serving 4 years with the State Extension Service of Indiana and 2 years as county agent for Franklin county, Ohio, he was appointed Supervisor of the Ohio Extension service in 1922 and held this post until he joined the Federal service in 1934. During this period, he obtained a leave of absence to study at Columbia University, where he received a M.A. degree in 1926.



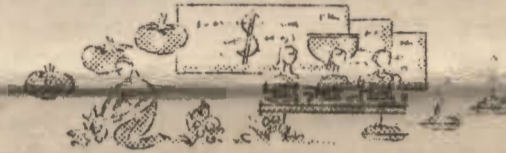
Director Myer came to the West Coast some weeks ago, and a national WRA policy conference was held in San Francisco in mid-August, attended by all project directors and national officials of the WRA. A national announcement on the decisions reached at this conference is expected to be made. In the meanwhile, according to the Free Press (issues of Aug. 26 and Aug. 31), certain regulations have been released tentatively as follows:

BASIC PROVISIONS: Subsistence needs, food, shelter, medical care, elementary and high school education shall be provided by the WRA. Cash wage advances and clothing allowances, as distinct from subsistence provisions, shall be treated as compensation for work and be paid only to those who work.

In addition to the above provisions, relief care shall be given to needy individuals and families.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES: Standard cash advances plus clothing allowances shall be paid by community enterprises to their employes on the same basis as War Relocation Authority employes. Workers

in community enterprises and their dependents will be provided with subsistence by the WRA until such time as the enterprises are financially able to assume these obligations.



WORK AND PAY: Cash advances of \$12, \$16 and \$19 per month shall be paid to those evacuees employed by the WRA and those employed in consumer or producer enterprises, according to the following schedule:

1. \$12 per month. This is an "entrance rate" applying to new workers, trainees, partially qualified workers, apprentices, etc. Everyone in this group will work under the immediate supervision of a more experienced worker. This rate shall not apply to common labor on simple tasks requiring hard physical work.

2. \$16 per month. This group shall include the majority of the evacuees: all those not in groups 1 and 3.

3. \$19 per month. This group shall include complex or responsible jobs requiring for their proper execution considerable formal training, or experience of such scope and character as to be equivalent to such training. These include:

- Jobs involving responsible supervision and coordination of the work of other employes.
- Positions on the project chart in grades CU-8, SP-6, CAF-5, P-1.
- Jobs requiring professional training.
- Jobs making an exceptional contribution to project operation, entailing extremely hard work essential to the welfare and morale of large numbers of people, and which involve irreplaceable skills.

ORDER OF MERIT: Upon acceptance for employment, each worker automatically becomes a member of the War Relocation Work Corps. Further, upon completion of 3 months' employment, if his conduct and the quality and quantity of his work for that period are certified as outstanding by the Merit Rating Board, he may be cited by the Project Director for special recognition and made a member of the Order of Merit.

Preferential consideration shall be given to members of the Order of Merit, in connection with work furloughs, private employment, assignment to various types of employment within the relocation area and promotion to supervisory positions.

The Merit Rating Board, as planned, will be composed of 7 members: 3 Caucasian members named by the project director and 4 evacuee members appointed

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by the council.

HOURS OF WORK: The following regulations will apply to the hours of work:

1. The work week shall conform to the National Standard for employes. The standard, as of the date of issuance of these instructions, is 44 hours per week. Unless the nature of the specific work requires other arrangements, the working hours shall ordinarily be from 8 AM to 12 noon and from 1 PM to 5 PM on weekdays; from 8 AM to 12 noon on Saturdays.

2. Workers employed in excess of the standard work week shall be entitled to compensatory leave, upon application to their immediate supervisors and with the approval of the Chief of the Division of Employment and Housing. The workers may elect the date of such compensatory leave with approval of the Chief of the Division.

3. Nothing in the above shall be construed to prevent workers, as aged men, students or others in a like category from being employed on a part-time basis and being paid proportionately.

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT: The following regulations shall apply to private employment:

1. Evacuees who accept private employment and reside outside the relocation project may retain all earnings received but forfeit for the period of such employment any rights to share in the general distribution of the proceeds of producer enterprises of the community. They and their dependents, if any, will not be eligible for the period to receive any compensation or allowances from the WRA, or from enterprises except that dependents who are held involuntarily within the relocation center shall be entitled to subsistence.

2. An evacuee and his family who continue to reside within the project must agree with the WRA to deposit an amount equivalent to the difference between an employe's actual wages and the actual cost to the Government if employed by the WRA on similar work. The employer shall deposit in a trust fund for the benefit of the community the amounts withheld from the employe's wages.

3. All of the above regulations are subject to change by the Director of the Authority without notice.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCES: Unofficially and tentatively (from the Manzanar Free Press, Sept. 2), the following regulations have been announced in regard to clothing allowances:

1. In addition to the cash remuneration, each employed evacuee and those eligible for unemployment compensation shall also receive a supplementary al-

lowance for clothing, for himself and his dependents. Clothing allowances shall be in the form of scrip, redeemable at the community stores.

2. An evacuee shall be eligible for a clothing allowance at the end of each monthly pay period in which he has been employed, or has been eligible for unemployment compensation, during the last 15 days of the preceding month.

3. Where there is more than one employe in a family, the clothing allowances shall be paid only to the family head.

4. The following schedule for clothing allowances shall apply to Tulelake, Minidoka, Heart Mountain, Central Utah, Manzanar and Granada:

Employed man, 18 years or older, \$46 annually, \$3.85 monthly; boy, 13 to 17, \$40 annually, \$3.30 monthly; boy, 6 to 12, \$38 annually, \$3.20 monthly.

Woman, 18 years or older, \$39 annually, \$3.25 monthly; girl, 13-17, \$36 annually, \$3 monthly; girl, 6-12, \$29 annually, \$2.40 monthly.

Child, 2-5, \$20 annually, \$1.65 monthly; infant, \$21 annually, \$1.75 monthly; aged man (not able to work), \$38 annually, \$3.20 monthly; aged woman (not able to work), \$31.50 annually, \$2.60 monthly.



SELF-GOVERNMENT: Latest regulations on self-government in WRA centers provide that all elective positions shall be held only by U.S. citizens. However, non-citizens shall be eligible to hold appointive positions. Residents over 18 years of age, citizens and non-citizens, shall be eligible to vote in block and other elections.

Besides the Community Council, there shall be set up a judicial commission with limited power to try and to recommend penalties for violators of minor laws. In cases involving felonies, the project director is authorized to turn the defendants over to local and state officials for prosecution.

The final veto power on any regulation made by the Council shall be vested in the project director, to be exercised when he deems the regulation to be in excess of the powers of the Council.

The entire plan for self-government shall be presented to the residents for their approval and shall become effective when the majority of the qualified voters in the center vote in its favor. Once it is approved, any changes in the plan must be initiated by a two-thirds vote of the Council or by a signed petition of one-fourth of the qualified voters. Amendments become effective only when approved by a majority vote at a general or special election.

TANFORAN CALENDAR

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Fiety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.

--OMAR KHAYYAM

- Prologue -

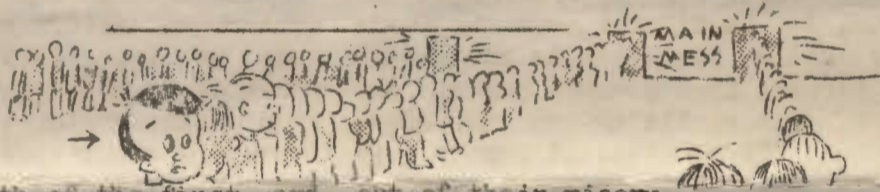
On April 27, 1942, the first Greyhound busloads of San Francisco and Bay area evacuees nosed through the main gate of San Bruno's 118-acre racetrack. With the debarkation of this advance work group, Tanforan Assembly Center began its brief, war-born existence.

In between that rainy last week of April and the now impending date of a new exodus lies the story of how nearly 8000 people lived together for over four months--how, coming here without homes, they made homes and a community and a way of life in that period of time.

We cannot here give the whole of that story, or even a good summary of it. The moving finger of time writes many things in four months, and what it writes reads differently to different people. Portions of the story are told on other pages of this final issue, in the quoted words of Tanforan residents, in the articles on the various phases of Center activity.

We can, in this particular section, merely indicate the general pattern of the story as it is reflected in the days, weeks and months of the calendar, in the events and trends associated with them, in the retrospective highlights they conjure up. Here, then, is that part of Tanforan's life and times which is mirrored, sometimes sharply, sometimes darkly or obliquely, in the log of May, June, July and August.

MAY



This was the month of the first--and the hardest--adjustments to the new mode of life. This was the month of bootstrap morale-lifting; of ingenuity working overtime to make naked barracks and white-washed stalls into habitations; of latent energies and talents groping fitfully toward integrated community existence. This was the month of getting used to such things as these:

• The general lack of privacy everywhere--from the grandstand dorm, where 400 bachelors slept and snored, dressed and undressed in one continuous public performance, to the stalls and barracks, whose thin or incomplete partitions made a single symphony of yours and your neighbors' loves and hates and joys.

• The long grandstand mess queues in which you stood thrice daily, rain or shine, hot or cold, wondering if journey's end would reward you with fare more palatable than you had the meal before.

• The blown fuses that left you in the darkness, guiltily pondering if it was your hot-plate or your neighbor's that did the trick.

• The women everywhere in slacks or jeans, from grandmothers to toddlers, with feminine frills temporarily taking a back seat to trousered seats.

• The afternoon wind which swept out of the northwest daily without fail, conspiring with mother earth to make mock of all your efforts to keep dust out of your hair and eyes--and homes.

• The typhoid and smallpox shots that periodically inflated Center biceps and left half the residents wistfully wishing that someone would somehow put them

out of their misery.

May was also the month of many Center "firsts," some memorable, some not; some that were the germs of bigger things to come, some that remained just "firsts." Remember these?

May 6--fresh meat for the first time; 8--first visitors come to see residents; 9--first big dance in social hall; 11--first baby born (7½ pound Judy Naruo); 15--first issue of TOTALIZER, featuring Kim Obata's unofficial map of Tanforan; 20--first mess hall tickets, signaling the opening of the smaller, subsidiary mess halls and the end of the congestion and the waiting at the grandstand mess; 27--first Town Hall meeting.

Along with the adjustments and the "firsts," May also saw these things happen, important then or in their later developments:

May 4--opening of library (with 65 books, later to be parlayed into several thousand); 6--appointment of a temporary resident advisory group to assist the Center manager; 11--official launching of recreation program; 18--announcement of wage scale of \$8, \$12, and \$16 for resident workers; 24--starting of Personal Aid bureau; 25--official opening of art center; 26--beginning of school for first, second and third graders. (The last week of the month also saw the music school getting under way.)

The general pattern of May, then, was not the pattern of spectacular achievements, but of hard work and beginnings. The drama of the month was not in individual outward events. Such things as the escape and attempted suicide of a

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Eurasian boy and a big robbery in the bachelors' dorm created momentary stirs but were soon swallowed up in the general daily flow of living. The real story of May was in minds confronted by a hundred new questions and experiences and

not always finding answers to them; in morale struggling upward out of its early glooms and despairs; in life beginning to return to a normalcy fashioned out of ingenuity, scrap lumber and Montgomery Ward catalogues.

JUNE

If May was the month of beginnings, June was the month of their further development; of energies finding wider and more varied outlets; of minds becoming gradually more emancipated from the demands of mere physical acclimatization.

It was, first of all, a month of political activity and the inception of Tanforan's brief experience of self government. The business of naming an official Center advisory council traced the familiar pattern of campaign slogans, rallies and electioneering over much of the first part of the month. On the 10th, 19 candidates made the deadline for filing petitions to run in the contest for the five council posts. The TOTALIZER, editorializing on the election, noted: "For the issei parent generation it will be their first opportunity to participate on an equal footing with their citizen offspring in a balloting. For them, an initiation; for us, a renewal of a cherished and accustomed American practice."

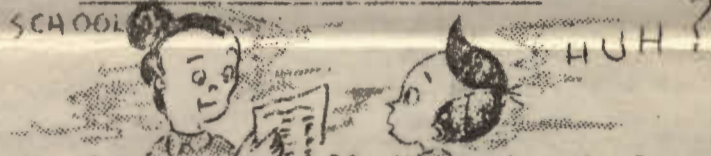
On the 16th, 80% of the Center's eligible voters turned out in the five precincts and cast their ballots. The issei, capitalizing on their right of franchise, outvoted their children four to one, and the successful candidates rode into office on this wave of issei interest. (One oldster, 86, cast his first vote in the 55 years he had been in this country. Another, 80, voted from his sickbed.) On June 25, the five councilmen were duly inducted into their posts and began the task of trying to put their campaign promises into practice.

Along with this political activity, June was also the month in which recreational and cultural pursuits were working out of the bud toward the flower. In athletics, for example, softball attained the stature of 17 leagues, 110 teams, 1670 players and a collective weekly audience of thousands. Tuesday musicales, Thursday talent shows and Saturday dances became a part of the established social habits of the Center. And on June

JULY

This was the month of harvesting the plantings of May and June, of things coming into flower after the period of germination and growth. Among the blooms of July were the following:

The first and second paychecks, covering the toil of April 28 to June 21--



20, the music school gave its first Saturday concert. A dozen hobbies, germinating in the relatively more leisurely atmosphere of this second month, grew toward the status of semi-official activities. Lake Tanforan's sailboat flotilla, for instance, grew during June to over 100 vessels of assorted sizes and shapes. The art school's enrollment was nearing the five hundred mark and a display of student work was being readied for exhibition at Mills College in Oakland from June 27 to July 7.

June was the month, too, in which the employment picture crystallized into its more or less final outlines, with approximately 22 1/2% of the Center population on the official payroll, making the best of their respective classifications and anticipating their first paychecks. In the fourth week of the month, the WCCA master file project on evacuee records was added to the Tanforan scene and over 100 Center residents, mainly girls, went to work as clerical help.

The educational program, rapidly expanding during this month, added fourth, fifth and sixth grades (June 4) and high school (June 15) to the previously opened lower primary grades. The end of the month found approximately 40% of the Center population participating in the educational setup as students or teachers.

It was in this month, too, that Frank E. Davis, erstwhile assistant Center manager, succeeded William R. Lawson as administrative head of Tanforan.

That is the picture of June--a month of organized activity definitely getting into stride after the preliminary shuffle-steps of May. Like May, it was a busy month, but its emphasis and ends were different. It was the month of proliferating energies and interests, when the attentions of residents were turning, if not toward any definitely formulated future, at least away from the concerns of merely scratching for physical comfort.



distributed during the second and third weeks of July.

The first issue of free scrip books--a windfall to residents which was immediately translated into landslide business at the Center canteen (July 8).

The first big art and hobby show, at-