

Amache



COVER DESIGN

by

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Amache



===== A M A C H E =====

The Granada Relocation Center is named after Amache, beautiful daughter of Ochi-nee (meaning one-eyed), chief of the Cheyenne Indian tribe which roamed these wind-swept prairies and pitched their tepees amongst the cottonwoods along the Arkansas River.

It was in 1863 that John W. Prowers for whom the county is named, wooed and married Amache and became heir to almost two-third of the land along the Arkansas River from Lamar to Las Animas. Specializing in cattle raising; he became fabulously wealthy and at the time of his death was said to be worth a million and half dollars.

Amache's daughter-in-law, Mrs. John W. Prowers Jr., a gracious, silver-haired lady, is still living in Lamar, Colorado.

FOREWORD

The year 1942 witnessed an event unprecedented in the long epic of America.

Immediately after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and the subsequent declaration of war, irresistible machinery went into operation starting a chain of events which finally culminated in the complete removal of all Japanese, both citizens and aliens alike from the west coast.

The first inkling of things to come was a letter to the President on February 13, 1942, from the Pacific Coast congressional delegation recommending the removal from strategic areas all persons of Japanese ancestry.

On February 19, by Executive order, the president authorized the military commander to prescribe certain areas from which any or all persons may be excluded. Under this authorization Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense Command, on March 2, issued a proclamation designating military areas in the state of Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona from which the Japanese, both aliens and citizens were to be evacuated.

On March 14, the Wartime Civil Control Administration was established to supervise the vast evacuation program. It was through this office that the Japanese disposed of their properties, received their instructions and were ushered into the various assembly centers prior to their exodus further inland.

An executive order (9102) issued on March 18 created the War Relocation Authority, a non-military agency which is at present working on a long-range program of permanently relocating the

evacuees. There are ten of these projects, two each in California, Arizona and Arkansas, one each in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado.

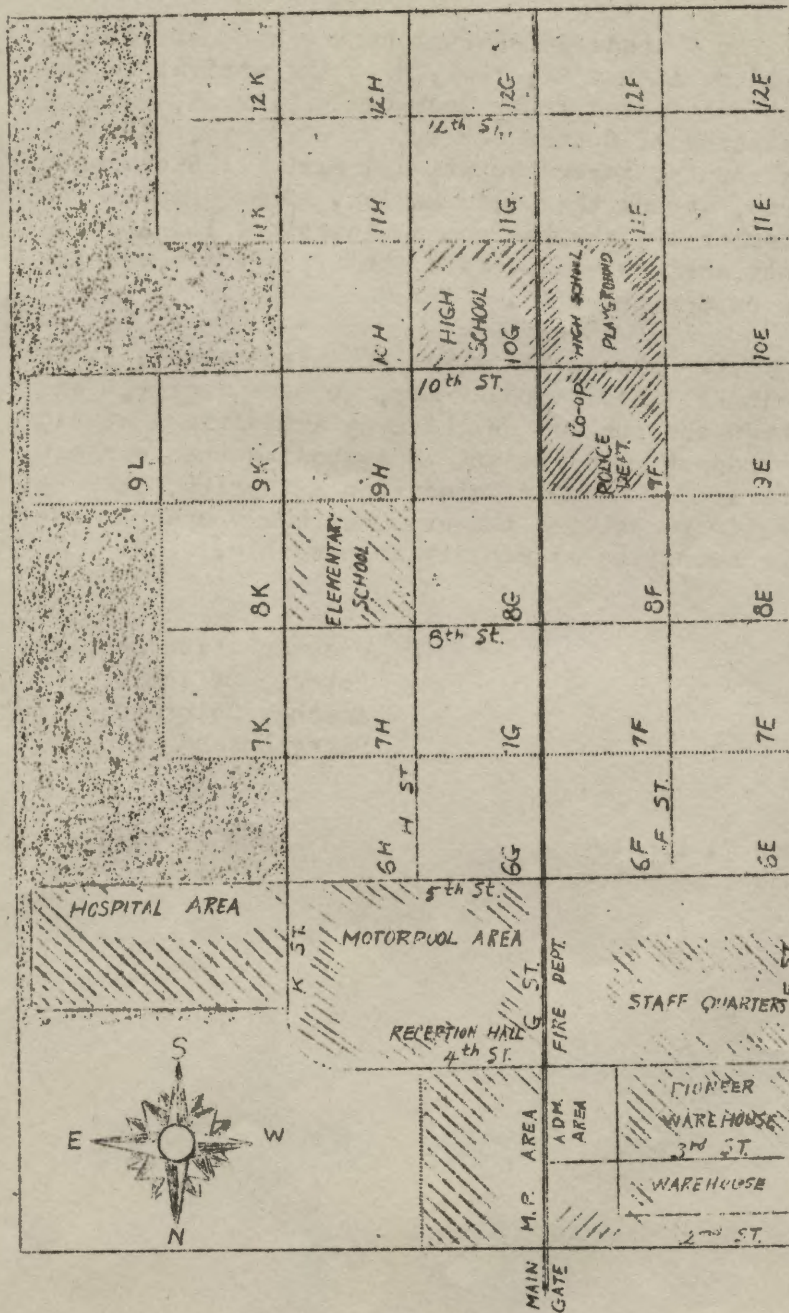
The Granada Relocation Center was officially opened on August 27, 1942, with the arrival of the first contingent from Northern California, mostly consisting of Sutter county, Yolo county, Stanislaus county, Merced county and part of Sacramento county, around the Delta Region. Subsequently on September 19, groups from southwest of Los Angeles county arrived, completing the project's occupation on September 30.

With these few words of introduction, it is hoped that this pamphlet may, to some degree, enlighten the public on the many activities within the project and attempt to symbolize the earnest operation of the War Relocation Authority, in permanently resettling the evacuees into normal American communities as rapidly as possible.

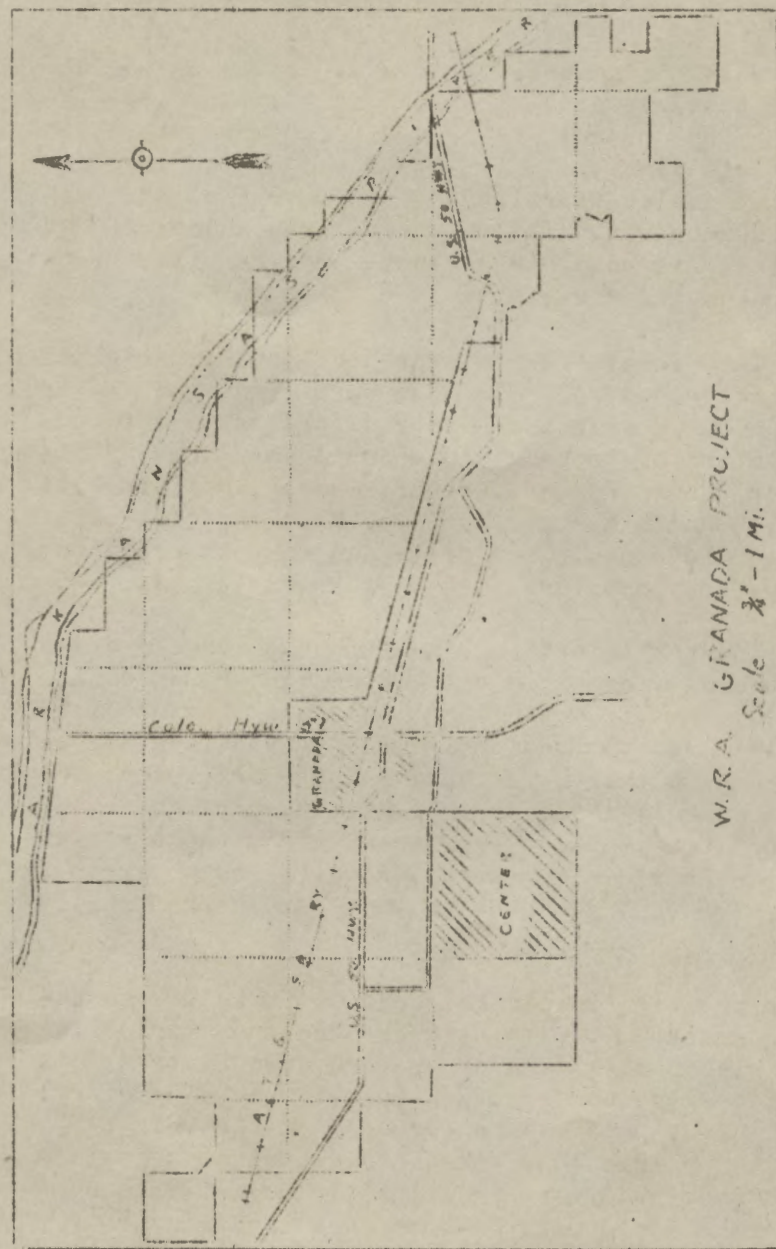
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GRANADA RELOCATION CENTER
SCALE 1" = 800'



GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This is Amache, Colorado. It is one of the most unusual cities in the State. It literally sprang up overnight on a desolate prairie where a short time ago only sagebrush, cactus and Russian thistles survived the winter snow and the hot summer sun. The only creatures which seemed to feel at home here were the jackrabbits, rattlesnakes and turtles.

The locale of this project is the original hunting ground of the Cheyenne Indians and is steeped in legends and historic lores of many famous characters of the early pioneer days. Some of the better known figures are Kit Carson, Buffalo Bill Cody, Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Black Kettle, chief of the Cheyenne Indian tribe and many others whose story-book adventures are well known to all.

Under this setting, we find the strange drama of the Japanese in a relocation center unfolding day by day. The teeming thousands who were literally uprooted from their native homes and transplanted to this novel environment work, play, attend schools and carry on activities of everyday living not totally different from those of an average American community. People become married, give birth, and die just as they have been normally doing.

The city itself is located within the southern boundary of the mile-square enclosure overlooking the rich bottom land of the Arkansas River. This location is bordered on the west by a cemetery, dump pile, and sewer farm and on the east by a rolling prairie that stretches away into the state of Kansas. The northern limit is occupied by rows of warehouses, appointed-personnel living quarters, administration buildings and by the Military Police compound. Isolated in the northern corner is the

center's up-to-date hospital, gleaming white against the dusty background with its three black smoke stacks reaching into the empty sky.

The one distinguishing landmark, visible ten miles away, is the project's water tank whose orange and white checkered wall rises seventy-two feet above the highest point of the center ground.

The evacuee residential section is divided into twenty-nine blocks each having its own community mess hall, laundry, toilet and shower room.

In addition, there is a recreation hall in each block. Some of these halls are used as churches, or other emergency purposes. There is also an information office in each block, some of which are located at the north or south end of the laundry, to which the residents go for information and to contact the Block Manager.

Every one of these blocks is composed of twelve identical barracks 120 by 20 ft., each of which is divided into six one-room "apartments." Every family with seven persons or less is assigned to one of these rooms and allowed to make it as homelike as possible.

THE PEOPLE

The people of this project make an interesting study. There are 6,550 inhabitants of whom one-half are American citizens. A year ago two-thirds of the residents were citizens; but many have left Amache for more suitable American cities or farms. The non citizens came to America in the early 1900's as laborers and merchants. Of the total almost half are from rural districts while the other half are from urban areas.

From southwest of California, representing

the urban people of Los Angeles area, came merchants, doctors, lawyers, scientists, jewelers, optometrist, gardeners, landscape artists, hotel and restaurant operators, salesmen and clerks. Their activities in the business field embraced practically every phase of American life.

The preponderance of rural people came from northern California, representing the vast farming sections of California's central valleys and the San Francisco Bay area. They are the hardy pioneer stock who through years of hardship and toil developed California's agriculture to the peak of its productivity and efficiency.

Too often the Japanese are pictured merely as domestic servants. Actually only 15 per cent of the evacuees had been engaged in this occupation. Ten per cent of the evacuees were engaged in professional and managerial jobs, 13 per cent in clerical and sales jobs, 40 per cent in agricultural, 16 per cent in semi-skilled work and 6 per cent in unskilled work.

The proportion of nisei (U.S. citizens) who have graduated from high schools and colleges in this country is strikingly larger than the proportion of the general population in the U.S. Consequently, a larger number of nisei are qualified to fill skilled, technical and professional jobs. All these and more constitute the population of Amache.

RELIGION

The organization of religious activity within the Amache center is unique. In spite of the fact that residents have come from scattered sections of the coast and from all denominations, there are only two large churches--the Christian Union Church and the Buddhist church.