



Amache

COLORADO



GRANADA RELOCATION CENTER

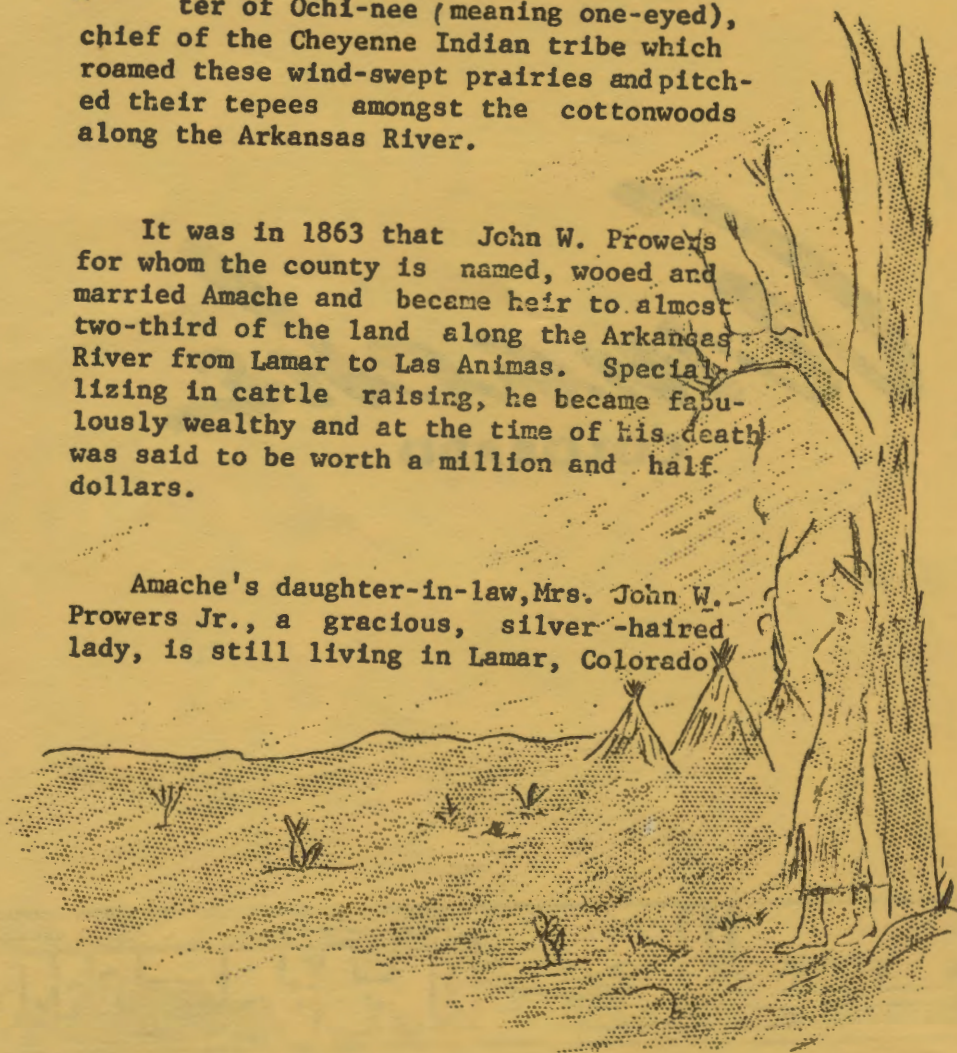
AMACHE



he 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.

The 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 located in California, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arkansas.

The Granada Relocation Center was officially opened on August 27, 1942, with the arrival of the first contingent from the Merced Assembly Center. Subsequently on September 19, groups from the Santa Anita Assembly Center began to arrive, completing the project's occupation on September 30. James G. Lindley is director of the Granada project.

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 the operation of the War Relocation Authority, particularly, that of the Granada Relocation Center.

Documentation Section
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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 northeastern 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 thirty blocks each having its own community mess hall, laundry, toilet and shower room.

In addition, there is a recreation hall in each block and a block office to which residents go for registering complaints or receiving information.

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

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THE PEOPLE

The people of this project make an interesting study. There are 7,620 inhabitants of whom two-thirds (5,497) are American citizens. The non-citizens (2,123) 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 the Santa Anita Assembly Center, 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 the Merced Assembly Center, 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.

Furthermore the evacuees represent a heterogeneous cross section of people that may be found in any community of a comparable size. It has its quota of artisans and layman, architects, and craftsmen, musicians, and opera singers. There are rich men, poor men, the healthy and the sick. There are college professors and college students, truck drivers and common la-

borers. All these and more constitute the population of Amache.

COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

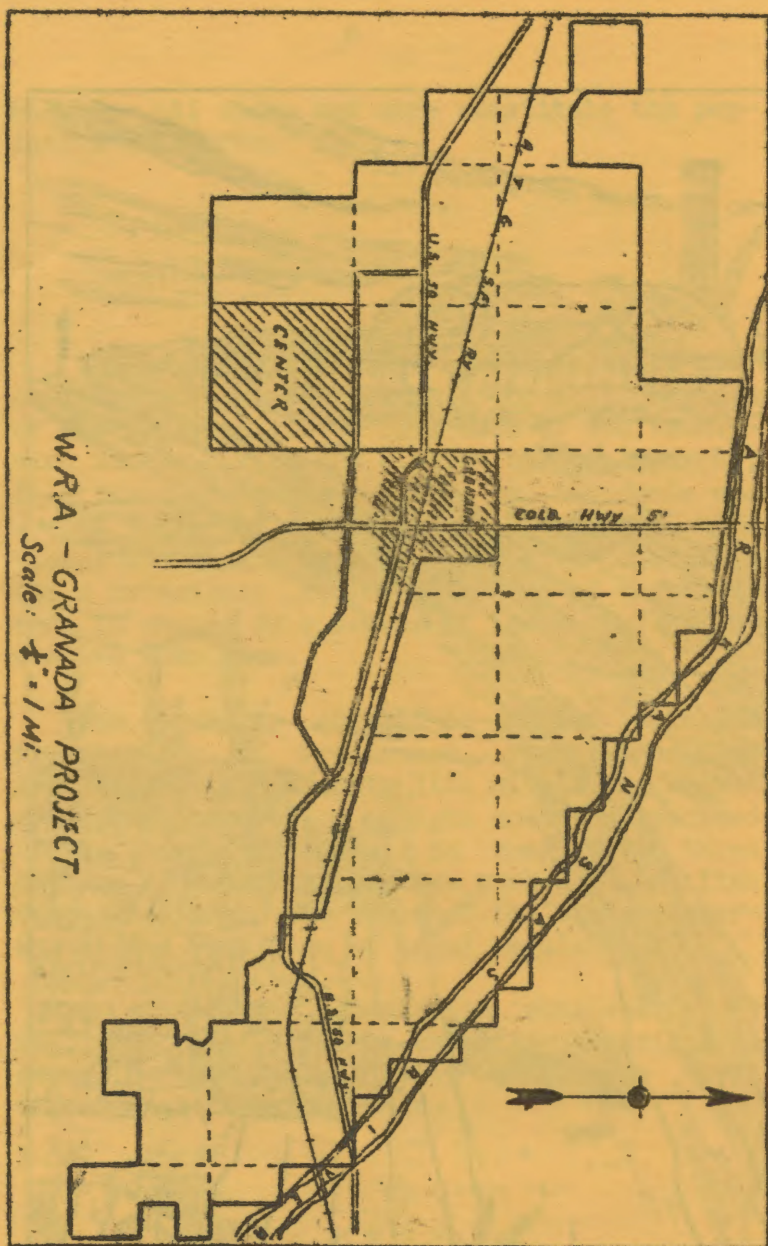
The central executive and legislative body of this center is the community council composed of one representative from each of the twenty-nine blocks. They are elected by popular vote, from their respective blocks by residents who are 18 years of age or over. The twenty-nine blocks are again divided into five districts and a councilman residing in each of this section is chosen as a member of the council's executive committee.

The community council is charged with the prescription of ordinances, regulations, and laws governing community life within the center. A judicial commission of eight members appointed by the community council is composed of three members of the administrative personnel and five center residents who hear and try cases centering around violation of local regulations.

An arbitration commission composed of 15 members appointed by the community council from among the evacuee residents arbitrates civil disputes within the center.

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W.R.A. - GRANADA PROJECT
Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$ = 1 Mi.

EDUCATION

The education department, comprising elementary, junior and senior high schools, occupies the whole of 8-H block. Pre-school classes and kindergartens are conducted in the various recreation halls scattered throughout the project and are staffed by fourteen evacuee teachers. The educational program is conducted in cooperation with the Colorado State Department of Education and offers curriculums not unlike those of any comparable institution outside the center. These include industrial arts, science, mathematics, English, history, and physical education. The school enrollment as of April 1, 1943 is as follows: nursery, 152; kindergarten, 95; elementary, 681; junior high, 433; senior high, 550.

On the regular staff are 50 Caucasian teachers, 4 principals and a superintendent. Augmenting this staff are eleven accredited evacuee instructors, thirty-seven assistant teachers and twenty-eight specialists. The new high school building, upon completion, will accommodate 600 students. There will be 24 classrooms, combination gymnasium-auditorium, science laboratory, library and offices.

Special adult classes are held nightly to teach typing, shorthand, English, dressmaking, drafting, handicraft and fine arts.