



**WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MINIDOKA CENTER**

**Final Report
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SECTION**

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The writer of this report worked as Community Activity Supervisor from November 22, 1944 to September 15, 1945.

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INTRODUCTION

The report submitted is not complete. This is due to the lost records and interesting data never put in writing at the time. The writer of this report has had to rely upon records that were available and stories picked up from evacuees.

During the period Community Activities was a section, there have been four supervisors. The writer came on the scene in November 1944, just before exclusion orders were lifted. During this last period many persons were leaving and instead of promoting activities, the task was one of curtailing and centralizing. Though several new activities were introduced, these were established because of the effect they might lend toward relocation. An example of this was the teen-age canteen.

Statistical records, as far as attendance was concerned, were never kept. This has been a severe handicap in attempting to measure the number of persons reached through leisure time programs. In many instances it has been necessary to make general statements - measured in facilities available. An example of this is the comparison between play space and equipment provided for children under twelve and for those over twelve.

One of the greatest sources of information came from staff meeting minutes. From the first meeting that organized recreation activities, close attention has been given to staff meeting and staff training.

I. ORGANIZATION

Realizing the need of a recreation program on the center, a meeting was called September 4, 1942, for the purpose of discussing with the evacuees possibilities along these lines. There was a large turnout for this meeting and immediate plans were set forth to organize a recreation unit. As stated by the chairman at this meeting, "Community Activities was to supervise organized activities instead of permitting various talents to be wasted on disorganized groups. To promote the various activities when the demand or interest was forthcoming and to create interest in new activities."

George Ishihara was given authority to select a recreation staff. This staff consisted of a Supervisor, Athletic Supervisor, Club Activities Supervisor, Musical Supervisor, Entertainment Supervisor, and Handicraft Supervisor. In addition, the community was divided into seven sections. For each section a coordinator was appointed.

Due to the Geographical layout of the community, which resembles a large S, it was not possible to centralize many activities. By dividing the community into seven sections with a coordinator responsible for planning, it was possible to chain talent into each section from other parts of the center when interest was discovered.

In order to accomplish such a program, a large staff was required. Recreation leaders, teachers in music and artcraft, janitors and etc., numbered 114 during the first few months. All workers were responsible to the supervisor of this particular field, rather than to the coordinator. It was the responsibility of the coordinator to work with the supervisors in planning and scheduling the activities based on the interests in his section as he found them.

The first Community Activities Staff was composed of all Nisei, later however, with relocation and Selective Service entering the picture, most of the Nisei moved out of the center and the staff became Kibei and Issei.

The three outlines of staff, to be found on the following page, may give a picture of organization over the period of the center.

First Staff — September 1942

Supervisor

Assistant Supervisor of Handicraft, Athletics, Club, Music, Entertainment
Workers, 100 (Recreation, Clerical & Janitors)

Seven Coordinators

Second Staff — January 1943

Same setup, but staff reduced to 89

Third Staff — July 1943

Staff reduced to 16 workers who were assigned to promote a recreational program for both areas. (At this time, instead of five sections the center was divided into two areas.)

Fourth Staff

In October 1943, the staff was increased to 33 as follows:

Ass't Supervisor

Office Secretary

District Supervisor

Stenographer

Public Reports

Timekeeper

Property Clerk

Coordinator

P.A. Man
Movie
Projectionist
Truck Driver
Maintenance Assistant
Entertainment Coordinator
Assistant Entertainment
Clubs Coordinator
Dance Director
Club's Advisor
Adult Activity
Adult Leader
Music
Arts & Craft
Handicraft
Playground
Playground Supervisor
Men's Athletic
Women's Athletic
Assistant, Athletic
Athletic Instructor
Assoc. Librarian
Ass't Librarian
Toy and Game Instructor
Toy and Game Librarian

Fifth Staff — November 1944

There was a complete shake up about this time when it was felt that the staff was not accomplishing its purpose. Community Activities as a section was abolished. The writer was brought on the project at that time and asked to reorgize the program. There was considerable resentment on the part of many evacuees at that time. Though all would admit a Community Activities Program was wanted, it should not be organized unless the entire staff was brought back. In January 1945, after several activities had been proven successful, a staff began to develope. A new policy had been introduced. First, emphasis was placed on initiation and operation of the Community Activities by evacuees, themselves. Second, the Community Activities Supervisor would facilitate the participation to the project residents in planning and operation of a community activities program, there should be established an advisory board appointed by the Community Council. The staff in the Community Activities office was responsible for helping all groups and individuals desiring technical assistance in their undertakings. In a major portion of instances, program plans originated on the block or group level. In these cases the technicians went into the block or group upon request to assist in planning programs, or to train volunteer leadership to carry out the activities.

In case of community wide activites, such as youth group tournaments, where the emphasis is placed on inter-block relations, technicians worked in the capacity of advisor to committees or groups. With these plans in mind the following staff was selected:

1. Five Program Technicians
Social Recreation for young people's athletics, and playground, arts and crafts.
Small children's program, dramatics, music and drawing.
2. Office Staff
Typist and office clerk, stock and equipment chart, Art and Publicity Supervisor.

Staff changes were not necessary, all due to project policy. From the very start it was found that those persons most adapted to a community program were also the first to leave the center. Soon after the first staff was organized this was realized and as the population decreased with relocation opportunities increasing, the C.A. had to accept less and less qualified persons. This not only lowered the efficiency of the program but required adjustments in program based on the skills still available in the center.

Community participation was always high. The program as discussed farther on will show that a great variety of interests were met. According to all information that can be gathered, participation was high in all cases. Few activities died because of lack of enrollment, rather, they were disbanded because leadership was no longer available.

Contribution toward financing the C.A. undertaking might be used as another indication of community interest. Athletics drew as high as several hundred dollars at some games, especially when it was to go to pay expenses to tournaments outside of camp. Christmas programs, and contests always found the blocks eager to contribute. In almost all craft projects, all expense was paid by the members.

Contributions in the form of leadership were generous. This was particularly true in dramatics and athletics, committee service and repairs to equipment. There was one exception, however. Toward the close of camp the population was primarily Kibei and Issei, there was considerable pressure placed upon the section and upon the remaining Nisei, to disband national organizations such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, YMCA, Girl Reserves, etc. It was impossible to obtain leadership or contributions to carry on the work. The little that was continued was carried by four Nisei girls and A.P. Personnel.

In a constant changing community as was experienced at Minidoka, it was necessary not only to have a strong trained staff, but to provide opportunity for training for others who might be interested.

Considerable attention was given to this phase of supervision from the very beginning. Leadership training courses were required of all workers and open to all other persons interested. Records show that a great many took advantage of this opportunity. Five members of the final C.A. staff had never worked as paid leaders before, but had taken advantage of leadership training under former Supervisors.

In April, 1945, Minidoka had the opportunity of obtaining the Leadership Training Institute, sponsored by the Advisory Committee of National Agencies, for the War Relocation Authority. The Committee consisted of representatives from YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls. During their fourteen day stay with us they met with all groups, assisting them in planning better programs, developing leadership, etc. They were particularly helpful with local groups, and succeeded here far better than with national groups they represented.

Many direct results were found immediately after they left. First—A wealth of unknown talent had been uncovered. Second—Programs of different groups seemed to take on new interest and broaden meaning. Third—Leadership that had lay dormant assumed definite responsibility.

Many more examples of such planned training directed not only toward staff but to a larger interested community, could be told not only in this center but all centers during this period.

II. PHYSICAL FACILITIES

The original plans of the center provided a recreation building in each block. At the peak of the population, some of these had to be taken over by Housing, but the duration was very short. Athletic fields and playgrounds were planned by the recreation staff and set up as needed. The following is a list of facilities made available for Community Activities use:

Recreation Halls 100' by 24' — 30
Barrack Rooms for Clubs — 16
Section Office 100' by 24' — 1
Teen-Age Canteen 100' by 24' — 1
Basketball Courts — 21
Volleyball Courts — 7
Softball Diamond — 14
Small Children's Playground — 2
Swimming Pool — 2
Ice Skating Ponds — 4
Golf Course — 1
Tennis Court — 1
Recreation Hall for Theatre — 2
Gymnasium — 1
Picnic Area — 1

The facilities were used for many activities and in most instances they were scheduled on an hourly basis.

Through the cooperation of different project services such as motor pool and engineers, a great deal of work was done to put these facilities into shape for use. Recreation halls had to be partitioned, playing fields had to be leveled and rescraped often. In many cases this was a job for volunteers after hours.

The use of these facilities depended a great deal on transportation. Because it was close to three miles from one end of the project to the other, it was necessary to provide convoy service of some kind for community wide events. Little difficulty was ever experienced when the request was justified.

In the original plans and in later thinking of the recreation committee, little attention was given the small children's play areas. The two that were set up were of little value to the center as a whole. The swings, bars, and teeter-totters were planned for small children but were so placed that they drew children from the immediate blocks only. A project this size should have had not less than nine such play areas scattered throughout the center so that there would have been one for every four blocks.

Supplies and Equipment

Although there were considerable complaints on the quality and quantity of supplies and equipment available, one must remember that during this period most of the equipment, usually an important part of a Community Activities program were, either unobtainable or were limited to war services. Even though such conditions did exist, there was never cause to abonden such activities as softball, baseball, volleyball and basketball, because of a shortage of balls. It was only necessary to make the equipment last longer. Early in the evacuation days, both Seattle and Portland groups purchased a great deal of athletic material and brought it to the center. This was the first equipment available for the center.

Chairs, tables, nursery equipment for use in the nursery schools, recreation and religious programs were at a premium during the early days. Through the Japanese churches of Seattle and Portland, the center was able to obtain on loan, all equipment needed. It is interesting to note at this point that when this property was shipped back recently, the loss during these three years was insignificant.

Other furniture obtained came from W.R.A. This consisted of overstuffed chairs and couches, tables, lamps, mirrors, desks, etc.

Craft supplies were primarily secured for groups using them. Additional supplies were always provided through W. R. A. funds, on the whole. The C. A. program never suffered because of lack of equipment or supplies, because the program was planned, taking war scarcities into consideration.

III PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

Generally speaking, the purpose of a community activities program remained the same throughout the period the center was operated. Our job was concerned with “the development and direction of group work activities to meet the leisure time needs of all the project residents, to contribute to the relocation process, to help improve morale, and to help strengthen relationships between the project personnel - both evacuee and appointed.” (Ref. WRA Manual 30.5- 6/15/44.)

More specifically, changes did take place. Emphasis changed with conditions affecting the center. In the early days, a new community was being developed. It was a different sort of community than any of us had experienced before. We were, more or less, dependent upon our own resources. The big task was bringing those resources together in an orderly fashion that all might gain the maximum of benefits. The leisure time program was one place where factions such as Portland, Bainbridge, Alaska, or Seattle, might be broken down.

Another job for community activities was to develop cultural opportunities amidst the mud, dust and other inconveniences.

A group of people banded together because of racial background could well develop characteristics that would be detrimental to one country in the future. It was the responsibility of the C.A. 's program to keep them in touch with American Institutions and with Americans. Our contacts with national organization, local religious bodies and the fact that we had interested representatives from these organizations constantly visiting the center, contributed much to strengthen these relationships.

IV PROGRAM

Organizations and Clubs

National Organizations

Boy Scout Program

The Boy Scout program consisted of four troupes and one Cub Scout Pack with a total membership at its peak of over two hundred boys. It was organized September 15, 1942, around a small nucleus of scouts coming into the center. The troops grew in number and strength. A large proportion of the boys became first class and went on to become Star and Eagle scouts. All troops participated with other troops in Magic Valley in all scouting jamborees and camping. One scout became a member of the District Council.

With relocation, all of the troops lost their scout leaders and it was necessary to call upon A.P.'s to assume this role. Interest soon lagged as leaders could not give sufficient time to program planning and troop gradually disbanded. Those boys left were transferred to Lone Scouts, thereby maintaining their standing and met periodically with the C.A. Supervisor. As these boys relocated, transcript of their credits were forwarded by the District Office to their new place of residence.

Some of the outstanding events that will long be remembered by the members, was the appearance of their Drum and Bugle Corp in Twin Falls and surrounding communities.

Girl Scout Program

The first Girl Scout troop was organized after their first meeting September 15, 1942. Eventually six troops were organized with an approximate membership of one hundred girls. This organization struggled through to the end with leadership problems. The national policy requiring all leaders to be citizens of this country left the troop leaderless soon after relocation got under way, however, the interest among the girls was strong and although they were without leaders they continued to meet. The older girls eventually became leaders and the four troops that continued until the end became the most dependable service organization in the center. These girls contributed much to the hospital in the way of flowers, bed side necessities, etc.

YMCA YWCA

Both of these organizations functioned primarily through the high school as "Girl Reserves" and "Hie Y" until the Spring of 1944, both organizations were strong. The YMCA set up a budget for the center and were financially independent. In addition to their regular activities they assisted boys and girls who could not afford camping trips, arranged for speakers at community wide functions, etc.

The Girl Reserve membership was never large, yet this organization contributed more to individual girls than did any other in the center. Opportunities were provided for individual girls to attend conferences in all parts of the country.

Their purpose in camp was one of service. They backed every workth cause and one could always count on their organization.

The American Red Cross Chapter

The American Red Cross Chapter was organized at Minidoka November 24, 1942. Outstanding among its many endeavors was a donation of an artificial respirator to the center hospital.

Through this chapter many of the residents were able to communicate with relatives in Japan and an important job was done keeping parents in touch with the Nisei serving with our armed forces.

From its first dirve, the chapter has always met its quota for Red Cross funds. The first year \$2600.56 was raised and in succeeding years final count always found them close to that mark.

Classes in first aid, life saving and home nursing were conducted under their auspices. Due to the tremendous increase in case work assigned to the organization it was necessary to transfer it from Community Activities to Welfare Section. This change contributed much to its success during the last year.

The United Service Organization

The United Service Organization started out as the Soldier Parents Association. It was organized primarily to provide service to enlisted men. Soon its functions became so many that they applied for recognition with the USO. A budget of \$80.00 a month was set up. This paid the salary of one secretary and the balance went toward the program. In addition to this sum, through local contributions, carnivals and sales, the organization had sufficient funds to carry on a well rounded program.

The functions of our U.S.O. were in many ways different from the average U.S.O. program. Besides providing a recreation room, dances and etc. for the boys, every month packages of food were shipped out to the men overseas. When men were inducted into the services, parties were planned and gifts presented. A careful list was kept of the whereabouts of each man and correspondence with them was the responsibility of the hostess

committee. To carry on this program, in addition to the paid secretary, over one hundred girls volunteered as hostesses, keeping the center open from 8:00 A.M. to 10:30 P.M., seven nights a week.

Clubs

As in any normal community, one of the first evidences of social life to appear, were block clubs. Young People's Club, Boy's Club, Girl's Clubs, Men's Clubs, etc. The Young People's Clubs were the most active. Club rooms were set up and meetings were held regularly. Their chief interests were athletics, dances and in many cases the primary objective was to sponsor dances. In the early days of the center many of these clubs participated in forums and other discussion groups. Toward the end, however, their program was shallow and contributed little to the individuals participating. In the fall of 1944, an attempt was made to organize the clubs into a federation with representatives from all clubs meeting regularly to plan better programs from a community wide standpoint. Due to diminishing population and the delay in starting such an organization, the accomplishments were not many. However, three things were developed by this group. A Teen-Age Canteen was opened, a Sweetheart Contest was held, and a community wide Christmas decorating contest. Of the thirty five blocks which made up the center, thirty four had social clubs. Records show that these clubs sponsored approximately 450 dances during the three year period. Membership averaged about thirty five members per club, or over one thousand young people.

In addition to social functions, a few of the clubs sponsored recreation programs for the young children of their block. Three clubs in particular were outstanding in this aspect.

Recreation and Amusements

Athletics

Young and old took part in athletics. All sports had a prominent place in the program. Softball rated first place, with as many as 2000 spectators at a single game. In this particular sport, participants were not limited to the youths. Some of the hardest fought games were in the "Old Timers" leagues. As reported under "Facilities", there were fourteen well kept diamonds. During ball season every diamond was scheduled seven days a week.

One of the main sources of income of the "Community Activities Trust" (reported on under finance) came from ball games.

Minidoka sent one ball team to participate in the state semi-pro tournament held in Pocatello, Idaho. Through donations the community raised over \$500 to pay the teams expenses.

Through softball the community became acquainted with many of the surrounding teams. Traveling games and home games were played with SunValley Naval Hospital, Jerome, Gooding, Twin Falls, Burley, Eden, Shoshone and Rupert. Acceptance of the evacuees in all instances was good.

Basketball

rated second in number of participants. We had no indoor facilities since the gym was never completed. Instead we had twenty-one outdoor courts. Games between block clubs started early in September and continued until early winter. Tournaments were played by both boys and girls, though the girls teams were limited in number.

Swimming

Early in 1943, excavation started on the swimming pool. The pool was fed by water drawn from the irrigation canal. Having a steady flow and with adequate supervision the pool was kept quite clean. During the two seasons it was in operation not one case of illness nor accident was reported. Though it

was far from meeting the standards of a good pool, it was equipped with safety devices that provided ample space for non-swimmers and a large diving platform. Staffed with life guards and swimming instructors, the pool was open from 8:00 A.M. until 10:30 P.M. every day. All forms of water sports were undertaken including Water Polo.

Until this pool was constructed the only available place for swimming was the treacherous irrigation canal that flows past the center and several drownings were experienced the first year. Although the pool did not eliminate many swimmers from venturing in the canal, it did keep those less experienced in the camp under supervision.

Game Rooms

Recreation halls scattered throughout the project were set aside as game rooms. These rooms were equipped with ping pong table, and a large variety of table and floor games such as checkers, chess, dominos, jig saw puzzles, darts, shuffle board, etc. All game rooms were well attended. In order that all ages would get the same benefits, hours were established for each age group.

Judo

Although participated in, by a minority, this activity attracted a large attendance at all demonstrations. Fostered primarily by the Issei, large purses were offered as a prize and was a strong inducement for the young people to participate. Two groups were most active, Portland Judo Club and the Seattle Dojo Club.

Bar Bell

Four groups were exceptionally good at Bar-bell. Several community wide contests and exhibitions were held. During the last year this activity became a part of the physical education program in the high school.

Religion

The religious organizations of the center played an important part in the social and cultural activities undertaken. The Federated Christian Church, an organization comprised of all the leading Protestant Churches represented in the center was, from the start, a wedge into the surrounding community. Such activities as camping, skating parties, entertainment, Sunday dinners in homes of the surrounding community were frequent. Invitations to youth conferences came often. The degree of adjustment of individuals to the outside community is an important step toward relocation. The center records will show that the tendency of the youth, who were members of the Federated Christian Church to relocate, far exceeded those of the Buddhist Group, who because of their beliefs, found nothing in common with the community. The opportunities of the former group to have speakers at their Sunday evening forums and other services, far exceeded the latter. It is not to be misconstrued that the Buddhist group was excluded from participating in these many activities. Camping was on a center-wide scale and there were many other incidents. But on the whole the real individual contacts that were so important to the people during this time were not available.

The Buddhist Churches combined during the early days of the project and worked together in harmony. Portland and Seattle groups were strong. These however broke down into the Shingai, Shimshu, etc., all important sects were represented. Relocation became a problem to their organizations and in order to hold their own groups together, late in 1944 they again separated. There was definite evidence at this time that the members were being by the priests to not relocate to the east but to wait until they could return to the west coast. Finally in July of 1945, a meeting of all Buddhist Priests was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. At this meeting churches were reassigned to the priests and a definite organization was set up. With these new plans in mind the priests returned to the centers and vigorously planned the reestablishment of their former churches. Many of the priests relocated soon after this and the people followed them.

The Young Buddhist Association deserves attention at this point. It was always a strong organization. Directed primarily by the church and priests, its attraction was not too strong in the early days. However new life came to it early in 1944. Young people took on more responsibility and in addition to its regular religious activities, it became THE social and cultural organization of the center. Meeting every Sunday Evening and often times three and four nights a week, it sponsored carnivals, dances, picnics, music recitals, lectures, etc. During the last summer its membership was over 500 and the only available meeting place that could accommodate this group was the gymnasium. Another important part of their program was service to hospital patients. Sundays, the hospital visiting committee called on the sick taking flowers, candy, and providing other personal needs. This group was more alert to the community needs than any other. To others the future outside was paramount. To this group, though interested in the future, what was and was not happening in the center was the important thing and they did something about it. An example of this was well illustrated during the Christmas Holidays of 1944. A representative of this group became worried late in November that there would be no dining hall decoration contest and obtained a signed petition of some thirty-five names, indicating a community interest. A meeting was called and a committee set up to work out details. The entire committee, established to provide an elaborate Christmas Holiday, was composed of Buddhist Young People. Again in February, the annual Sweetheart Contest and Ball got under way. The volunteers and committee were predominately from the Y.B.A.

While discussing the religious activities of the center the Catholic Church should not be forgotten. From the very beginning it was a minority group, yet its influence was felt by all. First, under the leadership of Father Tibisar and later father Clement, it contributed much to the individual needs of the evacuees. Father Tibisar relocated more persons than any other individual. When his work was done he left to join most of them in Chicago. Father Clement then took up the job here. One of the interesting activities conducted by the church was Sunday Evening Open House, always well attended by young people.

The summer school program, held each year, drew a great deal of leadership through cooperative planning and supervision of all churches. This will be discussed in more detail farther on.

Social and Cultural Activities

Arts and Crafts

The arts and crafts program was strong from the beginning, the real driving force was need. Coming to the center with only bare necessities, the people needed furniture, pictures, rugs, clothing, nick-nacks to make the drab rooms a little easier to live in. Many of the crafts that had the most value were never made in shops or classes but right in the home. In this center the Japanese found a new media to work with -sage brush. The roots polished and careved when necessary, provided table legs, canes, vases, picture frame molding, ornaments, etc. Recently a representative of the Russell Sage Foundation visited the center taking pictures of this type of work.

The older folk took up crafts more enthusiastically than did the young people.

A definite arts and crafts program was set up at the first meeting establishing Community Activities, from this grew the following classes:

- Knitting
- Crocheting
- Woodwork For Boys
- Dress making
- Dress Design
- Doll Making

Embroidery
Flower making
Flower Arrangement
Model Airplane
Oil Painting & Sketching
Weaving

Each activity met weekly or more often and had definite space assigned to them. Most of these activities were later taken over by Adult Education. We can see from the above list, attention was given primarily to Adult Activity in this field. The arts and Crafts that children received came through such organizations as the Boy and Girl Scouts.

Another activity that utilized craftsmanship of the individual, were the Japanese dramatic organizations. Costumes, scenery, properties, etc. were all made by the members. Many of these were really pieces of art. This organization, which will be given more attention under music and dramatics, attracted participants from all age groups, however, the majority of the Nisei disliked it intensely and very few able to understand it.

The most important fact however, was that in most cases craft classes were utilized by the evacuees to bridge the gap between that which was available and that which was needed. Every home took on a distinction of its own. Furniture ranged from crudely constructed table and chairs made from discarded boxes to beautiful handcraved tables and cabinets made within their own room or in some craft class. Unlined walls often times had a hand carved molding or built in cupboards to hide the thin shabbiness. Hand painted cloth hangings were also common.

Many people commercialized on their skills, such as the leather worker who had a small factory making ladies hand tooled bags, the numerous people who made novelty pins in the form of birds from sage brush and red wood, the doll makers selling the traditional Japanese doll.

One could continue indefinitely, listing the different crafts that were in demand, either commercially or otherwise.

Music and Drama

Music played an important part in the program. Talent, however, gradually left the center and toward the end it was hard to find even a pianist.

Several outstanding accomplishments should be recorded. The first real big undertaking was a Mass Choir composed of one hundred voices. Several concerts were given outside the center including Jerome, Twin Falls and Rupert, Idaho. Relocation of its members, rather than disinterest finally resulted in its abolishment.

Several orchestras were organized, the final one composed of twelve members, played a fifteen minute program every week over Station KTFI. This orchestra was a source of music for all entertainments and dances.

Special attention was given to piano lessons for children. Through a committee organized to plan such a program, all teachers were brought together and a wage scale was established at \$19.00 per month. To earn this the teacher had to have a certain number of pupils and each a definite number of hours. The committee obtained funds from the parents of children learning piano and they paid the teachers salary. To provide ample practise time for each child all pianos in recreation halls were scheduled on an hourly basis.

A similar plan was adopted for other instructors. Teachers in Japanese dramatics, Japanese string instruments, etc. were hired on a salary basis by the dramatic organization. Records show that at the peak over 1200

persons were taking music lessons.

Another musical undertaking of importance was record concerts. These were held weekly. The concerts, well attended, were often held out of doors to accommodate the large crowds. Classical programs and Japanese programs were both popular. Regular programs were given in the hospital as well.

Music shows such as the Follies will long be remembered by the residents as the peak of musical entertainment.

Community sings were another popular form of music, used extensively in small groups, it went over well with groups as large as 1500 persons.

Drama did not go over well with the people of the center. The young people could not be interested in it. There was ample talent, however, there was not leadership enthusiastic enough or qualified to develop it.

Japanese dramatics and Fukiyoze were very popular with the adults. The center had three organizations, each constantly working on something new. Self supported and with volunteer leadership they gave four or five programs each year. One presentation would be repeated several times in mess halls with an average attendance of five hundred at each performance. There was a great deal of rivalry between these three groups.

Summer School

Each summer, the Community Activities and the Education Sections pooled resources to provide a summer program for the children and youth of the center. The summer of 1944 was a good example of this cooperation.

Prior to setting up the program, an interest finder was used to determine the activities desired. Taking this as a basis, a program was developed. The purpose of the program was "to provide worthwhile activities and experience not gained by pupils during the regular school year, with emphasis upon the improvement of health and well-being, work experience, self expression, and group experiences.

The following program was then established. To meet the needs of both High School and Grade School two definite schedules were established. The following is taken from a report prepared by Mr. Arthur M. Klienkopf, Superintendent of Schools.

High School

8:15-10:00 A.M.

- Typing, Advanced
- Shorthand
- Photography
- Shop
- Science
- Nature Study
- Home Craft
- Library

9:25-10:15

- Camping & related activities
- Personal Appearance
- Library
- Dramatics
- Art

10:20-11:10

Shorthand, Advanced
Typing, Beginning
Photography
Music
Library
Art
First Aid

11:15-11:50

Music, Social Recreation
Shop
Art

Grade School Program**9:00-10:15**

Gardening and Related Subjects
Elementary Science
Social Studies
Hikes
Nature Study
Library
Field Excursion (inside)
Creative Writing
Planning the Future (relocation-incidentally)
First Grade Work: Continuation of regular work for this period.

10:15-10:30

Recess

10:30-11:30

Remedial
Outside Activity
Music
a. folk dancing
Hobbies
Collections
Free Play
Library Period
Club Meeting
Games

11:30-1:30

Noon

1:30-2:00

Rest and Relaxation

2:00-2:10

Recess

2:10-3:15Arts & Crafts

Drawing

Painting(watercolor

Paper Cutting

Clay Modeling

Finger Painting

Posterwork, Lettering

Soap and Wood Carving

Papier Mache

Dolls and Toy Making

Dry Brush Work

Airplane Modeling

Manual Arts

Weaving

Knitting, Crocheting

Sewing, Embroidery

Scrap Books

Stenciling, Block Printing

Games

Games-ball

Relays

Singing Games

Playground Contests

The following table gives the enrollment by subject matter or activity:

Typing.....120

Shorthand.....107

Music.....18

Shop

(a) Stafford, Grade V.....27

Stafford, Grade VI.....26

(b) Huntville, Grade V.....25

Huntville, Grade VI.....22

(c) High School.....5

105

First Aid.....13

Science.....13

Nature Study.....2

Photography.....43

Hand Work.....8

Home Economics.....8

Art.....16

Dramatics.....4

Camping.....369

Camping was featured during the summer activity program. As the table shows, 369 students were enrolled in camping activities. The Methodist and Presbyterian Church people in the state of Idaho were kind enough to allow the students to use the church summer camps in the Sawtooth Mountains. These camps are permanent in nature having been established many years ago. The two camps are about ten miles apart near Sun Valley. Six groups of children were sent to these camps at different times over a period of six weeks. The largest number taken at any one time was 120. Each group remained in camp approximately one week. Appointed personnel and evacuee sponsors were sent with each group. Usually there was one sponsor for every twelve students. Classes in first aid, swimming, art, and nature study were conducted at each of the camps. These camp activities had great educational value. Some of these groups sent out intermingled with Caucasian groups from other parts of the state. In every instance, there was the finest of cooperation on the part of both groups. It did much in giving the Japanese students belief in the American way of life, and perhaps had its greatest value in the impetus it gave to relocation.

In addition to the camping activities carried on outside the project, there were many trips conducted on the project. These trips included visits to the farm area, warehouse area, administrative areas, etc. A sage brush park has been landscaped and set aside for use by picnic groups. During the summer a number of groups used this park either for breakfast or for day picnics of one kind or another.

A total of 595 students were enrolled in the elementary school during the summer term. Each student reported to his home room teacher as he did during the regular term. He then was enrolled in as many activities of his own choosing as he was able to do during the day. The choice of activities from which he could choose is included as a part of the bulletin entitled "Grade School Program." Gardening in the elementary schools was again featured as was last summer.

In planning for the summer activity program, the committee decided that the program should be one of educational, recreational activity and should not be academic. At the end of the summer term the committee felt that this idea was highly successful. Students and teachers alike were very enthusiastic about the summer program. The fact that they could get away from an academic setup and take part in carrying out a program that was largely recreational in nature had a strong appeal. Each person did the thing in which he was interested. No one was forced to go to school, and no one was forced to take any activity other than one of his own choice. School was a pleasure for all.

The summer of 1945, changes had to be made due to new relocation policies.

The Education Sections went out of business June first, and though they could provide leadership and materials, they did not want to play a prominent part. There was also a group on the center that insisted that the school would be open in the fall. To provide a summer program might lead a great many to believe that the schools were not closing.

A meeting was called in late May for all persons interested in a summer program for children. Representatives were present from Buddhist, Federated Christian, and Catholic Churches, the Y.M.C.A., Teen-Age Canteen, Block Clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, and the Community Council. Several problems faced the group. First- With relocation in full swing, leadership now available, would probably be lost before the program was over. Second - There was no way in determining the number of children that would be participating since most families would be leaving during the coming months.

The results of these and many others that followed can be summarized as follows. First - To provide adequate leadership to supplement the C.A. staff, all church groups and national organizations would pool all leadership, in order that the best of available skills would be used. Second - Funds of the Teen-Age Canteen could be used to help defray the expenses of motion pictures and, Third - The summer school program would be run on an inter-religious basis. Fourth- The program was established on a two week basis, with as many two week sessions as needed.

In the past it was called a Summer School Program, this year it would be a "Summer Play Shop."

The following program was set up and followed throughout the summer for two months.

9:00-9:30

Assembly, Movies, etc.

9:30-10:15

Religious education Classes
Small children's playground

10:15-11:00

Religious education classes
Older children's play ground

11:00-11:45

Arts and Craft program
Afternoon Swimming program at pool
Hikes and other outings

1:00-4:00

Teen-age program
Arts and crafts
Music
Outings, etc.

The arts and crafts program was on a work shop basis, permitting each child to choose his own interest. A great variety of media was used, woodwork, oil painting, sketching, clay modeling, water colors, weaving, charcoal, finger painting, dress making and airplane modeling.

The summer School had 543 children enrolled, with an average daily attendance of 369.

A camping program comparable with other years was not possible because too many persons were leaving camp to return to their homes. Arrangements were made with the Baptist and Methodist Churches of Twin Falls to include some of our young people in their camping schedule. By this means 85 young people attended camp with other Magic Valley young people in the Sawtooth Mountains.

In previous years these camps were taken over completely by the evacuees and there was little opportunity for the sharing of experiences between evacuees and the Caucasians of the surrounding communities. It is my firm belief that the experience of the 85 this year, did more good for the Japanese as a whole, than did the camping period of 1944 when 350 were able to attend.

Teen-Age Canteen

After many months of planning with various groups, a committee was appointed consisting of representatives from High School Student Counsel, High School Faculty, Parent Teachers Association, Welfare, Community Counsel And Community Activities. The purpose of these people meeting was to review suggestions received from these various groups and to establish a plan whereby a youth center could be set up as quickly as possible. Committees were appointed to supervise publicity, construction and program.

In order that the program be publicized, a name contest was conducted which created a great deal of interest among the youth of the center. Over three hundred names were submitted by the young people, with the

committee unanimously accepting Sagedoor Canteen.

The committee activities section obtained the use of a complete barracks located across the street from the high school and the high school student council students were scheduled during their free periods to assist in building and redecorating. Approximately 250 different boys and girls participated in the initial labor.

After several meetings with the high school faculty it was decided that a canteen would contribute most to young people if it were open during the day as well as at night.

A peculiar situation existed in the high school. They did not have room space for boys and girls who had free periods and having nothing to do, these persons caused a great deal of disturbance in the other classes that were in session. The young people were given permission to enter the canteen during these free periods and the center was open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. with the program Monday, Wednesday and Sunday from 2 P.M. until 10 P.M.

Grand opening of the Canteen was held March 15, 1945 with an impromptu program and free refreshments. Over 500 students were present at that first afternoon entertainment.

The committee realizing that their major responsibility was completed recommended the establishment of a youth committee to manage and supervise their own programs and further recommended that they become an advisory committee to this group meeting periodic or on call. An election was held in the high school for officers. Elected were President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Chairman and House Chairman.

In order that a program could get under way it was necessary to obtain funds, as the Community Activity was very limited in the amount they could spend. The committee borrowed \$50 from the Y.M.C.A., \$50 from the U.S.O and \$100.00 from Community Activities. With this fund the Snack Bar was set up and within two months all loans had been repaid and they had a reserve of close to \$100.00 for program use. During the seven months the Canteen operated, \$993.00 were received through the Snack Bar. Of this amount \$689.00 went into Snack Bar supplies and \$242.00 was spent on program, the remaining \$62.00 paid miscellaneous labor in connection with the closing operation.

The Program

The program of the canteen consisted of table games. Ping Pong tournaments were set up in another room with outdoor sports such as Volley Ball, Horseshoes and Badminton. Sunday Evening discussion groups and movies were held; dances and parties were held every two weeks. Total membership of this activity was 1,320 boys and girls ranging from 12 to 19 years of age.

Festivals

Masked programs of this nature were very important to the people of the center and a great deal of labor was expended in preparation. Important stress was always placed upon decorations for the occasion and in many instances could be mentioned of committees working two or three months in preparation. The religious holidays of the Buddhist Church was always a memorable event as were the Fourth of July and other patriotic holiday programs. But probably the most memorable of all would be the Christmas Holidays.

From the first Christmas on the center, Block Dining Hall Decorating contests were held. Each block working as a unit, trying to out do all others in decorating their dining halls. Funds were received by the block to cover all expenses. A few days before Christmas a committee of judges toured over thirty-six dining halls and judged them on the basis of theme, originality, effectiveness and appropriateness. On Christmas day the winning dining halls were presented with an award. The last dining hall contest held Christmas of 1944 far surpassed all

others. All but three blocks participated which was especially good in view of the fact that relocation had drained the center of most of the dependable arts and crafts people. There were four awards made that year in form of block banquets. Prepared by neighboring blocks and served by young people outside the block. The program included musical numbers and speakers representing the Community Council, Management, Community Activities, and the block. Climaxing the dinner the block was presented with a framed certificate of award.

In connection with the Holiday Activity the Federated Christain Church recieved from outside, gifts for all children. These were wrapped by a committee and distributed before Christmas.

Another festival that brought the people of the blocks together almost as well as did the Christmas activity was the annual Sweetheart Contest. Each year names were submitted by blocks or sections, of girls who would be contestants. Election were held in each dining hall and finally the Sweetheart and her court of four attendents were elected. An example of the extent to which the people went in these festivals could be well decribed by the contest held February 14, 1945. As an award to the winning girl, a complete outfit costing \$50.00 was presented. Following the election a gala ball was held in the gym with over five hundred people attending.

Although the gym had not been completed, volenteers consisting of Issie and Nisei worked every night from 7 P.M. to 2 A.M., decorating and building such sets as chandliers and other decorations.

A floor show accompanied by a eleven peiece orchestra was also a part of the program. The expenses of this event was \$585.00 and receipts from the sales of tickets totaled \$560.00, a loss of only \$25.00, which was very small when all the benifits were added.

IV FINANCE

It is impossible to give a picture of operating cost at the time of this writing because records which should have been kept were either lost or in such a condition that a true picture cannot be obtained. However an estimate can be given covering the period from December 1, 1944 through September 1945. Following is a rough estimate based on material delivery tickets and memorandun reciepts kept over this period:

Total W.R.A.— 10,924.00
Budget 07 & 08 at \$500.00
Qtr. (Dec.to July) —\$1500.00
Salary (Supervisor)— 3800.00
Salary (Evac.Personnel)— 3024.00
Mess Operations— 1200.00
Motor Pool (Transportation)— 900.00
Repairs on Building & Equip.— 500.00
Total Contributions from Comm.etc.— \$ 2198.00
Teen-age Canteen— \$ 993.00
Donations (Individual)— 5.00
Donations (Churches)— 250.00
Sweethear Ball— 560.00
Dances & Special Events— 390.00
Total nine months operation—\$13,122.00

Estimated on the nine month basis with population 9,000 Dec. 1944 and 1,000 Sept.1, 1945. The average per capita cost was less than \$2.60.

Contributions played an important part in the financing of the community program. From the very beginning donations from Church groups, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A. and U.S.O. contributed much not only to setting up these activities but also providing a community wide program. For example \$250.00 was contributed by a Japanese organization of Spokane, Washington, to be used for a children's athletic program.

The Community Activity Trust, a organization established to raise money in the community for the purpose of recreational activities, contributed much during 1942 and 1943. During this period a major portion of the expenses were obtained in this manner. When the Trusts were abolished in October 1944, all records were destroyed for some unknown reason and it is impossible to even estimate the amount of money obtained through this source. As mentioned above many activities during 1944 and 1945 were self supporting, an example of this was the many block dances held each week, the teen-age canteen and all the festivals.

With the abolishment of the Community Activities Trust it was necessary to use the money set up in the W.R.A. budget which was approximately \$500.00 quarterly. This budget, however, is not a true picture since this did not include the cost of the food obtained through the steward section for parties, the transportation required for hauling equipment and persons, office expenses and salaries of supervisors and evacuee labor. A closer figure would be \$2700.00 a quarter.

V. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.

Community Activity Program recieved excellent cooperation from all other sections in our program. From the very beginning the effectiveness of the program depended on the willingness of all other sections to cooperate in building and maintaining units comprizing community activities. Requests for machinery and material to do this job was always given the immediate attention of the other departments. I believe that through this cooperative understanding a great many of the evacuees came to understand the importance of relationship each of the section played in the total community picture. Not only was this true with the W.R.A. sections but was with the evacuee controled units such as Community Enterprize, Community Counsel, Irrigator Newspaper, Parent Teachers Association, etc. This is one phase where cooperation did not exist. This was apprent before I appeared on the center and continued to the end of the project. The The Community counsel working with the Internal Security had established a Welfare Committee, primarily interested in problems of delinquency in the youth of the center. A great many of the cases became serious and might have been caught in their early stages had this committee had a representative of the community activity section working with them. Several cases were brought to the attention of this section in a roundabout manner and a program was worked out with the boys but more often Community Activity Supervisors did not hear of the cases tell the boys had been brought to court.

A great deal of the misunderstanding toward the evacuees and the center in general were eliminated through the excellent cooperation extended the center through such organizations as the Churchs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A. who were active not only in the center but in the surrounding communities. Through their many invitations to athletic and social events, youth farms etc. people of the towns around us got to know a great many of the evacuees personally and as often as not you would hear them discussing the problem from the evacuee point of view. Not only did they invite the evacuees to their home but were constantly visiting the center. Community Activities office recieved dozens of offers each week suggesting such gatherings. As was mentioned back in the early part of this report, the effect that this had on the evacuee was largely determined by the opportunity the had to get out of the center. Those who were members of National orginazations and Christain Churchs took full advantage of this, while those who who were limited to pure Japanese acitivies had little in common with the residents of Magic Valley and failed to grow beyond the center environment.

On the surface there seemed to be but little interchange of relationship between the evacuees and the A.P. personnel, however a great many of the latter group contributed many hours of their leisure time as leaders of clubs, youth groups and national organizations. Evacuees were invited by the A.P. Personnel to parties and dinners and these visits were returned by the A.P's.

VI. CLOSING OPERATIONS

Closing operation actually got under way in July 1945. This came about due to loss of personnel and the adjusting of our program to the closing of the center. Activities were consolidated in many instances under teen-age canteen or summer school. Clubs noticeably died when members started moving back to the coast. The last activity to remain was the teen-age canteen which closed September 1, 1945, at which time they had about 1,000 population in camp. At the same time the evacuee staff in community activity was two workers and they assisted the supervisor in closing out all buildings used for recreational purposes and the assembling of all equipment into one center location for final disposal. On September 15, 1945 Community Activity section completely closed out with all equipment in order, all church property loaned us during the duration ready to ship back to the coast.