

LESSON 5: WHAT DID WE SEE WHEN WE GOT THERE?

EDDY KURUSHIMA: DEEP IN THE HEART OF ARKANSAS, MUD



Eddy Kurushima, Deep in the Heart of Arkansas - Mud! Courtesy of Mr. Eddy Kurushima.

LESSON 5: WHAT DID WE SEE WHEN WE GOT THERE? EXCERPTS FROM THE “DIARY OF AN EVACUEE”

Directions: Read the follow excerpts and answer the questions that follow.

November 11. [...] Terrific storm last night, accompanied by thunder and flashes of blue lightning. The mud is really something to contend with. Mornings and evenings very cold – we burn wood “borrowed” from the mess hall pile.

December 18. Mud, mud – just can’t keep units clean. The wood slate for walks are very dangerous – slippery when wet. Wood shortage – block managers headache....

January 20. [...] Block workers forever improving walks – some of the nicest in camp. A volley ball court and horse shoe pit are ready for participants. Young fellows use them as often as they please – little boys and oldsters use them when they are not in use....

January 24. [...] Experienced bitterest cold today – water crusted with ice even in the units. Clothes on lines stiffened and crackled. 10°

March 7. Went to Jerome with 3 others of Reports staff. Out-lying country hum-drum and unsettled looking. Mostly negroes and their shanties. Saw for the first time a chinaberry tree, a pecan tree, etc. There is none of that regimented orchard as one sees in California....

Questions to think about:

1. How does the author describe Rohwer? List physical characteristics, activities, and material goods that are mentioned.
2. Describe the weather and climate at Rohwer, using quotations from the diary in your answer.
3. Describe the climate like in your hometown. How is it similar to or different from the above description of Rohwer?