



Photograph No. NWDNS-210-G-G363. Jerome Relocation Center. Dermott, Arkansas. Loading cabbages which have been harvested during the winter season. National Archives and Records Administration. Photographer: Gretchen Van Tassel

Questions to think about

1. How did the people in the camps change the land?
2. How did changing the land help meet the needs of the people in the camp?
3. What was grown in the fields around Rohwer?
4. Do you think the Japanese Americans in the camps were good farmers? Why or why not?

Information Concerning Rohwer Relocation Center

November 20, 1945

1. The first group composed of 249 evacuees arrived at the Center on September 17, 1942. These were advanced workers who came to help prepare for the others who were to follow.
2. The last train of incoming residents arrived at the Center on October 31, 1942.
3. All of the evacuees will be out of the Center by December 1.
4. The peak population here was 8,567. 11,926 people have been residents of this Center at one time or another. 2482 evacuees were transferred to Rohwer in June 1944, when the Jerome Center near Dermott, Arkansas was closed. The population of the Center as of November 17, was 504.
5. Since the Center opened, 9,693 have relocated.
6. Approximately 700 acres of land have been cleared by the evacuees since the Center opened, and 19 miles of main drainage ditches and 7 miles of lateral ditches have been dug. Five miles of bayous have been cleaned out to improve drainage.
7. Land totaling approximately 720 acres was leased for Project farming operations. Most of this was planted in vegetables but some was planted in corn, hay, and soy beans. In 1943, vegetables valued at \$70,067.00 were grown, and in 1944, \$108,823.00 worth were produced. These values were figured at three-fourths of the wholesale market prices. The principal vegetables grown were: cabbage, cucumbers, tomatoes, melons, eggplant, sweet peppers, diakon, and Chinese cabbage. Other vegetables grown were broccoli, carrots, turnips, peas, beans and sweet potatoes.

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8. At one time or another, 300 acres were under irrigation with water from a bayou near the farm. 150 acres were under irrigation at one time. Cucumbers and eggplant responded to irrigation better than any other crops. One year cucumbers averaged 6½ tons to the acre. Average yield on the best plots ran as high as 12 tons per acre. At five-cents per pound, the value of the average yield was \$650.00 per acre. The maximum yield was worth \$1300.00. In 1943, eggplant averaged 14000 pounds per acre, and at 4½ cents per pound, it was worth \$630.00.
9. Feeder hogs were brought for Project consumption and 1947 head, weighing 412,552 pounds were slaughtered. Their value was \$69440.28. The chief feed was garbage from the Center mess halls.
10. Between 875 and 900 soldiers have served in the Army who have either lived at the Center, or whose families have been residents here. Casualty notices have been received here for 26 killed in action, 28 wounded, 2 prisoners, and 2 missing. During the week ending November 18th, 18 casualty notices were received. Five were for those killed in action, 11 for those wounded, and 2 for those missing. All of these casualties were in France. In the first half of May, 1945, notices for 7 killed and 23 wounded were received. These resulted from the last big offense in Italy. Three Distinguished Services have been awarded soldiers from this Center. All were posthumous awards. A proportionate number of other decorations have been awarded other residents.
11. Center schools were given a grade "A" rating by the State Department of Education. High School graduates total 611. Average enrollment in High School and Junior High school was 1,013; in elementary school it was 856.
12. Red Cross Contributions from evacuee residents of the Center totaled \$3,036.80 in 1945.