

met at the "scrape and slide" last night. He says, "Oh yeah, no lie?" and goes to work.

It has rained during the morning and the employee must plod back to his block for lunch through the mud...a truck comes speeding along and splashes the "goosey mixture" on his group. He declares vehemently, "That cocky driver ought to have more sense!" His companions agree and they walk on fuming.

He prances into the dining hall, gets his plate of food and squeezes into his warped seat. He gets himself settled, then mutters to his neighbor, "Daikon again----damn those guys in Gila who insist on raising this Japanese conception of horse-radish."

Our 16-dollar-a-month man picks his way through the buckshot mud and is back on the job. He asks his fellow workers what they had for lunch. "Daikon" is the unanimous reply. He grins and gets to work.

It's 5:30 p.m. so he goes home. Joe sits at home waiting for the high-pitched sound of the dinner iron----there it is!

He's got "something on the line" tonight and he goes to the showers early --he steps in, turns on the water.. "Yow! It's cold!"

We find activities similar to that in any community: a group of boys spinning tops; a boy and a girl holding hands and walking, oblivious to the rest of the world; carpenters pounding and sawing; men loading food onto a truck; a block

manager trying to keep peace in a block as petty problems, caused by too much "elbow rubbing", spring up; the councilmen deliberate and discuss ways to improve the Center; a mailman making his sole-searing rounds; a congregation solemnly listening to a sermon; a dance with the local orchestra "giving out"; a basketball game with its yelling crowd; a choir practicing hallelujahs; students studying history; a reporter on his beat; a club holding an election; black-topped hens clucking over some juicy kernels of gossip----Yes, the panorama of a full-fledged city is almost all there.

Until the War Relocation Authority announced it was going to swing into the fourth step of its program, that of resettlement, the people were building a miniature world of its own----a type of Shangri-La hidden away in an almost inaccessible place. The outside world was a thing apart, a hazy place where making a living was serious business. Although the resettlement program has stirred the Center life, some people are still buried. Their stream of conversation never gets to the sea but runs in a stagnating circle around the center pool.

The evacuees are not without their worries, however; their biggest came when they faced that critical period in December and January when fuel wood to warm the Project's 2,300 odd apartments was needed immediately. An indefinite holiday was declared and every able-bodied man who could be spared trekked out to the "back yard" and started to fell trees in a feverish race with the weather. Fortunately, the clouds patiently held up their aprons full of water for three weeks during this crisis.

This, then, is a glimpse of Jerome Relocation Center. The first five months of its existence are history now. What the Center will look like five months hence would be difficult to guess with the present trend of events forecasting many changes. The people here are stirring as more and more of their number re-enter the nation proper.

WRA authorities hope that half of the people here will return to normal life in the next five months.

The opportunities to prove our right to live and fight as free Americans are improving.



LESSON 6: HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

QUESTIONS FOR READING

Read #1, #6, #7, #8, and #9 of the document titled “Information Concerning Rohwer Relocation Center, November 20, 1945.”

1. List three pieces of evidence which prove the Japanese Americans made major changes in the land while at Rohwer.

a.

b.

c.

2. Other than growing crops, what type of work was done at Rohwer?

Read “The Westerners Came Rumbling,” by Richard Itanaga

3. The lands the camps were built on were undeveloped prior to the camps’ construction. The article “The Westerners Came Rumbling” contains evidence of how the land was changed to accommodate the detainees’ needs. List five places in the article where you see evidence of these changes.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

LESSON 6: HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

ACTAAP WRITING PRACTICE

Pretend you are a Japanese American living in Jerome or Rohwer during World War II. Write a paragraph describing how people in your camp interacted with (changed) the land to meet needs, solve problems, or make life more pleasant. (Hint: Refer to your activity sheets for ideas.)

[illegible]