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10,000 Japs May Be Sent To Jerome

Two Reception Centers For This Part Of State Proposed By War Dept. And Relocation Authority

Dermott heard late yesterday of the possibility that 10,000 Japanese may be sent to a reception center at a camp to be established on the FSA property at Jerome in the near future.

The proposal came to light on the basis of an announcement yesterday morning that a similar camp will be established near Rohwer in DeSha county.

MRS. LACY TO PRESENT PUPILS IN RECITAL

Mrs. Lawrence Lacy will present her pupils in a Piano Recital Friday evening at 8 o'clock in the high school auditorium. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Garden Club Has Meeting Thursday

The regular meeting of the Garden Club was held at the home of Mrs. George Jones last Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Zan Golden and Mrs. M. A. Hays as co-hostesses. Mrs. Oscar Mayes, president and Mrs. Lee Cottard Jr. and Mrs. Minnie Corley gave reports of the secretary and treasury.

Mrs. Mayes and Mrs. Charles Bishop gave a report on the District Garden Club meeting held at Pine Bluff recently.

During the social hour, games and contests were enjoyed by the members. Prizes were awarded to Mrs. Lee Parker, Mrs. Beu Rice and Mrs. Warner Emmons. In the flower arrangement contest, Mrs. Bishop won first place with a bowl of mixed flowers. Mrs. William Hiltch won second.

Mrs. Mayes won first place in the specimen contest with a blue gladiolus. Mrs. Lee Parker won second on Columbia phlox. Refreshments were served by the hostesses at the close of the meeting.

Seniors Enjoy Mississippi And Louisiana Trip

Members of the 1942 graduating class of the Dermott High School spent four days last week on an Educational Tour of Mississippi and Louisiana. The trip was made in the school bus and chaperoned by Supt. and Mrs. H. L. Berryhill.

E. B. Whitaker, assistant regional director, who has been given a leave of absence by the FSA to supervise the centers came to Dermott yesterday afternoon and discussed the plans with a group of approximately 50 of the leading business and professional men of the town.

Following his discussion of the proposition, the following committees were appointed by Joe Stillington, Chamber of Commerce Secretary, who presided over the meeting:

Committee to request the War Department to establish the camp at Jerome: Dr. E. E. Barlow, Roy C. D. Wood and Carl Helmstetter.

Committee to seek to aid in negotiations necessary for the establishment: John Baxter, H. L. Gordon, Kay McNeely, Elvin Laphow and W. L. Bryson.

The first committee named, adopted the following resolution and handed it to Mr. Whitaker who is to forward it to the War Department:

Offer Aid To County

"As our country is in an all-out war and our citizens are anxious to cooperate in every helpful way, this group voted to request the War Department to establish the camp. The action was taken without a negative vote being cast.

"The resolution was adopted with the following provisions: 'that the Army will guard the district at all times and at the expiration of the present War, the Army will return the Japs to the places from whence they came.'

According to Mr. Whitaker the 10,000 Japs would be located on approximately 15,000 acres of FSA lands. Barracks would be built immediately and efforts would be made to establish the people as self supporting.

Many would be used to clear lands belonging to the government in the Jerome area and in cases of emergency, the group could be used to supplement local labor.

\$2,000,000 Project

However, it was thoroughly understood that none of the Japanese would be permitted to leave the camp; the Army would keep a constant guard over them and they would at no time be used as competition to local laborers unless an emergency should arise at harvest time, making it advisable to hire additional help.

It was estimated by officials at the meeting that \$2,000,000 would be required to set up the camp and provide facilities for taking care of the Japs.

Of the 10,000 to make up the camp, only about 2,000 would be suitable for work. The balance would be children, old persons and women.

An area of 320 acres would be required for the buildings, it was said.

Announcement From California

Yesterday's announcement concerning the Rohwer camp was echoed by Lt. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, commanding the Western Defense Command and the Fourth Army in San Francisco.

Selection of that site, the general said, was predicated upon absolute military necessity "in satisfaction of which relocation of evacuees in federally supervised projects inland is imperative."

Gen. DeWitt's announcement came at the same time Governor Adkins announced that the 10,000 Japanese would be moved into the state within the next few weeks.

Mr. Whitaker said at the meeting yesterday that acceptance of the invitation from Dermott by the War Department might be expected "in two or three days or possibly several weeks." He added however, that he had no authority to state positively that the center will be located at Jerome.

The Japanese, many of whom are American citizens, would be paid a small wage to produce food for themselves. They also will produce anything that might be used by the Army, and improve lands, the benefit of which would accrue to the federal state and national governments.