THE CITY: TOPAZ LACKS ISO MAINTENANCE WORKERS

COUNCIL MEETS

To discuss the labor shortage now faced by the City, the Community Council met Monday night at Rec Hall with James F. Hughes, assistant project director; Claude C. Cornell and James Jenkins, of the Employment Division; and Lorne Bell, chief of the Community Services Division.

It was brought out at this meeting that the present maintenance personnel of 250 is far below the minimum of 400 required to perform services vital to the welfare of the City. The Council's labor committee agreed to make a thorough investigation of the situation.

Earlier in the day, a Council meeting held at the City Hall, a suggestion was made that a community fund be set up to receive contributions from residents who are committed to outside work and residents receiving WPA wages of more than $16 monthly. This would mean that those receiving $10 would contribute the $3 difference to this fund.

At this afternoon meeting, also, a committee was formed to draft a constitution for the City government. Members named to the body were Max Moriyama, Shig Koshika, James Nishiura and Vernon Inoue. As another point of business, a food committee was appointed to look into the matter of food shortage in the dining halls.

The first Topaz paychecks, covering September, are now being distributed at the north entrance of the old Post Office building, it was announced today by the Administrative Division.

Distribution hours will be from 8 AM to 12 noon and 1 to 3 PM. Also those who are employed during the day may call for their checks between 6 and 9 PM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, the announcement said.

The checks, 1700 in number, amount to approximately $37,000.

If this labor shortage situation seems to be all over the paper today, it's because our newsmen have been bouncing into it all day. In fact, when one of them went out for the details of Monday night's meeting, he learned that a number of councilmen had gone to Delta to help unload Topaz's coal. A number of block managers, too, have contributed to this cause.

By this, the chairman of the Labor Committee, as the follow-up item to yesterday's report on the arrival of coal, and according to today's lead story, the entire labor situation is going to be studied by the Council.

FOOD SHORTAGE: Speaking of labor, with the mimeograph available, for the most part, only in the evenings, it's been necessary to maintain a "zombie" shift to keep the Times running. This has been true from the very start of the paper, and it's still so.

Mine Sugo, the artist, gave this shift its name, and she has been a regular member of it. It's a shift that starts after supper and is apt to continue till breakfast, with a repeat of toast in the middle. The toast, of course, has apple butter on it.

Most all of the Times's art work was being done by Mine until Yuri Sugihara was able to come to help out. Now, the bulk of the art work for the daily is in Yuris's hands, while Mine looks to her zombie shift.

And what with the zombie shift, the start of regular publication and the current need for participating in a newsletter the staff is well-rushed, to put it simply, and mildly.
Located next to the Fire Station, the new Topaz Post Office building was opened Monday morning, with William ‘Willoughby’ postal clerk, in charge.

According to Willoughby, the new Post Office will handle COD packages, money orders, stamps, registered and insured mails and packages. The hours (temporarily) will be from 8:30 AM to noon and 1 to 4:30 PM on weekdays, 8:30 AM to noon on Saturdays; and it will be closed on Sundays. So that mail may be deposited at any time, the front lobby of the PO will always be open.

The resident personnel under Hideo Iyeti, who work for the WRA, will remain in the old building until further notice. This group will sort and distribute all incoming mail and work on dead-letters.

NOTICES: Iyeti pointed out that there is no air-mail service between Topaz and Salt Lake City.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. in Los Angeles sent the following self-explanatory letter to Willoughby: “Because of Topaz being a branch of the Delta postoffice, some of our customers at Topaz are showing both Delta and Topaz on orders. It would be helpful if only Topaz were shown on orders and correspondence, it being unnecessary to show Delta.”

Montgomery Ward in Oakland has sent notices to its customers in Topaz stating that the City is located in the territory served by the order house in Denver, Colo. All orders sent to Oakland have been referred to the Denver house.

The Topaz Consumer Cooperative Association has received its first sample order of clothing and will place the articles on sale within a few days, it was announced today.

The articles that will be available are: boys’ polo shirts, coats, shirts, and nightwear; ladies’ misses’ and infants’ hose; misses and children’s anklelets; campus and athletic sox; half hose; and men’s jeans, overalls, shoes, work shirts, collar shirts, underwear, shorts and work gloves.

Two new members, H. Muronaka and T. Katoe, have joined the staff of the education department, it was also revealed by the Cooperative. The duties of this department include public relations and distribution of information.

The membership drive will be completed by next week for the Topaz Cooperative. The eligible list of those over 16 years of age consists of 8,786 residents.

Circular letters were distributed to the residents Tuesday, urging them to join the Cooperative.

Changes in cooperative enterprise offices were announced as follows: laundry service and Sears order desk from the cooperative store to Rec 12. The newly created service department, as well as the barber shop which was opened several weeks ago, are also in Rec 12.

With resident legionsaries and administrative officials in attendance, a simple flag raising ceremony was held in front of the Army flag post at 8 AM Monday morning.

The following legionsaries were present: Saburo Abe, Keishi Asachi, M. Ogawa, Tadji Okamoto, Koizo Matsui, Saburo Matsumoto, the Rev. Kenjiro Tsuchimoto, Kiyoteru Tsuchimoto, Hiro Shiraki, Guy Uyama, Kana Uyehara and Yonozo Suzuki.

ELICTION: Topaz legionnaires elected Kay Tsuchimoto as their president at their first meeting, held Sunday afternoon from 1:30 PM at the barber shop.

Elected with Tsuchimoto were M. Ogawa, vice-commander; Saburo Matsumoto, 2nd vice-commander; Yonozo Suzuki, finance officer; the Rev. Kenjiro Tsuchimoto, chaplain; Guy Uyama, historian; Kefushi Adachi, sergeant-at-arms.

Twelve legionsaries were present at this meeting.

GIRLS WANT JI: Request has been received by the Employment Division for at least 20 more girls to come and pick turkey feathers at the Pulley Packing Plant at American Fork, Utah.

Many girls from Topaz are already employed at this plant.

Those interested were asked to call immediately at the Placement Office.

WOMEN: Removal of government-stored property will begin shortly, it was indicated today by the Administration. The block managers will collect one of the 2 receipts issued to each person storing property with the government. Those will be sent to the Federal Reserve Bank, together with the request that such property be sent here.

In order to claim his property, the resident must bring his second slip.

The removal of property in private storage is still under consideration.
By Victor Abe

PRIVILEGE: Freedom in a relocation project is a right to be treasured and preserved. Along with independence in religious belief, the privilege of self-government is a cardinal freedom.

Though not absolute, self-government in Topaz is an invaluable means of expressing opinions and preserving the dignity of the individual. As a matter of fact, it may be stated that there is more freedom in government in the relocation projects than the residents had in their former communities. The non-citizen has been given the right to vote as well as the citizen. The citizen has been given the opportunity to run for public office.

FORMATION: And therefore in accordance with National FSA regulations, Project Director Ernst has authorized the formation of the Community Government Section under the Community Services Division, to institute proceedings for self-government.

Provisional Section Head Bob 121 and his staff have aided the residents in electing representatives to the Community Council from their respective blocks by having nomination committees elected or appointed and then informing such committees of the election procedures.

Twenty-five councilmen have been selected at this date, and election proceedings are under way in Blocks 4, 9, 33, 24, 35, and 40. The status of Blocks 41 and 8 is being clarified. Since residents occupy only half of these blocks, the other half being utilized for education building, it is believed that one councilman will represent the 2 blocks.

The following councilmen have assumed office: Yurzen Ichimura, Block 3; Albert Kosakura, 5; Ernest Iyama, 6; Kay Hashida, 7; Harry Kondo, 9; James Hiramatsu; 10; Sue Sakakihara, 11; Dr. Carl Hirota, 12; Sen Yatsu, 13; Shinji Yasumoto, 14; Paul Fuji, 15; Harry Tanemoto, 16; Chikino Ono, 20; Olaf Harkness, 22; Dr. George Oshikubo, 23; John Iwata, 25; George Hoshiai, 27; Shiro Shibata, 28; Shikri Hichida, 30; James Nishimura, 31; Tsune Baba, 35; Masato Maruyama, 37; George Harigaya, 38; Isaac Shimizu, 39; and George Ikeda, 42. Dr. Hirota and

Iyama are chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Council.

As the representative body of Topaz, the Community Council meets regularly every Monday from 1 to 5 PM to cope with the immediate problems on hand, but its fundamental purpose and goal is to initiate and complete the permanent government of Topaz and in conjunction with this, the formation of the City charter.

CHARTER: It is corresponding with Tule Lake and Manzanar, 2 centers which have already established charters, to derive ideas for the Topaz charter. Following the ratification of this charter by the people, another election will be held in accordance with charter stipulations. The resulting organization will constitute the permanent government of Topaz.

In its work, the Council is assisted by the Community Government staff of 7 members—Dr. Robert Hayashi, Shigaru Yamamoto, Victor Abe, Minoru Takekura, Sosuke Nakaishi, Chiyo Fujino and Irvin Hirobayashi.

PERSONNEL: More members will be added to the personnel as the functions of the council increase and needs of the community arise. Increasing responsibilities are leading to more duties, resulting in the need for more workers to expedite governmental affairs.

Another function of the Community Government staff is to aid the residents in any governmental matter. An example is the privilege of absentee voting. The staff had application forms mimeographed and distributed to voters. Negotiations are also underway to bring a Millard County deputy clerk here.

Minutes of the Council meetings are translated into Japanese by the staff members. Both English and Japanese versions are mimeographed and posted in each block.

The staff also furnishes general information and advice regarding the penal and civil codes of this state. In addition, it is compiling a reference library of Utah statutes and regulations in 11-25, designated as the temporary City Hall of Topaz.

Thus, the Community Government Section is attempting to expedite the formation of a normal city in Topaz. And it is sided in no small matter by the essence of perfect government—representation without taxation.
The Book Page

October 26, 1942

Introducing

The Book Page, to appear about once a week, is to be turned over to the staff for editorial comments and columns. Also, the page will be open to letters and other contributions from the readers. All contributions should be addressed to The Topaz Times.

Representing the type of community spirit worthy of mention, 600 residents are now occupied in the task of winterization for the entire city of Topaz. Many of these workers are employed at dining halls and as security wardens and firemen, but still find time to assist fellow residents in this major project.

Headed by George Shikimoto, general supervisor for the Maintenance and Operations Division, mass winterization of Topaz began on Oct. 11.

Previously, a resident crew of 30 began on Block 2. However, the crew of completion was not fast enough to cover the entire project before winter. An appeal was dispatched to the block managers, asking their assistance in solving the problem. Thus, the plan to utilize the labor supply of the entire city was born.

In the meantime, the original resident crew of 30 completed Block 2 and began winterization of Block 4, due to the hospital cases residing there. Block managers organized crews in their respective areas, contacting both workers and non-workers. Work orders were secured for those employed on a full-time basis. About 300 are on the payroll. The remainder are volunteers whose names vary, but swell as the weekend.

The north side consisting of the area from Blocks 36 and 39 was the first to begin winterization. Blocks 36 and 37 are expected to be completed within the next few days. As of Oct 25, 40 per cent of the Project was completed. The entire Project is expected to be finished by the first week of November.

An average of 10 persons are now working on each block. A group of 3 to 4 men can complete a room in one day, cutting the time by 30 per cent. However, the number of man-hours needed for this work is considerable. The point is to have enough man-hours to complete the work.

The maintenance Division heads such departments as sanitation, the construction of office and school equipment, a glass activity department to take care of all broken windows, and others. The entire Division cooperates in installing stoves throughout the City. To meet the needs of workers, the maintenance Division can be credited with supplying houses with the hot water and steam to keep the houses warm.

Regarding the need for workers, James P. Hughes, assistant project director, said today: "There is a suitable job for everyone; there is a need for everyone."

Hughes pointed out that besides the cash allowances of $40 and $60, workers and their dependents will receive clothing by means of certificates which will be honored at the Topaz cooperative store. In addition to the regular clothing allowances, such workers as dining hall and hospital personnel will receive uniforms. Clothing, such as uniforms, suits, sweaters, etc., is also planned for workers in need of special consideration.

The call for workers is now out; now it will remain for the civic-minded to answer the appeal.

With an increasing number of workers finding work, the Maintenance and Operations Division is faced with a dire need for laborers to undertake the duties so necessary for the welfare of the community.

The present personnel amounts to 200, while the maximum number needed is 400. With this discrepancy in figures, it can be seen that many are taking on double-duty or are forced to neglect other vital work.

An appeal has already been broadcast to the community at-large for workers to meet this emergency. Another appeal is addressed to the civil-minded residents to do all within their power to alleviate this situation.

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