

THE NEWSPAPER (GRAPEVINE) AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

BY

EVACUEE PUBLICATION STAFF

The publications staff at Fresno Assembly Center produced the Grapevine, a six page newspaper issued twice a week on Wednesday and Saturday and hand delivered to the family residence of every Center internee. During the 178 days that Fresno Assembly Center was occupied, from May 6 to October 30, 1942, the staff turned out forty-four editions of the Grapevine. From first to last issue they never failed to deliver the paper on time. They also conceived wrote, illustrated and printed the "Vignette", a comprehensive pictorial sketch, and word record of life in the Fresno Assembly Center. The Vignette was the only exhaustive review of Assembly Center living during internment, produced at any Assembly Center during occupancy. That eightyfive page publication is now a historically valuable document.

In addition to innumerable notices, forms, programs and posters they produced for departments and activities in the Center, the staff compiled and printed the Fresno Assembly Center Directory. The directory contained the family name, family size, Center address and community origin of every evacuee family interned in the Fresno Center. This staff produced 994,810 feet of printed material at Fresno and that adds up to 188 miles.

This youthful group of dedicated journalists captured the confidence of their fellow evacuees with ^{the} honest and unbiased news they disseminated. They constantly encouraged all residents to participate in Center activities. They made good humor a part of every day life with amusing cartoons and a pleasant balance of humorous articles in the newspaper.

With an average age slightly on the high side of nineteen, the staff included a surprising number of high school and college newspaper editors and reporters. Their energy was boundless and their dedication to the presentation of the positive aspects of the situation. They demonstrated the value of easy access to unbiased news of the hour.

The immeasurable contribution of the Grapevine staff to the constant high morale of Center residents is undeniable. The Grapevine newspaper was the Centers most important morale builder.