10th Annual Report
1953/54

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Bureau of MIGRANT LABOR

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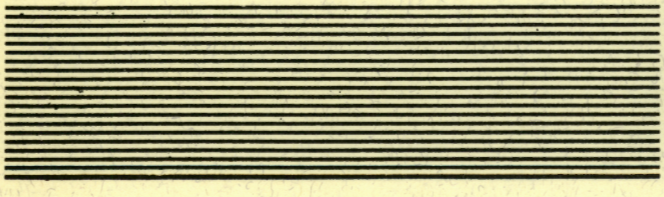


NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

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1953-54

CARL HOLDERMAN, Commissioner

J. LYMAN BROWN, Deputy Commissioner



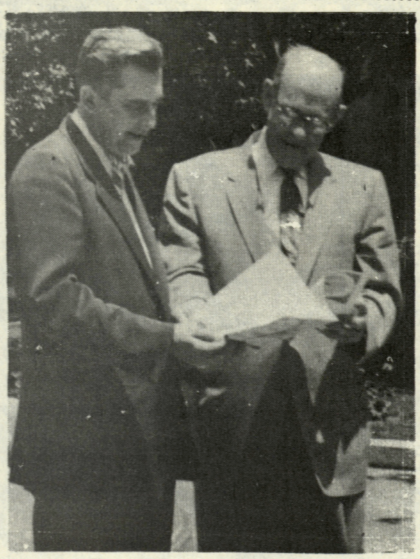
Photographs and layout were made by Fred B. Metler, one of the Bureau's Inspectors.

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Ten Migrant Milestones in New Jersey



GOVERNOR MEYNER (left) receives Annual Report of Migrant Labor Bureau from Commissioner Holderman.

Ten important steps that have been taken during this decade to meet the migrant problem include:

1. PASSAGE OF THE MIGRANT LABOR LAW.
2. ESTABLISHING OF THE MIGRANT LABOR BOARD AND THE BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY.
3. SURVEYS OF CAMPS AND CREWS TO DETERMINE ACTUAL CONDITIONS AMONG MIGRANTS.
4. THE DRAWING UP OF A MIGRANT LABOR CAMP CODE TO SUPPLEMENT THE LAW.
5. REGULAR INSPECTIONS OF ALL MIGRANT CAMPS, LARGE AND SMALL, THROUGHOUT THE STATE.
6. COORDINATION OF THE SERVICES OF OTHER STATE DEPARTMENTS ON MIGRANT PROBLEMS, WITH THE BUREAU AS THE CLEARING HOUSE FOR REFERRAL OF SUCH MATTERS TO THE PROPER AGENCIES.
7. MIGRANT HEALTH CLINICS, STARTED IN 1946 THROUGH COOPERATION OF THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND CONTINUED EVER SINCE ON AN EXPANDED SCALE.
8. DEVELOPMENT OF A DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF MIGRATORY FARM WORKERS, FOR FIVE SUMMERS AT FREEHOLD AND LAST SUMMER AT PERRINEVILLE, BOTH IN MONMOUTH COUNTY.
9. BETTER PUBLIC RELATIONS THROUGH NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES, COLORED MOVING PICTURES AND TALKS BEFORE CIVIC AND WELFARE GROUPS TO EXPLAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF NEW JERSEY'S MIGRANT PROGRAM.
10. COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES ON MIGRANT PROBLEMS AND THE CREATING OF A CONTINUING COMMITTEE ON MIGRATORY LABOR ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ROBERT B. MEYNER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

CARL HOLDERMAN, Commissioner — J. LYMAN BROWN, Deputy Commissioner



NEW JERSEY'S MIGRANT LABOR BOARD IN SESSION
Shown in the picture from left to right are Russell J. Eldridge, superintendent, State Employment Service; Mrs. Williams; Mr. Andrews; Mr. Durell; Mr. Sholl; Commissioner Holderman; Chairman Garrison, Deputy Commissioner Brown; Mr. Lynn; Mr. Seabrook; Walter H. Edling, supervisor, Rural Industries, SES; and Dr. Palmer.

BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

JOHN G. SHOLL, Secretary-supervisor

MIGRANT LABOR BOARD

JAY C. GARRISON, Chairman, Elmer, Salem County Freeholder and farm leader

OTHER PUBLIC MEMBERS

JOHN M. SEABROOK, BRIDGETON, President, Seabrook Farms; ELMER J. HEWITT, VINELAND, Vice President of the Meat and Cannery Workers Union Local 56; MRS. MADALINE A. WILLIAMS, EAST ORANGE, State NAACP Youth Advisor; REV. EDWARD C. DUNBAR, FLEMINGTON, Chairman, Town and Country Committee, N. J. Council of Churches

STATE DEPARTMENTS

AGRICULTURE — WILLARD H. ALLEN, Secretary; alternate, WILLIAM C. LYNN, Assistant Secretary.

CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT — CHARLES R. ERDMAN, JR., Commissioner

EDUCATION — DR. FREDERICK R. RAUBINGER, Commissioner; alternate, THOMAS J. DURELL, Assistant Commissioner.

HEALTH — DR. DANIEL BERGSMA, Commissioner; alternate, DR. HUGH D. PALMER, District Health Officer.

INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES — SANFORD BATES, Commissioner; alternate, ELMER V. ANDREWS, Deputy Commissioner of Welfare.

LABOR & INDUSTRY — CARL HOLDERMAN, Commissioner, J. LYMAN BROWN, Deputy Commissioner and Director, Division of Labor

LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY — COLONEL RUSSELL A. SNOOK, Supt., Division of State Police

BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

FISCAL YEAR – JULY 1, 1953 TO JUNE 30, 1954

by **JOHN G. SHOLL,**
Supervisor

A DECADE of DECISIONS

Just ten years ago New Jersey's Migrant Labor Law was passed by the Legislature. Much has been accomplished since then and many decisions have been made, so it is well to review the program year by year.

Although this is the tenth annual report, as the State's fiscal years go, the section of the new law for inspection of migrant camps did not become effective until September 15, 1945.

Everything started from scratch. Not a single camp was registered when the newly-created Division of Migrant Labor (now Bureau) began to function. Now there are 2,725 active camps listed. The peak was reached in 1952-53 when the camps numbered 2,762. A reduction in white potato acreage in Central Jersey and the drought were responsible for fewer camps opening during the past season.

In the years that have elapsed, inspectors of the Bureau have made a total of 25,911 visits to farms and other camp sites for surveys on housing and information about migrants. To further effectuate the migrant program, they have, in addition to these visits, made a total of 26,132 official inspections and reinspections during this same period. Fuller details of these inspections are presented later in this report.

The migrant program has been operated under three governors and three commissioners of labor. All have shown a keen personal interest in what started out as an experiment in rural economics as it pertained to the improvement of working and living conditions for seasonal farm workers. This work on a state level was initiated under the administration of Governor Walter E. Edge, who in his annual message to the 1945 Legislature, said:

> *"Workers from many parts of the country have been coming to this State for several years to work on farms at harvest time and more recently to work in canning and processing factories at the peak of seasonal employment. The health, sanitary and welfare conditions under which many of these people live have become deplorable. The State is morally bound to end this condition––not only in the interest of the migrant workers themselves but in the interest of maintaining this important labor supply, of increasing the quality and efficiency of the workers, and in protecting the standard of community welfare."*

It was while Harry C. Harper was Commissioner of Labor that the frame work of the Migrant Labor Board and Bureau was set up. He said at that time:

> *"After having been hampered for several decades in coping with the migrant labor problems because of lack of legislation, New Jersey has recognized the importance of facing the issue squarely. In addition to placing the responsibility for enforcement in my department, the statute embodies new aspects of administration which, combined with a broad recognition of the varied factors that are encountered in any method of regulating the employment of migrant labor, definitely stamps this as a very progressive piece of legislation."*

BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

Activities of the Bureau were extended during the seven years that Governor Alfred E. Driscoll was in office and during the period that Percy A. Miller, Jr., was commissioner. They have continued to receive support under the more recent administration of Governor Robert B. Meyner and Commissioner Carl Holderman, who had been one of the moving influences in helping to get the Migrant Labor Law passed.

SERVICE under 3 BANNERS

In the fiscal year just closing, three commissioners have actually shared responsibilities in administration—Commissioner Miller during the summer of 1953; Deputy Commissioner J. Lyman Brown, who has given excellent counsel to the Bureau ever since the inception of its program, as acting commissioner during the fall and winter, and Commissioner Holderman, who assumed his new duties in April of this year.

The new commissioner was greeted by the Migrant Labor Board at its meeting on June 15, in his office. He has indicated his full approval of the plans for the migrant demonstration school to be conducted again this summer at Perrineville. In announcing his intention to personally visit the school, Commissioner Holderman said he was much impressed with its usefulness, both as an educational agency and as a unit of service to migratory workers in the State.

> *"This", he declared, "is one of our real objectives in over-all planning for improving and expanding the usefulness of our Bureau of Migrant Labor which naturally plays an important role in a state such as ours, where help for labor has come to be regarded as a part of our labor economy. We certainly are desirous of seeing the children of migrant workers receive every possible opportunity to help them become good American citizens."*

Jay C. Garrison, farm leader and Salem County freeholder, was elected the first chairman of the Board and has continued in that office for ten consecutive terms. Another public member who has served since the Board was created is John M. Seabrook, president of Seabrook Farms Co. Three other public members who have served through the past year are Mrs. Madaline A. Williams, Rev. Edward C. Dunbar, and Elmer J. Hewitt. Still others who served in earlier years were Rev. Robert D. Smith, Canon of Social Services of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey; Mrs. Lenora B. Willette, President, N. J. Women's Government Study Council; and Leon B. Schachter, President, Meat & Cannery Workers Union Local 56. Heads of state departments, who have served on the Board from the time of its inception to June 30, 1954, include:

Commissioner Sanford Bates, Department of Institutions and Agencies
Assistant Commissioner Thomas J. Durell, Department of Education (Alternate)
Commissioner Charles H. Erdman, Jr., Department of Conservation & Economic Development
Willard H. Allen, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
William C. Lynn, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture (Alternate)
Elmer V. Andrews, Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, Department of Institutions and Agencies (Alternate)
J. Lyman Brown, Deputy Commissioner of Labor and Industry (Alternate)

Still other department heads who have served on the Board in the past were:

Dr. John H. Bosshart, Commissioner of Education
Dr. J. Lynn Mahaffey, Director, Department of Health
Col. Charles H. Schoeffel, Superintendent, Department of State Police

Also these alternates:

William T. Vanderlipp, Director, Division of Planning and Engineering, Department of Economic Development
Charles H. Jung, Director, Special Educational Administration Service, Department of Education
William H. MacDonald, Chief, Bureau of Local Health Administration, Department of Health
Dr. Ellen C. Potter, Director, Division of Medicine, Department of Institutions and Agencies

While emphasized by the war, the problem of the migrant workers had been of increasing concern in New Jersey for more than a quarter of a century. These seasonal workers originally came out to the farms largely from the big cities and a movement was also started along the Eastern Seaboard by southern negroes, who harvested vegetables in Florida during the winter and then came north to pick beans and white potatoes. Three years before the state's migrant program was set up, the Federal Farm Security Administration established central labor camps at Burlington, Swedesboro and Bridgeton, to help speed up food production during the war. These Federal camps were populated largely by Jamaicans and Barbadians. Off-shore internationals employed in the state in 1945 numbered about 4,500 in industry and 1,800 in agriculture. In addition, 1,900 Mexican laborers were quartered in 17 railroad work camps.

PROBLEM gets MUCH STUDY

Work for the welfare of migrants and their families had been underway a long time. Numerous studies and surveys had been made over the years. A legislative commission tackled the problem in 1930, and, in 1940, the Tolan Committee in Congress started nationwide hearings which continued for two years. This committee made an extensive study of the situation in New Jersey at that time and held a conference with state department heads. C. George Krueger, Deputy Director, Bureau of Engineering and Safety, was chairman of this state conference and he and his staff later assisted in setting up New Jersey's program for migrants.

As part of the program of Governor Edge for better labor legislation, the problem was referred to his Postwar Economic Welfare Commission for study in 1944. The commission recommended a bill which was passed by the Legislature on March 26, 1945, and now listed as R. S. 34:9A-1-36. This New Jersey act was referred to by the then Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, as the "Magna Charta for Migrants". It established a Migrant Labor Board composed of five public members appointed by the governor, and the heads of seven state departments, and also set up in the State Department of Labor the Division of Migrant Labor (now Bureau).

The first meeting of the Board was held in the Governor's office April 17, 1945, Mr. Garrison was elected chairman and on June 16, John G. Sholl was appointed supervisor of the Bureau and has since continued in that post.

One of the first steps was to prepare a camp code. The Bureau's staff made an exhaustive study of the codes of several other states, and the regulations for New Jersey were drawn up by a committee headed by Mr. Seabrook, and included William H. MacDonald, State Department of Health, and William T. Vanderlipp, Division of Planning and Engineering, in the Department of Economic Development. The original draft of the code was condensed in order to make it practical and adaptable for farm camps. As a further aid to small camp operators, a one-page digest of the code was prepared and this has proved very popular with the farmers as a time saver.

START from SCRATCH

In the spring of 1945, attention was given principally to surveys of farm camps as the new Migrant Labor Act did not become effective for inspections until September 15 of that year. The Bureau started to operate with three inspectors, all returned war veterans, and they visited 130 camps and checked 93 in a pilot survey, with a total of 44 inspections during that short period. By the end of the fiscal year in 1946, the new Bureau had listed 2,271 camps with seasonal labor, and its inspectors had visited 1,384 of these and made 984 inspections. In this first full year of operation, 200 new housing units were built for farm migrants. This was accomplished in spite of a shortage of materials and war priority requirements, and was in addition to a considerable amount of remodeling and renovating of old camps.

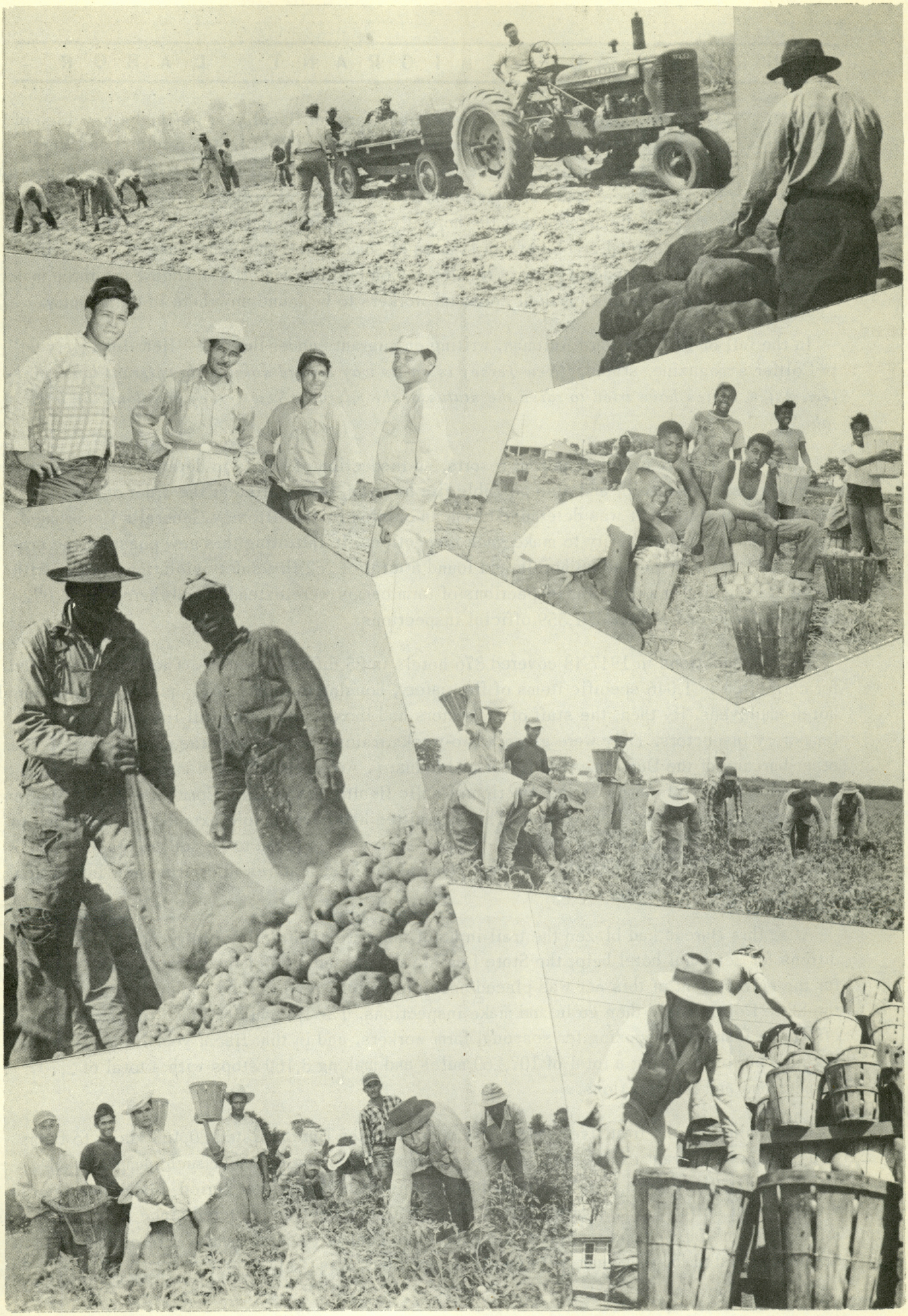
To encourage camp occupants to make better use of facilities provided for them by employers, a set of camp rules was issued by the Bureau. These posters, attractively printed in red and black, depicting rules that campers should follow for their own welfare and good health, were placed in all camps reached by inspectors. The use of such rules has continued and has been supplemented in more recent years with posters in both English and Spanish for use in the Puerto Rican camps.

Postwar adjustments were quite noticeable at the start of the 1946 season. It had been estimated that there were as high as 40,000 migrants in the state when war production was at its peak. This had tapered down to 20,000 at the end of the 1945 season, while the start of the 1946 crop harvesting indicated that the number of these transient workers was dropping back to the more normal level of 18,000 where it has since remained. War prisoners, who had numbered 19,000 in the previous year, had by now all faded from the picture. Local section gangs were revived by the railroads and Mexicans had also all gone back home. Among the internationals, only 1,500 Jamaicans came back to the farms in that year.

Camp surveys and inspections got off to a good start in 1946 and a total of 2,271 farms were visited and 949 official inspections were made. The first migrant health clinics were also set up that year with the cooperation of the Department of Health, and New Jersey became the first state along the Eastern Seaboard to attempt to provide a health program embracing farm migrants in all types of camps.

The original legislative appropriation provided $25,000 for a state camp. A full investigation revealed that the minimum cost would be $50,000 for a medium size model camp, so because of the cost and the shortage of building materials at that time, the Board decided to pass up this project. In that year, the Board sent Mrs. Willette on a tour of southern and western states to observe conditions in migrant camps. A full report of her findings was presented at the fall meeting.

There was a definite trend to on-the-farm housing, and the three Federal camps that had been operated at Burlington, Swedesboro and Bridgeton were closed. They were liquidated the following year. The 250 building units at these camps were sold to farm organizations which auctioned them off to individual farmers with the provision that they be used as far as possible for the housing of migrants. A former Federal CCC camp in South Glassboro was acquired by Gloucester County farmers and used for establishing a cooperative labor camp for Puerto Ricans, brought in for the first time in any large numbers by growers in that area.



RACETRACKS and TACKROOMS

Inspections and reinspections for that fiscal year reached a new high of 2,486. About 800 farm workers from the West Indies returned and were quartered in private housing on the farms. At this time the first inspections were made of living quarters for seasonal workers at racetracks. It was discovered that the horses were getting a better break than the hostlers and stableboys in stables at some of the tracks because of a quirk in Federal priority regulations on building materials. Today, the three major tracks have the best housing for their seasonal workers to be found anywhere in the country.

In the fall of 1947, Howard Whitman, writing on migrants under the title "Heartless Harvest" in Collier's magazine, stated, *"New Jersey is on its way toward solving the migrant labor problem. A few states have tried to raise the status of the migrant. New Jersey has done the best job."*

After an earlier test survey in four resorts, an inspection of hotels to determine living conditions for seasonal help, and also possible fire hazards, was started at the order of the then Commissioner Harper. It was determined from an opinion by the Attorney General's Department that the Bureau had authority to make such inspections. In initiating this new phase of the program, the Bureau inspected 83 hotels and found a total of 262 fire safety violations, along with 70 sanitary violations. Regular inspections of farm camps were extended and there were 4,022 visits to farms and a total of 1,559 official inspections.

Hotel inspections in 1947-48 covered 376 hotels in 25 different resorts. They indicated need for correction in 1,046 specific items of fire safety, housing comforts and sanitation for seasonal hotel employees. By then, the staff of inspectors had increased to nine full-time men and three temporary inspectors. They were given a two-weeks training course with the cooperation of other bureaus of the Department of Labor and Industry. Arrangements were made by the Bureau for a pilot survey of camps by the American Public Health Association Committee on the Hygiene of Housing, New Haven, Connecticut. This committee had never before extended its services to rural districts. While its setup for urban housing surveys was found to be not too practical for farm labor camps, it was possible to adapt some of the best features in drafting new inspection forms for use in this state.

After this Bureau had blazed the trail in hotel inspections directly in reference to living conditions for seasonal hotel help, the State Legislature passed a hotel fire-safety act. Responsibility for the enforcement of this act was placed upon the various resorts, and should they fail to act, the State Police could then go in and make inspections. The Bureau continued to concentrate its efforts on inspecting housing for seasonal farm workers, and in that fiscal year its inspectors set a record of traveling a total of 107,260 miles and making 8,160 stops with a total of 2,707 inspections and reinspections.

In rounding out the first five years of its operation, the Bureau listed 20,468 visits to farms to determine if migrant camps existed or to supplement information about such camps. In addition to that, there were 11,891 official inspections made during that period. Inspection reports revealed that upwards of 500 new migrant camps had then been constructed since the program was started. On-the-farm camps increased after the three central Federal camps were closed so that the number listed for that year, with hotels dropped out, was 2,111.

REAL TREND to BETTER CAMPS

Indications of the improvement in housing were found in the fact that fully a third of the farm labor camps in the state were approved on first inspection in 1950-51, and reinspections brought this percentage up to more than half. Corrections were made in most of the camps disapproved on first inspections or owners voluntarily closed them. Curtailment of the Bureau's budget necessitated the dropping of three full-time inspectors, but the number of camps continued to increase to 2,232, and there was a total of 3,772 first inspections and 1,005 reinspections.

At this time, New Jersey's Bureau helped to initiate a move to bring together other Atlantic Coast states in a two-day conference at New York on migrant problems, under the sponsorship of the Council of State Governments.

Puerto Ricans were now beginning to come into the picture as seasonal workers on farms in this state. They largely replaced the Jamaicans and most of them were brought in through growers' cooperative associations. Fernando Sierra Berdecia, Commissioner of Labor of Puerto Rico, after a conference with the supervisor of the Bureau, insisted that seasonal workers sent out of his area to New Jersey farms must be furnished with quarters inspected and approved under our state program. This had also been the ruling of the State Extension Service when it had the responsibility for the placement of workers, and the same policy has been carried through by the State Employment Service, which took over this duty in 1948.

Two women field workers were employed that summer by the Bureau to work with migrant families in the Tri-Country area. They gave counsel to the mothers in the care of their children, encouraged greater cleanliness in the camps and otherwise looked after the welfare of the migrant families.

In this same year, the first television set appeared in one of the larger migrant camps. The Bureau inspectors set up a new record in traveling a total of 107,260 miles in making 8,160 stops for migrant surveys and inspections.

Governor Driscoll requested the Migrant Labor Bureau to help him set up a Commission on Displaced Persons. The Bureau's supervisor became secretary of the Commission. Active work of the New Jersey Commission on Displaced Persons continued from May 20, 1949, to the fall of 1952, and it stood by at the request of the governor for two more years in case of any emergency. Routine correspondence on DP's continued to be cleared through the Bureau's office. Dr. William R. Ward, Sr., of Newark, served as chairman of the Commission, which was proud of its record placing New Jersey, which ranks only 45th in size, fourth among all the states in the number of displaced persons it resettled, or a total for this state of 23,200 of these refugees, including 19,700 DP's, 3,450 German expellees, and 50 orphans. To accomplish this, the Bureau and its staff investigated a total of 1,290 sponsorships and the office correspondence entailed the writing of 2,701 letters on displaced persons.

Motion pictures in color were taken in several of the camps by Senior Inspector Fred B. Metler and a film was prepared which has since been shown before many interested groups throughout the state. Among these were the President's Commission on Migratory Labor and the annual Farm Labor Conference on the Eastern Seaboard. The Bureau's supervisor also appeared before

The 3 R's for ROVING PUPILS

1 - MIGRANT CHILDREN AT PLAY ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

2 - APPROVED BUSES TRANSPORT PUPILS FROM FARM CAMPS TO SCHOOL AND RETURN.

3 - THE MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION GRANTED USE OF THIS MODERN SIX-ROOM SCHOOL BUILDING AT PERRINEVILLE FOR THE MIGRANT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

4 - COMMISSIONER OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY CARL HOLDERMAN (RIGHT) AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION THOMAS J. DURELL, (CENTER) WHO HAD SUPERVISION OF THE MIGRANT DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL, TALK TO SOME OF THE PUPILS.

5 - MR. DURELL AND MRS. DOROTHY S. JACKSON, DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL, CONFER ON CLASS PROJECTS.

6 - ATTENTIVE PUPILS LEARN THROUGH VISUAL EDUCATION.

7 - MISS DOROTHY B. COMER, OF THE TEACHING STAFF, SERVES AS A LUNCH-HOUR HOSTESS.

8 - DR. JESSE ARONSON, DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER, STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND MISS FLORENCE B. LEWIS, SCHOOL NURSE, CONDUCT A HEALTH EXAMINATION.

9 - DR. FREDERICK R. RAUBINGER, COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, (LEFT), AND JOHN G. SHOLL, SUPERVISOR OF THE MIGRANT LABOR BUREAU, INTERVIEW A HAPPY PUPIL.

10 - HOT BUNS WERE JUST ONE OF THE FEATURES OF TASTY MEALS SERVED AT THE SCHOOL BY MRS. HELEN SEARBY AND HER ASSISTANT, MRS. JOSEPH WOLOSZYK.


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the Senate Sub-Committee on Labor and Management Relations in Washington. He read a statement as chairman of the Continuing Committee, urging recognition of the states in the proposed Federal program. When a new Federal Child Labor Law became effective to prohibit children under 16 from working in the fields when public schools are in session, a conference was held at Trenton with Federal officials on this new law, particularly in reference to child labor among migrants.

WAR CASTS no SHADOWS

War clouds began to loom again in 1949, this time in Korea. Now, however, New Jersey was in a much better position to meet the situation through improved housing for its seasonal workers. In the midst of World War II, these living conditions had been so bad that the Government required that the thousands of internationals brought into the state to speed up food production be placed only in approved housing. Employers have now come to realize that improved quarters are good for domestic workers as well as for internationals, and that they also help to get and to hold seasonal hands in periods of severe labor shortages such as wars produce.

Before the Korean incident there had been some unemployment in industry and an increased number of idle factory workers turned to farm jobs, but not enough to fill all the farm needs. The Board and Bureau have never been unmindful of unemployment affecting state residents. In the summer of 1949, a special labor committee, headed by Secretary of Agriculture Allen, conferred with union representatives and other interested persons, particularly in relation to the influx of Puerto Ricans.

From time to time the Migrant Labor Bureau tries to make it clear that it makes no certifications to bring migrants into the state for farm jobs. This all clears through the State Employment Service, which is geared up with the Federal Department of Labor for such work. Its supervisor, Walter H. Edling, cooperates closely with our unit.

In addition to the farm placement services available in 36 year-round employment offices in the state, two seasonal stations, specially for migrants, were opened at Windsor and Pemberton. The Bureau of Employment Service Field Operations reported for last year that there were about 25,000 year-round workers on farms throughout the State. The seasonal demand beginning with asparagus late in April required between 16 and 17 thousand workers, consisting of Puerto Ricans, foreign workers, southern migrants, day-haul and local workers. Seasonal employment reached peak in July and remained high during August and September. Standard clearance procedures were used in either obtaining workers from other states or referring workers to other areas. A work guide entitled "New Jersey Crop and Farm Guide" was widely distributed to migrant crews. All southern crew leaders except two were Negro. All crew members were Negro and about 75% male. It was noticed that there were fewer women and children under legal working age than in previous years. Nearly all crews worked in states south of New Jersey, although a few crews came here directly from Florida long before peak season. The local offices have records of 170 crews. It is probable that there were about 200 crews operating in the State.

The fall of 1950 was made eventful by the visit of the President's Commission on Migratory Labor to New Jersey. It conducted public hearings for two days at the State House on September 5 and 6, and spent another day in the field visiting migrant camps in the Bridgeton and Glassboro

areas. Some of the members of the Board and representatives of the Bureau, and also of other state agencies, growers, church and welfare organizations, and migrant crew bosses, participated in these hearings. The Commission's secretary later wrote to the Bureau that the Commission had obtained more complete information on the administration of migrant labor legislation in New Jersey than for any other state. Measured by the yardstick of the Federal Commission's survey, this State had anticipated some of the major recommendations made in that body's final 80,000 word report, which contained generous references to activities that had been initiated by the Board and Bureau for bettering working and living conditions for seasonal farm workers who come here each summer.

By 1951-52, the number of camps had grown to 2,357. A careful check showed that they had a legal capacity for sheltering 31,000 persons, while the estimated maximum number of migrants in the state was 18,000. These registered camps were composed of 4,051 units, and the Bureau's records showed that 1,180 of these had been newly constructed since 1945, while 2,317 others had been remodeled or renovated. These included 459 cinder block units, 2,850 frame and 44 metal. Out of the total number of camps, 2,020 had electricity, and water piped under pressure was furnished to 926 of them.

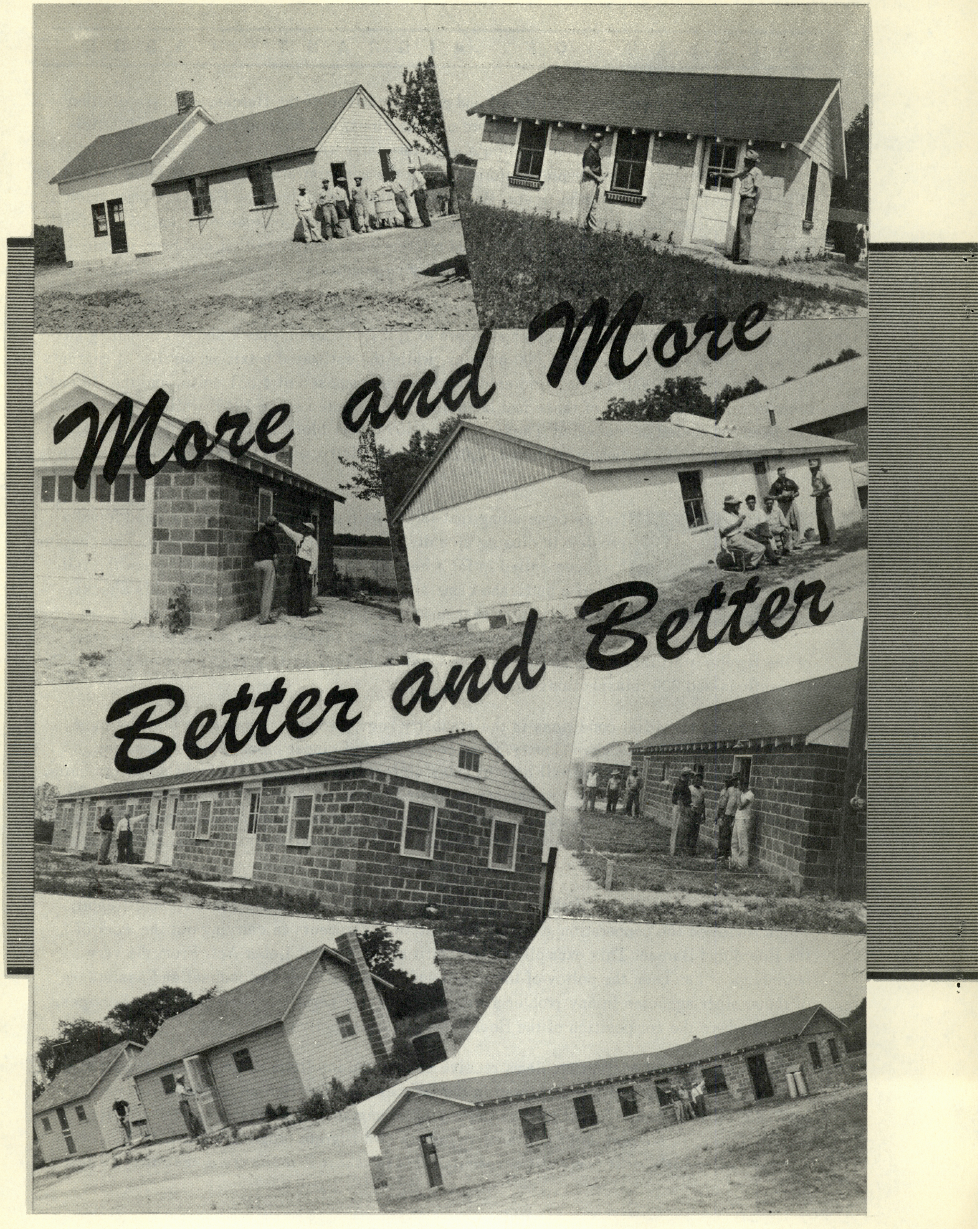
INSPECTIONS are STEPPED UP

Nature came along that fall to help out the inspectors who had found a problem in closing up a disapproved camp in Central Jersey. The operator had been called in for a hearing and had failed to appear when the tail end of a hurricane came along and completely demolished his shacks. Inspections that year numbered 3,765, with 1,152 reinspections. An increase in the number of seasonal inspectors to supplement the work of the regular staff raised the number of camps listed in 1952-53 to 2,762. To cover these, 3,951 inspections and 809 reinspections were made.

In contrast to earlier conditions in the cranberry bogs, two new camps were built by large cranberry companies in Ocean County. One, constructed of cinder block, has accommodations for 80 workers and has an over-all area of 260 x 40 feet. It is divided into eight dormitory units, 20 x 12 feet, each with its own washroom, shower, flush toilet and stationary wash stand. There is also a dining room-kitchen, 36 x 12 feet, with refrigerator and a deep freeze unit. The second camp, slightly smaller, has a capacity for 50 men and is of similar construction. Both camps are lighted by electricity and have radios and television.

"What Makes the Migrant Labor Program Tick" was the topic of the Ninth Annual Report, which reviewed the cooperation given by other state departments in carrying out the work of the Board and Bureau. This exemplifies the spirit of the Migrant Labor Act. From the very beginning, it has been the policy of the Board and Bureau to seek the counsel and assistance of these other agencies in any problems with migrants that pertain to their particular services. Here is where the composition of the Board proves very effective.

Virtually all vital migrant problems receive prompt and intelligent attention by reason of the wide scope of the authority represented in the membership. The Bureau maintains its important role as a clearing house for all matters pertaining to migrants. The Wisconsin Commission on Human Rights, in a report as part of a survey of its own migrant program, stated, *"New Jersey's Migrant Labor Act's most important accomplishment is that it establishes a centralized agency*


More and More
Better and Better


Labor Camps
in
New Jersey

whose sole purpose is to concern itself with migrant labor. It is apparent that the New Jersey program is a good one and is getting results."

SCHOOL DOORS open FOR MIGRANTS

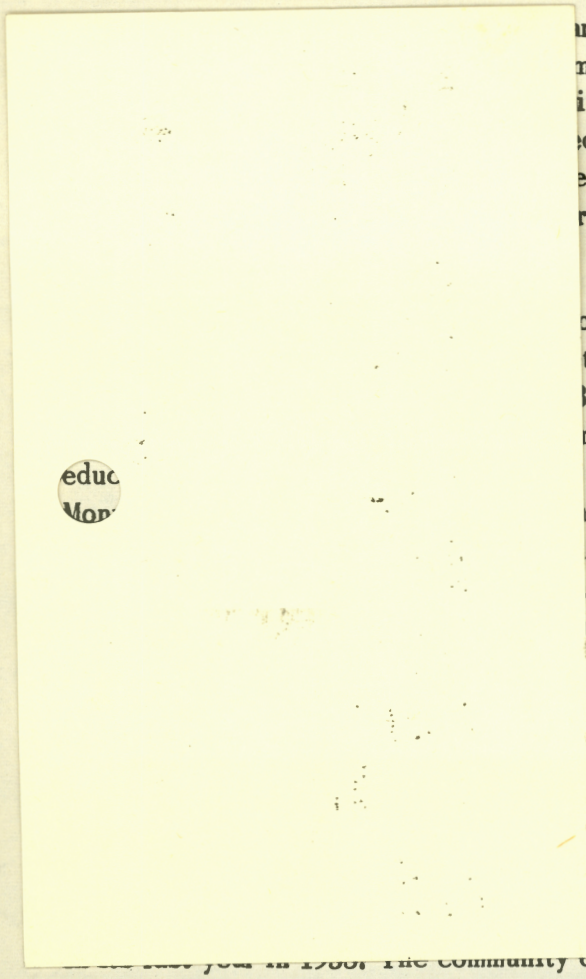
For seven summers a demonstration school for children of migratory farm workers has been held in Monmouth County under the auspices of the Migrant Labor Board and Bureau, with the cooperation of the State Department of Education and local school boards. Funds for this project have been provided by the State Legislature in its annual appropriations to the migrant program. Certificated teachers have been selected by Thomas J. Durell, Assistant Commissioner of Education, who has had supervision of the migrant school ever since it was started, and who in recent years has also been chairman of the Education Committee of the Migrant Labor Board. Both he and Colonel Charles H. Schoeffel, then superintendent of the State Police, and first chairman of the Education Committee, did pioneer work in trying to break down community prejudices and find places where the school could be operated successfully with community approval.

The first of these projects was conducted at the Court Street School at Freehold in the summer of 1947. Miss Myrtle M. Townsend, a helping teacher in Camden County, was the first director. She was assisted by a staff of four teachers, and the first year's enrollment numbered 68 children from nearby camps.

That first summer set up the major objectives of the school in helping the migrant children to catch up to some degree in their elementary training, particularly in reading and number work, learning to tell time and make change, and the bringing out of natural musical talents through folk songs and rhythm bands. The social attitudes were also developed, such as courtesy, personal neatness, keeping classrooms and grounds tidy, sharing toys and food with others and learning something of the reasons and rewards in the crop harvesting occupations of their parents.

In the second summer Miss Townsend was unable to return to the migrant school because of other duties and Mrs. Dorothy S. Jackson, then a helping teacher in Mercer County and now in Somerset, accepted the assignment as director in 1948. She has continued in that post ever since. A survey was made of 30 camps in the Freehold area and from these, 65 children were enrolled in the school. In that year, the National Education Association cited the school as a pattern for the education of migrant children. The New York Times ran an editorial on the school, and this read in part:

> *"Since it is supposed to be the only school of its kind in the United States, it now may well serve as an example that will be copied elsewhere. Inquiries already have been received from such distant farm centers as Kansas and California.*
>
> *"While the state's basic curriculum was used as a guide for instruction, the teaching program was kept flexible enough to serve individual and group needs. Emphasis in the instruction very properly was placed on the special social pattern of the migrant. A 'migrant home' was arranged in one classroom. One index of the success of the school's work was that students themselves proved most enthusiastic. The Migrant Labor Bureau of New Jersey's Department of Labor, and the State Department of Education, sponsors of this educational project, have done an excellent job."*



rs the school continued at Freehold but there was a
ner of 1950 due to a cut in the state appropriation for
is educational program was resumed in 1951 at the behest
d individuals and organizations. A citation honoring
encouragement and interest in the migrant educational
rded at the fiftieth anniversary session of the New Jersey

ow and it was found necessary to find another location
t School was taken over by the Freehold Board of
oth the board and the community had been very coopera-
nade with much regret by those who had worked on the
of Joseph Clayton, then superintendent of schools in
ed from the Millstone Township Board of Education to
neville. As it was not possible to find still another
ools was reconsidered. Instead, the program was ex-
n enrollment of more than 100 migrant children. The
sed to six teachers. Three buses were operated to
amps.

tration school at Freehold, a migrant family center was
Willette, a member of the Board, with the aid of a
community need for migrant mothers and their small
summer until it was necessary to move the school
od, from the migrant school staff, directed the center
committee is planning for its own vacation school for
migrant children in a local church this summer.

Junior Red Cross chapters from several schools throughout the state made very helpful contributions to the migrant school program through the providing of hundreds of gift boxes, stuffed toys, layettes and other small garments. These have been repeated year after year as the school has convened.

In close cooperation with the school has been the migrant health program. Each year all the children in the school have been given medical and physical examinations through the cooperation of the State Department of Health. A school nurse has also been on call at the school, and the 1954 program contemplates daily services of such a nurse, who will also visit the camps from which the pupils come.

This migrant health program was one of the early steps initiated by the Board and Bureau. A health survey was conducted at the request of the Board and with the cooperation of the late Dr. J. Lynn Mahaffey, then State Director of Health, by Dr. Marie A. Sena, from his department. She presented a 32-page report on her findings among migrants in the rural counties. The survey reviewed the medical, dental and nursing needs of these seasonal workers and their families and also the availability of hospital facilities, clinics and other medical services. To assist in coordinating this work, Mrs. Maude H. Fullmer was appointed supervisor of case work in the Migrant Labor Division, now Bureau, in December, 1945. She continued in this role until the following summer when she moved to New England.

For the first few years, the Health Department operated its migrant clinics with funds provided by the Migrant Labor Board from its legislative appropriation. Later, the Health Department, at its own request, had the migrant health program included in its own budget and it has continued to operate on that basis and has conducted summer clinics in the more important rural centers. These have been principally for the control of venereal diseases but have also included physical examinations and diagnoses.

HEALTH AID moves OUT TO CAMPS

Nine health clinics were conducted in 1946-47 through the State Health Department and also the Atlantic Seaboard Agricultural Workers Health Association, Inc., which at that time had responsibility for health services in the three large Federal labor camps. When these camps closed, the Migrant Labor Bureau negotiated the purchase of all clinical supplies, along with a clinic trailer, from the Federal Government. All the supplies and equipment, with an estimated value of $5000, were sold to the Bureau for $275 , and the trailer, valued at more than $1000, for $300, with the understanding that they were to be used for health work among migrants in New Jersey.

Dr. David Hersh was the first director of these migrant clinics and outstanding work was also done by Henry Cowan, who laid out the field programs for the Health Department. More recently, Dr. Hugh D. Palmer, Southern District Health Officer, has been the director, and he now shares that responsibility with Dr. Jesse Aronson, Central District Health Officer. Dr. J. Earle Stuart is the coordinator of the Migrant Health Program.

The Red Cross has also participated in the work among migrants and has given first aid demonstrations and shown moving pictures on health and accident prevention. Also cooperative with the health program through the years has been the Monmouth County Organization for Social Services.

New Jersey stood well in the front when these projects for migrants were reviewed on a regional basis at a conference held in the spring of 1954 by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, on May 17, 18 and 19, in Washington. Recommendations made at this conference of more than 175 representatives from states along the Eastern Seaboard will be aimed at encouraging greater cooperation among the Atlantic Coast states and participation by Federal agencies in improving the lot of the migrants in this region.

This Bureau discovered, however, very early that the surveys are not enough and that the only way to actually know just what the situation is like is to go out and visit the camps both big and little, and to point out to the operators just what improvements are necessary in order to comply with the minimum standards of the Migrant Labor Code.

Inspection of camps is the backbone of the state's migrant program. Without it, conditions in the camps would speedily deteriorate to their previous low standards. The value of such regular inspections has been reflected in the continued improvement of the camps, the erection of more new quarters and the renovating of old camps, with the Bureau in extreme cases condemning some structures no longer fit for human habitation. New inspections are made each season of all camps, regardless of what their rating may have been in previous years. A further policy has been adopted in having as many camps as possible visited by inspectors during the cold weather. Suggestions


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FARM WORKERS
HEALTH CLINIC
NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

are then made to the operators as to any changes that may be needed to have the camps fully approved, so that this work can be done in advance of the busy season. Crews are also encouraged to clean the camps before they leave at the end of the season.

INSTRUCTIONS for INSPECTORS

In order to complete the office records as to the types and layouts of camps, the inspectors are briefed during the winter in the making of simple sketches of buildings. This work is largely done while the camps are closed so as not to slow up inspections when the migrants are in quarters. Refresher courses for inspectors are also conducted periodically.

Farm camps are by far the most numerous but there are also several large barracks at canneries and processing plants, with others at fisheries and oyster shucking centers and still more in some of the industries where seasonal workers are employed. Seventeen railroad camps are also under frequent inspection.

How these inspections have grown is indicated in the ten years' record of the Bureau. There were just 44 preliminary inspections in the spring of 1945, while in 1953-54 the peak of 4,728 inspections and reinspections was reached by the corps of field men. As previously stated, the total number of inspections in the last decade has been 26,132.

Various steps have been taken to encourage the erection of new camps. Assistance in this respect was given by J. C. Taylor, State Supervisor, Emergency Farm Labor Extension Service, who in 1947, arranged for the printing of four different sets of plans for migrant housing. These were made available to the Bureau and they were widely distributed among farmers who housed their own seasonal help. Mr. Taylor was most cooperative with the Bureau during those early years before he left this work.

Results of a survey started this spring to determine the full details of new camps and camp improvements are still to be tabulated. More than a third of the migrant camps now in operation have been erected since the state's program was started, and more than half of the housing units then in existence have since been remodeled. All camp units listed in 1953 numbered 4,251, and these included 904 cinder block units, 3,083 frame and 46 metal. Nearly half of them, or 2,071, had electricity and 1,334 had water piped under pressure. The new survey will show definite increases in these figures.

Even with the construction of this new housing, the problem remains to see that the workers make proper use of the accommodations provided for them by their employers. Wanton misuse and destruction by the occupants in too many of the camps have been discouraging features of the migrant program. How to ultimately solve this problem will require the combined efforts of the State, camp owners, workers and the welfare agencies operating among them.

Many of these people come from areas where the living standards are below those found in New Jersey. There are also old habits and customs to be broken down. For instance, the Puerto Ricans come here largely as individual males. They have to make their beds and do their own cooking, something to which they are not accustomed in their home island, where the women do all the household work. In general, these island workers are pretty poor housekeepers, and this is reflected in conditions found even in well constructed camps.

Supervision has helped to solve this situation in the bigger camps but the problem still remains in a majority of the smaller camps where these workers are largely on their own. Here is where most of the farmers have found periodic visits by the state inspector helpful, but it still remains their own responsibility to see that the camps are kept in good order.

ATTITUDES pose PROBLEMS

Behavior attitudes of the migrants have also given concern to some communities. All migrants should not be indicted for what a small segment of their number does in lawlessness and rowdyism. The situation is probably no worse than that found in a similar population strata in the big cities. It must be faced, however, and in one county the farmers are realizing their own responsibility and are setting about to try to remedy the situation. Some other communities that exist largely because of the profits from the harvests the migrants gather are also learning that it will be to their interest to act in a constructive rather than in a critical way. State and local police have done effective work in curbing minor disturbances among migrants. Colonel Snook, Superintendent of the State Police, reports that there has been a definite decrease in major crimes among these people during the past year.

Further problems have also been presented by the newly-arrived Puerto Ricans buying second hand cars and driving on the highways before they are fully acquainted with traffic regulations. After accumulating a few weeks' pay, these workers too often fall easy prey to unscrupulous car lot operators. They are permitted to drive away cars from these lots without proper instruction as to the rules of the road and sometimes even without a driver's license. Some bad accidents and numerous arrests of migrant workers for traffic violations have been the result. Here again the State Police have sought to correct the situation. They have circulated 15,000 leaflets, in both Spanish and English, explaining traffic laws and this summer they are also planning a series of safety talks in several of the migrant centers.

In concluding this review of the decade of work with the migrants, the Bureau and its supervisor desire to express appreciation to those who have made possible the development of the program that has made New Jersey outstanding in this endeavor;

to those who cleared the ground through their legislative and administrative assistance;

to those who have helped build through their services on the Board or through their cooperation in the various state departments and agencies;

to those of our staff, past and present, who have so well aided in rounding out the structure as a whole by enthusiastic and loyal devotion to their duties in both office and field.

— oOo —

ITEMS IN WHICH CHANGES WERE RECOMMENDED AFTER INSPECTIONS OF CAMPS IN 1953-54

1st Inspection		*Reinspection*
640	Cleanliness	336
1354	Toilets	494
310	Water	65
622	Quarters	221
206	Sleeping	25
98	Cooking	33
369	Fire Protection	47
116	Register	20
767	Screens	135
643	Others	138
5125		1514

BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

JOHN G. SHOLL, *Supervisor*

Mrs. June B. Smith ..... Secretary to the Supervisor
Miss Jane Poinsett ..... Clerk-stenographer
Miss Shirley Yank ..... Seasonal Assistant (1954)

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Leon A. Rennebaum
Edmund J. Farrell
Hobart R. Cunningham
Fred B. Metler
Joseph V. Martin
Merrill Richardson x

SEASONAL INSPECTORS

Morris M. Agress
Varian L. Berry
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MIGRANT MINIATURES

Motel accommodations are provided for seasonal workers on a *Cape May County* farm. This almost new frame building, 12 x 26 ft., with white asbestos shingle siding, was purchased by the employer and moved to this farm. The interior is lined and the facilities include electricity, gas for cooking, sink, wash stand, flush hopper, shower, a separate kitchen, and also a screened in porch.

Mexicans came into New Jersey in rather large numbers during the war but they worked exclusively in railroad camps. The first Mexican crew of farm workers was located in *Salem County* this year. The group included 15 members, counting children. They originally came from Texas. After working in New Jersey, they go to Florida in the winter with other migrant crews.

In *Central Jersey*, the first crew from the Midwest was discovered this spring. These migrants said that they had been potato pickers in Iowa and had heard of good working conditions in New Jersey, so came on here for the first time. They indicated that they would be back next year with other crews from that area.

Double Trouble doesn't indicate anything sinister in a camp near a village by that name in *Ocean County*. Here a new four-stall shower building has been erected with hot and cold running water. An oil heating system has also been installed for the comfort of the workers during chilly weather.

Television sets are becoming more common in the larger camps and provide entertainment for the migrants after work hours. The Puerto Ricans enjoy watching the ball games and other sports but they still have a leaning toward juke boxes with Spanish airs.

More and more camps are being painted each year, both on the inside and the outside. This is the project that has been urged by the Bureau to improve the appearance of quarters for the migrants. It has also proved a big factor in helping to keep the camps cleaner.

An electric refrigerator has been provided for each apartment in a five-apartment camp building erected during the year in *Camden County*. This is a cinder block structure, 20 x 75 ft. In addition to electric lights there is gas for cooking, also showers for the workers and even awnings over the windows.

A large quonset hut is an innovation among camps in *Gloucester County*. This is of metal construction, virtually fireproof, and has modern facilities for the comfort of the workers.

Another camp in *Gloucester County* has plans for landscaping with plantings of evergreens and flowers to make the grounds attractive, and cement walks to the quarters. In carrying this out nothing has been spared for the convenience of the workers themselves, who have television, radio, electric range and refrigerator and also an electric washing machine.

A new type of construction for migrant camps is found in quarters, 20 x 40 ft., built with waylite blocks on an *Atlantic County* farm. This camp also has an all electric setup including cooking stove and washing machine.

Although the new Garden State Parkway cut through the site of their old camp, organized growers in upper *Monmouth County* have come back with an even better camp for their Puerto Rican workers. These new quarters are more modern and attractive than the original ones.

BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

New Jersey

INSPECTED CAMPS BY COUNTIES

County	Number of Camps 1953-54	1952-53
Atlantic	209	196
Bergen	46	38
Burlington	242	238
Camden	88	59
Cape May	43	32
Cumberland	423	410
Essex	8	8
Gloucester	581	560
Hudson	2	4
Hunterdon	15	14
Mercer	103	115
Middlesex	143	164
Monmouth	252	325
Morris	31	29
Ocean	139	158
Passaic	28	21
Salem	312	320
Somerset	8	6
Sussex	6	4
Union	11	10
Warren	27	34
	2707	2745
Railroad Camps	18	17
	2725	2762

