

MEN IN CAMP

N.J. State emergency relief administration
1936

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MEN IN CAMP

A SURVEY OF THE MEN
IN NEW JERSEY TRANSIENT CAMPS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EMERGENCY RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

MARCH 1936

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State of New Jersey
Emergency Relief Administration

M E N I N C A M P

A Survey of the Men
in New Jersey Transient Camps

Bureau of Transients
Cornell B. Braisted, State Manager
Nelson C. Jackson, Special Projects Supervisor

March, 1936

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20 Washington Place
Newark, New Jersey
March 24, 1936

Mr. Albert H. Hedden
State Director
Emergency Relief Administration
20 Washington Place
Newark, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Hedden:

In a relief program it is very difficult to measure the successful operation of one system or another. The only way in which we can determine the degree of skill or judgment which has been used is to study the result of what has been done. This we have tried to do in the report "Men in Camp."

The basis of the Transient Program was individualized service, though care was given on a congregate basis. The selection of men referred to the camps was based on the judgment of our Bureau Supervisors as to whether or not the men would benefit from the type of service rendered in the camps and whether or not they would fit into the program without detriment to themselves.

In looking back over the results, we attempted to determine whether or not there was any particular effect of camp life on men of various ages, whether the length of time they had been away from home affected their reaction to camp, and whether the marital status of these men in any way affected their attitudes toward camp life. In similar fashion, we studied the relationship of schooling, length of transiency, distance traveled, etc., to the effect of camp on these men.

May I point out that the camps differ radically in their physical set-up, in the leadership displayed, in the morale of the men in the camps and in their attitude toward the program. In spite of this fact, the answers to the questions were amazingly uniform. I should like to give credit to the judgment of the Supervisors of the Bureaus on the reasonably good selection as shown in the results.

Our thanks are due to the Research Division for its assistance in analyzing and editing this report.

The clients themselves speak to indicate whether or not our program of selection in the Transient Bureau has been effectively carried out and whether or not they have benefited to some extent. You may find their comments interesting reading.

Yours very truly

CORNELL B. BRAISTED
State Manager
Bureau of Transients

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the survey "Men in Camp" is (1) to ascertain the results, if any, of our method of selecting men for camp treatment; (2) to secure background information on this group of men; and (3) to determine what has been their reaction to camp life with regard to attitudes, disposition toward work and extent of rehabilitation. In short, we wished to know the answer to the question: "Is camp life a useful treatment?"

Trips were made to each of the camps to confer with the camp directors and officers regarding the project and the methods suggested by them were used in composing the questionnaire. The questionnaire was issued to the men in the camps and filled in by them.

Questionnaires were completed during the last week of October and the first week of November 1935, and were returned to State Headquarters.

On October 25th, the total strength of all camps was 815 men. Seven hundred and twenty-six forms were returned. Thus the report deals with 89% of the total number of transients in the one city camp and six rural camps in the State. Further, the camp population represents roughly between 10 and 15 per cent of the total number of transients cared for in the State during any one month. Certain men were sent to camp because they, in the opinion of the workers in the Transient Bureaus, were best fitted physically and mentally to benefit by the services offered.

The information secured on the schedules and summarized in this report is not verified, so that in each instance there is some basis for doubt. However, it is believed that the data are as nearly authentic as any similar data concerning transiency are likely to be.

There is no attempt made here to discuss the several camps individually as regards location, costs, and plant and equipment, as these data have been considered in previous reports.

Since this survey was made during the period of transfer to the Works Progress Administration of men eligible for work and as our jurisdiction ended with that transfer, no recommendations are made. However, there are certain definite conclusions that have been reached which are important enough to be pointed out.

Nelson C. Jackson
Special Projects Supervisor
Bureau of Transients

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The results of this survey seem to indicate that camp treatment is of definite value. About seventy per cent of the men feel that they have gained either physically or mentally by being in camp. Twenty-seven per cent neither gained nor lost and only three per cent felt that they had lost.

It is felt that these men will definitely welcome the opportunity for work on W.P.A. projects and the majority should continue to work until the projects are completed.

1. The most outstanding fact unearthed by this survey is that the transient camp population in New Jersey comes largely from New York and Pennsylvania. These two states are represented by well over half the total number of men in camp. This appears to be a basis for approach by an interstate group interested in deterring transiency.
2. Ninety-three per cent are white and seven per cent are Negroes. Of the total number seventeen per cent are foreign born.
3. Three-fifths of the total number of men in camps began their migration during 1934 and 1935, while one-half left places of legal residence during 1935.
4. Unemployment was reported by ninety-three per cent of the men as the major cause for beginning migration. This percentage is higher than that given by Federal reports for transiency for the country at large.
5. Forty per cent of the camp enrollees reported they were without homes. This condition causes many complications in attempting rehabilitative steps for this group.
6. A small number were relief recipients before coming to New Jersey, which would seem to indicate that transiency is a means toward escaping embarrassing situations encountered at home.
7. Two and seven-tenths months are the median length of stay in camps. This represents a normal trend.

Place of last residence, year of last residence and age do not affect length of stay in camp to an appreciable degree.

8. The median age of the campers is 37 years. This average is about three years higher than the median age of all transients applying for care in the State. A correlation of age and education shows that the highest educational status was attained

by the groups from 25 - 39 years of age. About seventeen per cent reported schooling above the eighth grade, while the group from 25 - 34 years reported the largest number of persons of college rank.

9. Occupational skills among the transient men were varied, the majority being semi-skilled and unskilled workers. Of the many who took to the road after seemingly exhausting every resource at home in an effort to secure work, only twenty per cent were able to find work in their travels.
10. Because of the care used in sending men to camp the results of this survey indicate that most of these men are employable. There are few physical handicaps and all are willing to work.

THE REPORT

Composition and Characteristics of Men in Camp

The classification of the men in camp according to color and nativity shows that the camp population is predominantly native white. Seventeen per cent are foreign-born and seven per cent are Negroes. The foreign-born are less in proportion to the camp, than to the State, population, while the percentage of Negroes is slightly above State population statistics but well below general relief figures.

One outstanding fact unearthed by the report is that 43.9% of the foreign-born men in camp were of Irish descent, whereas they represent only 10% of the foreign element in the State population. Another item worthy of mention is the fact that while Italians comprise 23.4% of the foreign persons in the State population, there are less than 5% in the foreign group in camp. No doubt the fact that the latter group has very closely knit family ties is a reason for this condition. On the other hand, a probable cause for the large number of other foreign groups is the close proximity to New Jersey of New York City and Philadelphia, both immigration centers.

Table 1

COMPARISON OF THE STATE POPULATION AND MEN IN CAMP ACCORDING TO COLOR AND NATIVITY

(Percentage Distribution)

	<u>STATE *</u>	<u>CAMP</u>
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
Native White Parentage	35.5	42.4
Native White of Foreign or Mixed Parentage	29.9	33.5
Foreign Born	29.4	17.0
Negro	5.2	7.1

* Males over 15 years of age in 1930 census.

Table 2

FOREIGN MALE STOCK BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
FOR THE STATE POPULATION AND MEN IN CAMP

(Percentage Distribution)

<u>COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>FOREIGN BORN</u>		<u>NATIVE WHITE OF FOREIGN OR MIXED PARENTAGE</u>	
	<u>STATE</u>	<u>CAMP</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>CAMP</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>CAMP</u>
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
England	6.4	3.6	5.7	5.0	6.8	3.3
Scotland	3.0	2.7	3.9	2.4	2.5	2.9
Wales	.3	.9	.2	-	.3	1.2
Ireland	10.0	43.9	5.9	36.8	12.8	47.5
Norway	.7	1.1	1.0	1.6	.6	.8
Sweden	1.4	.9	1.7	.8	1.1	.8
Denmark	.7	1.1	.9	3.2	.5	-
Netherlands	1.8	1.1	1.9	2.4	1.7	.5
Belgium	.3	.3	.4	.8	.3	-
Switzerland	.9	.5	1.0	1.6	.8	-
France	1.3	.9	1.2	1.6	1.3	.5
Germany	14.9	11.9	13.3	9.8	16.0	12.9
Poland	11.8	7.2	12.0	9.0	11.6	6.3
Czechoslovakia	3.6	1.1	3.7	1.6	3.6	.8
Austria	2.8	3.0	2.7	3.2	2.8	2.9
Hungary	3.2	.5	3.7	1.6	2.9	-
Yugoslavia	.3	-	.4	-	.3	-
Russia	6.7	3.0	7.5	2.4	6.2	3.3
Lithuania	1.0	2.7	1.2	2.4	.9	2.9
Finland	.3	.3	.2	.8	.1	-
Roumania	.7	.3	.7	-	.5	.5
Greece	.5	-	.9	-	.4	-
Italy	23.4	4.9	24.3	5.7	22.8	4.5
Spain	.5	.3	.9	-	.1	.5
Portugal	.3	-	.6	-	.1	-
Palestine and Syria	.2	-	.4	-	.3	-
Turkey	.1	-	.4	-	.3	-
Canada	1.7	7.2	1.7	5.7	1.7	7.9
Central and South America	.3	.3	.4	.8	.1	-
All Other Countries	.9	.3	1.2	.8	.8	-

Percentages for the State are taken from the Population Bulletin of the Fifteenth Census of the United States - 1930.

Marital Status

Eighty per cent of the men in camp reported that they were single. This is more than twice the proportion reported for the State population. The number married, but separated, in camps is small as compared with the resident group. This is the more striking when it is realized that thirty-seven years is the average age of the men in camp.

In analyzing the causes of separations, most were attributed to the financial conditions at home. A few men felt that there would be some opportunity for work away from home and decided on a temporary separation, fully intending to reunite with their families when work was found to support them. There were a few instances of adultery and incompatibility as predisposing factors of separation.

Table 3

COMPARISON OF THE MARITAL STATUS OF THE MALE POPULATION 15 YEARS AND OVER IN THE STATE AND MEN IN CAMP

Based on 709 Camp Cases

(Percentage Distribution)

<u>MARITAL STATUS</u>	<u>STATE*</u>	<u>CAMP</u>
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
Single	34.7	79.6
Married	60.6	8.6
Widowed	4.2	3.5
Divorced	.5	8.3

Place of Birth and Legal Residence

One important item noted is the basic stability of the men in camp. Most of them were born or settled in the eastern section of the United States and had lived there continuously until they became transients. One-fifth of the men were born in Pennsylvania, while one-fourth of them migrated from that State. Fourteen per cent were born in New York and 28.7% migrated therefrom.

Persons born in foreign countries numbered 17%. Most of these were from Europe. Since it is logical to assume that they settled in the East, principally in New York and Philadelphia, the increase in persons migrating from these states may be largely accounted for in this

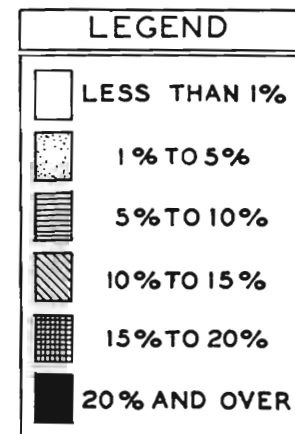
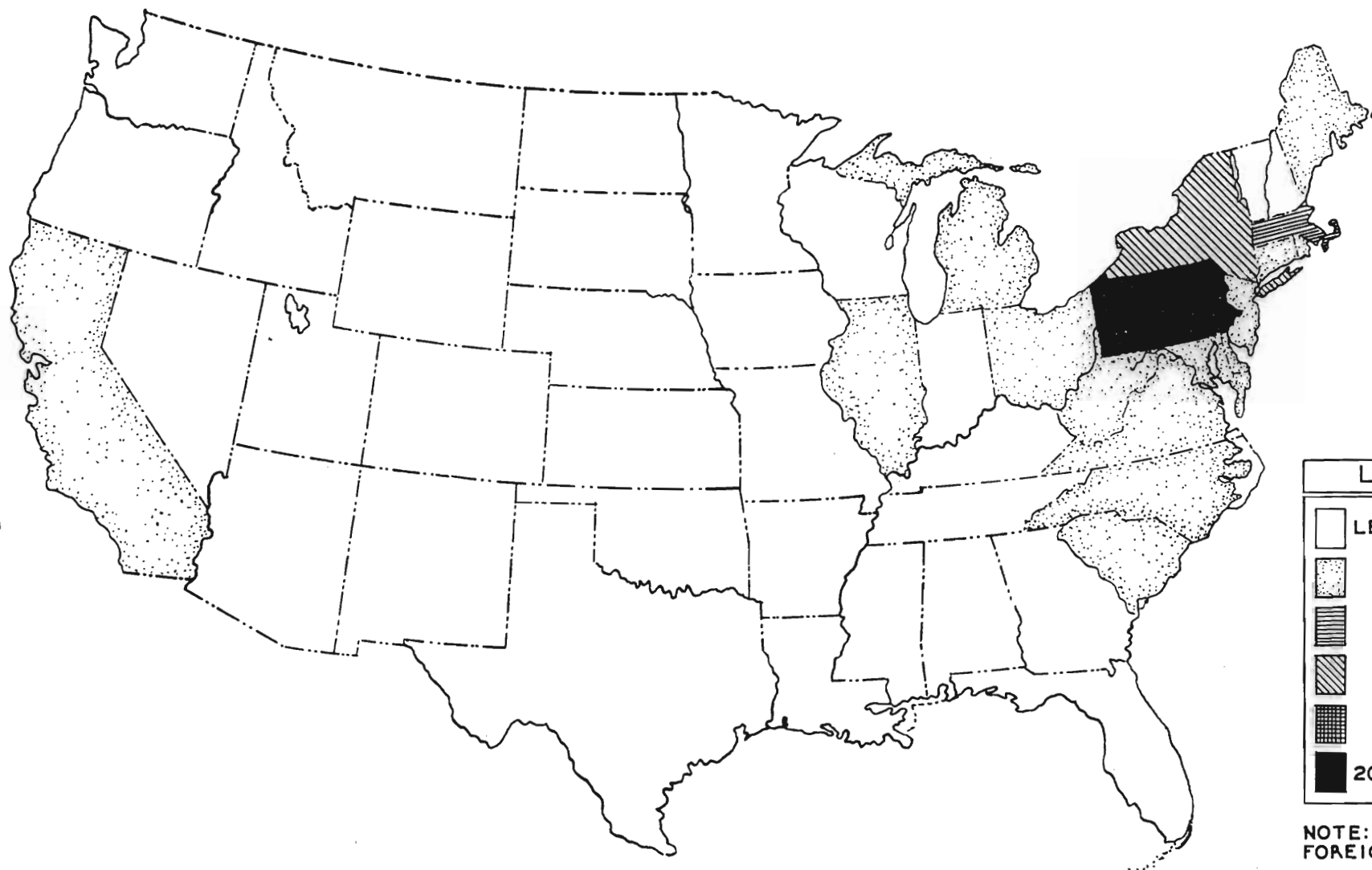
*Statistics for the State from 1930 Census.

manner. Furthermore, since spheres of migration generally follow routes of transportation, and as the trend in recent years has been toward urban areas and away from rural sections, it is understandable that a concentration in Pennsylvania and New York from states along the Atlantic seaboard should be noted. The two exceptions are Florida and California. C. W. Thornwaite in "Internal Migration in the United States" holds that "Only a few states have succeeded in attracting native white immigrants continuously through the whole period since 1850. In the east, Florida and New Jersey; in the west, California, Oregon and Arizona."

From the foregoing information, it appears that men from Pennsylvania and New York comprise from fifty to fifty-five per cent of the unattached transients in camps in New Jersey. If it were possible to curb this group, New Jersey's problem would be lessened considerably.

On the other hand, Federal census reports for transients have indicated that there have been few periods since the inception of the program when there were as many transients in New Jersey as there were New Jersey citizens cared for in other states. This latter fact can be understood when statistics of the entire country are perused. According to John N. Webb, Research Analyst, Transient Division, F.E.R.A., "The Industrial East gave more transients to the country at large than they received."

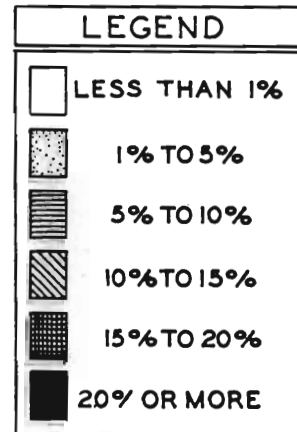
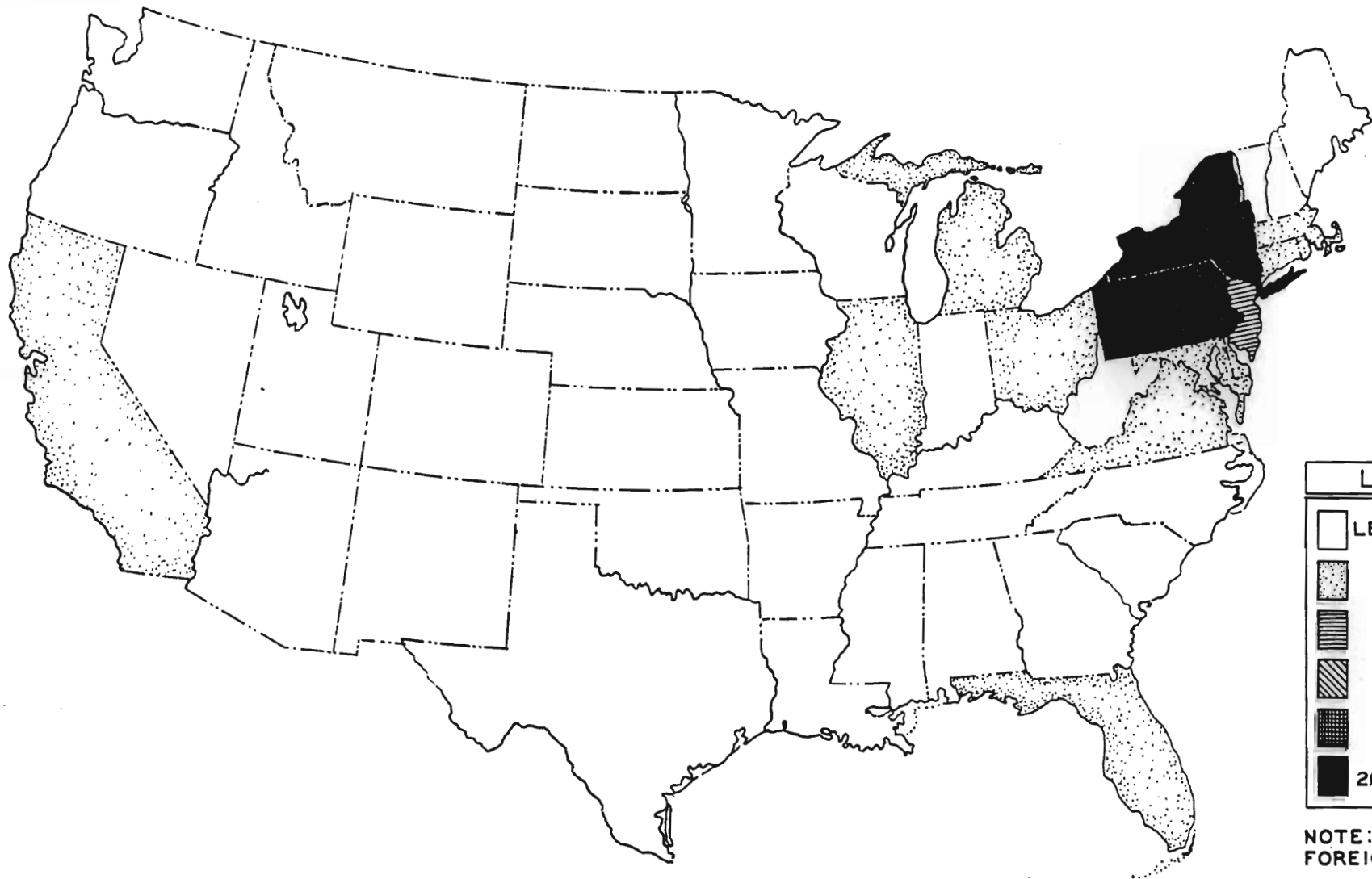
CHART I MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED BY PLACE OF BIRTH



NOTE:
FOREIGN COUNTRIES
17%

CHART 2
MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED BY LAST PLACE OF LEGAL RESIDENCE

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NOTE:
FOREIGN COUNTRIES
5%

Last Year of Legal Residence

The last year spent in a community where the requirements for residence were satisfied constitutes the last year of legal residence. Residence laws differ in most states. These differences often cause much difficulty in determining the legal status when seeking to return a transient to his home from which he has been absent for more than a year. In trying to solve the problem of transiency, it is well to take into consideration these archaic laws, many of which should be revised to meet changing conditions. The inadequacy of the current residence laws is especially apparent when they are considered in relation to persons who left home during the years before and during 1934.

Nearly three-fifths of the campers left home during 1934 and 1935, while 47.6%, or about one-half of the entire number, left during 1935. Most of those who migrated in 1935, did so during the six months before October. The remainder migrated chiefly after 1929 which indicates that the depression years were highly productive of transiency.

The following conclusions by John Webb in "Transients in November 1934" are illuminating:

"From the available data it is possible to conclude that the majority of the unattached transients remain on the road for a period not exceeding six months, that the rate of addition to the population varies with economic conditions and with the seasons, and those who remain on the road for a period longer than six months leave the transient population at a much lower rate than those whose transiency is of recent origin. The rapid turnover in the transient population indicates that transiency is at best a temporary expedient and provides no permanent resolution of their difficulties."

Reasons for Beginning Migration

Unemployment was reported by 93% of the men as the major cause for beginning migration. Four per cent left because of broken homes, and one per cent each reported inadequate relief, adventure and other reasons.

The percentage reported for unemployment is higher than that given by Federal reports for transiency in "Thirteen Cities of the United States." This higher percentage may be partially explained by the fact that in the communities where these men formerly lived, particularly in the highly industrialized and urbanized East, competition is very keen, and, too, there is more unemployment than in any other section of the country because of population density.

The following statements of the men reporting reasons for becoming transients give interesting sidelights on the situation:

A. was employed by C.W.A. When personnel was reduced, he started on the road in search of work.

C. left because he had no means of support and his relatives were unable to assist him.

F. lost his home in 1929.

H. was promised a job as linotype operator in --- City. He hitchhiked to the city but found no job waiting.

K. could get no job in his home town and thought he could better himself somewhere else.

G. got tired of soup lines and "hit the road."

L. had no work and tried to find some place where he could work his way through college.

B. was laid off E.R.A. in his community because he had no dependents.

R. was physically and mentally unable to stand the strain of hard work any longer and had no one to stay with.

S. wanted to search for a better position in order that he might marry.

T. wanted to see some of the country and wished to better his condition.

V. was dissatisfied with loafing around home.

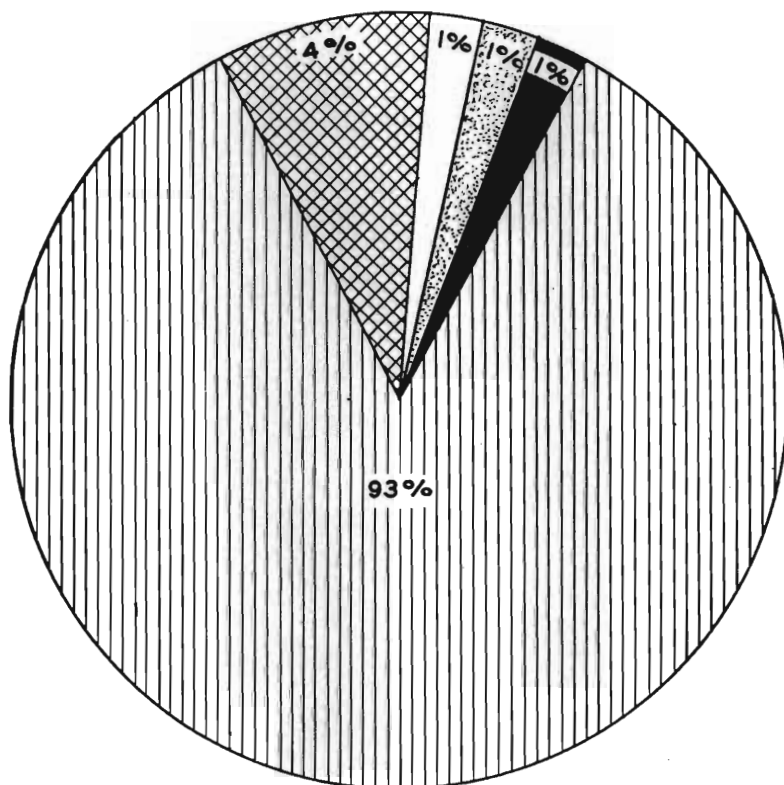
D. lived with his sister. He finally left home because he could no longer stand the dissension and argument.

E. went to sea in 1920 and has been traveling ever since.






Q. went broke using money saved looking for another job.

P. heard there was work to be found in --- City. When he arrived he could find none.

CHART 3
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**MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
REASON GIVEN FOR BEGINNING MIGRATION**



LEGEND

-  **ADVENTURE**
-  **INADEQUATE RELIEF**
-  **UNEMPLOYMENT**
-  **BROKEN HOME**
-  **OTHER CAUSES**

The Homeless

Forty per cent of the camp enrollees reported they were without homes. Unemployment becomes a more acute problem when this factor is present. It is genuinely difficult for the unattached man, who is unemployed and has a home, to secure benefits in most communities. He is often barred from jobs and relief because he has no dependents. Consider then the unemployed man who is unattached and homeless. In addition to discrimination against him in securing relief or employment, he is further handicapped by the lack of an address. It is little wonder, then, that this segment of the transient population often produces the most acute problems. A logical approach to a solution of its condition would be to stabilize the local unattached group as much as possible by including it in the programs which are now being planned for the general recovery of the country, and above all, by a discontinuance of discrimination.

Of course, only a small proportion of the camp men could qualify for C.C.C. or National Youth placement because of the age limit, so that planning must be in terms of the individual on a case work basis. Despite the age factor, 72% of the camp population would welcome a program such as C.C.C., while those who would not, express themselves as not being able to qualify, as having no relatives, or as being interested in any other camp project.

Relief Status Prior to Migration

Approximately eighty-two per cent of the camp population received no relief in their own or adopted communities before starting migration, while the remaining eighteen per cent did. The large percentage who did not receive relief partially falls into the category previously mentioned, that is, men who were refused local relief. However, a goodly number are persons who, because of pride or other circumstances, did not wish to apply for relief at home.

The history of those who were recipients of relief over the past five years disclosed that two-thirds were on relief during 1934 or 1935. If 1933 were included, the group would be increased to four-fifths of the total number. It is felt that these data tie in rather closely with the data concerning the age of beginning migration.

CHART 4

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MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO RELIEF STATUS BEFORE COMING TO NEW JERSEY

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY YEARS FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVED RELIEF

81.7% REPORTED HAVING RECEIVED NO RELIEF

18.3% REPORTED THEY RECEIVED RELIEF

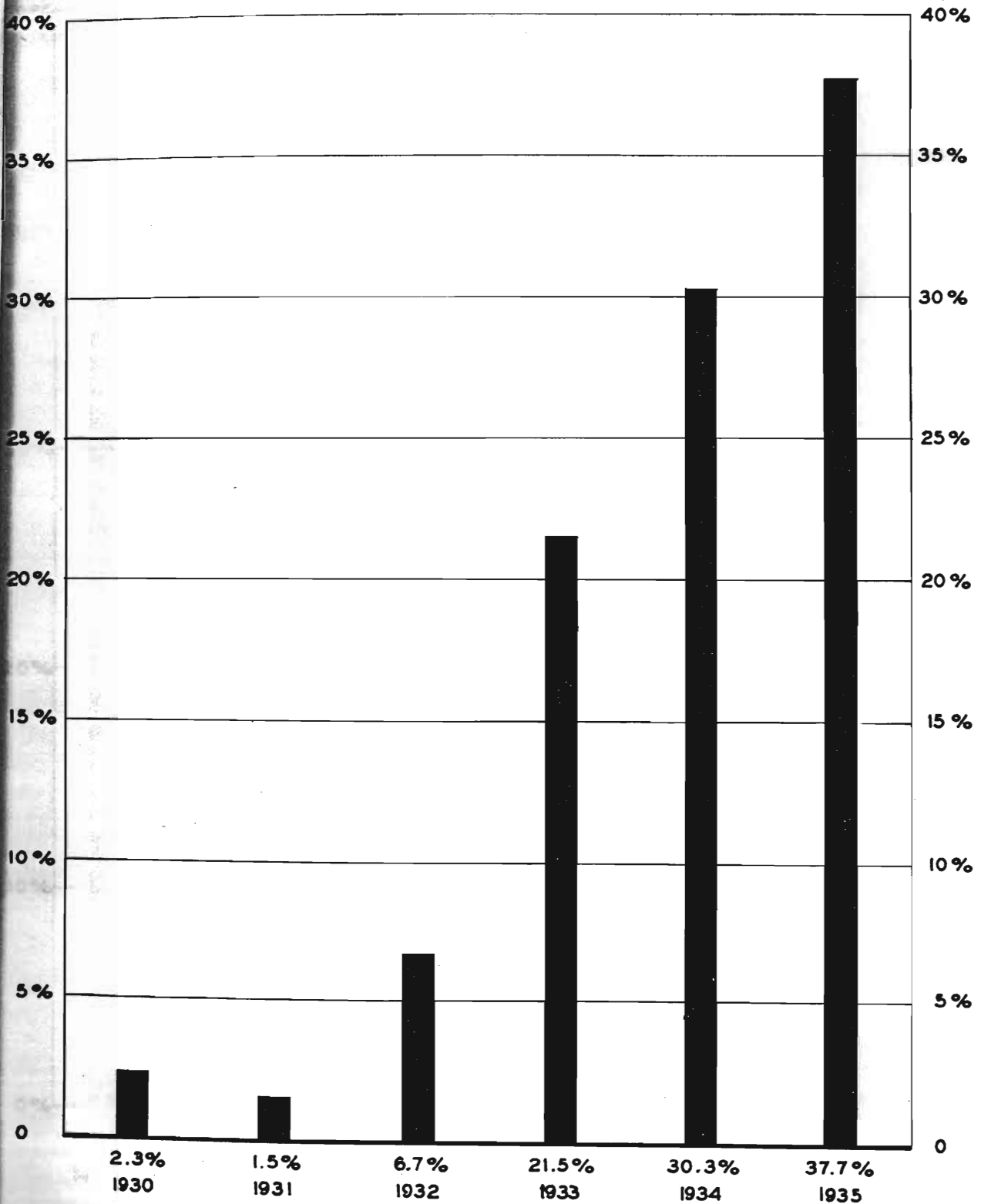
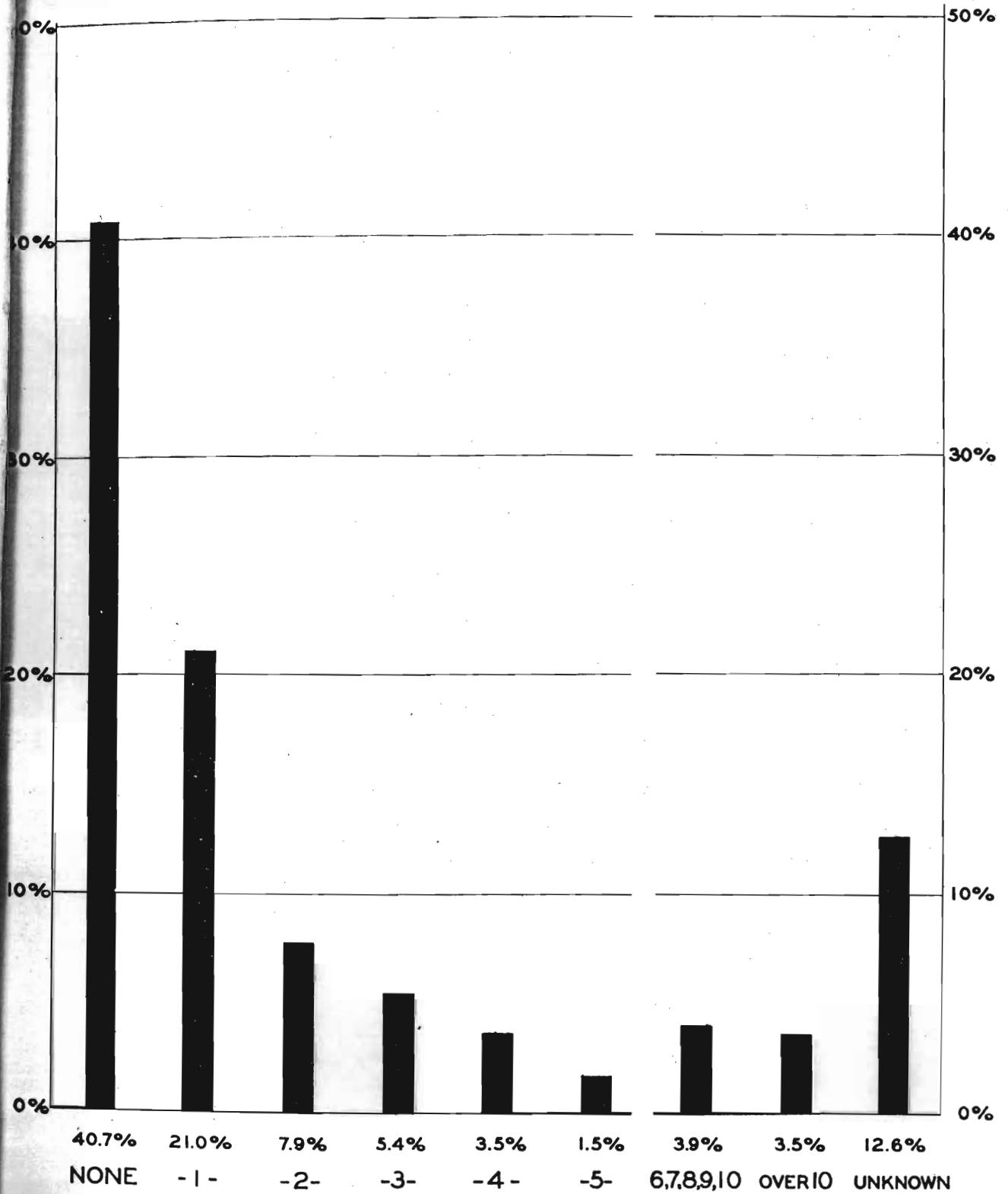


CHART 5

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MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF
SHELTERS AND CAMPS VISITED IN OTHER STATES

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION



Shelters and Camps Visited in Other States

About two-fifths of the total number of men did not receive care nor did they apply for care in any Transient Bureau or camp before coming to New Jersey. Another fifth visited only one camp or shelter. A large proportion of those who had never been in another shelter or camp came to New Jersey from adjacent areas.

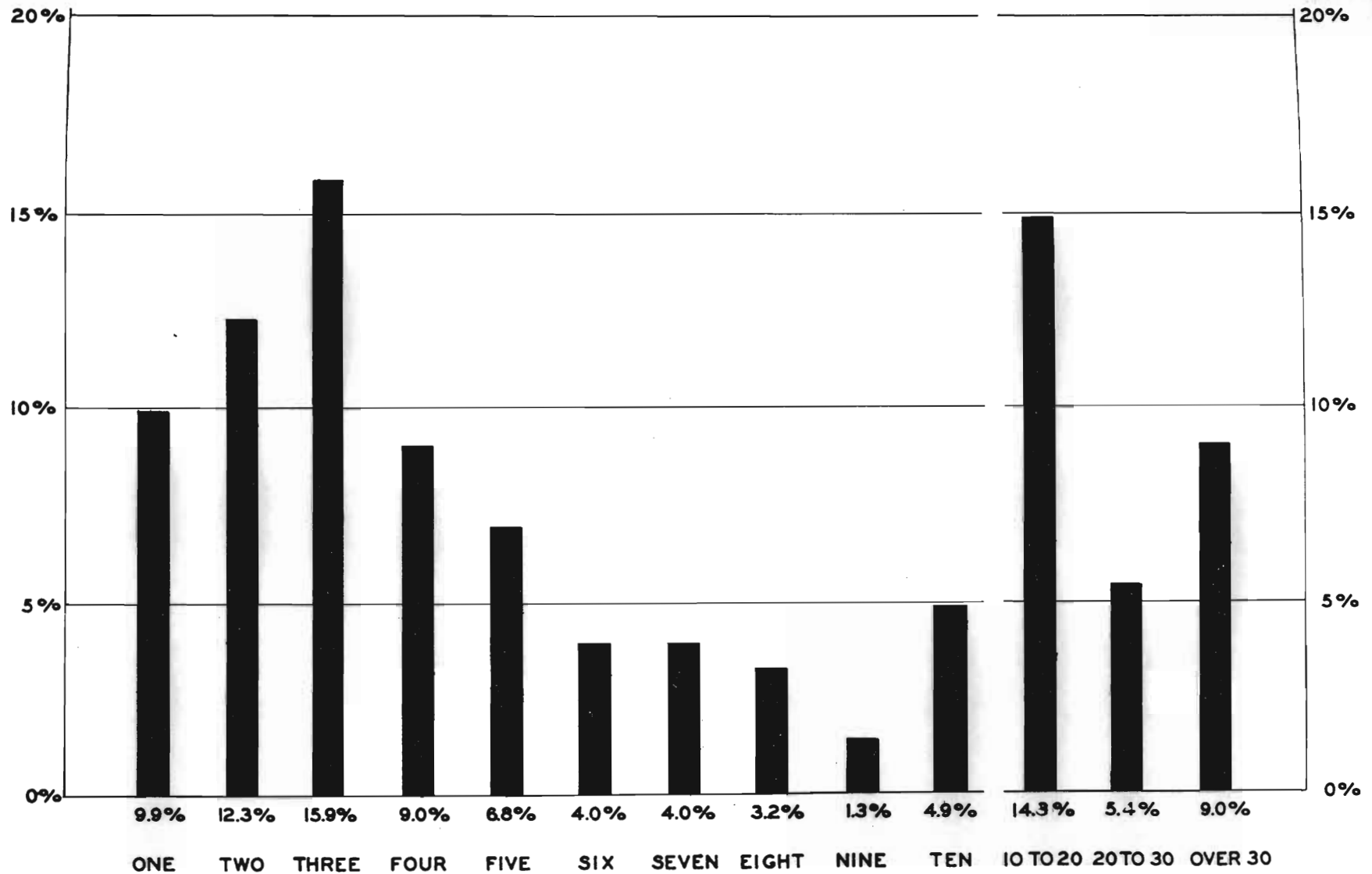
Number of States Visited

About one-half of the men in camp visited from one to four states. An additional 20.4% visited from five to eleven states. Half the remainder crossed the borders of eleven to twenty states and the small percentage left did the greatest amount of traveling. It is safe to say that the small number who had done the most traveling were those who sought adventure and those who had been on the road for the longest time.

CHART 6

MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF STATES VISITED

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Miles Traveled

It is impossible here to report the specific number of miles each man in camp has traveled. Each man had some general idea and reported to the best of his ability.

Two hundred and twenty-four times around the world approximates the total distance traveled by all men in camp. The great distance traveled is influenced largely by the 11.8% who had journeyed more than twelve thousand miles.

Over one-third traveled less than a thousand miles; another third traveled from one to four thousand miles, and the remaining third traveled more than four thousand miles. The concentration of transients who had traveled less than a thousand miles indicates that the time element plays an important part in the distances covered.

Table 4

NUMBER OF MILES MEN IN CAMP HAVE TRAVELED SINCE BEGINNING MIGRATION

(Percentage Distribution)

<u>NUMBER OF MILES TRAVELED</u>	<u>PER CENT</u>
TOTAL	100.0
Less than 100	7.0
100 - 299	8.3
300 - 499	6.9
500 - 999	13.5
1000 - 1499	10.8
1500 - 1999	4.2
2000 - 2499	8.3
2500 - 2999	2.2
3000 - 3499	5.8
3500 - 3999	1.9
4000 - 5999	8.1
6000 - 11999	11.2
12000 and over	11.8

Length of Stay in Camp

Two and a half months are the median length of stay in camp. While this average is affected somewhat by seasons, it generally represents a normal situation. There have been no periods of extensive migration from camps.

There were several correlations made in an attempt to ascertain certain factors involved in the reasons for long or short periods of stay in camp. These were, namely:

- (1) Length of stay in camp in relation to men's place of last residence.
 - (2) The relationship between the year in which the men had their last legal residence and the time they have been in camp.
 - (3) Age in relation to the length of stay in camp.
- (1) In attempting to measure the length of stay of the men in camp in relation to their place of last residence, an effort was made to determine whether transients from certain states stay longer in New Jersey than others, and whether there might have been any single periods when transients from other states would have come into New Jersey in large numbers. Generally, neither of these things has been shown by the results of the tabulation. However, one or two things do stand out.

Since the schedule was given out during a period immediately following the actual start of work assignments on W.P.A. in New York City, it is possible that the approximately 50 per cent of all the men who have been in camp one week and less than two weeks who are from New York were largely those who had been unsuccessful in being assigned to a W.P.A. job in that city, since at no other time were nearly half the transients from New York.

It is interesting to note that there is a larger representation of places of last residence in the more recent additions to camp than among those men who have been in camp a longer period of time.

- (2) The relationship between the year in which the men had their last legal residence and the time they have been in camp shows very little. It cannot be said whether men who have been on the road longer or men who have been on the road a shorter period of time have a tendency to stay in camp longer.
- (3) An attempt to determine whether men of certain age groups were likely to stay in camp longer than those of other age groups did not reveal any definite tendency one way or the other.

Table 5

MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE LENGTH OF TIME
THEY HAVE BEEN IN CAMP

(Percentage Distribution)

<u>TIME IN CAMP</u>	<u>PER CENT</u>
Less than 1 week	7.8
1 less than 2 weeks	6.6
2 " " 3 "	3.5
3 " " 1 month	1.0
Total less than 1 month	18.9
1 less than 2 months	23.9
2 " " 3 "	18.2
3 " " 4 "	9.4
4 " " 5 "	4.8
5 " " 6 "	4.1
6 " " 7 "	3.2
7 " " 8 "	2.0
8 " " 9 "	2.2
9 " " 10 "	2.0
10 " " 11 "	1.2
11 " " 12 "	2.0
Total less than 1 year	91.9
12 less than 13 months	2.2
13 " " 14 "	.4
14 " " 15 "	1.2
15 " " 16 "	.7
16 " " 17 "	.9
17 " " 18 "	.1
Over 18 months	2.6
Total more than 1 year	8.1
Median length of time in camps -	2.4 months

Age and Education

The median age of the men in camp was 37 years. This average is about three years above the median age of all transients applying for care in the State. Forty-three per cent of the men were under thirty-five years of age, while forty-four per cent has passed their fortieth

birthday. In the younger group classification, one-fourth were between 21 and 30, while the older group is concentrated between the ages of 45 and 55.

Educational ratings were rather high for the men in camp. Only 4.2% had no schooling, 61.7% had some elementary education, 30.8% had attended high school and 3.3% reported some college training. Most of the men who reported no schooling were above thirty-five years of age.

The highest educational status was attained by the groups from 25 to 39 years. Approximately 17% reported schooling above the eighth grade. The group from 25 to 34 years reported the largest number of persons of some college education.

Median educational attainments by age groups show little variation. All range between the sixth and a little over the eighth grade.

The eighth grade is noted as the concentration point for most age groups. The preponderance of data about this grade does affect the median, and John Webb in his report "Schooling of Transients and Resident Homeless" states:

"There are two circumstances which help to explain this particular concentration, (1) the spread of legislation making school attendance compulsory at least until the age of 14, and frequently until the age of 16, and (2) the known tendency of persons, out of pride or carelessness, to report the completion of grade school when they actually stopped somewhat short of that point."

It is noted that about 55% of the men reported they left school between the ages of 14 and 17. The high proportion of men leaving school between these ages may be explained by the fact that they came from nearby areas where educational standards are quite advanced.

Table 6

MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED BY AGE AND ACCORDING TO GRADE IN SCHOOL COMPLETED
(Percentage Distribution)

<u>AGE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MEN</u>	<u>MEDIAN GRADE COMPLETED</u>
TOTAL	100.0	
16 - 20	4.1	8.5
21 - 24	10.2	8.2
25 - 29	14.6	7.8
30 - 34	13.8	8.2
35 - 39	13.7	8.1
40 - 44	11.0	7.5
45 - 49	10.2	7.2
50 - 54	10.4	7.8
55 - 59	5.9	6.6
60 - 64	3.7	7.5
Over 65	2.4	6.0

Table 7
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MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE AND AGE LEFT SCHOOL

(Percentage Distribution)

PRESENT AGE	TOTAL	NEVER ATTENDED	BEFORE AGE 10	<u>AGE LEFT SCHOOL</u>											20 & OVER	UNKNOWN
				10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
16-20	100.0	-	-	-	-	3.5	3.5	13.8	3.5	27.5	17.2	10.3	13.8	-	6.9	
21-24	100.0	-	-	2.8	-	4.3	8.4	14.1	12.6	25.3	9.8	12.6	4.3	1.5	4.3	
25-29	100.0	-	-	2.9	2.9	4.7	3.8	20.0	17.2	17.2	8.5	6.6	2.9	7.6	5.7	
30-34	100.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.9	5.8	18.8	19.8	17.7	8.9	3.8	3.8	2.9	5.8	6.8	
35-39	100.0	3.0	1.0	-	2.0	4.0	3.0	16.0	17.0	18.0	14.0	5.0	3.0	6.0	8.0	
40-44	100.0	8.7	1.2	2.6	2.6	2.6	3.7	18.7	8.7	12.5	10.0	3.7	1.2	6.3	17.5	
45-49	100.0	8.1	2.7	-	6.7	2.7	2.7	16.3	8.1	8.1	10.9	8.1	4.0	8.1	13.5	
50-54	100.0	9.4	-	4.0	2.6	2.6	4.0	13.4	17.3	13.4	12.0	2.6	1.4	6.7	10.6	
55-59	100.0	4.8	-	2.3	2.3	16.7	7.2	16.6	7.2	11.9	4.8	2.3	4.8	11.9	7.2	
60-64	100.0	7.4	-	3.7	3.7	3.7	7.4	11.1	7.4	7.4	-	7.4	-	11.1	29.7	
65 & Over	100.0	16.7	5.5	-	-	11.2	5.5	22.3	22.3	5.5	-	-	-	5.5	5.5	
TOTAL	100.0	4.2	.8	1.7	2.7	4.8	6.6	16.8	13.6	14.6	9.2	5.8	3.2	6.4	9.6	

Reasons for Leaving School

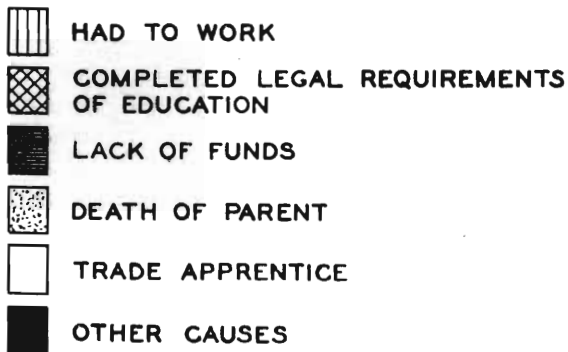
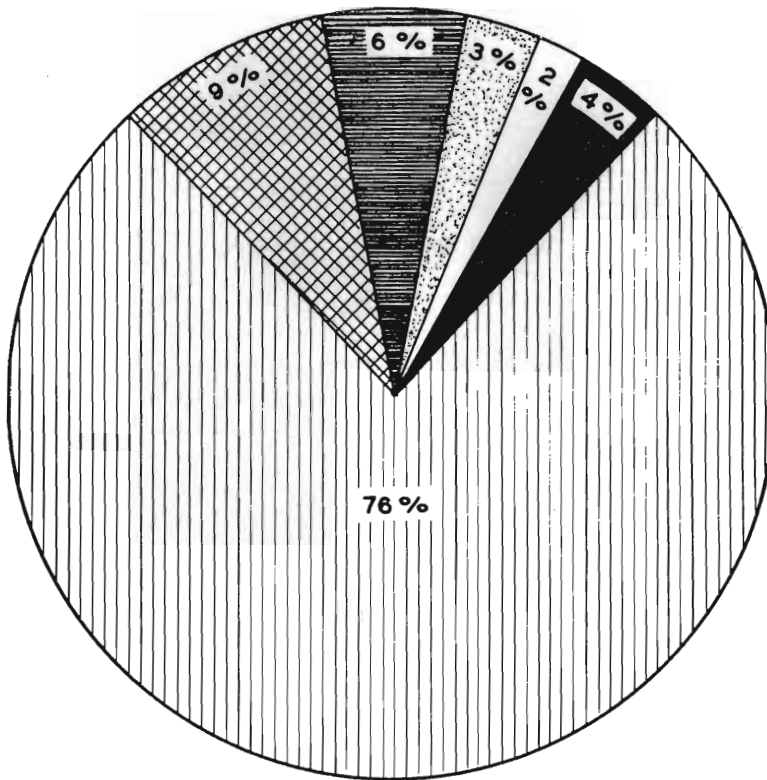
Seventy-six per cent of the transients reported that they left school either because they had to work to support themselves or because it was necessary to help out at home. An additional nine per cent left school because they had completed the legal requirement for education. They, too, in the main, were forced to seek employment because of economic or social conditions at home.

Six per cent could go no further in school because they did not have sufficient funds. Most of these were the young men in camp and were recent additions to the transient population.

Other causes include such items as "fight with teacher," "moved to another community without continuing education," "lack of interest," and "illness."

CHART 7

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MEN IN COMP CLASSIFIED BY REASON FOR LEAVING SCHOOL



Characteristics of Work History

Table 8, given below, is an attempt to analyze the work history of the men in camp. The table is based on the terminology used on the questionnaire. In filling out this questionnaire, the men were asked to designate whether each job they had held was a "regular" or a "seasonal" job. The table was designed to ascertain whether the most recent work that the men had been engaged in was what they termed a "regular" job; whether they had held a "regular" job previous to "occasional" or "seasonal" employment; whether they had only been employed in "seasonal" or "occasional" work; or whether they reported no work history. The schedule was designed to include this information for the years 1930 through 1935, and therefore, any employment previous to 1930 would necessarily be omitted.

It should be noted in looking over the results of Table 8 that all the cases which fall into the "unreported" category are not cases in which the entire work history of the schedule was left blank. Many of the men have reported a work history but have not designated whether the jobs reported were "regular" or "seasonal."

Table 8

CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK HISTORY OF MEN IN CAMP (For 1930 through 1935)

<u>CHARACTER OF LAST JOB</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PER CENT</u>
TOTAL	726	100.0*
Last work men engaged in was regular job	191	42.4
Last regular job men held was followed by seasonal or oc- casional work	47	10.4
Men engaged in seasonal or occasional work only	150	33.3
Men reported no work history	62	13.9
Unreported whether work was of regular nature or seasonal or occasional	276	*

* Per cent does not include unreported items.

Last Year Worked at Usual Occupation

It must be assumed that economic conditions and technological improvements are largely responsible for the depression that exists in various industries at present. This condition has been growing steadily worse since 1929. Yet, before 1929, there were a large number unemployed. The transient population has been increased over the last few years by workers who have been dislodged from regular and usual occupations. This larger group of transients has flooded the market of migratory labor and as a result has depressed wages for unskilled and semi-skilled workers.

The study showed seven per cent of the men in camp had not worked at a usual occupation for more than six years, prior to 1929. Many of these are aged and possess skills that are now outmoded.

There is a like percentage of men who had their last work in 1929. For each year since 1929, with the exception of 1931, there has been an increase of persons who have not been employed at their usual occupations. Since the highest point, 1935, is about 19%, it is indicated that in comparison with the 47.6% who began migration in 1935, many sought employment in vain before becoming transients.

An attempt was made to ascertain whether there was any relation between the recorded marital status of the men in camp and the length of time which elapsed from their last position and the time they started on the road. This analysis was unreliable because no verification was made of the reported marital status and further because the married group comprised few individuals.

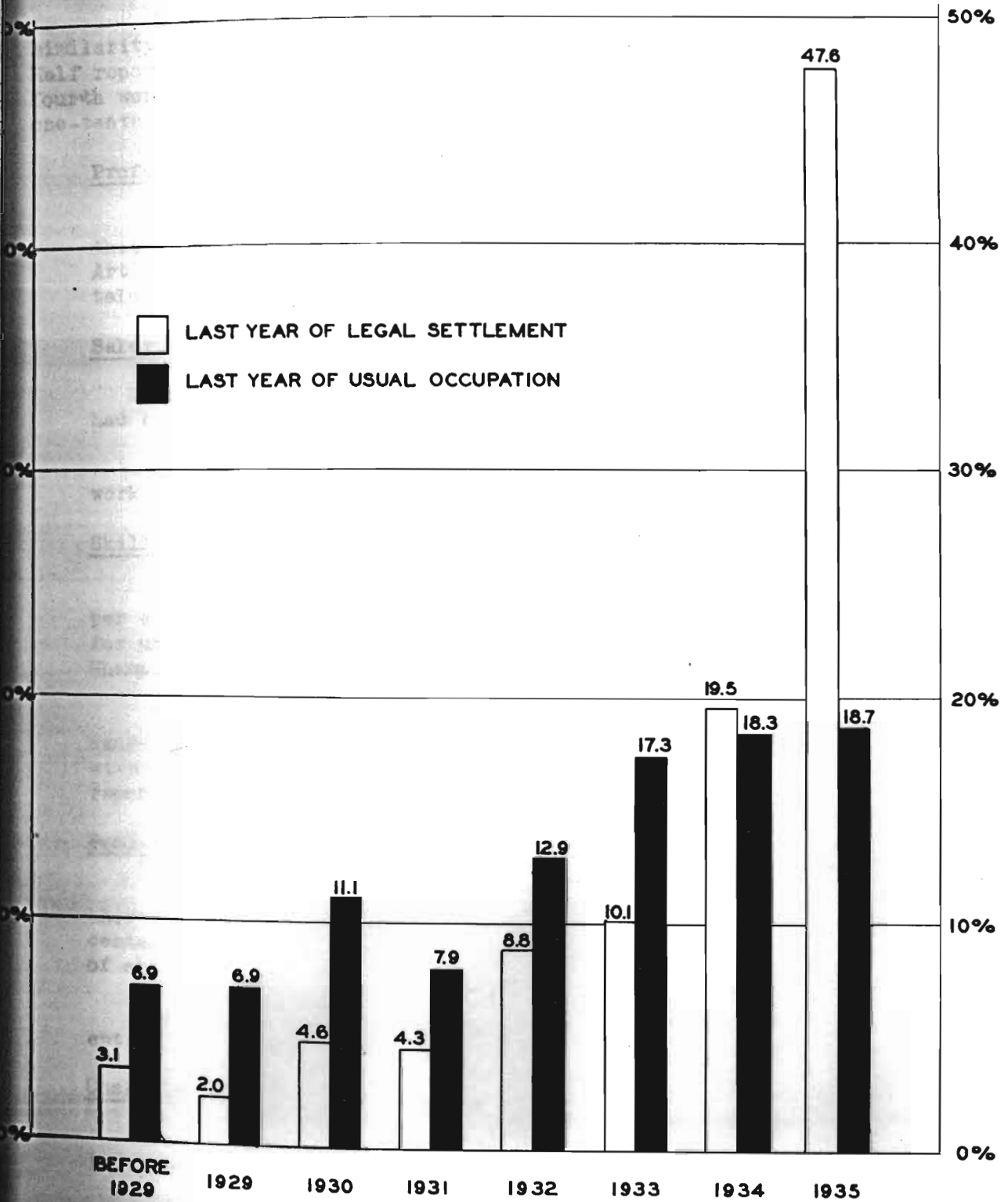
It is interesting to note, however, that a little less than 20% of the men have been able to secure any employment since they have taken to the road. There seems to be no general trend as to whether the single, married or divorced men were more successful in obtaining employment either before or after they left home, and there is no indication as to which group remained home longer after loss of employment before taking to the road.

CHART 8

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MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE LAST YEAR OF LEGAL SETTLEMENT
AND THE LAST YEAR EMPLOYED AT USUAL OCCUPATION

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION



Usual Occupation

The usual occupations reported by men in camp reveal a startling similarity with occupations of transients in the United States at large. Half reported semi-skilled and unskilled occupations. Approximately one-fourth were skilled, one-seventh domestic and personal service workers, one-tenth white-collar workers and the remainder farm laborers.

Professional, Technical, Managers and Officials

Three and seven-tenths per cent of the men were classified under this group. One-half of one per cent were managers and officials. Artists and architects claimed the greater number, while telegraph, telephone and radio operators followed.

Salesmen and Office Workers

Most of the salesmen were employed as clerks in stores. A few had histories of other experience in the selling field.

Office workers were employed principally as clerks and clerical workers. A small number were accountants, bookkeepers and cashiers.

Skilled Workers

Approximately one-fourth were skilled workers. This is seven per cent above Federal statistics reported for the same classification for unattached persons in "Occupational Distribution of Transient Unemployed" February 1935.

Twenty-two per cent reported occupations of painters, paper hangers and glaziers. Carpenters were most numerous after this group with eleven per cent. Other occupations in the building trades were reported in large numbers, leading other skilled occupations.

Semi-skilled Workers

Of the 18% of unattached men who reported semi-skilled occupations, thirteen per cent were auto, bus and truck drivers. The same percentage is noted for textile and allied operatives and apprentices of all kinds.

Operatives in various manufacturing industries were most important in the classification of the remainder.

Unskilled Workers

Workers reporting no skill were the most numerous, 31.3%. Under this classification there are a very few who had never worked.

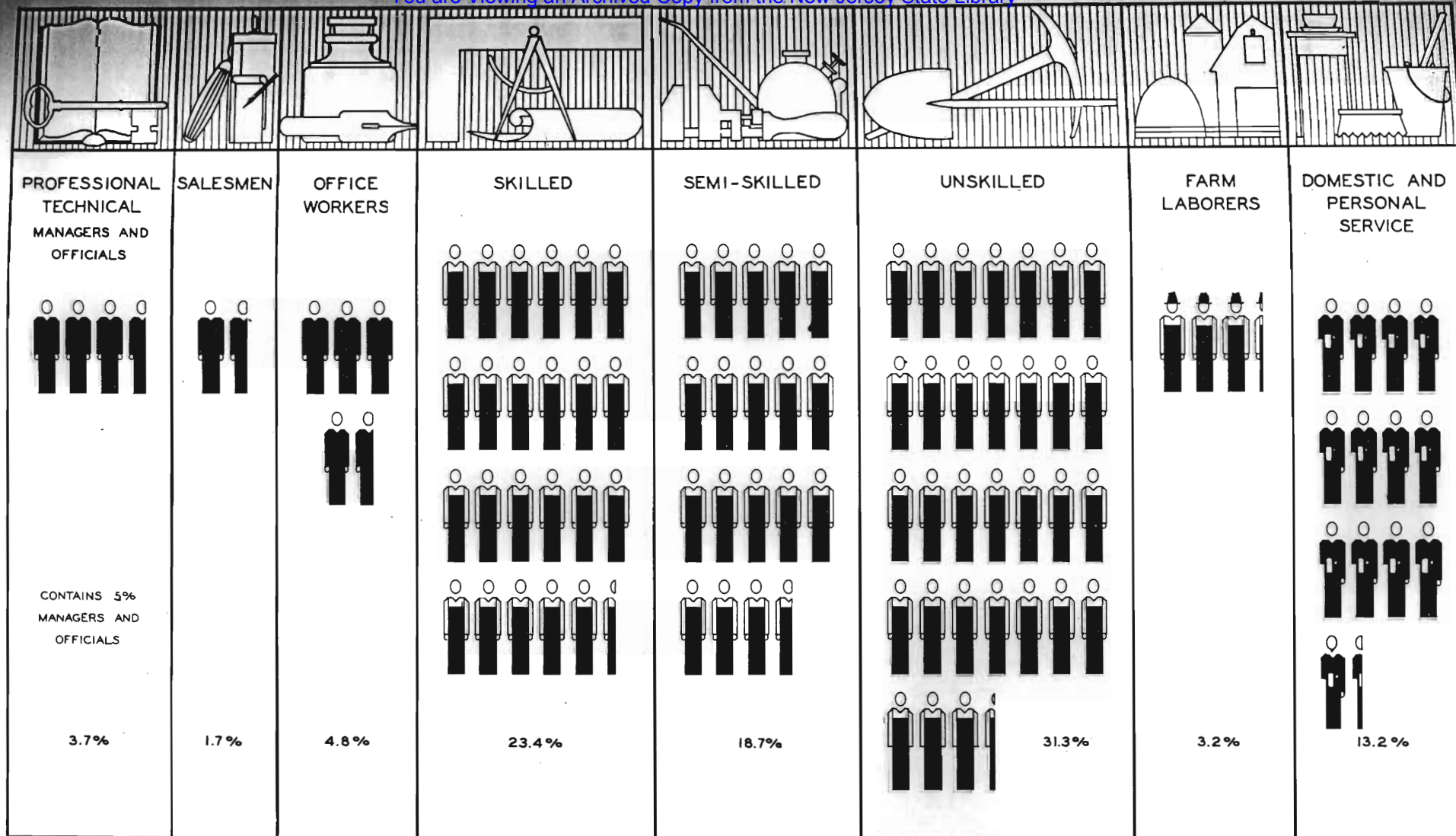
Common laborers and iron and steel workers comprise the majority of the unskilled group, while the percentage of remaining occupations is overbalanced by building tradesmen and miners.

Farm Laborers

A small proportion (3.2%) were farm workers. This group depended largely upon seasonal employment for subsistence.

Domestic and Personal Service Workers

About one-seventh of all transients reporting occupations were domestic and personal service workers. This percentage is slightly above national statistics and may be explained by the fact that New Jersey normally offers unlimited opportunities in this field. Principal occupations listed are waiters, hotel and domestic workers and porters.



EACH FIGURE REPRESENTS ONE PERCENT OF ALL WORKERS IN TRANSIENT CAMPS REPORTING A SPECIFIC OCCUPATION

Participation in Labor Unions

During the period of gainful employment before migration, 15% of the camp population belonged to labor unions. At the present time about 5% are members.

The building trades contained the greatest number of union members before migration and the transportation and communication occupations were next with approximately one-fourth of the union membership.

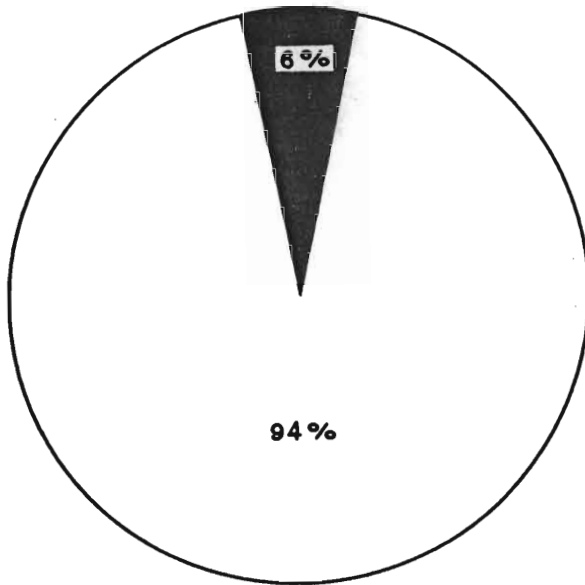
It is impossible to ascertain the number gainfully employed in the resident population who are at present members of labor unions. However, it is realized there has been a decline in membership as a result of continued unemployment over the past several years.

By industry groups, there is a sharp decline in labor union participation by transients in all trades, but the decline in the building trades is most marked. An 81% drop is noted over pre-migration years. A 65% decrease in membership among persons formerly engaged in transportation and communication occupations likewise gives an indication of the trend.

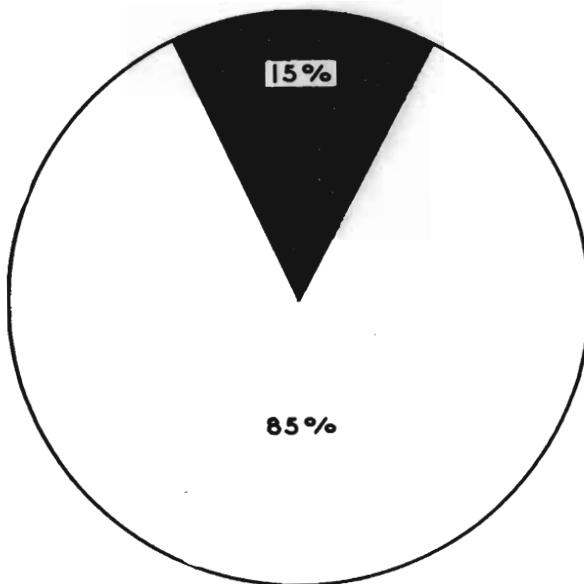
When one considers that many persons, formerly members of unions, have grown older during the depression years, that many jobs have been abolished and that techniques have changed, one obtains a partial realization of the plight of these men. Many will never be absorbed by industry as they knew it. They must either move into lower economic levels or a thorough plan of vocational guidance must be initiated based upon specific existing jobs.

CHART 10

MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO MEMBERSHIP IN LABOR UNIONS AT PRESENT AND PRIOR TO MIGRATION



PRESENT



PRIOR TO MIGRATION



Table 9

MEMBERSHIP IN LABOR UNIONS PRIOR TO MIGRATION BY INDUSTRY GROUPS
(Table based on Total of 112 Persons or 15% of Men in Camp)

<u>Trade</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Trade</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
AL	112	100.0	Transportation & Commu- nication (Cont.)		
Extraction of Minerals		8.9	Brotherhood of Rail- road Clerks	2	
Coal Miners	3		Brotherhood of Rail- road Trainmen	4	
United Mine Workers	7		International Seamen	4	
Building Trades		33.1	Lake Seamen	1	
Brick Layers	4		Longshoremens	1	
Building Laborers	1		Merchant Marine	1	
Carpenters	10		Order of Railroad Telegraphers	3	
Car Builders	1		Switchmen's Union	1	
Common Laborers	4		Telephone	1	
Compressed Air Workers	3		Teamsters	2	
International Metal Polishers	1		Truck Drivers	1	
Painters & Decorators	10				
Plasterers' Helpers	1		6. Public Service		.8
Slate Roofers	2		Firemen	1	
Glass, Clay & Stone		2.7	7. Food & Allied Industries		3.6
Glass Makers	1		Bakers	1	
International Glaziers	1		Waiters	3	
Marble & Granite	1				
Manufacturing & Mechanical Industries		16.9	8. Paper, Printing, Publish- ing & Engraving		3.6
International Assn. of Machinists	7		Electrotypers	1	
Iron Workers	1		Paper Mills	1	
Leather Workers	1		Printing Pressmen	1	
Loom Fixers	1		Typographical	1	
Molders	1		9. Domestic & Personal Service		1.8
Plumbers & Steamfitters	3		Barbers	1	
Shoe Workers	1		Window Cleaners	1	
United Textiles	1				
Upholsterers	1		10. Recreation & Amusement		1.8
Wool Sorters	1		Motion Picture Pro- jectionists	1	
Brussell Weavers	1		Musicians	1	
Transportation & Communication		20.6	11. Miscellaneous		6.2
Brotherhood of Loco- motive Engineers	1		C.V.D. Local	1	
Brotherhood of Sta- tionary Engineers	1		Enterprise Association	3	
			W.A.	1	
			Trades Union	1	
			Car Washing Union	1	

Table 10

PRESENT MEMBERSHIP IN LABOR UNIONS BY INDUSTRY GROUPS
(Table Based on Total of 41 Persons or 6% of Men in Camp)

<u>Trade</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
TOTAL	41	100.0
1. Extraction of Minerals		21.9
United Mine Workers	9	
2. Building Trades		14.6
Brick Layers	2	
Carpenters' Helpers	1	
Painters	1	
Pile Drivers	1	
Tile Setters	1	
3. Glass, Clay & Stone		7.4
Glass Bottle Blowers	2	
Potterers	1	
4. Manufacturing & Mechanical Industries		19.5
Corders	1	
International Brotherhood of Electric Workers	1	
Leather Workers	1	
Molders	1	
Plumbers & Steamfitters	2	
Shoe Workers	1	
United Textile	1	
5. Transportation & Communication		19.5
Chauffeurs	1	
Ind. Electrical Wiremen's Union	1	
International Longshoremen	1	
Seamen	2	
Teamsters	1	
Truckmen	2	
6. Food & Allied Industries		7.4
Bakers	2	
Cooks & Waiters	1	
7. Miscellaneous		9.7
Amalgamated Society of Wood- workers	1	
Barkers	1	
International Wood Carvers	1	
Laundry Workers	1	

Re-employability

From the point of view both of health and of willingness to work, most of the men in camp are employable. There were none who were unwilling to work, two unable to work, and eight who reported they were able to do light work only.

There are in camp some men who possess physical disabilities that may or may not handicap them, depending upon the type of work offered

Table 11

MEN IN CAMP CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF PERMANENT DISABILITIES

TOTAL		56
1. Heart and Circulatory System		5
Heart Enlargement	1	
High Blood Pressure	1	
Other	3	
2. Musculo-Skeletal System		32
a. Amputations	7	
Leg	3	
Arm or Hand	2	
Finger	2	
b. Injuries	25	
Broken Leg	1	
Broken Arm	1	
Broken Ankle	1	
Broken Shoulder	1	
Fractured Spine	1	
Other Injuries	20	
3. Nervous System		3
Paralysis Left Side	1	
Paralysis Left Hand	1	
Paralysis Right Foot	1	
4. Digestive System		1
Stomach Ulcer	1	
5. Urino-Genital System		1
6. Ears and Eyes		9
7. Other Disabilities		5

Health

Health conditions in camp have been generally good and most of the campers have gained weight. Since all men were given physical examinations before entering camp, and a careful check was made in order to exclude the physically unfit, this good health condition is to be expected. Nevertheless, there were ten per cent who reported they were in fair health and one per cent who reported their health was poor. In substance, a fairly regular life has been led by the men and the results are evident in physical improvement.

Only nine per cent of these men have been ill since their enrollment in camp. Minor illnesses have been the rule although at one time there were quite a number of cases of appendicitis.

Attitudes of Men toward Camp

It is felt that an expression by the men themselves regarding their reactions to camp is most important in ascertaining the true worth of the camp program. This reaction was secured on the basis of estimates of gains or losses, physical or mental, since being in camp.

Nearly seven-tenths of the number felt they had gained by their inclusion in the camp program; 27.4% had neither gained nor lost; and 3.6% had lost.

In the light of these experiences, it is possible to conclude that the camp has been a stabilizing force for most of these transients. The following are statements of the men regarding camp:

Gains

"I have gained self-respect, rehabilitation and better foresight."

"I have gained a better living condition in camp than on the road."

"Have gained some in health and have learned a lot of self-control and repression."

"I have enjoyed my stay in camp, was treated well but would rather have work and live like a man should."

"I have learned to live a cleaner life and that has taught me to save a little for a rainy day."

"I have worked steadily at work given me, have been well treated and am comfortable."

"I have lost nothing but have gained some good experiences to profit by in the future."

"I have attained that which it seemed impossible for me to do elsewhere, that is, to mix with men and to receive them. I have improved my physical condition."

"I have learned quite a bit about human nature. I have lost nothing. I understand that these camps are group movements and the directors cannot make rules to suit each individual."

"I am gaining in hope and morale - am looking for a break in the near future and am protecting my health."

"I have gained in weight and have been satisfied by having a place to stay so I would not have to travel."

"I was rescued from malnutrition."

"I have lost nothing but have gained the ambition to want to get a job much more now than I did before I came here. I have seen so many men out of work and am impressed with the kindness of the State of New Jersey."

"I have gained a place of shelter from the elements; a chance to look for employment without being chased from town to town, and escape from the evil and danger of freight riding."

"I overcame wanderlust and have an objective in view."

"Since I have been in camp I have gained a hope that maybe work will be given and wages paid."

"I am eating and sleeping and that is more than I did before I came here."

"I gained knowledge of construction work and its different operations. I have also gained a knowledge of men from all walks of life and their characters."

"Ordered condition, regular meals, possibility for hygiene, time and place to study my favorite subjects and partial preparation for going back to work has been my experience in camp."

"Not having to worry about holding a job has been very good for me. Competition is pretty keen in my line on the outside, though I am competent."

"While I naturally would rather be working this has been a tremendous improvement over the filthy treatment accorded a single, unemployed man in --- City."

"I appreciate the assistance given me while in dire need through the help given by the State and Federal Government during this depression. With a little more patience I expect to gain by being in camp."

"I have gained a moral feeling of independence by working for my support and keep."

"I have gained a little more self-respect, a home and friends. I have lost the urge to keep traveling."

"I have gained more faith in myself and feel that I will be able to get work in a short time."

Both Gains and Losses

"I don't think I have gained or lost much. It is partly my own fault that I haven't gained by being in camp."

"I have gained a slight amount of weight and some needed dental work. I have the loss of associations and the right of a citizen to vote."

"Health, better morale, training in leadership, an opportunity to study my fellow men and improve my mind in leisure moments. The loss has been - a sense of futility."

"I have received some dental work but have lost social standing and voting privileges."

"Gain - 8 pounds. Loss - a superiority complex."

"I have lost two opportunities to secure employment but have gained in general health and optimism."

"I have neither gained nor lost in camp - am at a standstill."

"Being unable to obtain steady employment I have kept off the road and obtained enough to sustain life. However, I have lost many pay days."

"I probably would have a job or would be looking for one if I wasn't in camp. I haven't gained anything and have lost a lot of valuable time waiting to gain work. Otherwise the camp is keeping me from bumming around and it also keeps me within the law by not being 'vaged.'"

"Have lost all hope of ever going to work but don't know what to do or where to go but have gained good relief here in camp."

"I don't see any other gain except living accommodations. I don't feel that I have lost anything by being here."

"I have gained nothing and lost nothing but I may have secured a job while traveling on the road."

"Well, to tell the truth, I've lost a lot of valuable time but I am always in good health and ready to go to work at a moment's notice."

"Camps have their advantages as well as their disadvantages with me. It's about six in one hand and a half dozen in the other."

"Gained a little weight and some knowledge of human nature. I have nearly lost self-respect by this continued dependence on public help."

"Nothing but a chance probably of work and the possibility of earning some money."

Losses

"I have gained nothing that I have noticed."

"Since being in camp I have lost money and work."

"I am losing my greatest opportunity for work and happiness."

"Have lost weight from worry."

"I have gained a home but have lost ambition."

"Haven't gained anything but instead have lost weight."

"Have lost good living opportunity and enjoyment. Life is no good without work."

"I have not gained a thing to my advantage."

"I have impaired by health by suffering a broken ankle. Am highly depressed by the situation created by the accident."

"I have lost all ambition and am becoming a bigger bum through experiences of other transients stationed here."

"The only gain is a small one in weight. The longer I stay here the more disgusted I get with living in barracks with no privacy with listening to officials promising jobs week after week and filling out so many forms like this one."

"I found out what slavery was in the past. I lost all hope of going to work again. W.P.A. is a fake."

"I have gained weight and laziness and have lost my self-respect."

"I have not gained a thing. I have becoome disgusted with the scale of wages, which is not enought to keep a man in tobacco. I am willing to work for a decent wage at any time or any place."