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### The Field Inspector

12 th Annual Report

BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

GEORGE S. PFAUS, Deputy Commission

This report was made possible by the generous and cooperative effort of the many bureaus and divisions within the Department of Labor and Industry, other State Agencies, and the interested organized groups throughout the state who have for years given their time, effort, and in many instances, financial assistance in the desire to advance the health, welfare, and living conditions of the migrant worker in New Jersey. To all those we express our thanks and appreciation.

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Photographs, art work, and layouts were made by Fred B. Metler, Senior Inspector, Bureau of Migrant Labor.





#### 12th ANNUAL REPORT BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

JULY, 1955 - JUNE, 1956 CHARLES G. YERSAK, Supervisor

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY CARL HOLDERMAN, Commissioner GEORGE S. PFAUS, Deputy Commissioner

# AS WE SEE

## DO WE RECOGNIZE OUR

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Maria Sin Strate

"AT A TIME IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY WHEN LABOR AS A WHOLE IS HIGHLY ORGANIZED AND ITS LEADERS SIT IN POSITIONS OF GREAT POWER, THE MIGRANT LABORER IS STILL PRETTY MUCH THE NEGLECTED MAN. HE HAS NO SETTLED HOME AND NO SETTLED JOB. HE LIVES OUT OF OLD SUITCASES IN QUARTERS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE FIT FOR HUMAN BEINGS. HIS CHILDREN GROW UP WITHOUT FIT FOR HUMAN BEINGS. HIS CHILDREN GROW UP WITHOUT FIT, INDEED, THEY GET ANY EDUCATION AT ALL. HE MOVES FROM PLACE TO PLACE IN CROWDED TRUCKS AND HE WORKS FROM SUNUP TO SUNDOWN. HE IS NEVER ABLE TO LUT DOWN ROOTS AND SAY TO HIMSELF: "THIS IS WHERE I

Robert B. Meyrer Governor

RESPONSIBILITIES

IT.





The year 1955-56 ushered in some major changes, not only in the personnel of the Migrant Labor Bureau, but also in the policies as emphasized by the Migrant Labor Board and Commissioner Carl Holderman. As of March 31, 1956, John G. Sholl, Supervisor of the Migrant Labor Bureau, retired after a decade of dedicated service. His work in the Bureau, since the enactment of the law in 1945, focused the attention of the nation upon the migrant program in the state of New Jersey. From the beginning, his concern and his never-ceasing efforts to improve the conditions for our seasonal farm workers were marked with the foresight and tact that made our farmers and growers throughout the state accept the program with confidence. In the beginning, they feared the program would impose obligations too heavy for them to meet. With patience and understanding of their problems, Mr. Sholl eased these apprehensions, and today the Bureau has the respect and confidence of all familiar with its operations.

#### CONFERENCE MARKS PROGRAM MILESTONE

One of the last but most important events under the direction of Mr. Sholl was a statewide conference on migratory labor. The conference was suggested by the New Jersey Consumers' League, whose deep interest in the migrant program dates back to the inception of the Migrant Labor Act itself. The conference, marking the completion of a decade of state work with migrants in New Jersey, was held in the Assembly Chamber of the State House, on Wednesday, March 21, 1956. The arrangements committee, composed of the public members of the Migrant Labor Board headed by John M. Seabrook, Chairman, did an excellent job and the conference was an outstanding success. The 100 persons in attendance represented church, civic, welfare and other interested agencies throughout the state.

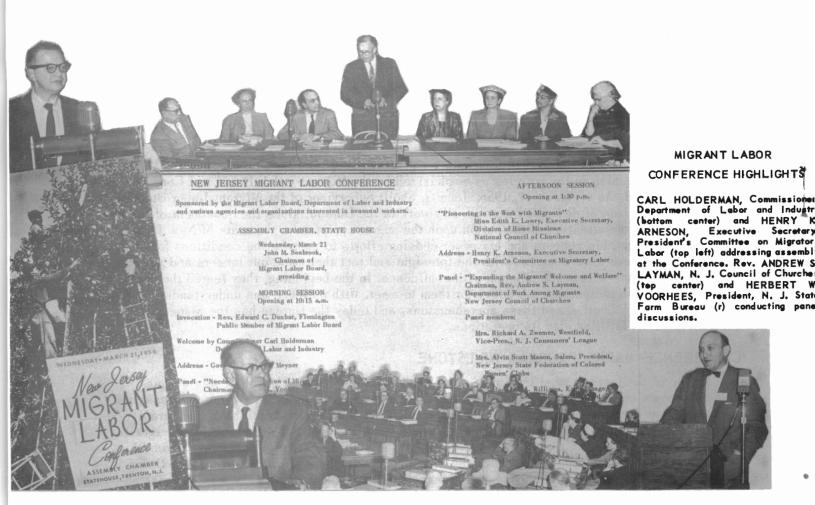
It was at this conference that John G. Sholl formally announced his retirement as Secretary to the Board and Supervisor of the Bureau of Migrant Labor, and extended his best wishes to Charles G. Yersak as his successor. Mr. Yersak has spent many years of service in the labor field, and is considered to be well-equipped to take over the duties of his office.



#### RETIRING AFTER A DECADE OF SERVICE

JOHN G. SHOLL, (r) retiring Secretary to the Board and Supervisor of the Bureau of Migrant Labor extends best wishes to his successor CHARLES G. YERSAK (I) as CARL HOLDERMAN, Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry looks on.

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Leon B. Schachter, of the Amalgamated Food and Allied Workers Union, who, after an absence of three years, was again appointed as a public member of the Migrant Labor Board, presided as chairman of the conference and introduced Commissioner Holderman. In the course of his remarks, the Commissioner said: "As good as this program has been, there is, in my opinion, plenty of room for improvement. Migrant workers are people and citizens, just like the permanent residents of our communities. It is an economic fact that our crops could not be harvested and canned without them. We should not force them and their families, especially their children, to live substandard lives. As a nation we have fully accepted the philisophy of government as the representative of all the people, establishing and enforcing minimum standards of health, sanitation, education, living and working conditions and wages. The standards we apply for migrant workers are far below those enjoyed by our permanent urban and rural citizens. I feel that it is about time that a start be made to close this gap."

The conference was given added impetus when Governor Robert B. Meyner stressed not only the needs of the migrant or seasonal workers coming into our state, but also their vital importance to our agricultural economy.

"That is why it is such a pleasure for me, as Governor of the State of New Jersey, to come to this meeting and to exchange ideas with an audience whose very presence here proves its deep interest in the migrant worker and his family," the Governor said."You represent the collective conscience of the State and the collective willingness to see that the migrant worker is justly treated. I am sure this conference will light new candles and carve new paths to guide New Jersey in this very human, this very moving problem."

#### DISCUSSION CLARIFIES OBJECTIVES

Many of the problems that arise because of the influx of seasonal workers to the farms and communities of our state were thoroughly discussed at the conference. Due to the many divergent opinions of this representative group, these discussions brought into sharp focus new ideas and new responsibilities.

A panel headed by Herbert W. Voorhees, President of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, emphasized the need for migrants by New Jersey farmers. Panel members included: Assemblyman C. William Haines, Chairman of the Assembly Agriculture Committee; Eulalio Torres, Chief, Service Section, Migration Division of Puerto Rico; Leon B. Schachter, President of Local 56, Amalgamated Food and Allied Workers Union, and Frank E. Johnson, Regional Director, U. S. Department of Labor.

Miss Edith E. Lowry, Executive Secretary, Division of Home Missions, National Council of Churches, spoke on "Pioneering in the Work with Migrants." Henry K. Arneson, Executive Secretary, President's Committee on Migratory Labor, explained the federal government's interest in migrants and described efforts being made to get more states to establish committees or boards for work with migrants.

The Rev. Andrew S. Layman, Department of Work Among Migrants, New Jersey Council of Churches, was chairman of a panel that had as its theme: "Expanding the Migrants' Welcome and Welfare." Members of the panel included Mrs. Richard A. Zwemer, Vice-President, New Jersey Consumers' League; Mrs. Alvin Scott Mason, President, New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; Mrs. Madaline A. Williams, public member of the Migrant Labor Board; Mrs. Dorothy S. Jackson, 1955 director of Migrant Demonstration Schools; and Ralph T. Fisher, Assistant Director, Local Health Services, State Department of Health. The conference was regarded as another milestone in the never-ending effort to improve the living and working conditions of the seasonal worker.

#### NEW ENFORCEMENT POLICY STRESSED

After a thorough study and review of the past policies, under the direction of Commissioner Holderman, the Bureau embarked upon a policy of placing increased emphasis on the enforcement of the Migrant Labor Law. In the years since enactment of the law, main emphasis had been upon educating the farmer-grower to provide housing to meet the needs of his workers, and upon educating the workers to respect the facilities provided for them. It is hoped that continuation of the educational program, with added emphasis on enforcement, will tend to upgrade the standards of housing for our migrants. The past cooperation of farmers in New Jersey has given us some of the finest migrant housing to be found in any state. With their continued support, we can look forward to attracting more capable and satisfied seasonal workers in a tight labor market.

#### STATE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY AIDED

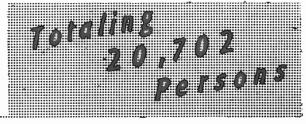
To illustrate how important these workers are to the agricultural industry and to the economy of our state, we have only to note that the value of the agricultural production for 1955 in New Jersey was \$366,720,000. The U. S. Department of Commerce in its Report for 1954, quotes the average value of a farm acre in the State of New Jersey, including land and buildings, to be \$403.73. This compares with the national average of \$84.25. Despite the increased urbanization of certain farm areas in our state, our reports indicate that the need for the seasonal workers has remained constant.



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The Farm Placement Section,-Bureau of Employment Security Field Operations, State Employment Service, continued close cooperation over the past year with the Migrant Labor Bureau in all matters covering recruitment and placement of seasonal agricultural workers. Farm placement records for the 1956 season indicate a better than average year for farm employers and seasonal workers. Southern migrant workers, recruited for the most part in Florida, numbered 4,500 people in 150 crews. This total was a few hundred less than the figures for the preceding year. In addition, there were 3,000 individuals and family workers not connected with crews. Not included in the above were approximately 1,300 workers from nearby urban centers. The Employment Service records also snow that there were 7,702 Puerto Rican contract workers employed, along with another group of 3,000 non-contract or ''walk-in'' Puerto Ricans. This work force can be broken down into the following components:

- 4,500 Negro crews
- 3,000 Individuals and family groups
- 1,300 Walk-ins
- 7,702 Puerto Rican contract workers
- 3,000 Puerto Rican non-contract workers
- 1,200 Foreign workers British West Indians



#### EARNINGS MORE THAN \$3½ MILLIONS

Earnings for the Puerto Ricans under contract totaled \$3,546,000 for the 1956 season. Since there are no wage contracts between the Southern migrant and his employer, there can be no estimate of his earnings.

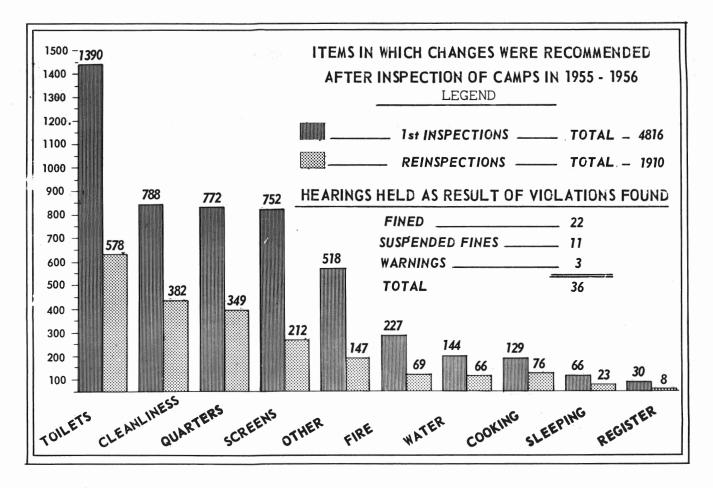
The southern or Negro migrant worker is found mainly in the tri-county area of Middlesex, Mercer and Monmouth, where the predominant crop is white potatoes. Smaller groups are scattered throughout the state and used in the blueberry and cranberry crops. The Puerto Rican workers, although found throughout the state, migrate mainly to the South Jersey area for the harvesting of vegetable and fruit crops.

At a conference at the Glassboro Service Association Camp, held in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, four migrant specialists were appointed to ease the problem of complaints from workers and farmers in localities where Puerto Rican migrants are employed. This was later followed by the establishment of two offices - one at Keyport and the other at Camden. The interest of the Puerto Rican Government in the health and welfare of our Puerto Rican agricultural workers was highlighted by a visit from Governor Luis Monoz Marin of Puerto Rico to both the Glassboro Camp and the camp at Holmdel. In April, 1956, the Glassboro Service Association, Inc., launched a series of radio programs in Spanish for the Puerto Rican seasonal workers. Commissioner Holderman extended greetings during the initial program.

PUERTO RICO GOVERNOR VISITS LABOR CAMPS

Commissioner CARL HOLDERMAN (I) launches Radio Program for Puerto Rican Migrant Workers. (c) Governor LUIS MONOZ MARIN of Puerto Rico and CHARLES G. YERSAK, Supervisor, Bureau of Migrant Labor discussing Migrant Program in New Jersey.

(Below) Governor LUIS MONOZ MARIN brings greetings to Puerto Rican workers in New Jersey in a radio broadcast. Attending (I to r) WILLIAM P. WATSON, Secretary to the N. J. State Farm Bureau, CHARLES G. YERSAK, Supervisor, Bureau of Migrant Labor, Governor MARIN, RAPHAEL SANCHEZ, Puerto Rican Public Relations representative and JOSEPH D. GAROFALO, Glassboro, General Manager, Glassboro Service Association.



#### PROPORTION OF VIOLATORS SMALL

That the migrant labor program in New Jersey is progressing is an established fact. Even though the enforcement phase of the program was again emphasized this past year, out of a total of 2,668 camps, only 36 farmers or growers were cited for violations of the migrant housing code. The low ratio of violations indicates that farmers are aware of the fact that well-housed, satisfied workers mean steady and reliable help, crops properly harvested and maximum production.

#### NEW HOUSING PAYS DIVIDENDS

Further proof of the efforts of farmers and growers in our state to provide good housing for their migrant workers is shown in a survey of *new* housing in the 1956 season. More than 79 new camps were constructed—the great majority, of cinder block. The migrant program, because of this cooperative effort, gained added impetus. This can be better illustrated by pictures of some of the outstanding housing in the state, although there is, of course, still room for improvement in certain areas.

We note with great satisfaction, however, that the trend away from frame structures and reconstruction of old frame housing is continuing. More and more, the farmer-grower is beginning to realize that substantial cinder block construction, cement flooring, and metal window frames are a great saving over a period of time. Housing of the cinder block type is more suitable and much easier to keep clean. Cement floors require only a good flushing with water and a detergent. Inside walls of cinder block are not as vulnerable to destruction as plasterboard walls, and may be washed down each year at the beginning of the season and easily kept clean. The savings in replacement costs alone over a period of years will more than repay the camp operator for his initial expenditure.

The following are suggestions of two senior inspectors of the Bureau of Migrant Labor, Leon A. Rennebaum and Fred B. Metler, in a recent article for Campbell Soup Company's "News and Views". ECONOMICAL HOUSING

LEON RENNEBAUM FRED METLER Senior Inspectors, N. J. Bureau of Migrant Labor REPRINT FROM CAMPBELLS NEWS AND VIEWS

**G**amp operators have learned that they can operate more efficiently by housing workers on the farm. New Jersey is one of the leaders in the field with over 2700 farmers housing their own workers. Many of them claim that the cost of housing paid for itself in a single season because of the saving in transportation cost, time saved and the ability to harvest crops at just the right time. Workers living on the farm are available on short notice, rain or shine.

The individual farmer will probably find a multiple-purpose building a sound investment. A tenant house can readily be used for storage of supplies and equipment when not occupied by migrants if a large overhead door is installed in one end.

When all workers are of one sex, they can be housed in a barrack type of building. However, we do not recommend exceeding eight workers per room. For family groups, privacy must be provided for each family unit. Again, the use of 'dual-purpose construction allows the flexibility of space as different needs demand.

For durability, fire resistance and easy maintenance, cinder block is probably the most suitable type of construction. A concrete floor poured on a bed of cinders four to six inches deep without sills above grade level permits easy cleaning and drainage.

When possible, the roof should be finished in a heat-reflecting material. A substantial overhang shades the walls as well as protecting the windows and doorways from the elements. Partitions for privacy should be substantial and fire-resistant. If a space of six to eight inches is left between them and the roof, better ventilation is afforded. Louvers at each end of the building, just below the roof, will help. An "A" roof, by the way, may cost more but will far outlast a flat roof of similar construction.

Sleeping quarters and kitchen should be separated by a partition with a connecting door. Any screen door that normally receives rough treatment can be protected by placing half-inch wire mesh over the screening.

Sanitary facilities of the outside privy type are satisfactory if a suitable pit is provided, the shelter is weather tight and has hinged seat covers. They should be easily accessible to the living quarters.

Although the cook stove may burn wood, oil, electricity or gas, bottled gas has generally proved most practical because it is quicker, cleaner, safer and requires little maintenance. Well-constructed metal beds are most economical. Mattresses should be covered with mattress covers. Single or bunk type beds are preferred. Double beds are only recommended for families. Two blankets per bed are required in early spring or during the fall. During cool weather, a heating stove attached to a chimney should be furnished. This can be oil, wood or coal.

Food storage is another necessity. Many growers are finding it economical to buy good used electric refrigerators. It is almost imperative that growers provide electricity for their workers' quarters, anyway, since, like all the rest of us, they aren't satisfied without it.



#### PROGRESS IMPORTANT TO OUR ECONOMY

The Migrant Labor Bureau will strive to continue its progress so that more efficient and satisfied workers come to our state year after year, thus assuring a continued supply for this important phase of our economy.

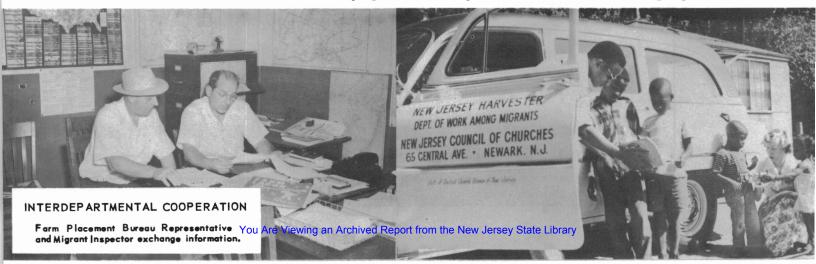
Because of the hurricanes which hit the island of Puerto Rico this past season, many of our Puerto Rican workers, worried about their families at home, left the farms to go back to Puerto Rico. This created a labor shortage but 1,200 foreign workers (British West Indians) were brought in to take up the slack and thereby saved thousands of dollars in crops.

#### CHURCH GROUPS AID PROGRAM

There are many civic, church and private agencies cooperating in the effort to better the conditions of our migrant agricultural workers throughout the state. Among the agencies which contribute much to make the migrants' life a happier and healthier one is the National Council of Churches, Division of Home Missions, which in the past season had 16 persons employed on its field staff, with an additional five voluntary staff members. Their services extended over 12 counties through such endeavors as vacation church schools at Cranbury, Freehold, Hackettstown, Manalapan and Seabrook Farms. There was a Spanish-speaking Vacation School promoted and financed by the Women's Auxiliary of Newark Episcopal Diocese in cooperation with a local committee in Hackettstown. The distribution of friendship kits, radio programs, counseling and hospital visits were among the many services contributed by this exemplary group of interested citizens. The Council of Church Women has aided the program in conjunction with the Council of Churches. The Junion Red Cross continued its fine contribution of friendship kits, clothing and toys for the school program.

The New Jersey State P. T. A. is beginning to take a deep interest in the problems of migrant children throughout the state.

The migrant program in New Jersey is beginning to be recognized as one of the finest in the nation, and much credit for this progress must be given to the above contributing organizations.



BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR CHARLES G. YERSAK, Secretary to the Board and Supervisor of the Bureau

#### OFFICE STAFF \_

BOR

AU OF MIGR

Mrs. JUNE B. SMITH Mrs. JANE KAUFFMAN Miss NANCY A. CARR Miss SANDRA A. STINTSMAN Secretary to the Supervisor Clerk-stenographer (January to June) Clerk-stenographer (June to December) Seasonal Assistant

FIELD STAFF\_

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INSPECTORS

WILLIAM J. BOVE

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(3 months)

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OFFICE - 29 East Front Street, Trenton 25, New Jersey

## BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

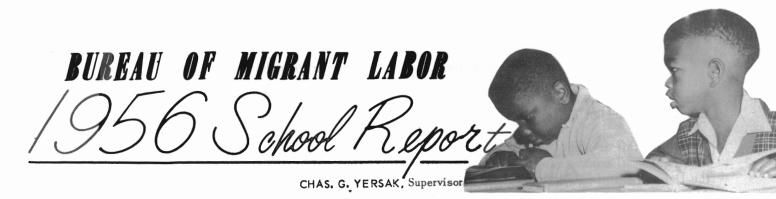
"YOU JUST DON'T JUDGE EDUCATION IN TERMS OF WHAT THE YOUNGSTERS LEARN HERE IN A FEW WEEKS. IT'S THE ATTI-TUDE THEY DEVELOP AND WITH WHICH THEY GROW UP THAT DETERMINES ITS ULTIMATE VALUE."

Robert B. We Governor

#### DEMONSTRATI

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This past summer marked the ninth session of a demonstration school program for children of migrant workers in New Jersey. The two schools were sponsored by the Migrant Labor Board and Bureau of the Department of Labor and Industry, with the cooperation of the State Department of Education and local school boards. Funds were provided by the Bureau from its annual legislative appropriation.

The program is geared to meet certain academic, social and physical needs of migrant children who must, of necessity, leave their home schools in the South several weeks before termination of sessions, and return after school sessions have begun. In some instances, according to the children, admittance has been denied because of late return to their home school area. These children may well be average students but are below grade level, as will be indicated by results of tests outlined later in this report.

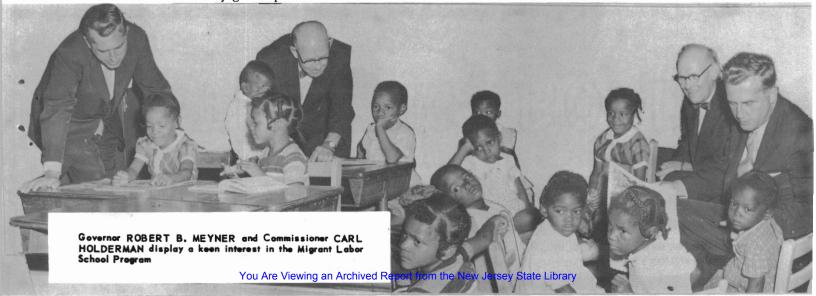
#### SCHOOL SCHEDULE AND ENROLLMENT

The schools were operated for a five-week period, July 23 to August 24, five days a week, from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. The students ranged in age from 5 to 12 years and consisted entirely of children of the southern Negro migrants, the majority of whom came to this state to harvest the white potato crop.

Preliminary planning was somewhat delayed because of the retirement on March 31, 1956, of John G. Sholl as supervisor of the Migrant Labor Bureau, and because Mrs. Dorothy S. Jackson, former director of the schools, had indicated she could no longer continue in that position. Charles G. Yersak, who succeeded Mr. Sholl as Supervisor of the Bureau, approved the selection by Eric Groezinger, Director of Elementary Education in New Jersey, of Mrs. Melissa E. Ingling, of Medford, New Jersey, as the new director.

#### GOVERNOR STRESSES LONG-RANGE BENEFIT

The highlight of the 1956 migrant school session was a visit by Governor Robert B. Meyner, Labor Commissioner Carl Holderman and members of the Migrant Labor Board, under the guidance of Mr. Yersak. In commenting on the school, the Governor said: "You don't just judge education in terms of what the youngsters learn here in a few weeks. It's the attitude they develop and with which they grow up that determines its ultimate value."



Through the efforts of Earl B. Garrison, superintendent of schools in Monmouth County, and the cooperation of the local school boards, five rooms were made available in the Roosevelt School, Roosevelt, and two rooms in the Court Street School, Freehold, the original site of the first migrant school in New Jersey.

A staff of eight professional and five non-professional workers was employed. The professional staff consisted of the director and six teachers—all regularly certified and approved by the Department of Education— and a registered school nurse approved by the Department of Health. The director, four of the teachers and the nurse were new to the program. The non-professional staff included the lunchroom personnel and two custodians.

#### INITIAL ACTIVITIES OF STAFF

The staff began its duties one week before the opening day. This was a time for orientation-becoming acquainted with the history of the project, setting up a tentative program and curriculum, unpacking materials and equipment, sorting and arranging Junior Red Cross gift boxes, visiting migrant camps to enroll children, and making contacts for purchasing food and establishing credit.

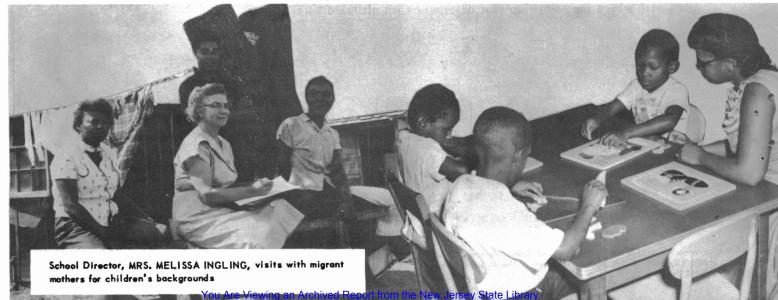
Each week thereafter the entire staff met to discuss current problems and to determine the progress of the program. Studies were made on means of keeping individual child study and record report cards, recording and tabulating attendance, and over-all curriculum needs. The staff observed that a factor affecting attendance early in the school session was the high prices being paid to farmers for potatoes. This induced the parents to take their children into the fields. It was also found that some of the children of school age were forced to act as baby sitters for the younger children while the parents were at work.

#### EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PLANNED

Much time was spent to determine the prime educational needs of the children and means of progressing from that point. One of the methods used in determining these factors consisted of administering the Pintner Cunningham Tests to the 6-9 age group, and the California Mental Maturity to the older pupils. The results were as follows:

A. Pintner Cunningham Primary test - Form A

- 1. Group I 18 children tested
- 2. a. Chronological ages ranged from 5 yrs. 11 mo. to 8 yrs. 9 mo.
  - b. Mental ages ranged from 4 yrs. 11 mo. to 9 yrs. 4 mo.
  - c. Intelligence quotients ranged from 77 to 119.
  - d. Grade placement ranged from pre-school to grade 4-1 mo.
  - e. Total retardation for this group 18 yrs. 5 mo.
  - f. Average retardation for this group 1 yr.





- 2. Group II 15 children tested
  - a. Chronological ages ranged from 6 yrs. 11 mo. to 12 yrs. 6 mo.
  - b. Mental ages ranged from 5 yrs. 1 mo. to 10 yrs.
  - c. Intelligence quotients ranged from 42 to 121.
  - d. Grade placement ranged from Kdgn. 1 mo. to Grade 4, 8 mo.
  - e. Total retardation for this group 35 yrs. 1 mo.
  - f. Average retardation for this group 2 yrs. 3 mo.
- 3. Group III 10 children tested
  - a. Chronological ages ranged from 6 yrs. 5 mo. to 9 yrs. 3 mo.
  - b. Mental ages ranged from 4 yrs. 9 mo. to 7 yrs. 1 mo.
  - c. Intelligence quotients ranged from 56 to 97.
  - d. Grade placement ranged from pre-school to grade 1-9 mo.
  - e. Total retardation for this group 21 yrs. 1 mo.
  - f. Average retardation for this group 2 yrs. 2 mo.
- B. California Mental Maturity Elementary Form
  - 1. Group 1 5 children tested
    - a. Chronological ages ranged from 8 yrs. 3 mo. to 11 yrs. 7 mo.
    - b. Mental ages ranged from 8 yrs. 4 mo. to 10 yrs. 4 mo.
    - c. Intelligence quotients ranged from 89 to 124.
    - d. Grade placement ranged from Grade 3-1 mo to Grade 5-1 mo.
    - e. Total retardation for this group 3 mo.
    - f. Average retardation for this group .6 of a year.
  - 2. Group II 15 children tested
    - a. Chronological ages ranged from 8 yrs. 3 mo. to 12 yrs. 11 mo.
    - b. Mental ages ranged from 7 yrs. to 11 yrs. 11 mo.
    - c. Intelligence quotients ranged from 65 to 106.
    - d. Grade placement ranged from Grand 1-8 mo. to Grade 6-6 mo.
    - e. Total retardation for this group 18 yrs.
    - f. Average retardation for this group 1 yr. 2 mo.
  - 3. Group III 9 children tested
    - a. Chronological ages ranged from 11 yrs. to 15 yrs. 1 mo.
    - b. Mental ages ranged from 7 yrs. 11 mo to 12 yrs. 8 mo.
    - c. Intelligence quotients ranged from 64 to 90
    - d. Grade placement ranged from Grade 2-7 mo. to Grade 7-3 mo.
    - e. Total retardation for this group 33 yrs. 1 mo.
    - f. Average retardation for this group 3 yrs. 7 mo.

A great percentage of retardation is shown by these tests. A summary of the results follows:

1. Pintner Cunningham tests

- a. Total retardation 3 groups 43 children 75 years 2 mo.
- b. Average retardation 3 groups 43 children 1 year 7 mo.
- II. California Mental Maturity
  - a. Total retardation 3 groups 29 children 51 yrs. 4 mo.
  - b. Average retardation 3 groups 29 children 2 yrs. 1 mo.
- III. Total for both tests
  - a. Grand total retardation 72 children 12 yrs. 6 mo.
  - b. Average retardation 72 children 1 yr. 8 mo.

Of the 72 children tested, only six children showed a mental age equal to their chronological age.

#### BASIC REQUIREMENTS CHARTED

The school curriculum was built around the individual child's needs under these specific headings: physical, social, emotional, and academic-reading, arithmetic, language and social studies.

\*"A functional application was sought for each skill presented. Thus, telling time became important to the children so that they would know when to meet the school bus. Counting the correct change had significance when the groups planned actual purchases at the school store. Reading maps showed them where they had been, where they were going and where they were. Reading was related to their own activities through experience charts and stories. New items posted in the halls were an additional source of reading. Writing one's name was of prime importance if a child wished to display his work.

Much use was made of audio-visual aids. Slide projectors and motion pictures with sound were educational tools. Some of the older children became adept in the use of these facilities. Film strips invariably had printed material which they could read aloud. The children were eager to learn to read and sought every opportunity to increase their skill. Film strips would often be stopped at an interesting point while the group talked about what they had seen. Discussion was a favorite occupation of the oldest group, whose members seemed starved for opportunities to express their own ideas.

#### CREATIVE SKILLS DEVELOPED

Dramatizations in which they could take part, rhythms which they could create, things they could *do* - these were the goals the children sought. Attention was paid to developing physical skills and increasing physical coordination through playground activities.



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Equal stress was placed on social amenities such as sharing materials, ideas, responsibilities, accepting a task and working it through cooperatively with others, recognizing the contribution of others and respecting their rights."

Through the cooperation of the New Jersey State Department of Health, all children received physical examinations by a doctor. They were checked for vaccination, skin infections, dental caries, contagious diseases and general state of health. Of the 110 children examined, the five most prevalent abnormalities found were: (1) Dental caries, (2) enlarged tonsils, (3) poor nutrition, (4) dermatitis and (5) secondarily infected lesions.

#### NURSE ENCOURAGES CLEANLINESS

An individual record of each child was kept by the school nurse, who made daily visits to both schools to check general health and cleanliness. Under her guidance, discussions were held on the need for good personal hygiene, proper diet habits, the need for wearing shoes, the necessity of keeping the hands and fingernails clean, for covering the mouth when sneezing or coughing, for using tissues and for tending to cuts and wounds. Further duties of the nurse consisted of visiting the children's camps to advise the parents on the proper treatment of any disorders found in the children and to instruct them on their own personal hygiene.

The State Police cooperated by visiting both schools each week, and a well-planned safety program was presented through group discussions, drawings and examination of the police equipment, such as the police car, radio, etc.

Generous contributions of clothing, toys, friendship kits and games came from the Junior Red Cross chapters in several sections of the state. These helped to provide the personal and recreational needs of the children.

Three approved school buses transported the 110 enrolled pupils living within a ten-mile radius of each school. One bus route was established in the Freehold area and two in the Roosevelt area. A portion of one route extended into the adjoining county of Mercer. In all, children from 23 camps attended.

The lunchroom played an important part in the school program by encouraging the development of regular eating habits, introduction of new foods, of a well-balanced diet and good table manners.



#### ONE KITCHEN FOR BOTH SCHOOLS

Because neither school had cooking facilities, it was necessary this year to rent a centrallylocated kitchen. To provide for the serving of meals, six knock-down tables were constructed and these became a permanent part of the migrant demonstration school equipment.

In an effort to develop a more comprehensive picture of results of the school program, a certificate of progress was developed and given to each child at the conclusion of the school term. Purpose of the certificate is to acquaint any other school the child may attend with his educational background and any physical defects he may possess. A portion is self-addressed and it is requesed that it be returned to the Migrant Labor Bureau of New Jersey, with certain pertinent data included, in order to establish a more complete picture of the migrant child's school pattern.

IT IS HOPED THAT THIS YEAR'S EXPERIENCE WILL GIVE US A GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEEDS OF THESE CHILDREN SO THAT WE MAY BE BETTER PREPARED IN THE FUTURE TO BRING ABOUT HIGHER STANDARDS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS, THEREBY ENABLING THE CHILDREN TO TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE FULLNESS AND RICHNESS THAT IS OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE.



#### HEALTH WORK AMONG AGRICULTURAL MIGRANTS

The summer health clinics for the physical examination of migrant farm workers were conducted weekly in the Freehold Health Center, semi-weekly in the Monroe Township Hall and daily in Orchard Center on the Seabrook Farm in Cumberland County. The mobile unit provided about five evening clinic sessions per week.

Two schools for migrant children were conducted by the Migrant Labor Bureau at Roosevelt and Freehold in Monmouth County. A total of 77 children received physical examinations by a member of the staff of the State Department of Health.

These children presented signs and symptoms typical for children in the 4-14 year age group. Hypertrophied tonsils, umbilical hernias, dental caries and contact dermatitis were the most frequent observations. Malnutrition and poor personal hygiene were seen only once. There was no evidence of communicable disease. Children with abnormalities were referred for care to their place of residence through the attending public health nurse.

Polio myelitis vaccine clinics were conducted at Prospect Plains and Freehold for persons under 20 years of age and for pregnant women. During seven clinic sessions, 125 individuals received vaccine.

Since the enactment of the migrant labor law in 1945, the Migrant Health Program has been primarily one of the venereal disease control, although some attention has been given to other health problems.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL

An increase of 66.1% in the number of agricultural migrants examined for venereal disease and a marked decrease in the proportion of reactors to the serologic test for syphilis were the most striking features in the evaluation of the venereal disease control program among migrant workers during 1956. This report will emphasize the factors contributing to these changes, the basic plan of operation of the program having been described in previous reports. 1, 2

#### GROUPS EXAMINED

A total of 5,375 agricultural migrants, representing four population groups, were examined for venereal disease during the 1956 season (Table 1). This compares with 3,235 individuals examined in 1955 and 3,288 in 1954 (Table 2).

Hundreds of Puerto Ricans come to New Jersey each year from other states to perform work in agriculture. Work assignments for these "walk-ins" are made through the same farmer operated service camp in Glassboro as are the work assignments for contractual personnel who are recruited in Puerto Rico and transported to the mainland. Since "walk-ins" usually have not had recent physical examination, a plan was worked out with the Glassboro Service Association whereby each such individual would be examined for venereal disease.

These workers began to arrive in New Jersey in April and early that month, six weeks before the usual time for beginning the examination of migrants in the State, operations were begun.

Between April 4 and June 8, 903 individuals, all males, of the total of 1,115 Puerto Rican "walk-ins" examined during the season, received a serologic test for syphilis and had genital inspections for clinical signs of venereal disease. The proportion of reactors to the STS was low, 1.8%, and only 11 cases of syphilis and 4 cases of gonorrhea were brought to treatment among these first 903 individuals examined. A reappraisal in the early part of June of the policy of examining Puerto Rican "walk-ins" resulted in the decision to deemphasize this activity in favor of placing maximum attention upon the examination of southern Negroes who were now entering the State in increasing numbers.

Several factors were thought to be responsible for the low venereal disease case-finding yield among the Puerto Rican "walk-ins".

1. Social contacts with people in the surrounding communities with the attendant possibilities of exposure to venereal disease were minimal because of language and other social barriers.

2. Analysis of age data from reports of the migrant programs of the last three years consistently reveals that reactivity rates to the STS rise precipitously at age 25 and over. Of the 1,115 Puerto Ricans examined during the 1956 season, 439, or 39.4% were under 25 years of age.

3. A laboratory factor, to be discussed later in this report, contributed to a lowered reactivity rate to the STS.



#### REACHING INTO THE FARMS

Previous experience showed a mobile clinic to be much more effective than the conventional type of clinic in providing services to the farm labor force, but there were still many individual migrants and small groups working on remote farms who could not benefit from the services offered because the latter were not readily accessible. Technical difficulties relating to the absence of electric power for the lighting of night clinics made it impossible to schedule the mobile unit at small, scattered farms.

With the purchase this year of a portable power unit, the mobile clinic became independent. of central locations close to power supplies and became truly a mobile unit. It could now be brought directly to migrant camps or into fields were migrants were working. This permitted a more thorough approach to the examination of agricultural migrant workers and was an additional factor accounting for the increase in the number of workers examined during 1956.

During this migrant season, as in previous seasons, each labor camp was located on a county map. A field representative visited each camp, usually within 24 hours of "clinic time", and either arranged with the crew leader to have his crew at a centralized clinic at a specified time or apprised the crew leader of the estimated time of arrival of the mobile unit in the camp. A centralized clinic might have been one of the three permanent clinics meeting weekly or semi-weekly from 7:30 P. M. until 11:00 P. M. or the mobile unit functioning five days a week usually from 5:30 P. M. until 11:00 P. M.

The technique of bringing the mobile unit to migrant camps or into fields obviated several operational problems experienced previously and resulted in improved services.

1. Examination of a given crew of workers, large or small, was often 100%. The increase of 58.1% in the number of individuals examined on the mobile clinic in 1956 over 1955 was partly due to this factor (Table 2).

2. The obstacle of inclement weather could be overcome to a large extent by setting up operations near shelters such as barns, cribs, or migrant quarters.

3. Visiting each camp provided a greater opportunity for discovering a larger number of individuals with medical problems other than venereal disease. Increased emphasis on referrals led to the development in the Central State Health District of a more complete service, wherein a medical social worker in the District office received information concerning all referrals for medical problems other than venereal disease in order that appropriate follow-up could be made.

4. A peak influx of workers to the clinic at any given time was largely avoided. This relaxation of extreme pressures resulted in improved rapport between the individuals being examined and personnel of the clinic. It provided, in addition, a greater opportunity to elicit complete home address as well as local address, thereby facilitating epidemiologic follow-up.

5. Evening farm operations were disrupted to a minimum.

#### TREATMENT

The provision of treatment services to those individuals requiring them was considerably facilitated during 1956 by the use of a "treatment car". Working in close cooperation with the mobile unit, and usually one day behind in schedule, was an appropriately equipped automobile staffed by a physician and a driver-clerk. The car visited each farm where suspects of venereal disease were located.

Benzathine penicillin G (bicillin) was the drug of choice for the treatment of syphilis and gonorrhea. It was used in a dosage of 2.4 million units for syphilis and 600,000 units for gonorrhea. A small final supply of procaine penicillin G in oil was exhausted using a treatment schedule of 4.8 million units for syphilis and 600,000 units for gonorrhea.

#### DECREASED DISCOVERY RATE

A startling decrease in proportion of reactors to the serologic test for syphilis was observed among agricultural migrants during 1956. A reactivity rate of 12.1% was obtained as compared with 21.5% in 1955. In both 1954 and 1955 a decline in reactivity rate was observed over the year just preceding, but the decline was gradual, 25.2% in 1953 to 21.5% in 1955. While part of the precipitous drop in the 1956 rate might be attributed to the undetermined factors causing the gradual decline over the last several years, a part of the drop must be ascribed to a change in laboratory procedure. For the three years prior to 1956, weakly reactive blood test results comprised 47.0% - 49.7% of of total reactive results. This large percentage was believed to be due to the non-specific reactions obtained with lipoidal Mazzini antigen. Consequently, on January 1, 1956 the Division of Laboratories began using, instead, the more specific VDRL cardiolipin antigen in the routine performance of serologic tests for syphilis. Following this change in procedure, the proportion of weakly reactive blood test results among migrants was 33.1% of the total of reactives, representing a drop of about 15%. Of the 5,375 agricultural migrants tested serologically during 1956, 651 were reactive for syphilis. Of these suspects 583, or 89.6%, were brought to examination (Table 3). Twenty-one suspects moved out of the State before follow-up could be completed and referrals were initiated and forwarded to the State Health Departments concerned.

There were 400 individuals who required treatment for syphilis, 175 requiring treatment for the first time, and 225 being returned to treatment. 163 suspects were considered to have previous adequate treatment. The number of individuals requiring treatment for syphilis in 1956 exceeded by 161 the number requiring treatment in the previous year when 239 persons were treated. However, there was a decrease in the number of people treated for gonorrhea. In 1956, 156 individuals were treated for this disease and in 1955, there were 190.

A total of 720 cases of venereal disease were diagnosed during the 1956 agricultural migrant season and 557 of these were either treated for the first time or were returned to treatment (Table 4).

#### TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL

During 1956, chest x-ray surveys were conducted at Garden State, Monmouth and Atlantic County Race Tracks. There were 843 persons x-rayed. Of this number 26, or 3.8%, were referred with suspected tuberculosis. In addition, there were 16 persons referred because of cardiac abnormalities. An analysis of the results of follow-up on these individuals is presently under way.

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- 1 Shepard, A. C., and Page, W. J., Jr.: Venereal disease in agricultural migrants. Pub. Health Rep. 69: 831-835, September 1954.
- 2 Shepard, A. C., and Page, W. J. Jr.: Venereal disease in migrant workers. Pub. Health Rep. 70: 986-990, October 1955.

In Mi	TABLE 1 of Serologic Te grant Agricultu ation Group, Ne	ests For Syphi ral Workers,		TABLE 2Agricultural Migrants Receiving Serologic TestsFor Syphilis At Migrant Health Clinics, New Jersey, 1954-1956						
Population	Total	Reactiv	ve to STS	Clining	Year					
Groups	Tests	Number	Percent	Clinics	1954	1955	1956			
All groups	5,375	651	12.1	All clinics	3,288	3,235	5,375			
Negroes	3,800	594	15.6	Stationery clinics	1,210	1,066	1,945			
Puerto Ricans	1,115	26	2.3	Freehold	276	309	357			
Jamaicans	343	26	7.6	Orchard Center	445	235	430			
Whites	117	5	4.3	Prospect Plains	489	522	554			
				Glassboro			604			
				Mobile clinic	2,078	2,169	3,430			

#### TABLE 3

Results Of Investigation Of Migrant Agricultural Worker's With Positive Or Doubtful Results Of Serologic Tests For Syphilis, New Jersey, 1955 and 1956

	Total	Suspects	Examined	Suspects Not Examined By Reasons					
Clinic	Suspects Investigated	Number	Per Cent	Located Uncooperative	Moved Out Of Jurisdiction	Cannot Locate	No. Dispositions after 30 days		
All Clinics - 1955	706	670	94.9	0	5	31	0		
All Clinics - 1956	651	583	89.6	0	21	47	0		
Seabrook Farms	30	28	93.3	0	0	2	0		
Freehold	61	56	91.8	0	0	5	0		
Prospect Plains	68	61	89.7	0	1	6	0		
Mobile Unit	481	428	88.9	0	20	33	0		
Glassboro	11	10	90.9	0	0	1	0		

Total Cases		-	BRO	UGHT TO			Previously		
Clinic	of Venereal			Syphilis		Gonorrhea	Other	Returned to Treatment for Syphilis	Adequately
	Disease Diagnosed	Total	Primary & Secondary	Early Latent	Other		Venereal Diseases		Treated for Syphilis
All Clinics - 1955	766	135	0	80	55	190	6	104	331
All Clinics - 1956*	720	175	8	42	125	156	1	225	163
Freehold	73	15	0	9	6	18	. 0	3	37
Glassboro	16	1	0	1	0	6	0	8	1
Prospect Plains	103	15	0	1	14	42	0	2	44
eabrook (Mobile Unit)	25	11	0	2	9	0	0	8	6
Aobile Unit*	497	131	6	29	96	89	1	201	75
eabrook Farms	6	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	0

#### TABLE 4 Cases of Venereal Disease Among Migrant Agricultural Workers Diagnosed Through Serologic Tests and Physical Examination by Migrant Health Clinics, New Jersey, 1955 and 1956

 
 TABLE 5

 Results of Venereal Disease Contact Interviewing and Investigation of Migrant Agricultural Workers, New Jersey, 1955 - 1956

Diagnostic Categories	Num Pati Interv 1955	ents	Conto Obtai 1955		Con In 1955	tact dex 1956	Investig Assig 1955		Num Exam 1955		Infecte Disea Pat 1955		Given pro or epiden treat 1955	niological
Syphilis: Primary & Secondary	2	6	8	11	4.00	1.83	0	7	0	7	0	3	0	3
Early Latent	24	9	70	22	2.91	2.44	23	4	22	3	5	0	1	1
Other (Late Latent Syphilis, Chancroid & Lymphogranuloma Venereum	3	6	5	11	1.67	1.83	1	5	1	5	0	1	0	4
Gonorrhea	95	71	132	74	1.39	1.03	80	41	63	36	24	28	39	7

 TABLE 6

 Results of Serologic Tests for Syphilis in Migrant Agricultural Workers

 by Sex and Age Groups, New Jersey, 1956

Age Groups	Nu	mber T	ests	Num	ber Po	sitive	Num	ber Do	ubtful		Cent Po Doubt		Nur	nber Ne	gative
Age oroups	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All Ages	5375	3833	1542	435	278	157	216	130	86	12.1	10.6	15.7	4724	3425	1299
Under 15	199	111	88	6	4	2	2	2		4.0	5.4	2.3	191	105	86
15 - 24	1679	1204	475	51	29	22	15	9	6	3.9	3.2	5.9	1613	1166	447
25 - 34	1544	1156	388	121	65	56	61	38	23	11.8	8.9	20.4	1362	1053	309
35 - 44	1095	782	313	118	74	44	71	38	33	17.3	14.3	24.6	906	670	236
45 - 54	595	385	210	92	65	27	42	29	13	22.5	24.4	19.0	461	291	170
55 - 64	215	162	53	37	32	5	25	14	11	28.9	28.4	30.2	153	116	37
65 and Over	48	33	15	10	9	1	-	-		20.8	27.3	6.7	38	24	14

# CAMPS

2668

inspected

ISTRICT 1

MERCER

DISTRICT 4

ATLANTIC

A U

DISTRICT 5

BU

BERGEN

ESSEX

DISTRICT 2

MONMOUTH

UNION

#### INSPECTED CAMPS BY COUNTIES

County	Number 1954-55	of Camps 1955-56
Atlantic	215	233
Bergen	49	44
Burlington	230	202
Camden	84	91
Cape May	38	42
Cumberland	460	476
Essex	7	9
Gloucester	586	583
Hudson	2	3
Hunterdon	16	11
Mercer	101	95
Middlesex	142	123
Monmouth	257	196
Morris	30	29
Ocean	123	123
Passaic	27	25
Salem	290	319
Somerset	11	9
Sussex	5	5
Union	13	15
Warren	35	35
	2736	2668

#### CAMPS BY DISTRICT

DISTRICT 1 -	212 CAMPS
DISTRICT 2 -	410 CAMPS
DISTRICT 3 -	302 CAMPS
DISTRICT 4 -	324 CAMPS
DISTRICT 5 -	1420 CAMPS

in New Jersey

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