

8<sup>th</sup> annual

Report

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BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

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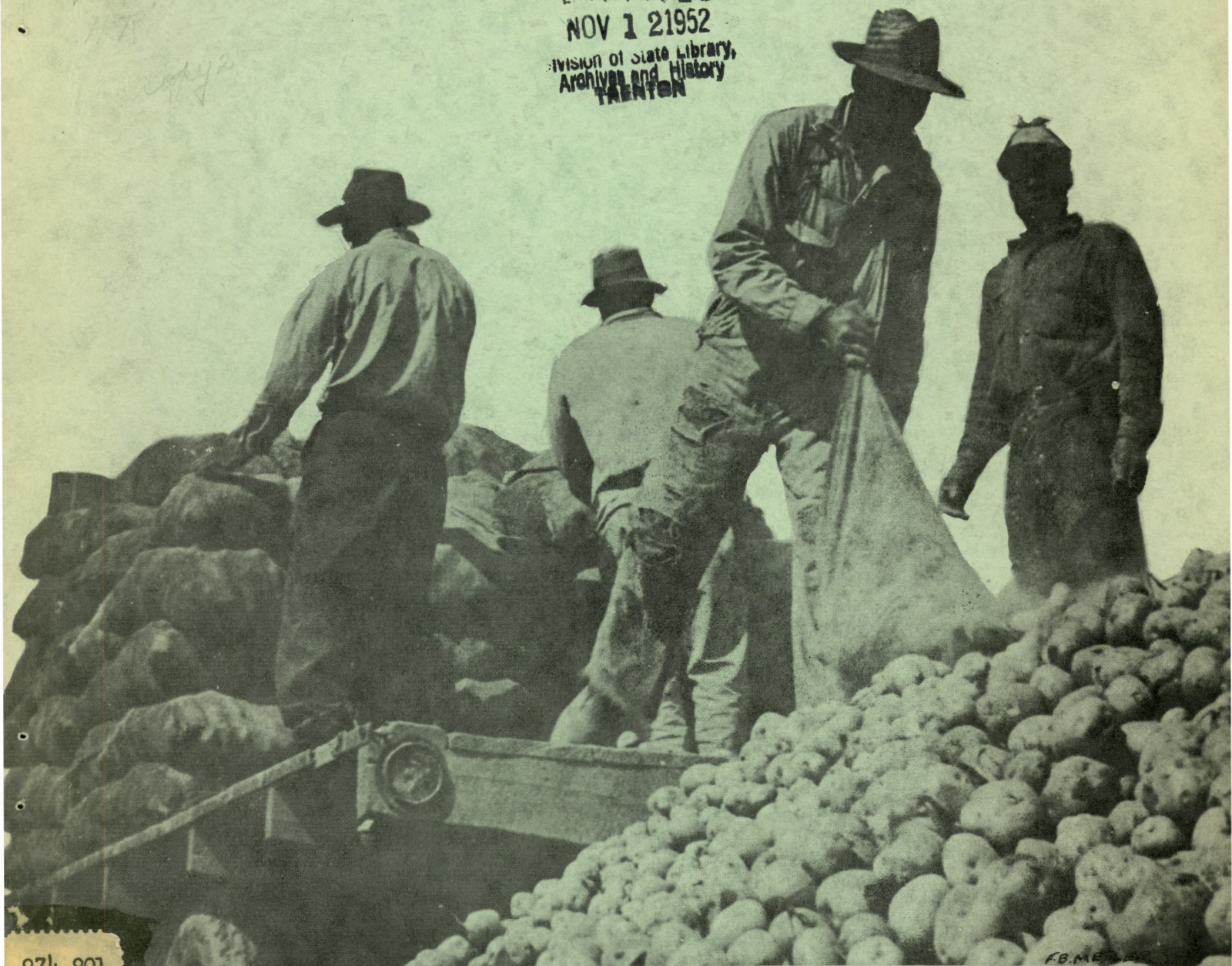
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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

PERCY A. MILLER, JR., Commissioner

J. LYMAN BROWN, Deputy Commissioner

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
Alfred E. Driscoll  
Governor

*N.J.* DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY. *Bureau of migrant labor.*  
Percy A. Miller, Jr. Commissioner  
J. Lyman Brown Deputy Commissioner *Annual report.*

BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR  
John G. Sholl  
Secretary-Supervisor

M I G R A N T L A B O R B O A R D

Chairman  
Jay C. Garrison, Elmer,  
Salem County Freeholder  
and farm leader.

OTHER PUBLIC MEMBERS

John M. Seabrook, Bridgeton, farm manager.  
Leon B. Schachter, Camden, business manager of the  
Meat & Cannery Workers Union Local 56.  
Mrs. Madaline A. Williams, East Orange, treasurer,  
National Council of Negro Women.  
Rev. Edward C. Dunbar, Flemington, chairman, Town  
and Country Committee, N. J. Council of Churches.

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Secretary

Charles R. Erdman, Jr.  
Commissioner

Dr. John H. Bosshart,  
Commissioner

Dr. Daniel Bergsma,  
Commissioner

Sanford Bates,  
Commissioner

Percy A. Miller, Jr.,  
Commissioner

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Asst. Secy.

William T. Vanderlipp, Director  
Division of Planning & Development

Thomas J. Durell,  
Assistant Commissioner

Carl E. Weigele, Director,  
Bureau of Preventable Diseases

Elmer V. Andrews,  
Deputy Commissioner of Welfare

J. Lyman Brown, Dep. Commissioner  
and Director, Division of Labor

AGRICULTURE

CONSERVATION &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION

HEALTH

INSTITUTIONS  
& AGENCIES

LABOR & INDUSTRY

LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
Colonel Russell A. Snook  
Supt., Division of State Police

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
Alfred E. DuSautoy  
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Percy A. Miller, Jr., Commissioner  
J. Iwan Brown, Deputy Commissioner

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John G. Swell  
Secretary-Supervisor

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Jay C. Garrison, Elmer,  
Salmon County Prosecutor  
and Fair Leader.

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John M. Seabrook, Brighton, Fair manager.  
Lester B. Schaefer, Garden, business manager of the  
Meat & Cannery Workers Union Local 56.  
Mrs. Madeline A. Williams, East Orange, treasurer,  
National Council of Negro Women.  
Rev. Edward C. Dwyer, Plainfield, chairman, Fair  
and County Committee, N. J. Council of Churches.

STATE DEPARTMENTS

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Asst. Secy.

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Commissioner

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Bureau of Preventable Diseases

Dr. Daniel ...  
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner of Welfare

Stanford ...  
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LABOR & INDUSTRY

J. Iwan Brown, Dep. Commissioner  
and Director, Division of Labor

Percy A. Miller, Jr.,  
Commissioner

LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY

Colonel Russell A. ...  
Capt., Division of State Police

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT  
BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR  
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY  
Fiscal Year - July 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952  
By John G. Shall, Supervisor

SURMISE      Seven full years have elapsed since the migrant labor program was started  
vs.              in New Jersey.

SURVEY

Just what progress has been made in improving housing for migrant workers and their families in the period since the Migrant Labor Board and Bureau were created has now been determined through a careful survey of all the camps in the state.

Previous estimates of from 16,000 to 18,000 migrants who come into the state each season have been confirmed by the survey. These workers move about from farm to farm so it is difficult to get exact numbers without some duplication. Definite figures show that 6000 Puerto Ricans were brought in by growers' associations for the 1951-52 season. In addition there were 2198 walk-ins. The number of Southern migrants has remained fairly static over the years at 6000 to 7000. Another 1200 to 1500 workers came out of the big cities to help with the harvests. Then there were also 453 Jamaicans. Some of the domestic migrants came from as far away as Kansas. Only two Mexicans registered in the camps.

To house this army of workers there are now 2357 inspected camps in the state, or 109 more than in 1950-51. Careful checks show that they have a legal capacity for sheltering 31,478 persons. It should therefore be obvious that there is no overcrowding except in some isolated instances where over-sized crews or an unexpected influx of workers may tax the accommodations of a few camps.

Here is a housing setup that may well be given consideration in any defense planning. It presents the possibility, in an emergency, of evacuating approximately 30,000 persons from large cities to generally well constructed shelters in the rural areas in certain periods of the year when they are not occupied by field workers. During a heavy flood in the Port Norris area in the fall of 1951, a large group of oyster shuckers and their families, driven from their homes by the high water, found temporary quarters in migrant camps at the Seabrook Farms, near Bridgeton.

As a bit of background and contrast, here is a quotation contained in a presentment made by a grand jury in one of the counties ten years ago: "migrant workers existed, rather than lived, in filthy hovels and sometimes in groups without any shelter, herded together without regard to age, sex, family relationship or disease, with the inhabitants of such premises entirely without supervision by any law or health authority and without any regard of sanitary requirements."

Black as this picture was painted, it is unfair to assume that there were not some good camps for migrants a decade ago. In fact, the good camps have been the basis for whatever success the Bureau's program may have so far achieved. Past policies of Congressional, State and welfare investigations have been reversed. Instead of pin pointing poor camps as horrible examples, the good ones have been emphasized by the Bureau as an incentive to other employers to improve their housing for migrants. Conditions in inferior camps, however, have not been glossed over.

Every effort has been made to fairly and firmly enforce the Migrant Labor Act. Several camp operators have been called in for hearings since it became effective. But no big stick has been wielded. Inspectors are constantly schooled in the thought that their job is one of educating rather than policing. Their motto is "Better housing brings better workers". Just how effective this has been in winning the confidence and cooperation of most of the camp operators is indicated by the figures and charts that follow in the report.

When the Migrant Labor Bureau started to operate not a single camp was officially listed or supervised by the state. Today there are 2357 camps registered. These range from modest cabins for one or two workers to barracks or family units that will accommodate 400 to 500 migrants. New Jersey is the only state that registers and inspects all camps, regardless of size.

FACTS and FIGURES These 2357 registered camps are composed of 4051 units. The survey just completed by the Bureau's inspectors shows that 1180 of these units have been newly constructed since 1945, while 2317 others have been remodeled or renovated. In more recent years 459 cinder block units have been built. Frame construction totals 2850 units and metal 44.

Among the total number of camps, 2020 of them have electricity. Some have electric stoves and refrigerators. A few have installed bottled gas for cooking. Water piped under pressure is furnished to 926 of the camps. Wells still predominate. Only 16 camps depend upon springs. Flush toilets are found in 143 of the camps. Since these are mostly in the large camps they take care of a comparatively large number of migrants.

New or improved camps are not the complete answer to the migrant problem. It is a two-fold one. The camp owner must first provide adequate housing and good sanitation, then the workers must be persuaded to make proper use of the accommodations furnished for their comfort, mostly at no cost to them. One of the most common complaints of employers is that the workers damage the camps. Even the good camps soon deteriorate unless there is supervision and periodic inspection. For that reason most of the growers welcome the Bureau's inspectors because of the assistance they give in helping to straighten out this part of the problem.

To accomplish this the Bureau had a staff of six full-time and five part-time inspectors. One of the former, Melvin B. Johnson, Newark, who had done excellent work also in Displaced Persons' investigations, died suddenly during the winter. Another seasonal inspector was added to the staff this summer. The rest of the personnel of the Bureau is the same as a year ago. Both the inspectors and the office staff have carried out the double task of their regular migrant work and DP investigations loyally and efficiently.

The Bureau's inspectors covered 82,233 miles in making their rounds of camps during the year. They made a total of 6729 stops for inspections, surveys or for other information about migrants.

All camp inspections start off fresh with each season. No camp ever receives permanent approval. Its rating is based upon conditions found on each inspection. Hence the fluctuations from year to year in the numbers of approved, conditionally approved and disapproved camps. Inspection forms were completely revised during the year. The comparative figures showing the results of the 1951-52 inspections are found in the table at end of report.

ODDS Here are a few cases taken at random from reports of the inspectors  
to showing some of the changes that have been wrought by New Jersey's mi-  
GOOD ENDS grant program:

After repeated efforts were made to get a camp in Middlesex County repaired and cleaned up, even to the extent of the operator being called in for a hearing and fined, the tail-end of a hurricane solved the problem by completely demolishing the shacks. Among new camps in that county is a building 24x50 feet, containing eight rooms separated by partitions, with an outside door to each room.

In Salem County, the workers on a farm near Woodstown had been housed in an old frame building; they used oil stoves and carried water from a farmhouse across the road. A new cinder block kitchen has been added to the building, electric pump and water system installed, along with bottled gas for cooking and also a gas hot water heater for washing and cooking.

At another camp in this county a shower room has been improvised by erecting a cinder block shell around a bath tub and a large tank in which the cold water is warmed by the sun.

\* \* \* \* \*

An additional room has been added to a cinder block building on a Morris County farm to provide a kitchen and dining room separate from the sleeping quarters.

\* \* \* \* \*

What had formerly been a 40x41 foot chicken house in Monmouth County that had been disapproved for housing of migrants because some of the front windows were boarded up and the rooms were very dark, has been entirely renovated with new windows in the front and rear for cross ventilation. The entire structure has been covered with asbestos shingles.

\* \* \* \* \*

Then there was a two-story frame tenant house in Mercer County in such poor condition that it was repeatedly disapproved in spite of efforts to fix it up. The house was torn down this year and replaced with a building 18x45 feet containing two rooms with electric lights and good cross ventilation.

\* \* \* \* \*

A one-room shack in Ocean County has been replaced by a new frame building 20x30 feet, with separate bedroom, living room, kitchen, and bathroom, flush toilet, bath tub, sink, automatic oil heat, hot and cold running water, and electricity.

One of the large camps in the cranberry belt in Ocean County has been greatly improved by relocating the cabins with ample space between them, insulating the buildings, and installing running water and flush toilets in some of them. All the cabins have electricity.

The men's barracks at a fishery company's plant have been recon-  
verted into two-room apartments, consisting of bedroom, combina-  
tion kitchen and living room, sink, running water, and electricity  
for each worker and his wife.

\* \* \* \* \*

Two 16x16 foot frame buildings with no electricity, outside toilets,  
hand pump, or showers, in Cumberland County, have been replaced by  
a 16x30 foot concrete block building with four separate compart-  
ments, electricity, electric pump, and piped water with separate  
flush toilets and showers for men and women--and also television.

At still another camp in that county workers who previously were  
housed in the end of a packing shed, which had a canvas covered  
dirt floor, electric lights from an extension cord, no cross ven-  
tilation, and a frame toilet, this season moved into a 20x100  
cement block steel frame building with three separate apartments,  
sinks and running water, two flush toilets, four showers, properly  
wired electricity, four oil stoves and three electric refrigerators.

Drab cabins on a large camp in that county have all been brightened  
up with paint this season and even the interiors of three other  
camps have been painted. A shower and washrooms in one of the  
camps have been entirely renovated and a new gas stove installed  
in the kitchen.

\* \* \* \* \*

An old packing house that had housed migrants in Atlantic County  
has been replaced by an 18x42 foot cinder block building.

Another camp in that county has been even more extensively improved  
by a 40x20 foot building, with dormitory, separate kitchen and  
messhall.

Still another farmer in that area has provided a new 24x36 foot  
cinder block building with dormitories and separate kitchen for  
his workers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Gloucester County growers, who operate the Glassboro Camp for  
Puerto Ricans, have made extensive improvements in barracks and  
other buildings. Wooden steps have been replaced with concrete  
and new block foundations have also been set under all the  
dormitories to replace wooden posts. The lavatory and shower  
room have also been remodeled and a new toilet system installed.  
The dispensary has been entirely renovated, with new paint, new  
plastic tile floor, and the installation of regular hospital beds  
to replace cots. In the camp messhall, a new walk-in refrigerator  
has been added at a cost of \$2000.

\* \* \* \* \*

Television was included in the installation of modern conveniences in a remodeled camp in Burlington County.

A new kitchen was added to another camp in that county, with new stove, cooking utensils and other equipment.

Still another grower, who erected a cinder block building for his workers last year, came along this year with a larger one that cost \$5000.

\* \* \* \* \*

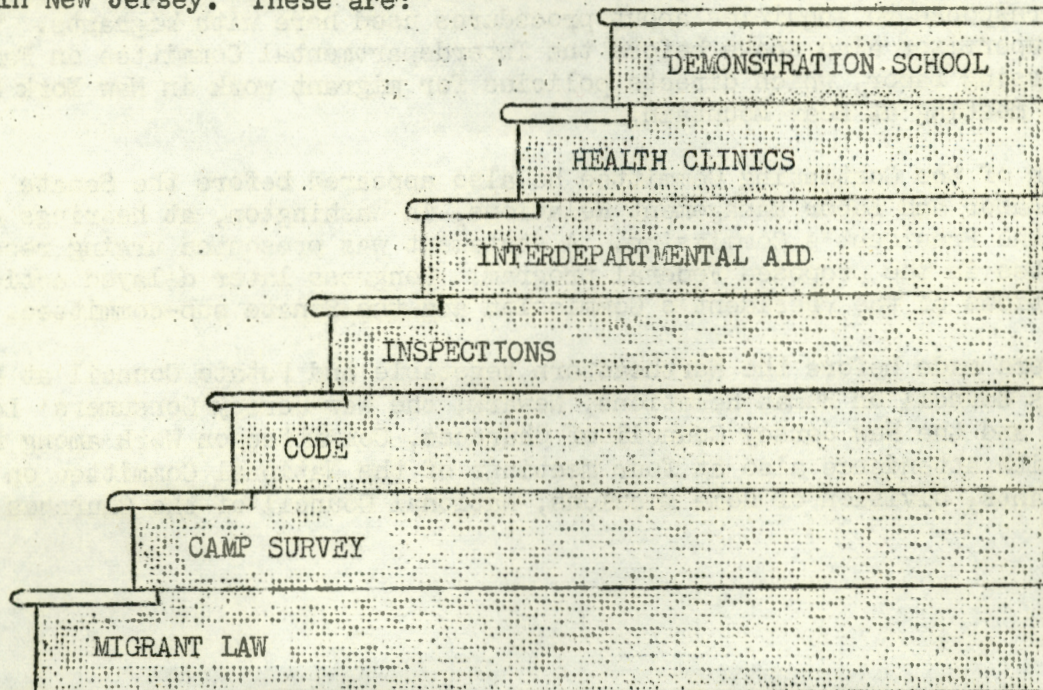
Former Senator Lester H. Clee, now President of the Civil Service Commission, who, with Mrs. Clee, took an active interest in migrants some years ago, accompanied Commissioner Percy A. Miller, Jr., of the Department of Labor and Industry, Deputy Commissioner J. Lyman Brown, and the supervisor on an all-day tour of some of the South Jersey camps. He expressed satisfaction over changes for the better he found in living conditions for the workers in contrast to what he had seen in the past.

SEVEN STEPS  
of  
PROGRESS

As fiscal years go, this is the eighth annual report. The members of the Migrant Labor Board were appointed April 10, 1945. It was mid-June when the Division of Migrant Labor (now Bureau) got underway. Actual inspections of migrant camps under the law became effective September 15, 1945. Since the season was then nearly at an end, the first summer had to be given over largely to the preparation of a code, selection of inspectors, and surveys rather than official inspections. So the migrant program has now been in operation for seven summers in eight of the State's fiscal years.

Seven is indeed the magic number in the current review of this migrant work. There are seven heads or representatives of State departments on the Board. Four of the original five public members completed seven years of service in April.

Seven definite steps of advancement have been taken to improve conditions for migrant workers in New Jersey. These are:



For three years the Bureau, in addition to its regular duties, has conducted investigations and handled the routine work and correspondence for the Commission on Displaced Persons. At the request of Governor Driscoll, the head of the Bureau has served as secretary to the Commission. In that period its inspectors have investigated a total of 1290 personal assurances. The office staff wrote a total of 2701 letters. The secretary attended one national and two regional conferences and 12 scheduled meetings of the Commission, also various sectional and community meetings to explain the program.

PUBLIC  
RELATIONS

States along the Eastern Seaboard that use migrants were represented at the annual Farm Labor Conference held at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, during the winter. The supervisor of the Bureau attended and as chairman of the Continuing Committee on Migratory Labor, of the Council of State Governments, conducted a panel on the report of the President's Commission. He also showed the colored motion picture on the migrant program in New Jersey at this meeting. This film has been shown before several groups in the State during the year.

Some of these organizations and groups before whom the migrant film "Jersey Journey" has been shown included: Modern Muses Women's Club of Ocean County; Ocean Grove Women's Club; Sociology Club of Newark Colleges of Rutgers University; Women's Club of Rutgers University, Newark; Tri-County Camera Club, Kearny; Parent's Teachers Asso., So. 8th St. High School, Newark; West Long Branch Lions Club; Farmers & Gardeners Asso., Keyport; Long Branch Exchange Club; Asbury Park Women's Club; American Legion Post, Long Branch; Trenton Opti-Mrs. Club; Kiwanis Club, Woodstown; Rotary Club, Elmer; American Red Cross, Newark; St. Paul's Methodist Church, Trenton; Second Calvary Baptist Church, Hopewell; Civ-Eds, Newark; Afro-American Baptist State Convention in N. J., Trenton; Woodstown Grange; Estling Lake Men's Club, Estling Lake; Home Missions Council Conference, Mt. Misery; President's Commission on Migratory Labor, Trenton; National Educational Conference, Washington, D. C.

Conferences were held with representatives from Pennsylvania seeking information about the migrant work in New Jersey in preparation for setting up a similar program in that state. Copies of the Migrant Labor Act and Code were sent to several other states in response to inquiries about procedures used here with migrants. The Bureau's supervisor also spoke before the Interdepartmental Committee on Farm and Food Processing Labor, which directs policies for migrant work in New York State, at its annual meeting at Bear Mountain.

As chairman of the Continuing Committee he also appeared before the Senate sub-committee on Labor and Labor Management Relations, in Washington, at hearings on the report of the President's Commission. A statement was presented urging recognition of the states in the proposed Federal program. Congress later delayed action on the recommendations of the President's Commission and the Senate sub-committee.

Speeches were made before the Northeastern Vegetable and Potato Council at New York, the Women's Council on Human Relations, Newark; the New Jersey Consumers' League, Montclair, and the New Jersey Council of Churches, Committee on Work among Migrants, Trenton, with attendance also at four meetings of the National Committee on Work among Migrants, Division of Home Missions, National Council of the Churches of Christ, New York.

A conference was held in Trenton with Federal officials in reference to child labor among migrants. Under a new U. S. labor law, children under 16 are not permitted to work in the fields when public schools in their area are in session. The Federal investigations were made just before the schools closed or just after they opened. It was pointed out at this conference that New Jersey is one of only six states in the entire U. S. with effective child labor laws.

Frequent conferences were held with representatives of the State Employment Service and there was an exchange of data and other information relative to movements of migrants, labor needs, truck licenses and other details of labor placement. Continued cooperation from this quarter has aided both the Bureau and its inspectors in their work with migrants. Russell J. Eldridge, superintendent of the SES, and Walter H. Edling, supervisor of Rural Industries, sit in as consultants at meetings of the Migrant Labor Board.

CITATION A citation honoring Freehold for its encouragement and support of the  
for migrant educational and welfare programs was awarded at the fiftieth anni-  
FREEHOLD versary luncheon of the Consumers' League on December 1, and directed  
further statewide attention to the demonstration school for migrant chil-  
dren. This school was conducted for its fourth season in that community  
from July 16 to August 28. The Court Street School Building, which had housed this  
project in the previous summers, was again made available through the cooperation of  
the local Board of Education. The staff was selected and the educational program  
directed by the State Department of Education through Thomas J. Durell, Assistant  
Commissioner. The funds were provided from the regular legislative appropriation to  
the Migrant Labor Board.

Mrs. Dorothy S. Jackson, helping teacher in Mercer and Somerset Counties, continued as director of the school for the third summer. She and her staff made a survey of 32 migrant camps within a five-mile radius of the school to determine how many migrant children under 12 years of age were eligible for admission to the school. They noted a marked decrease in the number of young children who accompanied workers to the Freehold area. The top enrollment for the six-weeks summer school was 50 children. They were transported from the camps to the school and returned in a regular school bus fully equipped to meet safety regulations.

The curriculum followed a two-fold pattern of character-personality development and work in basic skills. It included reading, writing, oral speech, numbers, arts, crafts, and music. Motion pictures with sound and film strips were used daily in visual education. Trips and excursions within the neighborhood were a means of broadening the pupils' experience and there was also the annual trip to the shore for the older children.

Fresh vegetables from their own gardens were contributed by migrant mothers to supplement the menus for midday meals served to the children at the school. Fruit juices, with crackers or cookies, were also given the children in the afternoon.

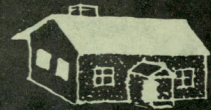
A test of mental ability was given to 26 of the children whose birth dates could be verified. The results of this testing showed that while chronological ages ranged from 12 to 5, mental ages ranged from 9 to 4. The median chronological age of the group was two years above the median mental age. Medical tests were given to 38 of the children by the State Department of Health, which reported that only the usual conditions common in this age group were found, such as a few cases of enlarged tonsils, ring worm, umbilical hernia and impetigo. Fourteen of the cases were followed up by home visits by the school director and by prescribed medication at the school.



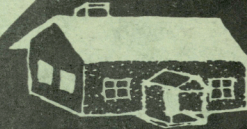
# BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

## INSPECTED CAMPS BY THE CALENDAR

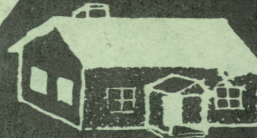
1945	.....	.....
1946	.....	2271
1947	.....	2515
1948	.....	2184
1949	.....	1895
1950	.....	2111
1951	.....	2232
1952	.....	2357



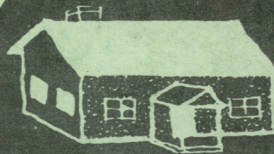
1945 - 0 CAMPS



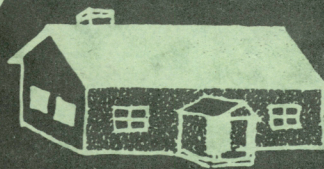
1946 - 2271 CAMPS



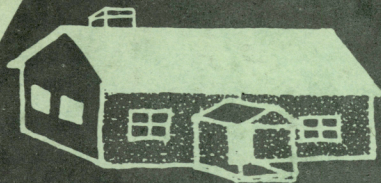
1947 - 2515 CAMPS



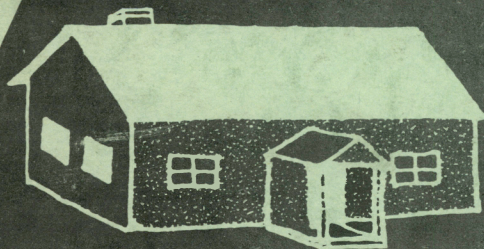
1948 - 2184 CAMPS



1949 - 1895 CAMPS



1950 - 2111 CAMPS



1951 - 2232 CAMPS



1952 - 2357 CAMPS

## INSPECTED CAMPS BY COUNTIES

County	Number of Camps	
	1951-52	1950-51
Atlantic	159	127
Bergen	33	31
Burlington	195	186
Camden	49	41
Cape May	29	26
Cumberland	333	250
Essex	5	3
Gloucester	524	477
Hudson	1	1
Hunterdon	12	8
Mercer	121	144
Middlesex	142	155
Monmouth	254	247
Morris	26	21
Ocean	106	149
Passaic	19	13
Salem	285	316
Somerset	11	9
Sussex	5	2
Union	8	6
Warren	24	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2341	2232
	16 - R. R. camps	
	<hr/>	
	2357	