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# MIGRANT LABOR *Report*

CARL HOLDERMAN, Commissioner

J. LYMAN BROWN, Deputy Commissioner

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1954-55





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Improvement

# CAMP MIGRANT

PERIODIC INSPECTION BY OWNER AND BY STATE

CAMP SUPERVISION

FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

PIPED WATER FOR DRINKING AND BATHING

BOTTLED GAS FOR COOKING

ELECTRICITY FOR LIGHTING

FLY-TIGHT AND SANITARY TOILETS

CLEAN ROOMS AND GROUNDS

QUARTERS FULLY SCREENED

SEPARATE ROOMS FOR SLEEPING AND COOKING

ADEQUATE CONSTRUCTION

SELECTION OF GOOD SITE

Point by Point Progress in

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## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ROBERT B. MEYNER, Governor

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

CARL HOLDERMAN, Commissioner

J. LYMAN BROWN, Deputy Commissioner



#### BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

JOHN G. SHOLL,  
*Secretary & Supervisor*

#### Public Members of Migrant Board

*Front row, left to right -*

Chairman Seabrook, Commissioner  
Holderman and Mrs. Williams.

*Back row -*

Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Sparks, and  
Mr. Hewitt.

#### MIGRANT LABOR BOARD

**CHAIRMEN:** JAY C. GARRISON, Elmer, Farm Leader, April 1945 to April 1955  
JOHN M. SEABROOK, Bridgeton, President, Seabrook Farms, April 1955 to present

#### STATE DEPARTMENTS

OTIS M. SPARKS, Farmer, Salem; ELMER J. HEWITT, Labor, Vine-  
land; MRS. MADALINE A. WILLIAMS, East Orange, State NAACP  
Youth Advisor; REV. EDWARD C. DUNBAR, Flemington, Chairman,  
Town and Country Committee, N. J. Council of Churches.

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sistant Secretary.

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##### EDUCATION

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Assistant Director, Local Health Services.

##### INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES

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##### LABOR & INDUSTRY

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# BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

FISCAL YEAR - JULY 1, 1954 TO JUNE 30, 1955

by JOHN G. SHOLL, Supervisor

Let's get right to the point as to how much has been done to improve living conditions for migrant workers in New Jersey since the Migrant Labor Board and Bureau were established in 1945.

A fairly accurate answer can be given as a result of a general survey conducted by inspectors of the Bureau during the past year. Their findings are based upon a careful check of all of the 2736 migrant camps listed in the state, both as to construction and equipment.

Other surveys have been conducted during the last 20 years by various public agencies to try to learn actual conditions among seasonal workers, particularly those on the farms. Too many of them have ended with mere reports. Obviously, it has not been possible for such agencies to cover more than scattered camps, so such surveys have been "spotty" and too often aimed at emphasizing only bad conditions found in the camps.

In entering upon the state sponsored migrant program in the spring of 1945, the Migrant Labor Board and Bureau adopted a policy of following up surveys with action. This simply meant that if sub-standard living conditions were found in a camp, then an inspector was sent out to tell the owner how and where to correct them. This has been further developed by educational projects carried out by the Bureau to inform farmers and other camp operators as to how to build and to maintain approved camps.

## GOLD PLATED PLUMBING AN ILLUSION

Growers at first were apprehensive that the new law would impose upon them obligations that they couldn't possibly meet. Some referred to it as having to put "gold plated plumbing" in their migrant camps. Much was done to allay these fears by the Board's code committee. After much study of housing and sanitary codes of other states, this committee decided upon essentials for a good camp and came out with a code that growers admit to be fair, and its provisions have proved to be effective and enforceable.

Periodic inspections of camps have been found to be the most effective way of improving them. In the years that have elapsed, 28,578 inspections have been made and full reports filed in the Bureau's office. When they have failed to correct camp conditions, violators of the Migrant Labor Law and Code have been called in for hearings. Fines have been imposed in the most flagrant cases.



Information compiled from camp reports has been the basis for a gradual evolution in the inspection forms, methods and techniques. In the latest inspection form, two factors are brought out more clearly, namely:

1 - How good are the camp buildings?

2 - How do the workers treat them?

Fair answers to these two questions should help to further solve one of the most perplexing of the problems in migrant housing--who is to blame for a bad camp, the owner, by failure to provide adequate shelter, or the occupants, by their abuse of the accommodations afforded them and by their lack of good housekeeping practices? Most camps would be habitable if they were kept clean by those who use them.

#### PLENTY OF ROOM FOR THE MIGRANTS

One thing proved by the 1954-55 survey is that as a general thing New Jersey's migrant camps are not overcrowded. There may be some exceptions where crews larger than the employer had anticipated arrive for the harvests. The survey shows that the camps have a legal capacity for housing 32,615 persons. The maximum camp population in the season just closed was 22,147. The workers were distributed as follows:

Puerto Ricans	12,322
(Men	4,499
Negroes (Women	2,072
(Children	1,044
Others	2,220

Since the survey shows the workers actually in the camps at the time of the inspectors' visits, some duplications in numbers could not be avoided because of the shift of workers from one camp to another as local harvests were completed. A fairly accurate count of Puerto Ricans is made by the growers' associations, which listed 7563 of these workers who registered at their labor centers. In addition to these, there probably were about 1500 more Puerto Ricans who came in on their own and found jobs on farms without any central registering.

Previous estimates have placed the number of Negro migrant workers at 6000 and the survey supports this figure. Here again the shifting of crews through the season leads to some duplication in the count. The 2220 "others" listed included whites, Italian-Americans who come out of the large cities to cut asparagus and to pick cranberries, and some other racial groups, including a few hundred Jamaicans.



Those earlier estimates of a total of approximately 18,000 migrants in the state each year appear to have been close to the mark, if allowance is made for duplications in camp occupancies.

#### SURVEY POINTS TO IMPROVEMENTS

The army of workers is housed in 2736 different camps, which are comprised of 4382 building units. These units include 3555 of frame construction, 695 cinder block, 82 metal and 50 other types. They are further divided into 11,187 rooms.

In carrying out the policy established by the Migrant Labor Board of conducting a program of information and education to win the cooperation of growers in providing better camps for their workers, the Bureau reports these results from its survey:

- 1180 new units constructed
- 2317 old units renovated
- 2069 camps have electricity
- 1271 camps have gas for cooking
- 1533 camps have piped water
- 724 camps have shower baths
- 1653 camps have separate kitchens

Decisions made at the early meeting of the Board in 1945 set the framework for the program that has since been developed. Secretary Allen estimated that there would be about 4500 migrants in the state, and that they would be used on about 800 farms. The war was still on and there were 5000 inter-nationals, including Jamaicans, Barbadians and Mexicans in the state; also 2200 prisoners of war, who were brought in largely to work in food processing plants. The Federal camps were liquidated a few years later. By that time, growers' associations had started to take up the matter of solving their own problems by bringing in Puerto Ricans. This has developed into a project in which from 8000 to 10,000 seasonal workers from these islands are brought to New Jersey and placed on the farms each summer.

The work of listing camps started from scratch, and today there are 2736 state inspected camps on an equal number of farms, for approximately 18,000 seasonal workers. Chairman Garrison and Secretary Allen in the early years stressed the need for a program of education and information for camp operators, rather than going out and starting to enforce the act with a police club.

Another basic decision made was in respect to a proposed state migrant camp. The Legislature had appropriated \$25,000 for a model camp and some of the Board members were eager to get one built as quickly as possible. Mr. Seabrook pointed out that such a sum was not enough to build and maintain a



good camp of sufficient size to warrant such a project, and he urged the Board to study the matter very carefully before committing itself to such a plan. He said that the money could better be spent in helping private camp owners to improve their own camps or build new ones. This opinion was later confirmed in an investigation made by the late William T. Vanderlipp, director of the Division of Planning and Engineering, in the Department of Conservation and Economic Development, who reported to the Board that it would be impractical to attempt to build a state camp.

A survey revealed that there were then 48 CCC camps in New Jersey. Only one of these was in a location that would make its use practical for the housing of migrants, and this was later taken over by the Gloucester County Board of Agriculture, where it established a central camp for placement of Puerto Rican farm workers.

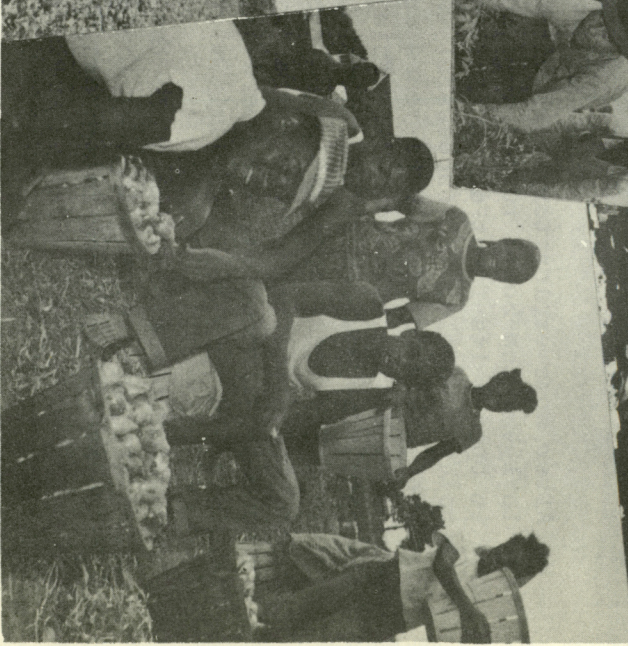
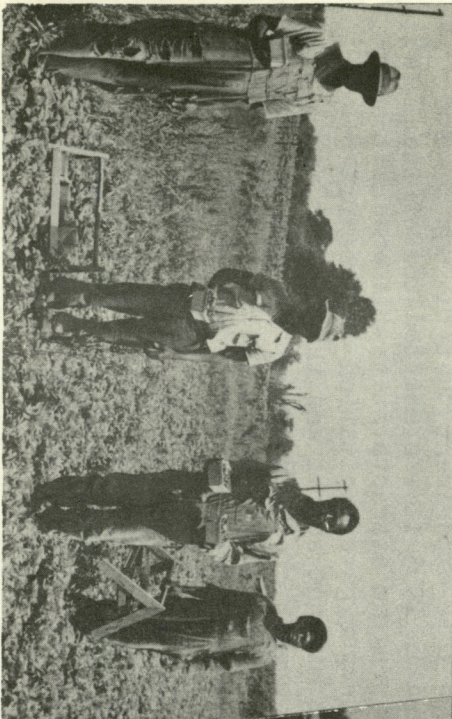
Applications had previously been made to the Federal Government for upwards of 20 Federal Farm Labor camps in various sections of the state to help stimulate food production, Secretary Allen stated. Only three such camps were actually erected, and these were located at Burlington, Swedesboro and Bridgeton. Each of these camps had 83 shelter houses with a capacity for accommodating 332 workers. They were used principally for Jamaicans and were discontinued in 1948. The Mexicans were assigned to railroad work camps.

#### CODE PREPARED AFTER MUCH STUDY

Before the Migrant Labor Bureau was established, the Department of Health had conducted some investigation of migrant camps and its reports indicated that it reached about 8% of the then known farm shelters for seasonal workers. One of the first steps of the Board was to set up through the Bureau a thorough camp inspection system. This was based upon a code which has become the very heart of the State migrant program. It was prepared by a special committee of the Board, including Mr. Seabrook, Chairman; William H. MacDonald, Department of Health; and the late Mr. Vanderlipp. Engineers had presented a proposed code which covered about 30 closely typewritten pages, and this, the committee decided, was too long for practical enforcement. The committee boiled it down to 5½ pages, and the inspection work was further implemented by the preparation of a one-page code digest, which a camp operator can read in five minutes and learn what he has to do to get an average-size camp approved.

After inspectors were trained by the Bureau they were sent out to the rural centers for a survey during the first summer. Since then official inspections have been made of migrant camps in all counties throughout the state. Upon getting opinions from other states as to the advisability of charging a fee for camp inspections, the Board rejected the idea after considerable discussion in 1947. It considered the matter of reciprocal motor licenses for migrant crews, but ran up against the objection of no reciprocity in this respect in Florida.







The President's Commission on Migratory Labor began studies of the migrant situation throughout the country in 1950 and visited in New Jersey. Its final report was complimentary to the work done by this State through its Migrant Labor Board and Bureau. This Commission proposed the establishing of a Federal committee or commission on migratory labor, but Congress failed to enact the enabling legislation. More recently, an Interdepartmental Committee on Migrants has been set up in Washington by five of the Federal departments to work with the states on this problem. Deputy Commissioner Brown went to Washington early in the program to seek Federal funds for migrant work in this state, but no such money has ever been forthcoming from that source and the state has entirely paid its own way in its work with migrants.

Some changes in the Migrant Labor Board occurred during the past year. Jay C. Garrison, Salem County farm leader and Freeholder, who had been unanimously elected as the first chairman of the Board and who had served continuously in that post for ten years, retired when his term expired in April. He was succeeded as chairman by John M. Seabrook, president of the Seabrook Farms Company in Cumberland County, and also one of the original members of the Board. Mr. Garrison was replaced as a Board member by Otis M. Sparks, also of Salem County.

Other changes on the Board were among department heads. The only one of these who started on the Board and is still serving at the time this report is written is Willard H. Allen, Secretary of Agriculture, and he has announced his desire to retire for health reasons. J. Lyman Brown, Deputy Commissioner of Labor and Industry and William C. Lynn, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, have both also continued for the full period as alternate members. New members, by reason of their appointment by Governor Meyner as Department Chiefs, include: Conservation and Economic Development, Commissioner Joseph E. McLean; Institutions and Agencies, Commissioner John W. Tramburg; and State Police, Colonel Joseph D. Rutter.

### 3 R's FOR ROVING MIGRANT CHILDREN

After some exploratory work with a child care center at the Swedesboro camp in 1946, the Board turned to a more extensive educational program in 1947 when it opened its first demonstration school for children of migrant farm workers at Freehold. So successful was this experiment that the school was continued there for four more years and in 1953 it was shifted to Perrineville, where it was also held in 1954. This program attracts statewide and national interest. The New Jersey Consumers' League gave a citation to Freehold public officials for their cooperation in the migrant school and the migrant family center, operated there under the sponsorship of the Board. In connection with the educational program, the Board also supported a bill, which was adopted by the Legislature in 1946, to admit migrant children to public schools.

Now for the first time since the migrant demonstration school program was started, it appears certain that there will be two such schools for the summer of 1955, at Freehold and Imlaystown, both in Monmouth County.



Under a plan that was first tried out at the summer demonstration school for migrant children at Perrineville, 10 Eastern Seaboard states now cooperate in a project to keep school transfer cards of migrant pupils. There were 99 negro children, 94 of whom claimed Florida as their home, and five, Georgia, enrolled at the school in the summer of 1954. They were mainly between the ages of six and twelve.

This was the seventh session of the summer school. The program was sponsored by the Migrant Labor Board and Bureau, Department of Labor and Industry, and was supervised by the State Department of Education, through Assistant Commissioner Thomas J. Durell. The six-room building at Perrineville was made available for this project on a rental plan by the Millstone Township Board of Education. The school was operated for a five-week period, five days a week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mrs. Dorothy S. Jackson, helping teacher, Somerset County, was again director of the school and there was a staff of five certificated teachers. Mrs. Jackson, in her report on the school, said that it recognized school skills but also stressed the development of physical and social skills as well.

#### SUMMER SCHOOL SCORES POINTS

Her report on the school reads in part:

"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. Making change had significance when the groups planned actual purchases. 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. News 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. Knowing colors gained meaning when the children visited the school store and selected articles for their own use.

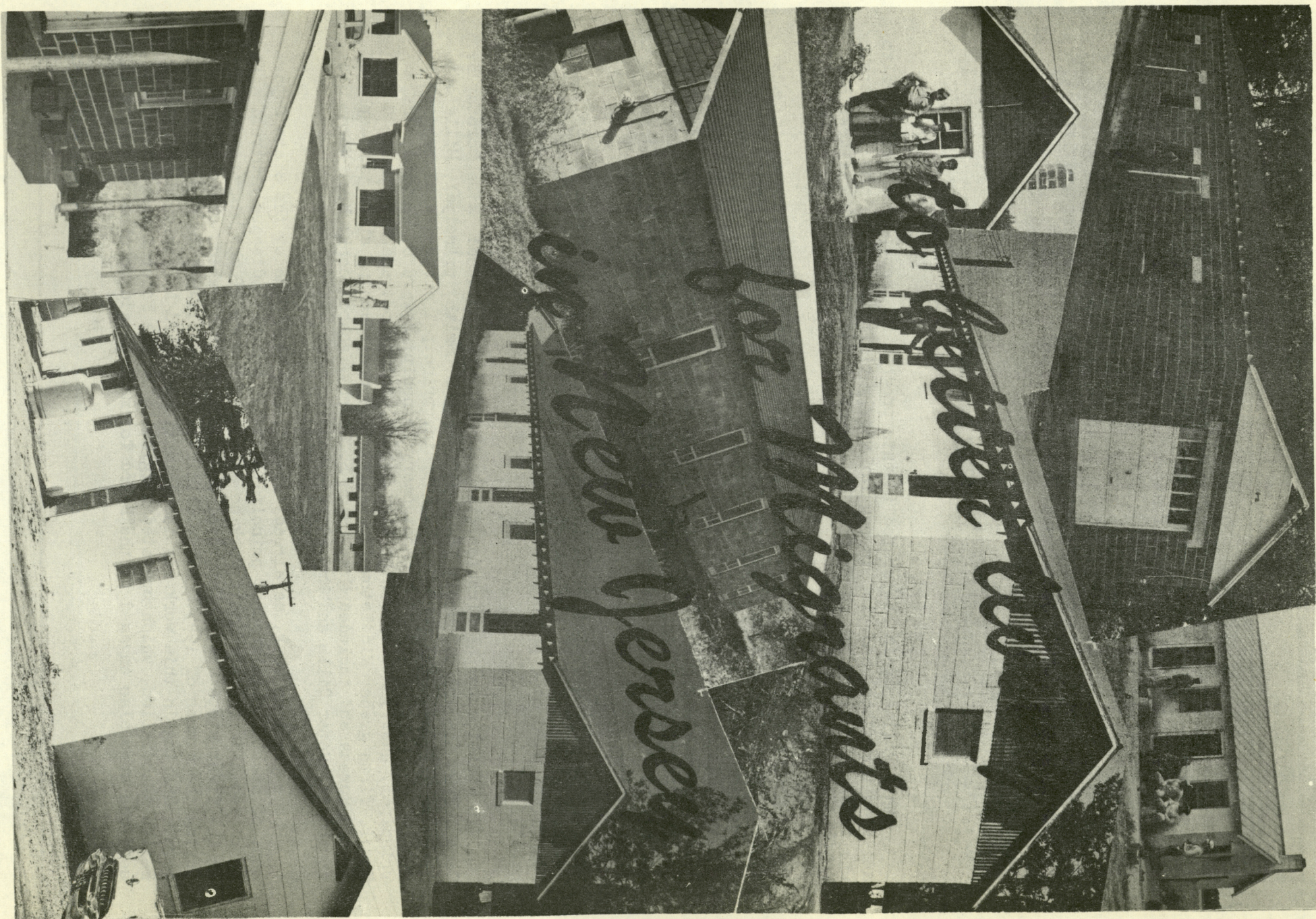
"Much use was made of audio-visual aids. Slide projectors, motion pictures with sound, and television were educational tools. Some of the older children became adept in the use of these facilities. The children this summer were more interested in slides shown by projection than by television. Film strips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





Still more  
new Campes  
point the way







"Dramatizations, in which they could take part, rhythms which they could create, things they could do - these were the goals the children sought. A great deal of attention was paid to developing physical skills and increasing physical coordination through planned playground activities. Equal stress was placed on social skills 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."

#### STATE POLICE AID SCHOOL PROJECT

State Police again cooperated in this program in transporting supplies to and from the school and also in regular weekly visits by two of the troopers, who informed children as to traffic safety rules and showed the children how the State Police operate.

Junior Red Cross chapters from several sections of the state again made generous contributions of clothing, toys, friendship kits and games.

Mrs. Isidore Perlman, of Imlaystown, representing the American Women's Volunteer Services, Inc., brought training materials to the school and served as local hostess on Open House Day. Visitors included Commissioners Carl Holderman, Department of Labor and Industry, and Frederick R. Raubinger, Department of Education.

Through the cooperation of the Monmouth County Organization for Social Services, Miss Lewis, a registered nurse, conducted a daily clinic at the school and also made periodic visits to the camps to promote good health habits.

In addition to the director, the school staff included: Miss Dorothy B. Comer, from the Grant School, Trenton; Donald R. Smith, principal, Millstone Township Schools; Mrs. Florence E. Sutphin, principal and remedial reading specialist, Harlingen School, Montgomery Township; Howard B. Waxwood, Jr., principal, Quarry Street Junior High School, Princeton; and Mrs. Grace C. Vogel, fifth grade, Middletown Township. The non-teaching staff was employed by the Bureau and included Mrs. Helen E. Searby, school cook; Mrs. Norma Seck, custodian; Peter Cillo and Mrs. Gussie Quackenbush, bus drivers.

Some previous work, as already stated, had been done by the State Department of Health for migrants, principally under venereal disease control. The Board decided to expand this work so as to reach more of the migrants. One of the first steps was the approval of a health survey which was conducted during the summer of 1945. Later clinics were established in nine rural centers. Sharing in this work was the Atlantic Seaboard Agricultural Workers' Health Association, which operated originally in the Federal camps but whose services were also engaged by the Board for medical aid to other migrants in



the lower counties. This association dropped out of the picture with the liquidation of the Federal camps. The Board continued to allot from its legislative appropriation money to the State Health Department for operating migrant clinics up until 1950, when, by mutual consent, the money for migrant health work was appropriated directly to that department.

#### CLINICS HELP KEEP WORKERS HEALTHY

Medical examinations provided through state-operated clinics, and by growers associations through their own infirmaries, covered an increasingly larger number of migrants last season than in any previous year. The Department of Health reported a total of 4643 migrants examined in 1954. In addition to this there were 5317 patient visits at the infirmary operated by the Glassboro Service Association, which placed nearly 8000 Puerto Ricans on South Jersey farms, with still more who received medical care at the Farmers' and Gardeners' Camp at Holmdel, Monmouth County.

Some of the larger camps on farms and at food processing plants also provided medical services at the employers' own expense or through health insurance plans, to hundreds of others of these seasonal workers. Still others were treated as regular patients by local physicians in the areas where they worked.

A total of 3288 farm migrants were examined for venereal disease during clinic sessions during 1954. These clinics were conducted weekly at the Freehold Health Center, Monmouth County, semi-weekly at Prospect Plains, Middlesex County, and daily at Orchard Center and Gelston Village on the Seabrook Farms, Cumberland County. In addition, a mobile clinic was used to extend health services to previously untouched areas and to widely scattered farms. Further tests were given to 1172 seasonal workers employed at the three large race-tracks in the state.

The Health Department reports that when summary data for 1954 is compared with that for 1953 there appears to be a decreasing discovery rate of venereal disease among agricultural migrants. Of the 3288 farm migrants examined in 1954, 23.2% were reactive for syphilis. The proportion was 25.2% in 1953. The number of persons treated for syphilis dropped from 406 in 1953 to 232 in 1954.

Among the total of 1172 racetrack workers who had serological tests for syphilis during 1954, 180, or 15.4%, were reactive for syphilis. Of the reactors 59, or 33% were treated. As in the agricultural migrant group, more than half of the suspects examined were declared previously adequately treated or not infected with syphilis. Sixteen cases of gonorrhea were also found and treated.



Assigned to the duties of setting up the migrant clinics were two district health officers, Dr. Hugh D. Palmer, South Jersey, and Dr. Jesse Aronson, in Central Jersey, with Dr. J. Earle Stuart as Coordinator. These clinics were operated with a staff of 7 physicians; 4 nurses; 2 technicians; 3 clerks; 2 field representatives; and 3 venereal disease investigators. The mobile unit required a physician, clerk, field representative and technician.

Besides agricultural and racetrack migrants, approximately 1000 seasonal employees of seafood industries were tested during recent months. A group of plants in South Jersey employ a physician to examine and treat their employees for venereal disease. Complete data is not available at this time concerning the outcome on approximately 750 persons thus examined.

Many thousands of migrants other than the groups reported are tested each year in New Jersey. The State Department of Health has urged hotels, manufacturing industries and others who employ migrants to perform the required health examinations. The result of this emphasis has been that a major share of the responsibility for examining migrant workers has been assumed by employers.

In summary, the total number of migrants examined by the State Department of Health last year was 4643, of which 1006, or 21.7%, were reactive for syphilis. Of these seropositives and doubtfuls, 513 presented evidence of previous adequate treatment or were judged not to be infected with syphilis. Of those remaining, 326, including 11 cases with lesions, were given treatment, and 167 were lost to follow-up.

#### PUERTO RICANS GET THOROUGH CHECKUP

All Puerto Ricans brought into the state through growers' associations are given a medical and physical examination by health authorities in their home island before they leave. These health certificates are filed with the workers' records at the central camps before they are placed on farms.

The health services provided by the Glassboro Service Association, Inc., through whose camp at Glassboro a total of 8400 Puerto Ricans passed during the season, the most comprehensive medical program was carried out. A full time nurse was on duty in the extensively remodeled infirmary on the camp grounds, and a physician was also at the infirmary each evening and on call during the day for any emergency. Among the 5317 patient visits at the infirmary, the cases ranged from appendicitis and hernias to common colds. Most of the workers were treated for minor lacerations, sprains, contusions, and also for respiratory and digestive ailments, and some skin infections. There were minor outbreaks of measles, mumps and chickenpox. A few cases of tuberculosis were detected, and these patients were sent back to Puerto Rico. Other services rendered included 74 X-ray examinations; 34 laboratory tests; and 324 Wasserman tests.







Cooperation continues between the Migrant Labor Bureau and the Farm Placement Section, Bureau of Employment Service Field Operations, State Employment Service, which exchange information on the movement and placement of migrant farm workers in the state. For the summer of 1954, farm placements for seasonal workers were about in line with those for 1953. Many of the southern crews are interviewed in Florida by representatives of farm placement before they start northward. Its report shows that there were 4882 southern migrants in organized crews working on New Jersey farms in 1954, and about 3000 individuals and members of farm groups not connected with crews. There were also 4632 Puerto Ricans who came in under contract, and 3500 walk-ins, according to estimates in the report. Off shore foreign workers in the state mostly came from the British West Indies and numbered 465.

Wages earned by the Puerto Ricans during the season showed a total of about \$3,750,000. No records are available on the total earnings of southern crews, who were in the state for a shorter period and worked principally on white potatoes and beans.

Two seasonal farm placement offices continued in operation at Windsor, in Mercer County, and at Pemberton, in Burlington County. The latter was operated solely for the placing of blueberry pickers. These were in addition to the 36 regular SES offices throughout the state.

That bureau's report further states that no problems developed during the season in recruitment of seasonal workers due to housing, transportation and wages. There were no significant shortages nor surpluses of agricultural or food processing labor, neither were there any losses attributed to the lack of manpower, although some crops were lost because of the drought. Due to the latter, and the abandonment of some crops in the fields, there were instances of unavoidable idleness among the workers. The number of placements of seasonal workers was reported at 186,646.

The oldest of continuous migrant movements has been that of the southern crews along the Atlantic Seaboard from Florida to New Jersey and New York. This pattern grew out of the demand for seasonal farm labor during the first World War. It has continued each summer without interruption.

#### CHURCH SERVICES FOR PUERTO RICANS

The ministry to migrants was extended by the New Jersey Council of Churches through its Department of Work Among Migrants, Rev. Andrew S. Layman, chairman, with Rev. Abraham W. Sangrey, supervisor. Nineteen workers were in the field during the season. These included four Spanish speaking workers, who conducted their ministry among Puerto Rican farm laborers; ten workers in the Bridgeton-Seabrook area, where the program included a child care center; and five workers in the Tri-County camps, largely for service among the



southern migrants. The Bureau assisted the field workers in locating the larger camps in their respective districts. The church group, in turn, helped in enrolling migrant children for the demonstration school at Perrineville. It also conducted its own vacation school for six days at Freehold and had a similar project at Cranbury, with the teachers on a voluntary basis.

The Bridgeton Ministerium assisted financially with the religious program in Cumberland County, and the United Church Women contributed more than \$2000 for equipment for the Harvester, which they had previously donated for migrant ministry work in this state. Mrs. Margaret Ekstrom, representing the Division of Home Missions in the National Council of Churches gave able assistance in the church program for these seasonal workers. The supervisor of the Bureau served as consultant on both the National and State Church Councils, in their migrant work. He attended conferences of these Councils in Trenton and New York City.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANTS

Migrant farm workers came under Social Security for the first time on January 1, 1955. Others who did seasonal work in canneries and food processing plants were previously covered where they had fixed employment for a prescribed length of time. The new Government program, which was expanded to include the summer harvest hands, brings a number of complexities by reason of the fact that such labor moves about so much from state to state and from farm to farm.

Although it had no direct responsibility for putting this new law into force, the Migrant Labor Board recognized its importance to both growers and their seasonal employees in New Jersey. It arranged to have Henry Clark, head of the Accounting and Income Tax Department, State Farm Bureau, explain the Social Security setup at its December meeting in 1954. Mr. Clark said that the new law provides that any farm worker who earns more than \$100 a year from one employer comes under the Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Plan. The Puerto Rican farm workers are included in this program, but not Mexicans nor other internationals.

Contracts for the harvesting of crops between the farmers and crew bosses presented a further problem as the 1955 season got under way. It was felt in some quarters that such a contract relieved the farmer of any responsibility for paying Social Security on his seasonal workers. This also brought up the question of whether the crew boss was alone responsible if the farmer paid him a lump sum and he, in turn, paid the individual workers. This also raised the issue whether such an arrangement would bring the crew boss under the State Employment Agency law and require him to take out a license. As this report is being completed, these questions have not been fully settled, and have been made the matter of considerable investigation and study.



Bureaus were the innovation provided in each room of their camp for Puerto Rican workers by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Davis, in Pilesgrove Township, Salem County, only for them to find that this added furniture was used only for stowing away trash. When they later visited their workers during the winter in Puerto Rico, they discovered that bureaus are an unknown article of furniture in the rural area of the island but as these workers return to their Jersey camp each season, they learn that bureaus are handy for storing clothing and other possessions.

Up at the top of the state at Mahwah, in Bergen County, Stanley Pelz has a cottage type camp that has attracted favorable comment from neighbors. The camp is equipped with modern facilities and the cottages are painted frequently, which has encouraged the workers to keep them clean.

#### POINTS OF PROGRESS FOR MIGRANTS

Churches and other organizations in some communities have extended themselves to welcome the migrants. Baptists in Oldmans Township, Salem County, conducted weekly services for Puerto Ricans who worked on farms in that area. They engaged Mrs. George Hunt, a former missionary, now living there, to conduct services in Spanish each Sunday night after the regular church worship period. Many of the people used their own cars to provide transportation for an average of 40 workers each week from farm camps to the church and return. Visits were also made by church representatives to the camps on Friday nights to extend invitations to the services.

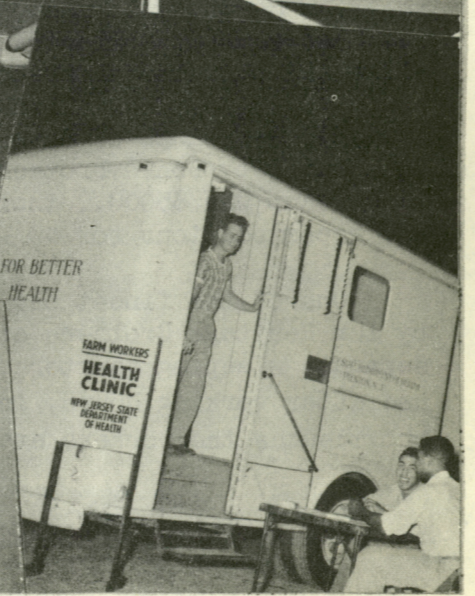
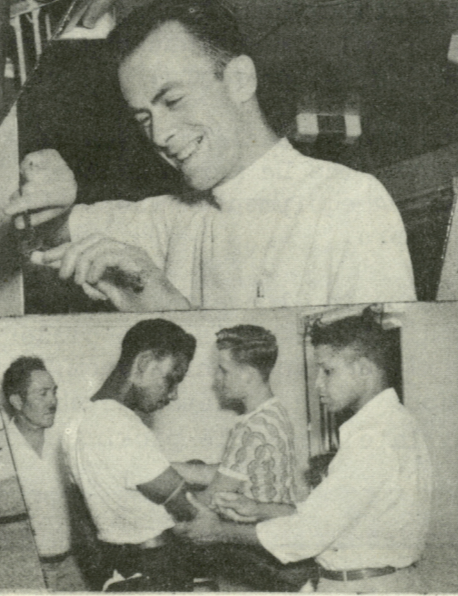
What motorists in Somerset County might well mistake for a modern motel is the new camp of the Kingston Trap Rock Company. This building of cinder block is 200 feet long by 25 feet wide, and has 26 individual sleeping rooms for the workers, with indoor toilets, showers, and a central heating plant. It costs upwards of \$65,000 and accommodates 75 seasonal workers. Another building nearby, 30x100 ft., contains a well-equipped kitchen, messhall and a recreation and game room.

Farmers have provided new housing in several rural townships of Burlington County. A new four-room sleeping unit, with separate kitchen, was built by Dominick Scibilia, Mt. Laurel, at a cost of \$4000. In the same township, Robert Godfrey built a single unit cinder block camp for \$2500.

In the area near Moorestown, Robert Brooks completed a new cinder block house with modern equipment including flush toilets.

Down Bass River way, Cutts Brothers added three new metal units to the camp that they had built the previous year. In that same section, the Penn Producing Company has made extensive repairs to its camp buildings.







How to keep a camp neat and clean has been demonstrated at the Tennent Orchards, near Freehold, Monmouth County, where the farm owner and the crew foreman have periodic talks with the respective occupants of the ten cabins which constitute the camp for approximately 40 workers. These cabins encircle a plot large enough for the playing of softball and other recreational games and outdoor meetings.

Among improved camps in Mercer County is that of Richard and Stanley White, on the Old Trenton Road, near Cranbury. They have a one-story frame building, 20x105 ft., containing 20 rooms, 9x10 ft., with a separate kitchen and messhall combination, for their crew of 40 southern negroes.

Planned by Richard Ely, of Hightstown, is a new cinder block building, 20x39 ft.

The Princeton Nurseries, near Kingston, in Middlesex County, have made strides in improving accommodations for their seasonal labor. A large barn has been remodeled, and dormitory fitted up on the second floor. This has been partitioned off into ten sections, each containing three or four beds, thus providing more privacy for small groups that want to bunk together. On the first floor, there is a kitchen, also a spacious messhall and recreation room.

#### RECREATION FOR RACE TRACK WORKERS

A television section has been added to the recreation room at the track of the Atlantic City Racing Association. Seats have been provided for the seasonal workers at the track, and other new recreational facilities have also been installed. Forty new tackrooms have been built in the stable area, and these have been painted both on the inside and outside.

Electric refrigerators have been added to camp facilities by a large number of farmers during the past season. This has been made possible by the fact that the majority of the camps throughout the state now are connected with electric current. Electricity and bottled gas are also rapidly replacing gasoline and oil stoves for cooking in the camps.

Two new camps of note in the Rosedale section of Atlantic County have been built by Donio Brothers and the De Marco Brothers. The outlay for the first camp was \$5000., including equipment. The other camp of cinder block has accommodations for 40 workers.

One of the finest new camps in Gloucester County was opened this season by the Heritage Brothers at Richwood. This is a cinder block building with separate sleeping quarters, kitchen and dining room, with a television set for use after working hours, indoor flush toilets and showers. Hot water heat is provided as the workers stay late for apple picking.



Construction of the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway forced the moving of several migrant camps. One of the largest of these projects was the razing of a camp that had been in use only a few years by the Farmers' and Gardeners' Association, near Holmdel, in upper Monmouth County, and the construction of an even better camp on an adjoining site. Among the individual farmers, Russell Hackett, at Clifton, Union County, had to move his tenant house when the Garden State Parkway cut through his farm. He effected a complete transformation by fully renovating the building, installing new facilities, and cleaning up the grounds.

Good housing is an inducement to get workers to live on the farms because of the economic factor of free rent. James Tighe had a Puerto Rican family living on his place near Pedricktown, who said they had more money left at the end of the week from a \$50 average salary than when the husband worked at \$80 a week at a foundry in Chicago, and had to pay high rent.

#### CAMP IS BLUE BUT WORKERS ARE HAPPY

A new cinder block camp, 12x42 ft., with accommodations for 12 workers, has been completed by the Ariston Canning Company, on the White Horse Pike, at Cologne, in Atlantic County. The building is painted blue. It has flush toilets, showers, and other facilities.

A Government surplus building, 22x52 ft., was moved to the farm of Dr. Walter D. Farmer, Dayton, Middlesex County. The structural condition was good and the building was partitioned into ten individual sleeping rooms, with enough space left over for a kitchen unit.

After a fire burned out his old camp, Raymond Anderson, of Monmouth Junction, Middlesex County, replaced it with a dual purpose building, 24x40 ft. A permanent central partition provides two 12x40 ft. areas, with double doors at one end of the building to make it available for storing machinery during the winter. When the workers arrive, cross partitions are set up and each room has an outside door.

Overhang roofs on camp buildings are becoming more popular with the workers as they provide shade and shelter when they want to sit outside after working hours. One of the latest of such camps was built this season in Mannington Township, Salem County.

Camp canteens have sometimes been criticized but Mrs. Martha Simonson finds it practical to have one for her crew of 60 to 70 workers on her farm in Plainsboro Township, Middlesex County. A couple which lives at the camp sells coffee, hot dogs, soda and sandwiches. Mrs. Simonson says this tends to keep crew members off the roads when they are not at work.



**ITEMS IN WHICH CHANGES WERE RECOMMENDED  
AFTER INSPECTIONS OF CAMPS IN 1954-55**

1st Inspection		Reinspection
600	Cleanliness	387
1117	Toilets	702
100	Water	152
586	Quarters	287
75	Sleeping	38
90	Cooking	60
227	Fire Protection	38
34	Register	33
537	Screens	216
<u>510</u>	Others	<u>192</u>
3876		2105

**BUREAU OF MIGRANT LABOR**

**JOHN G. SHOLL, Supervisor**

Mrs. June B. Smith.....Secretary to the Supervisor  
Miss Jane Poinsett.....Clerk-stenographer  
Miss Alberta Caponi.....Seasonal Assistant (1955)

**INSPECTORS**

Leon A. Rennebaum

Edmund J. Farrell

Fred B. Metler

Joseph V. Martin

Hobart R. Cunningham

**SEASONAL INSPECTORS**

Morris M. Agress

Varian L. Berry

B. Harrison Brace

Paul S. Camp

William T. Capella

Thomas D. Childrey, III

Ernest DeVincentis

Harold Kingsland

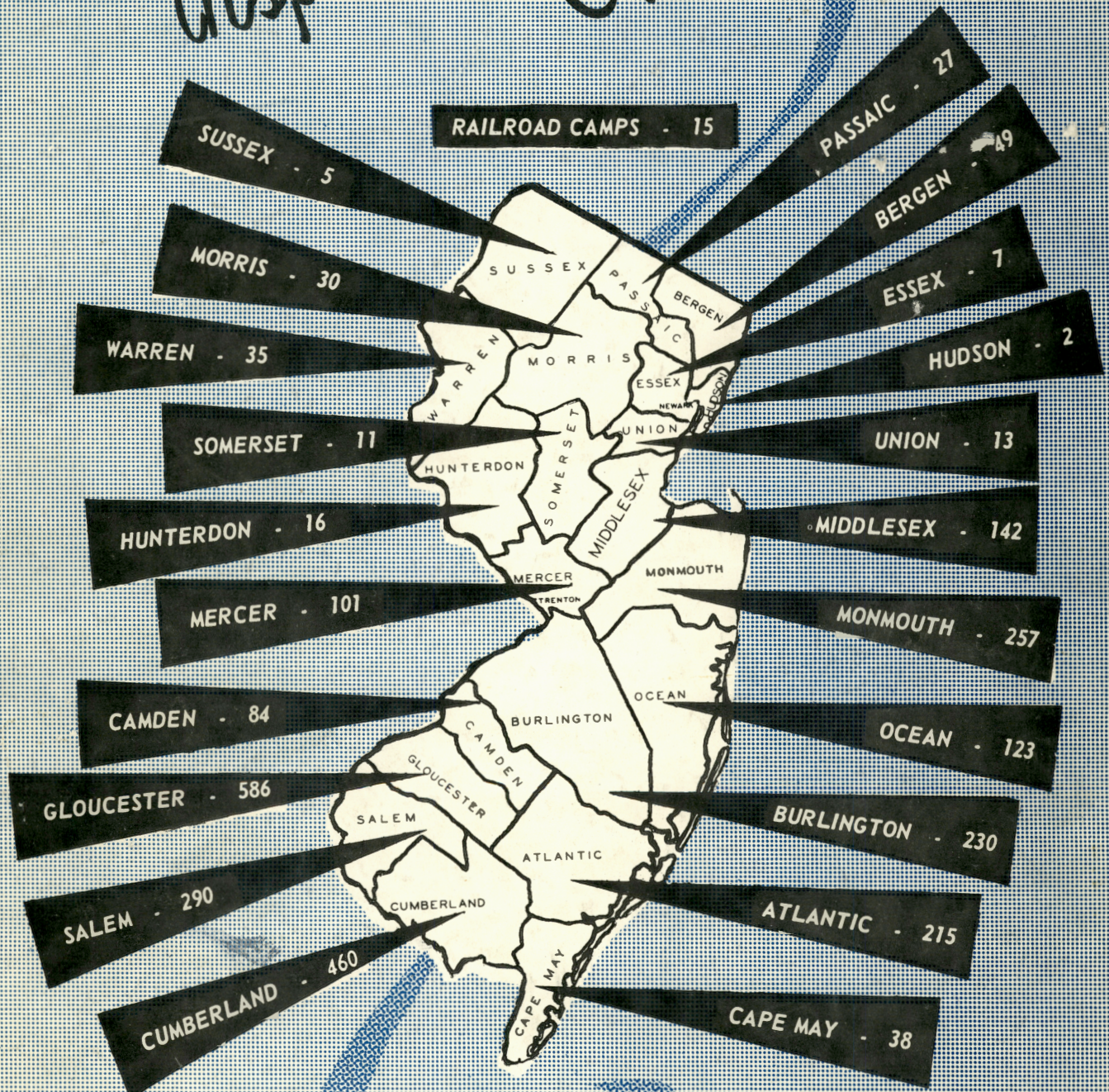
Robert W. Nelson

Clarence M. Perrine

**OFFICE: 29 East Front Street, Trenton 25, New Jersey**



2736  
inspected CAMPS



in New Jersey

1954-55