

THE PRESIDENT'S ORGANIZATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

1734 New York Avenue, N. W.,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

A Brief Report On

TRANSIENT FAMILIES IN ARIZONA

Prepared by

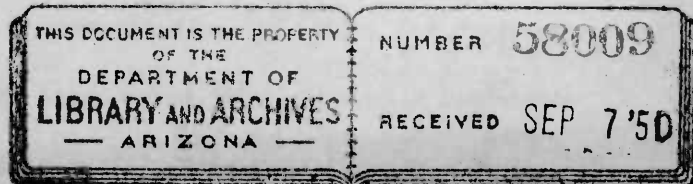
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAVELERS AID SOCIETIES

On information submitted by
Mrs. Frances G. Blair, Executive Secretary
Tucson Chapter, American Red Cross,
Tucson, Arizona.

For

THE PRESIDENT'S ORGANIZATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

10/27/31



Ariz.
331.7
8 N276
cop. 2

FOREWORD

The President's Organization on Unemployment Relief recently requested the National Association of Travelers Aid Societies to make a study of transient families in the United States and to include a brief study of the present problem as existing in the two states of Arizona and Florida. It was realized that a complete and comprehensive study was not possible in so short a time but it was hoped that facts previously gathered by social workers in Arizona could be compiled quickly and recommendations presented that would be helpful for the present situation.

Mrs. Frances G. Blair, executive secretary of the American Red Cross, Tucson, Arizona, in a brief period of time visited six cities in Arizona and secured information regarding the extent of the problem and the experiences of these respective cities in dealing with the problem. In all of the cities visited, consultations were held with social workers in all agencies, as well as with interested individuals. Everyone approached was most cooperative and helpful.

The suggestions and recommendations presented in the report are based on the factual data secured by Mrs. Blair, as well as on the reported experiences of the social workers in the state as they have endeavored to deal with the problem during the last years.

The report is submitted to the President's Organization on Unemployment Relief by the National Association of Travelers Aid Societies with the sincere hope that it may be helpful to the social workers and interested individuals as they plan for service to transients this winter in the state of Arizona.

TRANSIENT FAMILIES IN ARIZONA

Arizona has always had the problem of migrant health-seekers, but in making the study of transient families, this group was not considered except to determine that it has not increased to any appreciable extent within the last year or two. Nor are disabled ex-service men included in this report. In view of the fact that the time for making the study was limited, that distances are considerable, and that heavy rains had put roads in bad condition, only the places known to have a considerable problem with transient families were visited.

There is no state-wide plan for registration of transients, nor is there a Social Service Exchange in any city of the state. There is no statement in the state law regarding legal residence or settlement, but it is the common practice to consider a person who has been in the state a year as a resident. The secretary to the Governor considers that the law stating, "all laborers or mechanics employed by the state must have been a year within the state," forms a basis for thinking of one year as the period required for legal residence.

Social workers and others interested in transients in the six cities that were visited agreed that from 90% to 95% of the transient and migratory families are traveling by automobile, usually an old car of a cheap make or a very old car of a more expensive make in poor repair. Those who are not driving cars are hitch-hiking.

There is no organized plan in any community for the care of transients. In Tucson and in Phoenix definite plans are under way to provide for the resident unemployed, but transients are not to be included. Only emergency relief is given to transients, and there is little attempt to do case work. Agencies do not have sufficient money or staff to maintain families while they are making a study of the situation. Relief agencies in Yuma, Globe and Flagstaff and the County Indigent Office in Phoenix say that they purchase gas and oil and pass on families to other towns where they do not belong.

There is some advertising outside the state, for cotton pickers. This results in an influx of poor people who earn very little and are sometimes left, at the end of the season, a burden on the community. In Nogales, there is still the problem of the migrant Mexican families who were brought into the United States to do some definite work and who are now being returned. Jails are not used to lodge transients in Arizona. Soup kitchens have been maintained this past winter in Phoenix, Yuma, Tucson, and Nogales. Both single men and families were fed in these places. The problem of the migrant family increased by leaps and bounds during the first six months of 1931, as the figures of practically every agency indicate. In 1930 the indigent cotton pickers aggravated the problem, but this can not be the explanation of the 1931 increase, since in August when this study was made the cotton season had not yet started.

From the figures supplied by agencies, chiefly private, in the six cities, it is estimated that about 5,100 transient families came to the attention of agencies during 1930, while in the first six months of 1931 there were about 4,300 families. The approximate relief, not including medical relief, was \$23,000 in 1930 and \$16,000 in the first six months of 1931. These estimates are most conservative. The migration east and west is about equally divided. The search for work seems to be the reason for the increase in transients this year.

P H O E N I X

In Phoenix there is no regularly organized plan of caring for transient families. Several agencies give relief. During the winter of 1930-31, three canteens for feeding transients, both men and families, were maintained by the Volunteers of America, the Salvation Army, and the Welfare Department of the Catholic Women's Club. The Volunteers of America required four hours' work in return for three meals and lodgings. It was not learned whether the other organizations had a similar requirement.

Most of the transient families are cared for by the Social Service Center. Although there is no social service exchange nor any registration of transients, the various organizations try to prevent duplication. The Transportation Agreement is known and understood but purchasing gas and oil and sending transient families on without making an investigation frequently occurs. All agencies state that there is a considerable number of families who apparently have no legal residence, but no definite figure was secured.

In actual figures from the Social Service Center and estimates from other organizations, it is indicated that in 1930 about 2,655 transient families, or a total of 11,943 persons, received relief. In the first seven months of 1931 these organizations aided 2,481 families, or about 11,165 persons. All of the agencies stated that the problem continued all through the summer months, a situation with which they have never had a to cope before.

There is no possible way of determining with any degree of accuracy the amount of money which the community has spent on this last group of transient families. Most families receive at least one grocery order at a cost of \$3 to \$10, depending on the size of the family.

If the family is aided while attempt is being made to determine legal residence, the expense mounts and may total several hundred dollars, even if nothing is spent for transportation as in some cases where the family wandered on before an investigation was completed. The social workers agree that the situation is serious, but no one has a plan for overcoming it.

The figures of the Social Service Center show that in 1929, 616 families totaling 2,598 persons cost the organization \$7,054.96. In the first six months of 1930 there were 402 families, or 1,730 persons. In the second six months 496 families, or 2,136 persons, were aided, making a total for 1930 of 898 families, or 3,866 persons, that cost the organization \$9,996.42. In the first six months of 1931 the transient families had increased to 602, or 2,552 individuals, and already \$7,170 had been sent. There are about three transient cases to each resident one.

Most of the transients come from a few states. In the past three years the number of individuals from some of these states are as follows:

Oklahoma	1,610 (of whom 685 were negroes)
California	949
Texas	912
Kansas	216
Missouri	211
New Mexico	210
Illinois	152
Arkansas	149
Michigan	176
Nebraska	43

The Travelers Aid Society of Phoenix in 1929 aided 106 transient families; in 1930, 225; in the first seven months of 1931, 310.

The case records are full of stories of under-nourished children, tubercular parents, cotton pickers from other places who could not pay their own way home, and persons who wandered on before it was possible to do constructive case work, although there were other cases in which persons in distress were put in touch with their relatives, who were glad to assist them.

The person in charge of the Arizona study learned that there were transient families living under the Central Avenue Bridge, which is just outside the city of Phoenix. She visited this place to see for herself what the conditions might be. This bridge is a long one and spans the river which during much of the year is a dry bed. The bridge is supported by probably 45 or 60 piers. The space between these piers is perhaps 50 feet in length and 30 feet in width. Most of the time there are between 50 and 60 families living under these piers. The population changes. Some stay only a few days and others a few weeks, while two or three families had been there for several months.

The living conditions are indescribable. Pieces of cartons, old tin, bits of carpet or gunny-sack, - anything that can be had, is used to build a bit of shelter against the side of the pier. At the time of the survey there were only two families who had tents. The piers have been numbered, and when the families apply for relief, as practically all of them have to at some time, they give the pier number so that they can be located. All of these families are unemployed and have drifted to Phoenix seeking work. Many of them are cotton pickers and practically all are a type who would be employable only at some such occupation. The person making the study talked with many of them and found that they had become so hopeless about seeking work that they had reached a stage of apathy.

Two of the creameries donate milk to the families. One creamery gives two cans of skimmed milk each morning and another a can of skimmed milk and butter milk each evening. One of the women who has been there longer than most of the others goes after this milk in her old car and distributes it to the rest of the group. Some of the bakeries give stale bread. When the floods came last winter the county authorities moved the families to the fair grounds, but as soon as the place was habitable they moved back under the bridge. There is no drinking water available except such as is carried from an auto camp near the bridge. Of course, there is practically no water for bathing, and most of the children are covered with sores on their heads and bodies. Sanitation is entirely lacking.

There was one little boy about six years old who had been in the county hospital four months recovering from burns. He had only recently been discharged from there. He has developed tuberculosis, and the burns are still far from healed. He was on a pallet on the ground with flies and dirt all around. A woman had just come from the hospital where she had been confined. Her baby was with her.

The person in charge of the study took a census under the first 21 piers on the occasion of her visit and found 28 families in this area. Under the first pier five families were living. All had children, and one family had seven. This pier happens to be located more favorably when the water comes down the river bed, as it had done the previous Sunday. Of the 28 families, one claimed to have come from Tennessee, one from California, one from Arkansas, one from Texas, and all the others from Oklahoma.

One family consisted of a father, a mother, and four nice-looking girls who had just moved in from one of the auto camps where they could no longer pay rent. The mother begged that work be found for the eldest girl of 16. The family was a self-respecting type and much humiliated by its surroundings.

The executive of the Social Service Center stated that in one day four new families who had taken up their abode under the bridge applied to the organization for food. At all times this organization is caring for an average of 20 of these families, giving food and medical care.

Surrounding Phoenix are dozens of auto camps, with accommodations of all types and charging from \$10 or \$12 a week for a cabin in the best places to 10¢ a family for a place to camp for a night. Some people stay all through the winter in these places. At some camps they claim to take no tubercular people. Proprietors of various camps stated that most of the persons camping there were seeking work, and that the majority came from Oklahoma, Texas and California.

A Salvation Army worker reported that persons are so anxious to get work that they will even accept jobs where there is no money payment, but only a chance to receive meals and some

old clothing. The police reported that they usually refer persons asking help to regular agencies, but occasionally take up a collection for an especially appealing case. The County Indigent Officer stated that applications have been increasing so rapidly that in March the entire appropriation for the first six months had been spent, and in July, when the next appropriation was available, there were 2,900 new applications. Many of the ranchers and farmers have not been able to pay their taxes this year, so that even the public support is uncertain.

More than 50% of all the applications for relief come from transient families and these transients are mostly persons who have read the advertisements of corporations for labor and come into the state expecting work, not realizing that the work is seasonal and poorly paid and that when the season is over they will be stranded. The county office gives gas and oil to enable families to start out for their homes, but apparently no investigation is made.

The Phoenix-Arizona Club has not been advertising recently and even in the past has used the more expensive magazines that are not likely to fall into the hands of persons who might become stranded. The Chamber of Commerce advertises in certain newspapers and magazines and keeps literature in resort hotels and touring bureaus. Certain literature is sent to everyone who inquires in regard to opportunities in Arizona, but along with the literature telling about the good climate and other advantages, a leaflet with the following statement is enclosed:

"THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

"The employment situation in Phoenix presents a very real problem. Thousands of persons are continuously attracted here by our lovely mild winters and the energizing influence of our glorious sunshine, with the general result that there are many more people seeking employment than there are positions to fill. This is true of practically all lines.

"Phoenix has progressed with a fine consistent growth, and business conditions are splendid. However, there are no large manufacturing establishments which give employment to an unlimited number of people and we can not conscientiously advise anyone to come here without a definite employment contact in mind unless prepared financially to withstand a period of unemployment lasting from a few weeks to possibly several months until acquaintance is made and a satisfactory business contact established.

DEPARTMENT OF
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
ARIZONA

"General business is not quite as good during the summer season, but there are sometimes better opportunities for employment than during the time when our delightful fall, winter and spring seasons are bringing so many people to our city.

"The employment situation for those in poor health is particularly discouraging, as there is not much light work which can be done by those who are physically incapable of doing heavy work. Those who need the benefits of the climate should be certain that they have sufficient funds to maintain themselves for at least a year."

The Arizona Industrial Congress reported that in 1929 extra labor was needed for cotton picking, and large numbers of pickers were brought in from Texas. In July, 1930, a survey of the unemployed in the mining districts of the state was made, and it was found that 3,500 families could be moved from there to the cotton fields. Probably there has been no need of outside labor since 1929.

Various plans for the resident unemployed are being considered by the Industrial Congress, but transients were not included. The Arizona Cotton Growers Association reported that from 10,000 to 12,000 extra people are needed in Maricopa County each year to pick the cotton crop. The usual plan is first to recruit local people, then to secure as many as possible in other parts of the state, and then to advertise in local newspapers and by means of placards on the highways, at filling stations and other places along the road. When the Cotton Growers Association finds that there are plenty of pickers available, they start adverse publicity to try to keep others from coming.

In 1929 from \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000 was paid out to pickers. In 1930 only \$1,750,000 was paid for this purpose, and probably in 1931 not over \$1,000,000 will be paid, according to estimates given. About 15,000 persons, including children, pick cotton during the season. Adults earn an average of \$100 apiece during the season, which lasts six months. Most of the earnings are spent at the place of employment. The following is the sort of placard that is put up by the roadside:

C O T T O N

P I C K E R S

1,000 Families needed to Pick Cotton
at

PHOENIX
BUCKEYE
FLORENCE
CASA GRANDE
COOLIDGE

Houses or Tents Free - Several Months
Work - Warm Dry Winters - Good Cotton
Good School - Standard Prices - Apply
at any Gin or at Arizona Cotton Growers Assn'n.
425 So. Central Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.

If inquiries come late in the season about work, a form letter is sent saying that the demand for families to pick cotton is practically filled and no more workers from outside are needed, and furthermore that there is very little employment of any other kind to be had.

The American Legion in Phoenix, in addition to disbursing a state fund for residents, gives helps to other ex-service men who have a disability, especially tuberculosis. In the last year large numbers of men have come with their families to Arizona, and in the first seven months of 1931 aid was given to men from 37 different states, Alaska, Canada and Hawaii.

G L O B E

In Globe, most of the social work is done by the executive of the Red Cross, who is also the county relief worker. Some case work is done and some families are assisted to return to their homes. The highway approaching Globe from both directions is through a mountainous country, and the old cars in which the transient families are traveling often break down entirely on the grades, so that much of the relief money has to go for repairing cars, furnishing new parts or tires. In 1929, 547 families were aided at the expense of \$725; in 1930, 426 families cost the community \$1,057; and in the first six months of 1931, 398 families have been given \$661. No new plan has been made for the coming winter.

T U C S O N

In Tucson there is no social service exchange, although two attempts have been made in the past to start one. There is a community plan for the care of the resident unemployed, but no provision is made for caring for transients, except as they are given emergency relief.

The publicity sent out by the Sunshine Climate Club is directed towards persons with money, and the Chamber of Commerce sends a frank statement regarding employment conditions in answer to each inquiry.

The figures of the three relief agencies show that in 1930, 2,033 families were assisted, while in the first six months of 1931, 2,216 families asked for aid, or an increase of over 100%. The community spent on relief to these transients in 1930, \$3,500, not including medical relief; and in the first six months of 1931 approximately \$3,200. These relief figures do not include that given by the masonic Lodge, the Elks, and various churches of the city, that probably give several hundred dollars in a year.

In August there were 1,200 unemployed residents registered, and no possibility of work for any transients. For the first time the transients are continuing to be a problem during the summer.

The Family Welfare Society gives to a transient family, one small emergency grocery order and, in especially needy cases, one night's lodging in a cheaper auto camp or a cheap room. Gas and oil are never given. However, sometimes a study is made of the situation and a family is helped to get in contact with relatives or friends who can assist them to return home. The Transportation Agreement is strictly observed by all the agencies in Tucson.

There has always been a considerable number of migrant families traveling through this part of the country during the winter months, but during 1930 and 1931 the increase has been by leaps and bounds. Before 1930 there were practically no transient families in June, July and August. The president and executive of the Family Welfare Society believe that publicity through the rest of the United States showing industrial conditions in Arizona as "good" undoubtedly contributed to the increase in the number of unemployed coming to this section. It also seems that publicity regarding the need for cotton pickers had brought in many persons from other states.

In the first six months of 1930, 435 transient families were aided by the Family Welfare Society. In the second six months, 664 families came to their attention, while in the first

six month of 1931 there were 795 transient families requiring attention, or an increase of more than 80% over the same period in 1930.

In the early summer of 1931, this organization assisted ten transient mothers through confinement. The city and county health departments report that they can give only emergency medical care to transients, and hospital care only in the most extreme cases. In the first six months of 1931, 104 families received this emergency medical care. There were some cases of automobile accidents, some of children with communicable diseases and some emergency operations.

The Arizona Children's Home Association reported that during the last year a number of children from transient families had been taken into the Home for temporary care. In one case where the father had deserted, this home took in the three children so that the mother might try to secure employment.

The children of the cotton pickers have little or no opportunity for schooling. They are often under-nourished and poorly clad. In cases where an effort has been made to learn the legal residence of these families, it has often happened that no community would claim them, since they have wandered for several years.

At the Chamber of Commerce it was estimated that last winter an average of ten families a day applied there for relief, but they were all referred to relief organizations. The usual number of tourists coming for health reasons or for winter vacations did not arrive last winter, although there were still some wealthy transients.

Until the mines all closed in the spring of this year, Arizona had been shown on the industrial maps in "white," and prior to the present depression probably industry in Arizona, except for the cotton growing, did not fluctuate as much as in other states. The supply of labor in the building trades is usually greater than the demand.

In addition to persons coming to Arizona on account of the climate, there are large numbers traveling west to California in search of work, sometimes begging food, gas and oil in their effort to reach there. Often these same persons, having found conditions in California no better, start home and again become stranded in Arizona.

There are three main highways carrying auto travel across the state of Arizona: 8 U. S. Highway 66, which enters the state from Gallup, N. Mex., and goes across the northern part of the state, entering California at Needles; U. S. Highway 180, which enters at Lordsburg, N. Mex., and goes through Phoenix to Yuma, where it crosses into California; and U. S. Highway 80, which goes by another route from Lordsburg across to Yuma. On routes 66 and 180 there have been slight decreases in the number of cars both east and west bound in 1930, but on route 80 a rather marked increase occurred. From the quarantine stations exact figures as to the number of cars crossing the state boundaries have been obtained. The total number of cars entering and leaving the state and headed both east and west during 1929 and 1930 was 485,454. The secretary of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce suggested that it might be possible to register all out-of-state cars at the time they crossed the state line, such registration to show the place where the person said he had last voted or where he had a legal residence. This information could then be available to recognized social workers in the event that they became dependent within the state.

Tucson, like Phoenix, makes use of a leaflet regarding employment conditions in answering inquiries that are sent to the Chamber of Commerce. The following is a copy of such a statement:

"EMPLOYMENT

"Tucson is not an industrial city, therefore, outside of the railroad shops there is no industry which uses a large number of men. For the next few months resident labor, skilled, farm common, clerical and domestic, exceeds the demand by several hundred. Until these residents are placed back in work, it will be very difficult for others coming into our city to secure employment."

The Salvation Army maintains a soup kitchen at which both single men and families are fed. Unused food is collected from hotels, restaurants and the jail to feed the large number who stop for a meal as they are going through town. In 1929 and 1930 the kitchen was closed during the summer months, but it has been felt necessary to keep it open this year. Last winter as many as 333 individuals were fed in one day. In the preceding winter they never

had more than 76. In the summer of 1931 from 40 to 94 persons a day were being fed. The Salvation Army is planning to enlarge this soup kitchen. The organization never gives gas and oil, or other help to transients except this food; and shelter to a smaller number. The following figure show the volume of the work. With the food donated and most of the work done by volunteers, the total cost was not great.

	<u>No. Families</u>	<u>No. Persons</u>	<u>No. Meals</u>	<u>No. Beds</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Jan. to July, 1930	157	476	3,235	1,708	\$703.51
July to Dec. 31, 1930	634	2,501	5,501	3,755	770.06
Jan. to July, 1931	<u>1 280</u>	<u>5,048</u>	<u>16,432</u>	<u>4,417</u>	<u>958.00</u>
TOTAL.....	2,071	8,026	25,168	9,870	\$2,431.51

The first six months of 1931 show more than twice as many families aided as in the preceding six months, and about eight times as many as for the same period last year. The families are traveling both east and west, and it is felt that most of them are sincerely seeking work.

The American Red Cross considers its principal work assisting disabled ex-service men and their families, since many men come to Tucson because of the climate and because one of the United States Veterans' Hospitals is located there. However, the able bodied ex-service men, seeking employment, have come in such numbers that other organizations have not been able to give sufficient aid. The Red Cross has also assisted. This has been done in cooperation with the Family Welfare Society and the American Legion, so that duplication would not occur. Work with disabled veterans is no part of this report, but the following figures show how work with able bodied veterans accompanied by their families has increased:

	<u>No. Families</u>	<u>Amount Expended for Relief</u>
Jan. to July, 1929	78	\$185.93
July to Dec., 1929	53	163.33
Jan. to July, 1930	82	243.18
July to Dec. 1930	61	177.53
Jan. to July, 1931	<u>141</u>	<u>366.20</u>
TOTAL.....	415	\$1,136.17

An effort has been made to do case work with at least part of these families but many of them have been traveling about for so long in search of work that they have lost all legal residence. In the winter of 1930-31, contrary to previous experience, many of the applicants for relief were skilled workmen, especially members of the building trades who had heard that industrial conditions were better in Arizona than anywhere else, and who had therefore concluded that building and construction must be going on. Some of the men remarked that it was much easier to get around the country alone than with their families, but that they could not leave them at home unprovided for. Some of them had hoped to earn enough to pay their expenses by getting work along the way.

The Red Cross usually gives an emergency grocery order and sometimes provides shelter while an investigation is being made. The Transportation Agreement is rigidly observed. Many of the families have come from Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas.

NOGALES

In Nogales, all of the relief work is centralized, since one and the same person is secretary of the organized charities, executive of the American Red Cross, in charge of county relief, pastor of the Congregational Church, and also secretary of the advertising club of the Chamber of Commerce.

Nogales lies on the boundary of the United States, with a fence running down the middle of the main street to mark the line between Arizona and Mexico. Mexicans have been coming into the United States through this city for many years to work in the mines and for seasonal occupations such as cotton picking, fruit picking, or work in beet fields and lettuce fields. During the past two years many of these Mexicans have become unemployed and therefore are burdens on the communities where they happen to be. Recent stringent restrictions on the part of the government have kept other Mexicans from arriving.

Last winter rumors were in circulation among the Mexicans that they were all to be returned to Mexico unless they had taken steps to become American citizens. Mexicans are intensely patriotic, and they met this rumor not by trying to become citizens, but by staring

for home. Suddenly they began arriving in truck loads at Nogales, and the town soon found several hundred families there in need of emergency help until plans could be perfected to send them to their homes in Mexico. An emergency canteen was established on the Mexican side of the town. The Americans on the other side sent supplies to it. Early in August when this study was made, there were still about 150 persons being cared for in this way.

Many American-born children are in this group. In 1929, the transients, including Mexicans, who were aided, totaled 2,747. Approximately 1,956 of these were children. The cost to the community was \$5,376. In 1930 the transients aided totaled 3,348, including 2,286 children, and the cost was \$5,925. In view of the fact that the American part of Nogales has only 8,500 inhabitants, while the Mexican side has perhaps twice that number, it will be seen that the burden on the community has been very great.

There have been a number of hitch-hiking families among the Americans, and one family consisting of a man wife and ten children, traveled in an old prairie schooner. The Superior Court, which handles juvenile cases, refused to do anything in regard to children unless it is a case of delinquency.

Due to the close connection between the Chamber of Commerce and the relief work, no publicity that could possibly attract dependents to the community has been sent out for two years. One mine near Nogales where a year ago 700 men were working, now has only one man, a watchman, employed. At another mining camp where 400 men were working in 1930, there are now only 25 left. There are no plans ahead for the future care of transients.

Some of the families in Nogales present complicated international situations. For instance one family consisting of father and mother and six children came to the attention of the charities. The man's grandfather had come originally from Germany to the United States. His mother was a Mexican woman. It has not been possible to establish where the man himself was born, but he spent his childhood in the United States. He married a Mexican woman and their oldest child was born in Mexico. The next five children were born in the United States, then the family moved to Nogales, living on the Mexico side of the street, while the man

secured employment on the American side. The man fell ill and died in Arizona, and shortly after his death a seventh child was born in the Mexican part of town. There is no doubt that five of the children were born in California and are entitled to state aid there, but the United States authorities will not allow the mother and the eldest and youngest child to enter the country. Therefore, the whole family is living in Mexico, and the children can not attend the school which is on the American side. They are entirely dependent on the charity of the local community.

FLAGSTAFF

The chairman of the American Red Cross in flagstaff reports that few of the families who ask for help wish to be returned home or are willing to give sufficient information to make it possible to determine where their homes are. Most of the families have from two to six children. The Red Cross gives food and lodging, while the county furnishes gasoline or transportation, not adhering to the Transportation Agreement. The number of transient families is increasing steadily, most of the persons seeking work.

The Red Cross in 1929 spent \$75 aiding transient families, \$150 was spent in the year 1930, and in the first six months of 1931, \$150 was spent for this purpose.

Y U M A

At the Arizona end of the bridge across the Colorado River, between Arizona and California, a soup kitchen has been maintained since December 1930. through the cooperation of the city, county, Elks Club, Yuma Charities Association and the merchants and people of Yuma. This was discontinued in May, when the hot weather started, since it was thought no transients would be coming across the desert in the summer, but this year the stream of transients has continued. Both the county and the Charities Association state frankly that they do buy gas and oil and pass the family on to other communities, this usually means sending them across the line into California. Unfortunately, the California authorities, nearest the state line, enable transients to cross bridge into Arizona. Sometimes it is difficult for the families to go on any distance in either direction, since this is one of the hottest spots in the

United States and worn-out automobiles often break down on the desert. Passing motorists often assist such people to move on greater distances than the agencies do. The agencies apparently are not familiar with the Transportation Agreement and it seems probable that, in some cases, they arrange for a charity rate ticket on the railroad without making a thorough investigation.

The only definite figures available show that 18,000 meals were furnished to transients between December 15, 1930, and May 2, 1931. Approximately 7,500 was spent in the year ending June 30, 1931. There are no plans for the future. Practically all of the travel east and west over United States Highways 80 and 180 goes through Yuma. The number of transients seems to be constantly increasing, but most of the people are sincerely seeking work. The county reports \$1,200 spent to aid transients, this sum including burials, which average one a month.

There were some pitiful cases of sick persons and of young children suffering from heat and lack of food on the way.

The Chamber of Commerce reports that there will be less work this year than last, since there are only 20,000 acres planted in cotton in the county this year, as against 35,000 in previous years. The type of travelers seems quite different this year. They are not spending money and not staying in hotels, but going to cheap auto camps and leaving no money in the community.

* * * * *

There is no State Department of Social Service in Arizona to help in the co-ordination of work for transient. With transients forming a major part of all the persons who require assistance within the state, there is a definite need for state-wide planning. Within each local community, further centralization of the care of transients might be possible and is desirable. A state Social Service Exchange and a more widespread understanding of the Transportation Agreement, would be a great help.

Chamber of Commerce leaflets describing real conditions should be encouraged and possibly supplemented by posters bearing similar information on the highways or in auto camps. Surely all advertising for unskilled workers should cease.

It appears that there is definite need for some kind of centralized state machinery through which a state-wide plan could be developed in order to help the separate communities in meeting their problems and in making their efforts more effective. Since in this present emergency period a state committee has been organized to cooperate with the President's Organization on Unemployment Relief, it may be possible for this Committee to create a sub-committee on Planning for Transients in Arizona, with consultant service available from a social worker experienced in community planning for transients.