

*Government*

Phoenix, Arizona, February 11, 1935.

Dear Sirs:

Subject: DEPLORABLE SANITARY CONDITIONS, ARIZONA  
TRANSIENT DIVISION, STATE FAIR GROUNDS--PHOENIX  
CAMP.

The sanitary conditions prevailing in this camp, which I am going to attempt to describe, are a disgrace to the State of Arizona, and to those who are responsible for permitting them to exist. Effective action should be taken, and at once, to eliminate the conditions herein described. Such action as would result in an immediate investigation, a placing of responsibility, and a disciplinary enforcement of sanitary measures.

First, the dishes, pitchers, cups and other ware used in the mess hall are not properly washed, rinsed and cleaned. They are vile, as you can determine by a surprise visit to our mess hall, and by making a personal inspection just before the bugle call to march in to mess. Mess calls are at 7:15 a.m., 12M, and 5:00 p.m. You will see the stains of previous meals on the pitchers and the dirty water stains, both, on the inside and outside, of the porcelain pitchers.

Second, no service spoons are placed in the service dishes on the table. The man on the right side of me may be a syphletic and receiving shots for same, as a number are; the man on my left a consumptive; the man across the table may have a cancer on his lip, as one did who has now gone elsewhere. The syphletic stirs his spoon in the coffee, takes a couple of sips--he is passed the mush, in goes the spoon he had in his mouth. The consumptive and the cancer victim either takes theirs and do likewise, and the same dish is passed to me. I can either take from the dishes, these dangerously diseased men have had their spoons or forks in, or go without.

Third, many of the porcelain pitchers have the handles broken off due to rough handling and being played with while pitching them from one to another like a football, by being dropped, or thrown around. This is usually done by the young men whose duty it is to work in the kitchen and mess hall. In passing them at the table they are taken by the rim. The fingers of the hand being placed inside the pitcher. Maybe the man to whom the milk or other pitcher is to be passed is a consumptive; he feels a compelling desire to cough, and places his hand to his mouth; after his cough is relieved in the pitcher goes the fingers of that hand, or he may grasp the pitcher by the spout, thereby passing germs to the pitcher which is passed to all who in turn take the contents of it. Much money has been spent to do away with tubercular cattle. What are you going to do to eliminate the dangerous condition herein described, which concerns human beings?

When you make your surprise inspection of the dishes prior to mess, remain and watch the performance at the table, and see what takes place. The conditions described would not be permitted by an intelligent swine grower or stock man or he would go broke. If he has a sick hog or tubercular cow, he is isolateing the animal until he is cured or dies. This cannot always be done in a large camp with human beings, but spoons can be placed in the service dishes on the table and butter knives on the butter dishes, and bulletin instructions issued on the board for their use.

Such as this ought not to be necessary, but if these men had normal intelligence and a little moral courage, instead of growling among themselves about such conditions, they would call them to the attention of those who have the power to correct them.

Consider the danger to the healthy men who register in this camp, also, to the residents of the city of Phoenix, should a contagious disease be passed among the 1100 or more men in this camp as they frequent the saloons, stores, theatres, and other public places when not on duty. I can find absolutely no excuse for the conditions existing here or in any camp considering the man power they have to work with, except negligence.

Last but not least, the quarters occupied by companies G, H, I, and J are damp during rainy weahter due to the roof leaking, and also is due to negligence as they have a turn shop here and sheet metal workers available. When you make your inspection, enter the quarters and inspect the roof. Note the nail holes through which the water pours on the beds during rainy weather, forcing men to leave their beds at all hours during the night while storms are in process. A few bars of solder and work will eliminate this, thus, keeping the bedding and floors dry avoiding rheumatism to the occupants of these barracks.

Expecting prompt action on the part of those to whose attention this is called, I am

Very respectfully,

*Benjamin L. Galloway*

Copy is under personal cover to:

State Chairman, Emergency Relief Administration, Heard Building, Phoenix, Arizona; Arizona State Medical Association, Security Building, Phoenix, Arizona; Mr. Robert H. Hicksley, Regional Director Relief, Western States, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mr. Harry L. Hopkins, National Director Relief Administration, Washington, D. C.; City Editor, Arizona Gazette, Phoenix, Arizona; Hon. Benjamin B. Moeur, Governor State of Arizona, State Capitol, Phoenix, Arizona.