

Thursday morning a... In retrospect, there were several... the people of this area... the Southern Pacific asked to... from Ft. Monmouth, N. J. to Ft. Huachuca. The number of... involved was said to be 100.

Several Hundred Housing Units Said Available

Several hundred housing units are available in the Fort Huachuca area, according to a quick survey made today.

There are approximately 400 families in the housing units on the fort proper. Many of them built during the last period of reconstruction.

In Douglas, chamber of commerce officials estimated housing here could take care of about 200 families, many present residents. There has been considerable discussion in the past months about building more homes in Douglas and it is considered probable that building will be started soon if financing terms can be arranged.

In Bisbee, according to estimates received here, there are approximately 130 vacancies in the Bisbee Terrace addition, built just before the fort closed last summer.

Many housing units, trailers and hotels, were constructed in Tombstone while the fort was still in operation.

Coronado Court, formerly a federal housing project in Douglas and now operated by the city, has only about 70 vacancies at this time but is expected to have more space available after the tourist season ends in the spring. About 30 of the present vacancies are no-bedroom units and most of the other vacant units have only one bedroom.

Send Telegram Thanking Arizona Representatives

Carlton Crum, manager of the Douglas Chamber of Commerce, has sent telegrams to Arizona's four members of Congress thanking them for their part in having Fort Huachuca rebuilt.

He said the new building and members of the chamber and other citizens to send "thank you" telegrams to the state's congressional delegation.

"We write to them when we want something but seldom thank them when we get it," he said.

Arizona's senators and representatives have been from considerable credit by the army for having the installation set up here.

During World War I the fort was a training center for Negro troops.

In World War II again Negro troops were trained here with a total of 20,000 servicemen and 8,000 civilians being here at the height of training.

In August, 1948, the government declared the historic fort disposable and nearly 500 of the 2,000 buildings erected during the war were sold.

In March, 1949, the Arizona National Guard and State Game and Fish Commission took over the fort and a large wildlife herd was introduced later that year.

In April, 1951, the government reclaimed ownership of the post as the Douglas Chamber of Commerce was being organized. The 6018th Army Service Unit began rehabilitating the fort's facilities. Three crates of Engineer Aviation Units received their training, the last leaving in the first part of 1951.

On Aug. 16, 1952, Brig. Gen. Frank E. Frazer, taking over command of the Arizona National Guard at Governor's Day celebration, at news conference reports possible destruction of Ft. Huachuca, but probably on a ready basis.

Two days later an article in The Dispatch reports that Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Smith, commander of the Arizona Army, has recommended to the Arizona National Guard that Ft. Huachuca be kept as permanent installation.

In December, 1952, at dedication ceremony of the new air strip, Col. Dunn, post commander, reports that continued activation is possible, and it so would be the army's "Christmas present" to the friendly communities of southeastern Arizona.

be reactivated Jan. 31 or Feb. 1 with a potential annual payroll of 912 million.

But the most optimistic of yesterday's reports set the highest employment potential at 8,500-10,000 personnel and the other 1,000 civilian staff.

Stoff, who retired Jan. 1 as president of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce made his remark to a reporter at Tucson.

He said the new installation is "only the beginning" and pointed out that the Tucson Chamber of Commerce had been working on activation of the southern Arizona military post for a year.

It has been maintained on a standing basis since last June. Stoff's prediction came as a new surprise in the rapidly developing situation, which has been greeted happily, but with guarded optimism in most southern Arizona communities.

The Douglas Chamber of Commerce said:

"We are very enthused—ticked to death. We feel like it is a long-awaited step in the right direction. It will very definitely help our business here. We felt the effects of the shut down six months ago."

Arthur Marx, industrial committee chairman for the Tucson Chamber, was equally optimistic.

"There is a spectacular potential to this thing. It should draw electronic manufacturers to Tucson. Their products could be tested right at Huachuca by the Signal Corp and the Air Force."

He described the installation as a "testing ground for electronic radar."

The Army and Arizona's two senators and two representatives announced the new plan for the transfer of all Signal Corp electronics proving activities from Fort Monmouth, N. J., to Arizona.

It was explained that major signal corps activities, including research and development laboratories and the signal corps school are not affected, and that only about 50 highly skilled civilians from two of the Ft. Monmouth operations will be transferred.

Of the total remaining personnel, about 1,000 will be civilians. Many of these will be experts recruited from Arizona and other points in the southwest. It is expected that all clerical help will be obtained in Arizona.

Five thousand of the military personnel will be enlisted men, but most of these are classified as specialists. The remaining 2,500 will be divided between commissioned officers and engineers, staff charged with maintenance of the physical property.

Even by discounting the single men with enlisted status, the families of the married men will bring the population of Ft. Huachuca and surrounding area to between 15,000 and 20,000 people.

Although the operation technically is an army, it also involves the navy and air force, as partially evidenced by the fact that the 5,000-foot air machines air landing strip played an important part of the decision.

So important is the project, the Arizona congressional delegation was deemed that no matter what was made in the federal budget during the current session of Congress, the Ft. Huachuca operation will not be affected.