



Manzanar Cemetery, Winter 2002.

This booklet was developed by the park rangers at Manzanar National Historic Site in partnership with the individuals profiled and their families.



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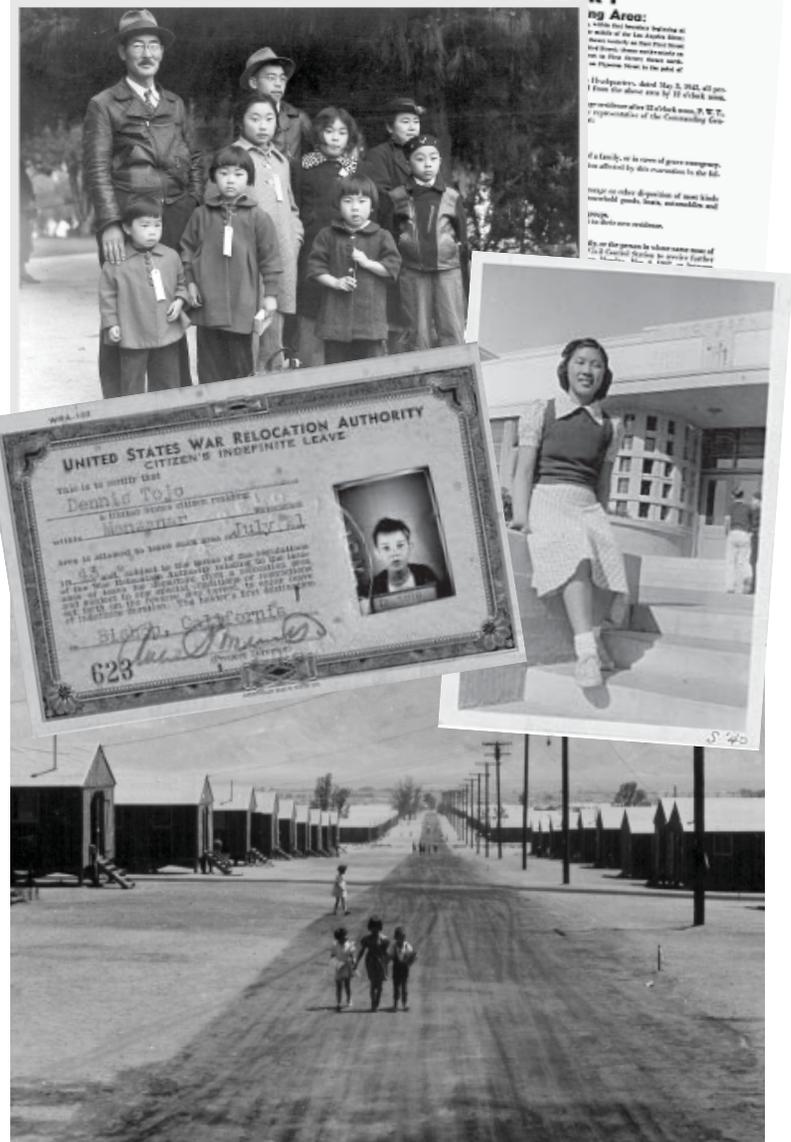
Manzanar



ID Card

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
 WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 Presidio of San Francisco, California
 May 3, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS
 TO ALL PERSONS OF
 JAPANESE
 ANCESTRY**





In 1942 the United States Government ordered over 110,000 men, women, and children to leave their homes and detained them in remote, military-style camps. Two-thirds of them were born in America. Not one was convicted of espionage or sabotage.

In this booklet, you will read the story of a person who lived this history, in his or her own words.



LIFE IN A MANZANAR BLOCK

Wind and Dust

This wind and dust I have to bear
 How hard it blows I do not care.
 But when the wind begins to blow --
 My morale is pretty low.
 I know that I can see it through
 Because others have to bear it too.
 So I will bear it with the rest
 And hope the outcome is the best.

-- George Nishimura, age 16 (1943)

GILA RIVER

Location: Southern Arizona

Environmental Conditions:

Located in the desert, temperatures reached 125 degrees, with summer temperatures consistently over 100 degrees. Dust storms were also a frequent problem.

Opened: July 10, 1942

Closed: Canal Camp: September 28, 1945

Butte Camp: November 10, 1945

Max. Population: 13,348 (November 1942)

Demographics: Internees primarily came from Fresno, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin, Solano, Contra Costa, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties via Turlock, Tulare, and Santa Anita Assembly Centers. 3,000 individuals came directly to Gila River.

Interesting/unusual facts

*The Gila River Indian Community objected to the selection and use of their land for a Relocation Center.

*The center was divided into two camps, Butte and Canal. The two camps were about 3.5 miles apart and included a total of 1,181 buildings.

*Gila River was so hot that the barracks had to have two roofs to protect people from the heat!

*Only one guard tower was erected at the Gila River Camp and it was torn down because of staffing limitations. Within six months, the perimeter barbed wire fence around each camp was removed.

*Japanese Americans at Canal Camp built model ships for the U.S. Navy to use in military training.

*Butte Camp featured a baseball diamond designed by professional baseball player Kenichi Zenimura. It included dugouts, bleachers, and other features and could accommodate up to 6,000 spectators.



MASAJI “Mas” INOSHITA

Family # 8574

Camp: Gila River, AZ

Address: 45-8-5



Mas Inoshita

My father, Maruju Inoshita, was an immigrant from southern Japan who came to the United States independently as a Sumo wrestler in 1900. My mother came as a picture bride in 1916. She was positive she married the handsomest of the immigrants but to her dismay she found out that he was older than her own father. They produced 10 children. One child died in infancy and another died at age 35. The family moved from Madera, California to Guadalupe and finally to Santa Maria where we grew up.

In December, 1941, I was a 22-year-old draft-exempt farmer. When Japan bombed

Pearl Harbor I knew that all Japanese Americans would be affected but not to the extent that unfolded. On December 11, the FBI arrested my father as a suspicious enemy alien. Our bank account was frozen, our movements restricted, and we had to turn in all prohibited items such as guns, ammunition, short-wave radios, cameras and knives.

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May 3, 1942

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JAPANESE
ANCESTRY**

Living in the Following Area:

All of that portion of the City of Los Angeles, State of California, within that boundary beginning at the point at which North Figueroa Street meets a line following the middle of the Los Angeles River; thence westerly and following the said line to East First Street; thence westerly on East First Street to Alameda Street; thence northerly on Alameda Street to East Third Street; thence northerly on East Third Street to Main Street; thence northerly on Main Street to First Street; thence northerly on First Street to Figueroa Street; thence northerly on Figueroa Street to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 33, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. M., Saturday, May 9, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. M., Sunday, May 3, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Southern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

Japanese Union Church,
128 North San Pedro Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency. The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 3:00 P. M. on Monday, May 4, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:
 - (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
 - (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
 - (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
 - (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
 - (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.All items carried will be separately packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.
3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of the more substantial household items, such as lockboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
6. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M., Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.

J. L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

SEE CIVILIAN EXCLUSION ORDER NO. 33.



Mas Inoshita (left) and his friend Joe Allman care for the veteran's monument at Gila River, September 2001

Evacuation Poster, 1942

It was my job to dispose of all the chickens, rabbits, horses, trucks, tractors, cars, farm machinery, and crops since we were allowed to take only what we could carry. The disposal of dad's prize draft horses was traumatic. A Caucasian came to our rescue. He made us haul all unsold farm machinery to his barn for storage and verbally supported us as his friends.

I was discharged in 1946 and went back to Arizona to farm. I married Betty and we had three children.

The family left camp after three years and settled in Arizona. The family started a farm. My parents became U.S. citizens in 1954 and became landowners in 1956. One brother went from being a farmer to an accountant in South America. Another brother became involved in construction and created a mobile home park. My brother entered the lucrative field of electronic engineering. One sister married a farmer.

Incarcerating our family during the war was wrong, but it opened up opportunities for all of us in all parts of this

war was wrong, but it opened up opportunities for all of us in all parts of this country. Those of us who were alive in 1988 received an apology letter and a reparations payment of twenty thousand dollars.

In retirement I have become a volunteer. I worked as a volunteer librarian for six years but gave it up because of my involvement in maintaining the Gila River Relocation Camp monuments. I have given numerous tours of the former camp for school and civic groups in hopes of educating people to what we went through.

Another sister operated a restaurant.

Incarcerating our family during the

The U.S. Army transported us from Santa Maria to the Tulare Assembly Center in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, where we lived in Row F, Horstall 12 for three months.

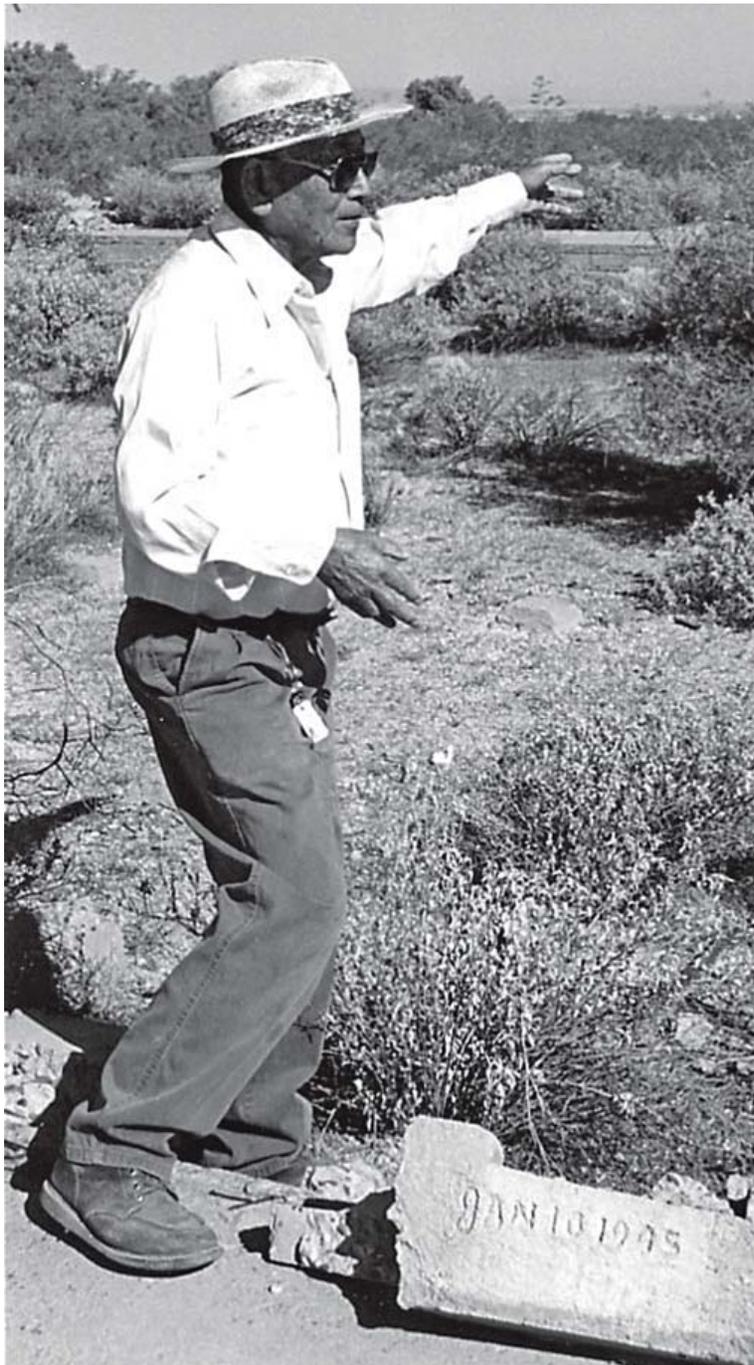
A Caucasian came to our rescue. He made us haul all unsold farm machinery to his barn for storage and verbally supported us as his friends.

We were later moved to the Gila River War Relocation Center in south central Arizona. We received two barracks rooms and our food dramatically improved. I cooked rice and picked cotton for Arizona farmers in the Casa Grande area.

In November, 1942, I volunteered to serve as a Japanese language expert in the U.S. Military Intelligence Language School. I trained in Camp



Gila River War Relocation Center, Arizona



*Mas Inoshita shares his memories of life at Gila River,
September 2001*



Gila River War Relocation Center

Shelby, Mississippi, and was shipped out to the South Pacific. I worked military intelligence in Australia, Sri Lanka, Delhi India, Burma, Central China, Okinawa, and occupied Japan. My mother, father, brothers and sisters endured hostility in the Gila River camp because I went into the military service to fight Japan. One brother suffered mental anguish in the camp and was placed in a mental institution where he died.

My mother, father, brothers and sisters endured hostility in the Gila River camp because I went into the military service to fight Japan.
