



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.



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. To learn more about your national parks, visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov. To learn more about Manzanar National Historic Site, please visit our website at www.nps.gov/manz.

Manzanar National Historic Site
P.O. Box 426, Independence, CA 93526
Tel. 760-878-2194
E-mail: manz_superintendent@nps.gov

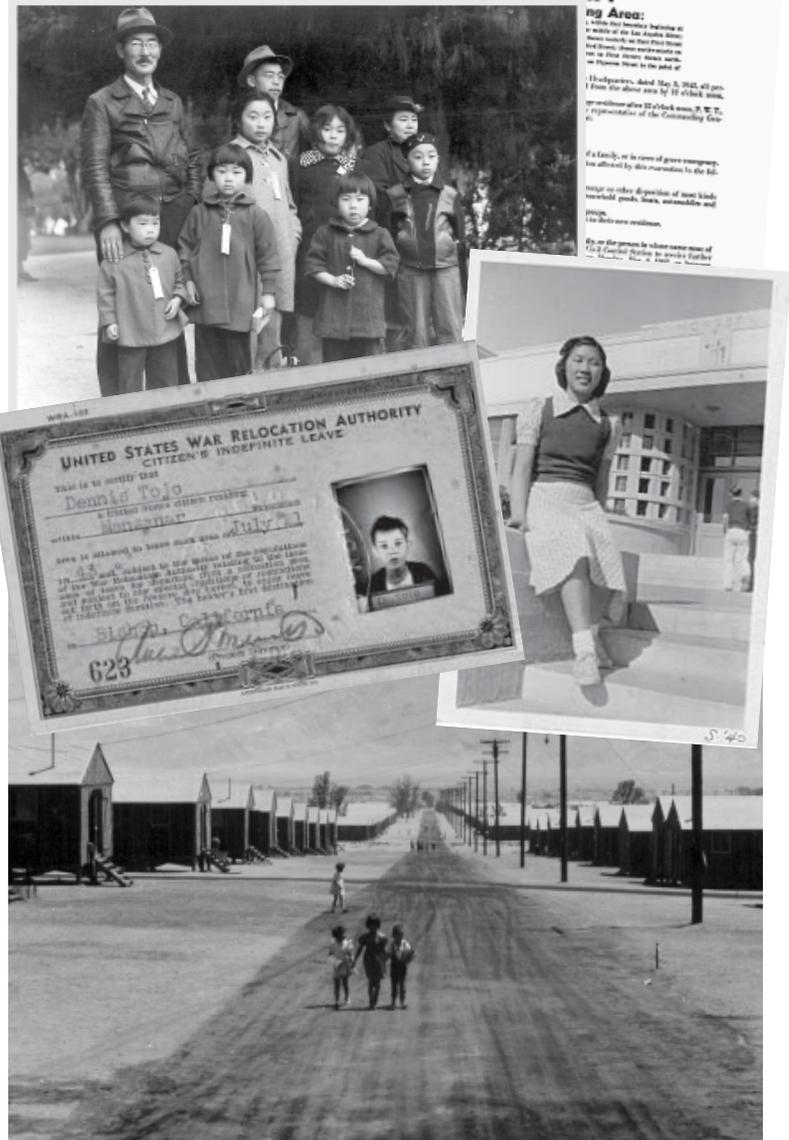
Printing was made possible by a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

Manzanar



ID Card

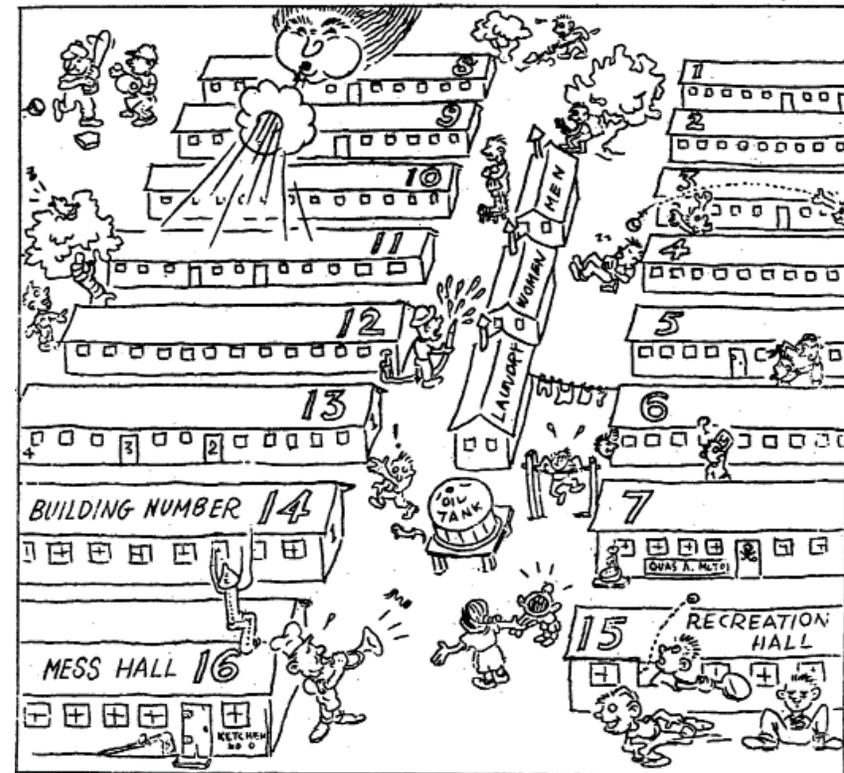
WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
 WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
 Presidio of San Francisco, California
 May 3, 1942
**INSTRUCTIONS
 TO ALL PERSONS OF
 JAPANESE
 ANCESTRY**





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)

MANZANAR Free Press

MANZANAR

Location: Inyo County, California, at the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada.

Environmental

Conditions: Temperatures can be over 100 degrees in summer and below freezing in winter. Strong winds & dust storms are frequent.

Acreage: 6,000

Opened: March 21, 1942 as a Reception Center and June 1, 1942 as a War Relocation Center.

Closed: November 21, 1945

Max. Population: 10,046 (September 1942)

Demographics: Most internees were from the Los Angeles area, Terminal Island, and the San Fernando Valley. Others came from the San Joaquin Valley and Bainbridge Island.



JOE NAGANO

Family # 5075

Camp: Manzanar, CA

Address: 14-12-4

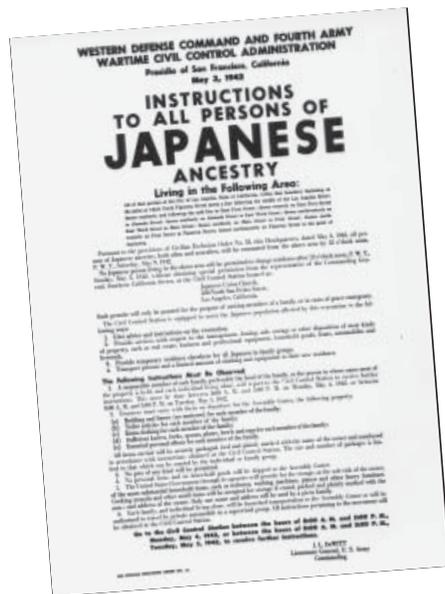


Father, Sanezumi Nagano, arrived in the U.S. from Kochi, Japan in 1906. In 1918 Sanezumi returned to Japan and in the following year 1919 he married Umeko Terauchi. Upon returning to the U.S. he worked for the Japanese Christian Church as the Church Secretary. He then turned to a new endeavor as a flower grower. I was born in an apartment in the Church via a midwife. Also in the family were another son, Towru, and a daughter, Masako.

I attended high school with budding movie celebrities. Judy Garland, Deanna Durbin and Werner Klemperer attended University High School. I played Tennis with Peter Viertel who married Deborah Kerr. I graduated from high school in 1938. Tennis was my pastime.

I attended high school with budding movie celebrities. Judy Garland, Deanna Durbin and Werner Klemperer attended University High School.

I was attending U.C.L.A. as a chemistry major when Pearl Harbor was bombed. After the bombing of



Pearl Harbor we were very apprehensive and stayed close to home. Some people became unfriendly and hostile, particularly on busses. Close friends were unchanged.

We had 4-6 weeks before reporting for relocation. The furniture was stored in our home and rented out. Our Model A

Ford was sold. Longtime friends cared for home and collected rent. I took primarily clothing, albums and valuable books. The most difficult things to leave behind were the radio, sword collection, knives and friends. Later I was not able to retrieve the things left behind. We did not know what the future held. There was a tearful separation from our friends in the neighborhood.

The most difficult things to leave behind were the radio, sword collection, knives and friends. Later I was not able to retrieve the things left behind.

I just tried to do the best I could, day by day, come what may and it worked out very well for me. My advice to a young student would be to work hard and honestly, continue your education and promotional opportunities will come naturally.

A large collection of letters Joe's family sent to him at college from Manzanar are available online at www.densho.org.



I was drafted in Jan. 1945 and trained at Camp Robinson in Arkansas. I went to Military Intelligence Language School in Minneapolis and served one year in occupation in Japan.



I returned to Los Angeles in 1947 after service and there was some adverse reaction about getting a job in Civil Service. My goal was one step at a time by a career in Civil Service for the city of Los Angeles. I worked for 33 years in sanitation, as a chemist, as chief chemist and as laboratory director at the Hyperion Treatment Plant.

I returned to Los Angeles in 1947... there was some adverse reaction about getting a job in Civil Service.



Arriving at Manzanar, 1942

The first impression was that it was a cold, stark, barren site.

We, mother, father, sister, brother and myself were bussed to Manzanar. It was my first trip beyond 50 miles from Los Angeles. It was a 6-hour bus ride. There was a flat tire on the bus in the desert. We arrived at 3 p.m. April 26, 1942.

We lived in Block 14, Barrack 12, Apt. 4. The first impression was that it was a cold, stark, barren site. Our baggage was placed on sandy ground. Our cousins met us and helped us to our room. Our friends were scattered around several blocks.

I was working in public works, water supply and waste treatment. I enjoyed dancing, baseball and

playing cards. I had my first date ever in camp. It was my first date, my first job and telephone.



Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1942

My horizons were greatly broadened. I worked at my first job, I saw the High Sierra, and I went to Chicago, earned a living and graduated from college, and got my first job as a chemist in Chicago. It was difficult to earn your way through college.

I remember the teachers who helped me relocate to college. I left Manzanar in January 1943 to go to college at Illinois Institute of Technology as a chemistry major in Chicago, after being accepted and then turned down at Juniata College in Pennsylvania.

I was a normal, outgoing, happy and quiet. Going to church services lifted my spirits.

