



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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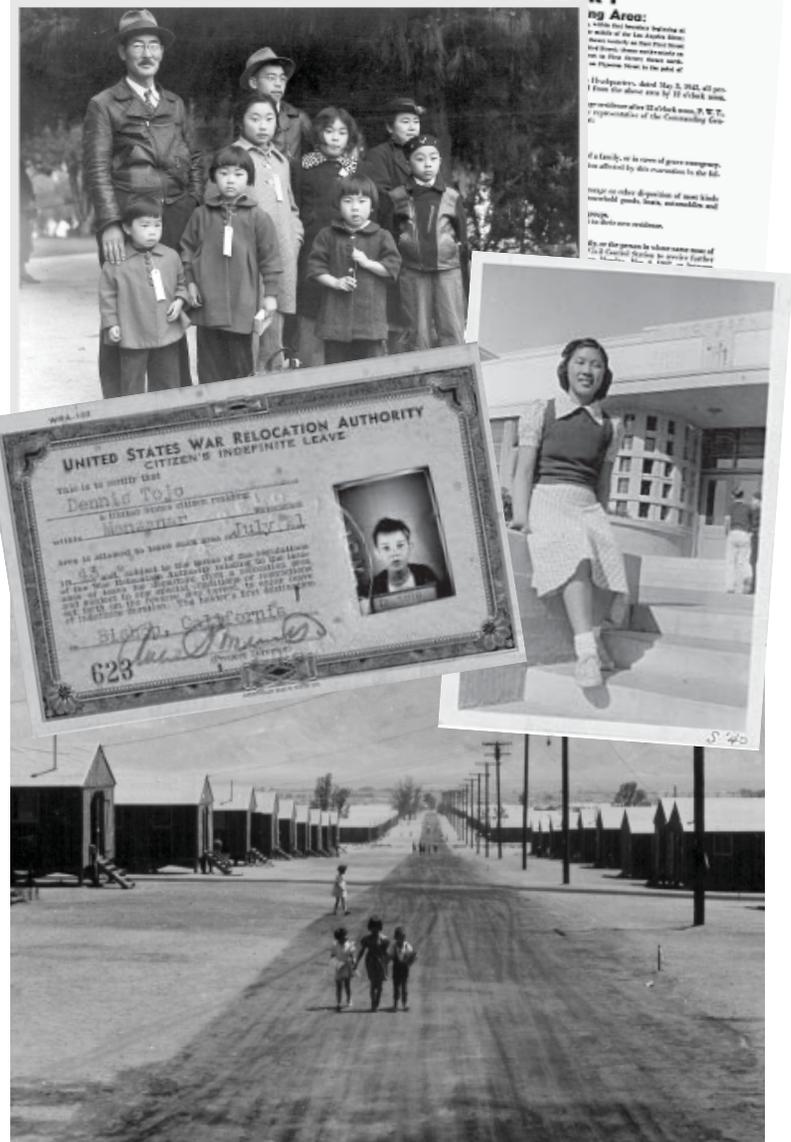
Manzanar



ID Card

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

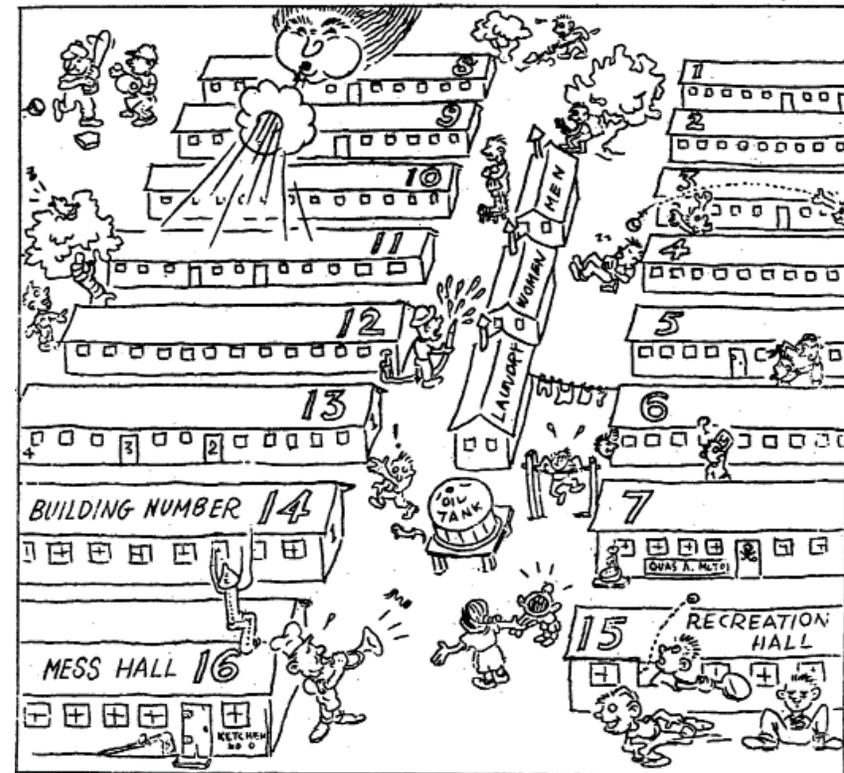
INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY





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)

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.



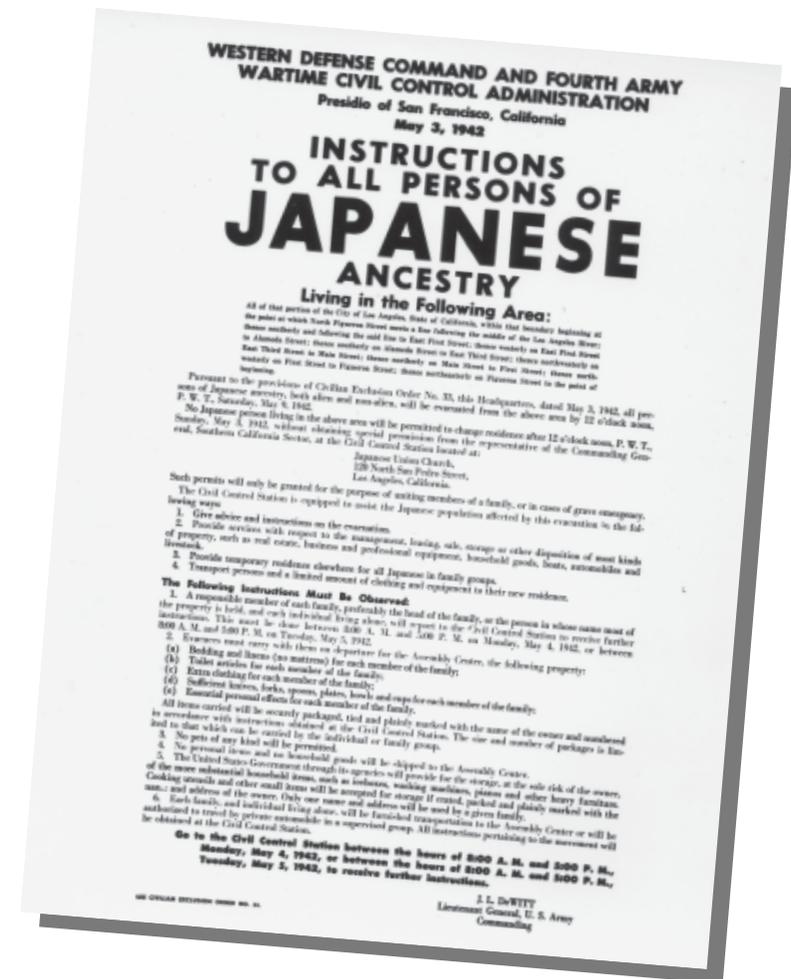
LAWRENCE KIYOSHI SHINODA

Family # 20983

Camp: Manzanar, CA

Address: 29-7-4

My father, Kiyoshi Shinoda, came to the USA from Japan when he was 12 and my mother, Hide Watanabe, was 1. Our father died when I was 3 and my sister Grace was 6.



We heard of Pearl Harbor on the car radio as we were returning home from church on Dec. 7, 1941. Executive Order 9066 forced all persons of Japanese ancestry, even US citizens, from the west coast. My sister was 15 and I was 12. We had one week to get ready. We could only take what we could carry. What would you take? We each crammed a duffel bag with necessities. I added, a picture of our dog Spotty, a small tool box I received for Christmas, and because I loved to draw cars and hot-rods I brought my notebooks and pencils. On May 16, 1942 a neighbor drove us early in the morning to L.A. Union Station.

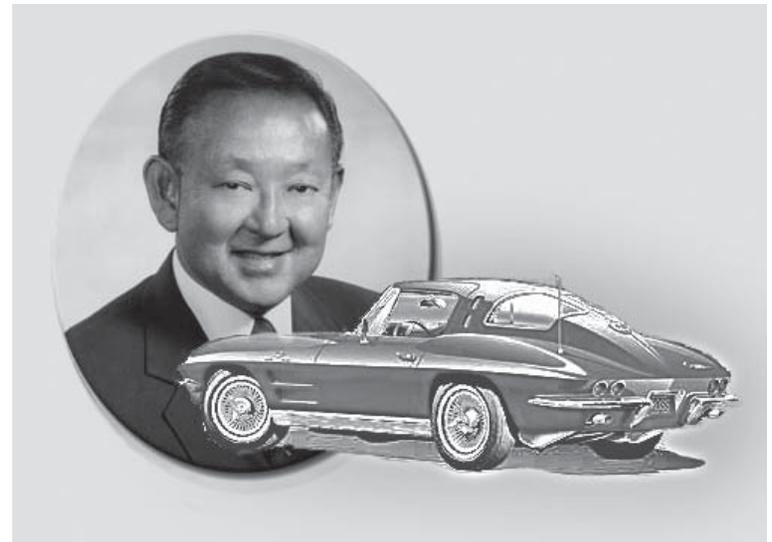
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Evacuees Arriving at the Lone Pine Station 1942

company in the United States and the world, but I am best recognized for my Corvette design, The Boss Mustang, and winning Indy 500 cars. I drew the original designs for the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky where Corvettes are produced. At the Museum you can look in the window of an automobile showroom featuring my classic Corvettes with my life-size statue presiding over all. My original paintings and drawings featuring my designs are on display throughout the Museum as well.

[Larry died in November 1997. He was installed in the first HALL OF FAME in the National Corvette Museum posthumously in September 1998.]



Larry Shinoda and the 1963 Corvette Sting Ray



Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1942

We returned to California in 1945. I graduated from Eagle Rock High School, went to Pasadena City College and Art Center College of Design. I served in the Air National Guard in the Korean War. After service, I returned to study Transportation Design at Art Center College. Ford Motor Company hired me to go to Detroit as a car designer/stylist. In my career in transportation design, I have designed everything from 2 wheelers to 18-wheelers. I have designed for every major transportation

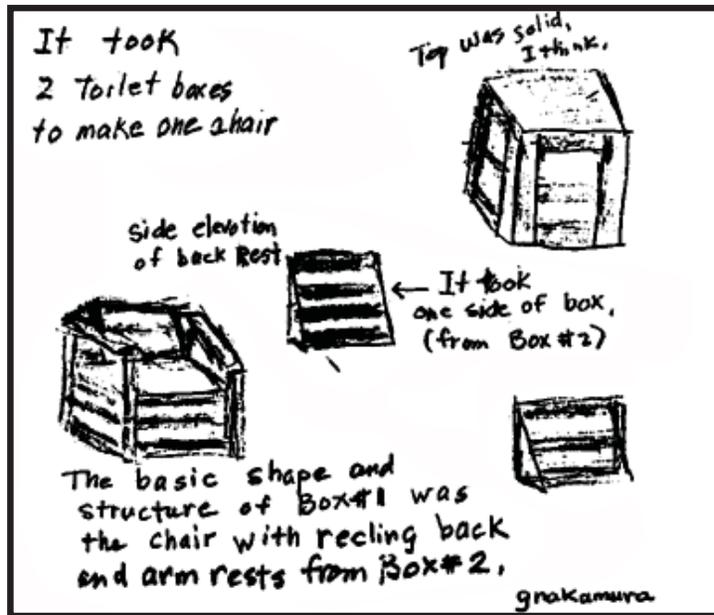
I have designed for every major transportation company in the United States and the world, but I am best recognized for my Corvette design, The Boss Mustang, and winning Indy 500 cars.



It looked spooky with all the shades drawn on the train windows and many soldiers with guns standing around us. No foods or drinks were provided. We arrived at Manzanar at dusk. We were issued a muslin bag and instructed to fill it with straw for our mattress. I told my sister, “I feel like the baby Jesus—‘asleep on the hay.’” Our room had only army beds for Grandma Watanabe, Uncle Tom Watanabe, M.D. (camp doctor); two aunts and us. The cold wind blew in dust through all the cracks.

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I designed two reclining-back chairs with armrests for Mom and Grandma. The chairs were made from recycled wooden crates used to box toilets. They became a camp “sensation” with many spectators who came to see and sit.



The Manzanar Reclining-back Chair, Grace S Nakamura 2006

My love of fishing dimmed the danger of MP gunfire when I crawled under the barbed wire to fish. Using rocks and building a dam system in the streams, I could catch trout with my bare hands.

My sister Grace also had a risky encounter in December 1942, when she ran down to witness a big protest caused by government employees stealing



sugar and food meant for the internees. The MP fired into the defenseless crowd and killed Jimmy Ito, Grace’s classmate, standing only a few feet away from her.

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Spring 1944 Mom, Grace and I left Manzanar for Grand Junction, CO to join the family on a farm. We went to a local school. There was a pond on the farm which froze over and what fun we had on borrowed ice skates until a bull “charged us” and we escaped by climbing into the corn crib!