

**New national monument**

*'When people visit this monument, they will learn about the past, but they will learn the past doesn't have to be repeated.'* —Ren Lohofener, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



H&N photos by Lee Juillerat

More than 100 people climb Castle Rock as part of dedication ceremonies for the Tule Lake Unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Newell was the site of a detention and segregation camp for Japanese-Americans during World War II.

# New park dedicated

Monument tells story of Tule Lake Detention and Segregation Camp

By LEE JUILLERAT  
H&N Regional Editor

NEWELL — Prayers, incense, Taiko drums, chants, colorful paper cranes, words of reconciliation and promises for the future helped celebrate the formal dedication of the nation's newest national park, the Tule Lake Unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Nearly 700 people, including about 400 Japanese-Americans attending the ongoing Tule Lake Pilgrimage, sat under a blistering sun Friday to dedicate the park unit, which was created by presidential proclamation last December.

"When people visit this monument they will learn about the past, but they will learn the past doesn't have to be repeated," said Ren Lohofener, regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Southwest Region.

**Internment centers**

He and others referred to the years from 1942 to 1946 when Tule Lake was among 10 national internment camps for 120,000 Japanese-Americans following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. Tule Lake, which later became the nation's sole high-security segregation center, was the largest and most controversial of the camps. In the audience were more than 100



LEFT: Jimi Yamaichi was one of the leaders in the decades-long effort to create a park at the former Tule Lake Detention and Segregation Camp. RIGHT: Prayers are offered after Friday's dedication ceremonies for the Tule Lake Detention and Segregation Camp.



people who were incarcerated at Tule Lake.

"It is my hope that in the 1940s the sounds and sights of those birds gave some hope to the people here," Lohofener said, referring to the camp's location along the Pacific Flyway migratory bird route.

The Tule Lake Unit is jointly managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service.

Jon Jarvis, the Park Service's regional director, said a goal of the new park will be to tell the internment story. Noting that national parks include places of beauty like Yosemite and Crater Lake, he said the nation has also "chosen to set aside places where there is sorrow and concern."

Jarvis said future public meetings will be held to determine the future of the Tule Lake Unit, noting, "Today is the story of a new journey ...

What are the stories we need to tell?"

Hiroshi Shimizu, president of the Tule Lake Committee, a group of former internees that sponsors the pilgrimages, termed it appropriate that the ceremonies were held in front of the former camp stockade, which many call a prison within a prison.

"It was where people were incarcerated," said Shimizu, who was a young boy with his family at Tule Lake. "They were held without a trial, without a hearing. It became the most contentious place in Tule Lake."

**Validation**

Following the dedication, Shimizu said naming the camp a national monument is a "validation of a lot of things we have been doing. It points to all the work we need to do."

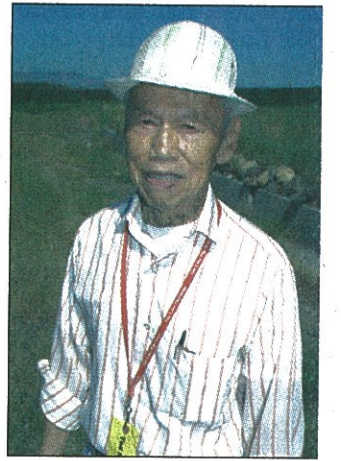
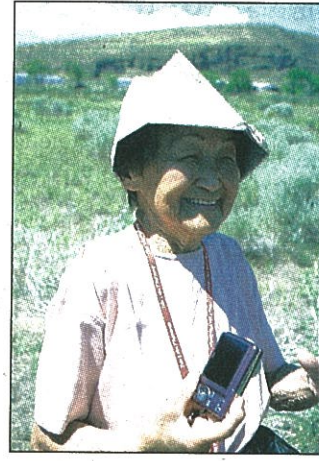
Jimi Yamaichi, who oversaw many camp construction projects, includ-

ing building of the stockade, said he never expected to see the site become a national park. Yamaichi, 86, was a leader in efforts for the designation.

"I didn't ever think I'd see the day it would be a national park," he said. "My job now is to create an interpretative center ... To me, it brings tears to my eyes to see that 63 after years this is happening. Sixty-three years of waiting is a long time, but it was worth it."

Following the dedication, a memorial service featured prayers, incense, a water ritual, chanting, drumming and the placing of paper cranes. In Japan and Asian cultures it is commonly said that folding 1,000 origami cranes makes a person's wish come true.

The World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument also includes five sites in Hawaii and three in Alaska.



LEFT: Chizuko Sakaishi forgot her hat, so she made one from a folded newspaper. She was married at the Tule Lake Camp. RIGHT: Ted Narasaki was a teenager when he and his family were sent to Tule Lake.

## Remembering time at Tule Lake internment camp

By LEE JUILLERAT  
H&N Regional Editor

NEWELL — Yukie Okzaki was in the fifth or sixth grade the first time she climbed Castle Rock, a prominent peak that overlooks the former Tule Lake Detention and Segregation Camp.

Friday morning, Okzaki, now 76, joined more than 100 others for the mile-plus, steep climb up the landmark. Until Tule Lake became the nation's only detention center, people held at the camp were allowed to make the hike and climb.

"I can only tell about camp from the eyes of a child," she said while resting atop the peak. "I don't know what kinds of things my parents experienced. Camp life taught us to be stronger. I've had a good life. I've tried to make the best of it."

Okzaki was 9 years old when her family was moved from Lincoln, Calif., where the family had a fruit orchard. While at camp, her sister, Terrie Masuda, was born.

"I have no recollections," said Masuda, 65, who lives in Mountain View, Calif.

**Growing up**

Ted Narasaki, 82, was a teenager when he, his parents and seven brothers and sisters, who had farmed in Stockton, Calif., were sent to Tule Lake.

"As a young kid, I thought it was a good deal," he said of leaving school, although he later graduated from the Tule Lake high school. He remembers playing baseball and learning to build and fly model airplanes. "They did try pretty well to keep us young kids occupied and out of mischief."

Narasaki's family moved to New Jersey after the war because of reports



Yukie Okzaki relaxes atop Castle Rock with her sister, Terrie Masuda.

**Program tonight**

"A Thousand Cranes Over Tule Lake," a cultural program offered by the 2009 Tule Lake Pilgrimage, will be at 7:30 p.m. today at the Ross Ragland Theater. Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$8 with ads that have appeared in various issues of the Herald and News.

The program will feature Taiko drumming, poems, songs, music and readings, including a special reading by Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Inada.

of lingering resentment against Japanese-Americans. After being drafted in 1951 during the Korean War, he made a career in the Air Force, retiring in 1983.

"It's pretty distant," he said of Tule Lake memories. "When people talk about it, I remember things."

Chizuko Sakaishi, 86, didn't climb Castle Rock but celebrated the day with her extended family, wearing a hat folded from a newspaper. A 19-year-old when she was sent to Tule Lake with her family, she was married at the camp.