

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

Excluded Area:

1. Within the Excluded Area:
a. No person of Japanese ancestry shall be permitted to enter the Excluded Area except as authorized by the War Relocation Authority.

2. No person of Japanese ancestry shall be permitted to enter the Excluded Area except as authorized by the War Relocation Authority.

3. If a family, or in case of grave emergency, is affected by this restriction to the Excluded Area, the person shall apply to the War Relocation Authority for special permission.

4. No person of Japanese ancestry shall be permitted to enter the Excluded Area except as authorized by the War Relocation Authority.

5. No person of Japanese ancestry shall be permitted to enter the Excluded Area except as authorized by the War Relocation Authority.

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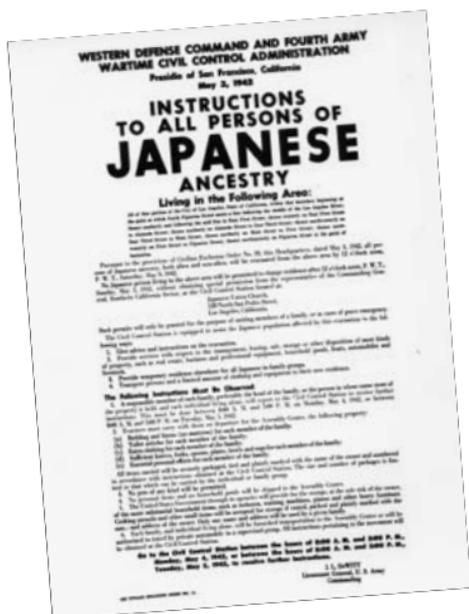




In 1942 the United States Government ordered over 110,000 men, women, and children to leave their homes and detained them in remote, military-style camps. Two-thirds of them were born in America. Not one was convicted of espionage or sabotage.

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

LILIAN BANNAI
Family # 1107
Camp: Manzanar, CA
Address: 5-5-1



I was born on April 5, 1922 in Storrs, Utah, the second child of Shino and Sakui (Sam) Bannai. At the time of the mass evacuation of all American-Japanese from the West Coast, I was a 19 year old secretary to the principal of Gardena Elementary School.

After joining my family in Manzanar, my work was with the Board of Education. Because many others have described the disillusionment they felt, the humiliation of the crude conditions, I will omit my feelings, which were essentially much like the theirs. The greatest grief we felt was for

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the anxiety of our parents, and the uncertainty of our future as an intact family. My goal was to overcome the situation by trying for the earliest possible release from camp.



I relocated to Chicago, Ill. as executive secretary to the Dean of the Chicago Theological Seminary. In Jan., 1944, I was able to call my sister, Rose, so she could find work to eventually enroll in the University of Minnesota. The following year I brought out my youngest sister, Sharlen, so she could complete her final year of high school.

On my free weekends I was often asked to speak to outlying church groups who were interested

in what was happening on the West Coast. As I described the sad situations, I asked the people to try and give the unfortunate victims of wartime hysteria an opportunity to resume their studies and lives in a welcoming community.

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Nisei Troops Training at Camp Shelby

final visit. He passed out our address to all his new buddies, told them to ring his sister's doorbell and expect a hearty Japanese dinner. Suddenly we began to get a steady stream of weekend visitors with funny accents. Wherever they wanted to go,



Nisei Troops with USO Hostesses

we took them—dancing at the Aragon Ballroom, baseball at Wrigley Field, stage shows of one or more of the great bands. Those who survived the Italian campaign came by Chicago to say goodbye. Not one came home intact. We could never forget these brave young men who lived up to their motto of “GO FOR BROKE” and held nothing back in the way they dedicated their lives to the cause of America,

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With the end of the war and the closure of the camps, my final goal was to help my parents get out of the shabby trailer camp where they had been sent. With the return of my brother from the South Pacific, we were able to locate into a normal neighborhood so our younger brother could resume his junior high school education.

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Nisei Troops Training at Camp Shelby



Eventually my career as manager of a travel agency saw me visiting many distant places around the world, a great contrast to the two years I was imprisoned behind barbed wire and armed sentry posts, wondering if I would ever see anything but endless miles of desolate desert.

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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.

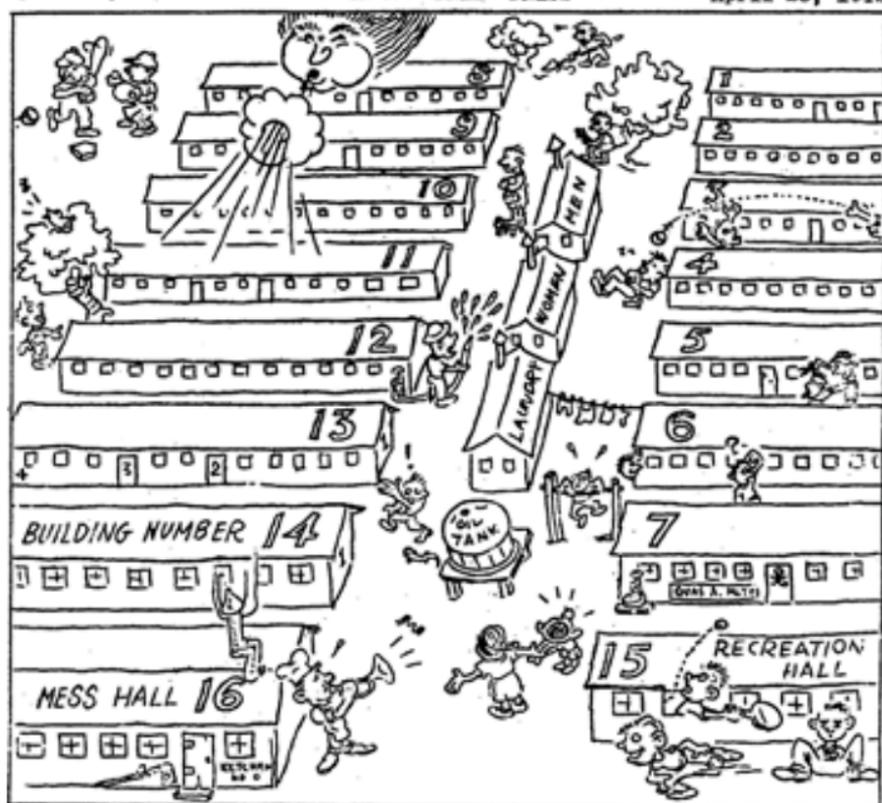
Acreage: 6,000

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.



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 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.

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