

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

Residence Area:

1. Within the boundary hereinafter set forth, all persons of Japanese ancestry are to remain in their present homes unless otherwise ordered in their homes, those within the boundary to be in the area of

2. Displaced persons, dated May 3, 1942, all persons from the above area by 12 o'clock noon or earlier after 12 o'clock noon, P. M. T., representative of the Commanding General.

3. If a family, or in case of grave emergency, is affected by this evacuation to the

major or other disposition of these lands, including public, state, educational and

private.

4. Do not be misled by any

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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.

FUMI HAYASHI

Camp: Topaz, UT

My father left Japan and arrived in Portland, Oregon in 1911. He then came to San Francisco and became a Salvation Army officer.

In 1923, a destructive earthquake struck Tokyo, Japan. The Salvation Army in San Francisco sent my father back to Japan to assist the many earthquake victims. While there, he met and married my mother. The two returned to California, and their first child was born in 1924. They settled in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I, the second child was born June 3, 1926, in Alameda, California. When I started school, I spoke and understood very little English. The teachers,

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students and many new rules confused and intimidated me. My older sister died of blood poisoning while I was in the first grade. Elementary school was not a happy experience for me.

FBI, Army Intelligence and Navy Intelligence found no incidence of sabotage committed by the Japanese living in the United States, we were interned, guarded by Army soldiers and surrounded by barbed wire.

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The Tanforan Horse Racing Track near San Francisco was our first stop. My family of six was housed in a stall formerly occupied by a single racehorse. There was no water, no heat, and no walls,

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only partitions. We slept on cots and mattresses filled with straw. Latrines and mess halls were not yet built. What a mess!



Horse stalls and barracks at Tanforan Assembly Center, 1942

Barracks, latrines and mess halls were finally completed. We all pitched in to make the place more livable. We sat on picnic benches in one large hall for our schooling. Sometimes our food was not properly prepared, and we all had to run for the latrines outside. The soldiers guarding us got excited and shone spotlights on us, thinking we were trying to escape.

Life did settle down. But we were uprooted once again and sent to the Topaz Relocation Center, located in the harsh central Utah desert.



Many students were demoralized.

Why do homework and “waste time?”

Why attend classes and “waste time?”

I attended Topaz High School for three years. There were few books, no laboratories and low morale among the students. I was on the Honor Roll at Berkeley High, but getting an “A” at Topaz was much easier. Many students

were demoralized. Why do homework and “waste time?” Why attend classes and “waste time?” Our school, however, did stage two plays, present choral music, print a school paper and publish a yearbook. Parental desires and teacher encouragement helped most of us continue our education after high school.



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four years passed before our family was finally reunited in our Berkeley home.

TOPAZ WAR RELOCATION CENTER

The camp was named after Topaz Mountain, 9 miles northwest of the site.

Daley Brothers (a California construction firm) had a crew of 800 and began construction July 10, 1942. They built 623 buildings in two months.

The residential area was contained by a one-square-mile perimeter fence and 7 guard towers.

Topaz was the fifth largest "city" in Utah, while Delta's population was only 1500 during World War II.

On April 11, 1943 a soldier fatally shot 63-year old James Hatsuaki Wakasa in the chest. After a brief work stoppage, compromises on the funeral location (near, but not at, the spot of death) and limits placed on the soldiers were reached.

Hundreds of trees were planted during the first nine months, but nearly all died due to heat, wind, alkaline soil, and lack of water.

The first killing frost was recorded the end of September 1942, and the first snowfall was on October 13, 1942. Some of the apartments still had no windows installed at that time.

Of those qualifying for military service, 105 volunteers left Topaz for active duty.

TOPAZ

Location: Millard County, 16 miles NW of Delta, UT.

Environmental Conditions: elevation 4600 ft, within the Sevier Desert – high desert brush with high winds and temperatures ranging from 106 degrees in summer to -30 degrees in winter.

Acreage: 19,800

Opened: September 11, 1942

Closed: October 31, 1945

Max. Population: 8,130 (March 17, 1943)

Demographics: Internees were primarily from the San Francisco Bay Area, predominantly from Tanforan Assembly Center.





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