

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 there is a number of the San Antonio River. These waters are the First Class and second class waters, and are used in this river, these waters are placed under the care of

2. Regulations, dated May 3, 1942, will permit persons to leave the above area by 12 o'clock noon or midnight 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 restriction to the Excluded Area, the person should apply to the Commanding General for other disposition of same kind.

4. Persons are prohibited from carrying on any business, trade, or profession, or any other activity, in the Excluded Area.

5. Do not permit any person to whom entry is prohibited to enter the Excluded Area after 12 o'clock noon, P. M. T., or midnight.





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.

EIICHI "H.E." KAMIYA

Camp: Rohwer, AR

Address: 38-11-A



My father was born in Hawaii, went to Japan at age 5 when his father died, but returned to the U.S. at the age of 19. My mother was born in CA, went to Japan for education at age 5, and returned to the US at age 15. My father was the principal of a Japanese language school in Long Beach, CA. I was born in 1936 and had two sisters.

When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, my parents were afraid of the impacts on our family. Soon thereafter, the FBI searched our house and took my father to prison for several weeks.

In March, 1942, we were given a few weeks notification of evacuation. Since we could only take what we could carry, most of our family possessions and valuables were put in storage. Many of our valuables would be missing after the war. Our suitcases included baby clothes, baby bottles, diapers, etc. for my six month old sister.

... most of our family possessions and valuables were put in storage. Many of our valuables would be missing after the war.

On April 5, we were sent to an assembly center at the Santa Anita horse racing track in Arcadia, CA; the next day was my sixth birthday. But, my sisters were in the hospital with pneumonia so they joined us a few days later. We lived in horse stalls and slept on straw mattresses. We stayed at Santa Anita for 3 months awaiting completion of our camp.



Santa Anita Assembly Center

We took a train to a camp in Jerome, Arkansas. After 3 months we went to a camp in Rohwer, Arkansas. Rohwer had about 9000 people living in a mile square. This area was hot, rainy, with all kinds of bugs and snakes. Our family lived in one room of a barrack.

We had schools and studied the traditional lessons. I remember being an Indian chief in a Thanksgiving program. I made many new friends.

We had no toy store so we made them ourselves with a few scraps and lots of imagination.

We had no toy store so we made them ourselves with a few scraps and lots of imagination. We would play soldier, and cowboys and Indians. We would hunt with slingshots. When guards no longer patrolled the barbed wire fences, we would crawl out and go to the bayou to fish.



A week before the end of the war, we returned to Los Angeles. My father found a job at a coat factory and rented a house in east L.A. My mother worked as a house keeper and took in ironing. My parents would talk of our camp experiences without sadness or bitterness. They encouraged us to excel as students and citizens. My father went to school at night and built a successful business, and was able to send us all to college. My sisters became teachers. I got my BS and MS in Engineering from UCLA and worked in the aerospace industry until my recent retirement. I am married and we have two children who have completed college and are married.

THE ROHWER Outpost

1942 1944



ROHWER

Location: Desha
County, Arkansas

Environmental

Conditions: Rohwer
War Relocation Center
was located five miles
west of the Mississippi

River in a swampy area intertwined with canals,
creeks, and bayous. Forests had once covered the area,
but by 1940 had been replaced by agricultural fields.
Rohwer was at an elevation of 140 feet.

Acreage: 10,161

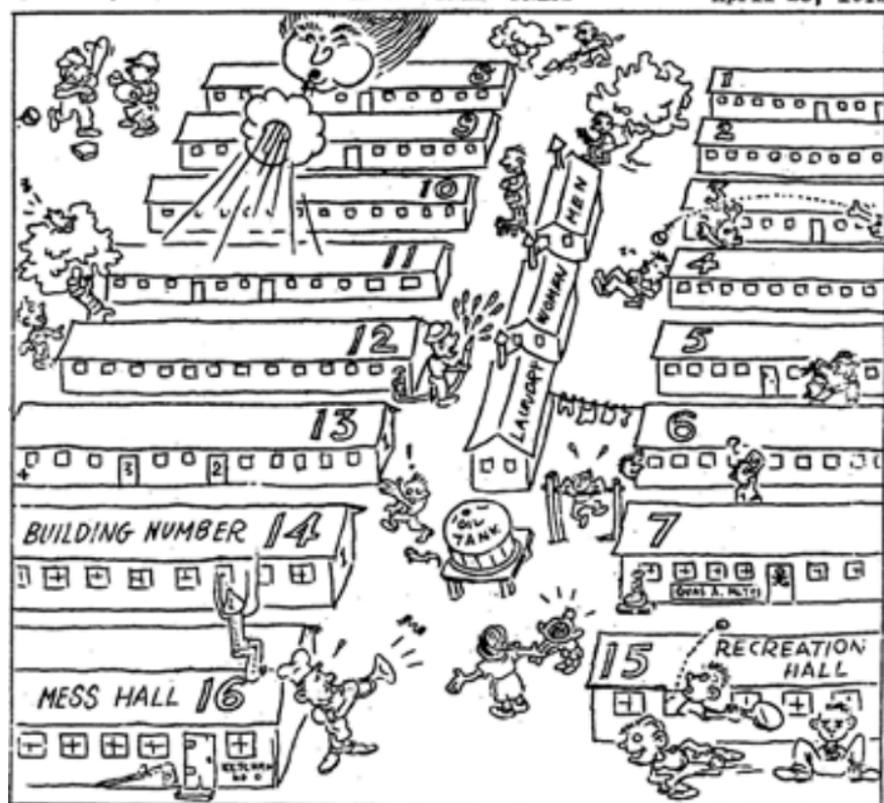
Opened: September 18, 1942

Closed: November 30, 1944

Max. Population: 8,475 (March 11, 1943)

Demographics: Most people interned at Rohwer War
Relocation Center came from Los Angeles and San
Joaquin counties in California, via the Santa Anita
and Stockton assembly centers.





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.

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.