

# 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 writing by the War Relocation Authority.

2. All 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 restriction to the above area, or other disposition of area lands, including public lands, schools, and other property, the following rules apply:

4. Do not be present in a home which must be left vacant before the date of departure - Monday, May 4, 1942, or thereafter.





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.

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## **MITSURU J. NAKAMURA**

**Family # 2689**

**Camp: Manzanar, CA**

**Address: 33-4-2**

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Jingo Nakamura, my father came to America in 1918 at the age of 16. He worked on the railroad with his father and his brothers. After the Exclusion Act was passed my father returned to Japan to get a wife. My mother, Michie Inadomiu, age 16, came to America as a "picture bride". They were both from Kurume, Fukuoka, Japan. I was born in December 1926 in Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles, CA. I studied Japanese language at Chuo Gakuen, as well as shuju, kendo, and kenbu. I attended Stevenson Junior High and Roosevelt High Schools. I attended Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, now the Japanese American National Museum.

I was 15 years old when the Pacific War started. On December 8, 1941, two FBI agents came to our home and confiscated our cameras, radios and kitchen knives. Curiously they did not take my kendo helmet or Japanese swords. During the next few weeks I felt

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A makeshift school system was developed in camp. I belonged to the Judicial Committee, Science Club, and the Boy's League. Occasionally, I wrote short mystery stories. Soon, I acquired the nickname of "Dick Tracy." A few of our

teachers were Quakers whose husbands were imprisoned in Conscientious Objector camps. I worked after school delivering heating oil to the barracks and also as a dishwasher in the Guayule Research Laboratory. For recreation, I helped my mother and



*Militar Police at Manzanar, 1942*

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others build a clay tennis court. We did some shopping with the Sears catalogue. Our Mexican friends in Los Angeles often sent us food packages. Once there was a riot. The soldiers started to shoot. My father, an innocent bystander, was shot in the back. Fortunately he survived. After graduation from High School, at the age of 17, I obtained a Citizen's Indefinite Leave pass and left "camp" forever.

# MANZANAR *Free Press*

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## **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.

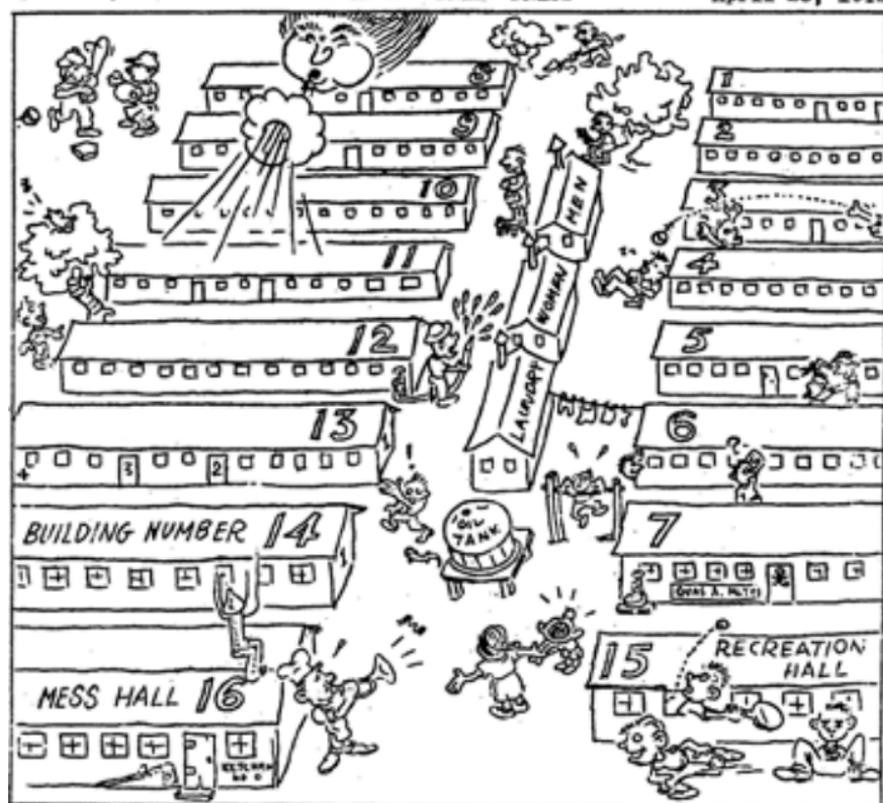
**Acreage:** 6,000

**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](http://www.nps.gov). To learn more about Manzanar National Historic Site, please visit our website at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz).

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