

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

Residential Area:

1. Within the Residential Area, persons of Japanese ancestry shall be permitted to visit their homes, their relatives, or to visit their homes, their relatives, or to visit their homes in the area of the Residential Area.

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, as defined by this instruction to the effect of other disposition of same kinds, including goods, items, accounts and property.

4. Do not use mailboxes.

5. Do not use persons in whose name mail of Civil Control Administration is received.





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.

GRACE AIKO SHINODA

Family # 2083

Camp: Manzanar, CA

Address: 29-7-4

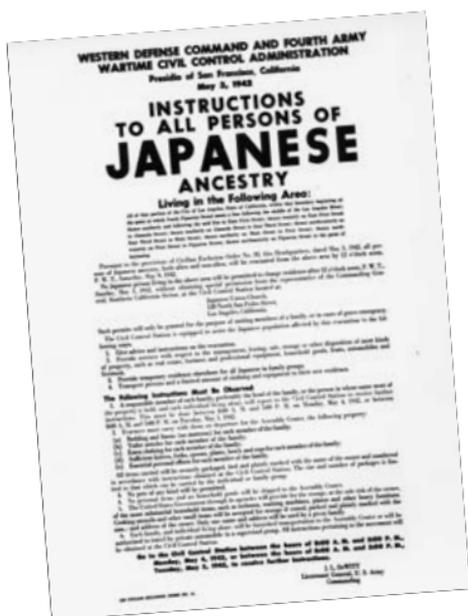
My father, Kiyoshi, came to the USA when he was 12. My father graduated from UC Berkeley as an Electrical Engineer. (My dad died when I was 6 and Larry 3).

My mother Hide Watanabe came with her mother and father who was a Librarian, when she was one. My mother graduated from Woodbury College. My father and mother were members of the Union Church of Los Angeles. They met and were married there. My brother Lawrence and I were baptized there.

We heard of Pearl Harbor on the car radio as we were returning home from church on Dec. 7, 1941.

We were American citizens and were shocked with disbelief when President

We were American citizens and were shocked with disbelief when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 ordering all persons of Japanese ancestry to evacuate from the West Coast.



Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 ordering all persons of Japanese ancestry to evacuate from the West Coast. (Not a single person of Japanese ancestry in the USA or its territories was ever convicted of a disloyal act to this day.)

My brother was 12 and I was 15. We had one week to take care of all our belongings—our home, car, pet, etc. because we could only take what we could carry. Our destination and how long we would be gone was unknown.

What would you take?

We each crammed a duffel bag with personal necessities, clothes, blankets, towels. I took my Bible,

I took my Bible, watercolor paint box and brush, and a small sketch pad.

Early on the morning of May 16, 1942 our neighbor

drove us to the L.A. Union Station. Among the 100s of evacuees, I will never forget the young father and mother, dressed in their Sunday best with two toddlers hanging on their mother's coat and baby twins cradled, one on each arm. All 4 were crying!

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The young father had diapers and blankets strapped to his back and two oversized suitcases, one in each hand with belongings for all six of them.

The shades were drawn on the train windows, and we were surrounded by soldiers with guns. No food or drinks were provided for the journey.

We arrived at Manzanar at dusk. We were issued a muslin bag and instructed to stuff it with straw for our mattress. Larry said, "I feel like the baby Jesus 'asleep in the hay'." We only had beds and no other furniture. There were 7 of us: our maternal grandmother, my mom's brother Dr. Tom Watanabe M.D., one of the camp doctors, her 2 sisters and us.



Arriving at Manzanar, 1942

The wind and dust came through the cracks in the tar paper, knot holes, and the wide cracks in the floor. Later we moved to Block 29, Barrack 7, Apt. 4 next to the hospital, but far from our school at the opposite corner of the camp.



At school we sat on the floors with dust coming up from the cracks so thick we couldn't see each other. Many months later we got camp-made wooden benches.

Larry designed for Mom and Grandma two reclining back chairs with arm rests made from recycled wooden crates used to box toilets. They became a camp "sensation" with many admiring spectators who came to see. Larry became a world-renowned transportation designer whose designs like the Corvette are still admired.



Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1942

In December 1942 a huge protest took place in camp because government employees were stealing food designated for the internees. I ran and became one of the curious spectators. The MP fired shoots into the defenseless crowd. A classmate, Jimmy Ito, was shot and killed. It was a terrifying experience.



MP at Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1942



Spring 1944 Mom, Larry and I left Manzanar on a bus to Reno, NV where we boarded a train for Grand Junction, CO. Mom went to help our paternal grandfather who had a stroke. Some of the family had escaped incarceration by leaving California. They had a sugar beet and dairy farm. Larry and I went to the local school. We had a pond on the farm which froze over and what fun we had on borrowed ice skates until the bull "charged us" and we escaped by climbing into the corn crib.

I will be forever grateful to the Quakers American Friends Service Japanese American Student Relocation Project. It gave me a scholarship to the University of Redlands, CA. I was the first Japanese American college student to return to California. I graduated with Honors, and the next day started a teaching career in the Pasadena School Dis-

trict. I was the first Japanese American hired.

I received two Masters Degrees and continued a rewarding career in Education and fine Arts. I mar-

ried Yosh Nakamura, a college professor of art and we have 3 children; Linda, an immigration lawyer, Daniel, an electrical engineer/computer scientist, and Joel, an internationally recognized artist.

We have had seven "A FAMILY CREATES" Art Exhibitions. The seventh was at the University of Redlands Peppers Art Gallery, with all eight of us: all five Nakamuras, kids' spouses and Larry. I remain a teacher, learner and helper to others.

I hope my ID Card helped you understand my Manzanar experience.

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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.

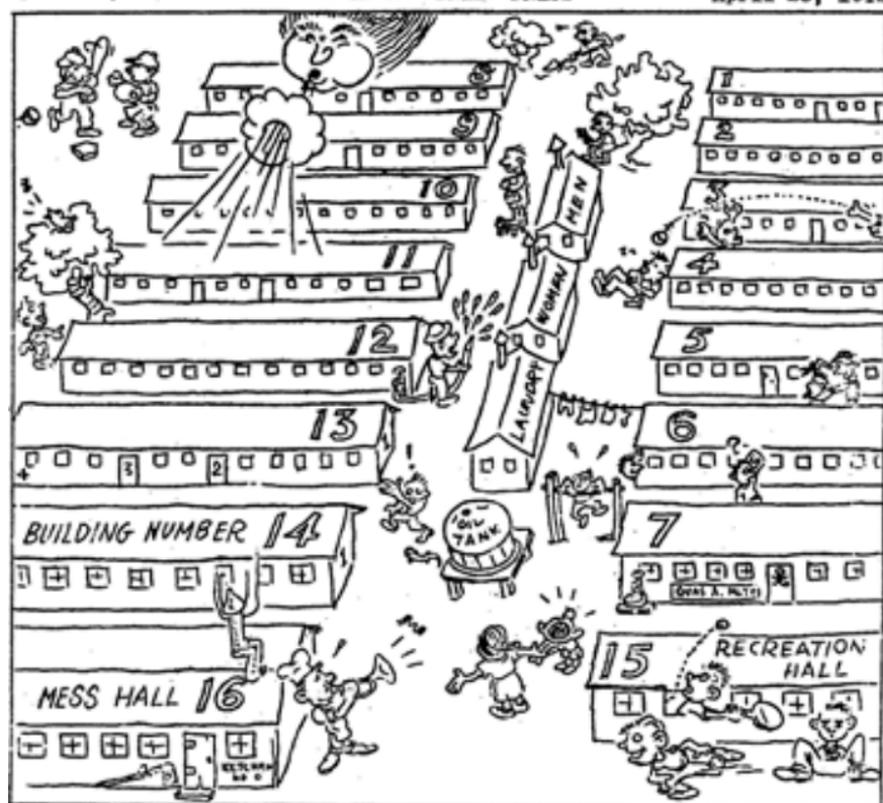
Acreage: 6,000

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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