

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. Write the address hereafter at a station on the San Antonio River. House numbers on East First Street and house numbers on West First Street, house numbers on East Second Street, house numbers on West Second Street in the area of

Manzanar, 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.

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

major or other disposition of area lands, including public lands, schools, and

properties.

Do not take any action.

Do, on the person to whom this card is issued, the following: May 3, 1942, or hereinafter.





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.



Florin, California Evacuation Poster, 1942

Japanese Americans go down in history as people who endured the wartime incident peacefully with dignity and determination, rather than be pitied as a victim of injustice; and hope that Manzanar be a reminder that freedom is not a right to be taken for granted, but a privilege which is tested time and again through the fiery furnace of time.

The world which Ryosuke and Kusu visualized as the land of opportunity for their five children had also abruptly dissipated with the declaration of the war...

We boarded up the windows and took our ancestor's Samurai swords and hid them under the house rather than having them confiscated. Being curious as to the destiny of my friends, I visited them only to find that they were going to Fresno and Pinedale Assembly Centers. Being a typical

thirteen-year-old teenager, the circle of friends was my whole universe, and realizing the vacuum, the whole world seemed to collapse before my eyes. The world which Ryosuke and Kusu visualized as the land of opportunity for their five children had also abruptly dissipated with the declaration of the war and the Umemoto family was now Number 8648, destined for an unknown desert community called Manzanar, and never to return home again.



Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1942

Block 30 Triva

Date Occupied: May 25, 1942

Population: Approximately 300

Issei Residents: Approximately 95 persons

General Issei Age Range: 38-65 yrs

Nisei & Sansei: Approximately 205 persons

General Nisei & Sansei Age Range: 1-32 yrs

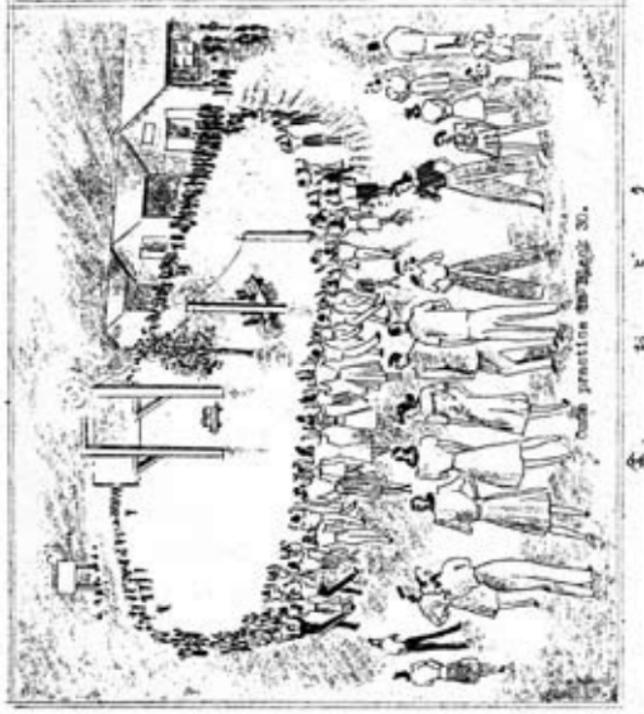
Evacuees were strawberry and grape growers from Florin, California area, which had a population of approximately 2,500 in 1942. They were evacuated to Manzanar Relocation Center, Poston Relocation Center in Arizona, Rowher Relocation Center in Arkansas, and Tule Lake Relocation Center in Northern California.

Block 30 Athletic Teams

Rangers: Young Adults-- Softball Baseball, Basketball

Falcons: High School Age-- Softball, Basketball

Mikado Midgets: Jr. High School-- Softball, Basketball



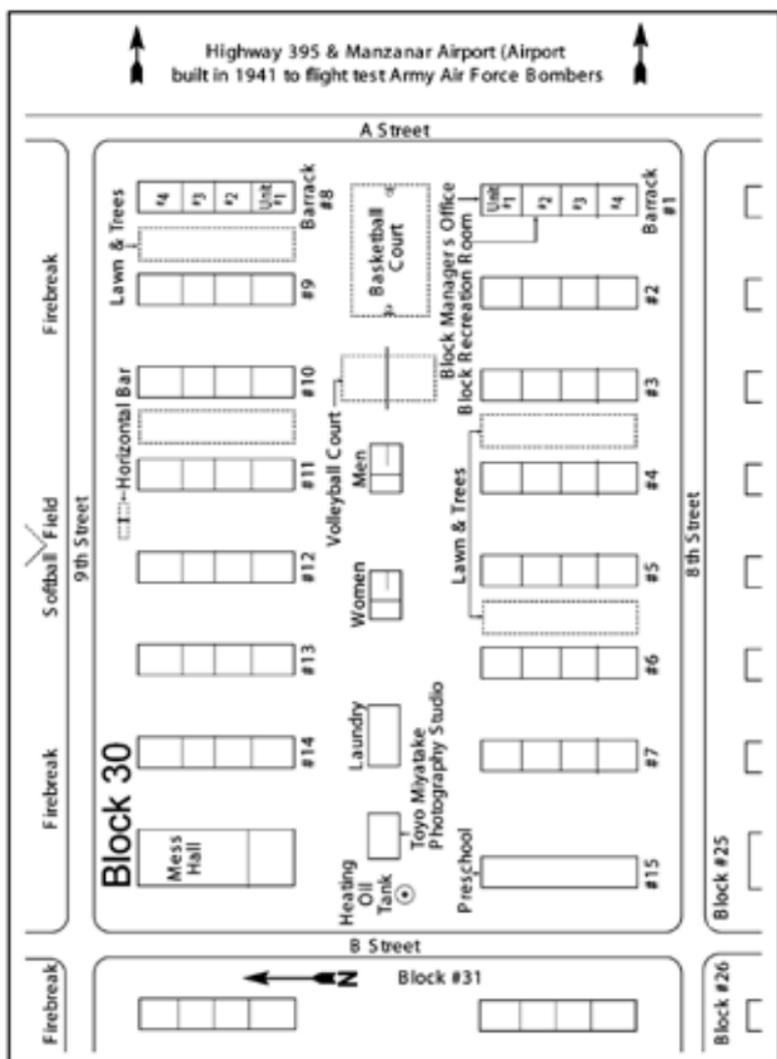
Ondo Practice in Block 30

A reproduction of a sketch by Richard Hasimoto of Ondo Dance practice (published in the September 1943 Manzanar Free Press. (Barracks 1, 2, & 3 in upper center background; basketball & volleyball courts in center.)



MANZANAR WAR RELOCATION CENTER, 1942-1945

Residents formerly from Florin, California (Near Sacramento) Drawn and Compiled by Hank Uemoto



Enclosed by barbed wire at 30-2-3 (later 30-14-3), I knew that I was a prisoner, augmenting confusion and frustration of a teenager with hostility and rebellion. As the jeep

passed by, I yelled “F— you!” The MP brought the jeep to a quick halt and I was soon staring into the barrel of a rifle. “What’s your name?” he questioned. “Hank,”

The MP brought the jeep to a quick halt and I was soon staring into the barrel of a rifle.

I replied. “ And what did you say?” I lied with a trembling voice, “N..N..Nothing.” But as I gained new friends and became occupied with a variety of camp activities, the hostility and rebellion which I initially harbored during the first twenty-four hours began to subside and eventually disappear, leaving in its aftermath fond and cherished memories of experiences which I shared with so many at Manzanar.





Leaving Manzanar with three friends on a Short Term Leave to work in Stockton, we boarded the train at Mojave and were ushered into the men's lounge instead of regular seats. On our return trip, I was kicked by a porter since my foot was protruding into the aisle. At L.A. bus depot, we were denied taxi service. The thought never entered our young naïve minds that this could be an act of discrimination until a Marine said, "Konichiwa". "Konichiwa, I replied. He looked at his buddy and said, "Yeah, he's a Jap!" with an air of arrogance and continued to stroll down Broadway. Back at Manzanar, the "outside world" appeared bleak and horrifying, and I realized that the warm, sheltered and carefree camp life would soon be over and Manzanar would be but a memory.

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.

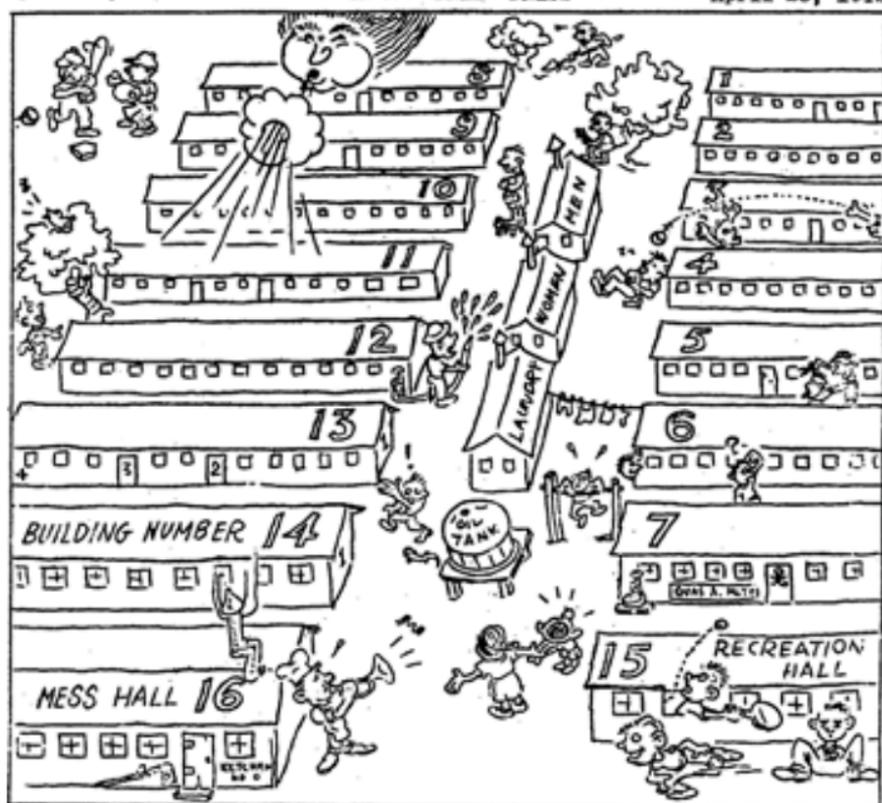
Acreage: 6,000

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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