



Minidoka NHS News

August 2015

Honor Roll Additions

On June 27, twenty-seven names were added to the right panel of the Honor Roll. Special thanks to Ada Takahashi for her suggestion to add temporary vinyl names. Once we have the majority of the missing names, the entire panel will be reproduced. Please continue to contact the park with additional names.

- Hiroshi, Bill Kunitsugu
- Kuroda, Frank T.
- Odoi, Hirosho
- Sagami, Yohei
- Shimada, Bill Masayuki
- Shimizu, Paul T.
- Shimomura, Michio
- Shinoda, Michio
- Sugihara, Harry H (Hiroshi)
- Sunamoto, Katsumi
- Suyetani, Shigemitsu
- Tada, Koji William
- Tada, Tatsumi
- Takahashi, Mitsuru
- Takenaga, Masami
- Tamura, Masaru "Richard"
- Tanagi, George
- Tanagi, Rikio
- Tanagi, Roy
- Tsugawa, Akira
- Uchida, George
- Watanabe, Henry Takashi
- Watanabe, Edward Makoto
- Yamaoka, Mary
- Yorozu, Arthur
- Yorozu, Henry



Rewrapping the Mess Hall

Last year, the Minidoka NHS maintenance staff rewrapped Fire Station No. 1, using a new material that looks like the tar paper that originally enclosed the buildings at Minidoka but is thicker and resists tears.



Fire Station No. 1 after its rewrap in the summer of 2014

That same material is now being applied to the Mess Hall in Block 22 by the site's maintenance staff. The material, called Derbibase, has also been used on buildings at Manzanar National Historic Site.

The Mess Hall had an interesting life after it left the historic site. For several decades it functioned as a canning kitchen on the grounds of the Jerome County Fair. Local residents could bring their produce to the kitchen and use the large stoves, pots, etc. to process their produce.

After the kitchen closed, the building sat empty until it was donated to the historic site. In the summer of 2011, it was moved into Block 22 in three sections. Earlier archeological excavations were used to determine the exact location of the building within the block.



The rewrap is complete on the west end of the Block 22 Mess Hall.

During its life as a canning kitchen, it had been covered in stucco. Returning the Mess Hall to its historic look involves several steps: removing the stucco, installing flashing, applying plywood to corners and the three building cuts for stabilization; and applying the new Derbibase material and wood battons.

As the staff uncovered the stucco on the front of the building, they discovered the number "13" stenciled near the door. Could this be the mess hall from Block 13? How were the mess halls labeled? If you know how the buildings were labeled, please let us know. Future newsletters will update the progress of the Mess Hall Rewrap.



The number "13" was found on the east façade of the Mess Hall.

Minidoka Irrigator Headlines August 1943

Each month this column will feature headlines from the *Minidoka Irrigator* during the same month in 1943.

August 7: **Evacuee Exchange Means Peak Population For Hunt**

500 segregants from Minidoka will be transferred to Tule Lake with 2,000 Tuleans coming to Minidoka.

August 7: **Hunt Volunteer Fire Fighters Praised by Keith**

John A. Keith, District Grazier of the U.S. Department of the Interior, wrote, "They are excellent crews of young men who will follow instructions and stay on the line as long as asked."

August 14: **Vegetables Pour In From Fertile Hunt Farms Daily**

Deliveries to dining halls included: 14,413 pounds of peas; 36,301 pounds of nappa; 102,520 pounds of radishes; 510 pounds of carrots; and 240 pounds of spinach.

August 14: **CAA Certificate Holders Must Apply**

Evacuees holding CAA pilots' and aircraft mechanics' certificates must apply personally to the Civilian Aeronautics Authority for confirmation or reissue of such certificates.

August 21: **Myer Says Centers' Closing Time Not In Near Future**

WRA Director Dillon S. Myer announced that there are no plans for closing any relocation center in the immediate future, contrary to current rumors.

August 21: **Gigantic Bon Odori Festival Scheduled**

One thousand residents, young and old, are expected to participate in this annual event.

August 28: **Repatriates To Sail Soon**

Ten families and five single persons, residents of this center, begin a three month's journey which will end in Japan.

August 28: **Brooklyn Dodgers Invite Nisei to Tryouts, Aug. 30**

Tryouts for this section of the country will be held at John Affleck Park in Ogden, Utah from August 30-September 1. All boys over 16 years of age are invited to tryout – bring baseball shoes, gloves, and uniforms.

Diamond Stories: The Baseball as a Symbol

The following was written by Kerry Yo Nakagawa, curator of the National Japanese American Historical Society's traveling exhibit, "Diamonds in the Rough: Japanese Americans in Baseball." The quote appeared in the July 19, 1998 issue of "The Sunday Oregonian."

If we dissected a Japanese American baseball, the center epitomizes the pioneers of the Issei and Nisei organizations. The fiber and the strings are the bonds that bring communities together. The leather skin is the mental and physical toughness demonstrated by Issei and Nisei who endured hostility and discrimination in America. And the stitching is the thread that connects the past, present, and future generations with a shared love of a game called baseball.

Baseball played a key role in sustaining the 13,000 Japanese Issei

and Nisei who were incarcerated at Minidoka. The "Rebuilding Center Field" project at the site will highlight that role.

Friends of Minidoka recently received a \$3,000 donation to the project. In addition another \$375 has been donated. The goal is to have the field completed and dedicated during the 2016 National Park Service Centennial and the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the park.

Donations are being accepted by the Friends of Minidoka at <http://www.minidoka.org> or FOM, PO Box 1085, Twin Falls, ID 83303. The park's cooperating association, Discover Your Northwest, is also accepting donations at www.discovernw.org (click "Donate," click "Support One of Our Featured Programs," click "Center Field Project")

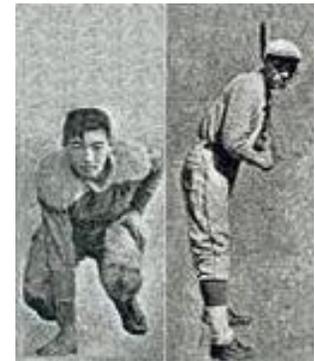
Minidoka Profile: Edward Daizo "Dyke" Itami

From 1942-1945, over 13,000 Japanese Nikkei lived at Minidoka War Relocation Center. Each of these individuals has a unique story. "Minidoka Profile" will highlight these individuals. Edward Itami is this month's profile.

"Dyke" Itami lived life to the fullest until his death at age 100. Within the two weeks before he died on August 10, he had bowled a 150 game with his bowling friends, caught salmon for his freezer, and began preparing for another fishing trip.

He was born in Seattle, WA on November 23, 1914 to Ryutaro (Basho) and Kura Itami, immigrants from Japan. In high school, he was a scholar athlete serving as class Valedictorian and lettering in four sports. In 1942, his family was forcibly removed from their home in Fife, WA, sent to the detention center at the Puyallup Fairgrounds, and then to Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho.

While at Minidoka, he met June Kikoshima and married her on December 18, 1943. They raised four boys and four girls after settling west of Nampa and purchasing a 40 acre farm. Edward farmed until he was 80 and supported June's music career until her death in 2012. His obituary noted, "His gift to us was as a role model on how to live a life with few regrets, overcoming adversity with a forward focus on the silver lining, and maintaining his sense of humor."



Edward Itami lettered in four sports.

Fort Missoula: Alien Detention Center

Among all of the various WW II incarceration sites, Fort Missoula is the largest intact site with major buildings of the historic period still in use: Post Headquarters, hospital, commissary, officer and staff housing, barracks, and other support structures.

During World War II, Fort Missoula became an Alien Detention Center (ADC) run by the Department of Justice, Immigration, and Naturalization Service. The ADC was established to hold foreign nationals and resident aliens. In contrast, the ten War Relocation Centers held 120,000 Japanese Nikkei.

Between 1941 and 1944, the ADC held 1,200 non-military Italian men, 23 German resident aliens, and 123 Japanese Latin and South Americans, in addition to 1,000 U.S. Japanese resident aliens. None of the 1,000 resident aliens, who were barred by law from American citizenship, was ever charged with any act of disloyalty

but all were held at Fort Missoula or other camps for the duration of the war.

The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula is currently restoring the Post Headquarters. A new barrack exhibit opened in July. The new exhibit features a wide variety of WWII era photographs, a memorial wall to honor the detained men, and an interactive touchscreen with videos and games. For more information visit the museum's website: www.fortmissoulamuseum.org.



Aerial view of the Alien Detention Center at Fort Missoula

Breaking News

Timothy Nagaoka, a teacher from Boston, received a Summer Fellowship from the Fund for Teachers and is currently on a cross-country trip from Arizona to Utah to visit seven WWII incarceration sites, including Minidoka. In the fall, he will hold workshops to train teachers about the subject using the materials he obtains during his journey. For further information about his fellowship, he can be contacted at: tim.nagaoka@gmail.com.

The National Park Service is interested in working with others to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 in February of 2017. The NPS hopes to involve partners nationwide in a collaborative effort to raise awareness with respect to Japanese American exclusion and incarceration. Look for additional information in the months ahead.

In Next Month's Issue

- Baseball Field Update
- Heart Mountain All Camp Summit
- Book of the Month
- Fire Station No. 1 Update
- Herrmann House Rehabilitation Update
- Arkansas Camps

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



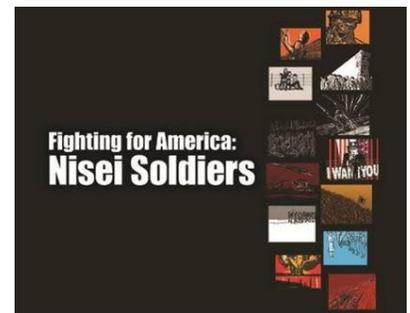
Book Corner: *Fighting for America: Nisei Soldiers*

Lawrence Matsuda
Matt Sasaki

This graphic novel tells the story of six Nisei soldiers from the Pacific Northwest who proved their loyalty and courage while making a significant mark in American history. Based on real and actual events, the stories were dramatized and translated to meet the visual and narrative requirements of a graphic novel.

The six soldiers whose stories are highlighted include: Infantrymen Shiro Kashino, Frank Nishimura, and Turk Suzuki; Medics Jimmie Kanaya, and Tosh Yasutake; and MIS Roy Matsumoto.

A Book Release and Signing event will take place on Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 1-4 pm at the Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Hall, 1212 South King Street, Seattle, WA 98144. The event is open to the public with the



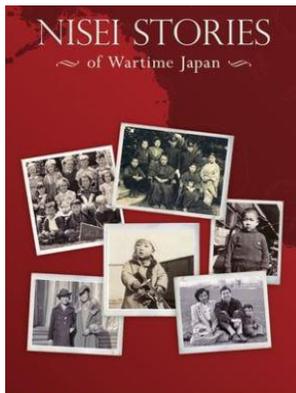
formal program at 1:30 pm. The event honors all Nisei veterans.

Authors Matsuda and Sasaki will be available to sign copies of the book. This book and event is a partnership between the Nisei Veterans Committee Foundation and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience.

Another Layer of the Japanese American WW II Experience: Stranded in Japan

No one knew about us.

That sentiment was expressed by Taz Iwata, a Japanese American who was stranded in Japan during World War II. Taz was one of several thousand U.S. citizens of Japanese descent who had to remain in Japan after Pearl Harbor. The story of these stranded United States citizens is told in the documentary film, "Nisei Stories of Wartime Japan," by filmmakers Mary McDonald and Thomas Mazawa.



(Graphic Design by Keith Teleki)

In an article on the Discover Nikkei website, Mary explained, "...the relocation camp story is extremely important, but it is not the only story of Japanese Americans during World War II."

Invaluable first-hand experiences comprise the majority of the documentary. The experiences are as varied as the individuals: children prevented from returning to their parents in the United States; U. S. citizens conscripted to support the Japanese war effort by working in munitions factories; American citizens drafted into the Japanese army; and some were shipped off to Siberian labor camps as Japanese POWs. The stranded suffered along with the general Japanese population enduring nighttime bombings and food shortages.

Thomas noted, "the most engaging significance behind making or watching a good documentary is



Taz Iwata and her mother before Taz left for Japan. Photo: Iwata

discovering that any historical topic is not really a single topic as much as a compilation of records and real personal experiences."

The entire article is available at <http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/journal/2015/6/12/strandedes>.



This newsletter is published monthly for our friends and partners across America.

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The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island is a unit of Minidoka NHS. It is managed by Klondike Gold Rush NHP.

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Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center Archives in Chicago

The Japanese American Service Committee Center (JASC) is a good resource of all facets of Japanese American life in the United States from 1890 to the present. A 2012 Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant provided the center with money to purchase database software and hire two archivists to assist in processing and cataloging 86 collections that contain 3,700 records. About three-quarters of the collections are now catalogued.

The collections include Japanese passports, diary entries about the attack on Pearl Harbor, personal letters written from WW II incarceration centers, photographs, and government documents. The archives is managed by JASC which was founded in 1946 to help former incarcerated start new lives in

Chicago, the largest postwar resettlement community.

Researchers now can visit the Legacy Center's catalog via a link posted on the JASC website: <http://www.jasc-chicago.org>. The catalogue provides links to all collections and researchers can locate materials through a keyword search.

The Center's manager and Project Director is Karen Kanemoto.

