



Minidoka NHS News

June 2015

Breaking News

Photographer Paul Kitagaki

A recent issue of *Mother Jones* highlighted the work of photographer Paul Kitagaki, Jr. who has located Japanese Americans previously photographed by Dorothy Lange, Pat Coffey, Ansel Adams, and others while incarcerated during World War II. Katagaki's family had been photographed by Lange. He has photographed more than 50 survivors, many of them in locations where they were originally photographed. To see the images go to

<http://m.motherjones.com/media/2015>.

Heart Mountain Pilgrimage

August 21-22

The Heart Mountain Foundation invites all former incarcerated and their families from all confinement sites to join them for fellowship, commemoration, healing, and celebration. Events include the celebration of a rescue of a Heart Mountain barrack and the dedication of the Heart Mountain Root Cellar. G. Yamazawa, 2014 winner of the National Poetry Slam Competition, is this year's special guest. For more information and to register:

<http://heartmountain.org/pilgrimage>.

Find Your Park

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation are inviting people to discover their own personal connections to parks. With thousands of national parks, historic sites, and recreational lands across the country, there are many ways for you to find your personal connection. Visit findyourpark.com for places to go.

Bob Sims: "The Gift That Keeps On Giving"

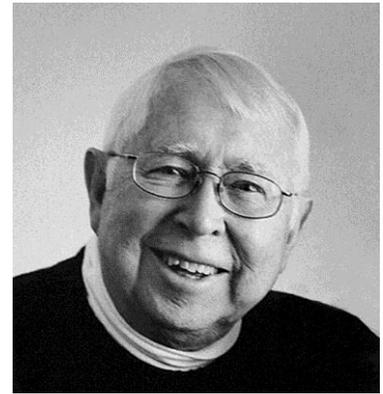
It is with great sadness and great respect that we dedicate this issue of the Mindoka Newsletter to Dr. Robert C. Sims who passed away on May 9th after a long battle with cancer.

Born in Ft. Gibson, Oklahoma in 1936, Bob was raised by his Cherokee mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. He was educated in Oklahoma and received his PhD in American History from the University of Colorado.

While serving in the U.S. Army in Germany, he met Betty Crow whom he married in 1963. He job at Boise State University brought the family to Boise. He taught at BSU for thirty years and served as Dean for ten years, retiring in 1999.

He dedicated much of his life to researching, documenting, and teaching the stories of the Japanese Nikkei who were forced to relocate to Minidoka. After the creation of Minidoka Internment National Monument, he served on the advisory committee and later served on the board of the Friends of Minidoka. In 2006, he helped co-found the annual Civil Liberties Symposium which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

A large crowd attended Bob's Celebration of Life on Sunday, May 31. Boise mayor David Bieter remarked that Bob never wanted to be recognized for his work but that we honor him for his influence on us. He thanked the Sims family for sharing Bob with us.



Bob Sims, historian, family man, sports fan, public servant, colleague, and friend.

Micki Kawakami stated, "We felt Bob's love for the Japanese community." She also noted that through his co-founding of the Civil Liberties Symposium, his many presentations, and his research, he was "the gift that keeps on giving."

Former student and family friend, David Skinner noted Bob's sense of humor, his passion for his subject, and his generosity. Bob's son, Todd, shared stories of Bob's love of sports. He challenged the assembled group to always "cheer for the underdog around you" as his father did.

In condolences sent to the Idaho Statesman, colleague Todd Shalott stated, "Bob never did really retire. Not from teaching and public speaking, nor from the fight against racism and greed. Even in death, his humanity survives."

The family has asked that contributions be made to the Idaho Humanities Council (217 W. State St, Boise, ID 83702) or Friends of Minidoka, Symposium Fund (PO Box 1085, Twin Falls, ID 83303).

Minidoka Irrigator Headlines June 1943

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

June 12: ***Diet of Evacuees Depends on Center's Farm Output***

The quality and quantity of food will decline if Center residents do not produce as much food as called for in the 1943 agricultural program..

June 12: ***Aliens Forbidden to Operate Cameras 'Anywhere in the U.S.'***

In addition to cameras, the following items are also prohibited: firearms, short-wave radios, signal devices, and codes or ciphers.

June 12: ***All-Stars Plaster Jerome 15-5 for Victory No. 2***

Hunt's hard-hitting all stars unleashed a 15-hit attack before a crowd of 2000 at Center Field.

June 19: ***Judge Denies Yasui Appeal***

Minoru Yasui's conviction on a charge of violating the alien curfew is now before the Supreme Court.

June 19: ***Fire Department Gets new Raiment***

Thirty new rain-proof coats and pants and seventy new foam-type fire extinguishers were received by Fire Chief William L. Yaeger

June 19: ***Induction, Relocation Takes Stars***

The Japanese American combat unit at Camp Shelby, Mississippi claimed six of Hunt's baseball nine; relocation claimed four others.

June 26: ***Navy School Accomplishes Teaching Job***

Among the competent instructors at the Navy Intelligence School in Boulder, Colorado are several from Minidoka.

June 26: ***Prisoner's Camp Planned 25 Miles From This Center***

A Minidoka county camp for war prisoners will be built 25 miles from Hunt and will house 3,000-4,000 Axis prisoners.

Diamond Stories: Reunited After 70+ Years

By George Nakata

George Nakata once lived in 34-6-A, Minidoka, about the same time that Gerry Painter was a youngster in Twin Falls, Idaho. At a recent "Seeking Justice (Civil Rights) Symposium" held at Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon, Gerry, now residing in McMinnville, got up and made a few comments during a Q&A session. He told of his banker-father telling him how during World War II, young Nisei from the Minidoka Camp "saved the crops" of regional farmers desperate for harvesting help. He concluded his remarks mentioning going to a Boy Scout Camp outing and playing a ballgame against some young Japanese American Nisei campers.

George happened to be in the audience. So, they met. They talked. They soon discovered that they were on opposing teams at that Sawtooth Mountain youth camp way back in summertime, 1944.

Several days later George and his wife Keiko drove from Portland for a get-together with Gerry and his wife Jackie at Gerry's McMinnville Golf Club. So ironic that somehow their paths again



George Nakata and Gerry Painter 70 years later

came together. This time so pleasant, so nostalgic - just reminiscing about that long-ago ballgame in a mountain youth camp in Idaho - AFTER 70+ YEARS.

Free Online Course

Several weeks ago, Densho launched an online teacher course designed to help teach about the World War II-era Japanese American incarceration through the examination of primary source materials. This course shows how to use historic photographs, documents, newspaper articles, political cartoons, films, and oral histories to examine the cause and impacts of this historical event. The learning activities are aligned to Common Core Standards, College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies Standards, and the Advanced Placement U.S. History Curriculum Framework skills. The course will take approximately five to six hours to complete.

Teaching WWII Japanese American Incarceration with Primary Sources



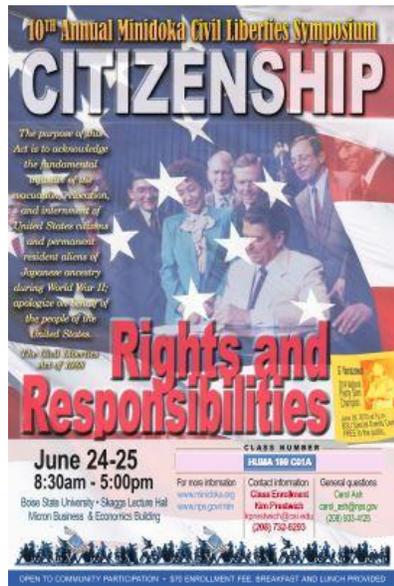
Over 600 teachers have taken the workshop version of the course and have helped to revise and refine it.

For further information and to register for the course, visit the Densho website at <http://www.densho.org/learning>

Minidoka Annual Civil Liberties Symposium: June 24 & 25

This year marks the 10th Annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium, a forum on civil liberties and constitutional rights. The 2006 symposium explored *Civil Liberties in Wartime*. The next six symposiums held at the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) examined: *Presidential Power in Wartime*; *Civil Liberties and the Media*; *Red, White, Blue, and You: Color and the Constitution*; *Civil Liberties and the Arts*; and *Patriotism Honor, and Sacrifice. Through the Eyes of Children: Prejudice, Education, and Community* was the theme for the 2012 symposium held at Boise State University. CSI hosted the 2013 (*Immigrant Nation*) and 2014 (*The Struggle for Religious Freedom, Yesterday and Today*) symposiums.

The 2015 Symposium returns to BSU and a fourth partner, ACLU of Idaho, joins the Friends of Minidoka (FOM), BSU, and Minidoka NHS in providing a forum to discuss *Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities*. The speakers will discuss the role of a citizen seeking



answers to questions such as: Who is a citizen? What are the responsibilities of a citizen? Of the government? How can citizens participate in a democracy?

The speakers and their topics include: Tom Ikeda, “Righting a Wrong: Stories From the Redress Movement”; Thomas Guglielmo, “Who is American? Who is White? Race and Citizenship in America”; Holly Woodings, “Democracy on the Verge”; and John Tateishi, “From Internment to 9/11: Lessons in American Democracy.” Leo Morales of ACLU of Idaho will present a workshop entitled, “Who Gets What?: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in America Today.”

The symposium will be held June 24 & 25 from 8:30 to 5:00 at the Skagg Lecture Hall in the Micron Business and Economics Building. The cost is \$70 which includes breakfast and lunch on both days. For information visit www.minidoka.org or contact Carol Ash at 208-933-4125 or carol_ash@nps.gov.

Registration and College Credit

Registration and BSU college credit contact Ross Burkhardt at rburkhardt@boisestate.edu. CSI college credit contact Kim Prestwich at kprestwich@csi.edu.

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
- Civil Liberties Symposium Report
- Pilgrimage Report
- Visitor Center Update

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



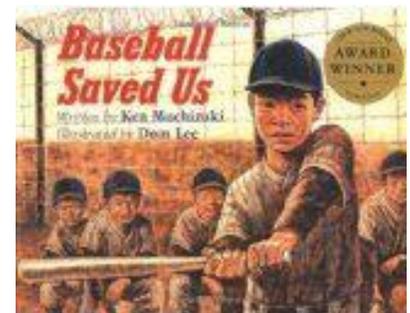
Book Corner: *Baseball Saved Us*

Ken Mochizuki

It is August 1942. After spending several months in detention centers, Japanese men, women, and children began arriving in American concentration camps far from their homes and previous lives. With no businesses to run, farms to tend, or homes to keep clean or repair, they looked for ways to fill the long days.

In this award winning book (1993 Parents' Choice Award), a young boy tells of his father's solution: build a baseball field. They started by digging up the sagebrush in a big empty space. Soon others in the camp—adults and kids—participated by building bleachers, making uniforms, and laying out the field.

Soon grown-ups and kids were playing ball all the time. The story continues as the boy shares his baseball experience in



Baseball Saved Us is illustrated by Dom Lee

camp and later after returning to his home after the war. Baseball helped the boy find a place where he fit accepted.

Novelist, journalist, and actor Ken Mochizuki's parents were incarcerated at Minidoka. Dom Lee has a master's degree from the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

In Memory: Fumiko Hayashida and Dorothy Hirai

Every year, more voices of the 13,000 people incarcerated at Minidoka are silenced through death. Each person and his/her story is important to the story of Minidoka. If you know of someone who was incarcerated at Minidoka and has recently passed away, please let us know. A photo and a short article about this person would enable us to share their story.

Fumiko Hayashida

In November of 2014, Fumiko Hayashida died at the age of 103. The image of Fumiko and her daughter Natalie has become a symbol of the forced removal of 110,000 Japanese from their homes on the West Coast. She did not know she had been photographed at the time.

Later she would tell the story behind the photograph and at age 95, she testified before a House

subcommittee investigating the cause of this mass incarceration. Her testimony is part of a 2009 documentary, "Fumiko Hayashida: The Woman Behind the Symbol," directed by Lucy Ostrander.

Dorothy Misao Hirai

Dorothy and her husband, Tom, were part of the first 200 sent from the Puyallup Fairgrounds to Minidoka to open up the camp. Dorothy worked as a secretary and Tom was in charge of the trucking operations.

After the camp closed, the couple remained in the Twin Falls area. Through the years, Dorothy worked as a farm hand, began a career in the trout processing industry, and later worked as a commercial baker. She was involved in the school PTA, 4-H, Magic Valley Nisei Club, and the First Baptist Church. She passed away peacefully on May 26 in Jerome, Idaho at the age of 99.



Fumiko Hayashida and daughter Natalie on March 30, 1942 Photo: Seattle Post-Intelligencer



Dorothy Hirai with Alyssa Matsuoka at the reception preceding the 2013 Civil Liberties Symposium

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

Superintendent

Judy Geniac

Editor/Chief of Interpretation

Carol S. Ash

Contributors

Angela Rooker, SCA

George Nakata

Tom Ikeda

Jacqueline Ashwell



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

Comments? Write to:

Carol S. Ash

Minidoka National Historic Site

220 North State Street

P.O. Box 570

Hagerman, ID 83332

Carol_ash@nps.gov

208-933-4125

Recruiting Park Ranger for Bainbridge Island

Superintendent Jacqueline Ashwell has announced that the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial will be hiring its first park ranger this summer. This is a temporary seasonal position at a GS-07 level. The duty station will be the Memorial but will also require reporting to the Seattle, Washington office of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

Duties will include : staffing the visitor contact station; keeping visitation statistics; developing and presenting interpretive talks; developing a docent guidebook for volunteer interpreters; and developing a site safety plan with partners.

Applicants should apply online at <https://www.usajobs.gov> before June 9, 2015.

The park is also interested in finding applicants who qualify under the Veterans Recruitment Authority. Qualifications under VRA include one of the following criteria: receipt of a campaign badge for service during a war; receipt of an Armed Forces Service Medal for participation in a military operation; disabled veteran; or a recently separated veteran (within the last 3 years) who has an honorable or general discharge.



Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial