

Incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans During WWII

8 January 2015

Whatcom County Historical
Society

Incarceration Timeline

- Pre 1941: “Before the War”
- December 7, 1941: “A day that will live in infamy.”
- February 19, 1942: Executive Order 9066
- February 1942/4: Korematsu Vs United States
6 to 3 Supreme Court decision
- February 1943: Loyalty Oath
- August 6-9, 1945: Hiroshima/Nagasaki
Bombing: Japan Surrenders Sept 1945
- Internees released: Sept 1945-March 1946

Civilian Exclusion Order No. 5

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION

Presidio of San Francisco, California

April 1, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worcester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon, Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon, Tuesday, April 7, 1942. (Posted April 1, 1942)

War Relocation Act (WRA)

Ideas in Support of WRA

- Patriotic
- Secure the West Coast
- Aliens
- Protect the Japanese
- How to recognize your enemy (Life magazine)
- Canada also passes act
- Peru deports to US camps and POW exchange

Opposing WRA

- ACLU on Bill of Rights
- Quakers
- Individual sponsors
- Attorney Wayne Collins of National Lawyers Guild
- Fred Korematsu

SOLD

by **WHITE & POLLARD**

GROCERY

WANTO

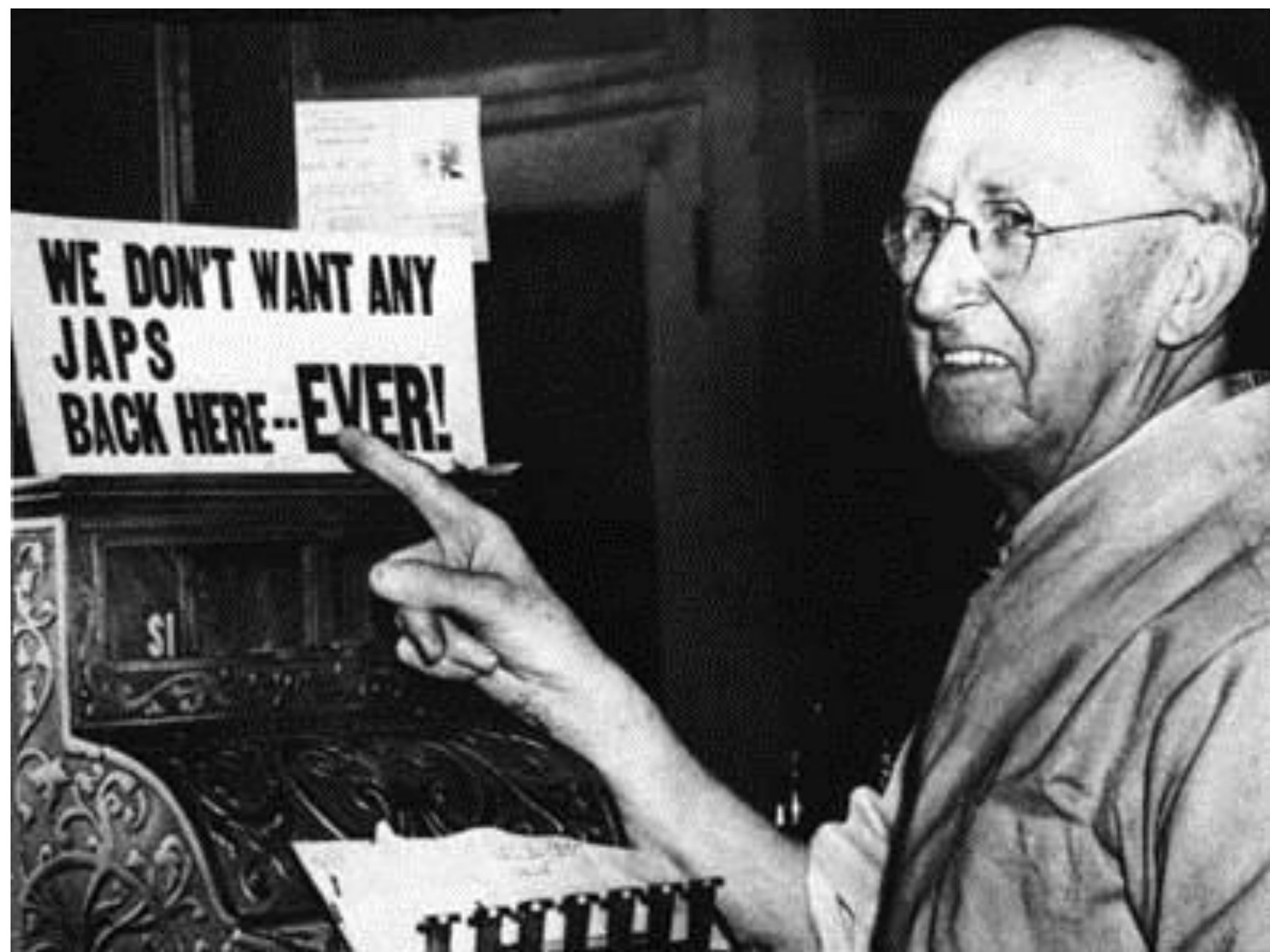
**FRUITS
AND
VEGETABLES**

I AM AN AMERICAN

WANTO CO

WANTO CO





Relocation Procedure

- 120,000 evacuated
- Take only what you can carry
- Sell possessions or leave in custody of others
- Transported to Assembly centers

Assembly Centers

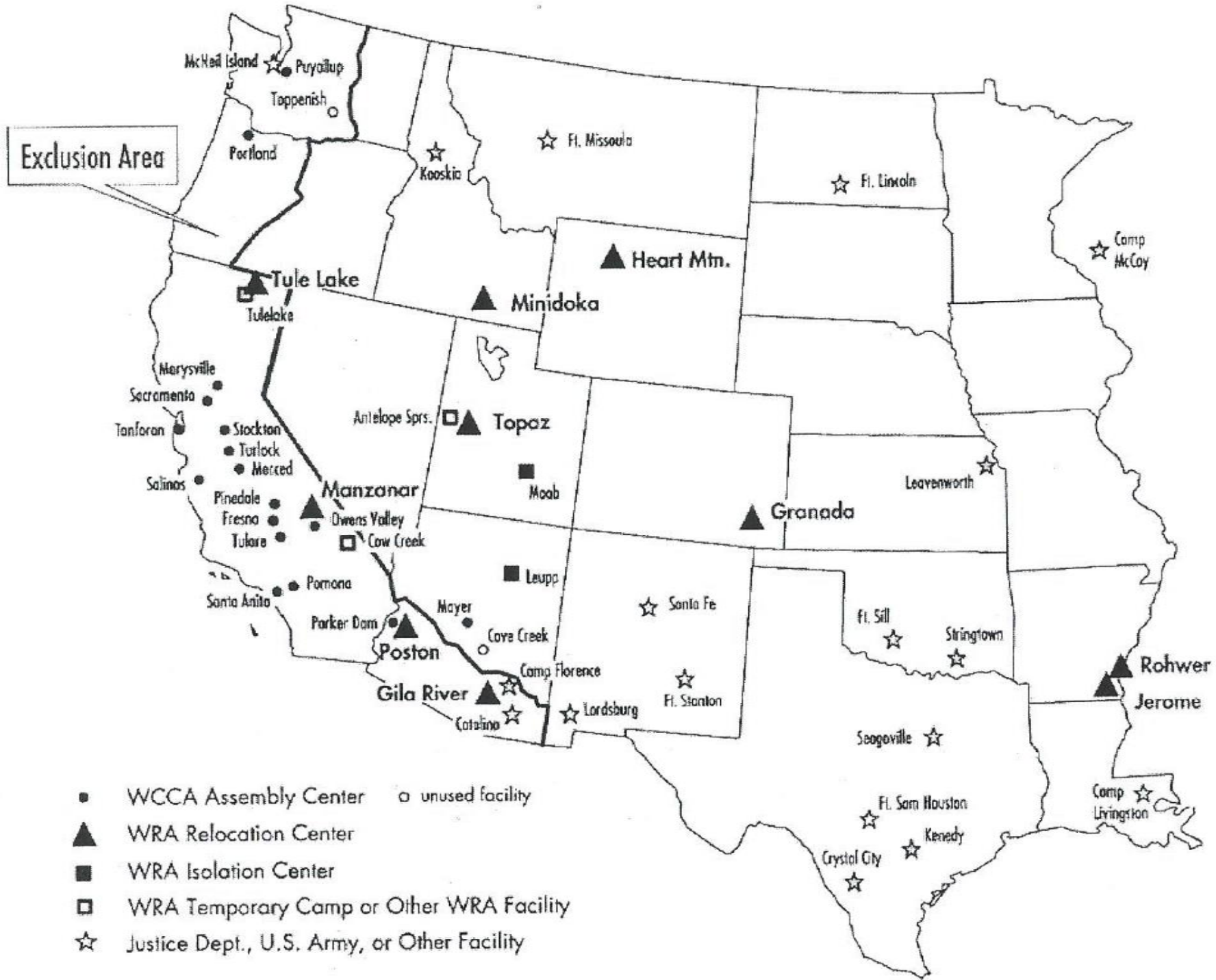
Fresno	CA	Mayer	AZ
Manzanar	CA	Portland	OR
Marysville	CA	Puyallup	WA
Marced	CA		
Pinedale	CA	Stockton	CA
Pomona	CA	Tanforan	CA
Sacramento	CA	Tulare	CA
Salinas	CA	Turlock	CA
Santa Anita	CA		





WRA Relocation Centers^[61]

Name	State	Opened	Max. Pop'n
<u>Manzanar</u>	California	March 1942	10,046
<u>Tule Lake</u>	California	May 1942	18,789
<u>Poston</u>	Arizona	May 1942	17,814
<u>Gila River</u>	Arizona	July 1942	13,348
<u>Granada</u>	Colorado	August 1942	7,318
<u>Heart Mountain</u>	Wyoming	August 1942	10,767
<u>Minidoka</u>	Idaho	August 1942	9,397
<u>Topaz</u>	Utah	September 1942	8,130
<u>Rohwer</u>	Arkansas	September 1942	8,475
<u>Jerome</u>	Arkansas	October 1942	8,497



Exclusion Area

- WCCA Assembly Center ○ unused facility
- ▲ WRA Relocation Center
- WRA Isolation Center
- WRA Temporary Camp or Other WRA Facility
- ☆ Justice Dept., U.S. Army, or Other Facility

Other Incarceration Facilities

- Department of Justice 8
- US Army - 18
- Federal Prisons – 3
- Hawaii - 5



Loyalty Oath - February 1943

The No No's

- Question 27: Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?

Loyalty Oath

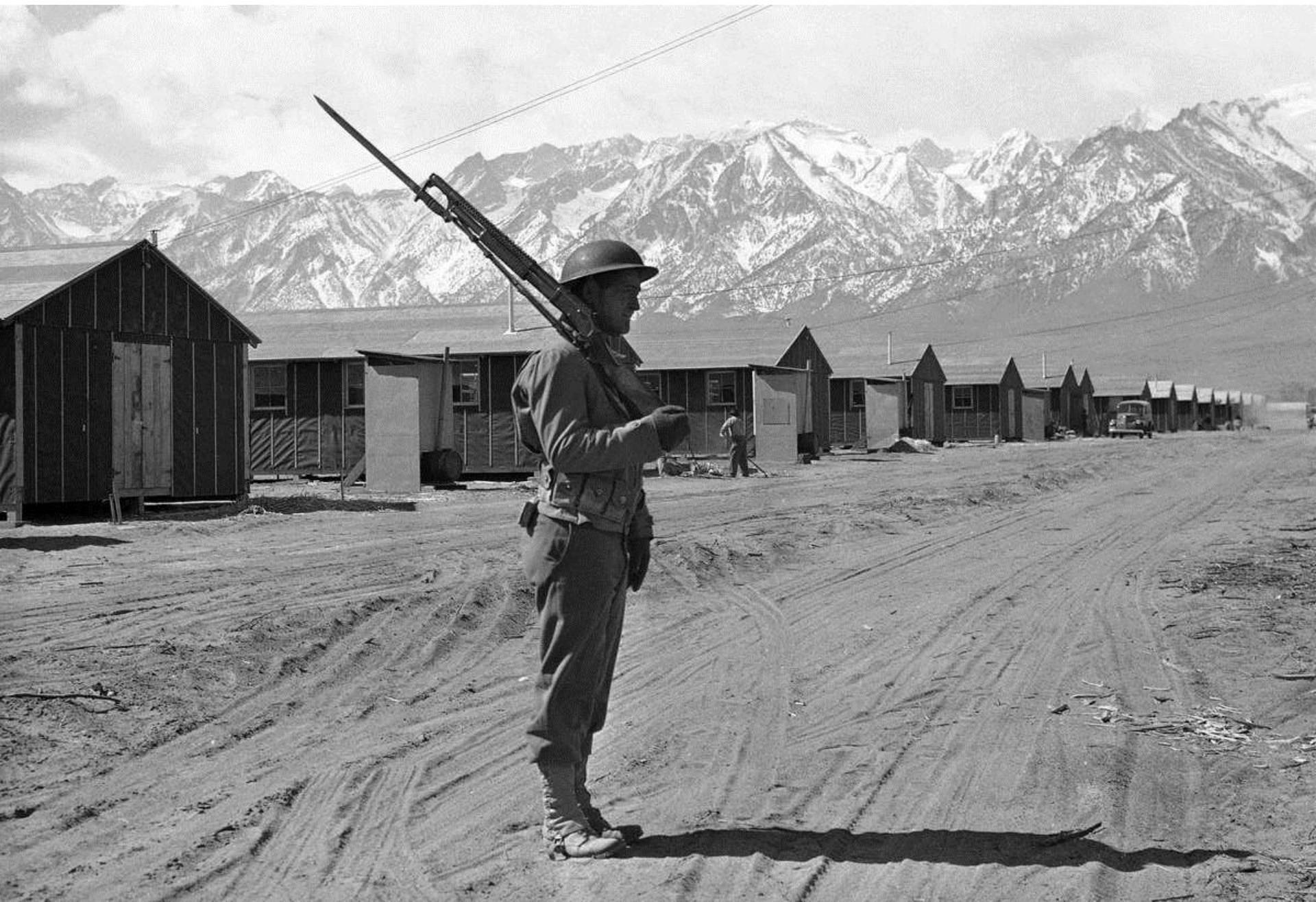
- Question 28: Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States.....
- Yes for immigrants meant they would have no country.

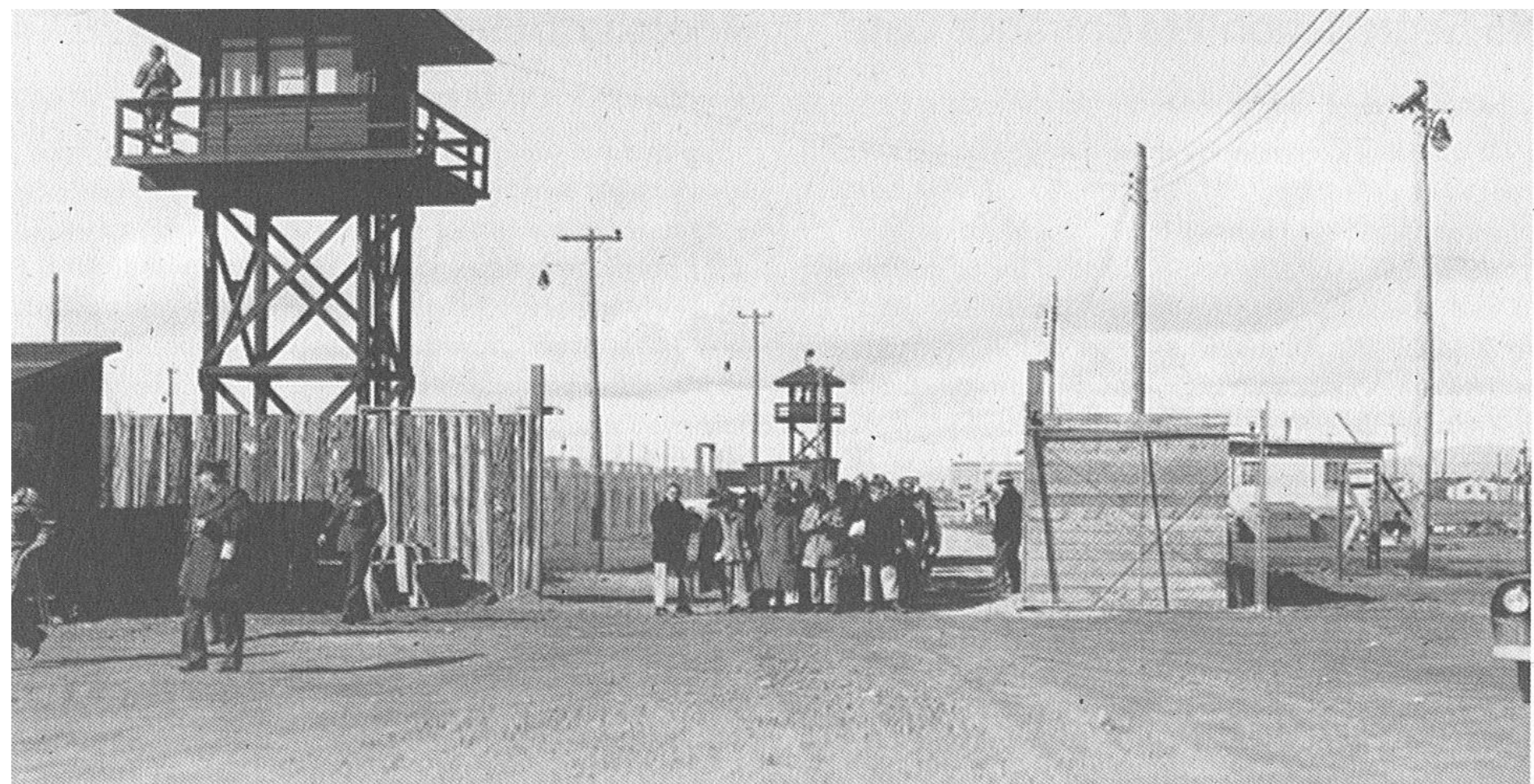
Answer to Questions

- Only Yes-Yes accepted
- Qualified “Yes but release us from camp”
- Any No answer: Imprisonment
- No-No: “No-No Boys” sent to Tule Lake Camp

Tule Lake Maximum Security

- 28 Guard Towers
- 8 ft. fence double barbed wire “man-proof”
- Tanks patrol perimeter
- Largest Camp: 12,000 No-No’s transferred; 6,000 Yes-Yes remained
- All No-No’s could not be moved
- Only Camp with a prison





Living Conditions

- Tar paper barracks no insulation
- Barracks were 20' x 100'
- 4 families per barrack
- One light bulb, coal burning heat stove
- Army cots for sleeping
- 13-14 barracks per block
- Block contained mess halls, latrines, showers, laundry

Living Conditions

- Utility building for church, store, school and community hall
- Long lines for all facilities
- Lack of privacy for showers and latrines
- Jobs: farming, maintaining camp.







Good Times

- Children were born
- Education: Elementary & High School
- Music: Bands, Koto
- Religion
- Cultural celebrations
- Baseball



Kodomo no tame ni - For the sake of the children





Setsu Okada prepared to catch a ball at Heart Mountain in front of at least one interested on-looker. Gift of Mori Shimada (92.10.2A)



Release from “Camp”

- Keep what you had in camp
- Grant money \$25 per person (\$100 family of 4)
- Bus ticket transportation to origin or one of the evacuation areas.
- Families were divided: Live in US or go to Japan
- Each family has a story

**JAPS
KEEP OUT
YOU ARE
NOT WANTED**

JAPS KEEP MOVING
This **- IS -** **A WHITE MAN'S NEIGHBORHOOD.**





Not a Warm Welcome

- Homes and possessions not returned
- Not allowed to own property
- Racial discrimination for work and living locations
- Racial slurs continued on the radio and newspapers
- Hate crimes
- Denial of event; unknown to many
- Welcoming communities: Bainbridge Island

affected, but admitted that some items were giving the committee trouble.

Wallgren Protests Return of Japanese To West Coast

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 23.—(U.P.)—Declaring "there is still reason to be fearful of their activities," Gov. Mon C. Wallgren today was on record as opposing the return of Japanese to the three West coast states for the duration of the war.

Wallgren said he has protested to Washington, D. C., the decision to return Japanese to their former homes on the Pacific coast.

"The Japanese have boasted that they would win the war by espionage," Wallgren said. "We cannot lose sight of the fact that we are still bitter enemies and that no precaution is too great to insure the successful prosecution of the war."

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Sterilization of Japs Proposed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (AP)—
Rep. Johnson (D-Okla.) has proposed
that Congress authorize the steril-
ization of Japanese aliens held in
U. S. segregation camps.

His suggestion—in emphatic words
—became public in testimony re-
leased by the House appropriations
committee considering the resettle-
ment of enemy aliens.

"I will say for the record—and I
want to be sure that it stays on
the record—that we should make
an appropriation to sterilize the
whole outfit," Johnson told his fel-
low committee members.

The Oklahoman criticized what he
termed the "pampering" of Japa-
nese war prisoners and said "our
citizens generally are getting fed up"
over the treatment of prisoners and
"so-called loyal aliens."

TO CLOSE CENTERS

The remarks came during a com-
mittee hearing on plans to close the
enemy alien segregation centers and
return to private life most of the
112,000 persons of Japanese ancestry
who were hustled into custody when
war broke out.

War Relocation Authority officials
said they plan to close out all the
segregation centers except Tule Lake,
Calif., by the end of this year. Tule
Lake—a camp for so-called recal-
citrants—now houses about 19,000

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V. F. W. Post Urges Protection for Japs

SEATTLE, Feb. 16.—(UPI)—A resolution urging protection of Japanese-Americans whose immediate relatives served with the U. S. armed forces or who are students of diplomats has been passed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars post of Fort Lawton, it was announced today.

Newspapers who declare allegiance to Japan, marry alien Japanese or visit that country should be expelled, the resolution said.

Before The War

Yutaka Otsu

- Farmer (Burbank, CA)
- Two Children
- Immigrated early 1900
- Entry Hawaii
- Started in farming

Kihei Kobayashi

- Farmer (Inglewood, CA)
- Four Children
- Immigrated early 1900
- Entry San Francisco
- Railroad worker



1937 The Otsu family. From left to right: Yutaka, Tak, Choku (Toshi's future husband), and Take.



Relocation

Otsu

- Santa Fe, NM as POW
- Gila River, AZ
- Tule Lake, CA
- Son answers Yes-Yes

Kobayashi

- Gila River, AZ
- Tule Lake, CA

After the War

Otsu

- Bank account was not released until 1968
- Did not return to farming
- Children found other occupations
- Never Voted
- Died @75 years

Kobayashi

- Repurchased land & returned to farming
- Retired in farming
- Children completed education/college
- Voted
- Died @ 89





The Bellingham Experience



S. MURATA

故村田舜子之墓

明治三十九年五月二十一日

明治三十九年五月二十一日

*BELLINGHAM-BORN JAPANESE
BABY TO BE CHRISTENED TODAY* PSA



LIMER J. KATAYAMA, the first Japanese baby born in Bellingham, will be

WENT TO GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMPIONSHIP JUN 17 1938
at Seattle



George Shimada

Billy Smith?

Carl Caskey

Bernie Reynolds

Southside Athletic Club Fairhaven Hotel 1938



H. LEOPOLD

HOTEL LE

HOTEL

THE LEOPOLD

DRY CLEANING. REPAIRING. **OKA** RELINING. DYEING.

SANITARIUM BATHS
BATTLE CREEK SANITARIUM METHODS
TURKISH, RUSSIAN, PLAIN SHOWER BATHS, ALL TREATMENTS AND MASSAGE GIVEN BY GRADUATE NURSES
THE MOST COMPLETELY EQUIPPED IN THE NORTHWEST
DIRECT ELEVATOR & FORCE CHANGING WITH HOTEL
ELECTRIC LIGHT SWEATING BATHS.
Superior To Any Other Bath Known To Science

Photo by J.W. Sandison, Whatcom Museum

RAYMOND JOHNSON

JACK JONES

ALICE KENOYER

ADDISON KINZER

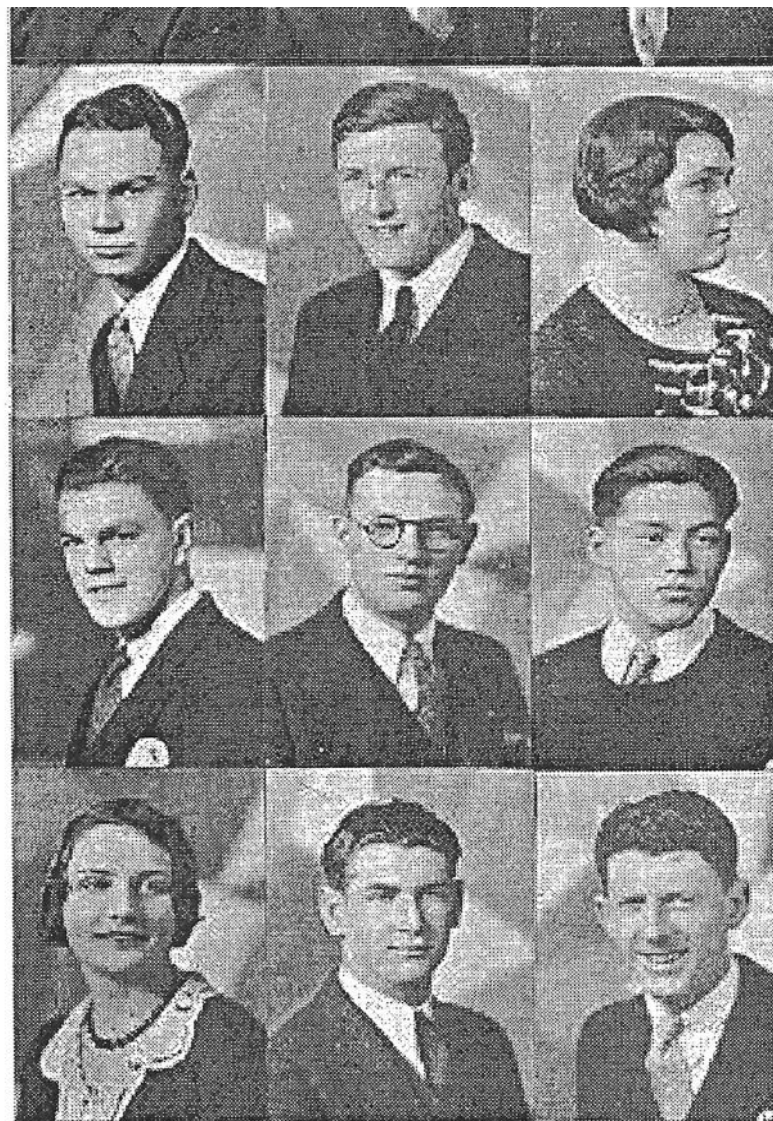
EUGENE KNAUTZ

SABRO KUNIMATSUI

ESTHER LARSON

JAMES MALONE

HARRY MARCUS







Rest
Room

LOWER BASEMENT



NOTICE

Headquarters
Western Defense Command
and Fourth Army

Headquarters of San Francisco, California
March 24, 1942

Exclusion Order No. 1

Under Executive Order No. 9066, the War Relocation Authority, San Francisco, California, has issued an Exclusion Order No. 1, dated March 24, 1942, which excludes from the area of San Francisco, California, all persons of Japanese ancestry who are residing in the area of San Francisco, California, and who are of Japanese ancestry.

The purpose of this Exclusion Order is to provide for the removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the area of San Francisco, California, and to provide for their relocation in other parts of the United States.

The following instructions must be observed:

1. All persons of Japanese ancestry who are residing in the area of San Francisco, California, must evacuate their homes and other property in the area of San Francisco, California, and must report to the War Relocation Authority, San Francisco, California, for relocation in other parts of the United States.
2. All persons of Japanese ancestry who are residing in the area of San Francisco, California, must evacuate their homes and other property in the area of San Francisco, California, and must report to the War Relocation Authority, San Francisco, California, for relocation in other parts of the United States.

Western Defense Command and Fourth Army Wartime Civil Control Administration

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL JAPANESE

Living on Bainbridge Island

All persons of Japanese ancestry who are residing on Bainbridge Island must evacuate their homes and other property in the area of Bainbridge Island, and must report to the War Relocation Authority, Bainbridge Island, for relocation in other parts of the United States.

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Go to the Civil Control Office at the Anderson Dock Shore in Winslow between 8:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. on March 21, 1942, to receive further instructions.

U.S. GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION





Bellingham Washington.

Mar. 6. 1942.

Mr. Wahl.

We know you are feeling badly now that our government, has taken that low yellow slant eye (Jap) from you, did you ever think that after all its the (White) people that trade at your store and not the yellow bellie's that you keep on the job. Try a (White) man once, our young youth's trying to get through college would appreciate work of this kind. We realize the Jap's come first in your estimation, but thank, God, our government will tell you where to head in. Your store will still smell of the dirty Jap, you have had around there all these years, so we wont be back.

Secretary
Of A Mother's Club.

N. G. E.

P. S. A picture for your desk , it may help some during his absence.











Bellingham Family Destinations

Amano: Ontario, Or

Okomoto(H): Renton, Seattle

Okubo: Heart MT, Wy

Shima: Chicago, Seattle

Kunimatsu: Chicago

Asano: Seattle

Sakamoto: Los Angeles, San Francisco

Sumihiro: Spokane

Okomoto(K): Los Angeles

442 enlisted

After the War Timeline

- 1969 Pilgrimage to Manzanar
- 1972 Manzanar California Historic Site
- 1980 Commission on War Relocation Act
- 1983 Koremastu case overturned
- August 10, 1988: Civil Liberties Act of 1988
- August 1988: Redress
- 1992 Manzanar National Historic Site:
Concentration Camp

Commission On WRA 1980

- Racial prejudice
- War hysteria
- Failure of political leadership
- Recommended remedial action
- Redress: Civil Rights Act of 1988 signed by Ronald Reagan



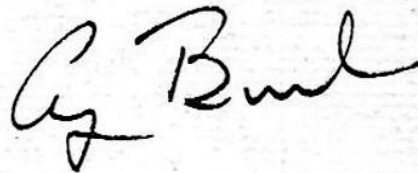
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

A monetary sum and words alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither can they fully convey our Nation's resolve to rectify injustice and to uphold the rights of individuals. We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II.

In enacting a law calling for restitution and offering a sincere apology, your fellow Americans have, in a very real sense, renewed their traditional commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. You and your family have our best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Bill Clinton".

Terms for Naming Camps

- 1942 Relocation Centers
- 1945 Internment Camps
- 1992 Concentration Camps
- 2006 Segregation Center: Tule Lake