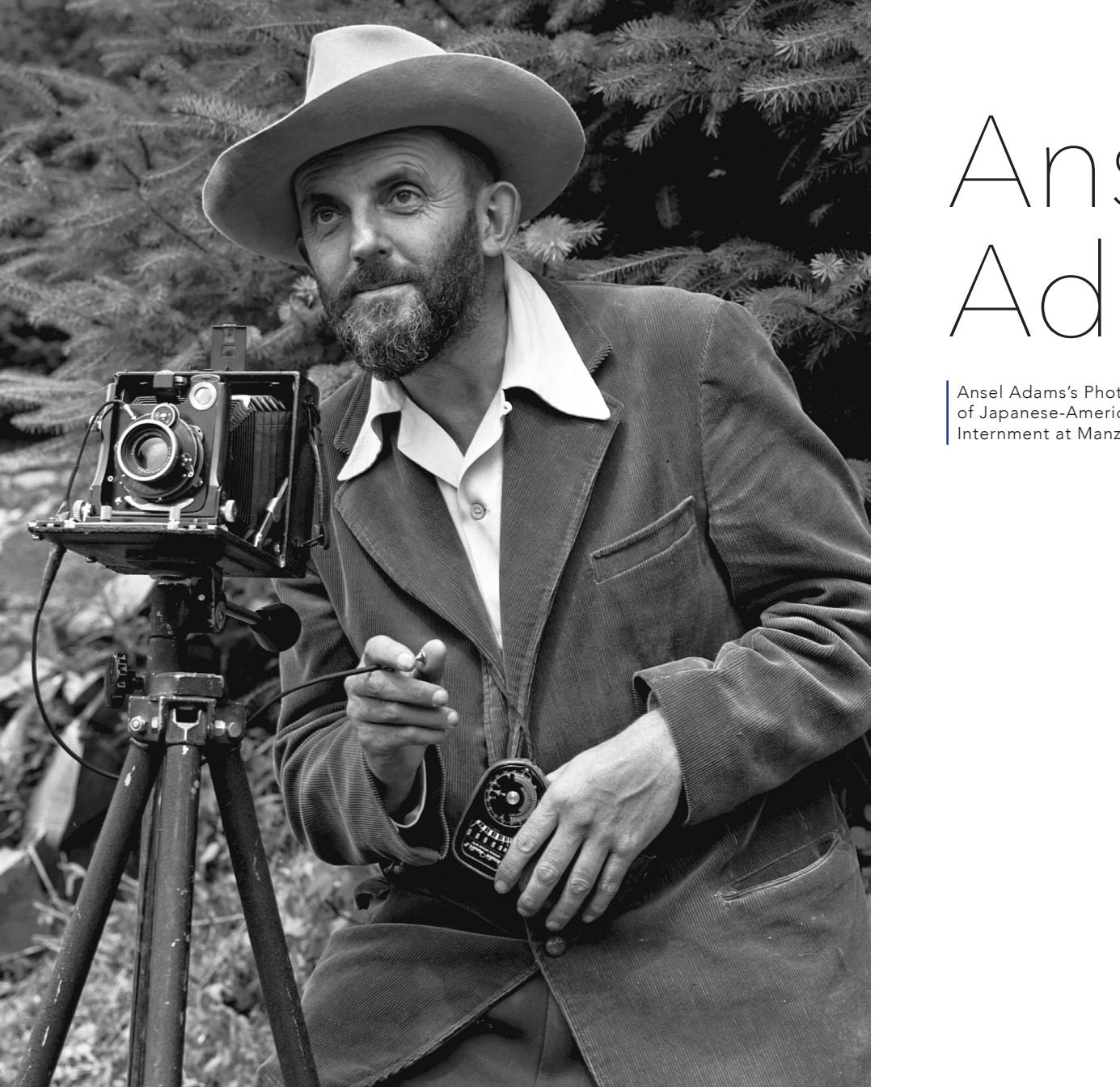


Broken Promises: Internment at Manzanar





Ansel Adams

Ansel Adams's Photographs
of Japanese-American
Internment at Manzanar

In 1943, Ansel Adams (1902-1984), America's most well-known photographer, documented the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California and the Japanese-Americans interned there during World War II. For the first time, digital scans of both Adams's original negatives and his photographic prints appear side by side allowing viewers to see Adams's darkroom technique, in particular, how he cropped his prints.

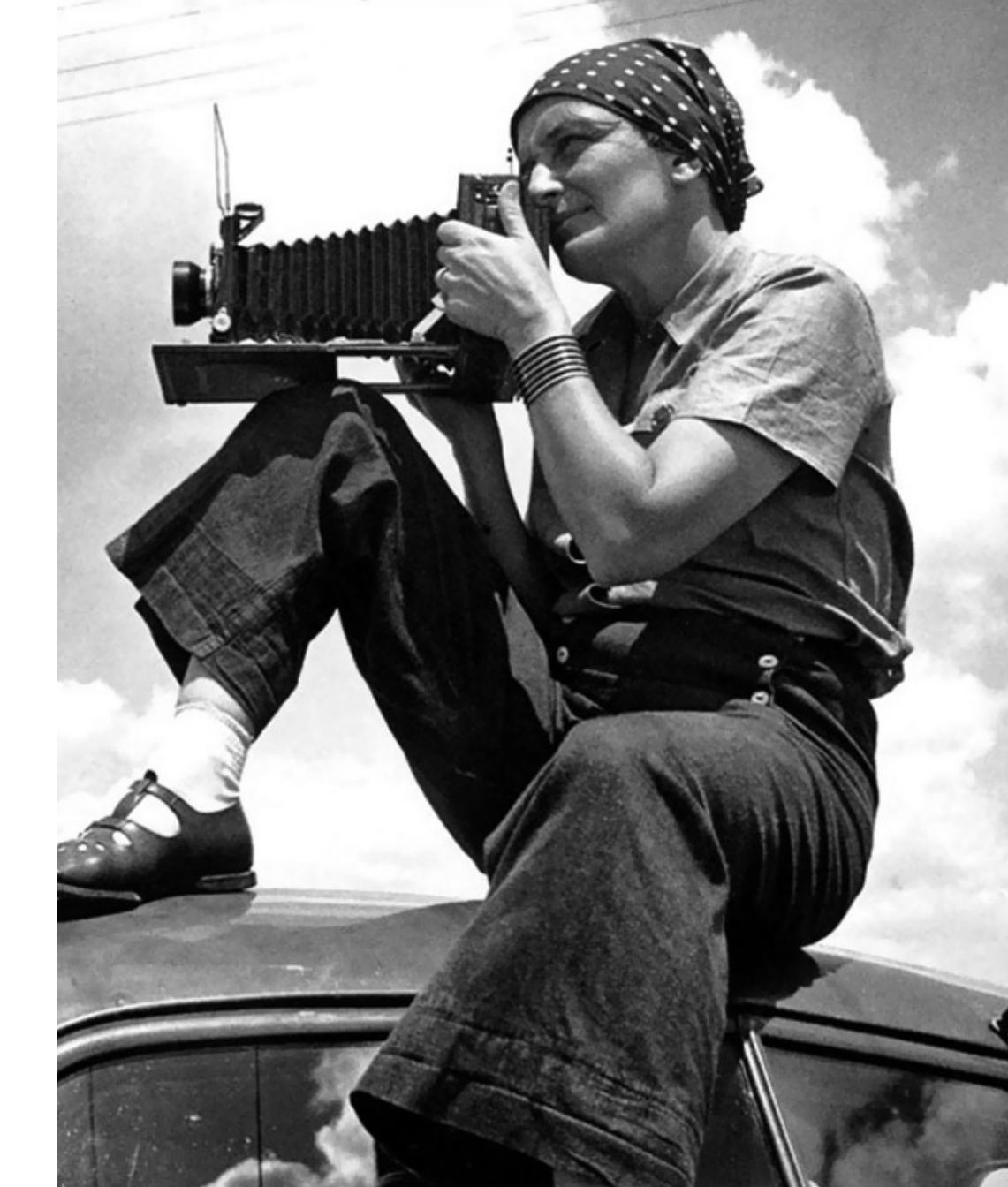
Adams's Manzanar work is a departure from his signature style landscape photography. Although a majority of the more than 200 photographs are portraits, the images also include views of daily life, agricultural scenes, and sports and leisure activities. When offering the collection to the Library in 1965, Adams said in a letter, "The purpose of my work was to show how these people, suffering under a great injustice, and loss of property, businesses and professions, had overcome the sense of defeat and despair [sic] by building for themselves a vital community in an arid (but magnificent) environment....All in all, I think this Manzanar Collection is an important historical document, and I trust it can be put to good use."

Dorothea Lange

Dorothea Lange—well known for her FSA photographs like *Migrant Mother*—was hired by the U.S. government to make a photographic record of the “evacuation” and “relocation” of Japanese-Americans in 1942. She was eager to take the commission, despite being opposed to the effort, as she believed “a true record of the evacuation would be valuable in the future.”

The military commanders that reviewed her work realized that Lange’s contrary point of view was evident through her photographs, and seized them for the duration of World War II, even writing “Impounded” across some of the prints. The photos were quietly deposited into the National Archives, where they remained largely unseen until 2006.

Dorothea Lange's Photographs
of Japanese-American
Internment at Manzanar



1941



The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor helped to fuel the anti-Japanese sentiment that led the Roosevelt's executive order.

*We the People of the
United States, in Order to form a
more perfect Union*

6



Man with pipe stands on top of bus loading luggage into rack, while others gather around.

Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, led the United States into World War II and radically changed the lives of 120,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry living in the United States. The attack intensified racial prejudices and led to fear of potential sabotage and espionage by Japanese Americans among some in the government, military, news media, and public. In February, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the Secretary of War to establish Military Areas and to remove from those areas anyone who might threaten the war effort. Without due process, the government gave everyone of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast only days to decide what to do with their houses, farms, businesses, and other possessions. Most families sold their belongings at a significant loss. Some rented their properties to neighbors.

7

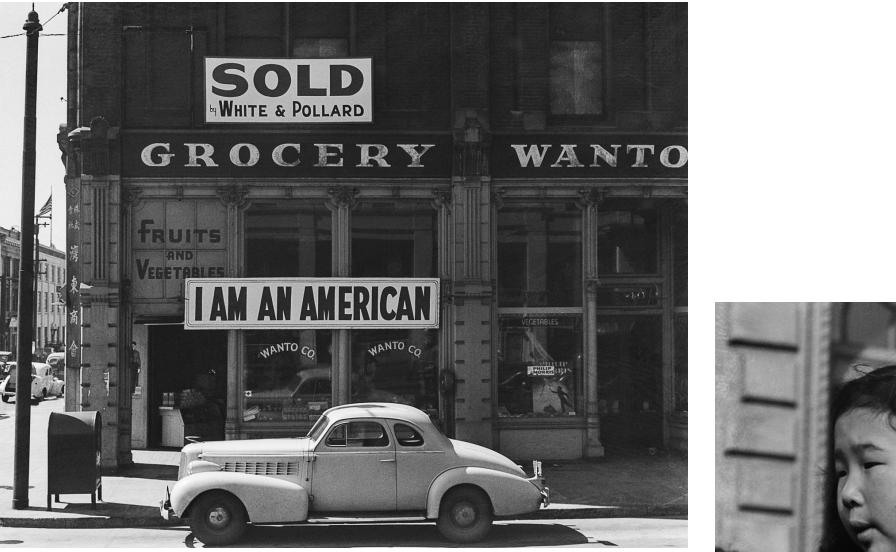


April 28, 1942 — Byron, California. These field laborers of Japanese ancestry at Wartime Civil Control Administration Control Station are receiving final instructions regarding their evacuation to an Assembly center in three days.



April 29, 1942 — Tanforan Assembly center, San Bruno, California. Barracks for family living quarters. Each door enters into a family unit of two small rooms. Tanforan assembly center was opened two days before the photograph was made. On the first day there had been a heavy rain. When a family has arrived here, first step of evacuation is complete.





April 20, 1942 — San Francisco, California. Many children of Japanese ancestry attended Raphael Weill public School, Geary and Buchanan Streets, prior to evacuation. This scene shows first- graders during flag pledge ceremony. Evacuees of Japanese ancestry will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration. Provision will be effected for the continuance of education.



10



April 25, 1942 — San Francisco, California. Residents of Japanese ancestry appear for registration prior to evacuation. Evacuees will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration



April 29, 1942 — San Francisco, California. A young evacuee looks out the window of bus before it starts for Tanforan Assembly center. Evacuees will be transferred to War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.

11

*establish Justice, insure
domestic tranquility, for
the common defence*

"As a result of the interview, my family name was reduced to No. 13660. I was given several tags bearing the family number, and was then dismissed.... Baggage was piled on the sidewalk the full length of the block. Greyhound buses were lined alongside the curb."

— Mine Okubo, Tanforan Assembly Center, San Bruno



May 8, 1942 — Hayward, California. Members of the Mochida family awaiting evacuation bus. Identification tags are used to aid in keeping the family unit intact during all phases of evacuation. Mochida operated a nursery and five greenhouses on a two-acre site in Eden Township. He raised snapdragons and sweet peas. Evacuees of Japanese ancestry will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.



May 20, 1942 — Woodland, Yolo County, California. Ten cars of evacuees of Japanese ancestry are now aboard and the doors are closed. Their Caucasian friends and the staff of the Wartime Civil Control Administration stations are watching the departure from the platform. Evacuees are leaving their homes and ranches, in a rich agricultural district, bound for Merced Assembly Center about 125 miles away.



Others left possessions with friends or religious groups. Some abandoned their property. They did not know where they were going or for how long. Each family was assigned an identification number and loaded into cars, buses, trucks, and trains, taking only what they could carry. Japanese Americans were transported under military guard to 17 temporary assembly centers located at racetracks, fairgrounds, and similar facilities in Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona. Then they were moved to one of 10 hastily built relocation centers. By November, 1942, the relocation was complete.



Mr. Kay Kageyama, bust portrait, facing front.



Group of people standing, facing right, near the open door of an automobile, buildings in the background.

The orders to evacuate were posted in Japanese-American communities. Many of those affected by the orders sold their land, homes, and businesses for a fraction of what they were worth because they did not know if they would be able to return or if they would still be there when they returned.





Mountain View, California. Members of the Shibuya family are pictured at their home before evacuation. The father and the mother were born in Japan and came to this country in 1904. At that time the father had \$0 in cash and a basket of clothes. He later built a prosperous business of raising select varieties of chrysanthemums which he shipped to eastern markets under his own trade name. Six children in the family were born in the United States. The four older children attended leading California Universities. Evacuees of Japanese ancestry will be housed in War Relocation Authority Centers for the duration.

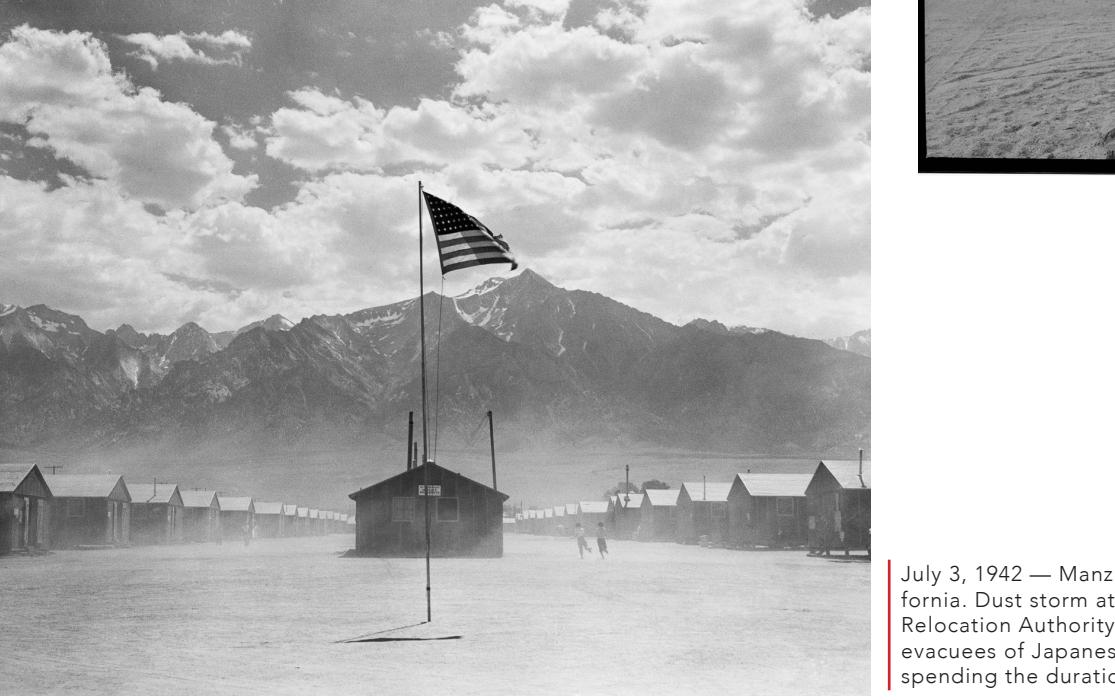


*The right of the people to be
secure in their persons,
houses, papers, and effects
against unreasonable
searches and seizures*

"We had about one week to dispose of what we owned, except what we could pack and carry for our departure by bus...for Manzanar."

-William Hohri

Life at Manzanar



July 3, 1942 — Manzanar, California. Dust storm at this War Relocation Authority center where evacuees of Japanese ancestry are spending the duration.



Wooden sign at entrance to the Manzanar War Relocation Center with a car at the gate-house in the background.



Ten war relocation centers were built in remote deserts, plains, and swamps of seven states; Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Manzanar, located in the Owens Valley of California between the Sierra Nevada on the west and the Inyo mountains on the east, was typical in many ways of the 10 camps.

1942



Aiko Yoshinaga

When the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga (then Aiko Yoshinaga) was a senior at Los Angeles High School.

She remembers the day the following spring that her principal took the Japanese students aside and said, "You're not getting your diplomas because your people bombed Pearl Harbor."

Japanese-American families on the West Coast were rounded up and sent to internment camps. Yoshinaga was worried that she would be separated from her boyfriend, so to the horror of her parents, Yoshinaga and her boyfriend eloped.

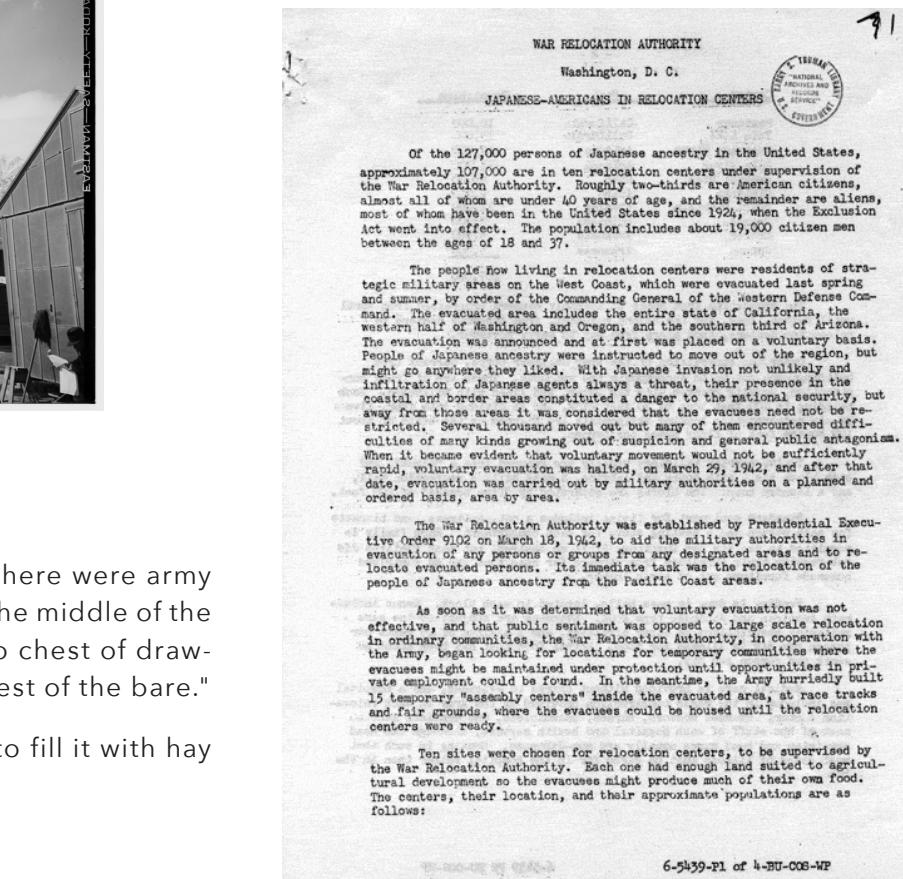
The Yoshinaga family was sent to the Santa Anita, Calif., detention center, and later to Jerome, Ark. Meanwhile, Yoshinaga and her new in-laws were sent to Manzanar, near Death Valley. Yoshinaga remembers their first day as hot and dusty, even though it was only April. The barracks where the family lived were crowded and sparsely decorated.



Rows of camp houses at the base of mountains.

"The only thing that was in the 'apartments' when we got there were army metal beds with the springs on it, and a potbellied stove in the middle of the room," Herzig-Yoshinaga says. "That was the only thing. No chest of drawers, no nothing, no curtains on the windows. It was the barest of the bare."

She remembers being given a canvas bag and being told to fill it with hay for use as a makeshift mattress.



Birds sit on power lines above buildings, mountains and setting sun in the background.



Her father died before the Japanese were freed from the camps. Yoshinaga says that it was years before she questioned the legality of the internment camps and detention centers.

It wasn't until she was living in Washington, D.C., with her third husband, Jack Herzog, that she started looking into her family's personal history in the camps. Her research broadened and she joined the redress effort, working to bring reparations to Japanese-Americans who lived in the camps.



In the course of her research, she discovered a report which quoted a government official saying that there was no national security reason for incarcerating the Japanese-Americans during the war.

"I think until then, it was mostly like, 'You know this was just an honest mistake that we put these people into camps,'" says Martha Nakagawa, who helped process Herzog-Yoshinaga's papers into the library at the University of California, Los Angeles.

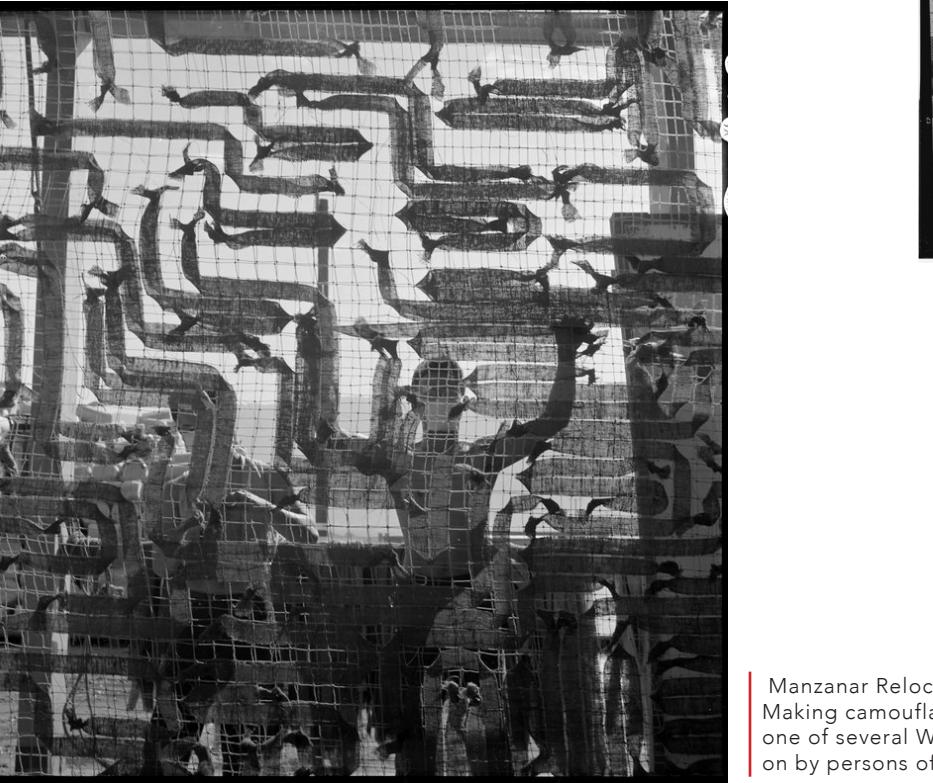
Bird's-eye view of grounds from guard tower; view west, showing buildings, roads, and Sierra Nevada mountains in background.

"In my case, I had never even had sex before I went into the camp. And trying to make love on a noisy, hay-filled canvas bag was just a joke!" she says.

The families eventually created room dividers out of sheets and began making a life in the Manzanar War Relocation Center. Yoshinaga gave birth to her daughter in the camp.

Not long after, she received word from her family in Arkansas that her father was gravely ill. Yoshinaga requested a transfer of camps and traveled, with the child her family had never met, to Arkansas.

"As we were pulling into the camp, [an] ambulance was taking my father to the hospital," she said. "So I grabbed my daughter and went to see him. And that was the one and only time he got to see her because he died sometime after that."



Manzanar Relocation Center, Manzanar, California.
Making camouflage nets for the War Department. This is
one of several War and Navy Department projects carried
on by persons of Japanese ancestry in relocation centers.

Japanese Americans observe an amateur baseball game in progress; one-story buildings and mountains in the background.



"Without Aiko, the passage of the redress bill would not have gone as smoothly," she says. "It would have been difficult to prove that the government had done any wrongdoing."

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was signed by President Ronald Reagan, who said that it was a mistake for the government to incarcerate Japanese-Americans without trial during the war. It awarded victims and their families \$20,000 and, perhaps more importantly, an apology.

At 92, Herzig-Yoshinaga now lives in Los Angeles – the place her family called home before they were forced out. She eventually did get her high school diploma, and her suburban home is filled with pictures of loved ones.

But she also has a black-and-white photo on her dining room wall of a jagged mountain landscape. In the foreground are rows and rows of barracks and barbed wire fences that made up the Manzanar War Relocation Center.

She says she worries now, when she hears people talk about creating a registry for all Muslims in the United States.

"We haven't learned from all these lessons!" she says. "It's happened once, and unless you are careful it could happen again."



May 9, 1942 — Centerville, California. This youngster is awaiting evacuation bus. Evacuees of Japanese ancestry will be housed in War Relocation Authority centers for the duration.



July 2, 1942 — Manzanar Relocation Center, Manzanar, California.

A chef of Japanese ancestry at

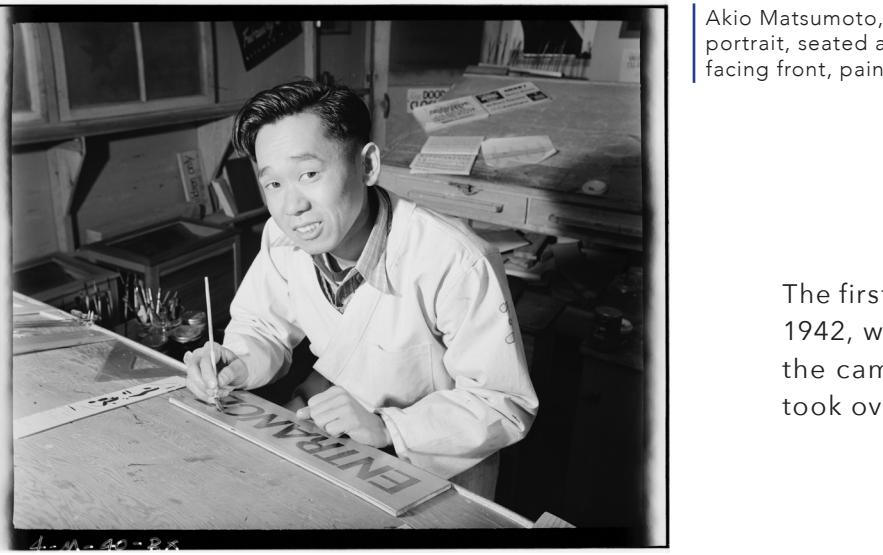
this War Relocation Authority

center. Evacuees find opportuni-

ties to follow their callings.



May 19, 1942 — Stockton, California. Noon on a hot day at the Stockton Assembly center, which is a converted fairgrounds. This photograph shows the old race track. This center has been opened a week and evacuees will arrive daily until the capacity of 5000 is reached.



Akio Matsumoto, half-length portrait, seated at desk, facing front, painting sign.

The first Japanese Americans to arrive at Manzanar, in March 1942, were men and women who volunteered to help build the camp. On June 1 the War Relocation Authority (WRA) took over operation of Manzanar from the U.S. Army.



Nurse standing behind man in wheelchair with young man talking to two young women in foreground.



June 16, 1942 — San Bruno, California. Supper time! Meal times are the big events of the day within an assembly center. This is a line-up of evacuees waiting for the "B" shift at 5:45 pm. They carry with them their own dishes and cutlery in bags to protect them from the dust. They, themselves, individually wash their own dishes after each meal, since dish washing facilities in the mess halls proved inadequate. Most of the residents prefer this second shift because they sometimes get second helpings, but the groups are rotated each week. There are eighteen mess halls in camp which, together, accommodate 8,000 persons three times a day. All food is prepared and served by evacuees.



The 500-acre housing section was surrounded by barbed wire and eight guard towers with searchlights and patrolled by military police. Outside the fence, military police housing, a reservoir, a sewage treatment plant, and agricultural fields occupied the remaining 5,500 acres. By September 1942 more than 10,000 Japanese Americans were crowded into 504 barracks organized into 36 blocks. There was little or no privacy in the barracks—and not much outside. The 200 to 400 people living in each block, consisting of 14 barracks each divided into four rooms, shared men's and women's toilets and showers, a laundry room, and a mess hall. Any combination of eight individuals was allotted a 20-by-25-foot room. An oil stove, a single hanging light bulb, cots, blankets, and mattresses filled with straw were the only furnishings provided.



Mrs. Yaeko Nakamura and her two children, Joyce Yuki (right) and Louise Tami (left), standing on the step at the entrance of a dwelling, Manzanar Relocation Center

"We couldn't do anything about the orders from the U.S. government. I just lived from day to day without any purpose. I felt empty.... I frittered away every day. I don't remember anything much.... I just felt vacant."

— Osuke Takizawa, Tanforan Assembly Center, San Bruno



May 20, 1942 — Woodland, California.

Tenant farmer of Japanese ancestry

who has just completed settlement of

their affairs and everything is packed

ready for evacuation on the following

morning to an assembly center.



July 2, 1942 — Manzanar Relocation Center, Manzanar, California. Grandfather and grandson of Japanese ancestry at this War Relocation Authority center.



July 2, 1942 — Manzanar Relocation Center, Manzanar, California. Little evacuee of Japanese ancestry gets a haircut.



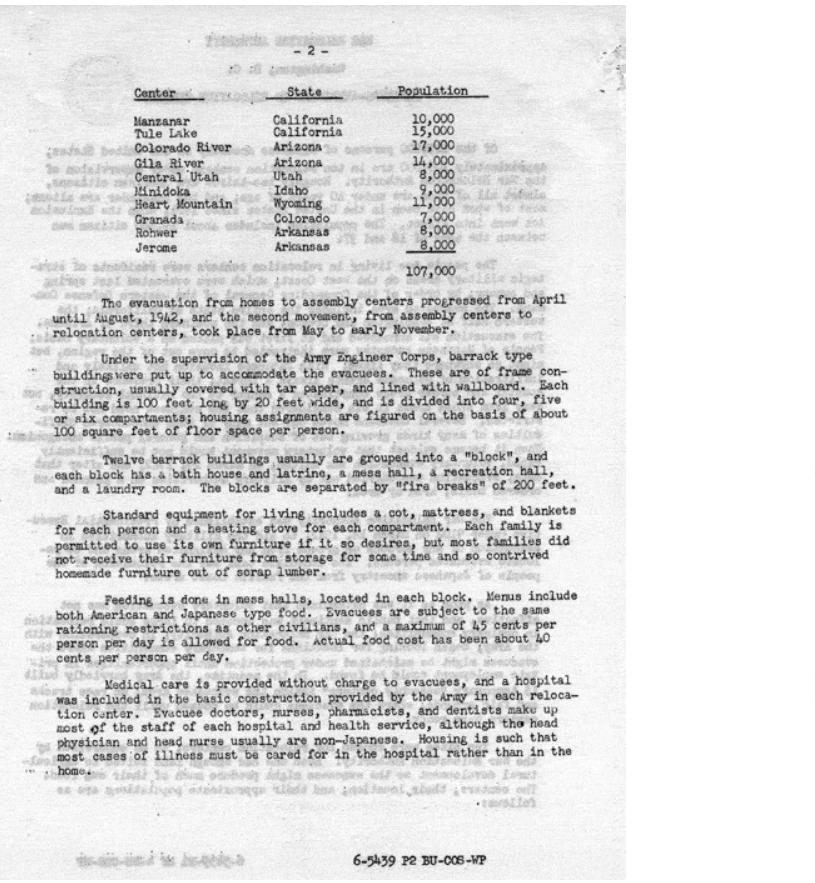
Mrs. Yaeko Nakamura holding hands with her two daughters, Joyce Yuki Nakamura and Louise Tami Nakamura, walking under a Japanese style pavilion in a park.

Because the camps were not yet completed when Roosevelt signed the executive order, the Japanese prisoners were held in temporary shelters such as stables in racetracks.



June 16, 1942 — San Bruno, California. This scene shows one type of barracks for family use. These were formerly the stalls for race horses. Each family is assigned to two small rooms, the inner one, of which, has no outside door nor window. The center has been in operation about six weeks and 8,000 persons of Japanese ancestry are now assembled here.

Hidemi Tayenaka, bust portrait, facing front, wearing hat.

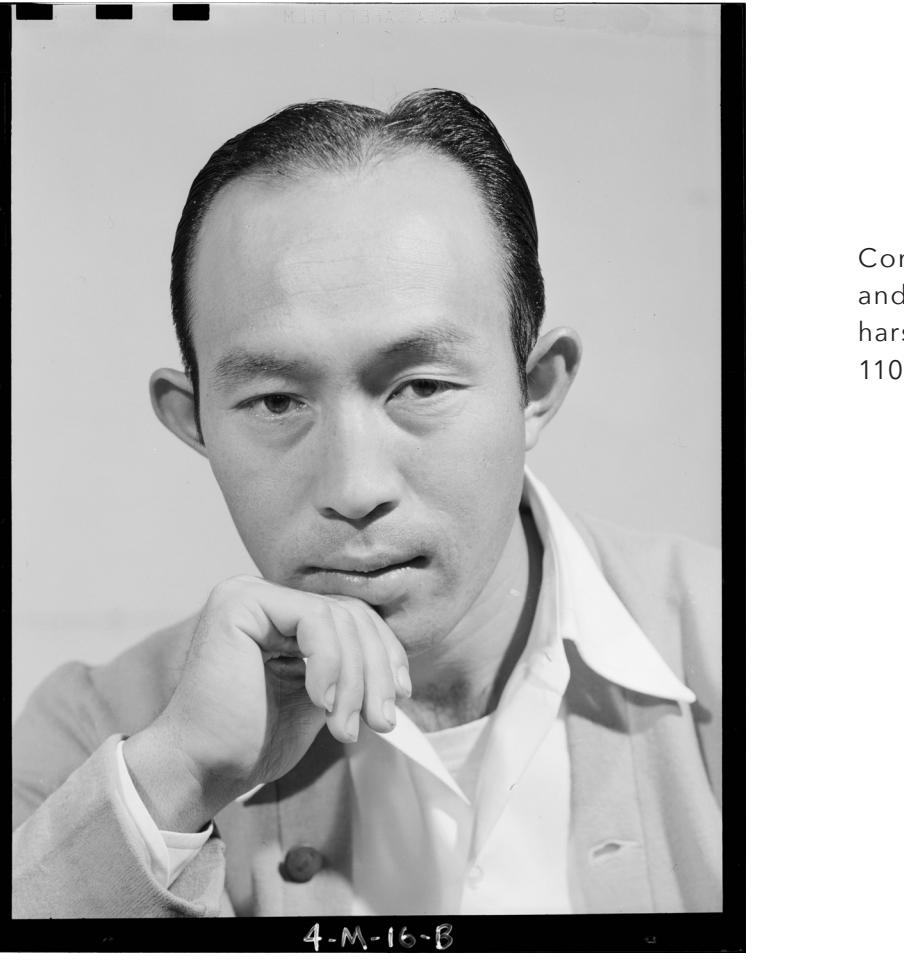


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*promote the general
Welfare, and secure the
Blessings of Liberty to
ourselves and our Posterity*

"...one of the hardest things to endure was the communal latrines, with no partitions; and showers with no stalls."

-Rosie Kakuuchi



Bunkichi Hayashi, bust portrait,
facing front, holding hand to face.

40

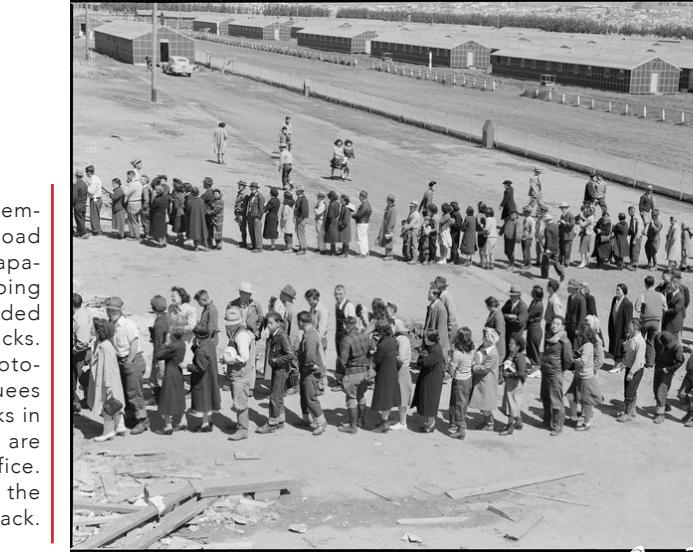
Coming from Los Angeles and other communities in California and Washington, Manzanar's internees were unaccustomed to the harsh desert environment. Summer temperatures soared as high as 110°F. In winter, temperatures frequently plunged below freezing.



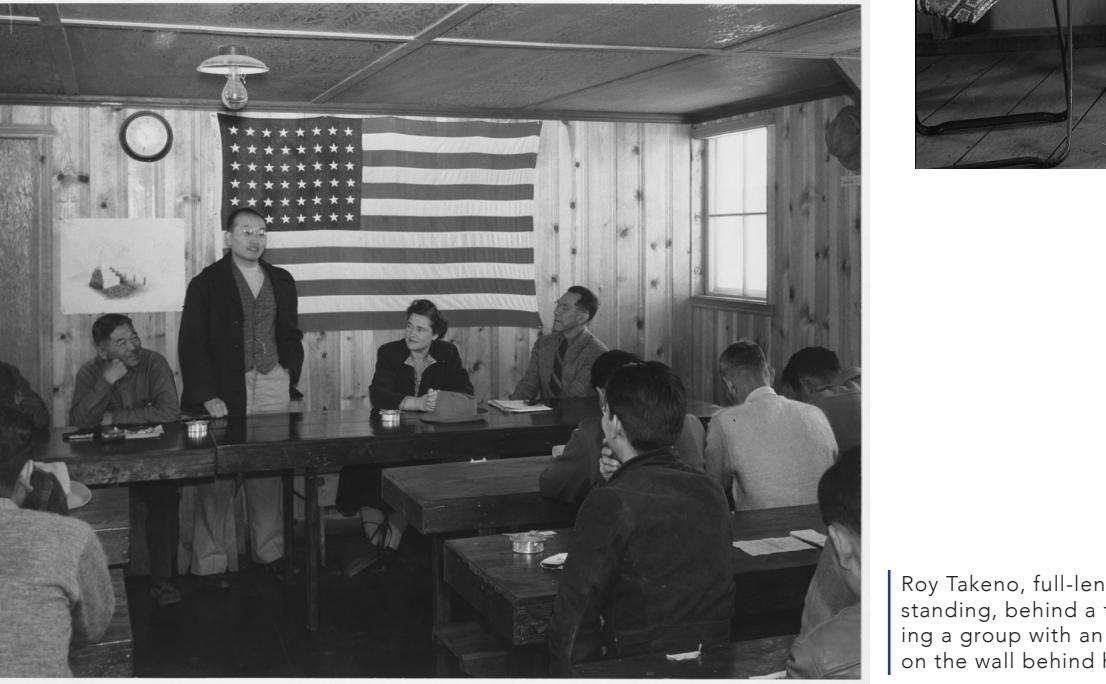
Sumiko Shigematsu, standing
at left, looking at row of women
seated at sewing machines.



April 29, 1942 — San Bruno, California. This assembly center has been open for two days. Bus-load after bus-load of evacuated persons of Japanese ancestry are arriving on this day after going through the necessary procedures, they are guided to the quarters assigned to them in the barracks. Only one mess hall was operating today. Photograph shows line-up of newly arrived evacuees outside this mess hall at noon. Note barracks in background, just built, for family units. There are three types of quarters in the center of post office. The wide road which runs diagonally across the photograph is the former racetrack.



41



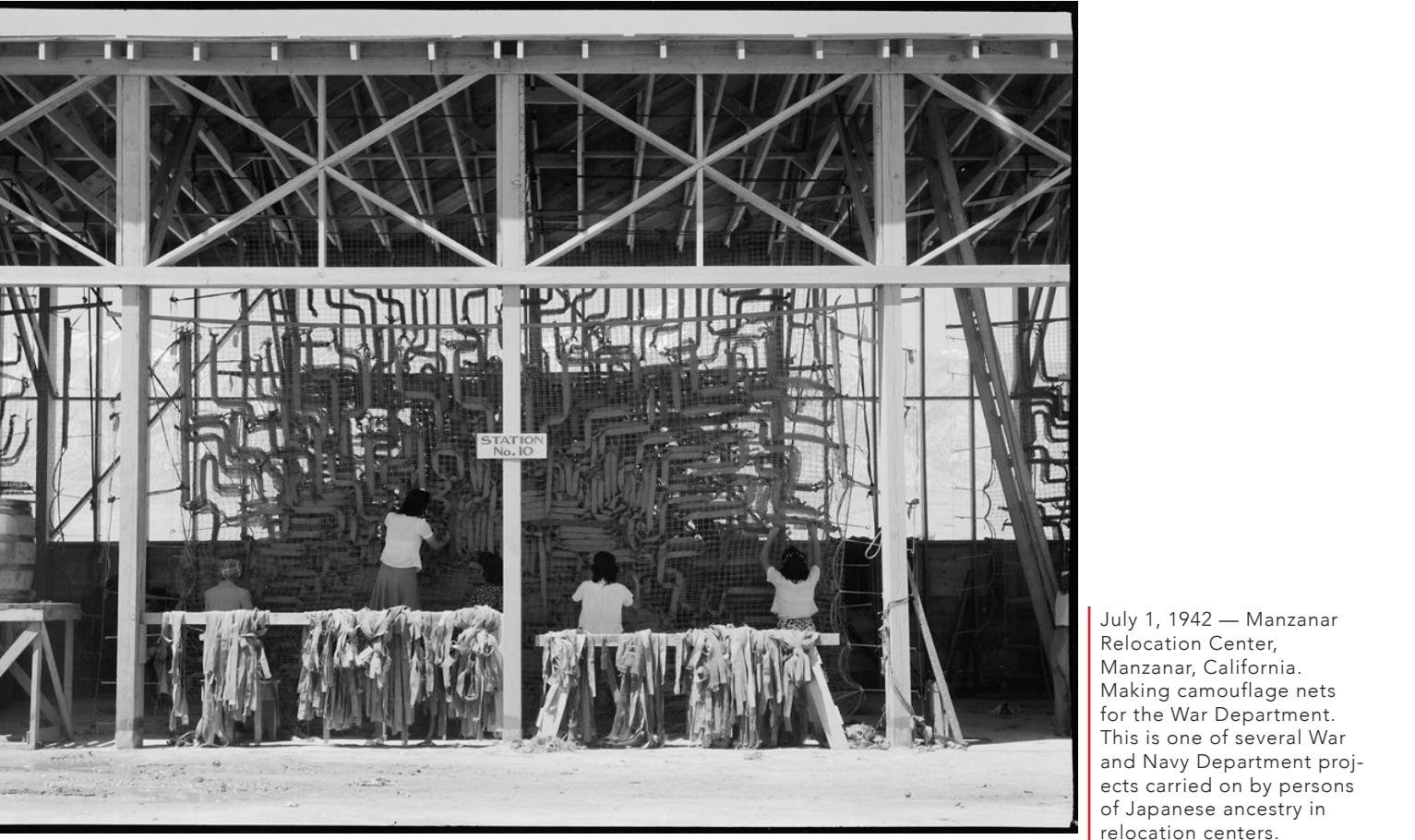
Roy Takeno, full-length portrait, standing, behind a table addressing a group with an American flag on the wall behind him.



Sacramento, California. Harvey Akio Itano, 21, 1942 graduate from the University of California where he received his Bachelor of Science [in] Chemistry degree. He was chosen by the faculty as University Medalist for 1942 and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. Mr. Itano went to the Assembly center prior to the commencement exercises at which President Robert Gordon Sproul said, "He cannot be here with us today. His country has called him elsewhere". Mr. Itano hopes to enter the field of medicine and has taken his books with him to the Center where he is spending the duration.

"The very fact that no sabotage has taken place to date is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken."

— General John L. DeWitt, head of the U.S. Army's Western Defense Command



July 1, 1942 — Manzanar
Relocation Center,
Manzanar, California.
Making camouflage nets
for the War Department.
This is one of several War
and Navy Department proj-
ects carried on by persons
of Japanese ancestry in
relocation centers.

44



Richard Kobayashi, half-length portrait, standing,
facing front, holding a head of cabbage in each hand.

Throughout the year strong winds swept through the valley, often
blanketing the camp with dust and sand. Internees covered knot-
holes in the floors with tin can lids, but dust continued to blow in
between the floorboards until linoleum was installed in late 1942.



Tsutomu Fuhunago lifts a produce crate while
standing on top of a load of crates.

The camps were located in areas that made farming difficult and the prisoners ate a lot of army grub-style food.



A tractor pulls a plow through a field, mountains in the background.

"We went down Pine Street down to Fillmore to the number 22 streetcar, and he took the 22 streetcar and went to the SP (Southern Pacific) and took the train to San Jose. And that was the last time I saw him."

— Donald Nakahata, describing when his father, a journalist, left San Francisco to help Japanese Americans in San Jose on December 8, 1941



Miss Kay Fukuda, U.S. Naval cadet nurse, Corps head; head-and-shoulders portrait, facing front, in uniform.

Loyalty and Service

About 5,000 Japanese Americans were serving in the U.S. Army when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941. The U.S. military soon called for another 5,000 volunteers from the mainland and Hawaii. In January 1942, however, the Selective Service reclassified Japanese Americans as "enemy aliens" and stopped drafting them.



Tōyō Miyatake, bust portrait, facing front.

Nurse Aiko Hamaguchi and friends seated around a table playing bridge.



Emotions were intense during 1942 as the United States entered the war and Japanese Americans were moved to the relocation centers. Various protests and disturbances occurred at some centers over political differences, wages, and rumors of informers and black marketing. At Manzanar two people were killed and 10 were wounded by military police during the "Manzanar Riot" in December 1942.



Group of young women standing in line formation, each one reaching both of her arms straight up from her shoulders.



Girl and volley ball

Schools of elementary and high school grades are provided for children of school age. Lack of materials for the construction of school buildings has made it necessary to hold classes in barrack buildings and recreation halls, in most instances using homemade seats and generally improvised equipment. The curriculum is planned to meet the requirements of the state in which the center is located. It is expected that schools will operate the year around, with emphasis on work experience in the summer months. Evacuee teachers are employed to the extent that they are available, but since their number is insufficient, about half the teaching staff is composed of non-Japanese teachers.

The foregoing items: Housing, food, medical care and education through the high school level, make up the basic items which the War Relocation Authority provides to the evacuees. In addition, the evacuees are given the opportunity to earn cash compensation by performing the necessary work of the community, and by engaging in production of some of the commodities needed by the evacuees themselves.

The largest single group of workers is engaged in handling food; warehousemen, truck drivers, chefs, cooks, servers, etc. There is a considerable amount of clerical work in connection with the administration of the project, and it is done by evacuees. Each administrative division, responsible for schools, construction, agriculture, etc., headed by a Civil Service employee, has a staff of evacuees, which carries on not only the laboring jobs but also some of the "white collar" work as well. Evacuees who work at regularly assigned jobs are paid wages of \$12, \$16, or \$19 per month, depending on the type of work and the skill of the worker. Clothing, too, is regarded as a part of compensation, and cash allowances for clothing are paid to each worker, based upon the number of dependents he has. The maximum is \$3.75 per month for an adult, with allowances scaled down for children.

Inside the center evacuees are accorded about the same freedoms they would have outside. They speak in English or Japanese, operate their own newspapers, and worship as they choose. They operate their own stores, barber shops, shoe repair shops and other service enterprises on a non-profit cooperative basis. With limited resources and facilities they have developed extensive programs of recreation, including sports of many kinds, arts, crafts and hobbies.

Permits to Leave.

The growing scarcity of manpower resulted in demands early in 1942 that evacuees be available for some of the agricultural work in western states which ordinarily is performed by itinerant workers. During the spring and summer months of 1942, over 1,600 evacuees from assembly centers and relocation centers were recruited to cultivate sugar beets in states outside the evacuated areas. In the fall, the demand for labor to harvest sugar beets and other crops was much greater and about 10,000 were granted short term permits for work in the harvest fields. It is estimated that the sugar beets harvested by the evacuee workers in 1942 would make about 297,000,000 pounds of refined sugar. Many of the harvest workers were

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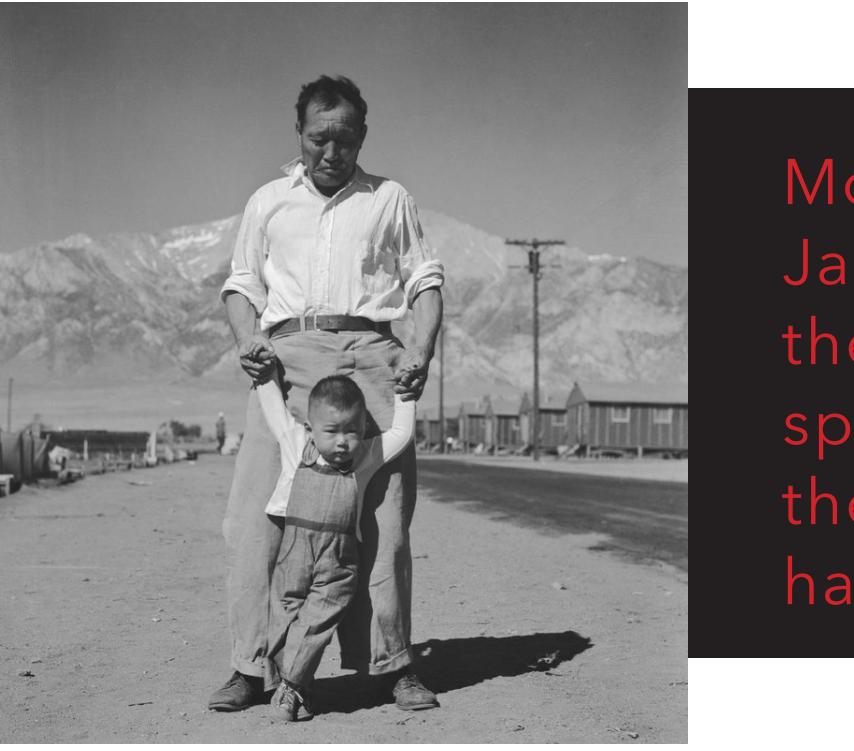
Young girl, half-length portrait, standing, facing left.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal

"The Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born on American soil, possessed of American citizenship, have become 'Americanized,' the racial strains are undiluted.

— General John L. DeWitt, head of the U.S. Army's Western Defense Command

Tensions intensified in 1943 when the government required internees to answer a "loyalty questionnaire." They were asked if they would serve in combat and if they would swear unqualified allegiance to the United States. Some older internees answered "no" because they were not allowed to become U.S. citizens. Others refused to serve while their families were behind barbed wire. Those who answered "yes" were considered "loyal" and became eligible for indefinite leave outside the West Coast military areas. Those who answered "no" were sent to a segregation center at Tule Lake, Calif.



More than 66% of the Japanese-Americans sent to the internment camps in the spring of 1942 were born in the United States and many had never been to Japan.



Teenagers walking along street, most carrying books.
G-M-1



Rose Fukuda, half-length portrait, seated at typewriter, facing front, with Roy Takeda seated at the desk in background.

*All persons born or
naturalized in
the United States,
and subject to its
jurisdiction*

...It, therefore, follows that along the vital Pacific Coast over 112,000 potential enemies, of Japanese extraction, are at large today. There are indications that these are organized and ready for concerted action at a favorable opportunity.

-Manzanar Free Press article on Pfc. Frank Arikawa's death

In January 1944 the draft was reinstated for Japanese Americans. Most of those who were drafted or volunteered joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Combined with the 100th Infantry Battalion of the Hawaiian Territorial Guard, the 442nd fought with distinction in North Africa, France, and Italy. With 9,846 casualties, the 100th/442nd had the highest casualty rate and was the most highly decorated Army unit for its size and length of service. Nearly 26,000 Japanese Americans served in the U.S. military during World War II.

Hank Umemoto

From 1942 to 1945, Umemoto was one of thousands who lived at Manzanar, a collection of wooden barracks surrounded by barbed wire fences and armed guards located at the foot of the eastern Sierra Nevada mountains in California's remote Owens Valley. In the months following the Pearl Harbor attack of Dec. 7, 1941, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes and businesses and relocate to one of 10 camps scattered across the West.

Although it has been 70 years since the end of World War II, the camps still leave their mark on the survivors of incarceration, who say it's as vital as ever to learn from the past and essential that people across the country are educated about this chapter of American history.

"It's what the camp represented that was harmful," Umemoto said. "It made us feel inferior, like we weren't patriotic. There were some times when I wished I wasn't Japanese."



Electric line repair crew at work on electric pole next to building.



After the war, Umemoto carried that same sense of shame. He left Manzanar on Aug. 6, 1945, with his mother and his sister. They went to live in a 9-foot by 12-foot room in a hotel owned by a family friend on the edge of Los Angeles' Skid Row. He was haunted by the images of U.S. wartime propaganda depicting the Japanese as cartoonish figures with slanted eyes and speaking broken English. By his first day at Roosevelt High School, he could already feel he was different.

"We were saying the Pledge of Allegiance and I couldn't," Umemoto said. "I just stood there with my hands by my side. Kids were giving me dirty looks but how could I stand there and put my hand over my heart for the country that really [messed] me up?"

After graduating high school, Umemoto enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Tokyo and preparing to be deployed to fight in the Korean War when he learned he had a chance to become an interpreter.

"Manzanar has its first gold star mother. We had dreaded the day when some family in Manzanar would receive the fateful telegram...."

-Manzanar Free Press article on Pfc. Frank Arikawa's death

Lingering Stigma



But he failed the Japanese language interpreter test. A friend managed to pull some strings and helped him stay in Tokyo for the next year and a half before he was sent home. He served six more years in the Army Reserve before being honorably discharged.

"After I got home I continued civilian life. I started gardening. I knew these people who had a nursery. In those days, Japanese were gardeners. And I went to night school at Los Angeles City College," Umemoto said.

He attended Cal State Los Angeles from 1954-1955, intending to graduate, but the shadow of Manzanar loomed over him.

"We had some required courses we needed to graduate," Umemoto said. "One of them was speech. I was embarrassed to be Japanese. I'm a Nisei [second generation] so I have an accent. I could see myself standing up there speaking broken English, a Jap."



Joyce Yuki Nakamura, bust portrait, facing front.

- 4 -

hired on a permanent basis by their employers, and have not returned to relocation centers.

In July, 1942, the War Relocation Authority announced a policy of permitting qualified American citizens among the evacuees to leave relocation centers to accept permanent jobs. On October 1, this policy with the approval of the War and Justice Departments was broadened to include aliens as well as citizens. Under present policies of the War Relocation Authority, any evacuee may apply for a permit of indefinite leave. The permit will be granted under the following conditions:

- a. He has a place to go and means of supporting himself;
- b. A check of records of the FBI and other intelligence agencies, plus the applicant's record of behavior in the relocation center indicates that he would not endanger national security;
- c. There is evidence that his presence in the community in which he proposes to go is not likely to cause a public disturbance;
- d. He agrees to keep the War Relocation Authority informed of his address at all times.

In addition to the several hundred evacuees who left relocation centers for harvest work and obtained permanent jobs, many others have been granted permits of indefinite leave; thousands have had their applications for leave approved, and their actual return to private life outside a relocation center awaits only the offer of a suitable job.

Of those who have left the relocation centers, agricultural and domestic workers have been most numerous, but the group also includes students, stenographers, cooks, hotel workers and a wide variety of skilled workers. One of the largest single categories to date has been wives and sweethearts leaving relocation centers to join soldiers of Japanese ancestry serving in the United States Army.

March, 1943.

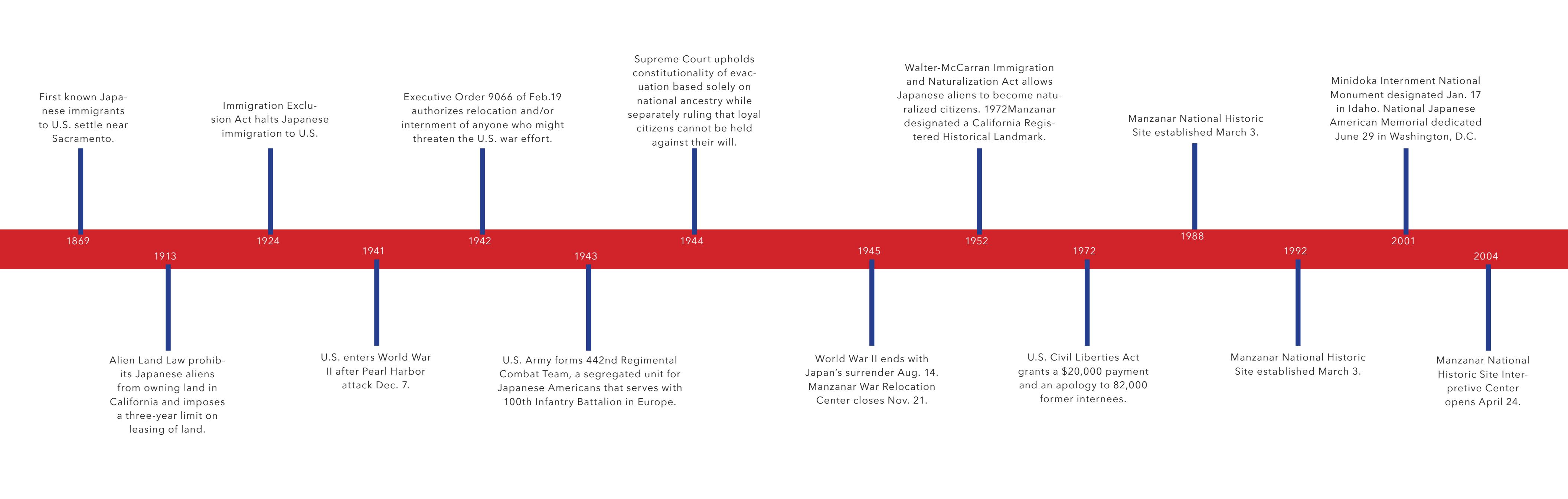
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5,766 Nisei prisoners renounced their American citizenship because they were sent to the internment camps. They were legal American citizens and even the courts had denied them their rights as such.

"A photographic record could protect against false allegations of mistreatment and violations of international law, but it carried the risk, of course, of documenting actual mistreatment."

nor be deprived of life, liberty, and property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken
— Linda Gordon, *Impounded: Dorothea Lange and the Censored Images of Japanese American Internment*



The last Japanese
internment camp in
the United States was
closed in 1945.



*among these are
Life, Liberty and...
Happiness.*