

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
Presidio of San Francisco, California
May 3, 1942

May 3, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY

ing Area:

1. Within that boundary beginning at a point of the Los Angeles River; thence westerly on East First Street (old line); thence northerly to and on First Street; thence north on Figueroa Street to the point of

of a family, or in cases of grave emergency, is affected by this excavation in the fall

Images or other depictions of nude female
male/female nude, sexual, anatomical and
erotic

By, or the person in whose name most of
First Central Station is located further
on Monday, May 2, 1943, at between





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.

BILL SUSUMU TAKETA

Family # 8584

Camp: Manzanar, CA

Address: 30-5-1



My father came to California as a young man about 1913 from Hiroshima, Japan to join his father who was settled in the Florin area. My mother, also from Hiroshima, came to California about 1923. I was born in Florin on 9-27-26 followed by my brother in 1930 and a sister in 1932. My father died in 1936 leaving my mother to raise 3 children. It was a difficult time for all of us during the post depression era.

The local community had segregated elementary school for Japanese American students. I attended segregated school until the 1939-40 school year. The school was finally integrated when I was in 8th grade.

During my freshman year at the Elk Grove H.S. Japan attacked Pearl Har-

During my freshman year at the Elk Grove H.S. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and World War II began. We experienced many difficult times at school until our evacuation May 30, 1942.

Our family was assigned to Block 30, Barrack 5, Apt. 1. We made do with what we were assigned since we had nothing except what we carried. We made the best of a difficult situation during our 3 years in the square mile camp bordering U.S. Highway 395.



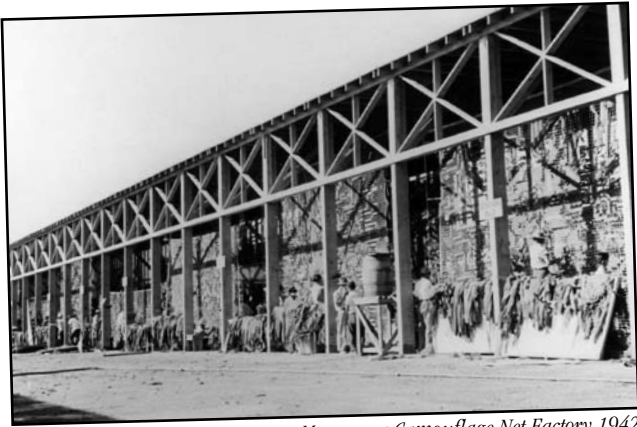
Arriving at Manzanar, 1942

The high school kept me occupied and out of mischief and I made new friends.

The high school kept me occupied and out of mischief and I made new friends. My idle times were spent playing basketball and baseball for our block teams. I did not participate in class



functions or school club activities since I worked part time to help the family finances. During the summer months I worked at the camouflage factory. My mother worked as a kitchen helper.



Manzanar Camouflage Net Factory 1942

The educators taught us not to dwell in the past but to look toward the new and better future.

I graduated with the class of '45 on May 1945.

After graduation, I left Manzanar for seasonal farm work in Ontario, Oregon. My stay outside was of short duration since I received my draft induction notice. The army sent me to Camp Hood, Texas. The War ended while I was still taking basic training. During my training, an Army Recruiter seeking



Japanese Americans with Japanese language skill volunteered me for the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.



Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1942



After my service time I returned to Florin where our family had resettled. We all pitched in to start all over again. I worked at odd jobs while attending night classes at Heald's Business College with GI Bill tuition program. I finally found my career in banking with Bank of America. They provided me

America is truly a land of opportunity for those who accept the challenge to build a better future for all its citizens.

educational opportunity to attend SMU during the 3 summers to further my advancement in banking. I retired after 31 years of service. Now I am on my 8th year on a second career as a babysitter for my 2 grandchildren.

I had a wonderful life in spite of many adversities beyond my control. America is truly a land of opportunity for those who accept the challenge to build a better future for all its citizens.



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.

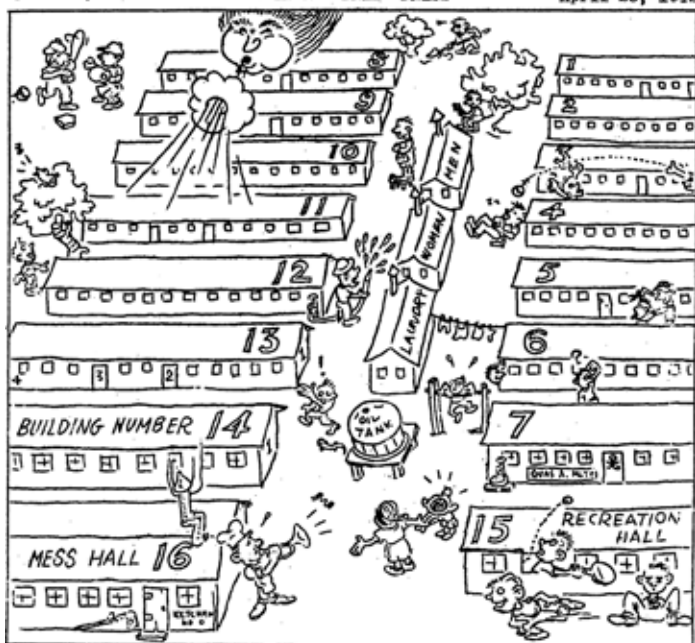
Acreage: 6,000

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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