

# AMERICA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS

The Forced Relocation and Incarceration of West Coast Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II



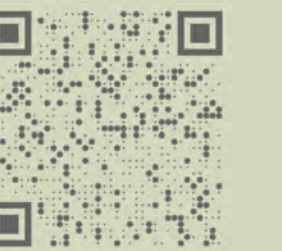
Amache, 1944 (courtesy Densho, the George Ochikubo Collection)

# Amache

## COLORADO



For more information about EO 9066:



Location:	near Granada, Colorado
Peak Population:	7,318
Size:	10,500 acres (central camp area 640 acres)
Detainees originally from:	Los Angeles, San Diego, Central Valley and Northern California Coast
Notable Detainees:	Mike Honda (Congressman) Pat Suzuki (Singer)
Fact:	The smallest of the camps, Amache operated its own silkscreen print shop. The Navy contracted the shop to make 250,000 posters for naval training.

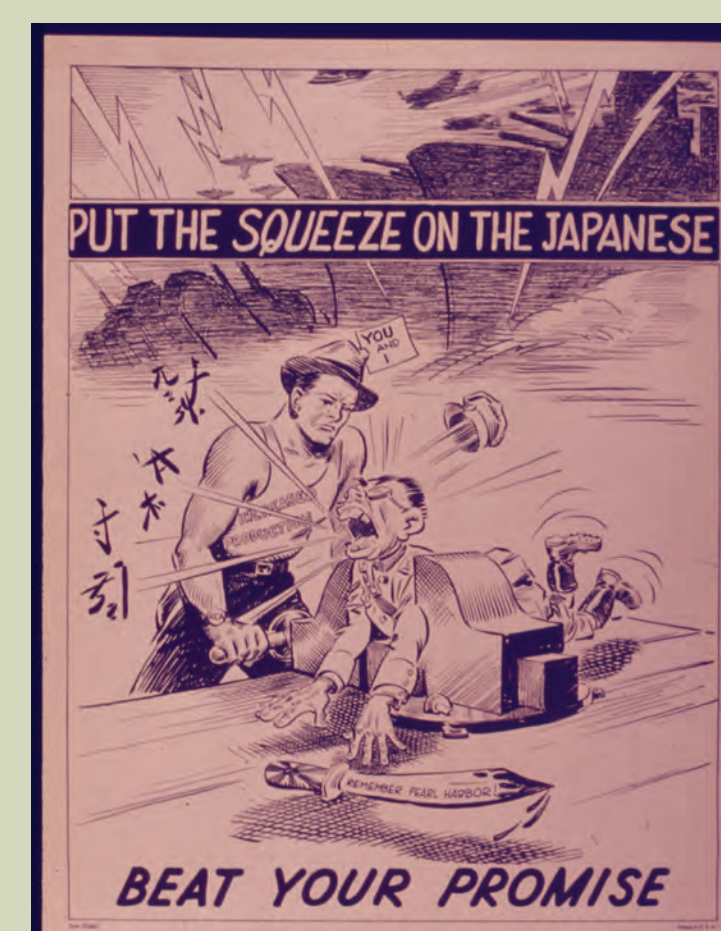
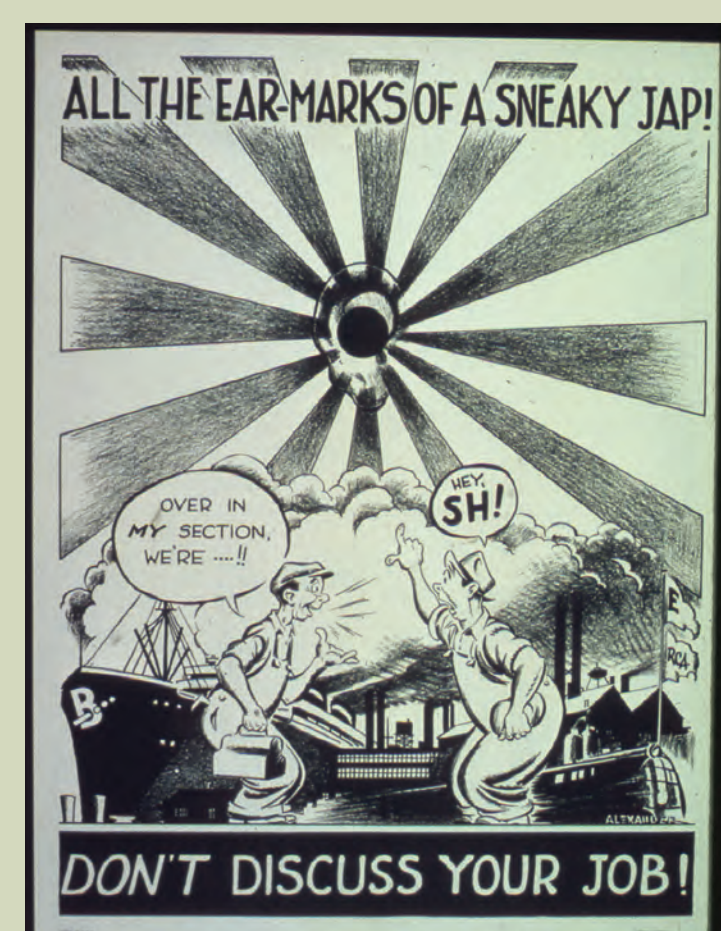
## Executive Order 9066 and the Incarceration of 120,000 People of Japanese Descent



A few months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which permanently changed the lives of

Japanese and Japanese Americans living on the West Coast. Over 120,000 Japanese immigrants and those of Japanese descent were forcibly removed from their homes and put into isolated camps away from their communities and livelihoods. Two-thirds of those incarcerated were American citizens.

Photo above, Exclusion orders posted in San Francisco, issued April 1, 1942. Dorothea Lange photo (courtesy National Archives and Records Administration), right, propaganda posters (courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)



The government justified these actions for the security of the United States against Japan and also the “protection” of the West Coast Japanese and Japanese Americans against retribution for Pearl Harbor. These were both later proved false by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in the 1980s. Not one Japanese national or Japanese American was ever found guilty of sabotage or espionage.

Long standing and widespread racism was the underlying reason for the incarceration. People were threatened by the success of Japanese Americans in agriculture, fisheries and other businesses. Newspapers such as those owned by William Randolph Hearst used scare tactics and drummed up fear which created an atmosphere of hysteria.

## Drumming up fear in real time

Are there events today where stoking people's fear of the unknown can result in group hysteria directed at a group of people?



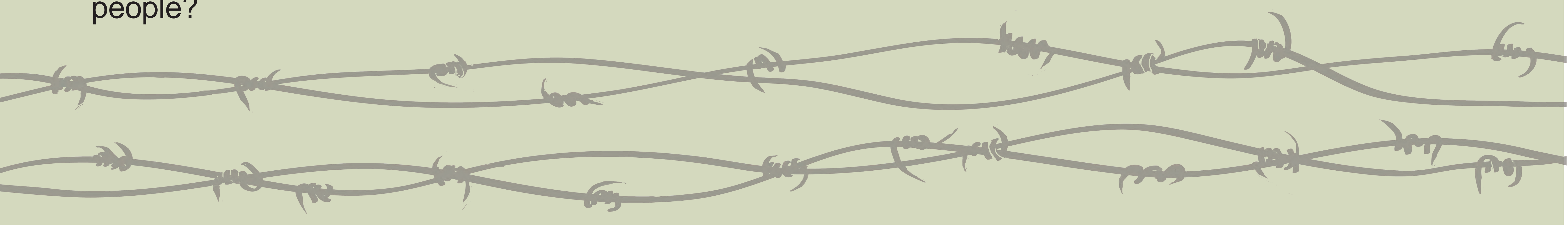
## Do Words Matter?

*"We gave the fancy name of 'relocation centers' to these dust bowls, but they were concentration camps nonetheless."*

— Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, 1946

One of the strategies employed by the federal government to sell the forced removal and confinement of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II was the use of euphemistic terms that masked the true nature of what was being done. Japanese Americans were “evacuated” — as if from a natural disaster or for their own protection — from their homes and sent to “assembly centers” and “relocation centers,” names that gloss over the fact that these were concentration, prison, or detention camps.

— from Densho Encyclopedia



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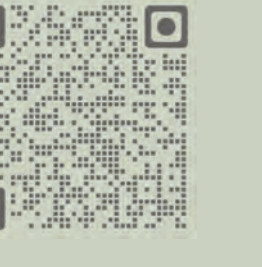
Eleanor Roosevelt visiting Gila River, 1943 (photo, F. Stewart, courtesy National Archives)

## Gila River ARIZONA

Location:	near Sacaton, Arizona
Peak Population:	13,348
Size:	17,000 acres
Detainees originally from:	Los Angeles, Sacramento, Amador, San Joaquin and Tulare Counties, California, and Hawaii
Notable Detainees:	Noriuki "Pat" Morita (actor) Dr. Masumi Hayashi (photographer)
Fact:	This camp was one of the least oppressive with no barbed wire and only one watchtower. It was the only camp visited by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1943, who strongly opposed internment after her visit.



For more information about the camps:



## Exiles in their own country

A few months after Pearl Harbor, Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans were ordered to leave their homes and to report for transportation to assembly centers. There was little time to prepare and some had less than 48 hours to evacuate. Instructed to bring only bedding, clothing and personal effects, they could take only what they could carry. They were forced to quickly sell their personal possessions, homes and thriving businesses at bargain prices and abandon what they couldn't sell. It was estimated that billions of dollars of losses of wages and property were incurred by the forced removal.

Initially, incarcerated were sent to temporary detention camps (assembly centers). Conditions there were appalling and often located at former race tracks and fairgrounds. Living quarters were primitive, and many were horse and animal stalls. Rooms were uncomfortable and walls let in wind, cold and dust. Families shared one small room and sometimes with strangers. There was no privacy, as the partitions dividing the sections were open at the top, and noise traveled, especially at night. Restroom facilities were unsanitary and overcrowded. There were long lines for the mess hall, bathrooms, laundry and other places. These living conditions were a radical shift from the comfortable homes they were forced to leave behind.

Unfortunately, living conditions did not improve after transferring to the detention camps which were hastily-built, single-board barracks thrown up in remote, isolated locations.

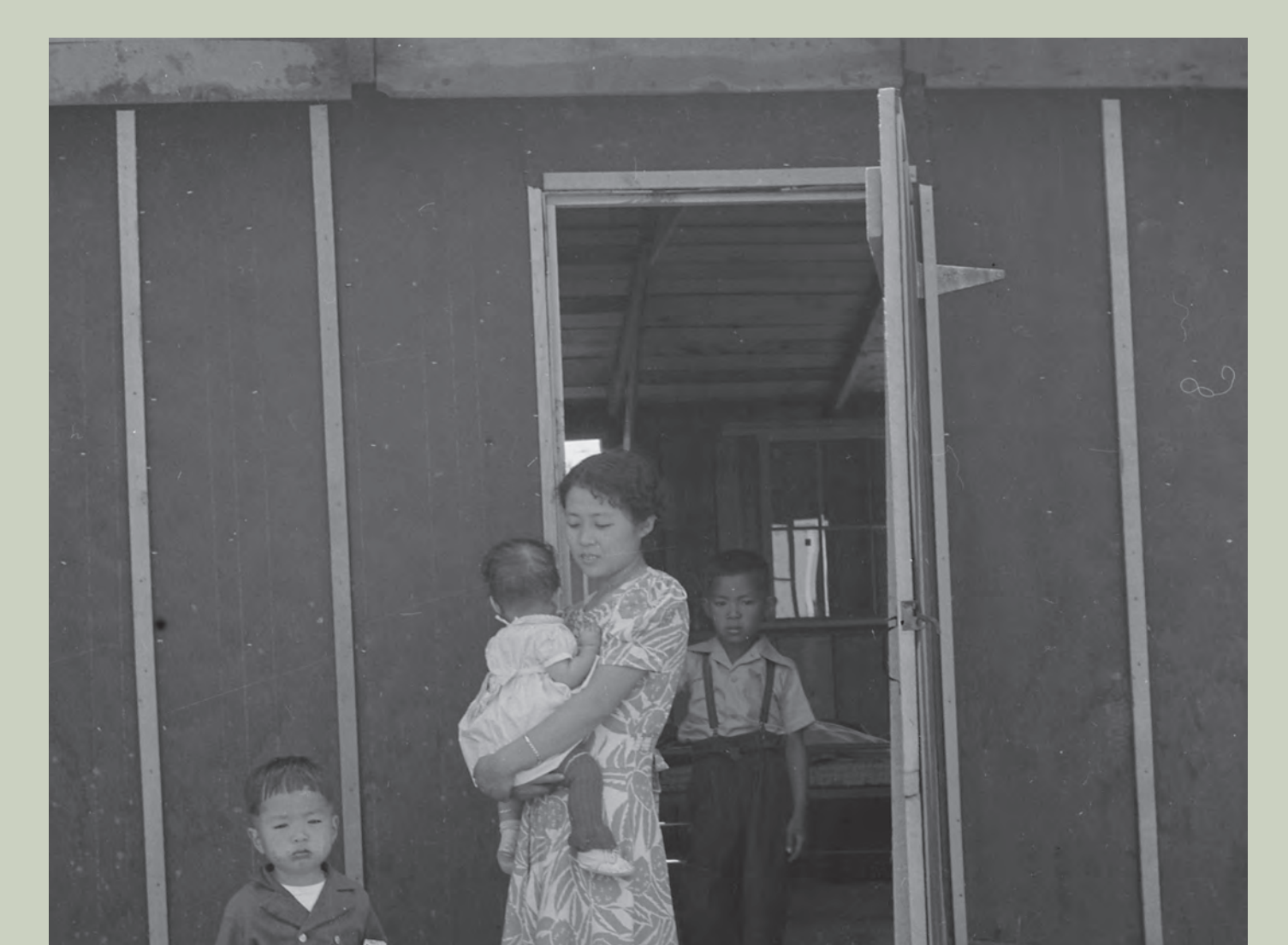


Photo above, top, Japanese American store closure, Oakland, CA, photo second from top, farm families board bus, Centerville, CA, photo third from top, barracks, Tanforan Assembly Center, bottom photo, family arriving in Stockton, CA, 1942 (photos, Dorothea Lange, courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)

## Forced from home

If you had 48 hours notice to leave your home indefinitely and you could only take what you could carry, what would you bring?

### Faces of Evacuation

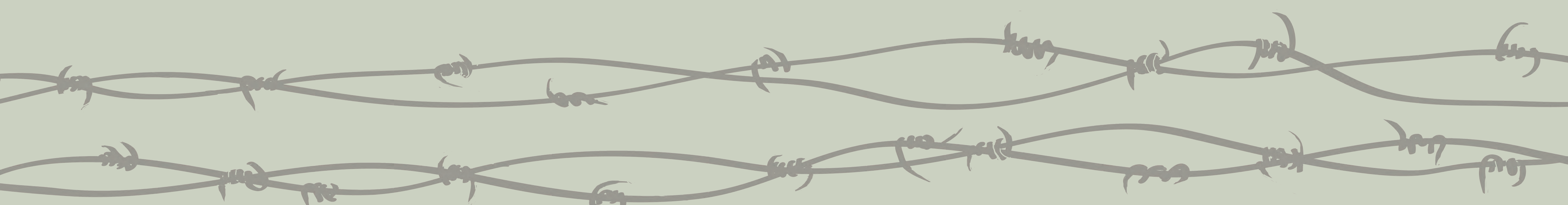


Dorothea Lange was a documentary photographer hired by the War Relocation Authority (WRA) to photograph the forced relocation and incarceration of Japanese

Americans in 1942. Lange's photographs were unique in not wavering from showing the true emotions they experienced on their journey from being uprooted from homes, businesses and friends and shipped off to concentration camps. Other WRA photographers included Ansel Adams and Tom Parker.



Clockwise from top left, Kimiko Kitagaki watching luggage waiting for bus to Tanforan Assembly Center, Oakland, CA, grandfather waits for bus, Centerville, CA, Mochida family in Hayward, CA, family waiting for train to Merced Assembly Center, Woodland, CA, 1942 (Dorothea Lange photos, courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)



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Jerome, 1943 (courtesy National Archives)

## Jerome ARKANSAS



For more information about camp life:



Location:	Southeastern Arkansas in the Arkansas Delta
Peak Population:	8,497
Size:	10,042 acres
Detainees originally from:	Los Angeles, Sacramento and Central Valley area in California and Honolulu, Hawaii
Notable Detainees:	Yuri Kochiyama, activist Lawson Fusao Inada, poet
Fact:	Jerome was the last of the camps to open and the first closing at the end of June 1944. Later it became a German prisoner-of-war camp. It was the only War Relocation Authority (WRA) camp to have significant population from Hawaii.

## Life Behind Barbed Wire



Incarcerates were sent by train from temporary assembly centers to ten permanent detention camps. Familiar landscapes disappeared and gave way to the isolated and harsh climates of desolate mountains, deserts, and swamps.



Weather conditions were severe with freezing cold winters becoming unbearably hot summers, and frequent dust storms. Approaching camp, they saw their future home –



tar-papered barracks surrounded by barbed wire and towers with armed guards.



The Japanese Americans strove to make their new communities as comfortable as possible, rebuilding their living spaces with scrap lumber, fashioning crafts and objects of beauty out of what they could find, and creating clubs and

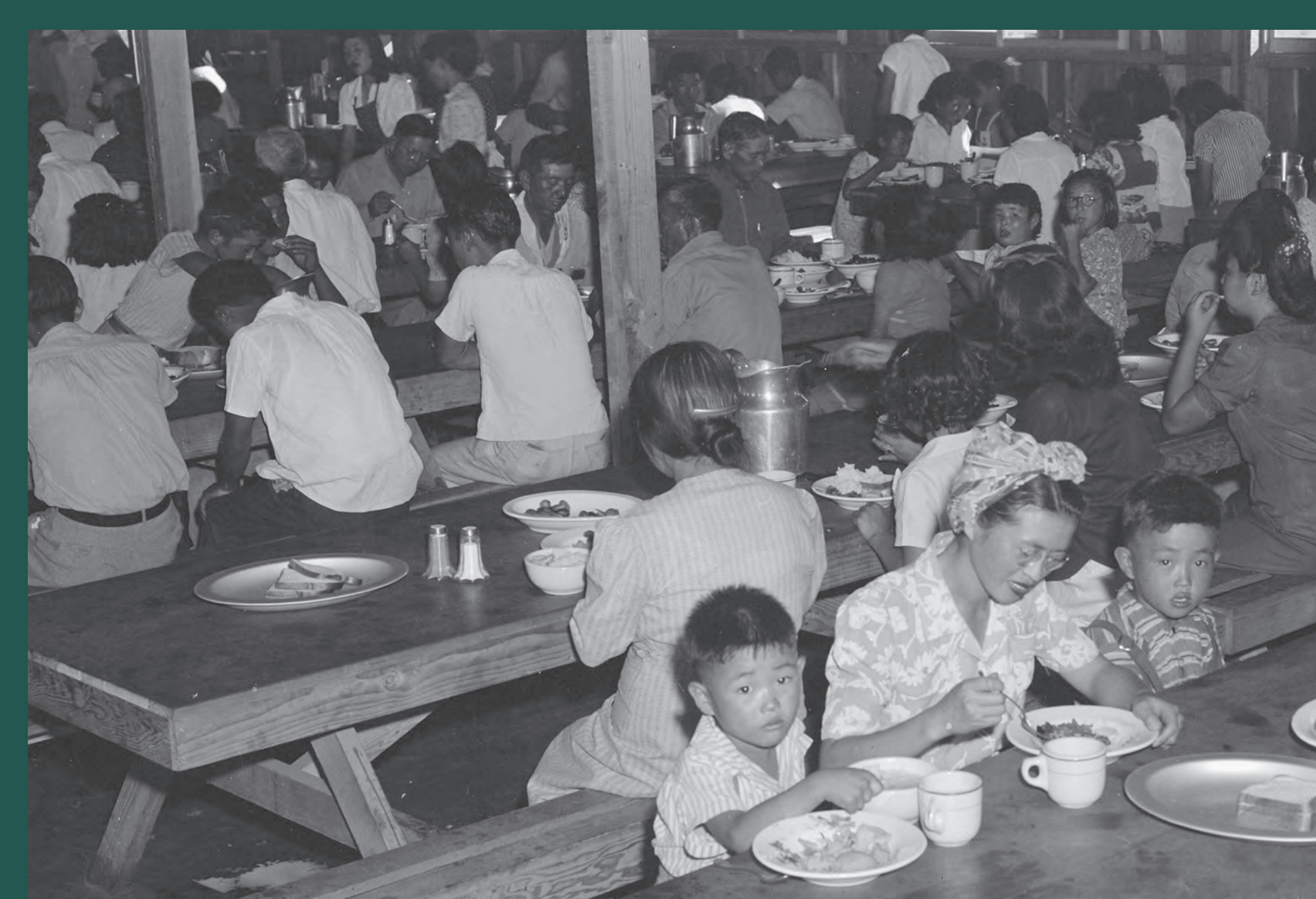
physical activities that would improve their lives. Adults took on all aspects of employment in the camps, as farmers, food workers – all vocations that would exist in a community outside of confinement. Salaries fell way below compensation outside of the camps. Within the camps, Japanese American doctors received \$19 per month compared to a white nurse's pay of \$150 per month, a further injustice.

## What would you miss?

What activities do you enjoy today that would not be possible to do in a prison camp?



Far left top, Mess hall line at Manzanar, 1942 (photo by Dorothea Lange, courtesy National Archives), far left, upper middle, camp snow scene (courtesy National Archives) far left lower middle, winter thaws become mud, Tule Lake, 1943 (photo Francis Stewart, courtesy National Archives), far left bottom, Rohwer carver, Tom Parker photo (courtesy National Archives), immediate left, inside Manzanar housing, 1942 (Dorothea Lange photo, courtesy National Archives)



Mess hall meal at Manzanar, 1942, Dorothea Lange photo (courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)

## No Table for Two

Eating cheek to jowl, cafeteria-style may be fun for one night, but can you imagine this arrangement 3 meals a day, 7 days a week, for up to 3 1/2 years? That was the seating arrangement for the 120,000 Japanese Americans in the 10 camps. Families did not sit together for meals, which was not the custom.

Though teenagers found the communal seating a great way to pal up with friends, Issei (first-generation) parents bemoaned the loss of the uniting structure of the household dinner table, where values and family morés were shared and parents had more influence on their children's behaviors.



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Tule Lake (courtesy Densho Archives)

## Tule Lake CALIFORNIA

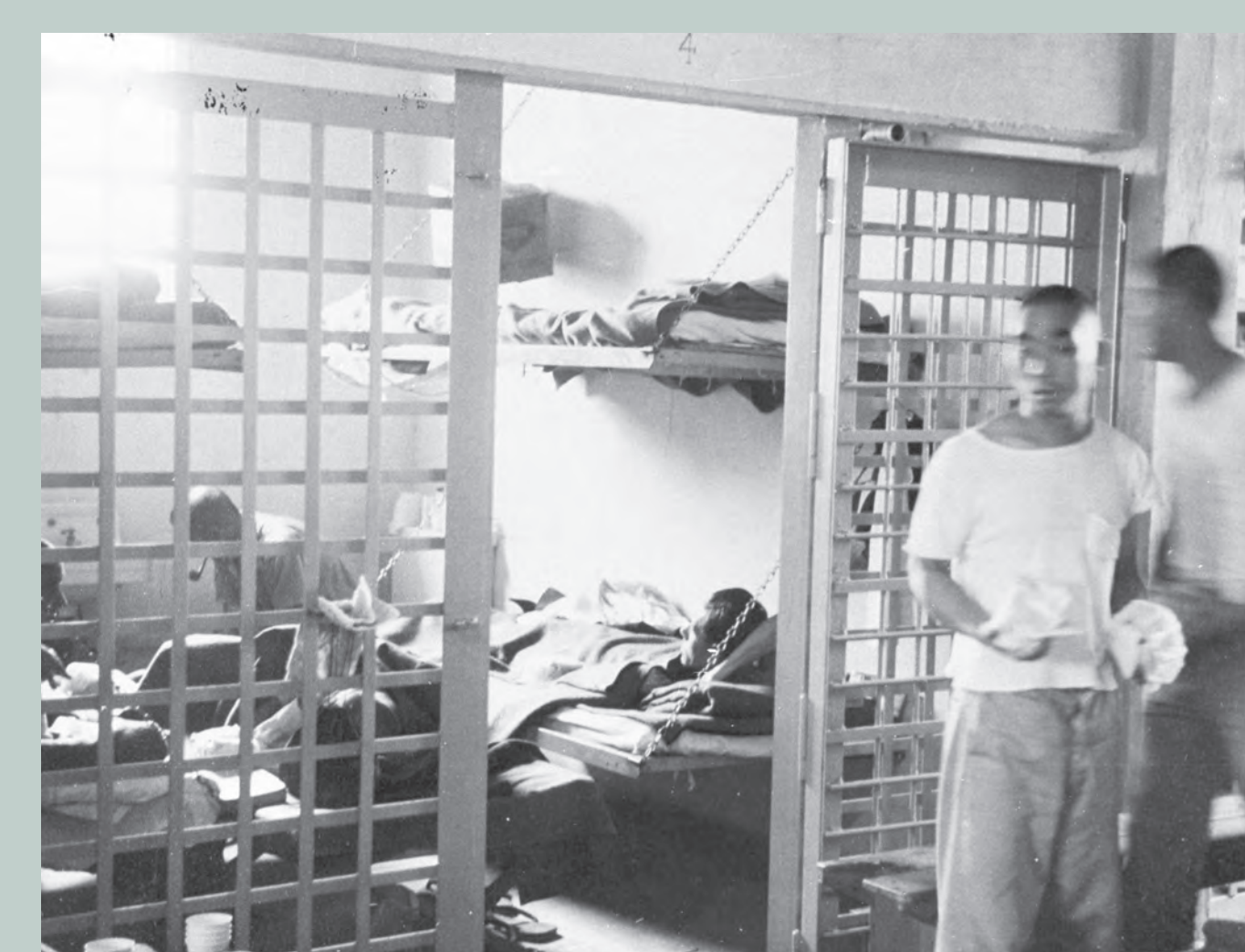
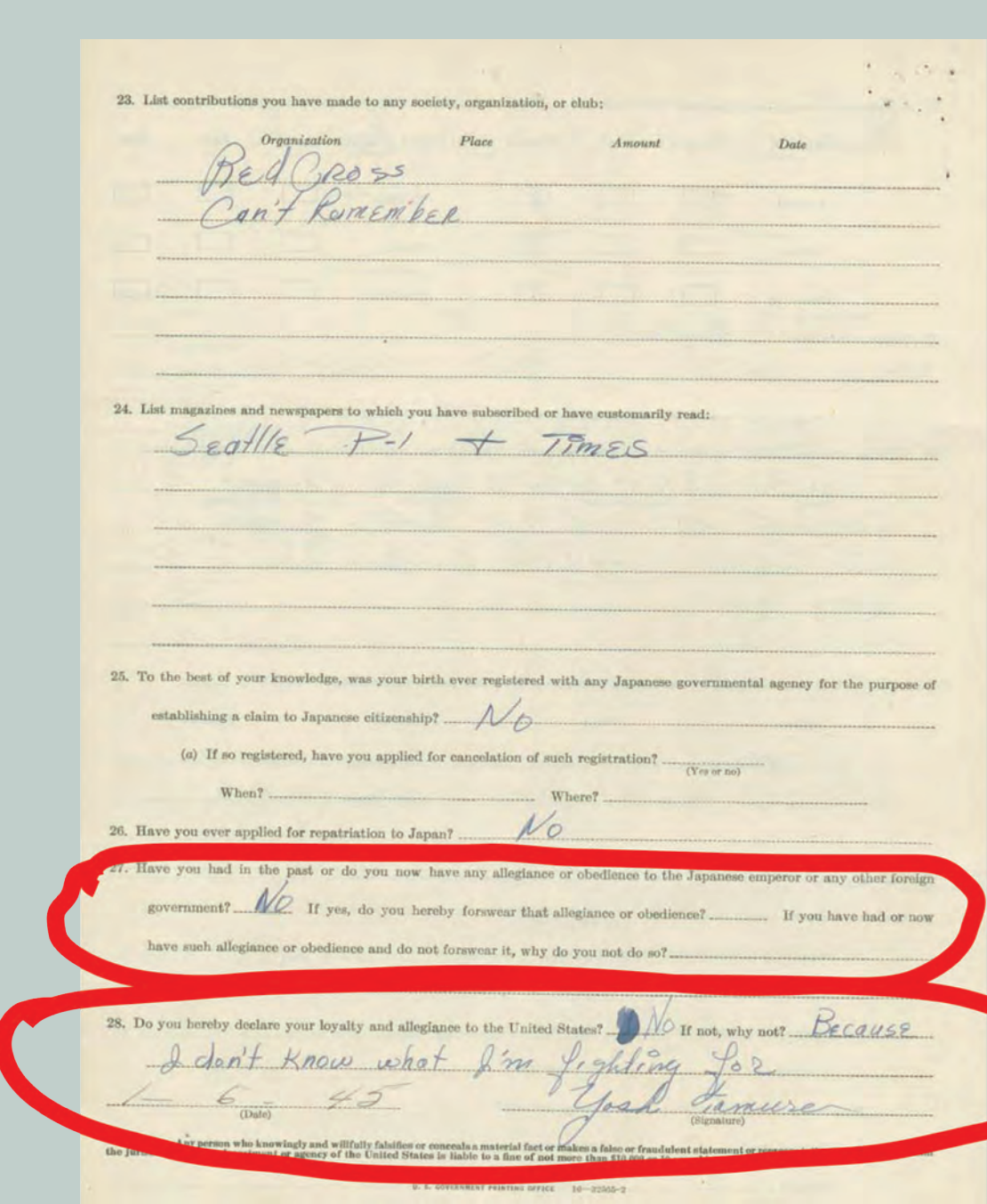


For more information about the No No Boys:



Location:	near Newell, California
Peak Population:	8,789
Size:	4,685 acres
Detainees originally from:	Sacramento and Central Valley area in California, Portland, Hood River in Oregon, King County, Washington and Hawaii
Notable Detainees:	Masaaki Kuwabara (activist/lead defendant on draft resister case) Frank Tanabe (WWII veteran) Harvey Itano (bio-chemist) Tommy Kono (Olympic gold medalist and world recordholder weightlifter)
Fact:	Tule Lake became a maximum security segregation prison camp used to separate and hold detainees from all the camps who were considered disloyal or disruptive.

## Questions 27 and 28: Consequences of the Loyalty Questionnaire and the No No Boys



Left, "loyalty questionnaire" completed by James Yosh Tamura at Minidoka, 1944 (courtesy National Archives and Records Administration), above, Tule Lake "jail" within a jail where many incarcerated were confined without charges in abusive conditions, (courtesy National Archives)

In 1943, the War Relocation Authority (WRA) created a questionnaire whose purpose was twofold: to identify Nisei (second-generation) men who could serve in the U.S. military and to select "loyal" Japanese Americans for relocation in states outside of the West Coast confinement zone. The last two questions, 27 and 28, caused confusion and division in the camp communities. (These questions were later revised in 1944, shown above).

Question 27 asked if Nisei men were willing to fight for the United States in combat wherever ordered.

Question 28 asked individuals to forswear allegiance to the Emperor of Japan and give unqualified allegiance to the United States.

About 20,000 Nisei men refused to answer the questions or answered one or both with a "no". Some answered "no" to express anger at being asked to serve a country that imprisoned them. Others were in a "Catch 22". As American citizens they never had allegiance to the Emperor of Japan. The Issei (Japanese nationals) faced another problem: if they gave up their citizenship to Japan, they were barred from becoming U.S. citizens based on their race.

Those who answered negatively to both questions were labeled "No-No Boys," and were shunned by the other detainees.

The "disloyal" were sent to a segregation facility at Tule Lake concentration camp. Shortly after arrival, these prisoners organized to improve the poor living and working conditions. When prisoner protests escalated, martial law was declared.

## How loyal are you?

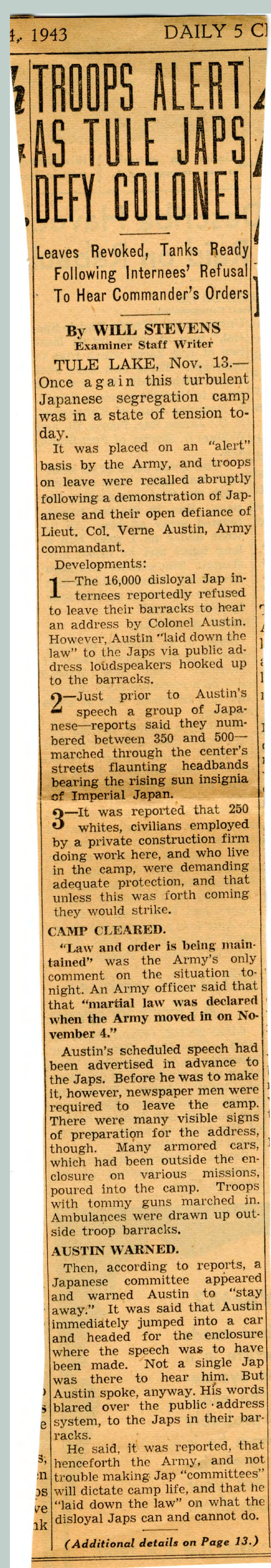
Given the same set of circumstances, how would you answer questions 27 and 28?

## The Humboldt County Trial of the Tule Lake Draft Resisters

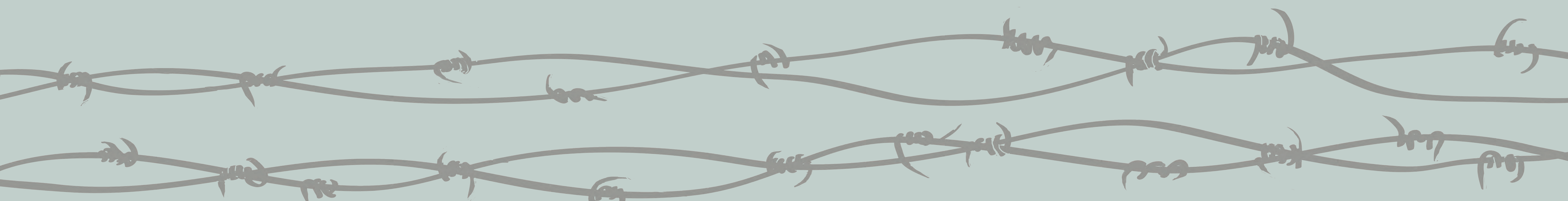


Block 42, Tule Lake draft resisters, 1944 (courtesy Mamoru "Mori" and James Tanimoto)

Martial law ended in January, 1944, but days later, young Nisei received army draft notices. In protest, 27 refused to report for physicals and were arrested and put on trial for draft evasion. The U.S. District Judge Louis Goodman dismissed the case in Eureka, CA, writing, "It is shocking to the conscience that an American citizen be confined on the grounds of disloyalty, and then while so under duress and restraint, be compelled to serve in the armed forces, or be prosecuted for not yielding to such compulsion."



above, San Francisco Examiner article by Will Stevens appearing in the November 13, 1943 paper



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Rohwer (courtesy Densho Archives)

## Rohwer ARKANSAS

Location:	near McGehee, Arkansas, 27 miles north of Jerome concentration camp
Peak Population:	8,475
Size:	10,161 acres
Detainees originally from:	Los Angeles and San Joaquin County, California
Notable Detainees:	George Takei (actor/activist) Ruth Asawa (sculptor)
Fact:	Detainees established and ran their own co-op. This non-profit organization ran the camp's dry goods store, dry cleaning, beauty salon, and movie screenings, a total of 27 services.



For more information about the 442nd:



Sadao Munemori and 442nd commemorative statue, Pietrasanta, Italy

## “Go for Broke”

National “Go For Broke” Day is celebrated on April 5 every year because it was on April 5, 1945, that Pfc. Sadao Munemori, the 442nd RCT's first Medal of Honor recipient, was killed in action near Seravezza, Italy.

“Go For Broke” was derived from Hawaiian gamblers' slang to risk it all in order to win big. It was an apt motto for the soldiers of the 442nd and 100th Infantry Battalion. As Nisei, or second-generation Japanese Americans, they needed to put everything on the line to “win big.” For these Nisei, they were fighting to win two wars: the war against the Germans in Europe and the war against racial prejudice in America.

## The 442nd and the 100th Infantry Battalion

In 1943, the War Department issued a call for volunteers for a segregated combat unit. Prior to that, Americans of Japanese descent were declared enemy aliens by the U.S. War Department and barred from enlisting. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was activated in the spring of 1943. While serving, about one-third of the soldiers in the 442nd had family members imprisoned in Japanese American concentration camps. The 442nd, with the combat-hardened 100th Infantry Battalion of Hawaiian Japanese Americans became the most decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size and length of service.

More than 30,000 Nisei served in the armed forces, mostly in Europe. Others served in the Pacific theater with intelligence operations and as interpreters interviewing POWs. Over 800 Nisei soldiers were killed in action during WWII.

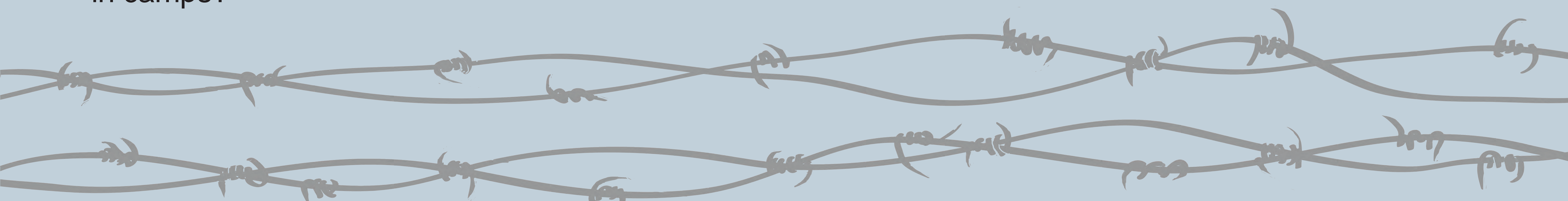
In less than two years of combat, the 442nd earned more than 18,000 awards, including 9,486 Purple Hearts, 4,000 Bronze Stars and 21 Medals Of Honor. Upon their return to the U.S., they were praised by President Harry Truman for their bravery who stated, *“You fought the enemy abroad and prejudice at home and you won.”*



Above, right, Memorial service for 442nd servicemen, Amache (photo George Ochikubo, courtesy George Ochikubo Collection) middle, right, Chambois sector, France, 1944 (courtesy Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee and the U.S. Army), bottom, right, 442nd RCT runs from German artillery shelling, Italy 1945 (courtesy of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee and the U.S. Army)

## Fighting to right a wrong?

Would you volunteer to fight for the United States overseas if your family was being unfairly detained in camps?



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Heart Mountain (courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)

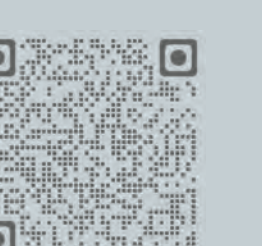
# Heart Mountain

## W Y O M I N G



Location:	near Cody, Wyoming
Peak Population:	10,767
Size:	46,000 acres
Detainees Originally From:	Los Angeles, Santa Clara and San Francisco, California Yakima, Washington and Oregon
Notable Detainees:	Norm Mineta (politician) Bill Hosokawa (writer) Bob Kuwahara (animator)
Fact:	Heart Mountain detainees were known for draft resistance and only 38 Nisei volunteered for military service, while approximately 800 Nisei renounced their U.S. citizenship.

For more information about Big Bands:



## Big Bands in the Camps



Left, the Downbeats, Tule Lake (courtesy Mabel Sugiyama Eto Family Collection), below, the Jive Bombers, Manzanar, photo Toyo Miyatake (courtesy Bruce Kaji)



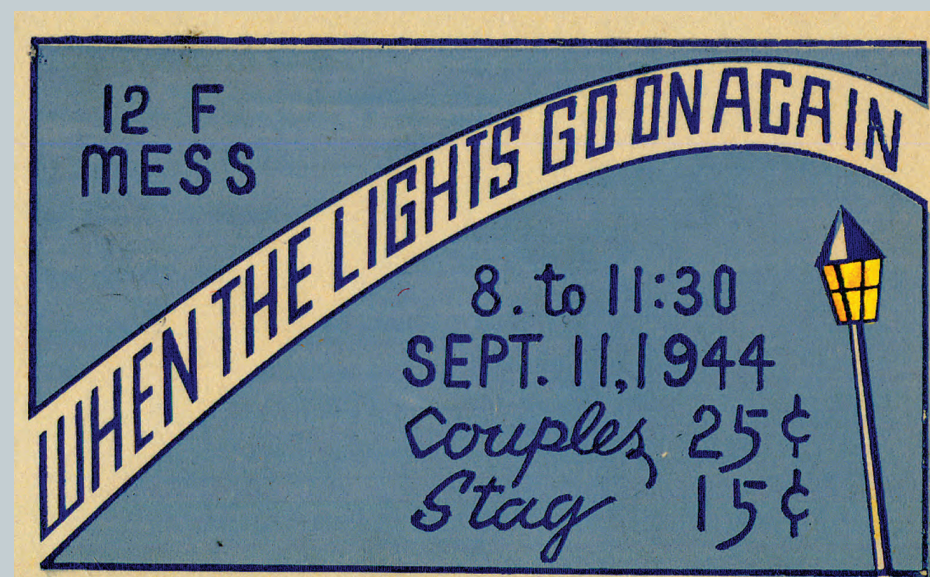
New Year's Dance at the camp hospital, Tule Lake (Bagley photo, courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)



Poston Music Makers, Camp 1 (photo courtesy George Yoshida)

Twenty bands. Names like the Jive Bombers, the Melody Makers, the D-Elevens, the Stardusters. Playing music from the top of the charts outside of the barbed wire: Jimmy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Harry James, Duke Ellington.

Big bands proliferated in the camps like the sagebrush that surrounded them. It was the music of the youth, the young Nisei, second-generation Japanese Americans. And for the time that they performed or they danced, these young Americans were able to escape the drudgery, the humiliation and discomfort of incarceration and connect with their music. It was a healing force, and created self esteem and pride for those beaten down by the injustices of their imprisonment.



Left and above, dance invitations for Amache dances (courtesy, Ayano Kuwatani)

The George Igawa Band (photo courtesy Yutaka Hamamoto)



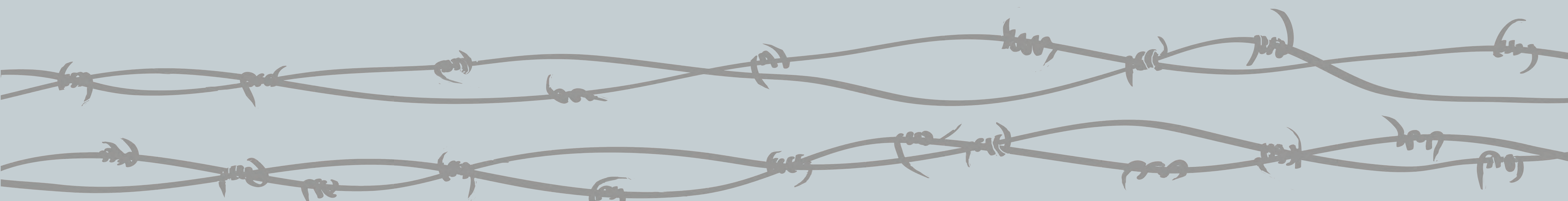
### Heart Mountain's Semi-professional Touring Band: The George Igawa Band

Of the twenty big bands in the camps, the G.I. Band had the distinction of traveling outside of the confines of the camps. Before the war broke out, George Igawa led the L.A. Sho Tokyans, touring the West Coast and Japan in 1937-1938. The band morphed into the G.I. Band at Heart Mountain and played for neighboring towns, often raising money for war bonds and local charities. After performing, they were escorted back to Heart Mountain Concentration Camp behind barbed wire.

Yone Fukui was a teenage trumpeter in the band who later was drafted and served in military intelligence. He was a fixture at the Humboldt State University brass chamber workshops for many summers in the 2000s.



above left, Yone Fukui, San Francisco, 2011, above right, Yone Fukui with Wesley Jazz Ensemble, San Jose, CA 2013



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Poston (photo by Fred Clark, courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)

## Poston ARIZONA



For more information about the Art of Gaman:



Location:	near Parker, Arizona
Peak Population:	17,814
Size:	71,000 acres
Detainees originally from:	Arizona, Central and Southern California Oregon and Washington
Notable Detainees:	Saburo Kido (JACL President) Isamu Noguchi (Sculptor)
Fact:	Poston was built on the Colorado River Indian Reservation lands. This was opposed by the Tribal Council because they did not wish to participate in an injustice. It also had the most diverse staff, including many African Americans.



Left, Butsudan, (a household shrine for Buddhist artifacts), made by Risuku Sahara out of wooden packing crates, Jerome (photo Vicki Ozaki, courtesy Fukushima family), below, bird pins fashioned from scrap wood, carved by Jim Yumae, Poston, (photo Vicki Ozaki, courtesy Laurie Takao)



## Finding Beauty in Unlikely Places

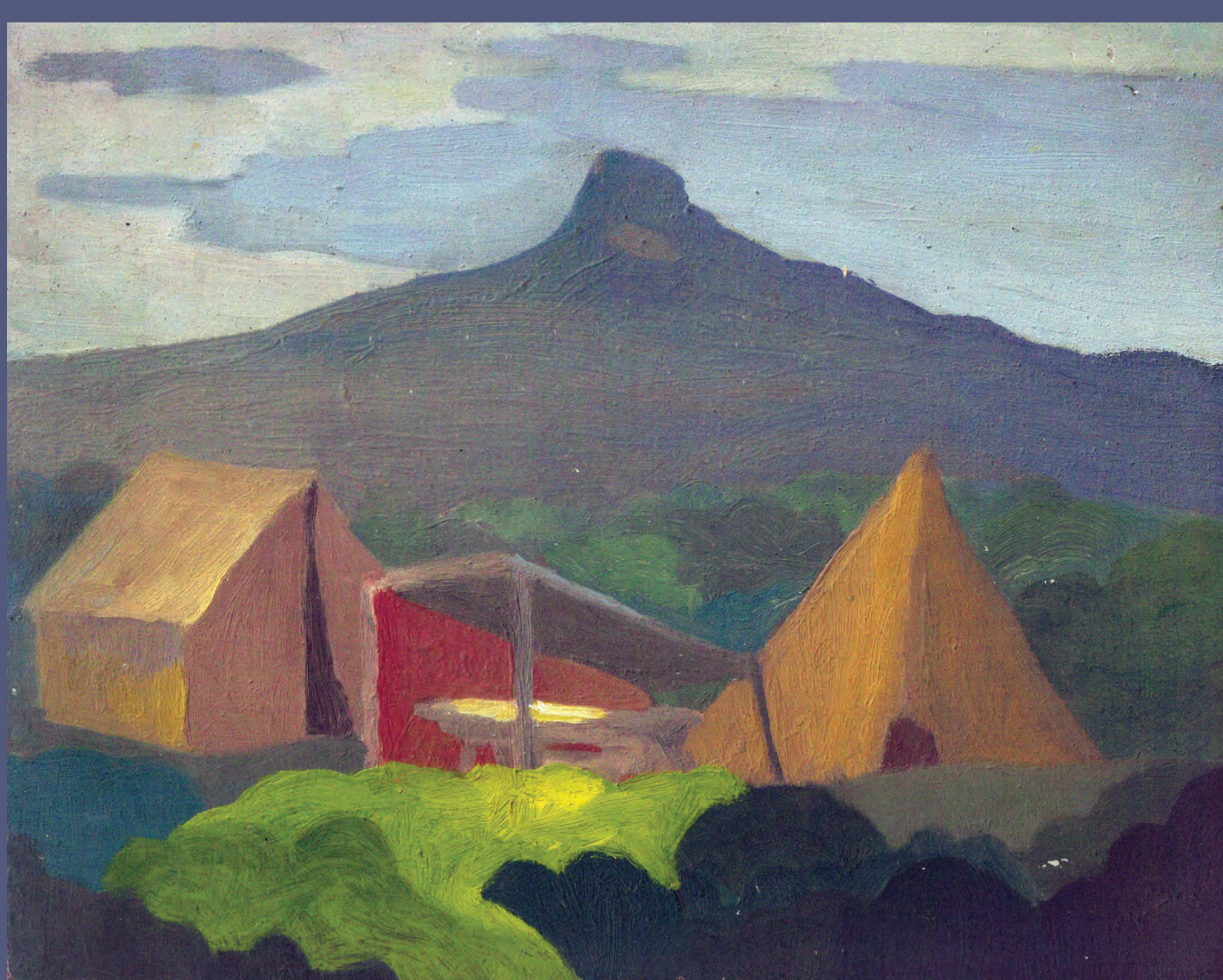
### The Art of Gaman

(from Delphine Hirasuna)



Pine and shellac cow, Akira Oye (Collection Ron and Michiko Oye and Family, courtesy Bellevue Arts Museum)

Gaman (pronounced gá-h-mon) means enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity. For many Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II, art was a way to gaman. The camps were located in bleak surroundings with cramped living quarters containing nothing more than cots. Incarcerates used scrap lumber, discarded items, and found materials on site to make furniture and other objects to beautify their surroundings. Virtually nothing was thrown away in camp without examining it for its craft-making possibilities.



Heart Mountain Boy Scout Camp, oil painting by Roy Ozaki (photo by Vicki Ozaki, courtesy Ozaki family)

Apart from being a means to acquire basic furnishings, the making of arts and handicrafts was seen by the camp administrators and incarcerated as a way to alleviate the boredom and the feeling of futility brought on by prolonged confinement. With an average of 10,000 incarcerated to an area of roughly a square mile, quelling unrest was critical.

Objects from each camp were made from indigenous materials found around them. Tule Lake was situated over a dry lake bed and became known for decorative objects made from shells; Gila River and Poston, for their carved and polished ironwood and cactus; Minidoka, for painted stones and greasewood carvings; Heart Mountain, for embroidered pictures; Topaz, for objects carved from slate.; Amache, for miniature landscapes; Jerome and Rower, for their hardwood furniture and cypress root forms; and Manzanar, for carved wooden bird pins.

Many lovely objects were handmade by prisoners in concentration camps, surrounded by barbed wire fences, guarded by soldiers in watchtowers, with guns pointed down at them. The arts and crafts originating during this time is a testament to their perseverance, resourcefulness, spirit and humanity.

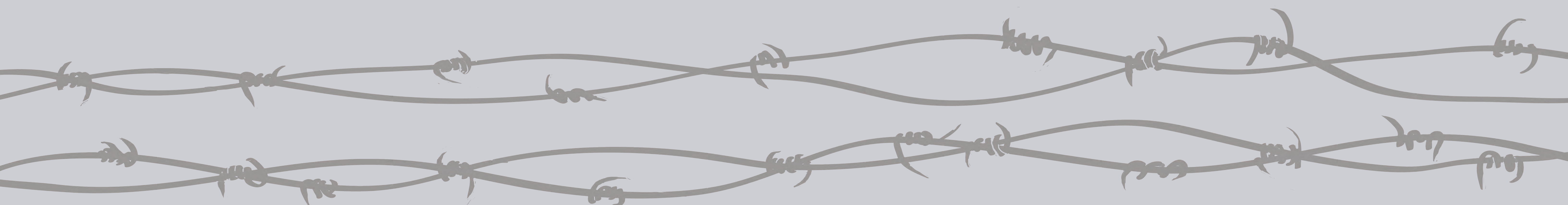


Akira Oye scissors forged out of scrap metals, Rowher (Collection Ron and Michiko Oye and Family, courtesy Bellevue Arts Museum)



Kinoe Adachi samurai sculpture made from shells, Topaz (courtesy Dennis Katayama and family Collection)

(modified from The Art of Gaman by Delphine Hirasuna, photos unless listed otherwise: Tony Hefferman)



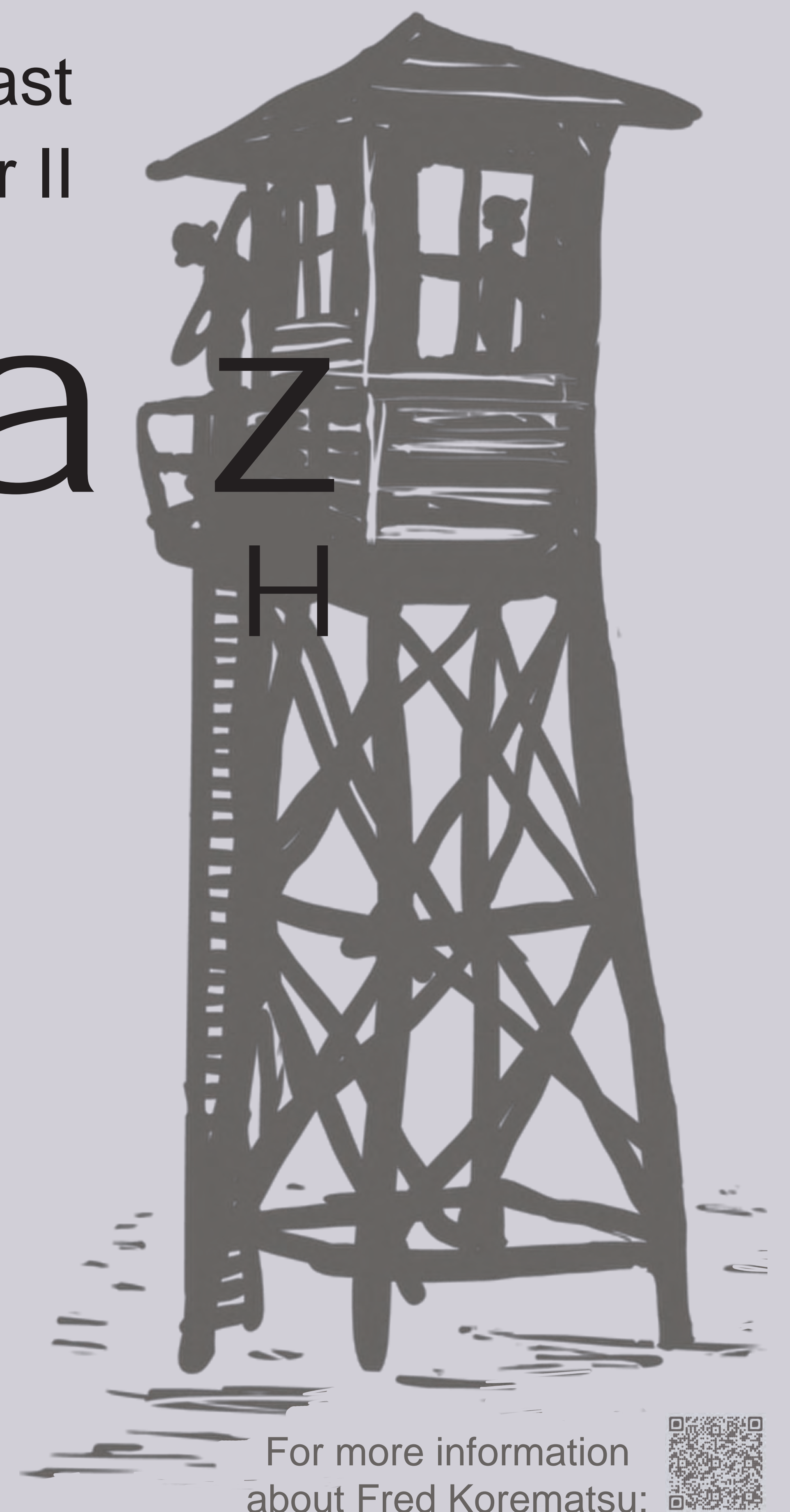
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Topaz (courtesy Densho Archives)

T o p a z  
U T A H



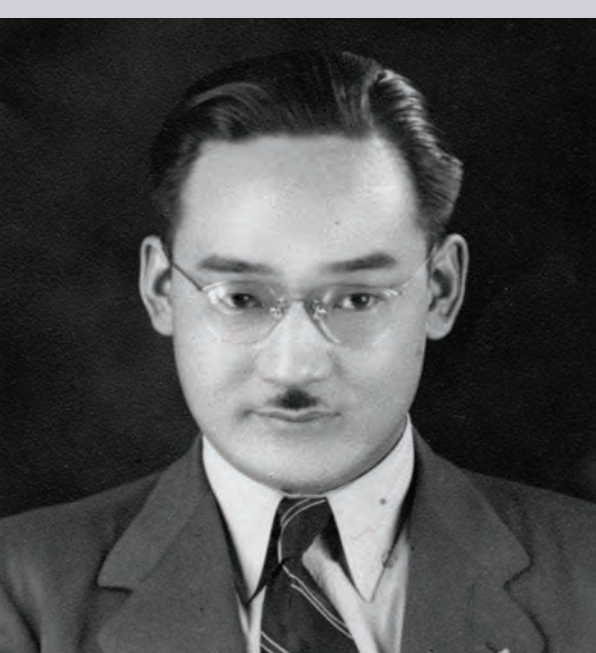
For more information about Fred Korematsu:



Location:	near Delta, Utah
Peak Population:	8,130
Size:	19,800 acres; (central camp area 640 acres)
Detainees originally from:	San Francisco Bay, California
Notable Detainees:	Fred Korematsu (activist), Mitsuye Endo (activist/plaintiff in landmark lawsuit), Goro Suzuki (stage name was Jack Soo, first Japanese American to sing on Broadway), Chiura Obata (artist), Miné Okubo (artist)
Fact:	During its operation, it was the fifth largest city in Utah.

## Americans' Right to Dissent

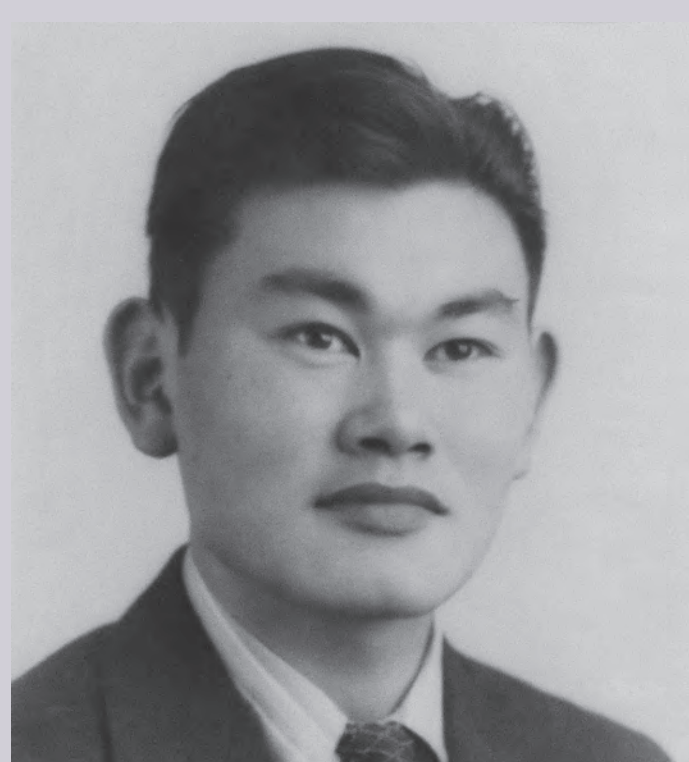
Four Japanese Americans challenged the Japanese American exclusion and forced detention. Their cases were eventually heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. The first three decisions in 1943 ruled against them.



*Minoru Yasui v. United States* challenged the curfew applied to Japanese American citizens but lost.



*Gordon Hirabayashi v. United States* upheld the legality of using racial criteria in the military's curfew order.



*Fred Korematsu v. United States* upheld the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, allowing the government to place Japanese American citizens in camps.



Mitsuye Endo was the only woman to fight her imprisonment in an American concentration camp. *Ex Parte Endo, 1944* found that Japanese American citizens shown to be loyal to the United States could not be detained.

Endo's case effectively ended incarceration. The ruling announcement was held off until the day after President Roosevelt lifted the exclusion order.

In the 1980s, uncovered evidence revealed that documents had been withheld from the U.S. Supreme Court that showed the government knowingly presented false charges of Japanese American disloyalty and espionage. Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui petitioned for a writ of error, coram nobis, to annul wrongful convictions in the case of governmental misconduct. While Korematsu lost in 1944, his criminal conviction was annulled in 1983. However, the case wasn't overturned. Korematsu stood before the court and said, "As long as my record stands in federal court, any American citizen can be held in prison or concentration camps without a trial or a hearing."

(Photos courtesy Fred T. Korematsu Institute)



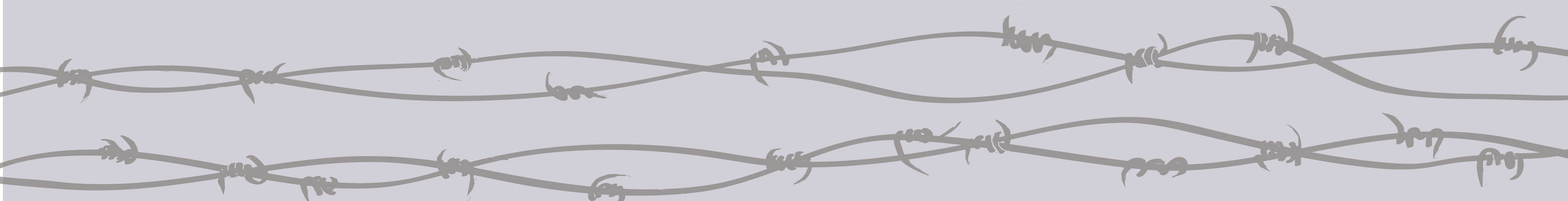
Fred Korematsu receives the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Clinton in 1998 (photo Dennis Cook, AP)

## Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution

In 2010, California passed the Fred Korematsu Day bill, making January 30 the first day in the U.S. named after an Asian American. At Humboldt State University and other institutions, this day honors the civil liberties granted to all Americans by our Constitution and serves to remind us of our nation's treatment of people of foreign descent, especially those of color or different religious backgrounds.



Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi after the 1983 trial of coram nobis





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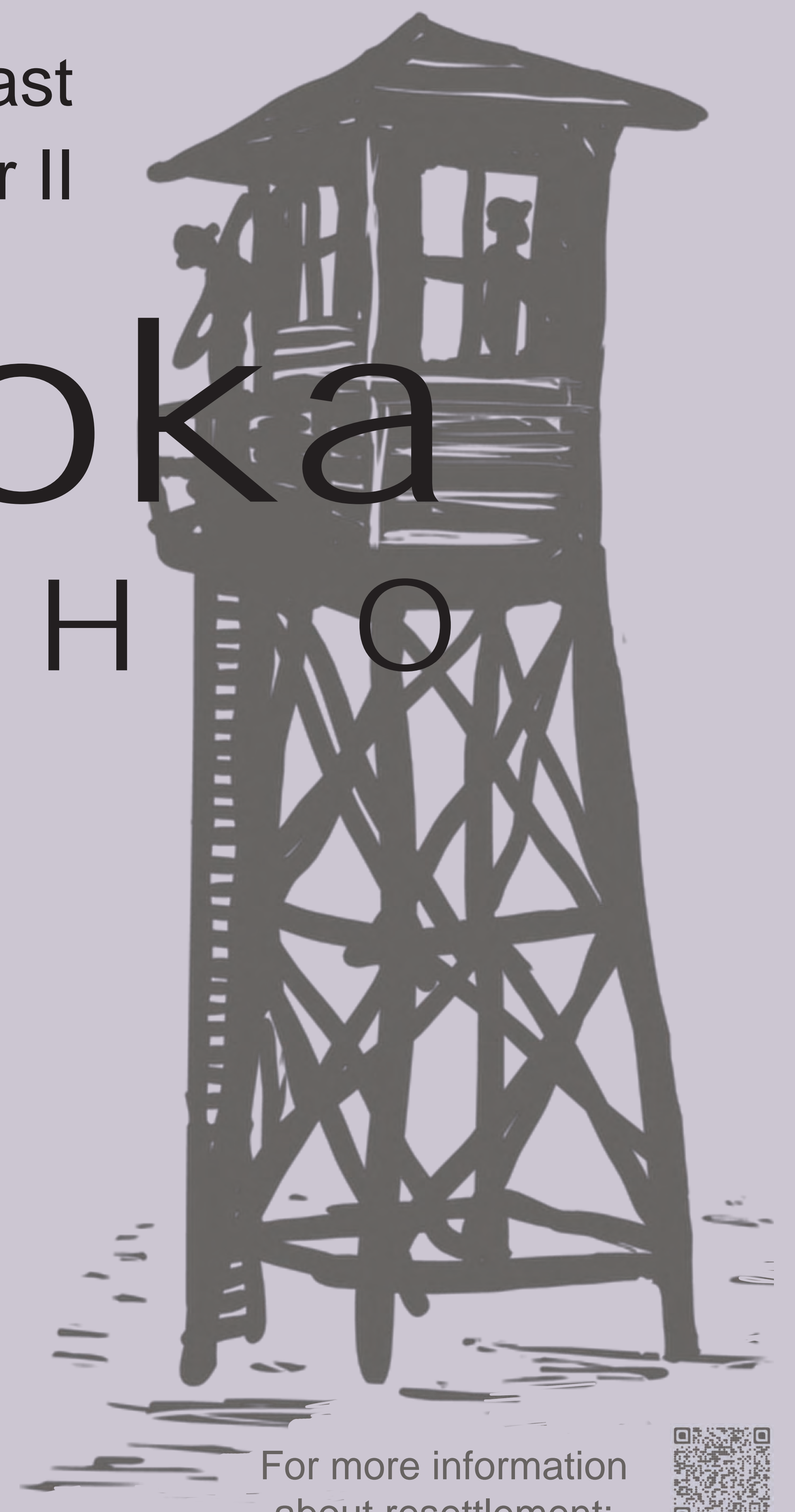
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Minidoka (courtesy Densho Archives)

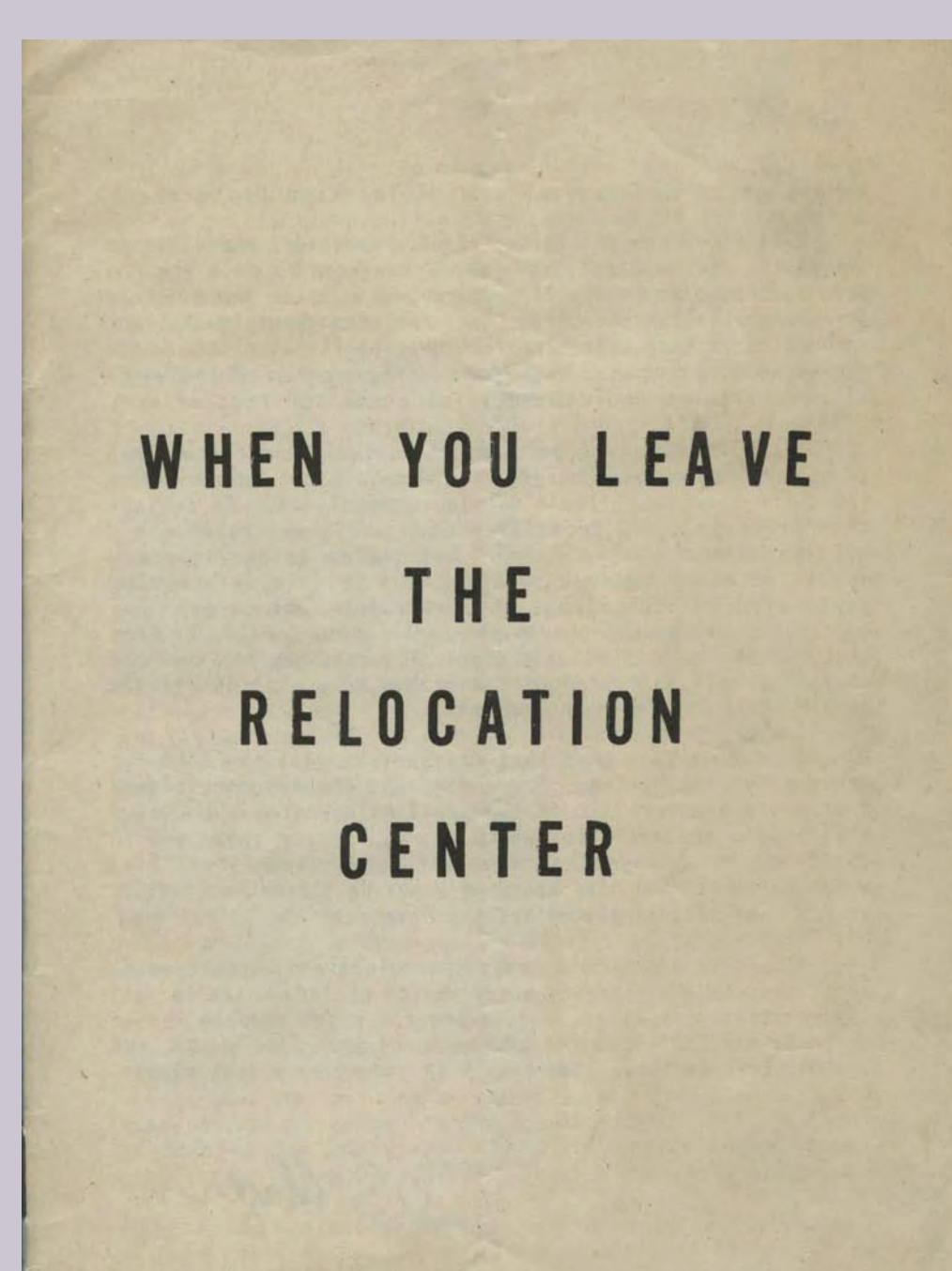
# Minidoka

I D A H O



Location:	near Jerome, Idaho
Peak Population:	9,397
Size:	33,000 acres (Residential area 900 acres)
Detainees originally from:	Washington, Oregon and Alaska
Notable Detainees:	Minoru Yasui (lawyer/activist) Aki Kurose (teacher/activist)
Fact:	The internees farmed as much as 740 acres, and were able to supply other camps with fresh produce as well as their own. They also had a garment factory which produced camp goods.

For more information about resettlement:



"Booklet: 'When You Leave the Relocation Center.'" (Densho Encyclopedia)



Pamphlet produced by the Philadelphia District Office of the War Relocation Authority (WRA). Densho Encyclopedia

## Resettlement During and After the War

The term resettlement was used by the War Relocation Authority (WRA) to define the exodus of Japanese Americans from the concentration camps to locations away from the West Coast of the United States. Beginning as early as 1942, some of the first people leaving the camps were students and farm workers.

The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization, led the effort to place Nisei students from the camps into colleges in the Midwest and Eastern states. The number of departing students grew from 250 in December, 1942 to nearly 4,300 by the end of the war.



Citizen's Indefinite Leave Card issued to Roy Ozaki, Heart Mountain, November, 1944 (Photo courtesy Vicki Ozaki)

### Agricultural Labor

The war left a shortage of farm workers providing an



High school students in Minidoka pull onions during "harvest vacation," October 1943. (courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)

opportunity to fill these jobs with incarcerated from the concentration camps. Incarcerated could get a temporary work release for jobs outside of camp. By October, 1942, around 10,000 workers had left the camps for work in the fields with assurances that they would be safe. These workers often faced hostile encounters on the outside.

By the end of 1944, nearly 35,000 Japanese Americans had found the required outside sponsors to leave camp and were able to relocate to different parts of the United States. Very few Issei, first-generation, left the camps before 1945. The WRA pushed resettlers eastward and cities like Chicago, St. Louis, Salt Lake City and Denver saw much growth.

In December, 1944, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling determined that the government could no longer imprison loyal American citizens against their will. On January 2, 1945, the government rescinded the mass exclusion orders and opened up the West Coast to those Japanese American considered "loyal." Persons leaving the camps were given \$25 and a bus ticket home.

## Personal Justice Denied and Redress

In 1980, a commission appointed by President Carter found no evidence of disloyalty by Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II.

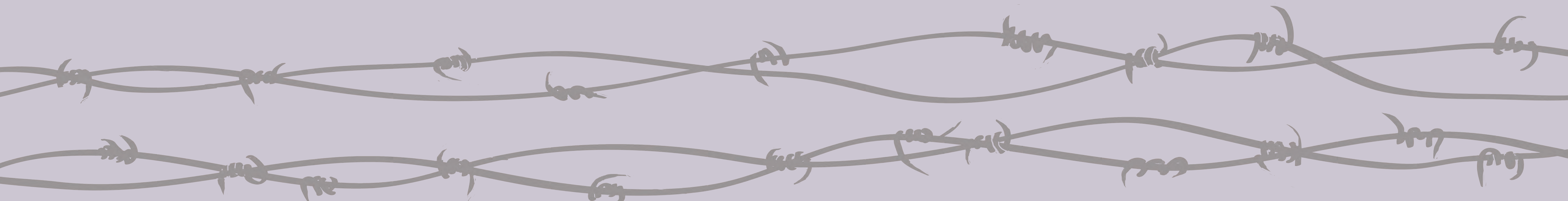
In 1988, President Reagan signed a bill to compensate each living survivor of the camps \$20,000 for wages lost while imprisoned. Most valued to many was the formal apology from the U.S. government of wrongful imprisonment.

## Starting Over

If you had to resettle somewhere in the United States, where would your bus ticket take you?



Edwin Uyeki with college classmates at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, 1946



# AMERICA'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS

The Forced Relocation and Incarceration of West Coast Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II

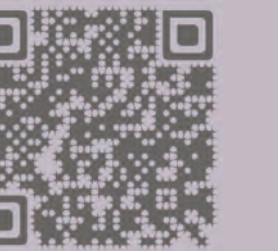


Manzanar, (photo Dorothea Lange, courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)

## Manzanar CALIFORNIA



For more information about history repeating:



Location:	near Independence, California
Peak Population:	10,046
Size:	6,200 acres
Detainees originally from:	Los Angeles and Stockton, California and Bainbridge Island, Washington
Notable Detainees:	Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston (writer) Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga (activist)
Fact:	Manzanar was the only camp used to detain Japanese American orphans. There were 101 orphans in the camp section called "Children's Village."

## The Buddhist concept of "Shikata Ganai"

The Japanese attitude of "Shikata Ga Nai" played a large role in the resigned acceptance by Japanese and Japanese Americans in their forced removal and mass incarceration. "Shikata Ga Nai" translates to "it can't be helped." This was a shared belief by many Issei (first-generation Japanese) prisoners that their circumstances were beyond their control so they must endure in the face of this painful but inevitable situation.

Nisei (second-generation) Japanese American prisoners struggled with this attitude since they were being denied their civil liberties. Decades later, the Sansei (third-generation) inspired by the Vietnam anti-war protests and the civil rights movement demanded redress for the grave injustice motivated by racial prejudice.

## History Repeating Itself?

A controversial "zero tolerance" policy established by the Trump administration began detaining and separating immigrant children from their families after crossing the U.S. border as early as 2017. After widespread criticism and public outcry on the mistreatment of children and cruelty of family separation, President Trump signed an executive order ending the practice in June 2018. Despite the official end of this policy, over 1000 children have been separated from their parents since then.

As of October 2019, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) determined the number of children separated since July 2017 reached 5,460. with some in detention as long as a year. (The Oklahoman, July 20, 2019) These separations are devastating to both children and parents and can cause profound long-lasting emotional psychological trauma.

Former children of the WWII U.S. Japanese concentration camps and their descendants have shared the toll incarceration has had on their lives. Many have protested the family detention centers at the border. Tsuru for Solidarity has joined with Native American tribes, Black Lives Matter, and ACLU to speak out against the detention of immigrant children and the conditions of their care.



McAllen, Texas Child Detention Facility, June, 2018 (courtesy U.S. Customs and Border Control)



Tijuana Movimiento Juventud Shelter, Tijuana, Baja Mexico, 2019 (Maureen McGarry photo)



Tsuru for Solidarity protests in Crystal City, Texas, 2019 Reiko Fuji photo)

## Would you speak out for others?

If people are being treated unfairly based on their race, gender, or religion, who will stand up for them?  
Will you?

